

Story of the Samish Island Sign



Photos and Text

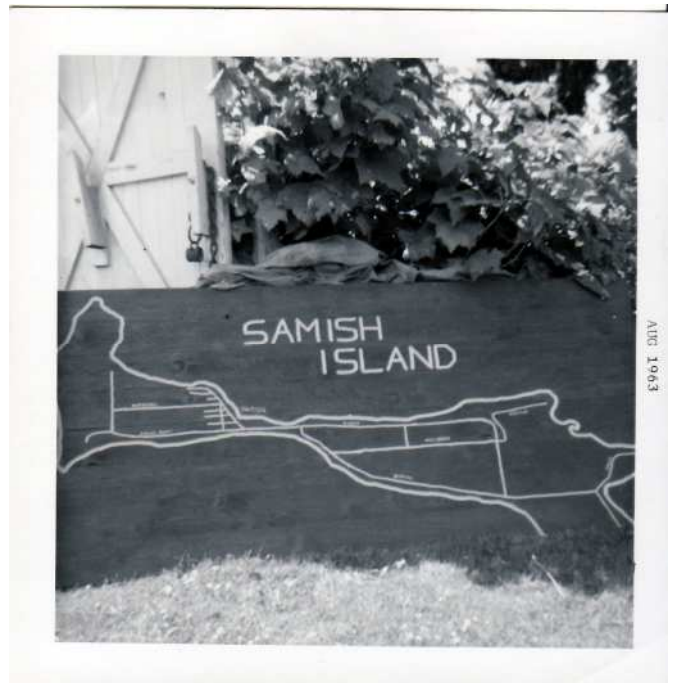
Compiled by Myrna Judy, Edgewater Garden Club

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This first small Samish Island Sign dated from the 1950's. This photo was taken in May 1963.



The first large Samish Island Sign was made in August 1963 by the Skagit County Parks Department.



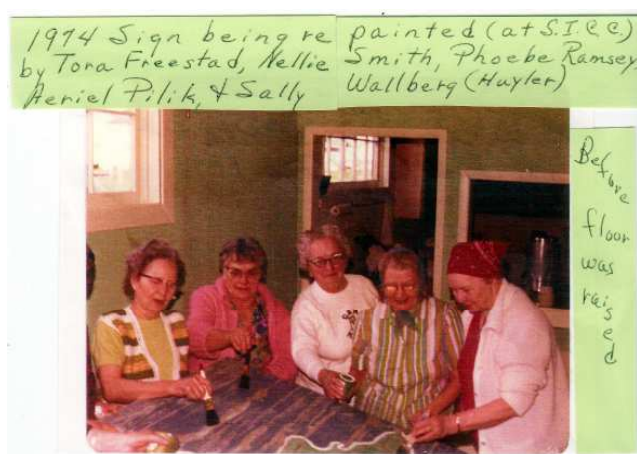
Midge Schesser poses with the new Samish Island sign, 1963.



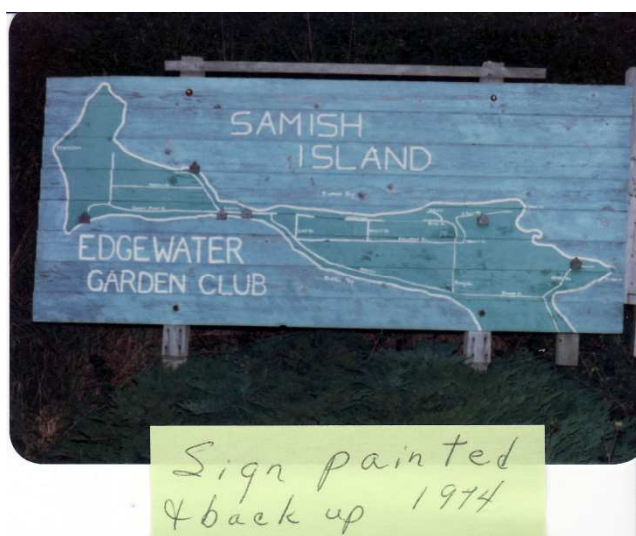
The sign was put in place in August 1963. The sign was repainted in 1967 by Grace Judy, Sally Wallberg Huyler, and perhaps Edith Christensen. Some errors were noted with this sign.



The sign was taken down and repainted by garden club members in 1974



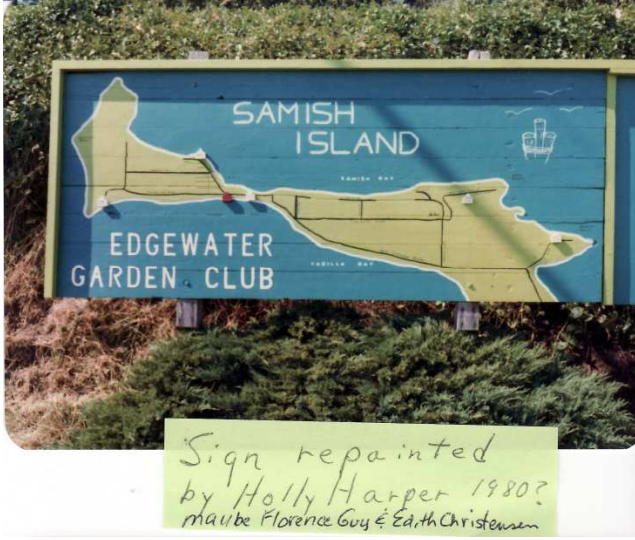
Sign repainting committee: Tora Freestad, Nellie Smith, Phoebe Ramsey, Aerial Pilik & Sally Wallberg (Huyler). This photo was taken before the floor of the hall was raised.



1974 - newly-painted sign, with 1963 errors corrected.



1974 - sign with bulletin board, in late summer 1976.



The sign was repainted in 1980 by Holly Harper and maybe Florence Guy and Edith Christensen.



The sign and bulletin board, as they appeared in 1980.

In 1986, funds for a new Samish Island sign were solicited from all Island property owners by the Edgewater Garden Club via a letter with a sketch of the proposed design. Jamie Harju of Anacortes was hired to make the new sign. It was installed in December of 1986.

The Edgewater Garden Club now has a “sign fund” as the sign must be touched up and repaired every few years.



For several years, proceeds received from collecting and returning Thrifty Foods receipts went into this account.

Many islanders helped prepare a place for the new sign at the start of the island, where the road turns left onto the island.



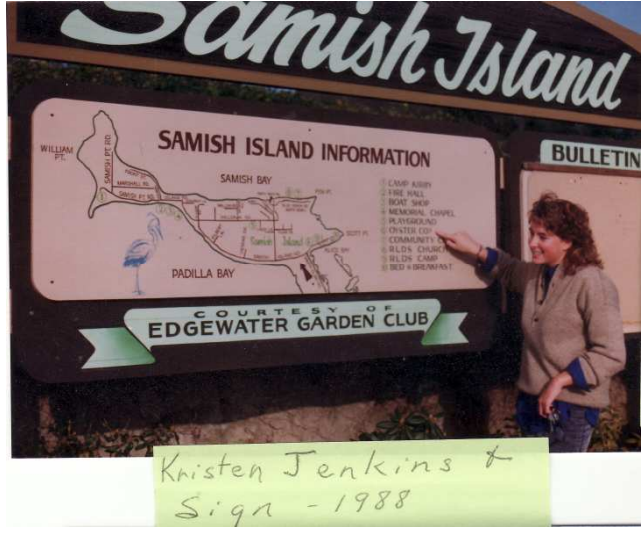
Bruce Miller and Glen Dickinson help install the second large sign in 1986.



Vic Hastings, Glen Dickinson, Bruce Miller and Jack Guy pose by the new sign, before the culvert was installed.



The culvert and fill were in place by 1988.



Kristen Jenkins poses by the sign in 1988. The cork board was replaced in 1988.



The new sign was decorated for Christmas in 1988, advertising the garden club fundraiser "Holiday Wreaths and Swags"



The sign had to be touched up in 1991. Jamie Harju, the sign maker, posed by the sign at that time.



Flowers in bloom under the sign in 1991.



The sign was put back up after complete repainting by Jamie in 1995.



Sign dedicated to Millie Hopley who worked so hard to make it happen. Spring 1995



Visitor studies sign. 1996

The sign was dedicated in 1995 to Millie Hopley, who worked so hard to make it happen.

A visitor photographed with sign, 1996



The Sign was repainted October 19, 2001 by Jamie H.



Close up of the sign map in October 2001.



Samish Island Sign damaged in pre-Thanksgiving Day icy road incident, November 22, 2010.

Garden Club decided to replace the sign, getting three estimates from local sign companies. The sign should be replaced before summer 2011.

Jamie's redwood sign lasted 24 years, with regular maintenance and oversight by the Edgewater Garden Club. We are grateful for all his and their efforts.



May 2011 - The newest version of the Samish Island sign was put into place on May 3, by Meyer Sign Company. The poles and frame structure for the sign are made of coated steel. The top piece ("Samish Island") is aluminum with vinyl Scotchcal graphics.

The map has been completely redone on a sheet of aluminum with vinyl Scotchcal graphics showing new streets, and all misspellings have been corrected.