Kenmore Heritage Society
HISTORY PATH PROJECT

Twelve Historic Interpretive Signs Installed in Two Public Parks 2008 – 2009
Kenmore was named in 1901. In 2008, 107 years later, Kenmore Heritage Society set about to create an interpretive center to preserve the area’s early history for future generations.
Hard-working volunteers contributed many hours planning the project.
Because of its easy access for families, walkers and bikers on the Burke-Gilman Trail, Log Boom Park on the north shore of Lake Washington was chosen as the location.
Eleven interpretive panels greet visitors along the walkway to the fishing pier.
Welcome panel
Welcome to the Kenmore History Path — a Project of Kenmore Heritage Society

The park overlooks a portion of the lake important in the area's early logging industry.

WHY IS IT CALLED LOG BOOM PARK?

The area's historical status was recognized in the 1980s. Passage of the Forward Thrust bond issue enabled acquisition of parkland by the King County Parks Department and Log Boom Park became a reality.

The park overlooks a portion of the lake important in the area's early logging industry. It was here, during the early 1900s, newly cut logs were dumped into the water, borne from logging railroad engine "Pappy" at Schlueter's Landing, downriver from floated into log booms—rafts of logs enclosed within a canal—to be hauled away to sawmills.

Thank you to the following contributors whose generous donations have helped to make the Kenmore History Path a reality:

- Jan Allen
- Smyser University
- Chip and Joan Davidson
- Scott Donaldson, Attly
- Kenmore Air Harbour, Inc.
- Kenmore Camara
- Kenmore Community Club, Inc.
- Kenmore Club of Northshore
- Mason's Grocer & Deli
- Oshawa Drug &Gift
- Frank Owen, In Memory of Tracy J. Owen
- Plywood Supply, Inc.
- Tony and Bobby Toyaga
- William & Williams PSC
- City of Kenmore

Kenmore Heritage Society: Preserving Kenmore's History

Timeline:

1800s
- 1844: Rogers Mill Company establishes dam on Lake Washington
- 1845: The lake first seen
- 1877: Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad bridge complete

1900s - 1910s
- 1901: Wooden bridge construction complete
- 1904: Kenmore founder's first bridge across Sammamish Flough is built at 88th Avenue

1920s - 1930s
- 1921: Inglewood Golf Club opens
- 1926: Kenmore opens new community center

1940s - 1950s
- 1944: Bob Winner initializes Kenmore Community Club
- 1945: Kenmore Community Club

1960s - 1980s
- 1960: Kenmore Fire Department opens
- 1970: Kenmore Library moves to 7th Avenue NE

1990s
- 1990: Kenmore Heritage Society established

2000s
- 2000: Kenmore Heritage Society celebrates 100th anniversary

Additional Events:
- 2003: Kenmore Heritage Society celebrates 100th anniversary of the founding of Kenmore
- 2004: Kenmore Heritage Society celebrates 100th anniversary
- 2010: Kenmore Heritage Society celebrates 100th anniversary

Panels are grouped along the walkway.
Panel 1—Geology of the Area
Who were the first residents of the Kenmore area?

Native Americans came to the area centuries ago.

EARLY MIGRANTS settled in villages along the waterways on and near Lake Washington. They worshiped and prayed, sang and danced, quarreled, loved, and died here. They lived on the waterway that later became known as the Sammamish Slough. They were the Meanderers.

The village of Ti'awhé-dow was established in the area of what eventually became Kenmore, and probably consisted of one or more permanent cedar-plank longhouses, each measuring about fifty feet by one hundred feet and housing several families. There may also have been a separate ceremonial building.

Cedar was one of the Natives' greatest natural resources. It provided material for canoes and planks for houses and burial enclosures. It was a source for rails, shingles, paddles, and arrows and was the main material for artistic carvings and utensils.

Early Native Americans fashioned cooking racks from hawthorn and skewered slabs of fresh salmon over an alder fire.

Panel 2—Native Americans
The History Path is designed to be kid-friendly.
Plentiful Timber Sparked Kenmore’s First Industry

At one time Kenmore was so densely wooded that loggers visualized it supplying timber for generations.

JOHN MCMASTER opened a shingle mill on the northeast corner of Lake Washington January 1, 1901.

WATSON SQUIRE is credited with purchasing land and developing the area that is central Kenmore today. Squire was the 12th governor of Washington Territory and served 10 years in the U.S. Senate.

In 1862, Puget Mill bought more than 1,100 acres in the Kenmore area for $1.25 an acre—$1,400! While McMaster’s mill was turning logs into shingles right here in Kenmore, other companies were diligently cutting and selling logs, floating them down the lake for processing. By 1920, nearly all the timber had been removed from the Kenmore area.
Kenmore’s Scottish Heritage—From Loch Tay to Lake Washington

The history of Kenmore’s name spans much of the globe and embraces three separate communities, each located beside a body of water.

THE NAME originated on a Scottish loch (lake), was carried across the ocean to a riverside settlement in Ontario, Canada, and then was given to a community beside Lake Washington.

In the mid-1800s, a man named Peter McLaren left his childhood home of Kenmore in Scotland to take up a new life in Ontario, Canada, settling in Osrode Township. McLaren was eventually given the honor of naming the village and proposed the name Kenmore, recalling his home village in Scotland.

In 1875, two young Scotsmen came to Kenmore, Ontario, and started a lumber mill. One of the men, John McMaster, began eyeing a move across the border to the United States. He and his wife Annie moved to Seattle a month before the Great Seattle Fire in 1889.

Having heard about plentiful stands of huge cedar trees at the head of Lake Washington, McMaster leased land from Watson Square and started a sawmill and shingle operation on January 1, 1901. He named the area Kenmore after his former home of Kenmore, Ontario, registering the name with the state January 10, 1901.
Winter or summer, the panels tell visitors about Kenmore’s colorful history.
Kenmore Parks Provide Fun and Recreation For All

Kenmore’s lakeside location has always provided recreational opportunities for its residents.

The Ed Niemeyer family and friends enjoy boating and swimming at their summer campsite beside Lake Washington about 1912. Kenmore’s lakeside location has always provided recreational opportunities for its residents.

Ward’s Beach Resort on the north end of Lake Washington was a popular destination from 1947 to 1959. It is now a marina.

Panel 5—Parks and Recreation
Panel 6—Transportation
New residents learn about Kenmore from the History Path.
Kenmore was Famous for Restaurants & Roadhouses

Bothell Way was part of the road between Seattle and Bellingham, and Sunday dinner in Kenmore was a special outing for Seattle residents.

Kenmore’s reputation for eating and entertainment goes back to the early 1900s. Lively Saturday nights in local saloons found loggers mingling with sportsmen who came from the Seattle area to fish or to hunt ducks. The settlement boasted a sportsmen’s hotel, boathouse, and floating landing. The Blind Pig saloon at Shuter’s Landing later dispatched illegal whiskey to customers and was prepared to dump the evidence into the lake if suspicions were aroused.

Henry Lemm offered hamburgers and watermelons at his tavern on Bothell Way which overlooked Lake Washington (below).

The Cat’s Whiskers Cafe welcomed patrons with porch seating, an open doorway, and beans for thirty cents (above).

Other memorable Kenmore RESTAURANTS & ROADHOUSES
- Kenmore Inn
- Victory Drive Inn
- Inglewood Tavern (Bucket of Blood)
- Dixie Inn
- Harry & Gene’s Tavern
- Hot Cake King
- Von’s Chili Parlor
- Porterhouse Eagle Inn
- Wishbone
- Schnitzelbank
- Tip Top Cafe
- Country Kitchen
- Bob’s Place
There are numerous visitors every day.
Schools and Libraries Grew With the Community

Kenmore was served by bookmobiles for more than thirty years.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN of McMaster Mill employees attended class in one of the sawmill shacks like this one (far right), from 1903 until a schoolhouse was built.

Mrs. Belle Nottingham and her eight pupils occupied the new Kenmore School built in 1914. The district consolidated with Bothell in 1916.

Through community efforts, a former barn on 73rd Avenue NE became Kenmore's first library in 1956.
Building a Better Place to Live

Residents sought entertainment to break up their days of hard work.

LIFE IN KENMORE was not all business. Families found ways to enjoy holidays and weekends together or to celebrate special community events. And they established churches to meet their spiritual needs.

Kenmore Community Club opened its doors in 1932, providing a meeting place for social gatherings and to discuss community improvements (top left). In the late 1940s, a colorful stage curtain was hung (right).

Kenmore’s first formal worship group emerged about 1933 and a year later acquired the Tip Top Inn, a defunct roadhouse on Bothell Way. A wooden ball tower was erected and the facility was christened Kenmore Chapel (middle bottom). Kenmore eventually became home to eight major church congregations.

Inglewood Golf and Country Club (top right) celebrated its grand opening in 1921 (top right). This building burned in 1924 and was replaced with a more-splendid clubhouse in 1925.

Kenmore beauty queens graced the KenFair Days royal float in 1959.

The Sammamish Slough Race drew cheering crowds in 1956 (bottom right).
Kids learn about Kenmore’s history.
Kenmore Attains Cityhood in 1998

A community-wide survey concluded most residents preferred Kenmore becoming a city, and an incorporation effort was launched.

LONG ACCLIMATIZED to being a part of unincorporated King County, Kenmore residents defeated a number of cityhood efforts between 1950 and 1979. Washington State passed the Growth Management Act in 1990, and things changed. Now declared an urban area, Kenmore was given three options: Incorporate, annex to adjacent cities, or let King County decide. A community-wide survey concluded most residents preferred becoming a city, and an incorporation effort was launched in 1995. A vigorous and well-organized campaign headed by a committee of dedicated volunteers succeeded in getting the measure on the September 16, 1995, ballot. There was no formal opposition and the measure passed handily.

Kenmore’s first City Council (top left) was elected in 1996. Members, left to right, are Tika Estes, Deputy Mayor Dick Taylor, Deborah Chase, Mayor Jack Crawford, Chip Davidson, Steve Colwell, and Eldied Morse. Steve Anderson became first City Manager.

Kenmore citizens celebrate incorporation during the Good Ole Days Festival, August, 1998 (bottom far left).

After briefly conducting city business in an empty Kenmore Village storefront, a former bank building served as City Hall for the first decade of Kenmore’s cityhood.

Panel 10—Kenmore Becomes a City
Citizens gather to dedicate the Path.
KHS President Jack Crawford dedicated the Path Oct. 2008
The Path was dedicated to Jack Crawford in August, 2009, following his untimely death.
The project was expanded to include a panel telling the interesting history of nearby Rhododendron Park.
The final panel of the project.
Base of recycled brick from the original structure built on the property in 1920.
The Rhododendron Park panel is located near the busy picnic area where many visitors enjoy it.
At last, the project was complete! But how to let people know? A full-color trifold promotional flier was designed and 5000 were printed. They are available to area schools, and are distributed to the public at Kenmore City Hall, Kenmore Library, and other public places.
To enjoy the present and look to the future, we must understand and appreciate the past. Kenmore has a rich heritage which is a part of who we are today. Kenmore History Path is an enjoyable journey for people of all ages. Take a walk down the History Path at Log Boom Park!

“Kenmore by the Lake,” a complete history of Kenmore, is available for purchase at Kenmore City Hall. Winner of both state and national awards, this beautiful book is another project of Kenmore Heritage Society.

To learn more about Kenmore Heritage Society, visit www.scn.org/kenmoreheritage

Kenmore History Path
In cooperation with the City of Kenmore and 4Culture, with additional generous contributions from numerous Kenmore businesses and residents.

Log Boom Park
Kenmore Heritage Society
P.O. Box 62027
Kenmore, WA 98028-0027

Take a fascinating stroll down the KENMORE HISTORY PATH
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Tracy Owen Station at LOG BOOM PARK
One block south of Bothell Way and 61st Ave. NE on NE 175th St.
Do you know?...

- How deep was the ice that buried the Kenmore area during the Ice Age?
- How long ago did Scotsman John McMaster give the name “Kenmore” to the area?
- What price per acre was paid for Kenmore land in 1862?
- Bothell Way was part of the road between Seattle and what northwest Washington city in the early 1900s?
- Kenmore’s first schoolhouse was built in what year?
- Kenmore’s first library opened in a renovated building in 1958. What was that building’s original purpose?
- A red brick road was completed between Lake Forest Park and what other city in 1912?
- Kenmore Community Club proudly opened its doors how long ago?
- How long has it been since winter was so cold that Kenmore Air float planes had to land on ice?
- When did the Kenmore Fire Department launch a fire boat?
- After several failed attempts to incorporate, when did Kenmore officially become a city?

To learn about these and other fascinating subjects, visit the Kenmore History Path!

The inside. Can you answer the questions?
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For many years to come, the Kenmore History Path will help residents and future generations learn about their community’s fascinating heritage.

Kenmore Heritage Society members are proud of their accomplishment!