

"THE NAME SEMÁ:TH HAD TO DO
WITH THE THICK GRASS OR REEDS
ON THE SHALLOW WATERS AT
THE SHORES OF SEMÁ:TH LAKE"

- Sumas First Nation



SEMÁ:TH XÓ:TSA (SUMAS LAKE)

The following is a collection of relevant and responsive resources gathered by teachers from around our district. Many of these have been developed in collaboration with Stó:lō partners. Thank you to those teachers who spent time preparing themselves and their classes to navigate current events from an Indigenous lens.

"My grandpa used to say, that in the Coast Salish Territory, Semá:th was the central location where the people used to gather. The people gathered in the summertime as we had Semá:th Lake that once offered every species of fish right there at the front of our village and in the winter time people gathered there from all parts of the Coast Salish Nation for the winter ceremonies..."

- Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation

Photo of Sumas Lake obtained from [The Reach archives](#). Quote from [Sumas First Nation website](#). Cover artwork from Semá:th Xó:tša: Sts'ólemeqwelh Sxó:tša/Great-Gramma's Lake.

SEMÁ:TH XÓ:TSA

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

Book: *Semá:th Xó:tša: Sts'ólemeqwelh Sxó:tša/Great-Gramma's Lake*

Published by The Reach Museum, illustrated by Carrielynn Victor, and co-authored by Chris Silver, Carrielynn Victor, Kris Foulds, and Laura Schneider. Available at most schools or by order from [The Reach](#).

[Read-along by The Reach Museum](#)

[Pronunciation Guide](#)

[The Reach Exhibition](#)

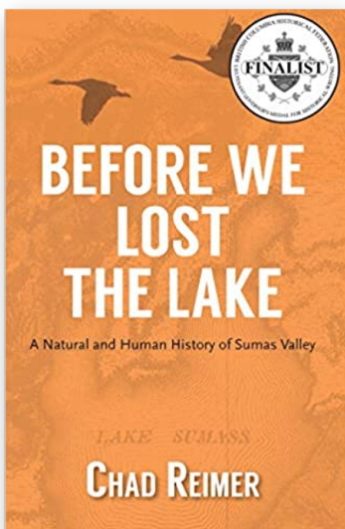


Documentary: *The History of Sumas Lake*

A preview of Bricklight Films' upcoming documentary.

[Version 1: Includes interview with filmmaker \(5min\).](#)

[Version 2: Preview only \(3-4min\).](#)



Book: *Before We Lost the Lake*

Authored by Abbotsford resident, Chad Reimer, this book is a biography of the lake which weaves both settler and Indigenous perspectives. Available at various online retailers.

[Link to Abbotsford News Article here.](#)

EduKit: Developed by The Reach Museum, students will create a collage using historical photographs of Sumas Lake.

[Lesson Plan](#)

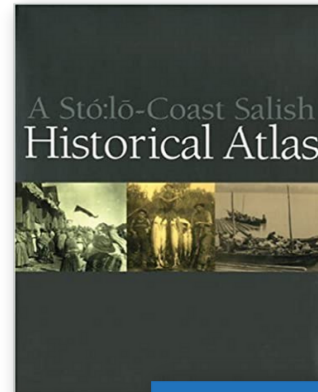


SEMÁ:TH XÓ:TSA

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

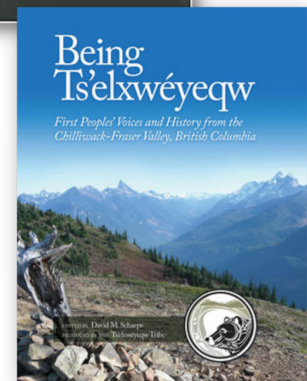
Book: *A Stó:lō- Coast Salish Historical Atlas*

Published by Douglas & McIntyre and the Stó:lō Heritage Trust. A rich and in-depth history of the of the Stó:lō territory and people from an Indigenous lens. Includes an in-depth chapter on the transformation of Sumas Lake.



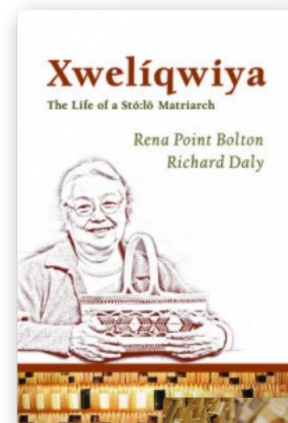
Book: *Being Ts'elxwéyeqw: First Peoples' Voices and History from the Chilliwack-Fraser Valley, British Columbia*

Produced by the Tselxwéyeqw Tribe, readers hear the voices of Ts'elxwéyeqw elders alongside a breathtaking visual story of the region and culture.



Book: *Xwelqwiya: The Life of a Sto:lo Matriarch.*

This is the story of Rena Point Bolton, a celebrated Stó:lō matriach and artist. Her biography includes mention of Sumas Lake. There are several YouTube videos of Rena Point Bolton speaking about her award winning weaving.



Book: *Towards a New Ethnohistory: Community-Engaged Scholarship among the People of the River*

Written by local knowledge keepers for a university or college audience. This book co-creates a decolonized history of the Stó:lō territory.

