COLIN LEE MACLEOD × iPHONE JACK

GRIFTER'S FIELD NOTES

SHIRLEY & THE COAST



SOUP, CEDARS & A $24 LUNCH

A PHOTO ESSAY WITH AN ILLUSTRATED EDGE

THE OPENING FRAME

Take the long look.



FOREST. WATER. SOMETHING GOOD TO LOOK AT.

A paved path drops through the trees toward a pale horizon. Picnic tables sit on the grass. The sky has gone silver. These are the quiet frames from the outing—the ones that give the café photographs room to breathe.

Then comes Shirley Delicious: an A-frame entrance, a room full of people, warm bulbs and enough metal creatures to make you keep looking up. Lunch was a BLT and turkey soup. The number that stuck with Colin was $24.

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Small door.

Big character.

The building does the introduction: timber, a steep roof, a bright red underline and an OPEN sign glowing beside the door.

The café’s own description places it in the woods on Vancouver Island’s west coast, west of Sooke. The photograph gives that setting texture: branches across the roofline, greenery at the entrance and a queue at the door.

2794 SHERINGHAM POINT ROAD
Shirley, British Columbia

Twenty-four bucks.



$24

BLT + TURKEY SOUP

“We had the BLT there and a bowl of turkey soup. It was fucking expensive—24 bucks too.”

That is the lunch report: the order, the price and Colin’s reaction. A verdict on flavour is still unwritten. This spread keeps the price complaint exactly where it belongs—with the person who paid it.

Editorial food illustration; not a photograph of the actual meal.
Price recalled by Colin. Tax, tip and portion details were not supplied.

Look up. Look closer.







A DRAGON AT THE TABLE

The dragon’s wing is a whole landscape of metal: raised ribs, branching lines, sharp edges. Nearby, an antlered skull sculpture hangs beneath the roof. Timber beams and strings of bulbs tie the room together.

The wide photograph changes the scale. Below the sculptures are occupied tables, pale upholstered booths and the everyday business of lunch. The artwork is not tucked away; it shares the room.



01

THE BRIDGE



02

THE DRAGON



03

THE COAST

ILLUSTRATED INTERLUDE • IMAGINED SCENES; WHALE IS AN ARTISTIC MOTIF

A place has footnotes.





THREE DATES IN THE LANDSCAPE

1913 The photographed sign dates the installation of the lighthouse at Sheringham Point to 1913.

1925 A compressed-air foghorn was added in 1925, according to the same sign.

1937 Shirley Community Hall was completed in 1937. The sign recalls concerts, meetings, card parties, anniversaries and dances.



Back to the water.



THE QUIET HALF

A small bridge crosses the channel. Beyond it: grass, picnic tables, tall trunks and water glimpsed between the trees.

The photographs hold onto ordinary details—the wet-looking path, the white railings, the shrubs beside the shore. Nothing needs to be added to make this part of the outing worth a page.

A coast in motion.



Baja to the Bering Sea

The shoreline panel turns the view into a migration story. Its headline follows the gray whale from Baja to the Bering Sea; smaller panels introduce other marine mammals.

There is no whale sighting recorded in this photo set. The whale in the illustrated interlude is a visual echo of the sign, not a claim about what appeared offshore.

THE MOVING PICTURE

Colin’s beach clip adds what a still photograph cannot: the moving edge of the water. Open the original video for a short return to the shore.

WATCH THE SHORE CLIP →

Keep the good details.

THE STOP

Shirley Delicious

2794 Sheringham Point Road • Shirley, BC

shirleydelicious.ca ↗

WHAT GOES IN THE NOTEBOOK

The order: BLT and turkey soup.

The remembered price: $24.

The reaction: expensive.

The visual signature: wood, warm bulbs and metal creatures.

The other half of the outing: trees, paths, a small bridge and the coast.

MAKING THIS ISSUE

Photographs and outing details supplied by Colin Lee MacLeod. Editorial assembly with iPhone Jack. Cover, food scene and three-panel interlude are AI-generated editorial illustrations inspired by the outing; they are not documentary images.

The coastal park is not named in the supplied material. Page order is editorial and does not establish the route or timing of the day. No food rating, companion identities or whale sighting has been inferred.

SOURCES & CREDITS

Café setting: Shirley Delicious, official website.
Address: Tourism Vancouver Island, Shirley Delicious listing.
Local history: Colin’s photograph of the Shirley Hall / Sheringham Light interpretive sign.
Marine-life theme: Colin’s photograph of “From Baja to the Bering Sea—the Gray Whale.”

REAL PHOTOS. A LITTLE ATTITUDE. ROOM FOR THE NEXT STOP.