

Sagwembala

Sagwembala is an old village site near the mouth of Seymour Inlet at Schooner Passage. In 1883 it had five houses with gardens and was an important halibut fishing station and hunting area. It eventually became a small 4.5 acre reserve.

In the twentieth century Sagwembala was the winter home to the families of Johnny Nolie, Tommy Johnson and his brother, Willie Johnson and their half-brother, Samson Walkus. John Nolie was also a half brother to Tommy Johnson. Tommy Johnson and Willie Johnson had houses on top of two big rocks. Willie Johnson, later built a floathouse and put it inside a little bay. There were two totem poles and one bighouse in the middle with a carving shed where all the half brothers carved canoes and totem poles.

Source: Interview with Thomas Henderson, November 2008