



Walking Tour One: West Bay Area

Begin the walk at the corner of Esquimalt and Dunsmuir Road. Walk south on Dunsmuir Road. On the right, 820 Dunsmuir Road called "Tyn-y-Coed" designed by architect J.G. Tiarks in the Queen Anne style for Hans Olgilvie Price in 1892. Price, a Clerk in the Naval Dockyard, designed the Macaulay Point Golf Links. Started in 1893, when it closed in the 1940s, it was the oldest golf course in B.C.

To the right at the end of Garrett Place, take the short pathway to the sweeping vistas and the viewpoint over the Garry Oak Meadow (the steep stairway will take you down to Westsong Way). These 2.4 acres (.9 hectares) of natural habitat were given to Esquimalt by Mandalay Development Limited, developer of Swallow's Landing. The Nature Conservancy of Canada manages these meadowlands.

Continue west on Dunsmuir Road past Swallow's Landing where "Mt. Adelaide," the Henry and Mary Dunsmuir Croft home, built in 1890, stood until demolished in 1959. The town of Crofton was named for Henry. "Westbay" the home of John (Sam) and Ada Matson was built on a piece of land acquired from the Croft Estate. It stood until the 1960s. In 1893, near the corner of Head and Dunsmuir Road, the Phoenix Brewery was located. All now part of Esquimalt's historical past.

South on Head Street – to the left the entrance to Westsong Way. Built as a joint project by the Provincial Capital Commission, the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt, it was completed in 1980. It is a beautiful seaside walkway that offers spectacular views of the harbour.

Continue south on Head Street. To the left – the house Captain Victor Jacobson built in 1893 for his wife Minnie. Called "The Big House" it was built by Alexander Watson in the Italianate style, also called "Steamboat Gothic." The plans came from Victorian Architecture, a house pattern book, by Bicknell and Comstock.

Victor Holmlund, the Captain's real name, arrived in Victoria from Finland in 1884. He jumped ship and hid "in the bush at Cedar Hill for two days and

nights." He worked on a farm for 5 months then found his way back to the harbour.

The Captain made his fortune in the sealing industry. For many years, the Jacobson family home was the sternwheeler Distributor that was tied up alongside the Captain's wharf in West Bay. Distributor was designed by shipwright Alexander Watson and was purchased at auction by Captain Jacobson for \$400.

Captain Jacobson Park, adjacent to the house, was officially named in 1998. The site, originally the estuary for a small stream, was filled in during the 1950s.

On the left, the entrance to West Bay and Hidden Harbour Marinas Check at either one for availability of ferries, kayak rentals, or water taxis.

Ahead, the former main gate of Work Point Barracks, once one of the oldest landmarks in Esquimalt. Established in 1887, the barracks, now part of CFB Esquimalt, housed the Army presence on the west coast. Canada assumed responsibility for the base when British troops left in 1906.

Continue west on Lyall Street to Paradise Street. In the early 1900s, this area was part of Mrs. Bridget Pott's Dairy Farm. Turn right on Paradise Street, probably named by Captain Jacobson as a reminder that the sailing vessel Casco, owned by the Victoria Sealing Company, was chartered by author Robert Louis Stevenson in 1888 who while cruising in the South Pacific [in paradise] wrote *In The South Seas*, pub. 1889.

Return to Head Street

Continue north on Head Street. 901 Wollaston Street "Seascape" at the corner of Head and Wollaston Street was designed by architect J.C.M. Keith for eccentric and philanthropist John Dean in 1923. Dean resided there until his death in 1943. His tombstone in Ross Bay Cemetery is very interesting.

John Dean Park on Mt. Newton was developed from 22 acres Dean donated to the Municipality of North Saanich. He served as Councillor (1900) and



From left: **507 Head Street and Minnie Jacobson**

Mayor (1903) of Rosland, B.C. Esquimalt children remember that he put the first 25 children to arrive at his door on New Year's Day on a payroll of 25 cents per month for the year. Those arriving later received \$2 on their birthday. A nice sum in those days!

To learn more about John Dean, read *Blessings in Plenty* and *Sacred Heart*, both written by local author Jarrett Teague.

You can leave the walk here. A walk up the hill takes you to the bus stop on Esquimalt Road. Shops and restaurants are available.

Or continue east on Wollaston Street

On the left, 856 Wollaston Street was built by Herbert Frederick Bourne, the second municipal engineer. A third storey was gained when the mansard roof was raised in the 1990s. The Waddington family resided in the house for many years. Frederick Waddington, a manual training instructor at Lampson Street School, also organized a school choir that won many area music festivals.

To the right, 851 Wollaston Street, the only house in Esquimalt designed by architect Francis Mawson Rattenbury. His more notable commissions are the Provincial Legislature Buildings and the Empress Hotel. The house, an eclectic combination of Chalet, Tudor Revival and Queen Anne style was built in 1908 for Arthur and Amy Coles. He established the successful firm Arthur Coles Real Estate in Victoria. From 1916-1919, Arthur Coles was Reeve (Mayor) of Esquimalt.

The house, restored by Bill and Debrah Patterson, was designated heritage in 1994.



851 Wollaston Street

Turn left on Dunsmuir Road. The land was originally owned

by Henry Mansell, a Victoria boot maker. A member of the pioneer Wolfenden family, Arthur Richard Wolfenden and his wife Ethel resided at 812 Dunsmuir Road until his new home at 622 Head Street was completed in 1910. Wolfenden began work in the Bank of British North America before moving on to the B.C. Land and Investment Agency where he worked for 45 years.

The walk concludes at the corner of Esquimalt Road and Dunsmuir Road. The bus stop is at the corner. It is a short walk back to the old Thoburn Post Office area at Esquimalt and Head Street, where shops and restaurants are available.



572 Head Street (top)

Old Main Gate Work Point (bottom)



Written by Sherri K. Robinson. Photos: Esquimalt Municipal Archives and Josh McCulloch.