



## Walking Tour Two: Fleming Beach – Saxe Point

Begin the walk at Fleming Beach. Parking is available.

Fleming Beach is named for Harold and Edgar Fleming, photographers who specialized in taking photographs of old homes and landscapes. Their home “Viewfield” stood adjacent to the Esquimalt Anglers’ parking lot and was the first house in the area to have a telephone installed in the 1890s.

Take the walkway past the Esquimalt Anglers’ Club House and the rock climbing wall out to Buxton Green named to honour the family of Percival (Tich) and Phoebe Buxton and their 14 children. Tich and eight sons all served in the Canadian Army. Buxton Green was dedicated as park in 1983.

Walk out to Macaulay Point. This point was named for Donald Macaulay, Bailiff (manager) of Viewfield Farm, one of four farms established in the Esquimalt District by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary of the Hudson’s Bay Company. This land, owned by the Government of Canada, is leased by the Township of Esquimalt.

The first earthwork battery at Fort Macaulay, completed in 1878, was dismantled in 1887 when new 6-inch disappearing guns were installed. Fort Macaulay and Fort Rodd Hill were built to protect the British Fleet. Walk through the tunnel completed in 1895 that connected the sleeping quarters and ammunition stores to the gun site. Rest on the memorial benches. Enjoy the spectacular views of sea and mountains.

Return to Munro Street, proceed west. 1179 Munro Street,

a dignified Beaux Arts style house called “Stonehenge,” was designed in 1909 by architect P. Leonard James. The house was designated heritage in 1998. James, in partnership with Francis Mawson Rattenbury, designed the Crystal Garden, once the largest saltwater swimming pool in the British Empire.

He also supervised construction of the first wartime housing contract in Esquimalt, three hundred houses in the Colville Road area.

To learn more about Leonard James read *The Life and Times of Victoria Architect P. Leonard James* by Rosemary James Cross.

Continue walking west.

Plaskett Place (formerly Armit Road) was where Dr. John Stanley Plaskett built his home in 1926. He helped design and build instruments for the Dominion Observatory on Little Saanich Mountain, including the 72” telescope that was, when completed in 1918, the largest in the world. In 1984 Minor Planet No. 2905

was named Plaskett in honour of Dr. Plaskett and his son, Harry H. Plaskett, also an astronomer.

Continue west to Saxe Point Park on Cape Saxe, the name given to the point by Lt. Commander Wood, a member of the crew of *HMS Pandora*, who surveyed the area in 1849. The name Saxe is part of the title of HRH Queen Victoria’s husband and consort, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Saxe Point Park was officially created in 1934.

Walk through the park – enjoy the natural surroundings as well as the manicured flower beds. Chat with the gardener. Read the historic plaques. Breathe the salt air!

The waters around Saxe Point are considered to be some of the best in the area for scuba diving – keep a watch for divers and seals.



**Fort Macaulay (above) and Macaulay Point gun emplacement (below)**





Clockwise from left: **Rosemead, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Saxe Point**

Leave the park, walk north on Fraser Street to either Greenwood Avenue or Bewdley Avenue. Residential lots of one acre were created here in the Viewfield Farm 'Estate' and sold by the Hudson's Bay Company in February 1913. Buyers camped out overnight and sales of \$160,000 were reported during the first two hours on the first day. Councillor George Mathews paid \$8600 (highest price) for property at the corner of Wychbury Avenue and Lampson Street.

Anne Hathaway's Cottage, completed in 1959, is an exact replica of the original cottage in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England. The cottage was built by well-known builder and craftsman Victor Leigh using local materials, including 13 acres of specially grown wheat to thatch the roof. After a fire at the original Hathaway Cottage in England, measurements from the Esquimalt cottage were used for the rebuild.

This area was at one time known as the Lake District of Esquimalt.

The gardens are beautiful in every season! Call 250-388-4353 for more information.

Walk east to Lampson Street.

Leave the Inn, turn left on Lampson Street and walk south to Fleming Beach. The walk ends here.

Cross Lampson Street and visit The English Inn & Resort (formerly The Old England Inn established in 1948 by Sam and Rosina Lane).

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This Tudor Revival style house, "Rosemead," designed by architect Samuel Maclure, was built in 1908 for T. Harry Slater, an early realtor and developer. There have been many additions and alterations. Maclure also designed Hatley Castle, now part of Royal Roads University in Colwood.



Clearing a lot on Kinver Street c1946



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