



Walking Tour Three: Old Esquimalt Village Area

Begin the walk at the site of the old Tudor House at the junction of Esquimalt and Admirals Road. Parking is available. Rev. John P. Hicks opened the original building (destroyed by fire in 2013) in 1904 as The Soldiers and Sailors' Home. Under the proprietorship of Mrs. Ranns, later Mrs. "Ma" Quinn, it was known as The Soldiers and Sailors' Rest. The Township of Esquimalt incorporated at a meeting held in this building 1st September 1912. The Tudor House opened in 1935 when Mount View Holdings received the first liquor permit.

When the laws against selling alcohol ended in 1924, Victoria remained "dry" while Royal Oak and Esquimalt remained "wet." Beer was the only beverage sold and only by the glass. Esquimalt was known for its Public Houses; The Gorge Hotel, The Halfway House (now Esquimalt Inn), The Tudor House, Esquimalt Hotel/End House and the Coach and Horses. Victoria remained "dry" until 1952.

Walk south to the Esquimalt United Church at the corner of Lyall Street and Admirals Road. Completed in 1913, the church, formerly the Esquimalt Naval and Military Methodist Church, was founded with the support of the crew of *HMCS Rainbow*.

HMS Rainbow and *HMS Niobe* (Halifax, N.S.) became Canada's first warships when the Naval Service of Canada (later Royal Canadian Navy) was founded in 1910.

On the southeast corner 1253 Lyall Street, a Queen Anne Cottage built about 1910 by Charles James Jordan. For many years, it was the home of Commander Rowland Bourke, VC, DSO, Legion of Merit and Croix de Guerre. Bourke received the Victoria Cross for valour at Zeebrugge-Ostend during the First World War. He was instrumental in the formation of the Fishermen's Volunteer Reserve just before the Second World War.

Turn right on Lyall Street, walk west through land originally surveyed as Suburban Lots. These streets are some of the earliest in the municipality. A jaunt south down any of them will reveal a variety of heritage homes, lovely

gardens, beautiful ocean views and a few small waterfront parks.

Constance Avenue is named for *HMS Constance*, the first warship to drop anchor in Esquimalt Harbour; Nelson Street for Viscount Horatio Nelson who as Vice-Admiral of the White *HMS Victory* defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar 21st October 1805; Sturdee Street after Admiral Sturdee; Foster Street for George Foster Foster, Esquimalt District Member of the House of Assembly for Vancouver Island in 1860 and Grafton Street after *HMS Grafton* the last flagship (1903) on the Pacific Coast.

Walk west to Grafton Street, turn right. Walk north to Esquimalt Road.

At the corner, St. Paul's historic Naval and Garrison Church was originally built in 1866 at the foot of Signal Hill overlooking Church Bay. Architect Thomas Trounce supervised construction.

St. Paul's, a fine example of Gothic Vernacular Style, is one of the oldest buildings in Esquimalt. In 1904, the church was taken apart, removed to its present site, and reconstructed under the supervision of architect Thomas Woodgate. George Foster Foster donated the land for the church site. His house "The Hermitage," later home to the Gillespie family, stood adjacent to the property.

Interesting artifacts and memorials, including the laid up colours of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Merchant Marines, the Old Contemptibles and the Burma Star, hang in the church and are worthy of a closer look. Enjoy the RCN memorial windows.

The Organ was given heritage status in 2006. The church was designated heritage in 1999.

Phone St. Paul's at 250-388-6833 for service times or to arrange a tour.

Cross Esquimalt Road to the north side.

"Devon Cottage," the Regency Style house at 1388 Esquimalt Road, was



The Tudor House (right)
1253 Lyall Street (below)



built by John Day who owned The Esquimalt Hotel located on Wharf Street/ Pioneer Street in the Old Esquimalt Village (now HMC Dockyard). Later under the proprietorship of the Brunson family, the hotel was known as The Bucket of Blood. Arthur Lockley, a former reeve of Esquimalt lived in Devon Cottage until his death in the rose garden in 1944. The house was restored by Walter Sharpe and designated heritage in 2000.

In 1901, Jessie Price Day, John's first wife, built "Glenday" at 1382 Esquimalt also in the Regency Style. Both of these houses were built on Suburban Lot 27 originally owned by George Foster Foster. In 1919, the second story and the bow-front window were added.

Continue east on Esquimalt Road.

Walk to Nelson Street and turn left. Just after Miles Street view 619 Nelson Street built between 1897-98 by Charles Jordan. Charles moved to B.C. in 1892 and was employed by the Royal Engineers as foreman on various fortification projects in Esquimalt and Victoria. Charles also built 1253 Lyall Street.

Take Miles Street through to Constance Avenue. Turn left and continue north. On your left, 620 Constance Avenue was built by Alfred Nunn about 1912. The Nunn family lived in the house until 1944. His father, Robert Henry Nunn, was a special constable and the first poundkeeper for the Township. He carried out his duties on horseback.

Frederick George and Alma Neild Luscombe built 638 Constance about 1910. Fred served 12 years with the Royal Navy. He was a hard hat diver. Their son George was a diver with the Royal Canadian Navy. After Fred's death, Alma continued living in the house until 1980.

Continue to Astle Street.

Turn right, continue to Admirals Road. As you go south on Admirals Road, on your left, 649 Admirals Road, "Ervyger" was built in 1908 for Rev.



Clockwise from top: **Beaumont Post Office, 620 Constance Avenue and 649 Admirals Road**

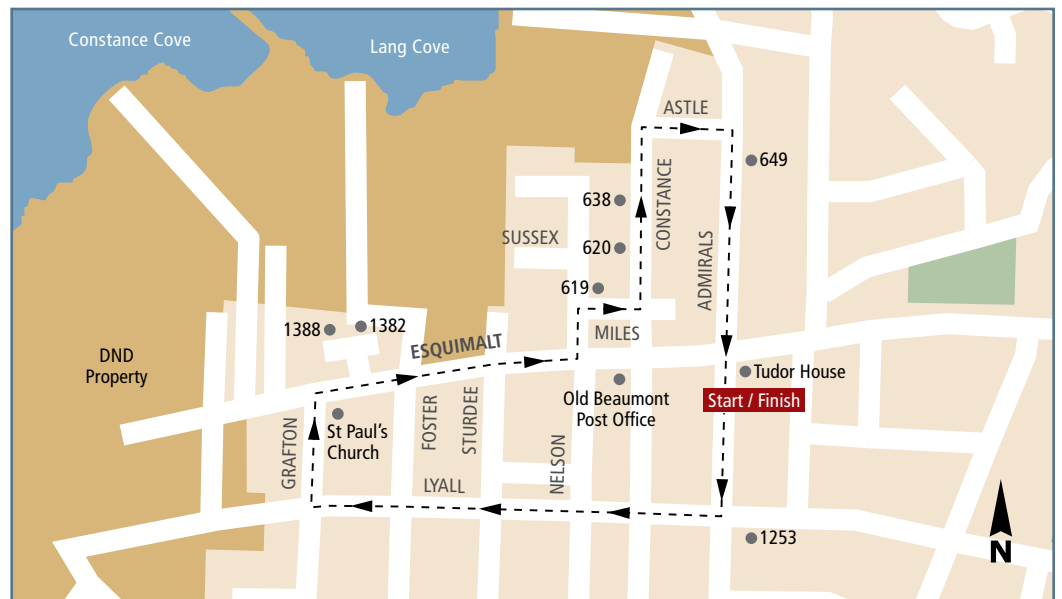
William Washington Bolton and his wife Agnes Jane Bushby. Rev. Bolton founded the University School for Boys (now St. Michael's University School). The foundation and first storey are cement brick, scored to look like masonry.

Architect Peter Cotton lived in the house from 1969 to 1980. Despite the recommendation of the building inspector in 1970 to demolish the house, he renovated it! In 1996, Bill and Debrah Patterson again restored, then adapted the house for new use.

The house was designated heritage in 1996. Historically known as Beaumont, this was the old Beaumont Post Office area for Esquimalt. The walk ends here. There are many restaurants and coffee shops in this area and all are worthy of a visit.



Robert Henry Nunn, Special Constable



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