

Walking Tour Three

Old Esquimalt Village Area

1. Founded with the support of crew members of HMCS *Rainbow*, Esquimalt United Church was called the Esquimalt Naval and Military Methodist Church until 1925 when the congregation joined the newly formed United Church of Canada. It was designed by American architects Emanuel J. Bresemann and Eugene Durfee. The cornerstone was laid by Miss Sarah Spencer, on September 11, 1913. In the 1950s the name changed to The Esquimalt United Church.

2. "Selwyn," at 1253 Lyall St., built about 1910 by Charles Jordan in the Queen Anne Cottage style, was the home of Commander Rowland Bourke, VC, DSO, Legion of Merit and Croix de Guerre, who 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 organized just before the Second World War.



Commander Bourke

3. St. Paul's historic Naval and Garrison Church was built in 1866 at the foot of Signal Hill. Architect Thomas Trounce supervised construction. Designated heritage in 1999, it is a fine example of Gothic Vernacular and one of the oldest buildings in Esquimalt. In 1904 the church was taken apart, moved to this site and reconstructed under the supervision of architect Thomas Woodgate. Major George F. Foster donated the land.

- Interesting artifacts and memorials include the laid-up colours of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Merchant Marine, the Old Contemptibles and the Burma Star. The memorial windows unveiled during the Royal Canadian Navy Centennial (1910-2010) were designed by Mercer & Schaefer Glass Studios. The Memorial Window Project committee was chaired by Rear-Admiral (Ret.'d) William (Bill) Hughes, CD.

- The pipe organ, built in 1891 by Peter Conacher Company Ltd. of Huddersfield, England, was purchased in 1912 from the Old Iron Church (St. John the Divine) and installed in 1913. Crew members of HMS *Shearwater* helped raise the funds.



In 2006 the organ received heritage designation from the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

4. "Devon Cottage," the Regency Style house at 1388 Esquimalt Rd., off St Paul's Place, was built by John Day, owner of the Esquimalt Hotel 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 here until his death in the rose garden in 1944. The house was restored by Walter Sharpe and designated heritage in 2000.

5. "Glenday," at 1382 Esquimalt Rd., also in the Regency Style, was built in 1901 for Jessie Price Day, John's first wife. In 1919 the second story and the bow-front window were added.

6. 619 Nelson St. was built between 1897-1898 by Charles Jordan who moved to BC in 1892. A brickmaker by trade, he was employed as a fireman in the dockyard for a number of years.

7. Jordan's property was subdivided and 616 Constance Ave. was built. Owned for a number of years by Elizabeth Toward as investment property. She worked for BC Phone Company, and lived with her husband George, a carpenter, on Olive Street in Victoria.

8. 622 Constance Ave. was built for Robert Henry Nunn who also built 620 Constance Ave. Nunn came to Esquimalt with the Royal Marines retiring here after 21 years of service. He also served with British forces in Egypt. Nunn was a special constable and the first poundkeeper for the Township. He carried out his duties on horseback.



Robert Henry Nunn, Special Constable.

What's in a name?

Constance Avenue is named for HMS *Constance*, the first warship to drop anchor in Esquimalt Harbour.

Nelson Street is named for Viscount Horatio Nelson, Vice-Admiral of the White, HMS *Victory*, who defeated the French at the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21, 1805.

Sturdee Street is named after Admiral Sturdee.

Foster Street for Major George Foster Foster, Esquimalt District Member of the House of Assembly for Vancouver Island in 1860.

Grafton Street is named after HMS *Grafton*, the last flagship (1903) on the Pacific Coast.

9. 638 Constance Ave. was built about 1910 for Frederick and Alma Avon Neild Luscombe. Fred worked at Yarrows, the Dockyard and with BC Electric Railway. The family was connected with the property from 1907 to 1980.

10. "Ervyger," 649 Admirals Rd., was built in 1908 for Rev. William Washington Bolton and his wife Agnes Jane Bushby. Rev. Bolton founded the University School for Boys (now St. Michael's University School). The house 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



649 Admirals Road

in 1970 to demolish the house, Cotton renovated it. In 1996 Bill and Debrah Patterson restored, then adapted the house for new use. It was designated heritage in 1996.

