



Walking Tour One: West Bay Area

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

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 West Song Walkway). 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 it was demolished in 1959. The town of Crofton was named for him. "Westbay" the home of John (Sam) and Ada Galley 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.

To the right 882 Dunsmuir Road was built in the mid-1890s by John Raffel Saunders, the first elected Reeve (Mayor) of Esquimalt.

John worked for the Esquimalt Water Works as their rate collector for 16 years. He then went into the real estate and insurance business with William J. Cave, a partnership that lasted 35 years.

South on Head Street – to the left the entrance to West Bay Walk/West Song Way. Constructed 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 Captain Victor Jacobson home 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.

To the right, 464 Head Street was decorated by now deceased John Keziere. He was definitely a nautical kitsch enthusiast!

On the left, the entrance to West Bay Marina. The Harbour Ferry stops here. Phone 250-708-0201 for schedule and rate information.

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. 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, had been chartered by author Robert Louis Stevenson and while cruising in the south seas (paradise), he wrote *Treasure Island*.



From left: 507 Head Street and Minnie Jacobson

Return to Head Street.

Continue north on Head Street. 572 Head Street "Seascape" at the corner of Head and Wollaston Street was designed by local eccentric and philanthropist John Dean in 1923. He 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 that he donated to the Municipality of North Saanich. Dean served as Councillor (1900) and Mayor (1903) of Rossland, 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 at this point. 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 was a manual training instructor at Lampson Street School. He also organized a school choir that won many area music festivals.

To the right, 851 Wollaston Street, is the only house in Esquimalt designed by Architect Francis Mawson Rattenbury. His more notable commissions were the Provincial Legislature Buildings and the Empress Hotel. The house, an eclectic combination of Chalet, Tudor Revival and Queen Anne style



851 Wollaston Street

was built in 1908 for Arthur and Amy Galley Coles. He established the successful firm Arthur Coles Real Estate in Victoria. From 1916-1919, Arthur Coles was Reeve (Mayor) of Esquimalt.

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

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 here 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.