



### Walking Tour Three: Old Esquimalt Village Area

Begin the walking tour at the Tudor House at the junction of Esquimalt Road and Admirals Road. Parking is available at the rear of the building.

Rev. John P. Hicks formally opened this building in 1904 as The Soldier's and Sailor's Home. Under the proprietorship of Mrs. Ranns, later Mrs. "Ma" Quinn, it was known as The Soldier's and Sailor's Rest. The Township of Esquimalt incorporated at a meeting held in this building 1st September 1912. The name Tudor House came into existence in 1938 when Tudor Holdings Limited established the beer parlour.

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 became 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 1954.

Walk south to the Esquimalt United Church at the corner of Lyall Street and Admirals Road. Completed in 1911 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 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, Legion of Merit and Croix de Guerre. He received the Victoria Cross for valour at Zeebrugge-Ostend in WWI. Bourke was instrumental in the formation of the Fishermen's Reserve during WWII.

Turn right on Lyall Street and 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 these streets 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 navy ship to make Esquimalt Harbour her home; Nelson Street for Viscount Horatio Nelson who as Vice-Admiral of the White on *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 and turn right. Walk north to Esquimalt Road.

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

St. Paul's is a fine example of the Gothic Vernacular Style and 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 T.N. Woodgate. George Foster Foster donated the land for the church site. His house "The Hermitage," later home to the Gillespie family, stood on property adjacent to the church.

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.

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 built by John Day who owned The Esquimalt Hotel located on Wharf



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



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 from 1931 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 1st 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. In 1919 the second story and the bow-front window were added.

Continue east on Esquimalt Road.

Take Miles Street through to Constance Avenue. Turn left and continue north. On the left, 620 Constance Avenue was built by Robert Henry Nunn about 1912. Charles Hayward of Hayward's Funeral Parlour was the first owner of the property. The Nunn family lived in the house until 1944. Robert Henry Nunn was a special Constable and the first Poundkeeper of the Township of Esquimalt. He carried out his duties on horseback.

Take Miles Street through to Constance Avenue. Turn left and continue north. On your left, 620 Constance Avenue built by Alfred H. 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 of the Township of Esquimalt. 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 also became a diver with the Royal Canadian Navy. After Fred's death Alma continued to live in the house until 1980.

Continue to Astle Street.

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



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

Washington Bolton and his wife Agnes Jane Bushby. Rev. Bolton founded the University School for Boys (now St. Michael's University School-coed). They called the house "Ervyger." The foundation and first storey of this house are of cement brick and are 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 and adapted the house for new use. The house was designated heritage in 1996.

This area is historically known as Beaumont and was the old Beaumont Post Office area for Esquimalt.

The Tudor House is in sight and the walking tour ends here. Pop in for some good Pub Fare. 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.