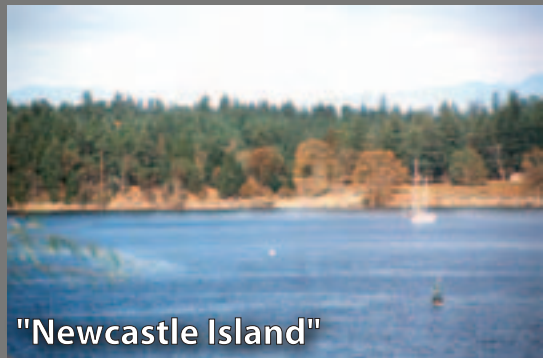


A brief walk around Newcastle Island brings you to the site of Saysetsen Village, where recovered native artifacts bear silent witness to the life of a Salish Indian village that was deserted some time before coal was discovered in Nanaimo in 1849. For centuries the Salish had occupied this village between the months of September and April, leaving every spring in order to fish for cod and gather clams and tubers on Gabriola Island. Although the Salish were among the island's first coal miners, they were soon

"supplemented" by boatloads of British; these men christened the island after the famous coal town in northern England and diligently worked the mines until 1883. Newcastle Island's supplies of sandstone lasted longer than did the coal: this attractive building material, used in many



"Newcastle Island"

constructions along the west coast, was quarried from 1869 until 1932.

Newcastle Island also played a role in the fishing industry of the province. By 1910 the Japanese, who dominated the west coast fisheries, had established a small settlement just north of Shaft Point on the east side of the island. Here they operated a saltery and shipyard until 1941 when all the Japanese-Canadians who lived along the coast were sent to internment camps in the Interior in the interests of national security.

In 1931 the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company purchased the island and operated it as a pleasure resort, building a dance pavilion (now the Park visitor centre), teahouse, picnic areas, change houses, soccer field and a wading pool. An old ship named Charmer (later replaced by the Princess Victoria) was tied to the dock at Mark Bay (Echo Bay) and served as a floating hotel. The island became very popular for company picnics and Sunday outings, with ships from Vancouver bringing as many as 1,500 people at a time. The advent of the Second World War caused a decrease in the number of ships available for pleasure excursions and Newcastle Island suffered a consequent decline in popularity. Today the Island is a Provincial Park and again a popular camping destination for both Nanaimo residents and tourists. (text courtesy of BC Parks)

The Nanaimo Yacht Club likely existed as early as 1898. By 1903 a charter for the yacht club had been created and a site for the club was legally secured in 1909, but the history of the present Nanaimo Yacht Club begins in 1931.

Young men interested in speed developed by the newly introduced outboard motor organized into a group for racing. Soon, joined by others with inboard motor launches, a club was formed.

The 1909 site was available so with volunteer labour and donated materials, simple docks and a clubhouse were built. The yacht club soon became a community fixture with many social occasions occurring in the club building.



"Yacht Club"

As time progressed, larger power boats were acquired and some members entered predicted log races. This interest had the Nanaimo Yacht Club hosting the finish of predicted log races from various U.S. ports through the San Jaun and Gulf Islands to Nanaimo. Attendance was so large the docks had to be extended and a breakwater added to provide protection from the southeast winds. Again volunteers and the community met the challenge and the club grew. The races became a major feature in the Pacific Northwest and the club remains a stopover for powerboat racing to Alaska. Today, the Yacht Club offers the same successful combination of moorage, races, and social events. (text courtesy of Nanaimo Yacht Club)

1969, Courtesy of Nanaimo Yacht Club.

Brochure Produced By:

## Nanaimo Community



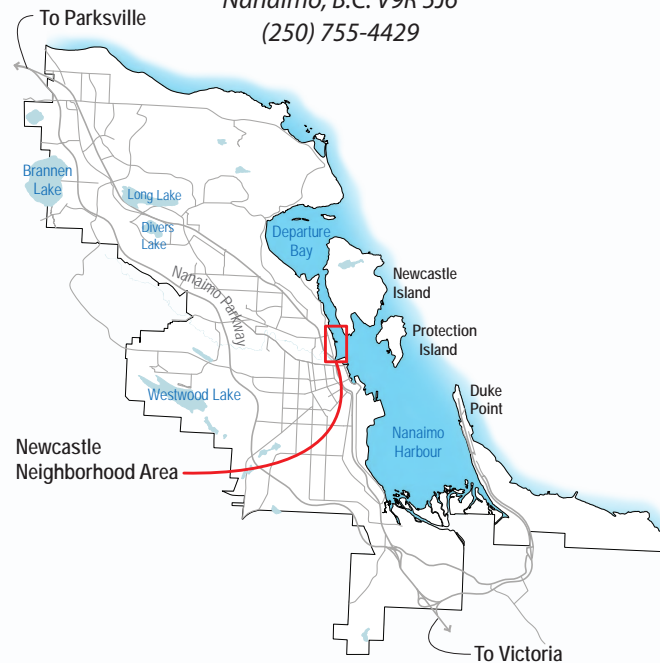
## Heritage Commission

For more information about the buildings featured in this brochure, please ask for a copy of the City's Heritage Inventory at the Development Services Department, 238 Franklyn Street or visit the City's web site at [www.city.nanaimo.bc.ca](http://www.city.nanaimo.bc.ca)

If you have questions about the City's Heritage Inventory or Heritage Conservation Program please contact:

### Heritage Planner

City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5J6  
(250) 755-4429



Continue your visit to Nanaimo's past at :

The Nanaimo District Museum,  
100 Cameron Road (250-753-1821).

&

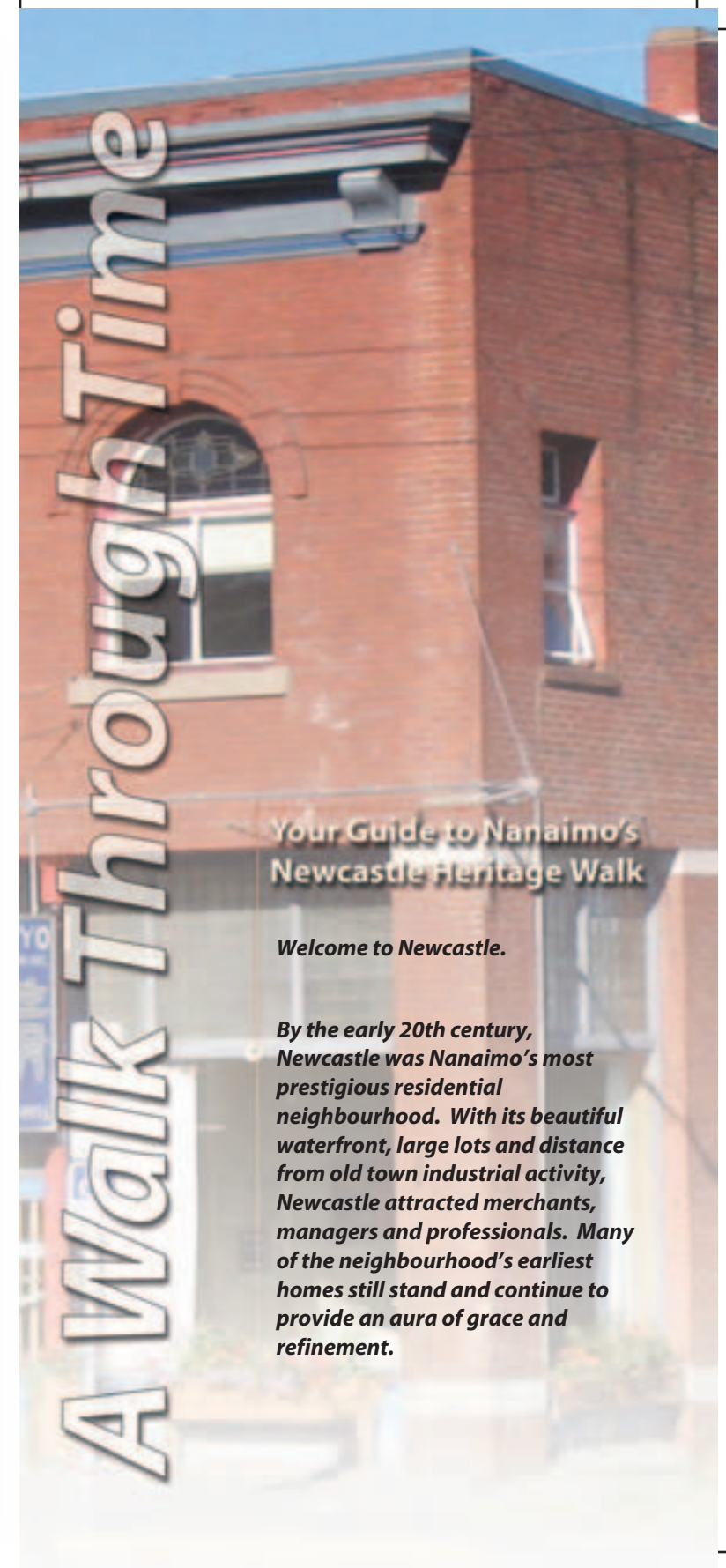
The Nanaimo Community Archives,  
150 Commercial Street (250-753-4462).



All historical photos courtesy  
Nanaimo Community Archives

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Special Thanks To: Nanaimo Yacht Club, Jim Teneycke (Icad), Nanaimo Community Archives



Your Guide to Nanaimo's  
Newcastle Heritage Walk

Welcome to Newcastle.

By the early 20th century, Newcastle was Nanaimo's most prestigious residential neighbourhood. With its beautiful waterfront, large lots and distance from old town industrial activity, Newcastle attracted merchants, managers and professionals. Many of the neighbourhood's earliest homes still stand and continue to provide an aura of grace and refinement.

## "Eldovilla"



After making the second largest recorded fortune of the Klondike Gold Rush, William Sloan returned to Nanaimo in 1900, purchased all of Block 5 in Newcastle and built "Eldovilla". A Queen Anne style mansion, the house was demolished in 1930. Today, all that remains of this once grand mansion are these gateposts.



### Hoggan's Store

Built in 1914, Hoggan's Store was considered one of the most modern and best equipped business blocks in Nanaimo. The store featured a wharf at which fishermen could dock and load up on supplies. In 1926, Hoggan's business was taken over by J.T. Williams and William Herdman and became Nanaimo's first Red & White Store. The building is a neighbourhood landmark.



1 404 Stewart Avenue

### Westwood / Giovando Residence

Built in 1940, this modern house faces a spectacular harbour view. It has been lived in by Earle Westwood, a Nanaimo mayor and MLA, as well as Dr. Larry Giovando, a highly regarded community leader and local politician.



2 225 Newcastle Avenue

### Woodward/Harrison Residence

This late Victorian style residence was likely built around 1900 by Hiram Woodward, a carpenter. By the 1930s, Victor Harrison had purchased the property. Harrison was a lawyer and also served as mayor of Nanaimo from 1925-26 and 1938-44. In his role as a "Native Son", he was responsible for the creation of Petroglyph Provincial Park. Harrison was also involved in preserving the Nanaimo Bastion and its historical collections. Harrison is best known, however, for his role in bringing the notorious cult leader Brother XII to trial.



3 215 Newcastle Avenue

### Johnston Residence

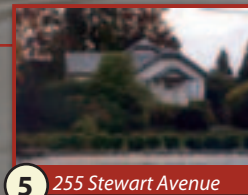
This house was built in 1912 for Zillah Johnston, the widow of A.R. Johnston, a pioneer grocer in Nanaimo. A superior example of the Craftsman style, it displays many sophisticated features including a complex gable roof, a corner entry and an unusual round projecting bay at the southwest corner.



4 36 Stewart Avenue

### Isaacson Residence

Built in 1931, this house is a good example of an English Cottage style bungalow. Typical design features of this style include asymmetrical floor plans, jerkin-headed roofs, rough stucco siding and rolled eave roof treatments. The house was built after an earlier house (Eldovilla), centred in the middle of the block, was demolished. S.V. Isaacson was the Secretary-Treasurer of Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir) Ltd.



5 255 Stewart Avenue

### Galbraith Residence

This Craftsman Bungalow was designed with an open front verandah, multi-paned windows and half-timbering in the gable ends. It was built in 1923 for James and Mary Aileen Galbraith. James Galbraith was the Manager of the Bank of Montreal.



6 164 Mount Benson St.

### Van Houten Residence

Another Craftsman bungalow, this 1924 home was built for A.C. and Mary Van Houten. A.C. Van Houten was a druggist and the U.S. Consular Agent. Typical architectural treatments of this era include a generous open front verandah accented by a projecting gable, supported on twinned columns.



7 184 Mount Benson St.

### Schetky Residence

This house was built circa 1898 for G.L. Schekty, an insurance agent and U.S. Consul. In 1906, it was acquired by David Stephenson, the Chief Provincial Constable and the man for whom Stephenson Point was named. It was later acquired by Fred Jepson, a prominent local businessman. The house's long, low proportions mark a change in style at the end of the Victorian era when tall, asymmetrical houses with highly decorated surfaces and complex roof lines went out of fashion. The ornamentation is limited to scroll-cut eave brackets, banded and corbelled chimneys and a rear window flashed with coloured glass. The mature Monkey Puzzle tree on the site is a Heritage Tree.



8 225 Vancouver Avenue

### Sharp Residence

A Craftsman influenced bungalow, this house was built in 1923 for Hannah Lowe. In 1925, Frank and Marjorie Sharp became the first known resident owners. Frank Sharp was the City Engineer. The use of brick is uncommon and there is a unique checkerboard treatment, rendered in rough-cast brick, in the gable ends.



9 261 Vancouver Avenue

### Ekins Residence

This house, built in 1927 for Dr. William Edward James Ekins, reflects the period revival styles popular in the years between the two World Wars. Designed in an English Arts & Crafts style, it features a steep hip roof, stucco cladding and multi-paned casement windows. Visual interest is provided by a gable projection over the front entry, a hip dormer and a larger jerkin-headed dormer facing to the front.



10 441 Vancouver Avenue

"Eldovilla". A Queen Anne style mansion, demolished in 1930