



THE VILLAGE WALK

SCENIC AND HISTORIC PEDESTRIAN TOURS OF AMBLESIDE, CEDARDALE AND DUNDARAVE

The VILLAGE WALK was created in honour of EXPO 86 and as an opportunity to use mankind's most basic form of transportation — the foot.

The project is the result of a cooperative effort of the Ambleside and Dundarave Ratepayers Association and the Municipality of West Vancouver.

West Vancouver bustles about on every conceivable type of wheel, wing, hull and rail. As you walk, we hope you will grow to appreciate the area's beauty, history, future and its own unique relationship with transportation.

The VILLAGE WALK highlights our parks, our heritage buildings and the scenic beauty of our community.

Walking is a popular pastime in West Vancouver, especially along the seawalks. You find the residents are inclined to exchange friendly nods or comments about the weather with complete strangers.

People with houses or businesses along the routes are encouraged to beautify their gardens and storefronts, adding to the pleasant experience of taking this tour.

The tour is well marked by signs and posts displaying the distinctive civic coat of arms.

You can choose to do the entire tour which covers approximately 15 kilometres and takes about 4 hours — or select any of the more leisurely single village loops which take from one to two hours.

TRANSPORTATION HISTORY — IN THE BEGINNING

The first European explorer to chart this area was the Spanish pilot Don Jose Maria Narvaez, on July 10, 1791. His charts indicate an Indian settlement on the banks of the Capilano River called Honul-chesun. (There is a park by this name on the Reserve today.)

In the following hundred years, other than building a lighthouse at Point Atkinson in 1875, very little changed in West Vancouver. Ambleside's earliest settler is presumed to be John Thomas, alias "Navy Jack". In 1889 he bought property adjacent to Lawson Creek. He operated a request ferry service and quarried gravel from his land.

REGULAR FERRY SERVICE TO VANCOUVER

By 1909, Mr. Jerry Lawson and three associates formed a company to begin regular ferry service to Vancouver. It ran from the pier at the foot of 17th Street to Vancouver. The service fingered a 300 percent population increase and in 1912 the Municipality of West Vancouver — population 700 — was incorporated.

MUNICIPAL FERRY AND BUS SERVICE

By 1913, The Municipality had acquired and then closed down Mr. Lawson's company and built a new pier at 14th Street. From here a ferry service to Vancouver ran until February 8th, 1947.

In 1916, a bus system was started and linked with the ferry system. In Dundarave, by 1915 enough people had settled and opened businesses to form a village community.

RAIL VERSUS WHEELS

On New Year's Day, 1914, the Pacific and Great Eastern Railway — now B.C. Rail — began passenger/freight service between North Vancouver and 25th Street in West Vancouver. Six months later service was extended to Horseshoe Bay.

In 1928, Marine Drive was extended to Horseshoe Bay and served by the Municipal bus system. The automobile forced the closure of the rail service.

On November 12, 1938, the Lions Gate Bridge was opened, providing a direct car link to the city. Built by the Guinness family to ensure land sales in its "British Properties" atop West Vancouver, the bridge heralded a new era, attracting thousands of new residents.

By the 1950's, pretty Marine Drive had become a scenic bottleneck for the increased traffic. In 1958, the Upper Levels Highway was completed, allowing cars headed to Horseshoe Bay ferries much faster access.

West Vancouver's transportation history — from canoe to ferry to freeways — took less than 200 years. It is all very exciting and yet to really appreciate the place and its history we must slow down again. We invite you to choose your own pace and explore the living history and beauty of West Vancouver and its VILLAGE WALK.

THE ROUTES

We begin this guide at West Vancouver's Library. There are car park and facilities north of Marine Drive, at the foot of 20th Street and at the Community Recreation Centre in the 2100 block Fulton.

Memorial Library was built in 1950. Financed in part by public subscription, it opened on November 11, 1950 dedicated to the memory of those who died in WWII.

Across Marine Drive from the library is West Vancouver's **Mar Memorial Archway**, which leads to the **Memorial Gardens** behind. The garden land was put aside for park use in 1922. The Arch was opened by Baron Byng, Governor General of Canada on July 5, 1923.

One in the park, the walker should cross the foot bridge to where the **VILLAGE WALK** information map is located.

ROUTE 1 DUNDARAVE VILLAGE 5 km 1½ hours

At the south end of 19th Street, turn west along the 2 kilometre long waterfront walkway, THE CENTENNIAL SEAWALK was begun in 1967 in honour of Canada's Centennial.

As you walk towards 22nd Street, note the mini-gardens tended by apartment tenants and in the distance **Point Atkinson** lighthouse beyond **Dundarave Pier**.

On your left as you exit the Seawalk on to **24th Street** is a large house built in 1920. The original owner was Mrs. Beatrice Gray. By 1920 every lot on the waterfront side of lower Bellevue had a building on it.

Dundarave Pier was built in 1914 as a ferry slip. Today it offers a panoramic view of the West Vancouver foreshore, from **Lighthouse Park** to **Navy Jack Point**, all set against the backdrop of Hollyburn Mountain.

Peggy's Restaurant overlooks the pier and sea. Built by the Stevenson family in 1912 it was originally called "**The Clachan**", Gaelic for "meeting place".

Another landmark "**The Fortune Cup Inn**" stood opposite the old "Clachan" from 1920 until 1971 when it was demolished to increase the park area.

Marine Drive is the commercial area of the Dundarave Village. Approximately 90 businesses from gourmet groceries and bookstores to antiques and boutiques and sporting goods stores offer their services.

The Sager's Building was constructed in 1913 and has served the community in various functions such as meeting hall, badminton court, dance hall, cabaret, and church. It was bought in 1956 and became Sager's Maple Shop until 1985.

The oldest mulberry tree in the Lower Mainland is just east of 24th Street, north of Marine Drive. It was planted in 1922 by the Sweetman family.

Haywood Avenue is a blend of old and new. **Inwin Park Elementary School** stands on the site of the original Inwin Park, donated by Mr. Wm. L. Inwin in 1911. Most of the houses along here were built between 1911 and 1929.

The **Maple leaf Garden** spot has been the site of a nursery since the 1930's. Turning east, the house at 2557 Kings was built in 1913. The house at 2503 Kings was built in 1911.

Proceed on Kings 3 blocks through residential Dundarave to 22nd Street.

Turn south on 22nd and see **Pauline Johnson Elementary School**, established in 1922. Today the school houses part of the French Immersion Program as well as the West Vancouver Arts Council, the Museum and Historical Society.

Continuing south you will pass the Kiwanis Lodge for Seniors on your left and St. Stephen's Anglican Church on your right. Enter **West Vancouver's Recreation Centre** and walk past the ice arena and aquatic centre, tennis courts and gymnasium. The first of these facilities were opened in 1958.

Walking south on 21st Street, you pass the **Senior's Activity Centre**, which won the 1978 Canadian Architectural Yearbook Award of Excellence for Design.

On Esquimal to the south, the United Church, the Christian Science Church and to the south, West Vancouver's Lawn Bowling Club. You now meet Memorial Garden Park again where we began this route.

ROUTE 2 AMBLESIDE VILLAGE 7.25 km 2 hours

From the information map in Memorial Gardens, proceed north on 19th Street. Follow the signs on **Fulton Ave.** to **Sinclair Street** and then west on **Inglewood Ave.** to the entrance of **Hay Park**. This park was named in 1950 after George Hay, Reeve of West Vancouver in 1915. **Macdonald Creek** flows through the park and is bridged twice. Cross the most northerly bridge and follow the signs.

A foot bridge crosses **Lawson Creek** and the path continues across the school playing fields.

West Vancouver Secondary School was opened in 1950 and houses a large workshop instructional facility.

The former **Inglewood Junior Secondary School**, to the south opened in 1927. It is now used as a **YMCA Recreation Centre**. West of the YMCA is **Keith Hat-El**, the Jewish Community Centre.

Continue to **Chatwin Park** on Kings Ave., at 13th Street. The park

was acquired through a real estate exchange with Daniel Fry Chatwin in 1946. Pass through the park to exit on to Jefferson Ave. Going east along Jefferson Ave., the **Sentinel Hill Summit** is on your right.

To the north is 1211 metre high **Grouse Mountain**, with a gondola lift and a restaurant on top.

The British Properties are seen to good advantage from the Jefferson and Braxdale Ave. intersection.

Note: This point is a junction of **Route 2** and **Route 3**. Check your map and follow the appropriate sign post.

Route 2 continues south on Braxdale Ave. to Leyland Park. Watch for a post marking the stairs. Follow the trail to the viewing spot at the top of the park. You will see Ambleside and Dundarave stages the Gulf of Georgia, Stanley Park, Lions Gate Bridge, downtown Vancouver and on a clear day, Vancouver Island.

Leyland Park was near day Vancouver Island. Reeve of West Vancouver from 1930-1940, a period of rapid development in the community.

Down the stairs and across Esquimal Ave., proceed down a paved lane. You will get views of downtown Vancouver and Mount Baker in the distance.

Follow the signs on Keith Rd. to the stairs which lead down to Evelyn Dr. and there down another stairway to Park Royal Shopping Centre. Keep to the right, adjacent to the apartment towers is a sidewalk which leads to the pedestrian overpass.

* **Route 2** meets **Route 3** at this point. Please check your map.

Across Marine Dr. turn west to the "Round Road" entrance of Ambleside Park.

You will pass the **Rod & Gun Clubhouse** and see the S.P.C.A. facility just beyond.

Cross the railway tracks and proceed to the waterfront seawalk following the signs and posts.

The eastern portion of Ambleside Park, from the duck pond to the river, belongs to the Squamish Indian Band.

Access to the 26 acre site is the subject of negotiation between the Band and the Municipality of West Vancouver.

Presently the walker may follow the road east to the mouth of the Capilano River. Along this road you pass the park's par 3 golf course, and fitness circuit.

Capilano River is a spawning ground for thousands of salmon whose main run is in September.

At the mouth of the Capilano is First Narrows, across which lies Stanley Park's Prospect Point.

Continue on the Seawalk past two wooden sculptures, "Wave in Wood" by American Robert Behrens and farther west, "Closed Line" by Canadian Chung Hung.

Note two other monuments at the west end of Ambleside Park. One commemorates a coast to coast walk, the other marks the First European's visit to the area.

Ambleside Village has approximately 245 businesses operating in its commercial zone and it is well worth the visitors time to tour the area.

Route 2 continues on **Argyle Ave.** The southern end of **14th Street** is slated to become "Heritage Square." Once the site of a ferry terminal and pier, the building with the clock was erected in 1913. The area has served as a bus depot but will be developed as a community space along with the waterfront properties in the 1400 and 1500 blocks Argyle.

Just west of **16th Street** you enter **John Lawson Park**. The old holly trees were planted by Mr. Lawson and the mountain behind takes its name from his family home — "Hollyburn" — a name derived from the holly trees and the nearby stream or, in Scottish, a "burn".

West Vancouver's oldest home is at **1768 Argyle**. It was built by **Navy Jack** in 1889, became **Hollyburn House** when the Lawsons lived in it.

Look up 17th Street to the canopy of horse chestnut trees. They were planted by the 2nd Troop of West Vancouver's Boy Scouts to commemorate a visit by Lord Baden Powell, in April 1934.

Continue along Argyle Ave., to 18th Street where you will meet the Centennial Sea Walk again. At 19th Street go north back to the start of this route at Memorial Gardens or proceed on the Sea Walk to Dundarave. Check your map.

ROUTE 3 CEDARDALE 3.5 km 1 hour

The Cedarvale tour can be started from 2 junctions. Please check your map and proceed to your choice. Our guide begins Route 3 at the **Jefferson Ave.** and **Braxdale** intersection.

Follow Jefferson eastwards. Watch for posts to guide you to a footpath leading from Jefferson to **Inglewood Ave.**

You will pass the **Inglewood Lodge for Seniors** and approach **Taylor Way**. This major north-south connector was named after A. J. Taylor an engineer and entrepreneur who worked closely with the **Guinness Family**. Through his efforts the family was convinced to invest in West Vancouver, develop the "British Properties" and eventually to build the Lions Gate Bridge.

Cross Taylor Way and follow the posts on Inglewood Ave. To the south is Cedarvale's private school, Collingwood. Across its playing fields is a glimpse of downtown Vancouver.

Pass onto a footpath then a bridge over **Brothers Creek**.

At 490 Inglewood Ave. is a lovely old log cabin called "Holdfast". The next property is interesting for its stately and minimalist of landscaped mountains and dwarf plantings.

Turn south at **3rd Street** and proceed to **Keith Road**.

At this point you have a choice to make a slight detour to the east or to continue south to the Capilano River. The detour will bring you back to this point as well. The **Klee Wyck** detour is also the starting point of North Vancouver's dramatic Capilano Canyon Trail.

Upper Levels Highway above and the old cement footings of Keith Road Bridge below.

Klee Wyck Park is at 200 Keith Rd. The park was donated to the Municipality by Dr. Ethlyn Trapp. The house was built in 1925 and now serves as the headquarters of the West Vancouver Arts Council.

On the north side of Keith Rd. is a house now known as "spur-away" built in 1911 by Japanese craftsmen as the residence of a Mr. Dillon of North Vancouver.

Retrace your steps to Keith Rd. and 3rd Street.

Follow **Cap Trail** signs towards the River. You catch glimpses of Woodcroft Park high rise apartment complex.

Follow the Capilano River downstream past **Beacon Hill Lodge** for Seniors, across Brothers Creek and on to Clyde Ave.

To the West along Clyde Ave. you see **Park Royal Mall North**. The Mall was built in 1950 by the Guinness family and was the first of its kind in Canada.

Our route continues along the river bank.

The Park Royal Hotel, West Vancouver's only hotel was built in the 1950's. The Tudor styled, 30 room hotel has been home to many celebrities filming here in "Hollywood North".

At the first of two bridges which cross the Capilano River, turn west and follow Marine Drive past the Park Royal Shopping Center to the pedestrian overpass.

Route 3 joins **Route 2** at the overpass. For further directions the walker should turn to the **Route 2** notes. *

The Ambleside and Dundarave Ratepayers' Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support and co-operation of the Municipality of West Vancouver.

We also thank the many individuals who volunteered their time and services, especially Mr. Eddy Mackay who worked with the West Van Historical Society to gather the historical notes. Particular thanks are owing to Beverly Tanck who originated the project and through her enthusiasm brought the initiative to completion.

— Captain George Murrell
President

PANORAMA

CHARTWELL

BRITISH PROPERTIES

SENTINEL HILL

CEDARDALE

CAPILANO

INDIAN RESERVE

HOLLYBURN

DUNDARAVE

AMBESIDE

Legend

THE VILLAGE WALK

- Fishing Facilities
- Swimming Facilities
- Gardens
- Court Games Facilities
- Playfields
- Fitness Circuits

Other Amenities:

- Sailing Clubs
- Bird Sanctuary
- Adventure Playground

