



For more information about the Comox Valley Heritage Experience walking and driving tours and other visitor services in the Comox Valley call or visit:



Comox Valley Visitor Centre

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Cumberland Visitor Centre

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www.discovercomoxvalley.com

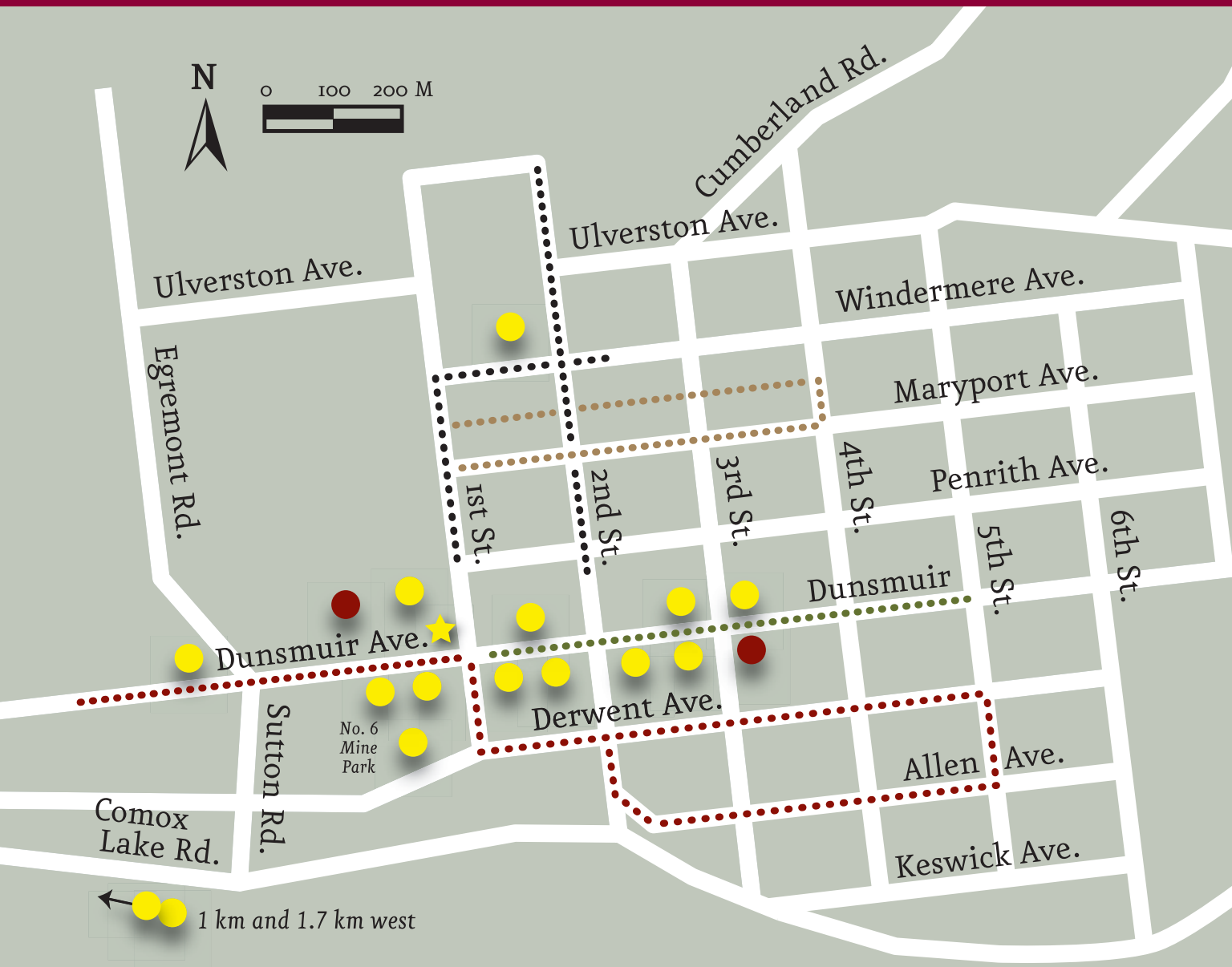
COMOX VALLEY HERITAGE EXPERIENCE



Explore the Village of Cumberland

HERITAGE WALKS

MAP & DIRECTIONS FOR SELF-GUIDED TOURS INSIDE!



Cumberland Heritage Walks

- Heritage Walk 1: Down Camp & Little Jerusalem
- Heritage Walk 2: Doctor's Row
- Heritage Walk 3: Fernwood Heights & Bridal Alley
- Heritage Walk 4: Mainstreet
- ★ Cumberland Museum
- Interpretive Sign
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Cumberland Heritage Walks

Tour 1	Down Camp & Little Jerusalem
Tour 2	Doctor's Row
Tour 3	Fernwood Heights & Bridal Alley
Tour 4	Mainstreet

Comox Valley Heritage Experience

Cumberland Heritage Walks

Welcome to the Village of Cumberland Heritage Walks. This four part tour of the Village takes you through the historic working class neighbourhoods of Camp Road and Little Jerusalem, up to the fine homes of Doctor's Row, along alleys lined with bridal cabins and down to the commercial heart of Cumberland on Dunsmuir Avenue.

Stop at the Cumberland Museum and Archives before you get started and learn about Cumberland's rich coal mining and multi-cultural history. Then head out for an easy stroll along streets lined with heritage trees and charming turn-of-the-century homes. Allow approximately one hour for Tour #1 — Down Camp and Little Jerusalem, and 30-40 minutes for each of the other tours, with time in between to stop for a coffee or a delicious treat at a local cafe or bakery.

Keep an eye out for the 15 interpretive signs—housed in wooden shake kiosks—that mark buildings and landmarks throughout the Village. These signs offer a glimpse into the lives of the men and women who pioneered this resourceful and resilient little Village.

In addition to the Cumberland Heritage Walks, there are also Heritage Walks in Downtown Courtenay, along the Courtenay Riverway and in Comox. All are highlighted by interpretive signage at key locations along the route. Be sure to pick up brochures for each route, as well as a brochure for the Comox Valley Heritage Experience Driving Tour, at local museums and Visitor Centres.





Explore the Village of Cumberland

The historic buildings and houses of Cumberland tell the story of a village with a rich and colourful past.

Miners and their families came from as far away as China, Japan, Western and Eastern Europe and the US to found this community. Merchants and tradesmen followed close behind, building the dynamic Village that remains today. Cumberland's annual events calendar still celebrates the contributions of these diverse early settlers.

Cumberland itself—and many of its streets—was named after a mining region in England known as Cumbria. The original settlement, Union, was built west of the present downtown and is now known as 'Camp Road'. This quaint family neighbour-

hood still retains the original homes of the first miners who came to work in the Cumberland coal mines in the 1880s.

Cumberland was incorporated as a city on January 1, 1898 and quickly became a centre for trade and commerce in the Comox Valley and on Vancouver Island. When the last coal mine closed in 1966, Cumberland became a sleepy village, much unchanged for 30 years.

The original development of the 1880s and post-fire buildings of the 1930s still make up the majority of the downtown structures. Today, Cumberland is bustling again with new businesses and residents attracted to the heritage charms and fascinating stories of this historic community.

Tour 1 — Down Camp & Little Jerusalem

DOWN CAMP

UNION TOWNSITE (1888-1891)

The area now known as Down Camp is the original townsite of Union. Robert Dunsmuir brought all the shares of Union Mines and developed his own mines near Coal Creek. By 1888 he had built 75 houses for the white miners and this settlement became known as Union. A large Chinatown was also developed at this time and, with the aid of Chinese labourers, Dunsmuir opened Mines No. 1, 2 & 3.

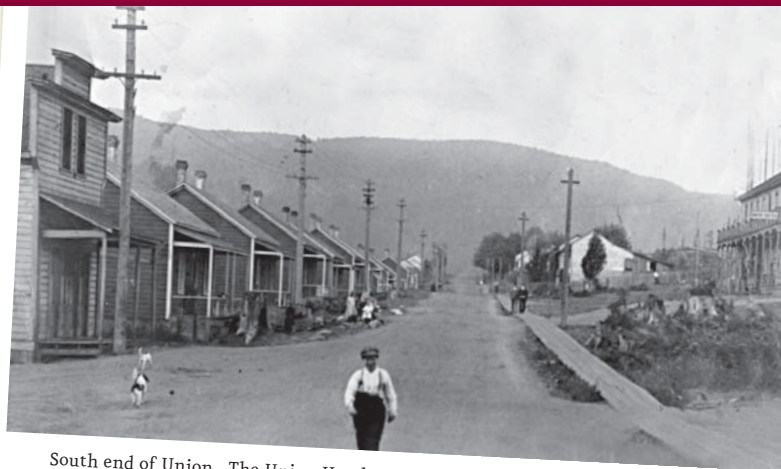
2656 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1890)

This house, the first built outside the original campsite, was used by mine managers and important guests. Chinese gardeners maintained the beautifully landscaped yard, which was considered to be a showpiece for the colliery. In 1966 the last coal mine closed and Alexander Buckham, mine geologist, donated the Coal Company records and photos to the British Columbia Provincial Archives. It was the largest collection ever donated.

After leaving Cumberland, Mr. Buckham worked for the government of BC, and advised on the restoration of Barkerville, a recreation of the gold mining town from its heyday in the 1860s. Cumberland had also applied for funds to restore Chinatown, but the application was made 60 days after Barkerville's request for funds, and sadly missed this opportunity.

2648 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1890)

This building was built for Dr. Robert Lawrence, Colliery physician. Dr. Lawrence became involved in a controversy regarding his abilities. It was resolved by secret ballot among the white miners—134 for the doctor and 59.5 against him. The Chinese community presented him with a banner for his kindness, and this beautiful handcrafted gift is on display in the Cumberland Museum.



South end of Union. The Union Hotel is on the right | Cumberland Museum C290-003



2656 Dunsmuir Avenue — built in 1890

2642 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1890)

This building housed the Colliery physician's office, and was still in use by community doctors for offices until 1960. The first doctor was Dr. Hasell.

UNION SQUARE Interpretive Sign

This seniors' complex stands on the site of the first hotel, the Union Hotel, which was built in 1899 and had 23 rooms. The owner of the hotel, Samuel Davies, donated all the bells for the Cumberland churches. In 1953, the Union Hotel was destroyed by fire.



Hanging out at the Union Hotel, circa 1920s | Cumberland Museum Co30-074

2604 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1889)

In 1931, this was the boyhood home of William “Bronco” Moncrief Jr. Bronco is the longest serving mayor in BC history, serving from 1969–1993 and from 1996–2002.

2576 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1888)

This is the only one of three overman’s houses that stood side by side. James Whyte was the first overman in mines No. 1, 2 & 3. He died of a broken heart in 1902 after his eldest son was killed, along with 63 others, in an accident at No. 6 mine.

2536 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1889)

Coal Company records do not tell us who the occupants of these cottages were. However, in 1989 this was the home of writers Susan Mayse and husband Stephen Hume. Susan is the author

of *Ginger Goodwin, Cumberland’s Martyr*. Several of her works have been performed on radio. Stephen is a columnist, like Susan’s father Arthur Mayse, for the Vancouver Sun.

THE APPLE ORCHARD

Legend has it that these trees grew from the cores of apples thrown away by miners as they traveled by train to and from No.4 mine.

2570 DUNSMUIR AVENUE

Known as Camp House No. 36, this is where the first church services were held in 1888. First to hold service was the Methodist congregation, then the Presbyterian community, and then the Catholics. Temperance came to the community, enforced by the mine owner, clergy and Mrs. Diana Piket, the owner of the largest boarding house in Camp.

2597 DUNSMUIR AVENUE

The Union Mine School was the first school in Union, built in 1889 to meet the needs of the 50 children in camp. Mr. William Gilchrist was the first teacher. As the population grew, a new school—known as the Cottage School—was built in 1893 on the new townsite of Cumberland. Church services were then moved to the Union Mine School.

2613 DUNSMUIR AVENUE (1900)

Stanley and Sarah Lawrence rented this house in 1912 and lived here until 1941. Stanley Jr. was the great grandson of James Whyte, the first mine manager. Stanley Jr. was the last mine manager of the Tsable River mine—the last mine to close its operations in Cumberland in 1966.

2633 DUNSMUIR AVENUE

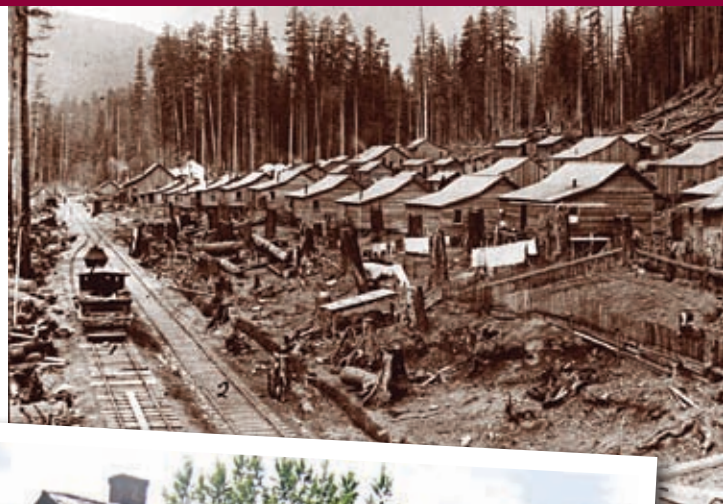
Stanley Lawrence Jr.'s wife, Geraldine, was raised in this house and also worked for the Coal Company. Her father, Caleb Dando, was a carpenter for the colliery and moved to this house in 1911. The brass plaque indicates that the house is on the heritage inventory and registered as a home of historical and architectural value.

2637 DUNSMUIR AVENUE

Every town needs a store. This building has been a butcher shop, a barber, a confectionery and a smoke shop. The shopkeepers lived in the back of the store, and the top floor was the rescue station and first aid station until 1910. Courtenay Mayor Ron Webber, who served from 1990 to 2005, lived here as a little boy until he fell from the top of the outside staircase. While he was not hurt, the family decided to move.

THE COTTAGE SCHOOL – Interpretive Sign

Once known as the Cottage School, this was the first school in the townsite of Cumberland. When a high school was proposed in 1902, the little school was moved across the road to its present location. Over the years, it has been a city hall, a jailhouse, a police station, a seniors centre and a teen centre.



Top: North end of Union, looking west | Cumberland Museum C290-2

Centre: 2633 Dunsmuir Avenue, present day

Bottom: Cottage School, with parade float | Cumberland Museum Co80-033



Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department, 1922 | Cumberland Museum Croo-2

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT (1890)

Twenty-five men who served as volunteers with Fire Chief Alex Grant formed the first fire department. The first major fire came two years later. Just as the firemen were putting away the equipment used to fight the fire, they were called out again to fight a fire at a sawmill. In 1897, the first pressurized system came into effect. During the same year, a major reorganization of the fire department occurred when a large number of volunteers left to find gold in the Klondike gold rush.

LITTLE JERUSALEM

2696 DERWENT AVENUE

This home was built in 1894 for Lewis Mounce, a partner in the first sawmill. He was also the first Mayor of Cumberland in 1898, and then a Member of Parliament from 1899 to 1903. In 1935, Lewis's brother Harry inherited the house. Harry planted the horse chestnut trees and the Camperdown Elm trees.

2698 DERWENT AVENUE

This home, built in 1894, housed Robert Grant, his wife, and 13 children next door to his sawmill partner, Lewis Mounce. The two men arrived in 1888 to provide sawn lumber for the needs

of the new mining camp. Robert became mayor in 1903 and served as a Member of Parliament from 1903 to 1911. Premier Richard McBride stayed here whenever he was in the district. In 1912, the sawmill burned down and the partnership between Mounce and Grant was dissolved in 1917.

2721, 2731, 2717, 2737 DERWENT AVENUE

Reverend Harper Nixon bought five lots in 1894, intending to build 10 rental houses. However, while lounging on his bunk aboard his boat one night, smoking his pipe, the Reverend was accidentally shot in the face. He died in hospital a week later.

2738 DERWENT AVENUE

This was the home of Miss Mary Nash, the town's millinery. After Miss Nash, the Richards family then rented this house. Their daughter, Annie, married William A.C. Bennett, the premier of British Columbia from 1952-1972. Their son, Bill Bennett, was premier from 1975 to 1986.



2696 Derwent Avenue — built in 1894

2741 DERWENT AVENUE (BLOCK 2)

These buildings were Harry Hamburger's rental houses. Built in 1894, this house was purchased in 1909 by the Hunden family, who had lost their previous home in a Christmas Eve fire while they were at church. They lost a son in the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic. Hunden descendants owned this house until 1962.

2768–2782 DERWENT AVENUE

The five houses on the north side of this block, between Fourth Street and Fifth Street, were designed by local architect and City Engineer William A. Owen and built in 1921. The federal government provided \$6,000 as a loan to build six houses for WWI veterans.

Each house had two bedrooms, a living room, and a kitchen with pantry, a bathroom, hallway and porch over a basement. The interiors were left unfinished to reduce costs and to allow the returning soldiers to add their own individuality to the design. The houses were purchased on a lease-to-own agreement, but the soldiers found it hard to find work and the houses were expensive compared to renting. The Great Depression of the 1930s resulted in the original loan not being repaid until 1949.

2788 DERWENT AVENUE

Alex and Minnie Dunsmore constructed this building between 1930 and 1935; Alex was gassed at Ypres, France during WWI, and suffered chronic bronchitis for the rest of his life.

2789 DERWENT AVENUE

Built in 1934, this was the home of George and Elizabeth Brown. Five uncles fought in WWI. Four were decorated for bravery. George's father was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

His father and Uncle John attended a special ceremony honoring WWI heroes at the unveiling of the Canadian war memorial at Vimy Ridge in France. *O Canada*, our national anthem, was sung for the first time there. The brother had tea with King Edward the 13th.



Former BC Tel Company House | Cumberland Museum Co30-072



2750, 2738, 2740, 2744, 2746, 2748 & 2752 ALLEN AVENUE

Built in 1894, these 12 rental houses became known as Harry Hamburger's Block. In 1898, Harry sold all his holdings and went to find gold in the Klondike. A year later the Weekly News reported Harry had made \$100,000 in the Yukon.

2763 ALLEN AVENUE

Stan Lawrence Jr. inherited this house, which had been built in 1941 by his father. Stanley Jr. was the grandson of James Whyte, the first mine manager in 1888; Stanley Jr. was the last mine manager when the last mine closed in 1966.



3245 Second Street — built in 1894

Richard Coe Jr. and Martha Richard's parents owned the house from 1911 to 1926. Richard Coe Jr. was a union activist and was blacklisted after the Great Strike of 1912-1914. They were great friends of Ginger Goodwin who was murdered in 1918 for his pro-union ideals.

3245 SECOND STREET

Built in 1894 as part of the collection of Grant and McGregor's rental properties, this house became the BC Telephone office in 1910. The telephone operators, all women, worked from Monday to Saturday, from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm, and on Sundays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. In 1963, telephones became automated and this office closed.

During the 1933 fire, the operators worked the phones while fire engulfed the entire block between Second and Third Streets. They stayed until the last line came down, and then made their escape through the back windows.

2716, 2718, 2720, 2728 & 2732 ALLEN AVENUE

Alex Grant and partner Harry McGregor built all of these houses in 1896 as rental units. Grant and McGregor were the town's first undertakers. They left Cumberland in 1897 to participate in the Klondike Gold Rush.

3230 SECOND STREET

This 1896 house was a rental unit built by the partnership of Alex Grant, Harry McGregor, and William Merriman. They were also founding members of the fire department, with Alex Grant as the first Fire Chief.

3238 SECOND STREET

Mrs. Caroline Reid was the second Matron of Cumberland District Hospital. Her husband, James, was her assistant. Together they were general managers, purchasing agents and housekeepers for the hospital at the monthly salary of \$5 plus room and board.



Cumberland Garden

Tour 2 — Doctor's Row

FIRST STREET AND PENRITH AVENUE

Originally St. George's Presbyterian Church, this building was constructed in 1895 and became the United Church in 1925. The largest of Cumberland's four churches, the United Church's main treasure is its 1878 pipe organ.

FIRST STREET AND BEAUFORT AVENUE

This craftsman-style house was a 1911 pre-fabricated house kit. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce built the house for its manager, and then sold it to the Coal Company for the superintendent of the mines, Thomas Graham. The three Japanese Larches are on the heritage tree inventory and were part of the original terraced gardens of 3303 1st Street. In 1959, the Coal Company sold the house to Dr. Montgomery.

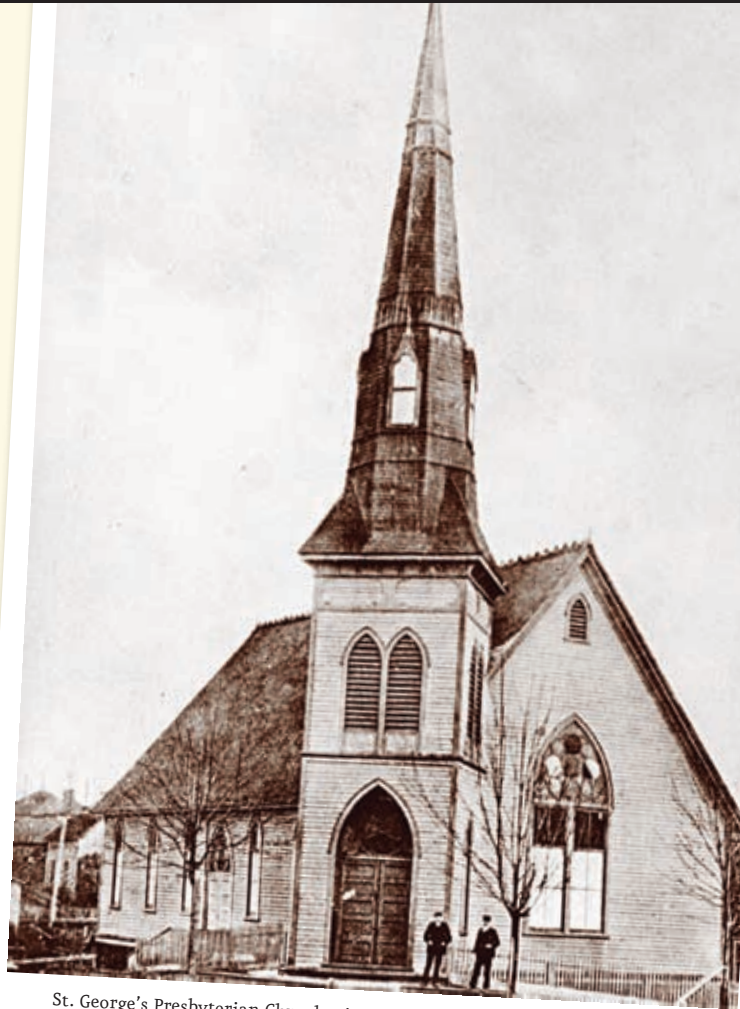
3312 FIRST STREET

This picturesque Queen Anne-style house was built in 1895 for Dr. and Mrs. Westwood, the first Dr. and Matron of the Cumberland and Union General Hospital. Mrs. Westwood was Matron for only six months when the nurses demanded her resignation, after which the Westwoods moved to Greenwood, BC.

2695 WINDERMERE AVENUE

Dr. George McNaughton and his wife, Mary, purchased this house, built in 1895, in 1907. He was appointed Chief Medical Officer in 1912 and held that position until his death in 1951. In 1946, King George VI appointed him to the "Venerable Order of Hospitals of St. John of Jerusalem."

The McNaughtons lost their one-year-old daughter in the flu epidemic of 1918. It is said that the little girl haunts this house, moving little ornaments from room to room.



St. George's Presbyterian Church, circa 1890s | Cumberland Museum Co50-024



3312 First Street
Cumberland Museum 130-23



The Union and District Hospital is believed to be the third oldest hospital in BC | Cumberland Museum 130-023

2699 WINDERMERE AVENUE

This home was built in 1896 for Percy Scharschmidt. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1887 and served with the 10th Battalion in the Riel Rebellion before establishing a pharmacy in Cumberland in 1892. In 1898, he became superintendent of the Yukon railroad.

In 1917, newlyweds Dr. Elbert Hicks and Elsie Rogers, Matron of the Cumberland Hospital, purchased the house. Dr. Hicks, a graduate of McGill University, boarded in the house with the Parnhams before his marriage. The Parnhams moved next door after selling the house to Dr. Hicks, who served the community for 54 years until his retirement in 1965. Dr. Hicks was also the choir master at Cumberland United Church for 50 years. Both his son and grandson went on to be doctors.

3313 SECOND STREET

This house, built in 1895, was purchased in 1917 by Charles Parnham. For 50 years he served on the hospital board, and

for the last 16 of those years, he was the hospital's full time administrator. Mr. Parnham was an extraordinary man who died at the age of 90.

For 66 uninterrupted years, Charles Parnham was the church organist at Cumberland United Church. He was also the mayor from 1915 to 1916 and from 1923 to 1925, and an Alderman in 1911, 1914, 1919-22, 1926-33 and 1935-36. He joined the fire department in 1900, was fire chief from 1922 to 1953, was the police commissioner and a member of coroner's jury in the death of Ginger Goodwin, worked on Empire Days celebrations and was a Mason for 64 years.

2696 WINDERMERE AVENUE

Cumberland Diagnostic & Day Surgery

This is currently a 50 to 70-bed intermediate care facility and day treatment centre. In 1894, this was the Cumberland and Union General Hospital. Mine owner James Dunsmuir donated the land and promised free coal and free lumber. Mrs. Laura

Dunsmuir gave \$1,000 for beds and equipment.

To finance the hospital, miners paid \$12 per year and the province gave a grant of \$500 per year, beginning in 1895. In 1941, mine employees paid \$2.67 per month, of which \$90 was paid to doctors; \$1.77 went to hospitalization and prescriptions. Babies and newborns were charged 50 cents per day of hospitalization. Doctors who delivered a baby were paid \$5.

The original building was two stories with six rooms on the main floor. The upper rooms were reserved for staff. In 1897, the first flushing toilet and a 40-gallon hot water tank were installed, and in 1910, the hospital received its first x-ray machine. Two wards were added, strictly for women, in 1927.

Matrons did not receive wages but were given free room and board. Nurses were paid \$10 a month and new nursing graduates were paid \$5 a month, compared to a cook who was paid \$20 a month.

Mary Browne was Matron from 1908 to 1915, when she left to serve as a nurse in WWI. In 1918 she was awarded the Military Cross, the first ever awarded to a woman.

On March 31, 1974, Cumberland Hospital became an intermediate care facility. The original building was demolished in 1977.

2706 SECOND STREET

The "Pest House"

Built in the late 1890s, this tiny building served the hospital as an isolation unit for communicable diseases and as a clinic for venereal disease. In the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic, the unit proved to be wholly inadequate—there was no running water, sink or sewer.

From the beginning, patients were cared for by a woman who lived in the house. In 1924, provincial legislation required all hospitals to take infectious patients, except Smallpox victims but, by 1928, 10 Smallpox cases were quarantined here.

The isolation hospital finally closed May 31, 1939 and the building sold to nurse Elizabeth Swanson for \$210. The land remained the property of the Coal Company and Miss Swanson paid \$12 per year for the land. She became Hospital Matron in 1942.



Cumberland Hospital staff, 1912, including Dr. McNaughton, Dr. Hicks and administrator Charles Parnham | Cumberland Museum 130-015

3359 SECOND STREET

Designed and built in 1939 by William Owen, this house was rented by RCMP members.

3353 SECOND STREET (1931)

William Arthur Owen, an architect and city engineer employed by the Coal Company, was responsible for overseeing repairs and alterations of existing buildings, plus designing WWI veterans housing, The Great War Veterans Hall, and the Memorial Arch at the Legion Branch #28. In 1918, he oversaw the relocation of 43 Coal Company houses from Bevan, four miles north of Cumberland. These buildings are located between 5th and 7th Street, from Dunsmuir Avenue to Ulverston Avenue

2714 WINDERMERE AVENUE

This building is actually two, joined to make one. The front portion was built in 1896 as the Provincial Jail, and the back of the building is the Draeger Station, built in 1910. It was the first in BC and moved from its original location at No. 6 Mine in the 1960s. Dr. Montgomery combined the buildings to make a new medical clinic. Draeger men were mine rescue workers, wearing 35-55 lbs. of oxygen to search for victims of mine disasters.



2714 MARYPORT AVENUE

James Carthew, the most prolific builder and architect in the Comox Valley, built this house in 1894. Between 1898 and 1906, it was the residence of Dr. Clive Staples, the head Colliery surgeon. His salary in 1901 was listed as \$3,000 per year, making him the highest paid person in Cumberland.

2716 MARYPORT AVENUE

This house, built by James Carthew in 1894, was home to pharmacist Al Peacey from 1907 to 1919.

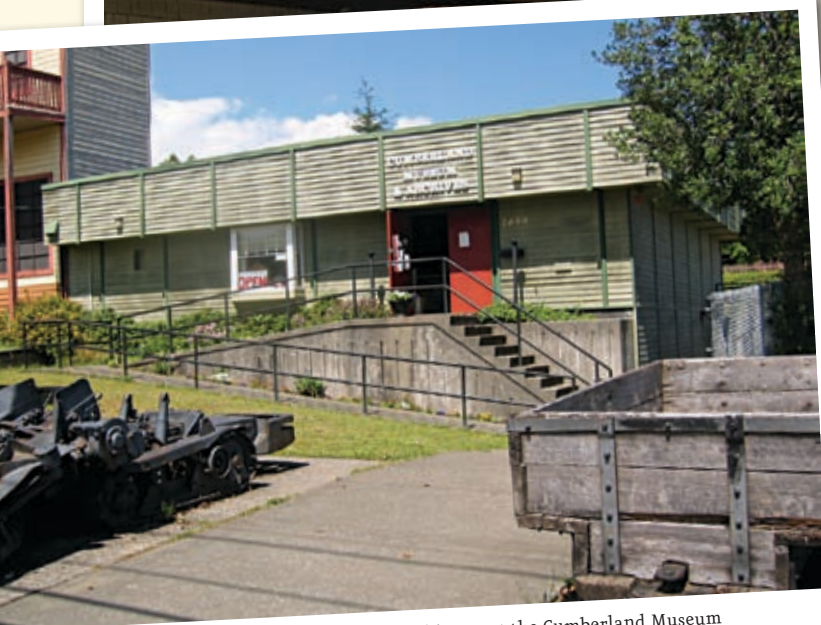
MAROCCHI BROTHERS' GROCERY

This building was constructed in 1912 by Italian Miners, John, Louis and Silvio Marocchi. Silvio died mysteriously in 1937 while on holiday in California. The family remained in business until 1974.

3270 SECOND STREET

"Alley Cuts"

After John Marocchi was injured in a mine accident, he changed occupations, becoming a baker, adding a brewery and, finally, groceries. The current owners have carried out a restoration of the bakery building.



Learn more about the area's unique history at the Cumberland Museum



Cumberland Maypole celebrations, 1930 | Cumberland Museum C80-29

Tour 3 — Firewood Heights & Bridal Alley

FERNWOOD HEIGHTS

2688 MARYPORT AVENUE

This picturesque 1895 Queen Anne-style house was built for Blacksmith Gordon Murdock. In 1900, timber-man Pete Watson bought this house, and it was inherited by his daughter, a nurse living in Vancouver. Grace Watson rented the house to her cousin who later purchased it and lived here until 1972 when she moved to a nursing home.

2690 MARYPORT AVENUE

In 1974, Dorothy Mattson purchased this 1895 Victorian style home. At 64 years old, Dorothy made the mortgage payment from her old age pension and sustained herself as a Fuller Brush Agent. After divorcing her abusive, alcoholic husband, Dorothy chose to paint the house purple and wear purple clothing, because her ex-husband hated the colour. Over the years, the house developed an eastward tilt as the foundation gave way, and the crooked purple house became a favorite with artists.

2695 MARYPORT AVENUE

Alfred Jeffrey, an engineer for the Coal Company, owned this home. In 1940, Alfred and his nephew, Norman Robinson, were fishing near Tree Island when a sudden storm overturned their boat. Robinson drowned and Jeffrey was rescued by Gordon Mason and Addison Clement, who were later presented with awards for bravery.

2699 MARYPORT AVENUE

This home was built for James Kendell in 1895. James was seriously injured at No. 4 Mine, and he became a photographer. He



2688 Maryport Avenue — built in 1895



Trent River train trestle collapse, 1898 | Cumberland Museum C285-005

photographed the Trent River train trestle collapse that killed seven of the nine people on board the train in 1898.

James Mounce, the second owner of this house, traveled by bicycle on the frozen Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson. He staked a claim and, three years later, returned to Cumberland and his old job, \$3,000 richer.



2699 Maryport Avenue | Cumberland Museum Co30-223

2706 MARYPORT AVENUE

This was the residence of James Carthew, the most prolific architect and builder in the Comox Valley, and was built in 1894. Carthew planted the maple trees that grow in the neighborhood. After a term as mayor from 1900 to 1901, he sold the house to Flora and John Baird in 1903.

Flora was born in 1881 in Comox to a very musical family and lived in this home until 1963. An earthquake in 1946 damaged the house and it was modernized during repairs. The Baird family continues to live in the house; John Baird, their grandson, was involved with the fire department for 27 years, eight of which he acted as chief, and his wife Leslie is on the Cumberland Village Council.

2714 & 2716 MARYPORT AVENUE

Both of these houses are James Carthew's designs. The homes were built in 1894 for the McKim families, who were the first to build a general store in the new town of Cumberland. Later owners of these houses were the Tarbells, who from 1897 to 1968 operated a hardware store on Dunsmuir Avenue.

2719 MARYPORT AVENUE

This house was built by Robert Ennis for Donald MacDonald, after which it was rented by Tom and Meg Mumford before they bought 2714 Maryport. Mr. Mumford was a grocer in England and carried on that business in Cumberland. The Mumfords were members of the Anglican Church; Meg was organist and Tom was in the choir, where he sang beautifully until the end of his life. Dr. Hicks often warned Tom that his pipe smoking would shorten his life by at least 10 years—Tom Mumford died at 106 years of age.

2724 MARYPORT AVENUE

Built in 1895, this home was purchased in 1897 by renowned dairy farmer Adam McKelvie. In 1896, the 69-year-old widower took a vacation to Ireland and returned with a 23-year-old wife, Jane Kennedy, the younger sister of McKelvie's daughter-in-law.

2700 MARYPORT AVENUE

H.P. Collis was manager of the Big Store and later became Justice of the Peace. The unique design of this 1894 house made it the most talked-about residence during its construction. The design married the best of the past to what was considered to be modern, producing a pleasant roomy house surrounded by verandahs. "One of the finest houses on Fernwood, a locality that abounds in fine dwellings."

2705 MARYPORT AVENUE

Built in 1920, this house became the home of elementary school principal George Apps and wife Zella in 1931. George and Zella were very active in the community and were honoured in 1972 by Japanese Canadians for their love and support during the WWII.

George was made Freeman of the Village of Cumberland. The 1982 Empire Days honoured the couple with a parade; in 1984, a mountain in the Beaufort Range was named for George Apps. Zella started a Brownies troop in 1944 and for 20 years instructed the May Queens, as well as the attendants, in protocol and duties.

Less than two months later, Jane started divorce proceedings claiming she had accompanied McKelvie to Canada so she could visit her sister but, upon reaching Montreal, McKelvie forced her into marriage. Their divorce proceedings and the Klondike Gold Rush made exciting reading of the 1897 newspapers.

2757 MARYPORT AVENUE

Brothers Robert and David Ennis built this and several other houses between 1895 and 1897. Robert had been chief scout for the Dominion forces in the Riel Rebellion. In 1897, they sold their holdings and headed off to the Yukon's Klondike gold rush. The Ennis wives were given hip length gold necklaces made of matched-in-size gold nuggets picked from sluice boxes. One of the necklaces was accidentally given away with old clothing and household items during a house cleaning.

BRIDAL ALLEY

3309 4TH STREET AND 2745 WINDERMERE AVENUE

Between the 1890s and WWI, cabins such as these proliferated the back alleys of Cumberland. They were rented by single miners or to young newlyweds. The little cabins were called "Batches", short for bachelor. This alley, stretching from 4th Street to 2nd Street, became known as "Bridal Alley" when newlyweds occupied all of the cabins, a practice that continued until the 1940s.

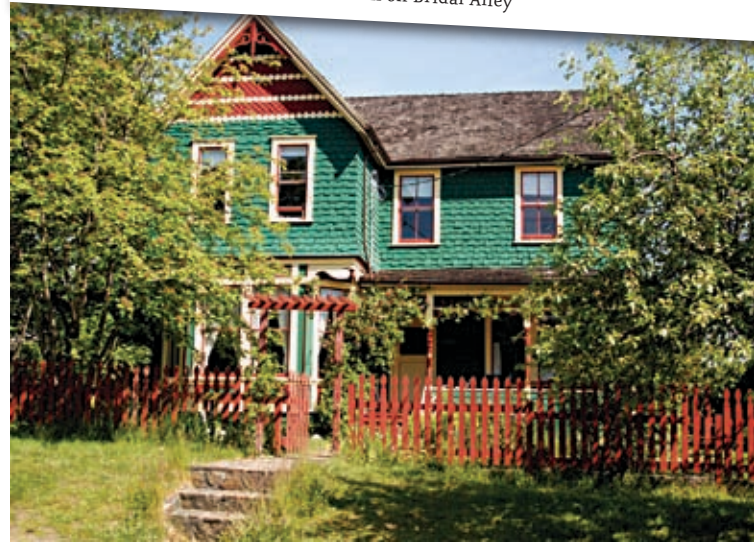
2731 MARYPORT AVENUE

The original house on this lot was destroyed by fire in 1897. In 1909, the Theobalds built this house and, in 1912, they sold it to Alex and Sarah McKinnon. Sarah had been a teacher before marriage and Alex owned a furniture store. Later, he turned the store into a dry goods outlet. He was also city clerk, police magistrate and tax collector.

After her marriage, Sarah was a very active community volunteer for church, hospital, women's benefit groups and the Red Cross. The spruce tree in the backyard was planted for



Bridal Cabin on Bridal Alley



Heritage home on Maryport Avenue

their son, Alastair, who was born in 1911. Alastair was a Royal Bank employee during the fire of 1933; this fire destroyed 19 businesses and 10 homes, and was only stopped by blasting the bank with dynamite.

2688, 2690, 2692, 2699, 2716, 2724 & 2757 MARYPORT AVENUE

These houses were built and owned by Cumberland's merchant class. They were at the top of the social ladder in the culture of Cumberland's past.



Ginger Goodwin funeral procession, August 1918 | Cumberland Museum C110-001



Tour 4 — Mainstreet

WAVERLEY HOTEL (1894)

The Waverley Hotel was the second hotel built in Cumberland. It was a temperance house until receiving a liquor license in 1896. During the “Big Strike” of 1912-1914, the Hotel was commanded by the province’s special police force, which paid three times the regular rate for accommodations. The police presence agitated the public until a riot broke out in July 1913.

LIQUOR STORE

Built in the 1960s, this store is fronted with brick from the coke ovens of Union Bay. Formerly, this was the site of three hotels: the Victory, the New England and the Eagle. Built in 1985 by

William Gleason, it was gutted by fire in 1959. It is currently the eighth busiest outlet on Vancouver Island and, in May 2000, Cumberland was labeled the “Luckiest Community in BC” because seven out of every 10 beers purchased here are Lucky Lager. The local people of Cumberland, many descendants of the Union workers of the coal mines, have always supported the Union brewing companies.

2702, 2703 & 2704 DUNSMUIR AVENUE

It is believed that this is the bottom floor of the 1895 Vendome Hotel, better known as the Bucket of Blood, and was built by A.D. Williams, the first to register the purchase of land with the land registry offices. His other commercial building, located on 3rd Street between Dunsmuir and Penrith, was destroyed in Cumberland’s first big fire in 1896. Two years after, the volunteer fire department was formed.

THE BIG STORE

This building was constructed in 1894 for Comox grocer J.B. Holmes, who sold his holdings to finance his search for gold in the Klondike.

Simon Leiser, BC’s largest wholesale/retailer, purchased the building in 1900. For 97 years, this was a general and dry goods store. It closed in 1992; in 1994, the 1901 façade was renovated.

CUMBERLAND HOTEL

This building, the first hotel in Cumberland, was built in 1893. John and Diana Picket eventually became its owners, and Diana was famous for her catering and entertaining. She hosted events attended by royalty and government dignitaries. In 1909, Diana retired and William Merrifield managed, and then purchased, the hotel in 1912.

During the Great Fire of 1933, the entire block was destroyed, with all business on both sides of the street consumed by the flames; the Merrifield’s lost everything in the fire.



The Big Store, today and in the 1920s | Cumberland Museum Co30-028



The Cumberland Hotel



ROYAL BANK (1933)

In 1904, a branch of the Royal Bank opened in Cumberland and, in 1925, moved into this site, which had been the original CIBC building since its construction in 1914. During the Great Fire of 1933, it was relief manager Robert Husband who turned in the fire alarm. The bank was already in flames as the staff hurriedly placed valuables in the vault and, when the fire showed no signs of stopping, the bank was sacrificed: it was blown up with 40 sticks of dynamite. The explosion suffocated the fire and, while the building was destroyed, the vault survived the blast.

FLOYD'S BARBERSHOP

Prosperous Comox farmer William Rennison built this residence in 1896 for his son Arthur, the manager of the Big Store, and Arthur's wife Elsie, who was killed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The Rennison family still owns the farm and, in 1994, the BC Ministry of Agriculture honoured the farm for a century of production.

BICKLE HOUSE (1921)

2750 Dunsmuir Avenue

Edward William Bickle moved to Cumberland in 1904 and, in 1912, he joined *The Islander News* as a reporter. By 1913, he was

editor and owner of the paper. He bought the Ilo-Ilo Theatre, the first in a chain of theatres on Vancouver Island, in 1924.

"E.W.", as he was known, hosted many local events and held many fundraising garden parties, dances and teas. His flamboyant personality and business sense made him the most prosperous and well-known of Cumberland's businessmen.

Current owners care for the garden and offer afternoon teas and café meals. Four of the trees on this property are on the Heritage Inventory while the rhododendrons are the original specimens planted by the Bickles.

LEGION BRANCH No. 28 AND MEMORIAL ARCH

The arch and the concrete bollards with heavy chains outlining the property are all part of architect/city engineer William Arthur Owen's original design. The memorial plaques carry the names of Cumberland's citizens who lost their lives in the wars.



Legion Branch #28 Memorial Arch

The original two-storey building was known as the Great War Veteran's Association until 1926. The building burned in 1962 and was replaced the following year with this one-storey concrete block structure. The Legion Arch was given a Heritage Designation on May 19, 2007.

FRELONE'S GROCERY

Except for its front window, this building is unaltered from its original 1935 design. Louis Frelone bought the property from the Coal Company and opened a grocery store that he operated until his retirement in 1959. Jack and Vera Hill owned the business until 1987.

AMBULANCE STATION

E.W. Bickle built this building in 1914 as the Islander Printing and Publishing Co. It housed the printing presses and staff offices. E.W. bought out the other newspapers and consolidated them into one business—the *Comox District Free Press*. Known locally as the *Green Sheet* because of its green outer page, it continued publications until 1994.

POST OFFICE/FEDERAL BUILDING (1907)

Construction of the Federal Building cost \$31,323, with the sandstone quarried near No. 5 mine, one mile north of town. The main floor was the post office and the top floor was the customs office, telegraph office and caretaker's residence.

In 1922, two tons of granite coping fell from the roof and the remainder was removed. The 1946 earthquake did \$2,000 damage to the building.

Frelone's Grocery



Post Office, 1907 | Cumberland Museum C030-002





The King George Hotel, circa 1950s | Cumberland Museum Co30-157

KING GEORGE HOTEL (1909)

At noon on July 13, 1933, fire broke out on the roof of this hotel. The built-in sprinkler system failed and the fire fighters were hampered by failing water pressure and heat generated wind. Two hours later, one half of the business district and 10 houses had been reduced to a pile of rubble. The sacrifice of the bank saved the business district from further destruction.

TARBELLS (1895)

The interior was divided into a series of shops, one of which was occupied by shoemaker Nelson Parks. He was the first postmaster of Parksville, which was named after him. His son, Frank Parks, was Cumberland's postmaster from 1913 to 1915.

In 1902, a tinsmith named Chas Tarbell purchased the building, expanded it and developed a hardware store. The business continued until 1968, operated by the second and third Tarbell generations, after which new owners managed it until 1991.

Mr. Tarbell's daughter Ellen, nicknamed MiMi, married John Bryden, the grandson of Robert Dunsmuir, the owner of Cumberland's coal mines. The building has survived five major disasters that leveled the rest of the block.



Tarbells



C.H. Tarbell in front of his store, pre-1900 | Cumberland Museum Co30-187

CUMBERLAND COLLECTIBLES

Tommy Nakanishi was the most successful businessman of Japanese origin in Cumberland. He started a bicycle shop and expanded into hardware and bike repair.

His shop was confiscated in 1943 and sold in 1945. Built in 1931, the façade of this building has been restored.

THE ILO-ILO

The Ilo-Ilo was first built in 1914 as an opera house, which featured movies and stage performances. The theatre had a seating capacity of 500 and featured a dance hall in the basement, and the Cumberland Dance Band performed for the weekly dances. It was also the home of the Cumberland Symphony Orchestra. Movies were shown until 1968.

In 1932, fire destroyed all of the buildings on this block except Tarbell's Hardware. The Ilo-Ilo was rebuilt a few months after the fire into its current art deco style, and the façade has been restored according to heritage design guidelines.

Ilo-Ilo is a Japanese word meaning “a place of variety”. Japanese construction workers suggested the name as they did the tile work that is part of the façade.



ILO-ILO Theatre detail



Dunsmuir Avenue with Ilo-Ilo at right, circa 1930s | Cumberland Museum Co30-147

COMOX VALLEY HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

The Comox Valley is more than just a location—it's a lifestyle. Perched on the eastern edge of Vancouver Island, this is where dreams meet reality. From the Valley's First Nations, early explorers and pioneering settlers to the new residents arriving today from across Canada and around the world, the bounty and beauty of the Comox Valley has always inspired.

The Comox Valley lifestyle, so treasured by residents today, is the culmination of our diverse cultural, social, industrial and natural history. The Comox Valley Heritage Experience is a celebration of that history, and a tribute to the men and women who carved communities out of the rugged BC coast and created opportunities and inspiration for future generations. As the Comox Valley grows and changes, our collective appreciation of the people and forces that created our "Land of Plenty" will help ensure a bright, prosperous and sustainable future.

The Comox Valley Heritage Experience consists of a 16-stop self-guided driving tour, as well as four Heritage Walks in Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland. From booming coal mining towns, rural seaside farms and bustling harbours to early mountaineers exploring the deepest and highest reaches of Strathcona Provincial Park, the Comox Valley Heritage Experience offers a glimpse into the rich social, cultural, natural and industrial history of the Valley.

The Comox Valley Heritage Experience is the perfect way to experience the scenic wonders of the Comox Valley and to learn more about the people who contributed to early life on Vancouver Island—with plenty of opportunities to stop for coffee, lunch, picnics, museum tours and photos along the way!

Visit one of our four local museums to learn more about the places and events touched on in these tours, and to pick up brochures for the Driving Tour and Heritage Walks.

