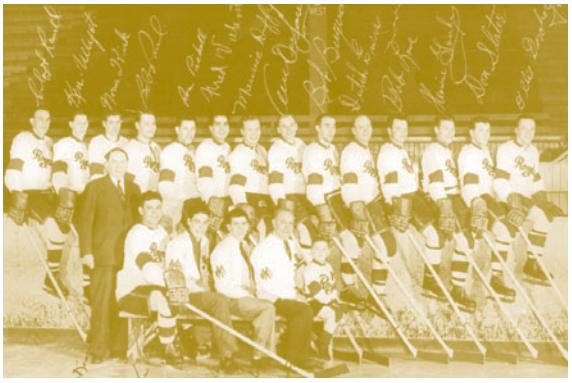
NEW WESTMINSTER
Parks, Culture & Recreation





150 YEARS IN THE MAKING

1859 -2009

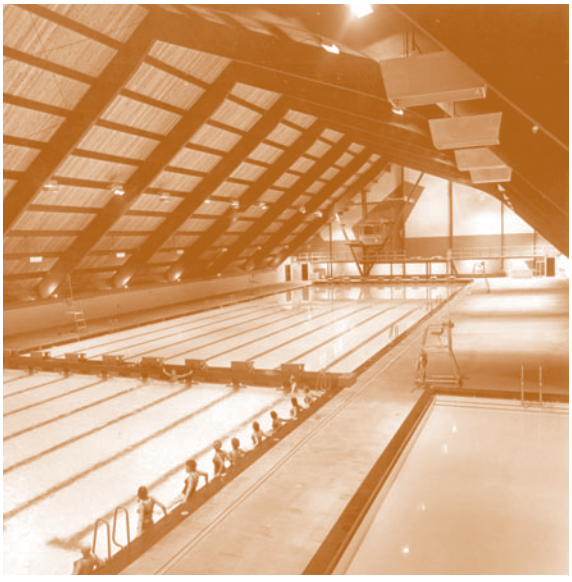












A History of New Westminster's Park Sites and Facilities

Prepared for the City of New Westminster Parks and Recreation Department by Jim Wolf, 2007.

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ALBERT CRESCENT





IHP2956

Established **1876**
Size **4.5 acres**
location **Albert Crescent & Sarnia Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Mature trees**
- **Passive grass area**
- **Park benches**
- **Spectacular views of the Frases River and Patullo Bridge**

Albert Crescent is one of British Columbia's oldest parks. Located on a dramatic section of New Westminster, high on an escarpment overlooking the Fraser River and the busy roads leading to the Pattullo Bridge, it was originally designed as part of an ambitious civic planning scheme by Colonel Moody in 1859.

The district was planned as the location of colonial New Westminster's elite residential area. It was distinguished by many small Victorian-style parks named after the children of Queen Victoria: Louisa Gardens, Alice Gardens, Arthur Terrace, and Alfred Terrace. At the centre of the district, Albert Crescent – an avenue named after Queen Victoria's consort Prince Albert - was surrounded by a perfect circle park.

Beginning in 1868, the lower slopes of the Crescent became the preferred annual site for crowds to gather on the Queen's birthday to witness the royal salute, which took place on the "battery" located immediately opposite the park on the escarpment overlooking the river. In 1889, the old cannons were fired for the last time. The Ancient and Honorable Hyack Anvil Company carried on the tradition, with blacksmith anvils standing in for cannons in a 21-gun salute that continues to this day as part of New Westminster's Victoria Day celebrations.

In 1882, Albert Crescent became the venue for the city's first Royal Visit. Canada's Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise (the daughter of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) were welcomed to the city on the steamer Alexander. The royal party was met by Mayor and Council and escorted by a Westminster Rifles Guard of Honour along Columbia Street to Albert Crescent.

"On arriving at the pavilion erected on the Crescent, the mayor read an address to His Excellency and His Excellency replied. After the addresses, a number of ladies and gentlemen were presented. The girls of St. Ann's Convent presented the Princess with a number of bouquets, and afterwards sang two verses of the National Anthem. After inspecting the Guard of Honour the party adjourned to the tent on the bank of the river where they witnessed Indian canoe and boat races."



IHP0312

In 1889 a bylaw for the park was passed, and initial clearing and grading began. The park was cleared of its trees, but with an order by City Council to spare all maple trees from the logging. In 1891, a $2,000 park improvement bylaw was voted on by citizens and passed by Council, creating a beautifully-landscaped park. A local reporter described the finished work: "Albert Crescent Park, fronting East Columbia Street has just been completed, and the prospect from the top of the beautifully terraced Crescent is the finest in the city. This park is furnished with an artistic little bandstand, from which the Artillery Band discourses sweet music once a week during the summer months."

The park was officially dedicated during the Provincial Exhibition parade on September 29, 1891. On the way to Queen's Park, the pageant halted for a brief period at Albert Crescent, where provincial Premier John Robson, assisted by the Mayor of New Westminster, formally opened the new Prospect Park. (Despite the official name, the park has always been known by local tradition as Albert Crescent.) In his remarks, the Premier reminisced that he had assisted in cutting down the first trees on the site, now so "tastefully laid out and terraced in pretty drives and promenades."



IHP0626

The New Westminster Bridge, and its wagon ramp to Columbia Street, was completed in 1904 opposite the park. This presented visitors from the south with a grand view of Albert Crescent upon their arrival in the Royal City.

In 1911, Landscape Architect G.K. MacLean advised the City on a new design scheme Albert Crescent: "After Queen's Park, on account of its very prominent location, viewed, as it is by tourist and visitors when passing along the city's main thoroughfare, Albert Crescent may be deemed the most important of the city's public grounds. This beautiful slope commanding a magnificent view of the Fraser, and itself a conspicuous feature viewed from the river or from the south bank, lends itself most readily to successful and beautiful treatment in the Franco-Italian line. Three terraces, rising one above the other following the curved natural contour of the ground, with flights of stone steps, should form the main feature of this scheme. The middle terrace was the original home of the bust of Simon Fraser and, in fact, provision could be made for the addition of other statue from time to time. The third or topmost terrace , should be backed on the upper slope by masses of ornamental shrubs, the convent surmounting the hill forming a highly suitable back ground, which is already provided. According to this scheme, shade trees would be planted along the terraces, beneath which would be placed seats built in harmony with the general design, the whole being designed in the formal. In addition to shade trees there should be formal beds on the terraces. This bedding can be made into a most charming feature of the Crescent.



IHP0626

City Council was impressed with MacLean's vision, and included it in a $35,000 bylaw sent to voters in 1911. Though this bylaw was defeated, a new $7,500 bylaw was subsequently approved for the improvement of Albert Crescent.

On-going civic and community improvements to the park continued over the years, with the intention of retaining it as a good first impression for visitors from the Fraser Valley and United States entering the city from the south. The Native Sons of B.C. erected a granite plinth in the central terrace of Albert Crescent in 1908 to mark the centenary of Simon Fraser's navigation of the river. In 1911, a bronze bust of Simon Fraser was unveiled by Lieutenant Governor Thomas Patterson. In the 1920s, they were joined by old Crimean war guns from Queen's Park to stand guard at the Crescent.

When the first City Parks Commission was created in 1927, the improvement of the Albert Crescent gardens through the addition of rockeries was among their first works

It was the construction of the new Pattullo Bridge in 1937, and its concurrent absorption of Albert Crescent Park's lower slopes for the bridge approach, that brought about the beginning of the end for this landmark green space.

Patullo Bridge designer Colonel Swan approached the Park's Board about the use of the lands for highway purposes. The City Solicitor discovered that although the park had been listed on the 1888 transfer documents of lands granted by the Province to the city, the title for the lands was not transferred. The Province used this loophole to appropriate the property for a transportation project it believed would be a catalyst for jobs and economic growth during the Great Depression.

The new bridge terminated at the park's eastern side and required the demolition and removal of an entire block of homes between the Crescent and Leopold Place. This included the area where the cenotaph had been placed in 1922, and dedicated as Canada Place in 1927 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation.

John Booth, then head gardener for the Provincial mental hospitals, was called upon to design a new scheme to landscape the entire area. He relocated the cenotaph to the bridge head and created a series of new rockeries on the lower slopes of Albert Crescent. The rockeries required importing over 300 tons of boulders to the site, sourced by rock scouts who scoured the Lower Mainland. The largest of these rocks, which weighing between four and five tons, were found in Burnaby near Central Park and transported to the site by trucks.

In 1945, the ownership of the remainder of the Albert Crescent park lands was finally resolved by vesting its title with the city. The settlement of the park's ownership provoked some members of Council to float the idea of selling the site for a hotel site for $1.00. The opposition of the Parks Board, which had jurisdiction over the land, thankfully put a quick end to the debate.

That same year, the venerable bandstand, which had provided such a focal point within the park and vantage point over the river, was condemned and demolished. The 1968 demolition of St. Ann's Academy was a further loss for the city and the heritage value of the site. Only the Academy's former gateposts were left to face the park in front of the high-rises that replaced it.

The Simon Fraser monument and the Crimean guns made a move down the hill to Columbia Street in 1957 where they sat neglected for years, until they were relocated to the Waterfront Esplanade in 1988. The guns were later restored and moved to City Hall.

The most recent intrusion upon Albert Crescent's original design came with the construction of SkyTrain: a portion of the park site was used for a tunnel under Columbia Street, necessitating the creation of monolithic concrete vents.

By the end of the 20th century, the location of road and rail bridges - hailed at the time of construction as a sign of progress - ultimately threatened the park's future and heralded the area's demise as a prime residential district.

However, while Albert Crescent survives in modern times much changed from its historic design, it remains an urban park with breathtaking views, imbued with some surprising connections to the city's history.

Behind the Name…Albert Crescent:



ITP4022

Prince Albert, Royal Consort

Born: 26 August 1819

Died: 14 December 1861

Albert was the son of Ernst, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in Germany, and the beloved husband and trusted advisor of Britain's Queen Victoria. Albert and Victoria were first cousins, but married on 10 February 1840, two years after Victoria became queen at age 18. Despite public suspicion of his German heritage, Albert became a key figure in Victoria's early reign, and some considered him the 'power behind the throne.'

Albert was known for his eager interest in science and learning. From 1847 - 1861 he was chancellor of Cambridge University. He also organized the Great Exhibition of 1851, held in the famed Crystal Palace, which showcased advances in science and industry. His death at age 42 devastated Victoria, who spent several years in mourning. Albert's name is given to the Royal Albert Hall in London, as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum.

B.C. PARKWAY





Established **1986**
Length **4.15 km**
location **See description**

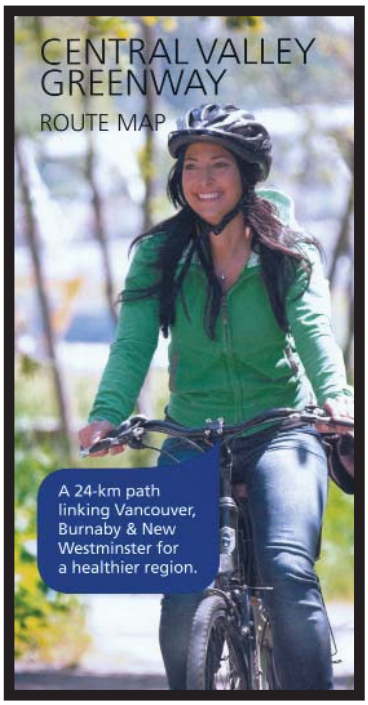
Ammenities

- **Walking and cycling route**

The B.C. Parkway incorporates walking and cycling trails into the original park design, Metro Vancouver's first true greenway. It was created by the Province of British Columbia in partnership with B.C. Transit and the cities along the route. Championed by B.C. MLA and Minister of Transit, Grace McCarthy, the parkway was an integral element of the new Skytrain Expo line and was an initiative to feature the range of transportation options in the region during the 1986 World Exposition (Expo '86) in Vancouver.

The parkway's route in New Westminster closely follows the SkyTrain right-of-way from 10th Avenue to Third Avenue before connecting to Quayside Drive and the waterfront esplanade. Between Sixth Avenue and Tenth Avenue the parkway follows the historic B.C. Electric Railway Company's Central Park Interurban line, built as the Connaught Hill cut-off in 1912. The plazas and amenities constructed along its route were funded by contributions from community groups, associations and businesses, evidence of the community spirit around the province in anticipation of Expo '86.

Behind the Name…B.C. Parkway:



This greenway was named after British Columbia because the initiative was conceptualized and created by the Province of British Columbia in partnership with B.C. Transit and the cities along the route. The name was intended to showcase the civic pride of all British Columbians during Expo ’86.

BEGBIE SQUARE



IHP0062



Established **1883**
Size **0.52 acres**
location **Carnarvon & McKenzie Streets**

Ammenities

- **European design**
- **Tumbling water feature**
- **Paving lanes**
- **Seating**

Downtown New Westminster's Begbie Square is an urban park, constructed in 1981 on the McKenzie Street right of way. It was built adjacent to the New Westminster Courthouse on historic Market Square, which was created as part of the original civic plan of 1859.

The park was first developed when City Council constructed a combined Agricultural Hall and Immigrant Shed on Market Square in 1883. A portion of the facility was initially used to house new immigrants until permanent accommodation could be found for them.

The hall proper was officially opened in October 1883 by Premier Smith during the first Provincial Exhibition.

The Exhibition was organized by the New Westminster District Agricultural Society (incorporated 1867). The society reorganized in 1886, becoming the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society of British Columbia. Their exhibitions were important promotional events featuring the agricultural and industrial wares produced in the region.



IHP0539

When the new Exhibition Hall was built in Queen's Park in 1889, the old Agricultural Hall was renovated as City Hall. The building and its grounds remained an important location for citizen gatherings until it was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1898. Following the fire, Market Square was designated as the site for local businesses to rebuild temporary stores during the reconstruction of Columbia Street.

Market Square eventually became home to the magnificent Carnegie Library, designed by local architect Edwin Sait and built 1902 - 1904. This library building served the city from 1905 to 1958. After its demolition in June, 1960, the square languished as a forlorn parking lot for more than 20 years.

In 1981 the construction of the new Provincial Courthouse provided an opportunity to create a new urban square. With the City as a partner, the adjacent section of McKenzie Street was incorporated into the courthouse project by First Capital City Development Corporation. The design was conceived by architect Roger Hughes with landscape architecture by the Eikos Design Group.

Today, the plaza is a beautiful urban landscape with a dramatic setting, including a waterfall, a sweeping set of steps, seating, trees and a large terrace outside the courthouse doors. A bronze statue of Judge Begbie by sculptor Ellek Imreddy - a commission funded by lawyers and judges associated with the New Westminster Bar Association - is a landmark feature of the plaza. McKenzie Street's heritage was preserved in the design through the use of the original granite paving stones.

Behind the Name…Begbie Square:



Sir Matthew Baillie Begbie (1819 - 1894) arrived in B.C. 1858 in the midst of the Gold Rush. He played a crucial role in the establishment of law and order throughout the Colony. Begbie was Judge of the Supreme Court for the Colony of British Columbia in 1858 until 1871, and the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the new Province of British Columbia until his death.

In the years after his death, Begbie was dubbed the "Hanging Judge." Given that the death penalty was mandatory in murder cases at this time, this reputation is undeserved. Indeed, on occasion, Begbie recommended clemency and received the government's approval to spare some condemned men.

During his years on the bench, Begbie administered justice throughout British Columbia on foot, and later on horseback. While he preferred informal garb during his travels, he always wore his judicial robes and wig when court was in session.

Begbie also played a meaningful role drafting government legislation. He spoke several languages and is said to have been able to conduct trials in several aboriginal languages without the use of an interpreter. He was knighted by Queen Victoria at Balmoral Castle in 1875.

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CANADA GAMES POOL





IHP6835

Established **1973**
Size **12.5 acres**
location **65 East Sixth Avenue**
Ammenities

- **On-deck games & seating**
- **Green Thunder Water Slide (longest in BC)**
- **Olympic sized pool (50 m)**
- **Three fitness areas and Aquacize**
- **Olympic & spring board diving**
- **Sauna and Whirlpool**
- **Urban Trails**
- **New Westminster Curling Club**
- **Family Changerooms**
- **Teach Pool for tot lessons**
- **Centennial Community Centre**
- **All-weather field & lights**
- **Glenbrook Fire Hall**
- **Toddler Playground**
- **City Recycling Depo**

The site of New Westminster's first recreation and cultural complex was built on part of the Glenbrook ravine, which stretched from the upper part of the city to the Fraser River. The Glenbrook sewerage scheme of 1912 destroyed the brook underneath the ravine by enclosing the waters in pipes carrying the city's sewers to the river. The ravine, however, remained intact for decades afterwards, and a high level bridge was needed to span the crossing over Sixth Avenue connecting Sapperton with the rest of the city. Over time, the ravine was used for dumping both garbage and fill, and eventually this natural feature above Sixth Avenue disappeared entirely.



IHP2234

The property was owned by the Federal Government for years as part of the B.C. Penitentiary. The City of New Westminster began to acquire the property piece by piece; in 1955 it paid $9,000 for four and a half acres of the former prison potato field.

The first construction on the site was the new rink of the Royal City Curling Club (established 1955). The club's first ice sheet was on a site adjacent to the Scott Paper factory, which it sold to the company. The curling club began construction of their new location at the corner of Cumberland Street and Sixth Avenue in 1965, and this building was completed in January 1966.



IHP7898

After the formation of a committee to mark Canada's Centennial in 1967, the site beside the new curling club became the focus of new civic development. Federal and provincial funds were being earmarked for new capital projects across the nation, and the City decided that a new recreation and cultural facility would be the city's official Centennial Project. Council approved a budget of $200,000; the new community centre was quickly designed and built in only one year.

The centre was still being finished when it was officially opened on May 14, 1967 in time for the May Festival. Mayor Stu Gifford unveiled a bronze plaque in the centre's ultra-modern lobby before 350 guests. The centre was profiled in the local British Columbian newspaper boasting features such as its "all-purpose auditorium which could seat 450, and is equipped with a stage suitable for concerts and small production plays. The auditorium can be converted into a gymnasium suitable for gymnastics, basketball, badminton, volley ball and other indoor sporting events. ... The basement portion of the building has been especially designed for sports such as judo, wrestling, weight lifting and tumbling."

A large section of the centre was devoted to the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame, opened by the Mayor on May 17, 1967. The facility received a large addition, including the "River Room," completed in July, 1979 at a cost of $300,000.

The City of New Westminster and the Municipality of Burnaby jointly won the bid to host the Canada Summer Games in 1973. New Westminster used its portion of the Federal funds provided as part of the bid to complete an "Olympic-standard swimming and diving pool." The site chosen to create a comprehensive recreational complex was adjacent to the Centennial Community Centre. The pool - one of the largest in the country-was architecturally unique, incorporating eleven monumental laminated wood beams, 6,000 board feet of laminated timbers and 40,000 square feet of wood roof decking.

The Canada Games Pool was officially opened by Mayor Muni Evers on March 9, 1973, with 800 guests in attendance. Nova Scotia's Canada Games Pool, host of the previous national event, contributed a bottle of their pool water, which the Mayor ceremonially poured into the new pool.

The Canada Summer Games were a financial and community success and left the city with a tremendous civic legacy. Over the years, the pool has been continuously maintained and upgraded to meet the community's needs. In 1983, the mezzanine floor, a former community meeting area, was converted to an exercise and weight room. 1984 saw the installation of the Lightning Chute Waterslide, the first indoor slide in BC, replaced in 2008 with Green Thunder, the longest indoor slide in BC. The pool and its facilities continue to be a major amenity for city residents.

CENTRAL VALLEY GREENWAY





IHP

Established	**2000**
Size	**0.52 acres**
location	**Trail head in Lower Hume Park**
	Braid Street Skytrain Station

Ammenities

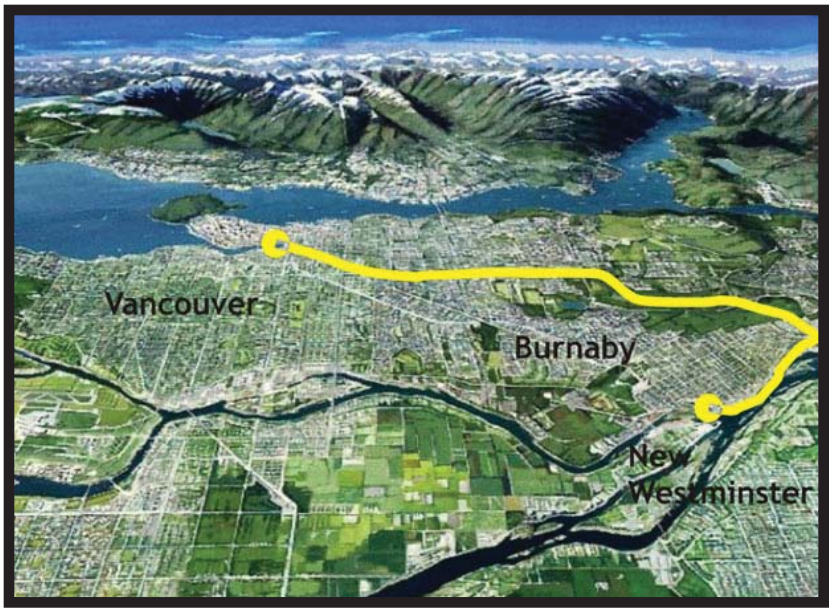
- **Level 650 m hiking trail along treed path**
- **Path can accommodate walkers, joggers and on-leash dog walking**
- **Birds and native plantings provide peaceful and natural environment**

In 2000, the City of New Westminster partnered with Translink and adjacent cities to create the Central Valley Greenway to connect Vancouver to New Westminster via Burnaby. This seamless greenway network will allow the public to walk, cycle and watch wildlife throughout the region and was officially opened to the public in 2009.

The Central Valley Greenway was integrated with utility development to take advantage of sizable linear corridors comprising Metro Vancouver's water and sewer network. Its creation further implements New Westminster's vision to provide an integrated waterfront park linking the New Westminster Quay Esplanade, Queensborough dykes and Sapperton Landing.

The greenway starts at Sapperton Landing and winds through the streets of the Brunette industrial area. From here the Greenway links with a trail adjacent to the calm and dark waters of the Brunette River before connecting to Hume Park. The trail then follows the river into Burnaby before reaching Burnaby Lake Regional Nature Park.

Behind the Name…Central Valley Greenway:



There is no secret to this origin of this park name as it is taken from Burnaby's Central Valley which is home to Burnaby and Deer Lakes and the waterways, which flow into the Fraser River.

CITY HALL AND FRIENDSHIP GARDENS



IHP4457

Established	**1908**
Size	**8.5 acres**
location	**511 Royal Avenue**

Ammenities

- **Trails, benches & mature trees**
- **New Westminster tennis Club**
- **Summer Farmers Market**

Ammenities

- **Friendship Gardens built in 1963**
- **Pond & waterfall**
- **Walking paths & benches**
- **Mature trees & unique plantings**
- **Duck & bird haven**
- **Passive greenspace**
- **Monuments**
- **Memorial Place**
- **Gardens**



New Westminster was originally surveyed only to Royal Avenue. In 1862 the city was extended, with new suburban blocks added as far north as Tenth Avenue. These new blocks included three government reserves planned by Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers to form the future home of the new colony's government buildings.

The central square -- now the location of city hall and Friendship Gardens -- was flanked by two minor squares. The western square located across Sixth Street became home to the city's first public school (now Royal Towers Hotel site); the eastern square (now Tipperary Park) became a park site.

A works yard comprised the central square in the 1890s, with a small fire station located at the corner of Royal Avenue and Sixth Street. In 1895, the northeast corner of the site was conveyed to the Dominion Government of Canada to construct an Armoury, which was completed in 1896.



IHP4029

The property was formally conveyed to the city's ownership by the Province in a special Act of the Legislature in 1908, and vested forever in trust "for the recreation and enjoyment of the public." The central square, Tipperary Park, was specifically earmarked in the Act for school purposes, since city council and the school board had an eye on this site for the future construction of a new high school.



IHP2702

As part of his 1911 report on parks in the city landscape, architect G.L.K. MacLean advised Council regarding the site: "In Tipperary Park, situated as it is in the heart of the city, New Westminster has a most valuable breathing space and this value will increase rapidly as the city grows. It may be laid down as a principle in its treatment, that its should be cut up as little as possible, the space being devoted mainly to broad sweeping lawns on which the children can play. A noble feature of Tipperary Park is the beautiful grove of cedars which should be carefully preserved. Proper paths would, of course, have to be made for crossing the park. These should seem to proceed directly to their objective, and if they should curve, as undoubtedly they would, there should be some definite reason either natural or seemingly natural for their curves, that is to say they should lead one to view some special object, or seemingly to take the easiest grade and distance to cross the park. The gullies in the park could also make an attractive feature of a carefully thought out design."

Council and School Board preceded in 1911with the new school plan designed by city architects Gardiner and Mercer. Canada's Governor General, the Duke of Connaught, formally laid the cornerstone for the new Duke of Connaught High School in 1912.

The building was completed in the fall of 1913 at a cost of $120,000. A broad terrace supported by granite rock walls provided access to the formal staircase of the front entrance, as well as to the girls' and boys' side entrance porticos. The grounds surrounding the building were designed in "elaborate plans by the authorities to lay out a large part of the park in the nature of pleasure grounds for the use of the students and the public at large. The school campus will be formed at the back of the building and close to the drill hall to accommodate a regulation lacrosse, rugby and football gridiron."

The architects proposed taking "advantage of the larger ravine to add to the beauty of the spot by paving the bottom of it and building a footpath, erecting a rustic bridge over it and planting it with rock plants, ferns dog tooth lilies, primroses and other similar species. At the lower end of the ravine a large pool will be built. From the rear of the building, a number of paths will radiate, on the principle of which a fountain will be built. The densest tree growth will be thinned out to permit air and sunshine to penetrate and render the shade less damp and unwholesome."

The combined park & school site was so well designed there were few changes to the overall landscape or setting for decades.

In 1945, New Westminster City Council hired famous American town planner Harland Bartholomew to create a new vision for the city. A series of influential and comprehensive plans for zoning, parks, schools, transportation and a civic center were subsequently produced between 1945 and 1947.

New thinking about civic and administration centres at this time challenged the prevailing notion of concentrating all civic facilities downtown. The Bartholomew plan encouraged the School Board to replace its old facilities and to construct new junior and senior high schools on the city works yard and former military camp and Douglas Cemetery on Eighth Street.

The school board first proceeded with the construction of a new Junior High School in 1948 to relieve overcrowding in both elementary and senior secondary facilities. The construction of the new Lester Pearson Senior High School on a new site, replacing the soon to be closed Duke of Connaught High School, was therefore not completed until 1955.

This precipitated a move to uptown by the City of New Westminster, who took over a part of the Duke of Connaught High School site to build an impressive new City Hall.

Using a ratepayer-approved bylaw, a budget of $600,000 gave City Council the funds to create a truly splendid building. The palatial new hall featured a modern interior designed by architect A.C. Smith. The Council Chambers were lined with "oyster walnut" paneling, and each Councilor could now sit rather regally at their own walnut desk. The cenotaph was moved from its less-than-ideal location at the Pattullo Bridge to take up a more fitting and ceremonial location amid a garden landscape on the building's great lawn. Mayor Fred Jackson declared the building open on November 19, 1953 in the middle of a torrential rainfall, dedicating it for the "perpetuation of good government."

The City Hall grounds were designed by the former provincial government engineer and landscaper John Booth. Called the "dean of B.C. landscape designers," Booth saw this project as the culmination of his 65 years of professional experience. He described the site as "the perfect setting – high, wide and sloping. It should show off our work to excellent advantage. There will be two acres of lawn and enough shrubs and ornamentals to give year-round colour." Tons of rich peaty loam was trucked in to create a cushion-like base for the sweeping lawns, with embankments of rockeries, roses and dwarf shrubbery surrounding the cenotaph and the new building.

The venerable Duke of Connaught High School was demolished in 1956; its site became City Hall's east parking lot.

Hurricane Freda made significant changes to the site and its beautiful grove of cedar and fir trees when she struck the Pacific coast in 1962. The storm caused an estimated $10 million in damage and seven deaths. Winds reaching sustained speeds of 74 kilometres per hour, with gusts to 145 kilometres per hour, were recorded in Victoria and on Vancouver Island. New Westminster's old trees were especially vulnerable; many of the city's parks were battered and century-old trees were torn from the ground.

The storm, however, provided the opportunity to redesign the City Hall site. Parks Director Gordon Sales took on the task of creating Friendship Gardens in 1963 as a tribute to New Westminster's sister city, Moriguchi, Japan. The garden's design blended inspiration from historic Japanese landscapes with modern style. Incorporated into the ravines were ponds and a stream with rockeries, connecting bridges, ornamental cherry trees, shrubs and viewpoints.

The Mayor of Moriguchi, Masataka Kizaki, along with Mayor Beth Wood, officially opened the garden on September 2, 1963. Friendship Gardens and the City Hall grounds have been maintained beautifully to this day, and continue to be the site of many civic celebrations and commemorations.

One of the major features of the City Hall site was the monumental cenotaph and its plaza which formed a natural gathering site for annual Remembrance Day ceremonies. The cenotaph to the Great War was created in 1922. The project had been initiated by the Board of Trade who received such tremendous financial support from across the city and district that an original bronze life size statue of a soldier on an impressive monumental granite base could be funded. The sculpture was the work of a B.C. soldier George Paterson M.C. who worked in concert with an Italian sculptor A. Fabri of Vancouver. The completed memorial, with its bronze Honor Roll tablets commemorating the war dead, form one of the most impressive civic war memorials in British Columbia.

In 2000, as part of the City's Millennium projects, City Council approved a complete redesign of the cenotaph plaza that was formally renamed the Memorial Plaza. A series of descending plazas was designed and surrounded by gardens and pathways that connected the new landscape with Sixth Street and Royal Avenue.

The new design incorporated the City's historic 24 pound howitzers on restored wheeled field carriages. These Crimean War guns with their five foot barrel castings were cast in 1858 and 1859 and were such an outdated design that they were useless to the British Army. However, they were deemed good enough to be sent to British Columbia and arrived in the City in 1867 to defend the City against attack from the United States. The guns were used annually to salute Queen Victoria until their decrepit state necessitated creating the novel Westminster solution of the Hyack Anvil salute.

The new plaza and its garden landscape incorporating these civic heritage treasures provides an important public plaza and setting for the annual civic Remembrance Day ceremonies and other formal ceremonial and functions.

Behind the Name…Friendship Gardens:



Friendship Gardens was named based upon its history to recognize peace and to recognize local and international relationships through monuments, statues, totem poles and dedicated plantings. Walking through Friendship Gardens is a discovery and recognition of the many important relationships the City has.

CLINTON PLACE





IHP7546

Established	**1863**
Size	**0.80 acres**
location	**Royal Avenue & Secord Street**

Ammenities

- **Passive grassy open space**

Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers created Clinton Place as a major civic square in the historic city plan they designed in 1863. The square, located at the intersection of Royal Avenue and Second Street, included the diagonal street entry to Park Row and a ceremonial access to Queen's Park. Clinton Place mirrored its twin at the west end of Royal Avenue, Toronto Place/Simcoe Park, now adjacent to John Robson School.

Grand public squares like Clinton Place were intended to signify the importance of the Royal City as the capital of the Colony of British Columbia. It was located on the crest of a hill to take advantage of the sweeping views of the Fraser River and Golden Ears Mountains.

Clinton Place was originally a much larger park. It was acquired by the City from the Province in 1884, subdivided into residential lots, and sold in 1886 to raise funds for the city's connection to the Canadian Pacific Railway. The remainder of Clinton Place remained a rough and undeveloped road right of way, but was finally cleared of stumps and leveled in 1889.

During the great boom of the 1890s, the Westminster and Vancouver Tramway Company used the square for the construction of their electric interurban railway line between the "sister cities" New Westminster and Vancouver. The tramline left its terminus at Eighth Street and followed Columbia Street to the east end of the city, winding up the hill from Leopold Place and westwards on Royal Avenue. The rails of the trolley looped at Clinton Place to change directions to the east, following Park Row up to First Avenue to the gates of the exhibition buildings at Queen's Park before traveling through the upper residential district and Burnaby en route to Vancouver.

Clinton Place was formally transformed from a street right-of-way in 1910 when City Council allocated funding to create a pleasant grass park for the enjoyment of local residents. In 1913, the central boulevards of Second Street were laid out, and new curbs and sidewalks defined the area for the first time.

The streetcar tracks through Clinton Place were removed after the closure of New Westminster's streetcar system in 1934. The park retains much of its original design, with beautiful trees forming a small arboretum, including some of the largest red oak trees in the city.

Behind the Name…Clinton Place:



Henry Pelham-Clinton, Fifth Duke of Newcastle-under-Lyne

Born: May 22, 1811

Died: October 18, 1864

Clinton Place was named after Clinton Street, the original name for Second Street. Sir Henry Pelham Clinton was England's Secretary of State for the Colonies 1859 - 1864.

This English statesman became a member of parliament in 1832. He was appointed colonial secretary and secretary for war in 1852, presiding over the Crimean War. He resigned in 1855, but returned to government as secretary of state for the colonies from 1859 - 64, during the establishment of the Royal City. The surname Clinton means one who came from Clinton, Northamptonshire, an old place name meaning "settlement on the summit."

CONNAUGHT HEIGHT'S PARK





Established **1976**
Size **1.85 acres**
location **Nineth Avenue & 22nd Street**
Ammenities

- **Two tennis courts**
- **Large playground**
- **Benches & picnic tables**
- **Mature trees**
- **Open grassy area**

New Westminster's Connaught Height's neighbourhood has a unique story rooted in its unusual early history.

Comprising a section of land on the far western edge of the city surveyed by the Royal Engineers in the 1860s, Connaught Heights was known as District Lot 172. When New Westminster established its civic boundaries in the 1880s, it incorporated only its original city and suburban lots. The district lots were left for the Municipality of Burnaby to incorporate into its limits when it was established in 1892. However, District Lot 172 was not incorporated into the new municipality of Burnaby, possibly because its owner may have objected.

A simple act of exclusion thus left this portion of land outside any municipal jurisdiction for over seventy years. Though the owners of the property paid taxes directly to the Provincial Government, they received very little improvements as a result.

In 1911 the landowners subdivided the land into residential lots conforming to the established street grid of New Westminster. The subdivision also enabled construction of the new "Connaught Hill Cut-off" by the B.C. Electric Railway Company, which was building a new interurban electric tramway to lessen the grade on its Central Park line, connecting the Royal City with Vancouver. The "Connaught Hill" station at Tenth Avenue provided the new subdivision with its local name.

As residents moved in to the area, they began to complain bitterly about their lack of amenities. The Provincial Government relented, and road improvements were made under the direction of the Minister of Lands (and city MLA) A. Wells-Gray. The government began to set aside lands in the 1940s to establish a school and park site for area residents.

The area became part of the New Westminster School District, and the Connaught Heights School was constructed there in 1963. However, very little changed in terms of the area's services until finally, in 1968, Connaught Heights was incorporated into the city limits.

In 1974, $1.25 million in federal, provincial and city funds were made available for improvements under the Neighborhood Improvement Program. Connaught Heights received $312,000, 25% of the available funds. The residents of Connaught Heights, through their Citizens Planning Committee, recommended the development of a community centre and park at their old park site. The recommendation was approved, closing the BC Hydro right-of-way between Ninth Avenue and London Street, and the parcel at the south-east corner of London Street and Ninth Avenue. The three parcels were then consolidated to provide the needed land at a cost of $105,000.

Through the cooperation of New Westminster City Council and the School Board, Connaught Heights Elementary School was altered to increase the floor area by 3, 500 square feet. The $178,000 addition included an extension to the gymnasium and provision of a multi-purpose room for community recreation purposes.

The park portion of the complex, covering 1.67 acres, cost $115,000 to construct, and consisted of two tennis courts, an adventure playground and a passive area from which active play could be observed. The sale of land where Connaught Heights Community Hall stood provided the balance of money needed for this neighborhood improvement project, which Mayor Muni Evers officially opened on June 17, 1977.

Behind the Name…Connaught Heights Park:



H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught

Born: 1851

Died : 1942

Prince Arthur, the Duke of Connaught, was the third son of Queen Victoria, and the first member of the Royal Family to become Governor General of Canada. After his term at Rideau Hall, the Duke returned to military service for the remainder of the war. The Duke of Connaught spent a long life in retirement and died in 1942 at the age of 91.

Connaught Heights took its name from the Connaught Hill cut-off and station established by the B.C. Electric Railway Company in 1911. Officials of the B.C.E.R. had hoped to time the official opening of the line with the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor General on September 21, 1912. However, the new line would not be completed until December 2, 1912.

Instead, the Governor General traveled to New Westminster from Vancouver over the old Twelfth Street line in a special "Connaught" Car designed for the trip. On the way, the car stopped briefly in Burnaby at Edmonds, where 500 school children waited to greet him before he traveled to New Westminster to be greeted by a formal Guard of Honour and ceremony.

DOCK SQUARE (Thirteenth Street Triangle)



IHP

Established **Unknown**
Size **0.48**
location **Thirteenth Street & Fourth Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Open grassy area**

The actual legal boundaries of Dock Square were a fantasy on paper, for its boundaries extended out into the mud of the North Arm of the Fraser River. It was conceived in the excitement of the Gold Rush, during the establishment of New Westminster as the main port facility for British Columbia.

When New Westminster was founded in 1860, the city limits extended only as far north as Royal Avenue. Its western limits were surveyed by the Royal Engineers as far as an area known as the "swamp." A large public area called "Dock Square" was included on the map printed at the Royal Engineers camp in 1862, anticipating a future when real docks would be constructed to provide shipping facilities for the new city.

In plan, "Dock Square" was connected to the suburban blocks to the north by the very wide and grand London Street (Thirteenth Street). This "English" street was the main avenue of the district, and was flanked by two secondary streets: the "Irish" Dublin Street (Fourteenth Street) to the southwest and the "Scottish" Edinburgh Street (Twelfth Street) to the northwest.

Despite secondary designation of the road in plan, Edinburgh Street was destined to become the main commercial street of the city's west end. However, its development would not begin for another quarter-century.

Development of New Westminster's 'West End' - along with the transformation of the entire province - began with the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the west coast in 1886. City Council negotiated a land sale to entice construction of a branch line to the city, including the provision of a station site at the foot of Eighth Street and substantial lands extending west for freight yards. As a result, New Westminster - the self-proclaimed "fresh-water terminus" of the C.P.R. - boomed with new industrial concerns in the western end of the city.

The title to Dock Square was transferred by the Province to the City in 1884. The land proved valuable when, in 1890, its use was required for the bridge approach and road connections for the new Queensborough Bridge.

Most of Dock Square was leased and later sold to the Small & Bucklin Lumber Company or railway interests during the 1900s. After the construction of Stewardson Way, the only reminder of Dock Square's former existence was a small landscaped triangle at Thirteenth Street.

Behind the Name…Dock Square:

This piece of land was named Dock Square because in 1862 it was expected that the area would become a dock (piers on a commercial waterfront that serve as a general landing area for ships or boats for loading, unloading, or repairs). The word is derived from the Dutch word 'dok', from dûken, meaning to go under water or dive.

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL PARK

New Westminster's newest park is also its oldest public cemetery. When New Westminster was incorporated in 1860, the only cemetery within its boundaries was initially a small burial ground established by the Anglican Church at the corner of Dufferin and Agnes streets. In 1860, a petition was presented to Municipal Council requesting that it apply to Governor Douglas for a suitable site for a cemetery. The Governor granted approval for the City to have occupation of 20 acres of a larger reserve on the outskirts of the City's suburban lands, on a site that had been roughly surveyed by the Royal Engineers. The site adjoined the Douglas Road which that had been named after Governor Douglas.

In 1861, the cemetery was ready for use but there was some disagreement in the community, reflected in letters to the editor of The British Columbian, over whether or not the cemetery should be divided among the various religious denominations in the city or be a public cemetery open to all. However, despite this minor public disagreement, the cemetery began to be used for deaths that occurred within the city and region. The British Columbian newspaper noted that: "It is to be regretted that our public cemetery should be left so long in its present condition. A small patch cleared in the dense forest surrounded by gigantic trees, many of which would, if felled, reach twice across the tiny clearing".

The use of the Douglas Road Cemetery for burials continued despite reservations of the city's religious denominations that the sanctity of this place of interment could not be maintained effectively without partition. The issue of the poor management and operation of the cemetery was reinforced by the Colonial government's slow response to implement any laws for the operation of public cemeteries. Finally, in 1870, the cemetery was placed legally in the hands of a Board - however, the Provincial Government refused to grant the new trustees any funds to complete the cemetery's clearing and survey.

The lack of maintenance and the ongoing governance crisis of the old public cemetery was a significant concern among the residents of New Westminster. Churches, fraternities and its leading citizens abandoned the old Public Cemetery, in favour of establishing new independent cemeteries in Sapperton after 1869. In 1879, the Provincial Government passed the Cemetery Ordinance Amendment Act to separate the statutes for new cemetery operations across the Province, with the specific trusts for the public cemeteries of Victoria and New Westminster. This new legislation vested the land as a public cemetery and its management was legally transferred to the Corporation of the City of New Westminster.

With time the old Public Cemetery (also widely known as the Douglas Road Cemetery evolved to be an important part of the civic infrastructure for the health of the community. All burials that could not be accommodated in the exclusive fraternal and religious cemeteries of Sapperton were directed to this facility. New Westminster was growing in the late 1880s as a regional centre. The location of the hospitals, the Federal B.C. Penitentiary, the New Westminster Provincial Gaol (jail) and the Public Asylum within the City's boundaries brought added economic prosperity. These institutions also meant the City was responsible for deceased patients or prisoners. Many individual deaths and burials are recorded from these institutions in association with the use of the Public Cemetery. Also many of New Westminster's ethnic communities, such as the Chinese and Japanese, extensively used the old Cemetery for the burial of their dead.

City Council had prepared for the future replacement of the old Douglas Road Cemetery by purchasing land in Sapperton on Richmond Street for future indigent burials. City Council immediately undertook action to deal with staff reports that the old public cemetery was full. As the proposed new public cemetery in Sapperton was not yet surveyed and developed to allow for its use, Council decided to open a new section of land for burials on the Cemetery Reserve which was known as the "Douglas Cemetery" in 1908. The City operated the Douglas Cemetery until it was finally closed to all burials by 1920.

As early as 1927, the Native Sons of B.C. (established in 1908) and the Native Daughters of B.C. Post No. 4 (established in 1924), the city's oldest historic associations, began lobbying the Parks Commission and City Council for the creation of a park to serve as a memorial to the pioneers buried there. The Native Sons and Daughters later refined their proposal by way of a letter and plan submitted to the Parks Commission, which in turn requested Council for authority to create a "Douglas Memorial Park" on March 21, 1931. Council agreed with the proposal and adopted a motion that the request be granted. A lease to a defined Park property was given to the Native Sons and Daughters in 1939.

At this time, Council was approached by federal military officers of the local Westminster Regiment to have parkland and public buildings turned over for military training barracks. Council immediately looked at the possibility of turning over, for this purpose, the Works Yard and its old barns at the corner of Eighth Street and Eighth Avenue. Discussions with military authorities, however, led to a decision on October 30, 1939, to lease the entire original reserve block, with the exception of the Works Yard and Douglas Memorial Park, to the Federal Government. A total of 20 army huts were to be built to house 800 men.

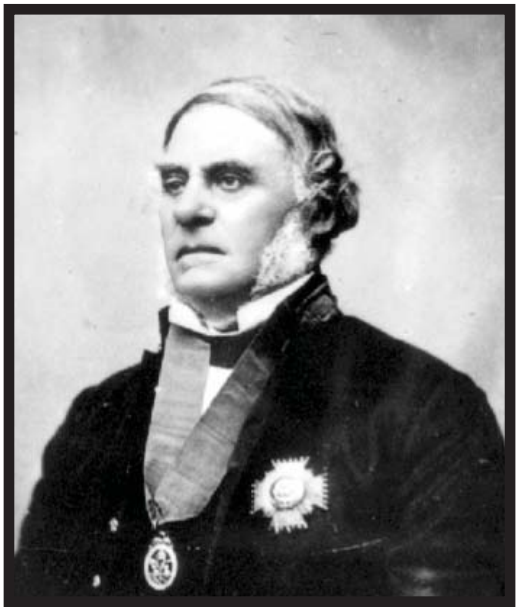
The original Douglas Memorial Park site was set aside and preserved by City Council to deal with the matter of the historic cemetery use of the site. At this time there were only a few visible tombstones and monuments remaining on the cemetery. A Vancouver newspaper reporter and columnist, A.H. Williamson, who, after visiting the location, described the site in 1937:

There are many graves in that forgotten cemetery, some few still marked by headstones, many of them marked only by slight depressions in the ground. Not one tombstone stands erect, of the few which may still be found in the tangle of vegetation. They lie flat on the ground, covered with moss and leaves, some broken and scattered far and wide. Of an estimated several hundred graves in that forgotten cemetery, only one is still definitely marked by corner posts – the only objects remaining erect in a jumble of fallen tombstones, displaced headstones and broken tablets.

At end of the war, the military barracks were closed and the temporary army buildings were removed from the site. In 1946, Council approved a $2.2 million plan to relocate the city's secondary schools to the site as part of a land exchange agreement with the School Board. The Native Sons and Daughters relinquished their lease to the former park property. As initially proposed, Douglas Memorial Park was to form part of a landscaped park area between the new junior and senior high school buildings. However, as time passed the significance of the old cemetery was forgotten. Later the site was used in part for the construction of the Pearson Secondary School wing in 1953 and the library wing and courtyard in the 1960s.

In 2009, following a lengthy historical site study of the property for the New Westminster Secondary School replacement project, it was determined that the former lands comprising the cemetery were legally protected from any future development. The former sites of the Douglas Road Cemetery and Douglas Cemetery were formally protected under the new legislation for cemeteries by the Province of British Columbia. Currently a plan for the Douglas Memorial Park is being formulated to ensure this historic cemetery site is rehabilitated as a passive park space with appropriate memorials to honour its past.

Behind the Name…Douglas Memorial Park:



Named after Sir James Douglas 1803 - 1877

James Douglas was born in 1803 in British Guinea. His mother was a free black woman and his father was a Scottish sugar planter. At the age of nine James was sent to attend school in Scotland by his father. Scotland did not hold him for long and at the age of 16 Douglas began a career that would link him to the province of British Columbia. Douglas was posted at the northern HBC station of Fort St. James. There he met and married Amelia, the daughter of the Chief Factor William Connolly and a Cree woman, in 1828.

In 1830 he was sent to Fort Vancouver to serve under John McLouglin. Douglas became Chief Trader in 1835 and Chief Factor in 1839. In 1843 he began constructing Victoria, which became the main Pacific depot head for the Hudson Bay Company. In 1851, Britain made Douglas the Governor of Vancouver Island, after the appointed governor had resigned in less than a year. By 1857 gold had been discovered. In November of 1858 he was officially appointed Governor of B.C. by Judge Begbie. Douglas' time as governor was primarily spent in relation to the gold rush, such as the construction of the Cariboo Wagon Road and the Harrison Trail.

In 1863, Douglas retired as governor, but was knighted in recognition of his work.

The 'Father of British Columbia' died in 1877, two weeks before his 74th birthday, surrounded by family.

DOWNTOWN DOG AREA



Established **2010**
Size **0.42 acres**
location **824 Agnes Street**
Ammenities

- **Grass, trees & park benches**
- **Doggie fountain & fire hydrant**
- **Garbage receptable & bag dispenser**
- **Double safety gates**

The need for dog owners to find adequate and safely-fenced park areas led to the creation of a series of off-leash dog enclosures and special park areas. The Downtown Dog Park was approved by Council in 2008 and opened for the enjoyment of dogs and owners on May 11, 2009.

This park facility was created using a vacant city-owned lot at 824 Agnes Street, a leased lot at 823 Carnarvon Street and a portion of Victoria Street. Historically this area in downtown New Westminster was part of the Chinatown district. The lot at 824 Agnes Street was formerly the location of the Chinese Hospital built in 1904 which was later converted into the Chinese Benevolent Society Building. When the society finally disbanded in 1980 it donated the site to the City in thanks for the many years of the City's support through its tax free status.

This spacious new dog area features a large fenced area with gravel and grass, trees, park benches, drinking fountain, 'doggie' fire hydrants, garbage receptacles and double gate entrances.

Behind the Name…Downtown Dog Area:

There is no mystery to this name. This park is located in New Westminster's vibrant downtown district.

DUNWOOD PLACE



Established **1955**
Size **0.33 acres**
location **Colbourne Street & Grover Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Native plants**
- **Lawn**
- **Trees**

This small, landscaped triangle was developed on civic land left over from the construction of McBride Boulevard in 1955, which linked Tenth Avenue to the Pattullo Bridge.

In the 1970s, the city initiated the construction of seniors housing on civic land; "Dunwood Place" senior's residential tower was built by the Presbyterian Senior Citizens Housing Society on Dunwood Place in 1977.

Behind the Name…Dunwood Place:

New Westminster pioneer and engineer Arthur Hill lived with his family in a home known as "Dunwood," designed by local architects Clow and Maclure in 1890 on Fifth Street near Fifth Avenue. The name Dunwood appears to have its origins in a number of place names of England.

Arthur Hill's daughter and sole heir, Annie Hill, bequeathed the financial value of the family estate to the Presbyterian Seniors Society in her will. The house and property were sold to fund the bequest, and unfortunately this landmark home was demolished on May 6, 1974.

ELEVENTH STREET TRIANGLE



Established **1944**
Size **0.25 acres**
location **Eleventh Street & Royal Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Open green space with trees**

City Council's decision to undertake the wholesale redesign of the warehouse district in the west end of the downtown in the 1920's created the Eleventh Street Triangle. The program anticipated construction of the city's docks, the opening of the Pacific Coast Terminals in 1929 and the transformation of the western part of the city into a modern shipping and industrial district.

In response, the Engineering Department swung into action to relocate and separate Columbia Street and the railway tracks. As a result, the land was acquired and buildings at the southwest corner of Eleventh Street and Royal Avenue (addressed 1105) were demolished. The resulting small triangular piece of property remained vacant until its transfer to the Parks Commission, which landscaped it in 1944.

GLENBROOK RAVINE PARK





IHP0622

Established	**1980, 1991**
Size	**13.38 acres**
location	**Jamison Court off Richmond Street**

Ammenities

- **An increadible pond, bridge and waterfall are surrounded by flower beds**
- **Grove of mature trees with trails**
- **Park benches**
- **Birds and wildlife**

Glenbrook Ravine Park was the first public park in the Colony of British Columbia. When the city was established in 1859, Colonel Moody wrote a letter to the Governor of the Colony of B.C: "The woods are magnificent, superb beyond description but most vexatious to a surveyor and the first dwellers in a town. I declare without the least sentimentality, I grieve and mourn the ruthless destruction of these most glorious trees. What a grand old Park this whole hill would make! I am reserving a very beautiful glen and adjoining ravine for the People and Park. I have already named it 'Queen's Ravine' and trust you will approve. It divides the town well from the military Reserve..."

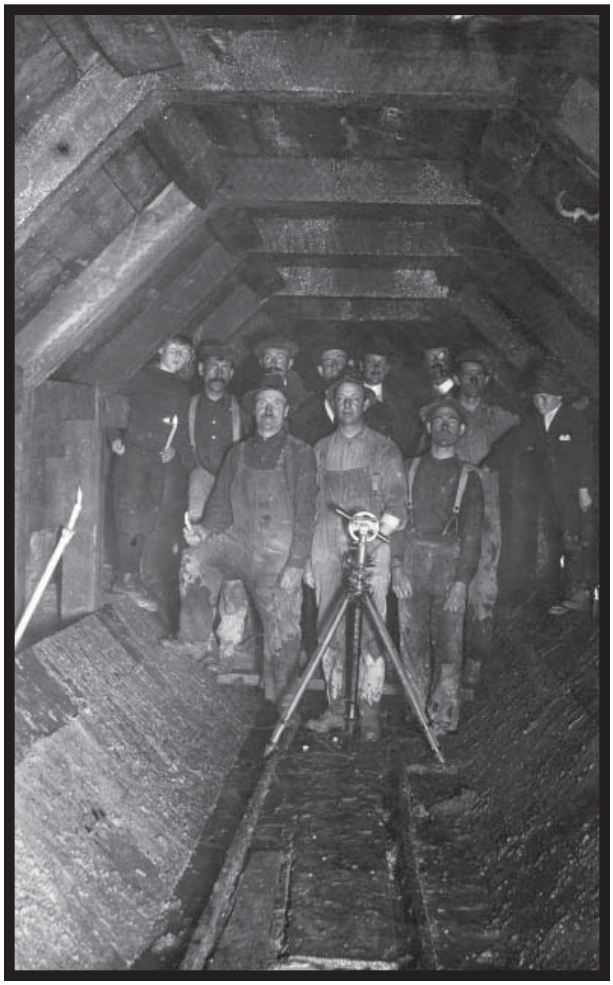
The ravine did indeed serve as a physical division between the town and the Sapper's Camp. High on the ravine bank, overlooking the river, Colonel Moody constructed a beautiful residence in 1860 called Government House. Moody, the colony's Lieutenant-Governor, enjoyed entertaining at his home with his wife Mary and young family. The Moodys developed a lovely garden with pleasure walks in and around the ravine, whose paths connected to the other residences of the Royal Engineer's Camp.

Moody left the colony in 1863. Governor and Lady Douglas took up residence at Government House briefly in 1864, where they held an official ball with over 200 guests in attendance.

The house was then occupied by newly-appointed Governor Seymour later that year, who built a large ballroom addition with a pretty tower designed by local architect J.C. White. After the capital was moved to Victoria in 1868, Seymour and his successor Anthony Musgrave rarely used the house.

In 1871 British Columbia joined confederation with Canada. The provincial government turned over the ravine lands along with the former Royal Engineers camp to the Dominion Government for use as the new Federal Penitentiary, with construction commencing in 1874.

Government House grounds and ravine continued to be used by the citizens of New Westminster as a picnic ground and park. May Day festivities were held on the old cricket grounds on the opposite side of the ravine beginning in 1871, often concluding with a picnic at Government House. When Gertrude McBride was crowned May Queen in 1877 she later recalled: "Shall I ever forget my May Day slippers with heels and blue bows, or my white kid gloves, or the drive to Government House in a carriage with two white horses ... along the shady road when the lovely old maples met overhead and the streams of clear water bubbled and rippled down on either side of their gravelly beds. ... The beautiful and expansive lawns and gardens created out of the wilderness by experienced old country gardeners in the service of the Crown. The surrounding drooping willow trees, lilacs, wild roses and the terraced slope to the river's edge."



IHP7287

However, a federal government penitentiaries inspector held a different view of the May Day festivities on this part of the prison grounds. He wrote in a report in 1879 that "it needs no argument to show how incongruous, how repugnant to good taste, leaving aside the incentive to breach of discipline and escape, it were (sic) to have games, music and dancing and other amusements, with all the attendant boisterous mirth, within easy earshot of convicts undergoing their allotted punishments." Despite his disparaging views, the picnics continued.

Government House was subsequently allocated to John Robson, Chief Engineer for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

By completion of the railway in 1886, the house was looking sad and neglected. It was commandeered by citizens to host a celebration for the visit of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. MacDonald. But sadly, after this event the house remained vacant, and was in such poor repair that cows wandered through the French doors into the ballrooms to escape the heat of the summer and bitter gales in the winter.

Finally, in 1889, the building was demolished. Government House grounds became the new location of the Warden's House, constructed in 1890. May Days were now exclusively held in the much improved fields of Queen's Park, and the beautiful Glen Brook was closed to the public and incorporated into the prison lands.

The ravine slowly became absorbed by the expanding federal penitentiary, and enveloped by fences to keep the public out and prisoners in. The wild state of the ravine became front page news after August 8, 1907 when it enabled the escape of notorious train robber Bill Miner, followed by a continent-wide manhunt for his recapture.

Some prisoners would never escape this gaol. Behind the prison staff homes on the opposite side of the ravine, a small cemetery was cleared for the burial of prisoners, the first of which took place in 1912. The cemetery site remains today as a protected vestige of the former penitentiary; in modern times it has been dubbed “Boot Hill”.

The ravine was also transformed by a huge sewage project in 1912. The Glenbrook Sewage Scheme enclosed the stream in a pipe to serve the city’s growing suburbs and East Burnaby.

Further changes came to the ravine landscape in 1929, after the Warden’s House was destroyed by a suspicious fire, rumoured to be started by the arsonist responsible for the destruction of the Provincial Exhibition buildings. The loss of the building enabled the B.C. Penitentiary to build an impressive new front entrance to the prison. This huge project required the excavation and destruction of the beautiful terrace and ravine on the old Government House grounds fronting Columbia Street. The land was reshaped to a low lawn hill and the ravine was kept cleared in order to spot any other prisoners who tried to escape.

The ravine changed very little for decades. In the 1950s the area became the temporary location of a prison camp for the hundreds of Doukoubours arrested in the B.C. interior. The ‘Sons of Freedom’ sect was known for its acts of arson in protest against the government’s insistence that their children attend public schools. The camp buildings were also the subject of many arson fires; eventually the camp was demolished entirely.

When the Penitentiary closed in 1980, the ravine lands were permanently turned over to the City for parkland by the Fraserview Development Corporation, part of the rezoning of the site for a new housing development. The park lands returned to a natural state, with paths connecting the ravine to the Woodlands site and further north to the Centennnial Community Centre. The lower part of the ravine was transformed into a beautiful horticultural garden and recreation passive area for the new residents of Fraserview, and rededicated in 1991. The impressive original Penitentiary Bell was preserved and located here to commemorate the fascinating history of this site.

Behind the Name…Glenbrook:



Colonel Moody referred to the ravine that separated the Sapper's Camp from the Royal Marines Camp as the 'Glen' as early as 1859. A glen is defined as "a small secluded valley." Prior to its enclosure in 1912 as part of a sewer plan, the valley also included a beautiful stony brook: hence the name Glenbrook. The name glen is derived from the Scottish Gaelic word glean, from the old Irish word glenn.

GRIMSTON PARK





Established 1937
Size 6.44 acres
location 20th Street & Sixth Avenue

Ammenities

- Two tennis courts
- Wading pool
- Lacrosse box

Ammenities

- Softball diamond
- Rotary Crosstown Greenway Plaza
- Soccer field
- Views
- Picnic area
- Adventure playground (rebuilt in 2010)
- Washrooms

Rapid construction of homes to the city's western boundaries in the 1920s created the West End neighbourhood known as "Honeymoon Heights."

While Moody Park had long served the needs of this area, it was too distant for the growing number of families with young children needing a local park. Residents therefore presented the Parks Commission with a petition in 1929 requesting a playground in the area. Unfortunately, the Great Depression scuttled these plans for almost ten years.

In 1938, as the local economy began to recover, the West End had an estimated population of 5,000. The new Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School and the cheap building lots of Connaught Heights continued to attract even more families to build west of Twelfth Street.

The land for a West End district park was finally set aside by Council in 1937 and formally named "Westside Park" by the Parks Commission in 1940. Westside Park was renamed by the Parks Commission on November 21, 1955 in memory of Douglas G. Grimston, a longtime Parks Commission chair.

Bulldozers leased from the Vancouver Parks Board began clearing the site in 1944 for construction of the playground and playfield. The wading pool and washrooms were built in 1950, followed by the tennis courts in 1954. The lacrosse box was constructed in 1969, concurrent with the filling and enlargement of the playground.

A new Adventure Playground was created between 1977 and 1978; two 32-foot children's slides were installed in late spring, 1984, with money donated by the New Westminster Rotary Club. The Adventure Playground was officially opened on August 9, 1984 with many of Doug Grimston's family members in attendance.

Behind the Name…Grimston Park:



Douglas G. Grimston

Born: 1900

Died: September 15, 1955

Doug Grimston was a native son of New Westminster. He worked in his family's business, Westminster Ice Limited, and served four terms as chairman of the Parks Commission. He advocated tirelessly for the expansion and beautification of the city's parks, as well as for the construction of the new Queen's Park Stadium.

As the President of the New Westminster Athletic Association, Grimston was instrumental in negotiations to include the New Westminster Royals in the Western Hockey League. He was also active as president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, and in this capacity accompanied Canada's team at the World Hockey Olympic Championship in Oslo. He was further recognized for his contribution to Canada's victory in the World Championship Hockey playoffs in 1954.

His sudden death from cancer in 1955 was the subject of a front page newspaper obituary and editorial in **The British Columbian**: "It's difficult to say in words how this community felt about its favorite son, Doug Grimston, particularly such a few short hours following his death. ... He was a leader in the organization and growth of Canadian amateur hockey; he assisted - financially and morally - every type of sport found in the Royal City, and served as parks commissioner for a good number of years. There are many things about Doug, his personality and his temperament, and the things he achieved, that will

be remembered for many years to come. ... Doug's heart belonged to sport and the men and women in its various fields. But his efforts were not confined to his family, his business, his community and sport, he gave many hours and dollars to organized charities and much more of the same... the thing that made his such a beloved figure was his willingness and ability to get things done. The city and the community... take heart in remembering that Doug used his time on earth that others might use their time to better purpose and pleasure."

HUME PARK





IHP4101

Established 1912
Size 31.72 acres
location Upper Hume - Columbia & Hoult Streets
Lower Hume - Kelly & Braid Streets

Ammenities

- Three tennis courts
- Spray park
- Adventure playground
- Outdoor pool
- Off-leash dog park
- Three baseball diamonds
- Softball Diamond
- Soccer field
- Lacrosse box
- Trails & greenways
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic tables
- Passive green space
- Forest
- Creek

Hume Park is one of New Westminster's most treasured park spaces. Located on the outskirts of the city on the banks of the Brunette River, its history is rooted in the founding of the city.

The first trail from the Royal Engineer's camp, surveyed and constructed as North Road in 1859, skirted the future park site. The trail was a military precaution, built to protect the capital city from potential American attack should the Fraser River freeze solid and the Americans launch an attack from the south. North Road provided a strategic access to Burrard Inlet to forestall such an eventuality.



IHP1694-12

Fortunately, the feared American takeover of British Columbia never materialized, and the trail eventually proved more suitable for the survey and settlement of suburban lands and district lots. Colonel Moody himself established his own model farm called "Mayfield" on the east side of the road 1860. William Holmes was the first to receive a land title in British Columbia for District Lot One on the banks of the Brunette River on the west side of the road. Here he established his own farm, becoming the first resident of Burnaby.

Anglican Archbishop George Hills visited Moody's farm in 1860 and recorded in his diary: "Walked with Colonel Moody and Captain Prevost to the farm or clearing belonging to the former, on the way to Burrard's Inlet, about two and a half miles from the [Royal Engineers] Camp. Up to that point all is dense forest. The trail is very rough and not suitable for even a horse, much less a wheel. At the place about seven acres is cleared and a garden made. Pears are growing. Apple trees are planted. The surrounding land has been burned."

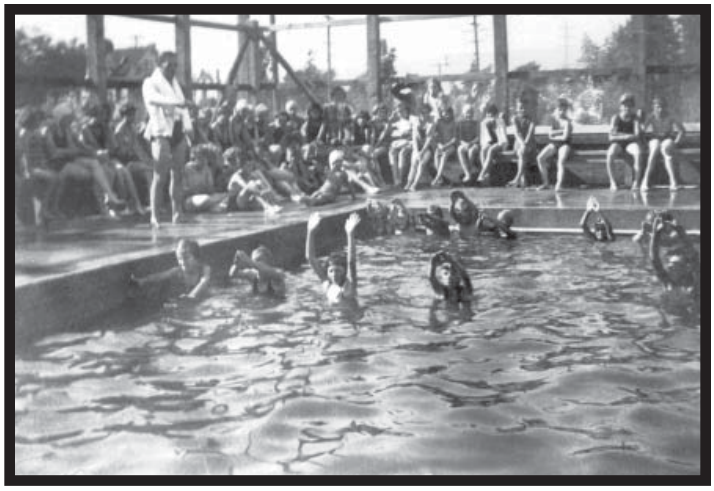
The Moody farm site included the portion of land that is now Hume Park. It remained more or less undeveloped for decades, with local farmers using the lower natural grass fields for pasture lands. The open fields beside the picturesque Brunette River became a favoured site for picnics by city residents.

The property was acquired during a land boom by the B.C. Distillery Company for potential factory or residential subdivision development. The land was soon determined surplus to the company's needs, but the threat to their much-loved picnic site so alarmed local Sapperton residents they presented a petition to City Council in March, 1912.

Council sent the matter to the Parks committee, which concluded that the growth of the outer suburbs demanded securing the land for park purposes. A brief debacle ensued when some businessmen proposed selling Sapperton Park to fund the purchase. Council disagreed, and in 1913 a civic bylaw was approved to borrow $33,000 for the purchase of the 10.69 acre undeveloped parcel initially known as Brunette Park.

The economic depression that ensued during World War I left the City without the financial resources to further develop the park. After the establishment of the Parks Commission in 1927 it was reported: "Sapperton is fortunate in having two parks, though probably there are residents who are not aware of the second one. Until it is properly christened it may be designated as 'Brunette Park' ... At present it is in its original wild state but could be made at little expense, a delightful resort."

However, with little in the way of funding, and too many other priorities, nothing was accomplished by the Commission at this site; with the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s, it seemed unlikely that the park would be developed for some time.



IHP17828-001

But Mayor Fred Hume had a vision for the development of the park site. In June, 1934, he appeared before the Parks Commission to outline the plan he had developed with the Board of Works committee: "His Worship the Mayor explained that the representatives of Council wished to lay before the Commission a plan to improve that area of land lying in the vicinity of Brunette River on Columbia Street East. The plan prepared by Mr. Lutley, Gardener – Royal Columbian Hospital, was laid before the meeting for examination. Mayor Hume stated if carried out, this scheme would afford the opportunity of supplying relief men with considerable labour and very little expenditure would be required for material. It was planned to lay the land out in paths, playgrounds, a number of artificial ponds and generally to beautify the Park and make it accessible to the public. This scheme would lessen the present congestion at Sapperton Park ... Park Commissioner Hutton explained the Board had this matter under consideration some time ago and the reason no progress had been made was on account of the scarcity of funds. He heartily endorsed the plan, provided that suitable provision was made for maintenance after completion and suggested that control of the whole of the ground be turned over to the Board of Works Department to develop, after which the some could be placed under the jurisdiction of the Parks Board for administration."

The park's development then proceeded with speed over the next three years. Every aspect of the original plan was completed. The quality of craftsmanship and attention to detail by city relief workers exceeded everyone's expectations. The playground and gardens carved out of the woods beside the Brunette River became a matter of civic pride, during the Great Depression.

The addition of a civic swimming pool at a cost of over $9,000 completed the park's development in 1936. In recognition of his leadership and vision, Sapperton's St. Mary's Church membership suggested naming the park after Mayor Hume.

Outsiders were also impressed with the park's transformation. One Vancouver reporter wrote: "As a civic achievement, Hume Park will take first rank because it utilized the distress of unemployment in a practical and prideful manner. To our way of thinking that was an achievement in itself. That it brought into recreational uses thirty acres of scrambled nature and evolved from that hodge-podge of ravines, gullies and rock piles on of the most beautiful natural park in the Province of BC and to the citizens of New Westminster the visitor and the tourist, it has provided a Centre of attraction and amusement, which will endure as an everlasting tribute to Mayor Hume and his Council of Alderman."

The park was administered by City Council until 1940, when it was passed over to the Parks Board, which directed continuous improvement over the years. Two tennis courts were constructed in 1949. In 1958, the swimming pool was enlarged and remodeled, and a larger picnic area was established; the following year, restrooms and dressing rooms were built, and the caretaker's house was constructed by high school students. A picnic shelter and playground were installed in 1960, completing the lower section of the park. A newly-filled ravine gave sufficient area to provide a soccer field, softball diamond and lacrosse box in the upper section in 1961.

In 1972, the establishment of an Adventure Playground, further development of trails and bridges in the ravine, and a new concession provided further improvements to the park. A Memorial Garden dedicated to Fred Hume was completed in 1976 with a donation provided by his sister Mrs. M. Corrigan.

The Neighbourhood Improvement Program provided the funds in 1977 to modernize the recreational facilities of the park and convert the outdoor swimming pool to a family pool. The Hume Park Pool was officially opened by Mayor Muni Evers on May 18, 1978. In 1991, the wading pool in Hume Park was transformed into a new spray pool with funding assistance of the Kinsmen Club of New Westminster.

Behind the Name…Hume Park:



IHP1484

Behind the name...Hume Park

Frederick J. Hume

Born: May 2, 1862

Died: February 17, 1967

Fred Hume's personal charm contributed to the almost rags-to-riches story of his life.

Hume was born in New Westminster, a descendent of two of the original Royal Engineer families that settled in Sapperton. Young Hume left school early and began working in a classical way by selling newspapers. He later worked in a variety of jobs, including store clerk, fisherman, teamster, mill worker, fireman, and telephone lineman.

It was his work as a telephone lineman that propelled Hume's transformation to employer from employee. He was listening in on a line when he overheard telephone officials talking about transferring him to Victoria. The impending threat of being transferred made the young married man with two children quit his job with B.C. Telephone Company.

With a tool kit and fifty dollars cash Hume set up a small electrical repair business with his brother in New Westminster. Soon the brothers opened Hume and Rumble, a retail electrical store that quickly became the largest electrical contracting firm in Western Canada.

Hume also started one of the first radio stations in B.C., partially to sell radio sets, then a comparative novelty. The station was CFXC in New Westminster, and it was here that Hume acted as a joint owner, manager, and disc jockey. The station was not a profitable venture, one of its evident disadvantages being that it had no commercials. It was eventually sold, and evolved into today's CJOR.

Hume entered politics in 1924. He was elected alderman at the age of 29 and served for nine years before being elected mayor in 1933, proving to be one of the City's most popular. Hume retired from civic government in New Westminster 1942 and moved to West Vancouver. In 1951 he was recruited to run for mayor in Vancouver; he was elected by an overwhelming majority, serving that city from 1951 to 1958.

Hume played with the New Westminster Salmonbellies as a young man and became president of the club in the 1930s. He went on to break a nine year slump for the 1937 Salmonbellies Mann Cup team (the first BC team to win the Cup since the arrival of box lacrosse) by augmenting the team with eastern lacrosse players.

Hume's love of sports led him to ownership of the New Westminster Royals hockey club, where he helped found the Western Hockey League. He operated the team with Ken MacKenzie in the Pacific Coast League from 1954 - 1961, but never won a championship. Hume finally sold his players to Portland and folded his franchise when mounting costs made professional hockey in New Westminster an unrealistic venture.

Hume went on to establish the Vancouver Canucks hockey team with the Western Hockey League from 1962 - 1966. He later investigated the building of the Pacific Coliseum and played a large role in bringing the National Hockey League (NHL) franchise to Vancouver.

Hume always believed that the Vancouver area could support large scale sporting events. In 1954 he brought the British Empire games to Vancouver, and helped land a minor professional baseball franchise in 1955.

Much of the growth in amateur and professional hockey in the Pacific Northwest was attributable to the efforts of Fred Hume. His drive and leadership won him countless admirers throughout the West Coast. The Western Hockey League honoured his many contributions by naming a trophy after him, presented annually to the league's most gentlemanly player; he has also been inducted into both the Canadian Lacrosse and the Canadian Hockey Halls of Fame.

HYACK SQUARE





IHP0063

Established	**1860**
Size	**0.38 acres**
location	**Columbia Strret & Eighth Street**
Ammenities	

- **Paved square**
- **Benches**
- **Flowers and hanging baskets**
- **Pedestrian corridor**

Hyack Square is one of the oldest urban squares in the city, established in 1860 as a natural extension of Merchant Square. It was located at the city's lowest point, adjacent to a swamp that was frequently inundated with flood waters from the Fraser River. Although the city struggled to improve its economy after the collapse of the gold rush, the square remained a rough, unfinished place.



IHP1956

However, the building of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway was to have a profound effect on the city and Merchant Square. Excitement and anticipation greeted the arrival of the first train to Port Moody after the last spike ceremony on November 7, 1885. New Westminster's officials were fixated on the potential of securing a branch railway to connect to the main line and began negotiations with the C.P.R. In order to raise the needed construction bonus, City Council decided to request title of the numerous park reserves and squares from the Province, including Merchant Square, in order to subdivide them for sale by bylaw.

The proposed bylaw drew immediate denouncements from citizens who felt that the sales would not only destroy the beautiful design of the city, but also devalue their property. One Merchant Square property owner even took the case to the Supreme Court of B.C. in a failed bid to stop the auction.



IHP0190

Despite the opposition to the bylaw, it passed virtually unchanged by eligible voters 96 to 26. The subsequent public auction of the City Reserves and Gardens at the Agricultural Hall on November 27, 1886 was a financial success, realizing all the funds needed to pay off the debentures for the branch railway.

The branch line was inaugurated on April 22, 1886 with an auspicious sod-turning ceremony held in Sapperton. The branch left the C.P.R. main line at "Westminster Junction" in what would become the future municipality of Coquitlam. The line entered the city far away from the river, but upon crossing the Brunette River, followed the riverfront into the downtown parallel to Front Street.

By August, 1886 it was reported that the "whistle of the locomotive has at last been heard in our midst; the construction train with all its boarding and lodging establishment reached Laidlaw's wharf yesterday morning. The long line of Chinamen occupied in grading, the whites laying the rails and the locomotive Kamloops with the train of section cars had a great attraction for our citizens and large numbers gathered to witness the novel scene."

The Royal City greeted the arrival of the first passenger train from the east with another ceremony on November 1, 1886 - one year after the first train had arrived in Port Moody and seven months before Vancouver would greet their own first train.

New Westminster had achieved a tremendous victory in securing its future and it proclaimed itself the "Fresh Water Terminus" of the greatest railway in the world. The completion of the railway connection immediately spurred investment in city lands, and entrepreneurs began to transform the town with new industry, businesses and residences.

New Westminster's Canadian Pacific Railway station site was situated at the western end of Columbia Street, adjacent what had been the former Merchant Square. Soon, a wooden station rose adjacent to some modest railway sheds. This first station was destroyed by the Great Fire of 1898, and replaced with the beautifully-designed brick station which remains near Hyack Square today as a protected heritage building.

The city retained a portion of the former Douglas Road (later Eighth Street) beside the station to connect the docks with Columbia Street. In 1909, the B.C. Electric Railway Company built its interurban station on the opposite side of the road, making this location one of New Westminster's busiest street intersections.

Beginning in 1887, the city's Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery gathered annually in front of Thomas Ovens' blacksmith shop on Eighth Street to salute the Queen's birthday. It was reported in 1892 that "the old-timers, not to be outdone by the younger generation, made up their mind (sic) to have a real old-time celebration, and on the spur of the moment quickly made their preparations. At noon a Royal Salute of 21 guns was fired with anvils in front of Ovens' machine shop, in old time style."

However, while the anvil salute was again witnessed by a large crowd in front of the Ovens' Eighth St. blacksmith shop in 1913, it was announced that: "It is expected that this is the last year that the salute will be fired on the old spot, Eighth Street being now, that portion at all events, too valuable and crowded a thoroughfare. But it is not the intention to let the ancient custom die out, and a new location will be sought." The salute continued in front of Ovens' new shop on Royal Avenue, but was moved to several sites in the city before finally becoming a formal tradition in Queen's Park.

The foot of Eighth Street became the scene of other civic celebrations and gatherings. The Duke of Connaught, Canada's Governor General and the son of Queen Victoria, was welcomed here in 1912.

The square was also the destination of the gallant contingent of New Westminster's war volunteers, who marched to the B.C. Electric Railway station on August 22, 1914 and transferred to Vancouver to board C.P.R. trains for their long trip to the frontlines. On that day it was said that the air of the Royal City was "...full of martial spirit. Flags were flying... thousands of citizens cheered and shouted fond farewells and hearty good wishes. ... Many eyes were wet as fond mothers and wives clasped their dear ones in what they felt might be their last embrace on this earth, and the voices of strong men shook with emotion as they bade their sons god speed."

During World War II this site was a place of more tearful goodbyes, with troops marching to the station and government docks to be transported to the front. This scene was famously captured by Vancouver Province photographer Claude Detloff in an image popularly known as "Wait for me Daddy," featured in Life Magazine.

In 1986, one hundred years after the arrival of the first C.P.R. train, the City of New Westminster reclaimed this historic location by closing Eighth Street between Columbia and Front streets and creating a formal urban public space to connect the revitalized downtown and the Westminster Quay with a pedestrian overpass. It was formally named "Hyack Square" by Council in recognition of the unique civic history and tradition at this location.

The City of New Westminster, with support from the Provincial Government's BC Spirit Squares program, upgraded Hyack Square at Eighth Street & Columbia in 2009. The revitalization will include many new features such as: new decorative paving, street furniture, lighting, decorative screens, historical features, children's water feature, ornamental plantings, lawn areas, a raised landscaped amphitheatre stage with seating walls and public art. Parks and Recreation staff, in partnership with the businesses and resident community, will utilize the space for a wide range of entertaining performers that will delight all in performances throughout July and August.

Behind the Name…Hyack Square:



New Westminster has honoured Queen Victoria on her May 24th birthday since 1859. The first royal salutes by cannon or rifle fire were carried out by the Royal Engineers and then continued by the Volunteer Rifles. When Governor Seymour received a salute on his arrival in 1864, he was surprised that it was "simply loud explosions of gunpowder placed between two anvils, one of which on each occasion was blown into the air." In 1866 the Seymour Artillery Company was formed, and in October 1867 they received two old-fashioned 24-pound howitzers on wheeled field carriages from the British Army. The first proud and proper royal salute using these imperial guns took place in May, 1868.

However, the old guns provided by the Seymour Artillery Company were often in a terrible and even dangerous state of repair. It was reported in 1887: "Application had been made to the local authorities at Victoria for permission to use the cannon here in firing a salute in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday. And the answer was – no cannon, the salute will be fired in the capital. It is high time to give the Island of Vancouver a good wholesome dose of home rule. Everything is reserved for that barren island. Our citizens were indignant when they heard of the refusal to let them use their own guns in saluting Her Majesty, but Chief Bonson and a crowd of loyal citizens got possession of an anvil and with twenty-one rounds they waked the echoes far beyond the Fraser. In the Royal City it is a strange sight to see loyalty packing anvils to be used as heavy guns in celebrating Her Majesty's birthday. But Canadian loyalty is very strong. The refusal to permit our volunteer officers to use our own guns on this occasion was a most disreputable proceeding"

The Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery was formed by loyal

residents to continue the proud and unique salute to Queen Victoria. Many members were part of the Hyack Fire Brigade, the city's first fire fighters. They lent their honourable historic name to the battery, which in Chinook, the trade language of the west coast, means "hurry up!"

May 24, 1901 was the only year the battery remained silent, out of respect for the sovereign following her death. Since 1859, Queen Victoria's birthday has defined the city's spirit as an annual celebration of its proud heritage, imbued with both the pageantry of the past and optimism for the future.

IRVING HOUSE AND THE NEW WESTMINSTER MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES



IHNWP0074



Established **1865**
location **302 Royal Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Costume interpretive guide**
- **11 furnished rooms**
- **Garden and plaza**
- **Benches**

Ammenities

- **Guide tours**
- **Museum and Archives**
- **Giftshop**
- **Architecture**

Born in Annan, Dumfrieshire, Scotland in 1816, Captain William Irving went to sea at the age of 15 and quickly rose in rank to become a captain with his own ship. After arriving on the west coast during the California gold rush in 1849, he met Elizabeth Jane Dixon in Portland, Oregon in 1851. They were married that same year and had four children: Mary, John, Susan and Elizabeth. In 1859 the family moved to Victoria, and Captain Irving began operating sternwheelers with a partner on the Fraser River during the new gold rush. William and Elizabeth's fifth child, Nellie, was born in Victoria.

Anticipating that the new capital city of New Westminster was a wise investment, Captain Irving constructed a home designed by his good friend and artist James Syme and built by local builder T. W. Graham. When the house was completed in 1865, a reporter for **The British Columbian** newspaper wrote: "The style of the building may be generally defined as mixed Gothic. With a ceiling of 12 feet clear on the ground floor and a hall 8 feet wide running through the main building it has a drawing room ..., a parlour ..., dining-room ..., library ..., bedroom..., kitchen ...., with bath-rooms, storerooms and basement, while upon the second floor there are four large bedrooms, with closets and c. ... the handsomest, ...the best and most home-like house of which British Columbia can yet boast. Captain Irving has spared neither money nor pains ... The total cost .... $10,000.00"

Sadly, Captain Irving died suddenly in 1872 at the age of 56. His funeral was a major event in the city. After the Captain's death, his son John carried on with the riverboat business, even though he was only 17 at the time. In 1885, the widowed Elizabeth Irving moved back to Portland, Oregon, selling the house to her eldest daughter Mary, who had married Thomas Lasher Briggs in 1874. They renovated the home they dubbed "Hollymount" and raised nine children there. The house continued to evolve in use with the addition of running water, bathrooms and electricity in the 1900s.



ITP0906

Manuella and Naomi Briggs, the daughters of Mary and Thomas Briggs, eventually became the sole owners of the property, remaining in the house and preserving it virtually unchanged.

New Westminster's history enthusiasts began to turn their attention to Irving House in 1926, when it was featured in a book titled "Canadian Houses of Romance" by Katherine Hale. The City's Native Sons of B.C. Post No. 4 (founded in 1908) and the Native Daughters of B.C. Post No. 4 (formed in 1924) became interested in preserving the property. The Native Daughters established a small museum in 1927 and attempted to purchase the house in 1934 and again in 1938, but the Great Depression had made fundraising impossible. The British Columbian newspaper also printed feature articles in 1946 and 1948 about Irving House, which piqued interest in the Royal City's "last colonial home."

New Westminster Mayor Lewis Sangster knew the Briggs sisters personally as their insurance agent, and became interested in the home as well. He requested a first option for the city to purchase the property and paid them one dollar toward the payment price to "make it legal." On February 27, 1950, with the agreement of the Briggs sisters, Council agreed unanimously to purchase the "famous house" as an initial "museum and showplace" for $5,500, which included some of the original furniture. The deal was sealed when the Mayor told City Council that if operating the museum proved too expensive then the site would make an impressive profit as an apartment site.

At the opening ceremony held on November 20, 1950, Mayor Sangster paid tribute to his fellow Council members for their support and handed over a golden key to the house to the Native Daughters. In his speech he explained that the new Historic Centre was more than just a building - it was the city, and the place for the things that were precious to it. Finally, a permanent home for historic treasures was accomplished, and every valued donation from pioneer families of the city began to take shape one of the truly great historic collections of British Columbia.

Over the years, the house has remained much as it looked in about 1887. The grounds were restored by landscape designer John Booth, who redesigned the side and rear of the property with new rockeries and gardens. In 1964, the museum and archives collection had outgrown the house, and a new building was built behind the house to accommodate it. The house has been restored carefully and developed to reflect its history and the heritage of the Royal City.

JACKSON CRESCENT TRIANGLE

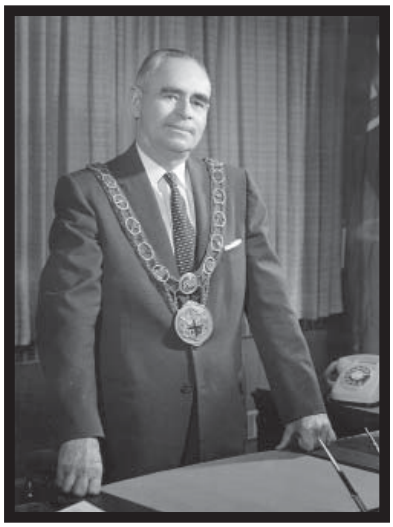


Established **1958**
Size **0.39 acres**
location **Eighth Avenue & Cumberland Street**
Ammenities

- **Open greenspace**
- **Grass & trees**

This small park site was created during the subdivision of Massey Heights, a new residential area developed by the city. The park was turned over to the Parks Commission, who had the triangle landscaped in 1958. Many streets in Massey Heights were named after city mayors, and some of the small park triangles adopted these names as well.

Behind the Name…Jackson Crescent Triangle:



ITP1814

Frederick H. "Toby" Jackson

Born: December 24, 1894

Died: January 17, 1978

Toby Jackson was born in 1894 at the family's first home on Columbia Street. During World War I he served overseas with the Field Artillery. On his return home he took over the Jackson Printing Company founded by his father in 1890, and became a member of the International Typographical Union.

Jackson began his political career with his election to Council in 1937 and served as Mayor from 1950 to 1958. He served on many of the city's community boards and commissions, including the Fraser River Harbour Commission and St. Mary's Hospital.

LOOKOUT PARK



Established **1977**
Size **0.79 acres**
location **Carter Street & Salter Street**
Ammenities

- **Trees**
- **Lawns**
- **Picnic tables**
- **Benches**

This park site is the last remaining city-owned property from the old Indian Reserve set in the 1860s to accommodate the First Nations that resided seasonally in the City to work in the fish canning industry. The Federal Government determined the reserve to be surplus and sold off the land in waterfront sections to industrial interests and later residential lots to West End home builders.

The construction and widening of Stewardson Way adjacent to the railway lines in the 1960s and 1970s left this section of land without any purpose or value. It became a neighbourhood nuisance for illegal dumping until 1977 when Council authorized its transformation into a park. Parks staff landscaped the site with trees, lawns, new paths, picnic tables and benches.

Behind the Name…Lookout Park:

Lookout Park was so named because the site offers a tremendous vantage point over the North Arm of the Fraser River.

MERCER STADIUM





Established **1958**
Size **35 acres**
location **Eighth Avenue & Eighth Street**

Ammenities

- **Artificial turf sports field with lighting**
- **Track**
- **Washrooms & changerooms**
- **Two baseball diamonds**

Ammenities

- **Two grass soccer fields**
- **Skateboard park**
- **Ice arena**

The site of Mercer Stadium was reserved as a cemetery in 1861 by Colonel Moody, upon request by City Council. However, as the land formed the headwaters of Glenbrook and was for the most part a swamp, it was deemed unsuitable for this purpose.

The Provincial Government subsequently subdivided this parcel of land in 1914 for a future residential subdivision. In 1925, the city purchased land to established the Loyal Protestant Home at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Sixth Street and in 1933, the City of New Westminster received title to the remainder of the property.

In 1945, famous American town planner Harland Bartholomew produced a series of influential and comprehensive plans for zoning, parks, schools, transportation and a civic center for the city. The Bartholomew plan encouraged the School Board to replace old facilities - the city works yard and former military camp on Eighth Street - and construct new junior and senior high schools adjacent to the site acquired by the City.

Financial difficulties forced the School Board to proceed with a phased plan of implementation, and the Vincent Massey Junior High School opened first in 1948 to relieve the overcrowding of existing elementary and senior secondary facilities.

The City of New Westminster also decided to make the move uptown by taking over a part of the soon-to-be-closed Duke of Connaught High School site to build a new city hall. In 1950, a school sites exchange bylaw formalized the agreement, which included the transfer of the land adjacent to the new high school to the School Board.

The Lester Pearson Senior High School was completed in 1955, but the School Board still struggled with funding to complete the necessary sports fields. As the City had the ability to finance, improve and maintain the site for development of sports and recreational facilities to serve both the high school and the wider community, in 1958 the land at Tenth Avenue and Sixth Street was once again transferred to the City's ownership.

The City proceeded to design a $150,000 modern stadium and field for track and field recreation. A large covered grandstand was designed to seat 2,000 at the east side of the site along Sixth Street. In 1960 the project's joint management committee named the new facility Mercer Stadium, after Arthur W.E. Mercer, the Chairman of the New Westminster School Board. Mercer had by that time served for over 24 years as a trustee.

Mercer attended the opening ceremonies officiated by Mayor Beth Wood on September 24, 1960. The event was capped by a football match between the Lester Pearson Mikes and the Como Lake Comets, complete with cheerleaders, bands and a cheering crowd of 1,500 fans. The first ceremonial kick-off was made by Bert Adams, the Principal of Vincent Massey High School. The Mikes beat the Comets 14 to 7.



Behind the Name…Mercer Stadium:

Arthur W.E. Mercer

Born: January 26, 1902

Died: Septmber 7, 1978

Arthur Mercer was born in New Westminster in 1902, the son of Edward Mercer of Harbour Grace, Newfoundland. His father operated the Star Shipyard in Queensborough with his brother William.

Star Shipyard constructed wooden and steel vessels up to approximately 170 feet (52 meters) in length and specialized in fishing boats, sternwheelers, tugs and scows for the coastal trade. During the Second World War, warships and other naval craft were constructed for the British, Russian and Canadian navies.

The business continued as a partnership between the two brothers until 1927; the business was reorganized at that time on a limited liability basis after Arthur Mercer and his brother Gordon purchased their uncle's share. The yard continued as a family business until 1970 when it was sold.

Arthur Mercer began his public service when he was elected as a member of the School Board in 1936. He served on the board until his retirement in 1971, including nine terms as Chairman.

Mercer was also president of the B.C. School Trustees Association, on the board of Royal Columbian Hospital, chairman of the New Westminster Pilotage Authority, a member of the Canada Games Board, and one of the founding members of the Douglas College Board.

MOODY PARK





IHP1820

Established **1863**
Size **23.78 acres**
location **Sixth Avenue & Eighth Street**
Ammenities

- **Five baseball/softball fields**
- **Two soccer/rugby fields**
- **Adventure playground**
- **Spraypark**
- **Washrooms**
- **Lacrosse box**
- **Outdoor swimming pool**
- **Three tennis courts**
- **Century House Senior Centre**
- **Picnic tables & benches**
- **Parks & Recreation Administration**
- **Outdoor basketbal**
- **Lawn Bowling**
- **Trails & greenways**
- **Trees & open grass areas**

Moody Park was the first park created following the incorporation of the City of New Westminster in 1860.

On April 20, 1863 Councillors A.H. Manson and John Cooper moved and seconded: "That in consequence of the judicious selection of the townsite of New Westminster for the Capital of B.C. by Colonel Moody this Council considers it desirable that a space not less than 20 acres should be reserved in the suburbs, now being surveyed, to be called Moody Square in commemoration of the founder of the city." This fitting tribute secured a valuable legacy of public space for future citizens and demonstrated the vision of the City's earliest civic leaders.

However, it was decades before the city had an economy capable of supporting the development of its parks through tax levies. Finally, in 1889, Council proposed a $10,000 bylaw for the improvement of Moody Park, which was passed by voters. Work got underway and was completed the following year.

The British Columbian newspaper described the park in 1890: "... the eye is arrested by a wide, level expanse of land stretching north and west. Enquiry develops the information that the smiling plateau is the famous and much talked of Moody Square. The last time the Columbian saw it the place was a howling wilderness and looked as savage as the desert of Sinai. The mammoth stumps and roots had just been riven from the earth by supreme force of dynamite, and where the blast had tossed them there they laid piled, chaos exemplified. But today the view that greet the travelers eye, is altogether pleasant; a park as level as a ballroom floor stretches off in broad acres, ample beautiful and admirable Moody Park will be



IHP0671

the gem in New Westminster's crown in the years to come. As a promenade and pleasure ground it will share honours with the Queen's Park and if we could indulge the imagination a little and look forward into the future, one could see Moody Park, surrounded by elegant residences of our merchant princes, rows of shade trees stretching round and about it; beautiful marble fountain throwing up jets of crystal Coquitlam spray; the city band discoursing Wagner's "Siegfried" with the utmost ease in a magnificent bandstand; and the carriages of the wealthy and fashionable rolling past in Corinthian splendor. These days are coming upon Westminster and she is making noble preparation."

Moody Park's level site naturally made it suitable for a wide range of field sports, including as a gun range to shoot traps, as well as one of British Columbia's first golf courses. The Parks committee report of 1897 recorded that "No expenditure was made on Moody Park during the year. It is used chiefly by the golf players and answers that question very well."

The Daily Columbian reported in 1903 that: "Golf this year did not get the attention it has received in former times, or which it deserves, the splendid facilities we have ...in the Moody Park links are better that most cities of this size possess, and it is to be hoped, as is altogether likely, that next year they will see more of the crooked club and the white ball than they did this."



IHP6880

By 1908 the Moody Park neighbourhood was far too developed to allow for operating gun ranges in the park, while larger and better designed courses in the Lower Mainland replaced its old golf links. That year "Moody Park Square" was formally conveyed by an Act of the Provincial Government for the "recreation and enjoyment of the public upon trust" to the City of New Westminster.

In 1909 the city's Cricket Club "obtained permission from the Council to convert over 6 acres of the Moody Square into a fine playing field. The Cricket section will be situated on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Eighth Street it will be 500' x 600'. Portions of the cricket section will be allowed for a lawn tennis and bowling green. The plans were prepared by Mr. Thos D. Sherriff." (BC Weekly November 23, 1909 p.37 "Improving Moody Square")

The park's facilities for children and the community were expanded in the 1920s thanks to a fundraising drive by the Gyro Club. The first stage, a new playground, was undertaken in 1922 for an estimated $6,000 It was described in the British Columbian newspaper: "Within the last year or two the Gyros established and equipped a playground at the lower end of Eighth Street and the swings, bathing pool and other amusements have been much appreciated. The cricket teams have played here since it was first possible to do so and it was the home ground of the old West End lacrosse club. Latterly baseball and softball teams have kept the grass down. This year the commission built three tennis courts and with encouraging results. These courts have been in constant use and have produced about a third of their cost in revenue. The upper section has been cleared of a dense growth of small stuff and next year will likely be graded and leveled, but this can only follow an expensive job of under draining. Huge checker boards will also be laid out. They have not been tried here yet."

In 1935, the Kiwanis Club of New Westminster (formerly named the Gyros), approved an even larger and more ambitious landscaping and development scheme. Under a special meeting of the Underprivileged Child Committee it was resolved that the "objective to beautify Moody Park as a recreational and Sports Centre be proceeded (sic) without delay." After approval from the Parks Commission, the community and local businesses donated over $20,000 to complete a program to beautify and improve the park into an "unrivalled park and recreation centre." The project was also helpful to unemployed residents during the Great Depression, who could work for small relief cash payments or receive credit for city taxes owing.

A beautiful landscape plan was prepared by landscape architect Robert H. Savary. The design included plans for a band shell, sunken garden, children's playground, football field, baseball diamond, tennis courts, lacrosse box, walks and flower gardens.

Diagonal paths lined with the trees and shrubs crossed the lower portion of the park, forming the mature walks we enjoy today. As many of the surviving tall Douglas Firs as possible were kept intact to incorporate into the scheme. In 1938 the Club managed to complete the football field, lacrosse box and clear and plant five acres of garden in the south west corner of the park.

The largest single project presented to the Parks Board by the Kiwanis Club was the $8,000 Community Hall building. This 'club house' was dedicated on August 23, 1938. It featured a community room with a brick fireplace, locker rooms and shower for the children using the playground and sports fields, and accommodation for a park caretaker. Today, the building serves as the Parks, Culture and Recreation department's administration office.

Although World War II temporarily limited park development, the post-war investment in the park was substantial. The Kiwanis Club once again contributed its fundraising might, raising $45,000 to build a children's outdoor swimming pool for the park.

Kiwanis Pool opened on June 30, 1949, and club members paraded downtown in old-fashioned bathing suits to promote the gala pool opening. More than 2,000 spectators watched the performances of clowns, precision squads and Olympic swimmers in an aquacade called the "Water Follies of 1949." The pool served the community admirably until it was slated for replacement in 2007.

The New Westminster Lawn Bowling Club opened their newly-built clubhouse and lawns adjacent to Eighth Street on May 20, 1950, funding their project through the sale of their old lawn on Dublin Street and Tenth Street.

In the 1950s the sports fields of Moody Park were substantially upgraded. The Junior Chamber of Commerce became one many groups advocating for more city-wide recreation programs at this time. Their fundraising efforts enabled the construction of the New Westminster Little League Baseball Stadium, which opened in 1954. Their lobbying efforts met with similar success: city council established an official civic Recreation Commission in 1956.

The opportunity to celebrate the Centennial of British Columbia was actively pursued by a 1958 committee of Council, which sought to create a lasting legacy in the form of a new facility for the community. In partnership with the new Recreation Commission, the city approved the concept of constructing a senior citizens' centre. So new was this concept that there were no other civic centres in Canada from which to model it. Instead, the committee's staff was sent to California to study similar a centre there to inspire New Westminster's project. Construction of the seniors' centre in Moody Park on a site between the club house and lawn bowling green, was initiated in 1957. The building was completed in 1958, just in time for "Century House" to be formally opened by Princess Margaret on July 23, 1958.



In more modern times, Moody Park has served as an oasis for residents in an increasingly urban environment. In 1984, on the occasion of the city's 125th anniversary, a monument in honour of the city's founder and the park's namesake Colonel Richard Clement Moody was unveiled by Mayor Tom Baker at the park's entrance. The legacy of Moody's civic vision and the park's historic development has left a tremendous asset that continues to benefit New Westminster citizens, young and old.

On September 28, 2008, Parks, Culture & Recreation and the New Westminster Rotary Club celebrated the unveiling of the Rotary Clock located in the new built Moody Park Place located at the corner of Eighth Street and Sixth Avenue. This prominent location created an attractive entrance into Moody Park while providing this key intersection with character.



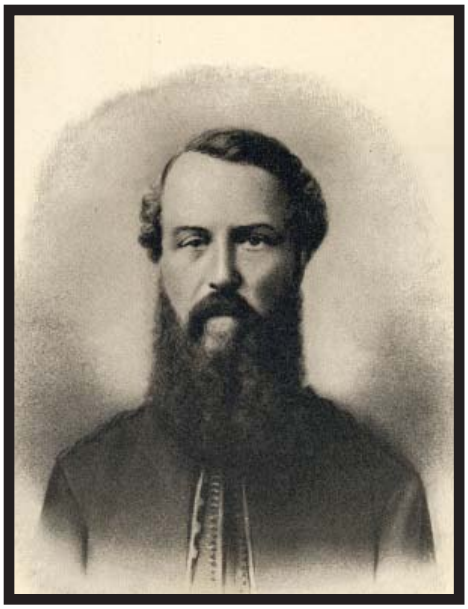
The Moody Park Outdoor Pool, which replaced the wonderful but aging Kiwanis Pool, opened on July 18, 2009 to great excitement. This $6M state of art outdoor pool represents the first new outdoor pool constructed in Metro Vancouver in recent history. The pool features three full 25m swimming lanes, two 20m lanes, a dive tank for a 1m springboard and a large spacious deck to relax and suntan on a beautiful summer day. During its first season of operation, the pool reached capacity regularly and was a popular destination for residents and visitors.

Moody Park continued to develop with the September 15, 2010 opening of the New Westminster first Youth Centre. Built with shared funding between the three levels of government, this $2.75M facility and $215,000 fundraising program resulted in a Youth Centre offering games rooms, lounges, Wii station, kitchen, meeting spaces, computer room, mini-gym, fitness room and open spaces.



The Youth Centre also represents an innovative partnership between youth and seniors to share space. The Youth Centre facility, an addition to the Century House seniors centre, allows seniors to utilize both spaces during school hours with youth making use of the space during non-school hours. This unique youth and senior relationship is cost and space effective while creating exciting intergenerational programs, relationships and understanding. A real win-win situation for youth, seniors and residents alike.

Behind the Name…Moody Park:



Colonel Richard Clement Moody

Born: February 13, 1813

Died: March 31, 1887

Richard Clement Moody was born in 1813 at St Ann's Garrison, Barbados, West Indies, the second son of Thomas Moody. At the age of 14 Moody entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich (now part of London) and quickly ascended to the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Engineers. In 1841 Moody was named lieutenant governor of the Falkland Islands and in 1843 he was appointed the first governor. On his return to England in 1849, Moody was promoted 1st captain.

He married Mary Susannah, daughter of Joseph Hawks, in 1852 at Newcastle upon Tyne.

After being given command of the Royal Engineers at Newcastle upon Tyne, he served in Malta. In 1858 he was promoted brevet colonel. A few months later, Colonel Moody was appointed chief commissioner of lands and works and lieutenant governor of British Columbia.

The War Office also made him commander of the British Columbia Detachment, Royal Engineers, a corps being sent to the new colony. Upon his arrival in British Columbia, he founded the capital city of New Westminster, ensured that the colony was surveyed, that a system of land grants established and that a network of roads were built.

The Colonial Office recalled the Royal Engineers and Colonel Moody

returned to his home in England on November 11, 1863. A huge crowd of New Westminster's citizens converged at the dock to say goodbye.

Moody became a Regimental Colonel and was placed in charge of the Royal Engineers in Chatham, England. He was promoted to Major-General in 1866 and retired on full pay to his home at Lyme Regis in Dorset.

Richard Clement Moody died from apoplexy while on a visit to Bournemouth in 1887, preventing him from fulfilling his dream of returning to British Columbia.

MOODY PARK ARENA





Columbian Newspaper, 1975

Established **1975**
Ice Size **85' X 200'**
location **701 Eighth Avenue**

Ammenities

- **One sheet of ice and four changerooms**
- **Ice rentals**
- **Skating & hockey programs**

Ammenities

- **Concessions**
- **Public & family skates**
- **Special events**

The City of New Westminster originally acquired a five-acre, unused section of the former 1861 cemetery reserve in 1925, and constructed the Loyal Protestant Home on the site. In need of financial aid the orphanage sold a portion of the land back to the City and a new ice arena was built on it in 1974 - 75 at a cost of $1,000,000. The arena served as a year-round sports facility for both ice sports and lacrosse and was in high demand: the growth of the city was causing major overcrowding at Queen's Park Arena and local children were missing out on local sports. The new arena was officially opened on March 27, 1975 by Mayor Muni Evers and the local MLA, the Honorable Dennis Cocke, Minister of Health for BC.

Behind the Name…Moody Park Arena:

Despite its name, Moody Park Arena is not actually located in Moody Park. The Parks and Recreation Commission held a 'Name the Arena' contest to come up with a moniker for the new facility. The winner was 12 year old Ben Hoskin, who suggested the name because of its proximity to the well-known Moody Park.

MOTT CRESCENT TRIANGLE



Established **1958**
Size **0.54 acres**
location **East Eighth Avenue & Sangster Place**
Ammenities

- **Grass & trees**
- **Passive play area**

After the city developed the new residential subdivision of Massey Heights, it turned over this small park site to the Parks Commission. The Commission landscaped the triangle in 1958, and named it after one of the City's former mayors.

Behind the Name…Mott Crescent Triangle:



ITP7515

William Malcolm Mott

Born: 1894

Died: November 26, 1961

William Malcolm Mott was a native of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and a veteran of World War I. He arrived in New Westminster in 1928 and founded Mott Electric Ltd. here.

Mott was a city councillor for six years before being elected Mayor, a post he held from 1942 to 1948. He was subsequently elected New Westminster's Liberal Member of Parliament, serving from 1949 to 1953.

Mott was also active in sporting circles, and was immensely proud of his role, with another local sport supporter Oscar Swanson, to spear-head the conversion of Queen's Park Arena to skating and hockey. He formed several minor hockey teams, often at a considerable personal expense and personally coached hundreds of children at the arena over the years.

MUNI EVERS PARK

Muni Evers Park is one of the City's newest parks still in the process of being created from a portion of a 9.5 acre site at Westminster Quay that was once home to the Doman sawmill on the North Arm of the Fraser River. The site was jointly acquired by the City of New Westminster and the Greater Vancouver Sewage and Drainage District for the purposes of constructing a Combined Sewer Overflow Facility (CSO) in 2005.

When rainstorms hit New Westminster, the combined sewers (sanitary and storm) in the city often do not have the capacity to carry all the wastewater from homes to the region's treatment plants. As a result, sewage can enter the Fraser River and cause environmental damage. In 2005, the City partnered with Metro Vancouver (GVRD) in an initiative to create a tank that would receive combined sewer overflows from the west end side of the City. The tank, which is a 20,000 cubic meter volume storage facility, was designed to address the CSO problem in that area by collecting large quantities of wastewater during rain storm events and storing it until the wastewater treatment plants can handle the additional load.

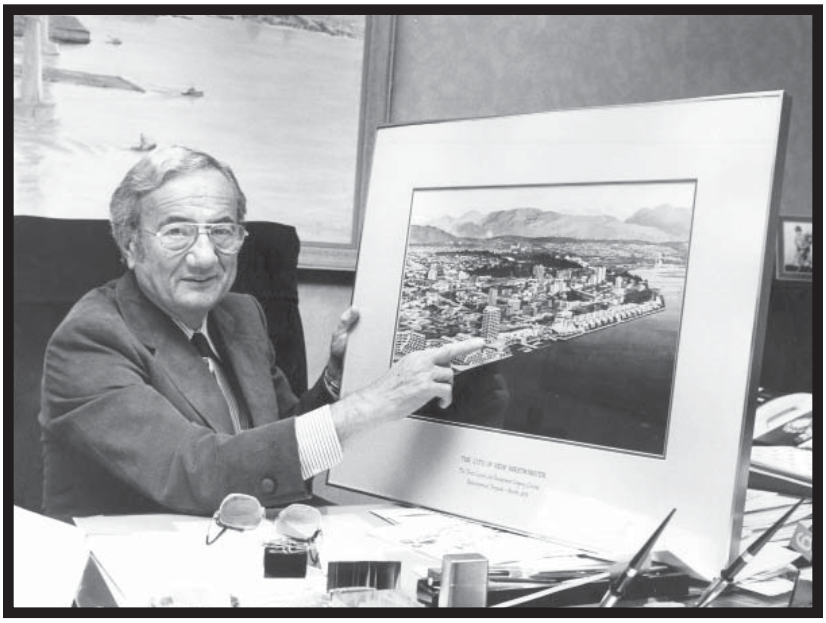
Although the storage tank and much of the facility is located underground, the project required construction of a one storey operations building. These facilities are traditionally built out of cinder blocks and would appear as a grey, concrete box on the landscape - which would have been an eyesore within the proposed park. The City of New Westminster commissioned local architect Eric Pattison with the mandate to design a 'green' structure that celebrated the industrial history of the site. The project showcased sustainability and sourced predominantly recycled materials to help minimize waste and the overall environmental impact of the project.

To minimize environmental impact, construction relied heavily on materials reclaimed from the deconstructed Doman sawmill. The project also increase the building's environmental performance through the use of highly reflective, energy efficient metal roofing, reclaimed steel components, high volume fly-ash concrete and a landscaped "green" roof. As a result of this commitment to the environment and the excellent design quality of the structure the City of New Westminster and architect Eric Pattison were awarded the 2008 Green Building Award in the BC Wood Design category from the Canadian Wood Council.

For some time the park was known by the temporary name of "Poplar Landing Park" as the site was the former location of the bridge that connected the mainland with Poplar Island. In 2008 Council unanimously adopted the name of Muni Evers for this Park after it was suggested by Muni Evers daughters Lesley Swanson and Robin Jones. Council agreed that Evers had left a tremendous legacy during his term in office as Mayor from 1969 to 1983. This legacy included the remarkable vision of creating the Westminster Quay development in which the park is located.

As of 2009 Muni Evers Park is still in the initial planning and development stage with its park landscape yet to unfold.

Behind the Name…Muni Evers Park:



Muni Evers, 1917 - 2004

Muni Evers was one of New Westminster's most visionary leaders. As the Mayor from 1969 – 1983, Evers created the vision for New Westminster's downtown revitalization through the First Capital City Corporation which created the plan to transform the former Pacific Coast Terminals site into Westminster Quay.

"Evers was a relentless believer in New Westminster and a man with a stubborn determination to get things done. Under him and his council, New Westminster changed more than it had since the First World War. He was the one who envisioned New Westminster's industrial waterfront being transformed into housing. His and his council's other initiatives included the new Law Courts, the relocation of Douglas College to downtown and the building of seniors' housing. With his federal connections, Evers helped secure the badly-needed Brunette Street overpass - and secured 50 percent federal funding for the building of the Canada Games Pool. At the time, his was the longest term of any mayor in the Royal City.

Born into a poor, but prominent Winnipeg family in 1917, Evers was a university-trained chemist. After the Second World War, during which he served as an RCAF lab tech, he settled in New Westminster with wife Shirley. Here in the Royal City he experienced the same anti-Semitism that had plagued him in Winnipeg. (He was kept out of the University of Manitoba medical school by its Jewish quota.) In 1982, Evers told Vancouver magazine: "New Westminster was a very parochial and insular city then. Unless you were a native son or daughter, or had played lacrosse here, you couldn't get in." But not only did Evers get in, he became a political force in the city, province and country.

His role as president of the Union of B.C. Municipalities and vice president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities put New Westminster on the map. His strong leadership qualities drew the attention of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau who asked Evers to run as the New Westminster MP in 1972. Evers declined - he had his sights set on projects in New Westminster - and he wasn't about to be derailed. Over the years Evers would be awarded the Order of Canada and named New Westminster Citizen of the Year and receive the Queen's Medal and Plaque for his outstanding service - both as a politician and as a community member.

Founder and president of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, Evers also served on numerous other associations, including practically running the GVRD when he was director and vice-chair in the mid-1970s. At the time he laughingly said he'd been called a "benevolent dictator." In 1982, when he announced his retirement, Evers, with a twinkle in his eye, told The Record: "I'm very satisfied with my term, I'm not saying I'm perfect, but I'm close to it."

(Excerpt from "Muni Evers Leaves a Legacy in City": Royal City Record, February 2. 2004 by Lori Pappajohn)

POPLAR ISLAND



IHP7891

Established	**1945**
Size	**34 acres**
location	**Middle of north arm of Fraser River**

Ammenities

- **Poplar & Cottonwood trees**
- **Ecological reserve for birds, fish & wildlife**

Although Poplar Island is not a civic-owned park, it has been identified as a special natural habitat and designated in the municipal official community plan for protection as part of the Metro Vancouver "Green-zone." The island is widely acknowledged as one the city's most important natural landmarks.

The first Admiralty chart of the Fraser River was compiled in 1860 by Captain George Richards, who named the island he charted in the north arm "Willow Island." Two years later, the Royal Engineers' map of New Westminster's suburban lands dubbed it the more scientifically-appropriate name Poplar Island.

The federal government designated Poplar Island as an Indian reserve in 1879, belonging to "all coast tribes." Civic health officials used the island briefly in the 1870s to quarantine aboriginals with communicable diseases. It was removed from the list of federal reserves in 1916.

The New Westminster Board of Trade's industrial committee was instrumental in securing a federal lease of Poplar Island for World War I warship building. The New Westminster Construction and Engineering Company Ltd. built a shipyard out of the bush in 30 days, including connecting the island to the city with a bridge at the foot of Third Avenue.

At the height of its activity the shipyard employed 500 men. The French government ordered four 2800 ton wooden transport ships; the War Comox, War Edenshaw, War Kitimat and War Ewen were all launched in 1918. Five coal barges were also built for France before orders ceased and the island was abandoned.

The Fraser River Harbour Commission attempted to find an industrial use for the island, to no avail. In 1925-26 it was leased to the New Westminster Marine Railway and Dominion National Consolidated Industries.



IHP1317

The bridge to the island, built hastily during the war, was in a terrible state and formed a navigation hazard; it was finally ordered removed in 1936. Fraser River fisheries warden William Albert Bowcott and his family were the only residents of the island at the time.

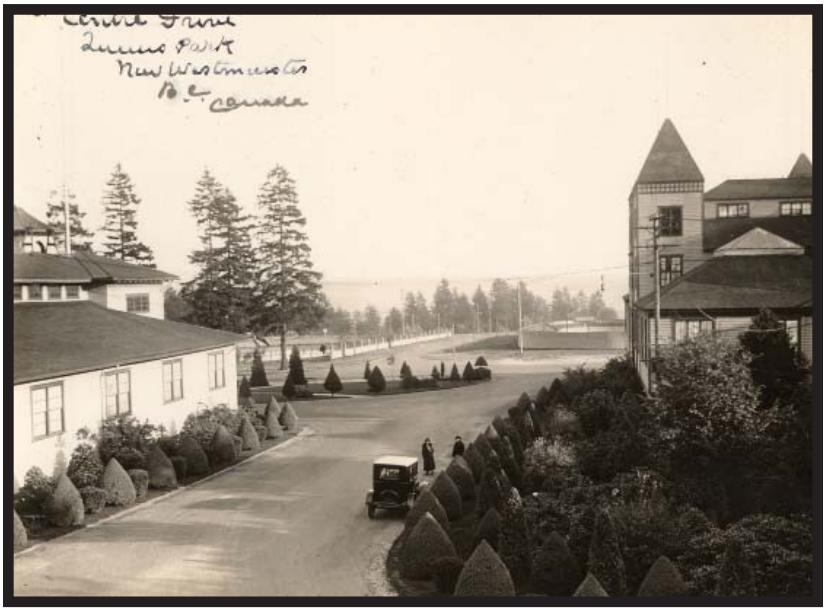
In 1945 the island was purchased by the City of New Westminster. The island was sold in 1948 to the Alaska Pine Company for use as an anchorage for its log booms.

Over time the poplar tree forest grew back on the island. As one of the few undeveloped islands in the Fraser estuary, Poplar Island is a prime ecological reserve for the river's fish and bird species. The thick forest is home to red-tailed hawks, great blue herons, songbirds and other wildlife. Because the island has not been diked, it regularly floods during spring freshet, creating a rich floodplain habitat for salmon.

On April 20, 1995 the Province of B.C. and the Greater Vancouver Regional District jointly announced the creation of the Lower Mainland Nature Legacy. A program to secure key pieces of the Green Zone, a critical building block in the GVRD's Liveable Region Strategy, the Nature Legacy successfully negotiated the purchase of Poplar Island from Western Forest Products Ltd. in 1995, contributing to a "legacy not only for present British Columbians but for future generations."

The island is still owned by the B.C. government through crown corporation Land and Water British Columbia Inc.

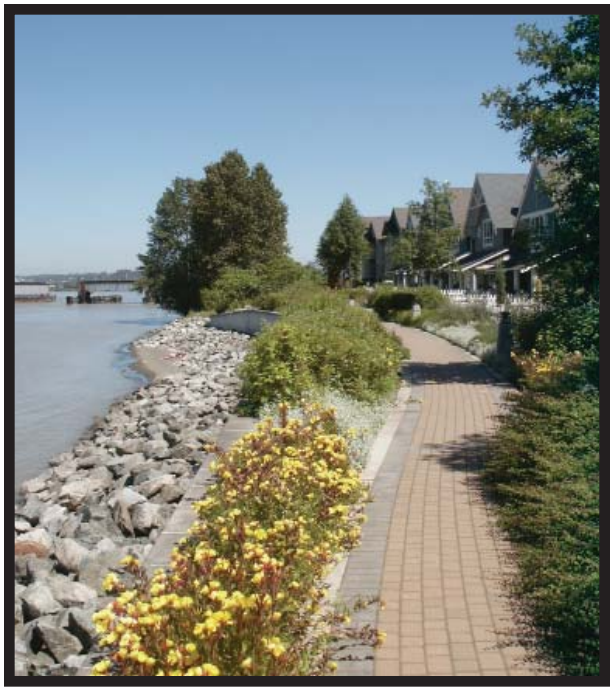
Behind the Name…Poplar Island:



The Royal Engineers named Poplar Island in 1862 for its stand of native Poplar trees. Localspecies of poplar are part of the genus **Populus,** belonging to the willow family. Characteristics include fluttering, shimmering leaves, a whitish trunk, drooping catkins, and cottony seeds. Populus is a classical Latin tree name given to this genus by Linnaeus in 1753.

PORT ROYAL PARK





Established **1997**
Size **6.05 acres**
location **Ewen Avenue & Furness Street**

Ammenities

- **Boardwalks & dock**
- **Fraser River views, beach & trails**
- **Riparian areas**
- **Picnic Shelter**

Ammenities

- **Open spaces, grass, treess & benches**
- **Community gardens**
- **Playground**
- **Washrooms**

The Port Royal residential development to replace MacMillan Bloedel's sawmill and industrial-zoned land at the eastern tip of Queensborough was created by consolidation and a land exchange between the company and the city in 1998. The land exchange secured lands for the Riverfront Walkway in exchange for Dyke Reserve.

The City also executed several agreements securing the City's interests and objectives for the development. These included the transfer of city lands for a 4.12 hectare (11 acre) "Central Park," the development of a riverfront walkway, and development of the "Central Park".

Port Royal Park opened in 1997 at the centre of the new residential development, and is Queensborough's first dedicated public waterfront park. It features boardwalks, preserved natural sandy beaches and riparian areas, a playground, space for informal sports, and pedestrian and cycling pathway links to adjacent neighbourhoods and the waterfront. A unique feature of the park is its community gardens, operated by an association but allotted to individuals to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

Behind the Name…Port Royal Park:



Port Royal was the name MacMillan Bloedel's marketing department gave to this development. It apparently was derived from New Westminster's long-time claim as the Royal City.

Port Royal Park was upgraded to the Port Royal Central Park in 2010 by means of a developer contribution for expanded Port Royal residential development. Port Royal Central Park and River Walk, provides visitors with an accessible riverfront walk full of views, interpretive signs, native plantings, a sand beach, lookout onto Poplar Island, trees and open green space, a picnic shelter, washrooms, a plaza with trellises, a playground, park benches, picnic tables, public art features, a dock, a fountain, a bike rack and waste receptacle bins. Other park features include the Port Royal Community Garden and plaza.

QUAYSIDE DOG AREA



Established	**2008**
Size	**1.23 acres**
location	**West End of Esplanade Boardwalk at Rialto Court & Quayside Drive**

Ammenities

- **Fencing with double gates**
- **Wheelchair access**
- **Gargage receptices & bag recycling dislenser**

The need for dog owners to find adequate and safely-fenced park areas led to the creation of the first city off-leash dog facility in Hume Park. The Quayside Dog Enclosure opened for the enjoyment of dogs and owners in this downtown neighbourhood in the year 2008.

This temporary off leash dog enclosure was created using city-owned lands that are part of the developing Muni Evers Park. As the planning for this park site develops a permanent location for the park will be found.

The temporary Quayside off-leash dog area is designed to service local residents and visitors. Featuring river views, park benches, a bark mulch surface, double entrance safety gates, wheelchair accessibility and waste receptacles.

Behind the Name…Quayside Dog Park:

The Westminster Quay development and public market opened on the riverfront in 1986 and the name of the riverside esplanade and parks was adopted from it. A quay is a wharf or reinforced bank where ships are loaded or unloaded.

QUAYSIDE PARK





Established **1988**
Size **0.91 acres**
location **Languars Court & Fraser River**
Ammenities

- **Playground & submarine play area**
- **Trails & greenways**
- **Fraser River views**
- **Flowers**
- **Picnic tables & benches**
- **Washrooms**

The development of the waterfront Esplanade, combined with residential development on the downtown's western waterfront between 1986 and 1988, created a need for new playgrounds for this emerging neighbourhood.

A site adjacent to the railway swing bridge was therefore secured, and a playground designed with a whimsical nautical theme to reflect the site's location adjacent to the Fraser River was built in 1988. The financing of this $125,000 project required a partnership between the City of New Westminster, the Fraser River Harbour Commission, B.C. Parkway and First Capital City Corporation. The park was officially opened on May 11, 1989 and was the first park to be located on the New Westminster waterfront.

A special feature of the park is the submarine play structure which appears to be emerging from the depths. The sub came from an undulating sculpture at the Expo '86 site in Vancouver where it was part of the "World in Motion" theme highlighting various modes of transportation.

Behind the Name…Quayside Park:



The Westminster Quay development and public market opened on the riverfront in 1986 and the name of the park was adopted from it. A quay is a wharf or reinforced bank where ships are loaded or unloaded.

QUEENSBOROUGH DOG AREA





Established **Officialy opened May 8, 2008**
Size
location
Ammenities

- **Fences enclosure with double gates**
- **Garbage recepticles and bag recycling dispensers**
- **Wood chip surface**
- **Doggie fire hydrant**

The need for dog owners to find adequate and safely-fenced park areas led to the creation of a series of off-leash dog enclosures and special park areas. The Queensborough Dog Area was approved by Council in 2007 and opened for the enjoyment of dogs and owners on May 8, 2008.

This park facility was created using vacant city-owned land in Port Royal designated for park use and known unofficially as the "Mercer Triangle" which is bounded by Mercer, Duncan and Blackley streets.

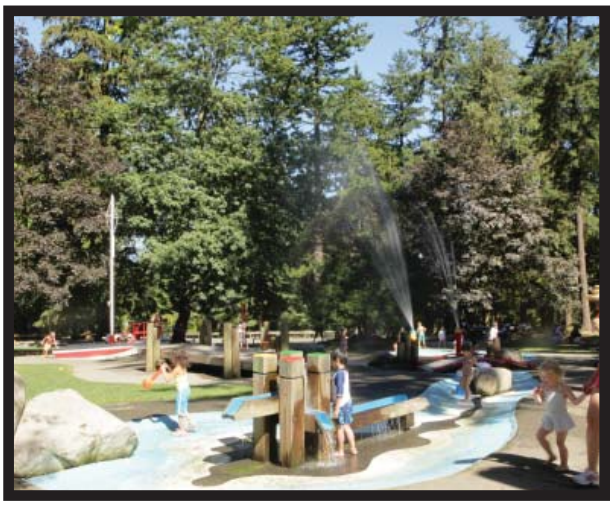
This spacious new dog park features a large fenced area with areas of bark mulch and grass.

Behind the Name…Queensborough Dog Area:

Queensborough was once mooted as the original name for New Westminster when it was established in 1859 in honour of Queen Victoria. When the City acquired an old government reserve on the eastern tip of Lulu Island, in 1889, the name Queensborough was established to distinguish this unique neighbourhood of the city.

QUEEN'S PARK





IHP8056-25

Established	**1888**
Size	**75 acres**
location	**First Street & Third Avenue**

Ammenities

- **Stadium and sports fields**
- **Playgrounds & Spray Park**
- **Concession & Washrooms**
- **Picnic Shelters**
- **Trails**
- **Open grassy areas, forests and flower beds**
- **Centennial Lodge**
- **Queen's Park Arenex**
- **Tennis**
- **Petting Farm**
- **Outdoor Stage**
- **Benches, picnic tables & waste bins**
- **Off-leash dog area**
- **Rose Garden**
- **Queen's Park Arena**
- **Parks Work yard & Greenhouse**

The crown jewel of New Westminster's park system is Queen's Park which can trace its origins back as the very first public park created in the Colony of British Columbia upon the establishment of the city in 1859. It was in a letter to B.C. Governor James Douglas that Colonel Moody wrote: "The woods are magnificent, superb beyond description but most vexatious to a surveyor and the first dwellers in a town. I declare without the least sentimentality, I grieve and mourn the ruthless destruction of these most glorious trees. What a grand old Park this whole hill would make! I am reserving a very beautiful glen and adjoining ravine for the People and Park. I have already named it 'Queen's Ravine' and trust you will approve. It divides the town well from the military Reserve..." Later in the 1870s the larger reserve would be divided between a public park and lands for the penitentiary and asylum. Council and citizens advocated early on for the development of this park but there simply were not enough funds in the small city to accomplish the mammoth task.

In the Jubilee Year of the reign of Queen Victoria in 1887 City Council arranged for a celebration to mark the occasion and at their meeting of June 13, "It was decided to that he Mayor and Council should take possession of the park and the park should be called Queen's Park." The following day it was reported that: " Early in the morning our citizens were busy hoisting flags and decorating their places of businesses ... About 11 o'clock the bugle sounded and the rifle and artillery companies formed at the Drill Shed, and after a short drill they marched to the battery, headed by the city band. Here they fired a salute in honour of the occasion while the band played 'God Save the Queen.' The opening of the public park took place about 3 p.m. The military force, including artillery and rifles, headed to the park, where quite a number of citizens had assembled. His worship Mayor Dickinson addressed a few appropriate remarks to those present, and formally declared Queen's Park open and dedicated it to the City of New Westminster in honour of Queen Victoria. A royal salute was fired amid much enthusiasm and many congratulations."

The City had just approved a lavish $50,000 in bylaws to spend on improvements to the city's public parks in 1889. In Queen's Park, adjacent to the growing residential district, burned stumps and brush were cleared away to create public recreation fields for sport. Council used the occasion of the visit of Canada's Governor General Lord Stanley, to mark the completion of the park's first clearing. With a ceremonial shovel Lord Stanley dug into the earth to plant the first new shade tree in the park on November 9, 1889. The Governor General would later travel to Vancouver to dedicate the famous Stanley Park. In 1890 Council appointed the park's first landscape gardener and park ranger, Peter Latham, who had designed the grounds of Ontario's government house and legislative buildings. He would move into the new Park Keeper's house beside the new conservatory and guided the way for a beautiful landscape to take shape from the roughly graded grounds.

In 1892 it was reported that: "Of the 80 acres in the park about 30 acres have been cleared. On the east (50 acres) a young growth of spruce and firs have grown up to a height of about twenty feet. Many of the unsightly monuments of past bush fires have been cut down, but still a sufficient number mar the prospect." ... "Mr. Latham has laid out and put in order a space for a nursery in which he is setting out the stock just received from France. Among the stock planted are two varieties of purple beeches, several varieties of horse chestnuts, some of the famous French dentzia gracilis, English and variegated holly, English and Irish yew, pampas grasses, purple maples, silver maples, silver birch, purple birch, Austrian arancarias, rhododendrens, entapias, and a score of other foreigners, all of which are in fresh condition aver their four weeks and sea voyage." These trees and shrubs were planted and nurtured to form the beginnings of a beautiful arboretum and gardens that can still be seen in the park today.

In 1890, the civic bylaw monies also allowed Queen's Park to be crowned with the Province's finest Exhibition Building, a spectacular tribute to the Queen Anne Revival style. It was designed by architect G.W. Grant and showcased the monumental versatility of British Columbia lumber. The building replaced the old 1883 structure in Market Square. It could house 5,000 visitors and was built to overlook and provide a viewing gallery for the race track surrounding the new athletic fields. This landmark structure became the new home of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society's annual Provincial Exhibition. Application had been made to the Lieutenant Governor in 1888 for a strip of land east of the Park for what would become McBride Boulevard which was completed in 1892 at a cost of $4,000 and separated the exhibition grounds and park from the Asylum Grounds. In 1891 the park was connected to the city's downtown by a streetcar and interurban tramline that ran up Park Row to the gates on First Avenue and continued to wind through the city to also connect with Burnaby and Vancouver.

The park was beautified and improved annually due to the continued financial success of the Provincial Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society. It had grown in recognition as one of the great fall fairs of the country. In 1905 the society was awarded the Canadian National Exhibition along with $50,000 to fund the completion of new exhibition buildings in Queen's Park in time for this "Dominion Fair." The fair indeed was a success and more importantly left the legacy of a new Women's Building and Industrial Building which greatly improved the capacity of the Exhibition. In 1914 the group of buildings was completed with the construction of the New Westminster Arena which was intended for Horse competitions but was converted into an ice hockey rink.

During this period of time the expansion of Queens Park's attractions was aided by the construction of the No. 1 Fire Hall in the park adjacent to First Street in 1901. The firemen lent their spare time to the creation of the first zoo in the park which was established near the hall. In 1906 the zoo which included bears, coyotes, cougars and deer was expanded by its relocation below the reservoir on the eastern side of the park. Here it was reported that the "All of the cages have been fitted up with the latest improvements in drains and finished buildings, blending with the surroundings, make the Zoo worthy of Queen's Park. The deer park is also a pretty enclosure with its shelter in the centre, which adds greatly to the animals comfort. This is only the beginning of a well established Zoological gardens, an arrangements have been made for another addition in the form of an aviary."

Upon the declaration of war on August 4, 1914, New Westminster immediately felt the impact. The local 104th Westminster Fusiliers of Canada was commissioned as training unit for battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) and a home defense unit. The frivolity of the Provincial Exhibition was cancelled for the duration of the war and the exhibition buildings of Queen's Park became the barracks for recruits stationed in the city. Overseas recruitments began immediately and by August 11th the "Gallant First Contingent" had been selected composed of six officers and 144 men drawn from both the city and Fraser Valley. Despite the occupation of the park, the May Day festivities continued with the military providing guards of honour for the city's May Queen.

At the end of World War I the old spirit of the Royal City returned with the 1919 Provincial Exhibition. With the squatting soldiers removed from the park the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society expanded the exhibition buildings and prepared for the 50th Anniversary of the fair. Mild hysteria broke out in the city with the news that the Prince of Wales would honour the city with a visit to open the exhibition to the public. The preparations for this event were extensive and included arches of welcome and a long line of Great War veterans in the park. When he arrived in the city on September 29th thousands had lined the road route to greet him. Once the Prince's automobile cavalcade reached Columbia Street the crowd broke into "tumultuous acclaim, which ran up the line like fire through prairie grass." Over 22,000 people enter the park gates that day and the fair saw over 90,000 visitors during the week. The fair was back and was a stunning success. Queen's Park was developed beautifully in the 1920s and was the proud setting for many successful exhibitions, May Days and public events. Gardens and walks were expanded and two lagoons in the southern part of the park were especially beautiful places during this time.

In 1929, the city was preparing to celebrate sixty years of the Provincial Exhibition with a huge Diamond Jubilee celebration. Sir Winston Churchill and the Premier Tolmie were to be on hand to open this very special fair the same day as opening of the Pacific Coast Terminals. However, tragedy struck the city again in the form of fire. On July 13th the new plant of the Westminster Paper Mills on the waterfront was destroyed in a million-dollar blaze. The next morning, at six o'clock, exhausted fire crews received a new alarm that the Exhibition buildings in Queen's Park were on fire. The wooden buildings were a mass of flames when crews arrived as the flames spread so quickly that it even threatened to spread to the residential area across from the park. Low water pressure from the hydrants hampered the crew's efforts and within an hour and a half the great exhibition buildings were reduced to a pile of ashes. Everything was destroyed but the cattle sheds, banquet hall and the old fisheries building, then in use as an administration building, and which survived to later become the Vagabond Playhouse.

Once again the spirit of New Westminster was remarkable. The directors of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society met and immediately decided to carry on with the fair. Vancouver was quick to offer its exhibition halls at Hastings Park for the event. But civic pride refused the offer and after the Provincial Government pledged $15,000 and surrounding communities provided other commitments the exhibition was on. There was no time to rebuild so the idea of a fair under tents became the novel solution to the dilemma. The great fair opened on Labour Day, September 2, 1929, as planned and the presence of the Right Honorable Winston Churchill, the great British statesman, brought in the crowds in record numbers. The great assembly of 37,000 smashed the old record set by the Prince of Wales. Churchill inspected a column of veterans and stood before the crowd to give an "eloquent address worthy of his reputation."

But the tragic loss of the Exhibition Buildings would forever change the future of Queen's Park. In the aftermath civic officials decided to reconsider the use of the park and the new buildings. The Great Depression made any effort to revive the Great Exhibition impossible. The success and growth of the Vancouver Exhibition at Hastings Park fulfilled the regional need for a fall agricultural exhibition. New Westminster would have to reinvent the idea of the park as a community centre serving its citizens.

Insurance funds allowed for the construction in 1930 of what was termed the new civic auditorium, today known as the New Westminster Arena. It was intended to be used for a variety of purposes from athletic contests, conventions and civic events and was re-named the Arena in 1933. The introduction of ice to the Arena in 1939 coincided with the construction of the Arenex for other indoor sporting events and cultural activities. Its construction saw the loss of the old banquet hall one of the few surviving Exhibition buildings. However, these two structures, combined with the rebuilt Stadium with its stands and concessions created a new Art Deco style aesthetic for the park. The gardens too evoked the times with many of the old shrubs being cut into fanciful topiary designs of birds and squirrels.

The end of the Great Depression in New Westminster was signaled with a huge celebration when it was announced that on May 31, 1939 the Royal City would be visited by the King and Queen as part of their Canadian tour. The visit created such a sensation of loyal patriotic fervor that citizens fell into a near state of delirium. Civic officials were told that time constraints allowed no more than a motorcade through the city and Queen's Park from Vancouver with a send off by train at the waterfront. But nothing would dampen the spirit of the city to ensure that its first true 'Royal Visit' would be a success.

When the royal procession entered the Royal City they were greeted by a crowd that had swelled the city's population from 22,000 to an estimated 150,000. The roar of cheers from the throngs of people lining the route could be heard throughout the city as the King and Queen made their way to Queen's Park. When they entered the stadium 11, 000 school children gave them a thunderous welcome. As the royal car slowly circled the stadium track 2,700 children were performing on the field in costume which included a display of May Pole dancing. It was a historic moment for the City and Queen's Park.

The park remained a well used facility that was perhaps best known as the location of the annual May Day festival which grew in size and stature throughout the 1930s and 1940s. At the outbreak of war the park was once again commandeered for the 'good fight' with the northern half of the park being used for combat training and exercises by the local Westminster Regiment. A rifle range was established in the Arenex for the use of local cadets and Pacific Coast Rangers practicing to defend the city from any enemy attack. Austerity forced much of the plans for park improvements to be delayed.

In 1945, at the end of the war, the stadium became the setting for one of the largest of the homecoming celebrations to welcome back the troops. The largest celebration of the return of the Westminster Regiment on the evening of January 19, 1946 to a welcoming crowd of 20,000. It was an event reported in the British Columbian: "At eight-thirty the bell of the troop train was heard coming from Front Street. Slowly the train edged into view with members of the regiment standing on the steps and crowding the windows. They looked long and hard. They were home. Quickly and smoothly they disembarked from the train and ... With the command from Lt. Col. Corbould the parade moved off [to Queen's Park] to the tune of 'Colonel Bogey'. The Westminsters marched into the oval under the moonlight as a faint mist rose from the chilled grass. They tramped to a patch of cold light cast by the floodlights before the platform as, from the dimness of the stands and from the masses who blanketed the corner of the field itself, there rose a roar from 5,000 throats that drowned the trumpets and even the skirl of the ...pipe band. ... relatives had been herded into stands to sit behind family name letters and wait for the ranks to break. While the speeches were being staccatoed off, they swarmed over the field and the khaki ranks were drowned by civvies suits. With laughter and the tears of joy, wives, mothers and fathers and sweethearts were gathering to their arms the warriors who had returned."

In the post-war era Queen's Park saw many improvements. However, the connection of McBride Boulevard to the Patullo Bridge came with the addition of traffic noise and the loss of the southern edge of the park to the new interchange at Royal Avenue. New playfields and playgrounds were required to keep up with the post-war boom of kids that were suddenly swarming the City's largest park. The Vagabond Players established a theatre in the old 1906 Fisheries Building in 1951 and launched a tradition of amateur productions in the city.

Picnic Grounds and gardens were expanded in this era which also saw the loss of many landmark trees that were reaching their end of their lifespan. Horticultural crews added many new specimens and new features to augment the new expanded areas of the park. Expert horticulturalist and Parks Superintendent Gordon Sales added a new rose garden to the park with 1,000 roses in 22 varieties. Designed in a rockery the roses surrounded a new pond and fountain.

In 1960, during New Westminster's Centennial, it was celebrated with some major capital improvements. A new section of the park was renamed Centennial Grove and designed to incorporated the beautiful Centennial Lodge. A large area under the towering firs was cleared for the addition of a large bandshell for outdoor concerts. Nearby a children's playground, petting zoo and picnic shelter were developed. These improvements were the last of the major interventions to the original design of the park. In the modern era the park continues to be improved and its beautiful gardens and landscapes protected and enhanced. All of these changes continue to build upon and celebrate the tradition of Queen's Park as the centre of community and civic life in the New Westminster.

Behind the Name…Queen's Park:



Queen Victoria
• Born: 24 May 1819
• Died: 22 January 1901

Queen Victoria's nearly 64-year reign (1837 - 1901) was the longest in British history. She presided over a period of British industrial progress, artistic successes and political empire-building which became known as the Victorian Era. Victoria was only 18 when she became queen upon the death of her uncle, King William IV. In 1840 she married her first cousin Albert, the German son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Victoria was shattered by his untimely death at age 42, and she went into a prolonged period of mourning. (She never stopped mourning entirely, wearing black the rest of her life.) Late in the 1860s she re-emerged into public life, and as years passed she became increasingly venerated among her subjects. Victoria celebrated her diamond jubilee -- 60 years on the throne -- in 1897. After her death in 1901 she was succeeded by her son Prince Albert, who became King.

RIVERSIDE ADVENTURE PARK





Established **1971**
Size **1.71 acres**
location **Stewardson Way & Sharp Street**
Ammenities

- **Playground**
- **Park benches**
- **Grass & trees**

In its early years, New Westminster's West End developed so quickly that the city had few opportunities to find land for the creation of new park sites. Vacant land adjacent to one of the few remaining ravines in the area provided the opportunity for the city to provide this park to area residents.

The Parks and Recreation Department cleared the land in 1971, and the adventure playground was built in 1972. The site's topography provides some beautiful viewpoints over the Fraser River. In 1995 a major upgrade of the playground was completed.

Behind the Name…Riverside Adventure Park:

Riverside Adventure Park was so named because of its views over the Fraser River, as well as the "adventure" playground constructed in its initial development. This type of playground was a new concept in the 1970s. It incorporated a broad range of play activities, including slides, climbing equipment, tunnels and bridges created from wood, recycled tires and other imaginative materials.

ROTARY CROSS-TOWN GREENWAY





Established **February 23, 2008**
Size **4 Km**
location **Seventh Avenue between 20th Street & Cumberland Street**
Ammenities

- **Designated walking, running & cycling routes**
- **Pedestrian controlled intersections**
- **Plaza at Grimston Park**
- **Signage**

The Rotary Cross-town Greenway is part of the City's overall trail network and was established in 2001 as part of the community's formal pedestrian and cycling network. This Greenway forms a significant backbone to New Westminster's overall trail and network providing connections from the West end of the city through to Hume Park. This greenway also provides connections to other regional trail routes such as the BC Parkway and the Central Valley Greenway. Initial work in 2001 included curb let downs, pedestrian/cyclist actuated traffic signals at key intersections, simple route signage and construction of a multi-use pathway behind the Canada Games Pool complex.

In 2005, Rotary International celebrated its Centennial and the two local New Westminster Rotary Clubs have partnered to support and fund enhancements to the Cross-town Greenway. This project was selected because of its visibility in the community and because trails & greenways are consistent with the local Rotary Clubs' objectives of promoting health, fitness and general well being for all residents in the city. The New Westminster Clubs have contributed over $100,000 and volunteer labour for selected components of the greenway's enhancement work.

Behind the Name…Rotary Cross-town Greenway:



ITP7025

This greenway name was established to honour both the contribution of the City's Rotary clubs and its purpose and location to connect neighbourhoods by crossing the city centrally. The New Westminster Rotary Club was established in 1928 as a local service and community association and takes its name from the international Rotary Club which was first established in Chicago in 1905 by Paul P. Harris. Harris wished to capture the spirit of his small town and its charitable and friendly spirit. The name of Rotary was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among member's offices.

RYALL PARK





Established **1940**
Size **22.8**
location **920 Ewen Avenue**

Ammenities

- **Soccer field**
- **Baseball & softball diamond**
- **Two tennis courts**
- **Queensborough Community Centre**
- **All WheelPark**

Ammenities

- **Trails & greenway**
- **Picnic Shelter**
- **Spray park**
- **Toddler & adventure playground**
- **Washrooms**

The district of Queensborough, an old military reserve preserved by the Royal Engineers for the defense of New Westminster in 1860, was incorporated into the city limits in 1889. A bridge was built to connect this eastern peninsula of Lulu Island to the mainland, and soon the area developed as a farming and industrial district. In splendid isolation from the rest of the Royal City, Queensborough developed a unique community spirit forged both by its rural character and in large measure by its ethnic diversity.

The growth of Queensborough in 1912 prompted city council to approve a bylaw to purchase a large acreage adjacent to the old Queensborough School on Ewen Avenue and Salter Street for the growing community. This site was part of a government reserve used for decades as the provincial gaol farm. The prisoners of the provincial gaol, located at Simcoe Street and Royal Avenue, were marched daily in leg irons to work the lands and produce the vegetables supplying the prison kitchens. After the establishment of the Oakalla prison farm in Burnaby in 1911, however, the site was no longer required for this purpose.

The land purchased by the city was already cleared, and could serve as a makeshift park site for field sports with very little improvement. However, it was somewhat redundant because of the rural nature of Queensborough: every field, ditch and dyke along the Fraser formed a playground far more interesting to area children than the cleared field of Queensborough Park.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s the old prison farm was leased to the Common Good Cooperative Association, which parceled out the land for vegetable production by families in need.

The Park Commission purchased another 9.7 acre park area across the street - bounded by Ewen and Boyd avenues and Hampton and Howes streets - in 1940. This park was named Ryall Park, after Herbert Ryall, a long-time Parks Commissioner who passed away in 1939.

During the fervor of World War II in 1942 city council leased out a portion of Queensborough Park, along with additional provincial government property, to enable construction of the Canadian Pacific Airlines plant. The province passed an Order in Council to facilitate the lease and legalize industrial use of the land.

To ensure that residents and children would not be without a playground, the Park Commission moved the playground equipment to Ryall Park in 1943. A playfield was cleared and the wading pool was built in 1947; a lacrosse box was built in 1953. In 1959, the remaining ground was cleared and a picnic area and playground established. The field house was constructed in 1961, the picnic shelter and stove built by the Rotary club in 1965 and a Little League diamond was installed in 1969. An Adventure Playground was built in 1974. The ethnic diversity of the neighbourhood was evident with the includsion of a bocci court.

Construction of the Westminster Highway to tie in with the new Annacis Island bridge began to take shape in the 1980s, and Queensborough faced considerable physical change to its landscape and open spaces as a result. The new highway and relocation of the rail line from Ewen Avenue demanded that a portion of the park be appropriated for this purpose. Queensborough residents worked with the City to relocate the park to its current site to ensure the safety of children from the highway expansion. The old park site was left vacant before finally being redeveloped for the new Queensborough Fire Hall.

Ryall Park was re-established on a new parcel of land beside the old Queensborough Park site. Acquisition of the 23,713 acres of land cost $50,292. It was here that the Queensborough Community Centre was built, at a cost of $847,500, with funding from the Queensborough Neighborhood Improvement Program. Designed by Carlberg, Jackson Partners, the buildling was officially opened on June 16, 1978 by Mayor Muni Evers.

The new Ryall Park began to take shape in 1983. Ball diamonds and fences were installed in 1984 and the picnic area built in 1985. 1986 saw the development and opening of the playground area and spray pool. Today Ryall Park is the heart of Queensborough, one of the most unique neighbourhoods of Metro Vancouver.

The new 2011 All-Wheel Park is for skateboarders, inline skaters, BMX and mountain bike enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. The site will feature a 12,000 square foot combined concrete bowl and street-course specifically designed with boarders and skaters in mind offering state of the art features and challenges. Opportunities will exist for free style BMX bike riding in the bowl area as well. The eastern portion of the site will include a 120 metre long BMX dirt track that will be unique to Metro Vancouver. Track lines, jumps of varying degrees of difficulty and pump tracks will all be incorporated into a twisting and undulating terrain. There will even be spectator area to watch all the action.

Behind the Name…Ryall Park:



ITP1901

Herbert Ryall

Born: 1867

Died: October 27, 1939

Herbert Ryall was born in Paris, Ontario in 1867. He apprenticed as a druggist as a young man before moving to Manitoba, and subsequently to New Westminster in 1889, to continue his trade as a druggist and to work with resident drug store owner D.S. Curtis.

Ryall's reputation as a lacrosse player preceded him, and he happened to arrive in town on the day of a big game. Local members of the New Westminster Lacrosse Club had a wagon waiting at the train station to whisk him to the field; he was playing within ten minutes of his arrival to shore up the fortunes of the home team.

In 1939 his front page obituary in The British Columbian read in part:

"A life-long interest in sport was one of Mr. Ryall's outstanding characteristics. In his younger days he was a member of the New Westminster lacrosse team that toured Eastern Canada in 1900, meeting all the main teams and returning undefeated. After he hung up his stick he continued to be one of the most active supporters of the game. For many years he was treasurer and later secretary of the club. He was interested also in other forms of sport including football and baseball and was one of the organizers of the British Columbia Baseball League.

Of recent years Mr. Ryall's principal public activity has been in connection with the work of the park's board, to which he was elected in 1929 two years after it was created and of which he was Chairman at the time of his death. He had been a member of the board continuously since his first election.

Mr. Ryall was a strong supporter of every movement that provided playing facilities in New Westminster and was generous with his money as well as his time and energy. Many times when funds were not available he personally took care of the finances. His interest in sport and his activities on the parks board have been a big factor in the athletic life of the city."

SANGSTER PLACE TRIANGLE



Established **1958**
Size **0.39 acres**
location **Songer Place & Mott Crescent**
Ammenities

- **Beech trees**
- **Benches**
- **Grassy areas**

This small triangle park site was created by the new Massey Heights residential subdivision developed by the city, which turned it over to the Parks Commission for landscaping in 1958. The streets in the area were named after some of the city's mayors and adjacent park triangles adopted the same names.

Behind the Name…Sangster Place Triangle:



ITPA934.5

James Lewis Sangster

Born: October 30, 1891

Died: November 5, 1968

Born in Victoria, James Lewis Sangster moved to New Westminster as a young man. "Lewie" Sangster was one of the city's most talented sportsmen, playing lacrosse with the New Westminster Salmonbellies when it won the 1913 Championship Minto Cup.

Sangster joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces and went overseas during World War I. He briefly served as Treasurer for the City of New Westminster after his return, but left that job to become a successful Insurance Underwriter for Mutual Life of Canada for the next forty years.

Sangster eventually spent more than thirty five years in political life, first as a city councilor, and finally as Mayor from 1949-1950.

SAPPERTON LANDING PARK





	IHP0623
Established	**2001**
Size	**8 acres**
location	**Cumberland Street & East Columbia Street**

Ammenities

- **Picnic shelter**
- **Warph**
- **Fraser River views**
- **Queseat area**

Ammenities

- **Pools & streams**
- **Birds & wildlife**
- **Benches**
- **Natural vegetation**

Despite its status of one of the city's newest parks, Sapperton Landing Park has ancient historical connections to the Stó:lô and to the founding of British Columbia.

This remarkable place was once a sublimely beautiful wilderness, home to the aboriginal Stó:lô (river) people who made this valley their home for thousands of years. The site of New Westminster is known to the Stó:lô as "Sxwaymelth," after a legendary warrior turned to stone by the transformer Xexa:ls. The "Sxwaymelth" stone was believed to contain the "shxweli" (life force) of the ancient ancestor warrior who gave this location great power. The stone, a First Nations landmark, was believed to have been located prominently on the New Westminster river bank near the present site of the railway bridge.

The Qw'ó:ntl'an (Kwantlen), which means noble or high born, was one of the ancient tribes of the Stó:lô claiming the site of New Westminster as its ancestral home. At the beginning of time the transformer is said to have turned the original people living here into wolves and sent them into the woods, giving this land to the Qw'ó:ntl'an.

The names of several village and food gathering locations illustrate the connection of the Stó:lô people to this land. On the lower banks of "Scuwiheya" (now Burnaby Lake and the Brunette River) was "Tsítslhes", a place for wind-drying fish. Nearby the large Qw'ó:ntl'an village of "Skwekwte'xwqen" (which became the site of the Royal Engineers Camp), and beside the Stótelô (Glen Brook) were places named "Statelew" and "Schechi:les" (strong lungs). It was here at this powerful location, on the high banks above the river, that the wooden boxes containing the bones of ancestors would be placed in trees and inside hollows under the roots of the maple trees.

Discovery of gold in British Columbia in 1857 forever changed the destiny of this place. When the news reached California the stampede of thousands of American gold miners began, in the spring of 1858. James Douglas, the old Hudson's Bay Company Factor and Governor of Vancouver Island, sent warnings to London fearing an American annexation of the territory. The correspondence was received by England's Colonial Secretary Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton who had been at work in this new cabinet post for only three weeks. Lytton immediately introduced a bill creating the Colony of British Columbia on August 2, 1858 and appointed Douglas as Governor.

Alarmed by the threat posed by the possible American control of the Fraser River goldfields and the lack of British forces on the coast, Lytton decided that a corps of sappers and miners would be formed as the Columbia Detachment of Royal Engineers under the charge of Colonel Richard Clement Moody.

The first contingent of Royal Engineers arrived on October 29, 1858. Colonel Moody and his wife Mary, with four children, arrived in Victoria on Christmas Day, December 25, 1858. After a brief rest, Moody boarded the "Beaver" and steamed to British Columbia on January 5, 1859. Traveling up the main channel of the Fraser River, Moody was immediately struck at the perfection of a site at the fork of the river's delta as the location for a great city. He wrote in a letter to his friend Arthur Blackwood of the Colonial Office: "The entrance to the Fraser River is very striking. Extending miles to the right and to the left, are low marsh lands and yet from the background of superb mountains, Swiss in outline, dark in woods grandly towering into the clouds, there is a sublimity that deeply impresses you. Everything is large and magnificent! I scarcely ever enjoyed a scene so much in my life! ...In steaming up one fine reach at a spot 20 miles from the entrance to the channel of the Fraser, my attention was at once arrested by its fitness in all probability for a site of the first, if not the Chief Town, in the country. ...

It is a most important spot. It is positively marvelous how singularly it is formed for the site of a large town. It is not only convenient in every respect, but it is agreeable and striking in aspect. Viewed from the Gulf of Georgia across the meadow on entering the Frazer, the far distant giant mountains forming a dark background, the city would appear throned Queen-like and shining in the glory of the mid-day sun."

Colonel Moody directed the Sappers to land on the shore of his chosen site to survey for the capital city. It is likely that one of the first places they stepped ashore to begin building a new country was near the location of Sapperton Landing.

New Westminster began to emerge from the wilderness in the spring of 1859. The Columbia Detachment military camp was becoming a reality in the Sapper's town, which would become known later as Sapperton.

The work of clearing the site of the thick and dense forest of 200 foot tall trees was an enormous obstacle. There was much to do, and a sense of urgency pervaded the work in anticipation of the arrival of the 'Thames City,' sailing around Cape Horn with the largest contingent of the Columbia detachment yet.

Capt. Luard and 121 men, with 31 wives and 34 children stayed at the log barracks at Derby upon their arrival on April 12, 1859 until the completion of the self-contained sapper's camp. On June 27, 1859 they were joined by another contingent headed by Sgt. Rylatt and four men, six women and four children who arrived on a ship loaded with supplies.

The Sapper's camp became full of energy and spirit, alive with this small population. By the end of 1859 the camp was a self-contained village, with all of the Engineers barracks, a guardroom and cells, storehouses and a powder magazine completed. The following year all of the engineers had graduated from their canvas tents into barracks, and a fine "Government House" had been completed for Colonel Moody and his family overlooking the river.

The Sappers would not remain here for long. Despite the incredible work accomplished to establish the colony, the Gold Rush petered out quickly, and soon a depression and financial crisis replaced it. The Columbia Detachment was recalled in 1865, and the Sapper's Camp was soon dismantled, leaving only the Government House and the Royal Engineers Barracks to serve as legislative buildings. However, the city lost its status as the capital of the colony of B.C. in 1868, and most of the provincial bureaucrats left town for Victoria.

Confederation with Canada in 1871 rejuvenated the economy of the mainland and the old Sapper's Camp was transferred to the ownership of the federal government. The terms of Confederation earmarked federal funds to establish a penitentiary and a railway connection. New Westminster's convenient location on the mainland won it selection over Victoria, and the city also became the preferred location for the new provincial asylum. The site chosen for the two institutions was comprised of the former Royal Engineers Camp and the Queen's Ravine, one of the city's pleasure grounds. The completion of the penitentiary in 1877 and the asylum in 1878 brought tremendous economic benefit to the struggling city.

Excitement and anticipation greeted the arrival of the first train to Port Moody after the last spike ceremony on November 7, 1885. New Westminster's residents remained focused on securing their own branch line, which was inaugurated on April 22, 1886 with an auspicious sod-turning ceremony. Held on the waterfront in Sapperton near the site of today's park, the event was reported in the newspaper: "The day was fine ... and every elevated place in the immediate neighbourhood was occupied by those who were most anxious to witness the interesting ceremony. The branches of the old trees groaned under a load of spectators, and some of the Chinese ventured to go aloft, among the leaves. ... the artillery and rifles commanded by Captains Bole and Peele, preceeded by the College Band and followed by Chief Bonson and members of the St. Andrew's Society in tartans, ... formed a hollow square round the spot chosen for the ceremony. ... Mr. James Leamy, the contractor, advanced with a gaily decorated spade and presented it to Mrs. Dickinson [the Mayor's wife] and she with a little effort but in the most graceful manner, turned over the first sod. A solemn silence ensued; everyone expected to hear something – a speech, a song, or a sermon. And sure enough they did hear something unusual. At the signal form Captain Bole the brass cannon thundered a salute. The ladies bounded like fawns; some of them cried 'Oh', one or two turned pale but did not faint, and two Chinamen who had been nestling in the leaves of a sycamore tree tumbled off the branches like ripe pears..."

By August, 1886 it was reported that the "whistle of the locomotive has at last been heard in our midst; the construction train with all its boarding and lodging establishment reached Laidlaw's wharf yesterday morning. The long line of Chinamen occupied in grading, the whites laying the rails and the locomotive Kamloops with the train of section cars had a great attraction for our citizens and large numbers gathered to witness the novel scene." The branch left the C.P.R. mainline at "Westminster Junction" in what would become the future municipality of Coquitlam. The line entered the city far away from the river, but upon crossing the Brunette River, followed the riverfront into the downtown parallel to Front Street. The station site was at the western end of Columbia at Douglas (Eighth) Street.

The city's colourful history is an important part of Sapperton Landing Park's character today. The mighty Fraser River, the railway, and the former Sapper's camp (now sporting condos instead of barracks) all contribute to its unique sense of place. The historic British Columbia Penitentiary Wharf Warehouse built in 1930-31 is a designated heritage building and has been preserved for future adaptive re-use.

This 800-metre long, three hectare regional park was a ten million dollar project created as part of the Millenium SkyTrain line by Translink in partnership with the City of New Westminster in 2000. The park is just one piece of a long-term plan to create a contiguous waterfront pathway along the entire city waterfront for walking and recreational cycling. A significant part of the park's design was the incorporation of a new tidal channel that will create new fish and bird habitat. Opportunities for picnic areas, boat launch, and fishing have also been created here.

Behind the Name…Sapperton:



IHP0218

There's only one Corps which is perfect - that's us;
An' they call us Her Majesty's Engineers
Her Majesty's Royal Engineers,
With the rank and pay of a Sapper!

Extract from the poem '**Sapper**' by Rudyard Kipling
(1865-1936)

From medieval times to the 19th century, one of the prime functions of the engineers attached to field armies was to assist in siege warfare, by either building or destroying fortifications. The term 'Sapper' originates from the act of besieging the walls of a fortress, laying mines in zigzag trenches dug by hand to breach them. These trenches, or 'saps' (an old French word) were dug progressively deeper as they drew closer to the walls. The whole process was known as 'sapping,' and the persons digging them under the authority of the engineers were called 'Sappers.' The rank of 'Sapper' was conferred onto the private soldiers of the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners on its amalgamation with the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1856.

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SAPPERTON PARK





IHP0412

Established **1907**
Size **4.98 acres**
location **Columbia Street & Sherbooke Street**

Ammenities

- **Soccer field**
- **Softball diamond**
- **Adventure playground**
- **Spray park**

Ammenities

- **Washrooms**
- **Picnic area**

The establishment of the Sapperton Junior Lacrosse Club in 1900 was the impetus for the creation of Sapperton Park. The project was spearheaded by a group of more than 75 local residents that included Sapperton pioneer Jack Cambridge, an avid sports enthusiast who worked as the Registrar at the New Westminster courthouse.

Cambridge was the field captain for the new team, while influential Nels Nelson, who operated the Westminster Brewery, was President. The lacrosse team played on a privately-owned, makeshift lacrosse field, as there were no existing public parks in the city's east end. Despite the lack of adequate playing facilities, the new team included many talented players, and scored many victories. It not only won the city's junior lacrosse championship, but the support of nearly every resident of Sapperton as well.

However, a crisis loomed when the lacrosse club's only playing field was threatened by subdivision and sale by the land owner. At the Annual General Meeting of the New Westminster Lacrosse Club in 1901, Cambridge brought forward a resolution to request that City Council be interviewed about the matter of establishing a park for Sapperton as "...a large portion of the city will be deprived of its only available space for recreation." Action was considered urgent given that the land used as the practice field was about to be sold

The descendants of Jack Cambridge claim that he discovered the perfect new site adjacent to the home of his in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Devoy, who lived on East Columbia Street. This property was a large field cultivated by Chinese market gardeners, and was deemed the perfect site for a local park. Cambridge, in the course of his duties at the New Westminster courthouse, discovered that the land was for sale as a result of an estate closure and proposed its purchase to city council. Sapperton Park was established.

Other information contained in Council Minutes tells a different tale. At the Council meeting of March 10, 1902, Alderman Ryall stood to report on the proposed park at Sapperton. When asked by another Councillor to identify where this park was located, he garnered laughter from the gallery when he stated he had never been there before and did not know where the site was other than being somewhere south-east of Jack Cambridge's house.

The site may have been offered for donation in 1903 to the citizens of Sapperton by the landowner. Later minutes record that the park was finally established in 1907 when Council granted the funds to clear the site in time for the lacrosse season.



IHP0405

However the lands may have been acquired, in the early days, Jack Cambridge and the Devoy family did promote the field's use by local sport teams, providing their barn as a change room and their hose tap for a drinking fountain.

In 1912, when Council was considering the purchase of the land that would become Hume Park, a petition was received from local businessmen who advocated selling the property to create more commercial opportunities and raise funds to purchase the new Brunette Park. The community of Sapperton would not entertain the notion. Another petition to city council, led by Mrs. Janie R. Cameron, was signed by 143 other area residents, and the British Columbian newspaper reported:"... they objected most strongly to any disposal being made of the present playground, it being central and convenient to a majority of their young people. ...that the men who advocated the sale of the playground knew little about the subject or else had no children or ever expected to have any. Sapperton boys had done most of the work of leveling the park which had produced some of the best lacrosse players that New Westminster had ever seen. This playground was centrally located for the little tots, they could go and play there in safety; they could not do so in a park on the banks of the Brunette River. Their mothers would not let them and it would be cruel for the council to deprive the little children of the playground that meant so much to them ... that was hallowed in the memory of many a man in Sapperton." Facing the political opposition of so many voters, the Mayor vowed that "... if possible Sapperton would have both parks."

This park has long been the centre of community in Sapperton. The local Gyro Club constructing a wading pool and play area in 1921. In 1922, a grandstand to seat all sports fans under cover was built at a cost of $305.05. Upon the formation of the city's Parks Commission in 1927 it was reported that: "Sapperton Park, opposite the Royal Columbian Hospital, has been improved by the removal of an unsightly board fence and the placing of benches for the spectators at various sporting events. The playing space has been leveled and pretty well cleared of stones and is well suited to various games. The upper portion, on slightly rising ground, is heavily timbered with small fir but the underbrush has been removed, swings erected, camp cooking stove built and a sand pile installed for the little kiddies. There is not much left of the outdoor gymnasium apparatus which was placed there some time ago." In order to remedy the deteriorated park playground the Gyro club raised the funds and a new playground opened in June, 1930. A new lacrosse box was built by the Parks Commission in 1934.

Over time, Sapperton Park expanded in size as lots on Sherbrooke Street became available for sale or non-payment of taxes in 1937 and 1940. The grandstand was in such poor condition that it was ordered demolished in 1943. In more modern times a playfield and softball diamond were added later with lighting installed for evening softball and soccer practices. In 1977 the Neighbourhood Improvement Program upgraded Sapperton Park by building the Adventure Playground, a picnic area and improved landscaping at a cost of $48, 000.

Behind the Name…Sapperton:



IHP0218

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Her Majesty's Royal Engineers,
With the rank and pay of a Sapper!

Extract from the poem '**Sapper**' by Rudyard Kipling
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From medieval times to the 19th century, one of the prime functions of the engineers attached to field armies was to assist in siege warfare, by either building or destroying fortifications. The term 'Sapper' originates from the act of besieging the walls of a fortress, laying mines in zigzag trenches dug by hand to breach them. These trenches, or 'saps' (an old French word) were dug progressively deeper as they drew closer to the walls. The whole process was known as 'sapping,' and the persons digging them under the authority of the engineers were called 'Sappers.' The rank of 'Sapper' was conferred onto the private soldiers of the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners on its amalgamation with the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1856.

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SAPPERTON PLAZA





Established **1977**
Size **0.20 acres**
location **Columbia Street & Knox Street**

Ammenities

- **Mature plants, trees & shrubs**
- **Flowers**
- **Sculpture water fountain**
- **Benches**

Ammenities

- **Designed and constructed tp reflect neighbourhood history**

This small urban square was part of the first civic revitalization plan for Sapperton's commercial area along East Columbia Street in 1977 - 1978. Funding for the $500,000 project was provided in part by the provincial and federal governments under the Neighbourhood Improvement Program. New sidewalks, landscaping and street furniture contributed to a pedestrian promenade between Braid and Keary streets in a major upgrading of East Columbia Street.

The lower section of Knox Street adjacent to the 1891 Knox Presbyterian Church, one of Sapperton's most prominent heritage landmarks, was closed to create the plaza fronting East Columbia Street. It was designed with brick pavers and planters fashioned from split granite. The park provides a community gathering space which is used for local festivals and events in an oasis of trees, shrubs and flowers.

In 2008, Parks and Recreation initiated a complete renovation of the old plaza to provide an open urban outdoor space that is fully accessible, well-lite and attractive at a cost of $300,000. The new plaza features an original design that considers contemporary urban park needs while retaining historical elements of the former plaza and neighbourhood.

The plaza was designed with a raised centre platform surrounded by wall seats. In the centre of the platform, the former plaza's granite and cobble stones are now shaped to acknowledge the arch designs in the adjacent Knox Church. In addition, the original wrought iron gates from the former Labatt's site now symbolize the neighbourhood's industrial heritage by welcoming visitors into Sapperton Plaza. The plaza design is completed with the addition of trees complemented by perennial and annual plants that unite nature with urbanization.

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SAPPERTON TRIANGLE



Established **1934**
Size **1 acre**
location **East Columbia Street & Wells Gray Place**
Ammenities

- **Benches**
- **Trees & shrubs**
- **Grass**

This small park at the corner of the busy intersection of East Columbia Street and Eighth Avenue dates from the earliest days of the settlement of Sapperton.

In 1859, the first trail from the Royal Engineer's camp was surveyed and constructed past this point as North Road. The trail was built as a military precaution in order to protect the capital city of British Columbia from potential American attack. Colonel Moody feared that the City needed strategic access to Burrard Inlet should the Fraser River freeze and the Americans launch an attack from the south.

Fortunately, the feared American takeover of British Columbia never came, and the trail was used more readily for the survey and settlement of the suburban lands and district lots. William Holmes was the first to receive a land title for District Lot One on the banks of the Brunette River on the west side of the road, while Colonel Moody himself established his own model farm, called Mayfield, on the east side.

The Holmes family and others in the district counted seven hills surrounding their pioneer settlement. One of these hills was crowned by the spot where Sapperton Triangle is located today. In an interview with Charlotte Green, a daughter of William Holmes, local historian George Green recorded that: "Soon as years passed, an open space was cleared on the hill ...and they erected a high flagpole there, from whose halyard flaunted "the meteor flag of England" (the Union Jack), and they called the place Union Hill. Before this, the clear notes of the bugle at 'the camp' beside the Fraser floated on the air as the reveille sounded at the break of day, but now scenes of gala festivities, with bands playing and sports enacted within an encirclement of age old forest, took place at Union Hill. The little mound which secured the foot of the flagpole more securely is still plainly visible in the grassy sward beside the tram station (now Sapperton Triangle), an interesting relic of happy days of yore."

When laying out Sapperton's suburban lands in 1863, the Royal Engineers curiously left Union Hill as an open space at the crossroads of Columbia Street, North Road and Thorne Road (now Eighth Avenue). Perhaps it was this unusual survey which serendipitously created the opportunity for its use by early residents as a park; or, it may have been Colonel Moody and the surveyors' intention. Whatever the reason, the park's early alienation as a legal road right-of-way ensured that it remained property of the crown and title vested with the City.

Union Hill languished for decades in the wilds of Sapperton, at the end of the dusty and unpaved section of East Columbia Street, until the B.C. Electric Railway Company extended the Columbia streetcar tracks there in 1911. The tracks left the road right-of-way on their own private railway corridor through Union Hill to become the new Burnaby Lake interurban line connecting to Vancouver . A small wooden building housed Sapperton Station.

In 1927, when the Parks Commission was formed, the "Triangle" was first mentioned as one of the possible new park sites for development; it was officially listed as a park in 1934. When the city's streetcar system was discontinued in 1937 the triangle became the terminus of the Burnaby Lake interurban line. Permission was granted by the Parks Commission for the use of the site by the B.C.E.R for a bus loop in 1946. In 1953 the final run of the tram line left the site - an island of green space isolated by a growing city and its ever increasing traffic.

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IHP0218

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SIMCOE PARK



IHP1530

Established	**1972**
Size	**3.79 acres**
location	**Royal Avenue & Eighth Street**

Ammenities

- **Two tennis courts**
- **Adventure playground**
- **Soccer field**
- **Benches**
- **Trails & greenways**
- **Planters, trees & grass**
- **Community Garden**



Simcoe Park was intended to be a major civic square at the intersection of Royal Avenue and Eighth Street. Known as Toronto Place in the historic city plan, it was part of the suburban extension to the original city blocks laid out by Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers in 1863.

The square originally included the diagonal street and parklands of Simcoe Park adjacent to John Robson School. It was created to mirror its twin at the east end of Royal Avenue, which now comprises Clinton Place and Park Row leading to Queen's Park.

Grand public squares like this one were intended to signal the Royal City's role as the capital city of the colony of British Columbia. It was located at the crest of the hill to take advantage of the sweeping views of the Fraser River delta.

Toronto Place and the adjoining Simcoe and Ontario streets were named to honour British Columbia's entry into the Dominion of Canada in 1871. Toronto was the largest and oldest city of Ontario (originally known as Upper Canada) and Lord John Graves Simcoe served as that colony's first governor.

Some lots on Royal Avenue acquired by the city in 1884 were subdivided, and sold in 1886 to fund New Westminster's connection to the Canadian Pacific Railway, while two larger parcels of land on both sides of Simcoe Street were retained by the province to construct the provincial gaol in 1885.



IHP7096

This imposing Victorian prison was completed at a cost of $35,000: "It commands a splendid view of the river and delta, and is one of the most prominent objects that meets the eye of persons coming up the river. It is built of brick with a stone foundation. The main building...includes the apartments of the governor of the gaol (Mr. William Moresby), the visitors room, office, chapel, kitchen, pantry, work rooms, women's ward etc." The institution was notorious for the public hangings of murderers in the prison yard - 22 by 1913.

After the Great Fire of 1898, the city constructed a firehall at the corner of Queen's Avenue and Eighth Street on land leased from the province, initially on a 10 year lease. Change came slowly for this site, which remained essentially unchanged for decades. Finally, in 1917, it was announced that the provincial gaol would be closed, and the main population of provincial prisoners would be moved to Oakalla Prison Farm (established in Burnaby in 1911).

The prison was leased by the School Board for a renewable 20 year lease in 1919. The building was substantially renovated for its conversion into the Trapp Technical School and, in 1928, the new school building was constructed on Eighth Street. In 1944, the lands were granted to the city by the provincial government. When the senior high school opened on Eighth Street in 1955, "Trapp Tech" became John Robson Elementary School, and the old prison building was demolished to become playing fields.

The school and park playgrounds were combined in 1972 by closing off the diagonal street. $100,000 was spent to create the park, designed by the well-known landscape design firm of Justice and Webb. The new park featured three tennis courts, junior soccer and sports fields, and an adventure playground. Ornamental landscaping included large Red Oak trees which lined the former Simcoe Street right of way at the corner of Eighth Street and Royal Avenue.

In 2009, Simcoe Park became host to a community garden operated by New Westminster Community Gardens. It complements the Port Royal Community Garden established in 2002.

Behind the Name…Simcoe Park:



Lord Simcoe was the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada (Ontario) from 1791 - 1796 and the founder of Toronto. He was instrumental in introducing institutions such as the courts, trial by jury, English common law, and freehold land tenure, and for abolishing slavery long before it was abolished in the British Empire.

SINCLAIR PARK



Established **1954**
Size **0.32 acres**
location **First Street & Sinclair Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Playground**
- **Grass & trees**
- **Park benches**
- **Picnic tables**

This small Glenbrook neighbourhood playground was established in 1954 on a city-owned lot. Known initially as the Sinclair Street Park, the Parks Commission approved the clearing of the treed site by bulldozer.

Behind the Name…Sinclair Park:

Marshall Sinclair

Born: 1848

Died: October 18, 1917

This 'tot lot' took its name from Sinclair Street, which was named circa 1909 after former City Councillor Marshall Sinclair. Sinclair made substantial contributions to the development of the city's parks.

Marshall Sinclair was born in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia and came to New Westminster in 1886. He established a successful mercantile business and soon sought a political role in the community. He was first elected to serve on the school board in 1888, and was elected to city council in 1890. As the chairman of the Parks Committee, he took an active part in the opening of Queen's Park and Albert Crescent. He also served as a director of the Hospital Board, Board of Trade and as a director of the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society.

SULLIVAN PARK



Established **1939, 1972**
Size **0.67 acres**
location **Oliver Street & Third Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Open green space**
- **Benches**
- **Grassy areas**

Sullivan Park is the former home site of New Westminster pioneer Alexander McDougall, who came to New Westminster with his wife and family from Kincardine, Ontario in 1873. They originally established a homestead known as "Alderbank" at Elgin in Surrey.

However, by 1882 the family decided to relocate back to New Westminster, and built a house at 220 Third Avenue. The grounds of their home included a large street frontage, as well as all the land included in Sullivan Park today; it was developed as a small estate, with fruit trees, vegetable gardens, chickens and a barn for the family's horses.

The McDougall family home was occupied by three generations of the McDougall family when their daughter Barbara Sarah married Alexander Lamb and moved into the house with two sons. Their son William Kaye Lamb loved to roam the estate and play in the old orchard. He excelled at his studies and went on to university; he would become head of the B.C. Provincial Archives and later was appointed the Dominion Archivist of Canada, establishing the National Library of Canada.

The original McDougall home was demolished in 1925 when the estate was purchased by Edward A. Riddle, the managing director of the Westminster Trust Company. Riddle replaced the farmhouse with a beautifully designed arts and crafts-styled home which still stands at 221 Third Avenue today. In the 1930s the property owner lost the estate for non-payment of taxes to the City. City Council decided that the parcel would be too expensive to service if subdivided into residential lots, and turned the land over to the Parks Commission in 1939.

The park's hidden location and cozy relationship to the surrounding homes has always characterized its history. Neighbourhood kids playing baseball often terrorized the owners of the properties backing onto the park with wayward home run hits. In the 1950s teenagers created their own fun by driving through the park at night with their cars to 'hang out' in its open playfield. Adjacent residents responded by taking over portions of the lane and park with fences to incorporate the land into their own gardens. Finally, the Parks Commission ordered the fence encroachments removed, installed barriers to keep out the cars and a children's playground was developed.

Behind the Name…Sullivan Park:



IHP0466

A mystery surrounds the name Sullivan Park. When Council transferred the park land to the Parks Board in 1939 a name for the park had not yet been selected. For many years the park was unofficially known as Oliver Park, since Oliver Street which provided access to the park from Fourth Avenue.

In the 1950s the name Sullivan Park was first used, but it has not been established who the park was named after or why. A likely candidate is Henry ("Harry") J. Sullivan, who was a city councillor from 1934 to 1939, during the time the land was dedicated for park use.

SUNSET PARK





IHP4675 **Capital Improvements are listed in Appendix A**

Established	**1969**
Size	**0.44 acres**
location	**Eighth Avenue & Richmond Street**

Ammenities

- **Grass & trees**
- **Benches & Gazebo**

Sunset Park was originally developed in 1969-1970, when the city leased the property from the Salvation Army with an agreement to provide a neighbourhood park and rest area for the senior citizens residing in the adjacent Buchanan Memorial Sunset Lodge care home.

The park site was originally the estate of Samuel Bentley and Sarah [Sadie] Buchanan, who cleared this site to build a very beautiful Arts and Crafts-styled home c. 1912 overlooking the Fraser Valley. The couple also developed magical gardens notable in their day, which were full of rockeries and ivy topiaries and used for many community and social functions.

During the last days of a fatal illness, Sarah Buchanan was faithfully visited by Salvation Army Lieutenant Charles Watt. In 1946, just prior to his own death in 1947, Mr. Buchanan donated his home and property to the Salvation Army to be used as a rest home as a memorial to his wife.

Buchanan Lodge opened in August 1946 as a retirement home for 52 women. It provided personal immediate care to 43 residents as part of the B.C. government's long term care program in. In 1993, the Lodge was demolished to make way for a new multi-level care facility which opened in 1997. The site of the formerly leased park was then transferred to the ownership of the city, and a new gazebo and path system were constructed.

The new Buchanan Lodge was designed by Neale Staniszkis Doll Adams Architects and reinterpreted some of the architectural features of the old building. This development won a 1998 Wood Design Award, as well as a 1999 Architectural Institute of B.C. (AIBC) Merit Award.

Behind the Name…Sunset Park:



Although this park's name suggests it provides a view point for enjoying sunsets, it was actually taken from the name of the adjoining Buchanan Memorial Sunset Lodge. In the early years of retirement homes, sunset was often used to allude to the "sunset years" of a person life.

TERRY HUGHES PARK





Established **1958**
Size **10.36 acres**
location **Eighth Avenue & McBride Blvd.**

Ammenities

- **Soccer field**
- **Baseball/softball field**
- **Flowers**
- **Playground**

Ammenities

- **Basketball courts**
- **Trails & greenways**
- **Park benches**

This site was part of a large civic property purchased by the federal government in 1947. It became the location of a new Westminster Regiment armoury which replaced the historic 1896 structure at Sixth Street and Queens Avenue. The new building was planned for construction after World War II, but funding was not available; eventually the project was abandoned and the federal government turned part of the site into the rented apartments of the Glenview Veterans Housing project.

The lower, swampy portion of the site occupied by a section of the Glenbrook Ravine had been partially filled as part of the Glenbrook Sewer project of 1912. Eventually, the ravine was completely filled, and the City leased the site from the federal government. It was partially developed at that time and called Jackson Park, after Mayor Toby Jackson.

In 1959, a local boy named Terry Hughes lost his life while attempting to save a young girl who had fallen into the Fraser River. Councillor Jack Allison suggested re-naming the park in Hughes' memory. The leased park site was developed in 1961 with a playground and softball diamond.

In 1992, the federal government announced the redevelopment of the Veterans Housing site. The city negotiated a significant portion of the land to form the site of the new Glenbrook Middle School as well as a new civic-owned Terry Hughes Park. The new, improved, and rebuilt park was dedicated on September 30, 2000 with members of the Hughes family in attendance at the ceremony.

Behind the Name…Terry Hughes Park:

Born: December 17, 1940

Died : November 8, 1959

Terry Hughes Park was named by City Council to in 1959 honour the heroism of 18-year-old Terence Edmund Hughes.

Hughes was a New Westminster boy who attended Lord Kelvin Elementary and had just graduated from New Westminster High School. While playing with some friends on log booms along the shore line near the Queensborough Bridge, a young girl fell into the Fraser River. Hughes died trying to save her.

In reporting the tragedy, the British Columbian newspaper wrote: "Young Hughes had dove into the water to help nine-year-old Carol St. Pierre who had fallen into the river from a boom of logs... Hughes was sitting on the shore with Michael Lamb and another companion. Without hesitation he dashed for the river and plunged in, trying to swim upstream to reach the girl. Robert Thomas, 28, also heard the cry and plunged into the water to help. Terry was holding the girl's head above the water when Thomas neared them. Suddenly the youth and the girl vanished beneath the water. When they reappeared, Thomas grabbed the girl and started back for shore.

Witnesses said Terry was having trouble staying afloat. Thomas told officers the youth grabbed his leg when he started for shore with the girl. 'We all went under. I broke free when we came up, but I thought I had really had it,' related Thomas. 'The little girl climbed on my back and had her arms wrapped around my throat. I couldn't breathe. ... I was taking a lot of water and nearly blacked out.' Then Kenneth Heron dove into the water, swam to the struggling pair and grabbed the girl. Thomas, who said he was not a strong swimmer, 'just made it' to a log boom where his wife and two men pulled him to safety. Witnesses said Terry sank beneath the surface right after Thomas took the girl. They said the youth broke water once more then vanished."

Terry's body was recovered the next day. He was buried in Fraser Cemetery with a police guard of honour and mourned by a community shocked by the tragedy. Terry's mother, Mabel Hughes, accepted the presentation of the Royal Canadian Humane Association's Medal of Bravery in his memory.

THOMPSON'S LANDING PARK





Established **2008**
Size **2.5 acres**
location **South Dyke Road & Boundry Road**

Ammenities

- **Playground**
- **Trails, greenways & plaza**
- **Grassy area**
- **Trees**

Ammenities

- **Benches**
- **Water fountain**
- **Waterway**

Thompson's Landing Park was created in 2006 at the west end of Queensborough adjacent to the boundary canal, the Alex Fraser Bridge and the City of Richmond. This 2.15-acre neighbourhood park was secured through the redevelopment of the site by Townline Homes for the 22 lot subdivision named Thompson's Landing.

Historically, the site was the location of a large manual pumphouse used to control the water level in Boundary Canal, located on the border of Richmond and Queensborough. Pumphouse operators were employed by the city to keep watch on the water levels of the canal and turn on pumps to clear the canal of debris when required.

The Parks and Recreation Department hired landscape architect Richard Findley to design the park to celebrate its unique history and riverfront location, integrating a passive park area with a playground, as well as walkways, bridges and trees.

Behind the Name…Thompson's Landing Park:

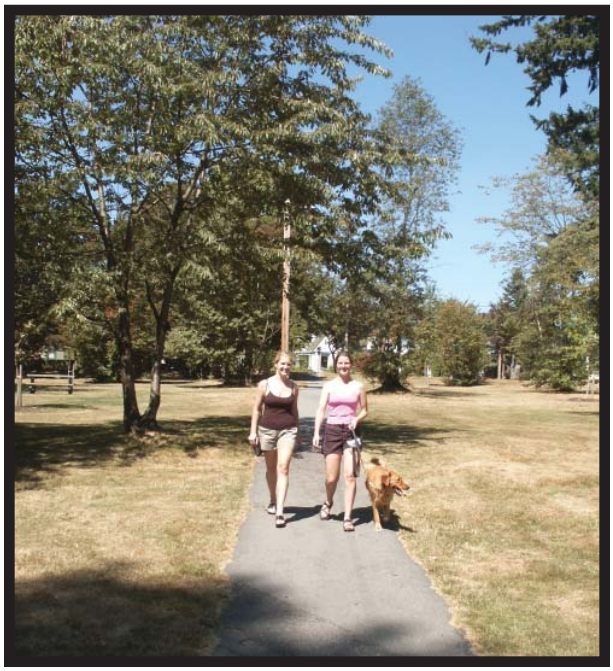


The name of the subdivision was taken from Richmond street names, Thompson's Gate and Thompson's Road, located in the adjacent Hamilton neighbourhood. The area was named after James Thompson, a Richmond pioneer.

TIPPERARY PARK



IHP0902-26



Established 1908
Size 6.38 acres
location Royal Avenue & Third Street

Ammenities

- **Trees & grass**
- **Benches**
- **Picnic tables**
- **Flowers**
- **Birds & wildlife**

Ammenities

- **Memorial plaza monuments**
- **Trails & Greenways**
- **Tennis Club**
- **Pond & waterfall**

Tipperary Park was originally one of three government reserves upon which Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers planned to build the government buildings for the capital city of the Colony of British Columbia. These sites were laid out in the extension to the original city above Royal Avenue in 1862. The central square (now city hall and Friendship Gardens) was flanked by two minor squares; the western square located across Sixth Street became home to the city's first public school, and the eastern square - now Tipperary Park - was always used as a park square.

The New Westminster Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (founded circa 1897) (see Columbian Dec. 11 1896 Tennis Club Social) received permission in a letter from the provincial Minister of Land and Works to establish a facility in the Government Reserve on November 25, 1902. In 1903 it was reported that "Tennis is one channel into which the sportsmen and sports women of New Westminster have always turned a great deal of enthusiasm. During the season of 1903 ...great strides were taken in the forward march of this popular game. The first was the building of three new courts on the Government Reserve, Royal Avenue. The construction of these three splendid courts was a matter of no little cost and worry, but the undertaking was carried to a successful conclusion, and the result is one cinder and two earth courts that afford every facility for the playing of the game."

Tipperary Park was formally conveyed to the city's ownership from the province in 1908, and vested forever in trust "for the recreation and enjoyment of the public." In 1911, Landscape architect G.L.K. MacLean advised Council that: "Tipperary Park situated as it is in the heart of the city, New Westminster has a most valuable breathing space and this value will increase rapidly as the city grows. It may be laid down as a principle in its treatment, that it should be cut up as little as possible, the space being mainly devoted to broad sweeping lawns on which the children can play. The bandstand which will be a central feature, should of course, be of such a design as will harmonize with its surroundings.

Proper paths would, of course, have to be made for crossing the park and for reaching the bandstand. These should seem to proceed directly to their objective , and if they should curve, as undoubtedly they would, there should be some definite reason either natural or seemingly natural for their curves, that is to say they should lead one to view some special object, or seemingly to take the easiest grade and distance to cross the park. ... Ornamental shrubbery might very well adorn Tipperary Park, but, as noted before, the central idea of broad and restful lawns should govern the design. Such shrubbery could for instance be massed in such a way as to effectually mask the rather unnatural, abrupt but necessary grading of the tennis courts; so as to give the appearance of a gradual rise to higher ground, on the south side of the tennis courts."

Tipperary Park was developed following MacLean's vision, albeit without the addition of a bandstand. Little has changed in this park since that time; it remains one of the best preserved historic landscapes of the city, as well as the location of the venerable New Westminster Tennis Club.

The club's original courts and club house remained intact until 1982, when the historic clay courts were replaced with 4 hard-surfaced ones. Four years later, in 1986, the club house was renovated, and in 1988, lights were added to the courts. A new club house was built in 1996 to replace the original erected nearly 100 years before.

Behind the Name…Tipperary Park:



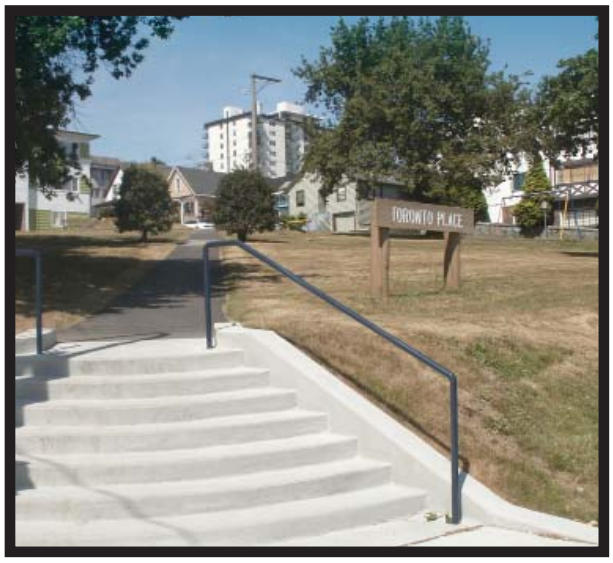
IHP7365

Tipperary Park's name dates back to when the city works yard and firehall were located on the central square, where city hall is situated today.

In 1889, the city began hiring many men to work on street construction, and soon the works yard located here became a squatter's camp for these labourers and some families. The Daily Columbian reported: "Westminster's Tipperary, the Government Reserve above Royal Avenue, is nearly evacuated, a couple of families only remaining on the ground. It is pretty generally known that a number of people, mostly single men, employed on the street improvements camped out on the reserve last summer, but the wet weather has driven most of them to seek more comfortable quarters. A few, however, remain, and will weather the winter under canvas. The residents in the vicinity of the reserve named the camp 'New Tipperary' from the fact that a few immigrants from the 'ould dart' were among its inhabitants. Like its contemporary in Ireland, our New Tipperary promises a short lived existence." The squatters evacuated the site in 1892 after an order by the province, but they left the colloquial name Tipperary behind as their legacy.

County Tipperary in Ireland takes its ancient name from the old Irish language "Tiobraid Árann" which means "House of the well of Ara." The county was created and named after the town in 1328, making it one of the earliest of the Irish counties.

TORONTO PLACE





IHP

Established	**1910**
Size	**0.5 acres**
location	**Royal Avenue & Eighth Street**

Ammenities

- **Open grassy area**
- **Trees**
- **Playground**
- **Benches**
- **Floral display**
- **Public art**
- **Trails & Greenways**

Colonel Moody and the Royal Engineers designed Toronto Place as a major civic square in the suburban extension to their original city plan in 1863. Located at the intersection of Royal Avenue and Eighth Street, the square originally included the diagonal Simcoe Street and Simcoe Park, now adjacent to John Robson School. The square mirrors its twin at the east end of Royal Avenue, which encompasses Clinton Place and Park Row and leads to Queen's Park.

Grand public squares like this one were intended to signify the importance of the Royal City as the capital of the Colony of British Columbia. It was located on the crest of a hill to take advantage of the sweeping views of the Fraser River delta.

The name Toronto Place, as well as the adjoining Simcoe and Ontario streets, were named to pay tribute to British Columbia's entry into the Dominion of Canada in 1871. Toronto was the largest and oldest city of Ontario (originally known as Upper Canada) and Lord Simcoe served as that colony's first governor.

Toronto Place was left rough and undeveloped during the city's early years, but was finally cleared of stumps and leveled in 1889. During the Great Fire of September 10-11, 1898 this large open space provided refuge to citizens escaping the flames and smoke spread by westerly winds from the downtown. It also provided a fire-break by preventing the spread of the fire to the residential areas above Royal Avenue.

Toronto Place was formally transformed from a street right-of-way in 1910 when city council allocated the first funding to create this pleasant grass park for the enjoyment of local residents.

Behind the Name…Toronto:



The place name of Canada's largest city, Toronto comes from the Mohawk phrase "tkaronto," meaning "where there are trees standing in the water." Governor Simcoe, who disliked aboriginal names, changed Toronto's name to York on August 26, 1793.

However, his anglophile preference was not shared by the city's residents. In 1804, after Simcoe's return to his beloved England, the legislature was petitioned to change the name back to Toronto so that York would be confused with New York, and because residents became tired of others calling their city Muddy York and Little York. The name Toronto was restored in1834.

VICTORY HEIGHTS PARK





Established **1951**
Size **0.32 acres**
location **Laural Street & Churchill Avenue**
Ammenities

- **Playground**
- **Basketball courts**
- **Grass & trees**
- **Picnic tables**
- **Benches**

The residential subdivision of Victory Heights was established by New Westminster City Council in 1946. Ninety two unserviced lots were placed on the market, ranging from $500 to a high of $650. Civilians paid 100% of the market value of the lots, while returning war veterans only paid 40% of their value. The subdivision quickly sold out and a young, modern neighbourhood took shape.

The City reserved a small triangle of land for a tot lot. The Parks Commission began the first work on the park in 1951 in partnership with the Victory Heights Cooperative Playschool, by establishing a small children's playground.

Behind the Name…Victory Heights



City council named the new Victory Heights subdivision in 1946, in honour of the men and women of New Westminster who served in World War II and ensured the victory of the Allied Forces.

WESTBURNCO SPORTS COURTS



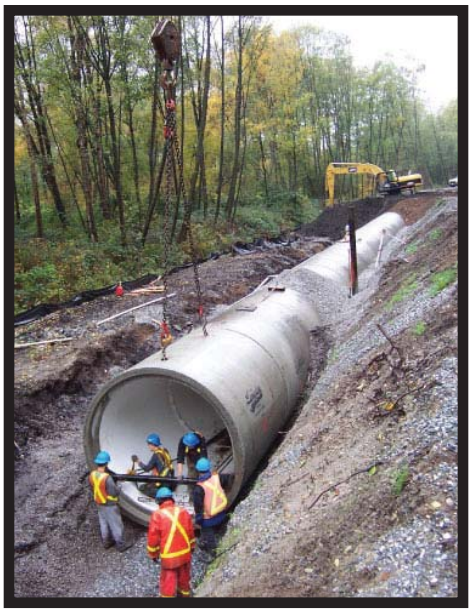
Established **1967, 2004**
Size **4.27 acres**
location **Churchill Avenue & Massey Street**
Ammenities

- **Four tennis courts & two half-court practice walls**
- **Half court tennis practice wall**
- **Enclosed ball hockey playing surface**
- **1.5 Basketball courts**
- **Benches**
- **Off-leash dog enclosure**
- **Trees & grass**

This site on New Westminster's highest point of land was set up as the city's main reservoir for water piped in from Coquitlam Lake. When the "Westburnco Reservoir" was being upgraded with a concrete roof by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Parks and Recreation Committee decided to lease the site for parks purposes.

The 3.5 acre concrete roof suspended over seven million gallons of water provided the opportunity to easily establish six tennis, basketball and volley ball courts, which were completed in 1967. In 1975, the tennis court area was redesigned, increasing the number of courts from six to nine, and adding a practice court and rest area. In 1977, the old reservoir pump house was converted to public restrooms. Renovations in 20?? Basketball and road hockey boards and nets.

Behind the Name…Westburnco:



The name Westburnco is an amalgamation of the names of the surrounding municipalities of New Westminster, Burnaby and Coquitlam served by the reservoir. The earliest known use of the name appears in the 1950s. Westburnco is Metro Vancouver storage and distribution centre for water supply services.

WESTSIDE DOG AREA



Established	**2000 and redeveloped in a new location 2009**
Size	**3.15 acres**
location	**Access via pedestrian overpass at Seventh Avenue & 22nd Street**

Ammenities

- **Fenced enclosure**
- **Double entrance/exit doors for safety**
- **Garbage recepticals & bag recycling dispensers**

The need for dog owners to find adequate and safely-fenced park areas led to the creation of the first city off-leash dog facility in Hume Park. This park facility was created using vacant city-owned lands adjacent to the Queensborough Bridge. The lands were left over from the civic land acquisition for this important 1960 project, which created a high-level bridge to replace the previous swing bridge crossing.

The need for dog owners to find adequate and safely-fenced park areas led to the creation of the first city off-leash dog facility in Hume Park. The Westside Dog Area opened for the enjoyment of dogs and owners in the year 2000.

The dog area was relocated in 2008 to accommodate the Ministry of Transportation upgrade to the road network accessing the bridge. As part of the overall plan the City of New Westminster negotiated the creation of a new 3.15 acre off-leash enclosure. This spacious new facility was opened in 2009 and features areas of gravel and grass, a drinking fountain, park benches, waste receptacles, trees and spectacular views of the Fraser River, Queensborough and its bridges.

Behind the Name…Westside Dog Area

Westside is the old name for the western residential area of New Westminster. Grimston Park was originally named Westside Park from 1940 - 1955.

WOODLANDS PARK



Woodlands Park was the very first public park created in the Colony of British Columbia. Upon the establishment of New Westminster in 1859, Colonel Moody wrote: "The woods are magnificent, superb beyond description but most vexatious to a surveyor and the first dwellers in a town. I declare without the least sentimentality, I grieve and mourn the ruthless destruction of these most glorious trees. What a grand old Park this whole hill would make! I am reserving a very beautiful glen and adjoining ravine for the People and Park. I have already named it 'Queen's Ravine' and trust you will approve. It divides the town well from the military Reserve..."



IHP0691

Colonel Moody' Columbia detachment of Royal Engineers were soon joined by a smaller detachment of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. These men had been stationed in China in 1858, when the British Government ordered that 150 Volunteer Marines be sent to assist in the establishment and defence of the new Colony of British Columbia. They arrived in Esquimalt harbour on February 13, 1859, on the HMS Tribune under the command of Major Magin, RMLI.

The Royal Marines first joined the Royal Engineers at their camp in Sapperton, but immediately began establishing their own camp on the opposite side of the glen. Here they cleared the trees and barracked mainly under canvas and tent. They did not remain here very long, however, as they were dispatched by Colonel Moody to establish a military presence in the San Juan Islands dispute with the United States in August, 1859. The Marines did not return to New Westminster.

The initial clearing of the former Royal Marines camp did provide a useful asset for New Westminster. In 1861 the Royal Engineers and the citizens of the city decided that it was high time the Royal City had its own cricket pitch for games and took on a land clearing 'bee.' The British Columbian newspaper reported:

"The Bee referred to in our last issue came on Saturday and although the weather was somewhat inclement, and consequently the ladies were not present, yet as regards the primary object of the gathering it was a decided success. At an early hour about one hundred of the Royal Engineers accompanied by their band marched to the field of battle. But it is due to them to state that they had the field almost entirely to themselves for some time, as but few citizens made their appearance for several hours. Owing to pressing business matters, we did not get to the ground till near two o'clock and upon entering the scene that met our gaze was the most animated and pleasing one we have looked upon in this country.

To see one hundred Royal Engineers including their officers, with nearly as many civilians 'as busy as bees', some cutting down trees, some grubbing out stumps, and others piling wood upon several enormous fires, kindled for the purpose of consuming the timber. It was pleasing indeed to witness the happy reunion of the military and the citizens; but especially to see the officers for the time laying aside all distinction, and heartily uniting with the men in the arduous but praiseworthy employment of clearing the cricket ground. Shortly after two o'clock, His Excellency [Governor James Douglas] accompanied by Colonel Moody came upon the ground, and while the former was making himself agreeable to the people, the latter was making himself useful by taking hold, like a good fellow, and working amongst these men.



IHP0294

While we would not overlook the fact that many of our citizens acquitted themselves nobly from the clergy to the day laborer, yet we must confess that our military friends carried off the palm from the point of numbers, time and execution. And when at 5 o'clock the victorious army retired to Camp, the field was literally covered with the slain. During the afternoon a subscription list on behalf of the Cricket Ground was circulated and being headed by His Excellency Governor Douglas with $50, soon reached the very handsome amount of $650. ...we would express a hope that we may have the pleasure of witnessing many a happy reunion and many a friendly contest upon our Cricket Ground. We trust it will be pushed through to completion so as to be in good order by the birthday of our Gracious Queen - God bless her!"

The cricket grounds indeed proved popular with the soldiers, who competed against the citizens' Pioneer Cricket Club upon the completion of the pitch. Often the cricket matches would include challenges from sailors of the Royal Navy or the Victoria Cricket Club.

This beautiful site overlooking the river was also the annual scene for various picnics and civic events celebrating the Queen's birthday. When the Royal Engineers left the colony, the new Seymour Artillery Company was formed; Governor and Lady Seymour held a ceremony to present them with their colours and to honour their role as the new military force protecting the colony.

A new era began after New Westminster lost its status as the capital of the colony in 1868, filled with a profound sense of loss and melancholy. It was this prevailing state of anxiety that inspired civic leaders to lift spirits by initiating festivities celebrating their children.

The Hyack Fire Company, which had always been a key social group, organized a children's May Day celebration on the cricket grounds on May 4, 1870. The symbolic optimism of May Day representing renewal and rebirth was lost on no one. In her speech of 1871 the May Queen said: "...this crown wreath'd as it is with bright, bright flowers, emblems of innocence and of purity, you will find that no act of mine has sullied or tarnished its brightness. For the present, for today at least, with your permission I will set aside that dignity which generally characterizes royalty, and join with you, in your efforts to make this day a day of happiness, a day of pleasure for all of us, let the troubles of the past, and the anxiety of the future, be forgotten amid the pleasures of today. Let us forget our sadness, and clap our hands with gladness, and shout a joyous welcome, to this our bright May Day." May Day would be held on this site with a ball at the old Government House across the glen for many years until it was relocated permanently to Queen's Park in 1889.

In 1878, this provincially-owned property was alienated from Queen's Park and the adjoining B.C. Penitentiary to become the site of the Provincial Asylum. Renamed the Provincial Hospital for the Insane in 1897, and Woodlands School from 1950-1982, this institution played an important role in the development of the medical care system of British Columbia. After its closure in 1996, B.C. Building Corporation sold the entire site to Onni Development Corporation, which developed the site as the "Victoria Hill" residential project.

The City of New Westminster has recognized the outstanding architectural, historical and contextual value of Woodlands, and has participated in a plan for the preservation of historic buildings, landscaping and specimen trees on the site within the context of its redevelopment as a residential community. Five of the institution's early heritage buildings have been protected by heritage designation bylaws. The historic lawns – where New Westminster's early May Days were held — and arboretum of the site are protected as part of the landscape plan. Addtionally, the project transferred 25 acres of the site to the City's ownership as protected parkland. This new but historic park showcases an important heritage landscape, with valuable trees and shrubs, as well as an historic wall and iron fence built by Westminster Iron Works in 1909 fronting Columbia Street.

The British Columbian newspaper described the grounds in 1912: "The scenic beauty of the city is greatly enhanced by the picturesque asylum grounds. Reposing behind spacious lawns and evergreen trees, yet commanding a good view of the river and the surrounding country, the appearance of the buildings of the institution strike the visitor favorably. But what compels admiration is the pleasing effect of the arrangement of the grounds. The well-cut lawns, the sweet fragrant flowers bordering the walls, the large maples and firs which cast their refreshing shade on the passerby, everything breathes an air of peace and quietude, in fact, the very atmosphere seems to bespeak rest for the tired mind and overtaxed body."

Behind the Name…Woodlands Park:



IT0892-56

The name Woodlands Park was taken from the Woodlands School, named by Dr. L. E. Sauriol in 1950. Woodlands operated on this site as one of the major provincial institutions for mental health until its closure in 1982.

NEW WESTMINSTER
Parks, Culture & Recreation

Acknowledgements

Local historian and author Jim Wolf is a Long Range Planner with the City of Burnaby and is an active local heritage consultant. A long-time resident of New Westminster, he has been actively committed for more than 20 years to preserving the City's heritage. As a former New Westminster employee and volunteer with the New Westminster Museum and Archives he has a broad knowledge and interest in the stories behind the creation of the Royal City's parks. Other local history books authored by Jim Wolf include:

- Royal City: A Photographic History of New Westminster, 1858-1960 (Heritage House, 2005)
- Yi Fao: Speaking Through Memory: A History of New Westminster's Chinese Community 1858-1980 (Heritage House, 2008)

Other contributors to the Parks, Culture & Recreation History Manual where Ken Winslade Jason Haight, Robert Saunders and the New Westminster Museum and Archives.