

DEER LAKE PARK

Deer Lake Park Heritage

Deer Lake Park is Burnaby's best preserved heritage precinct. The diligence and effort of many individuals and City Councils over the years have succeeded in acquiring and preserving an entire neighbourhood of Edwardian country homes and landscapes, which are now part of our largest urban park.

The homes surrounding Deer Lake built between 1904 and 1935 were developed by their owners with an idealized view of the English countryside in mind. The landscapes designed as a part of many of these gracious old homes remain integral to the experience of the lakeshore setting, and convey a special sense of history to the park visitor.

This tour highlights some of history and the protected heritage buildings of Deer Park. More of the heritage and natural beauty of the park remain to be discovered by wandering the many trails surrounding the lake shore.

Walking the Walk

Visiting all of the buildings on the tour may take between 1 - 1 ½ hours. Each historic property is marked on the map with an assigned number to locate the text, and indicates a suggested tour starting from the Shadbolt Centre and Burnaby Village Museum on Deer Lake Avenue.

Alternatively, you could use the trail system of Deer Lake Park to visit the heritage buildings in any order you wish. Map boards and signs are located throughout the park which will assist you beyond the scope of this walking tour guide.

HERITAGE WALKING TOUR



Deer Lake Park History

PREHISTORY

The Coast Salish aboriginal peoples began to occupy the Fraser Valley 10,000 years ago. The first human contact with Deer Lake would have occurred shortly after its creation about 5,000 years ago, when it was a tidal slough connected to the sea. Deer Lake became an important cranberry harvesting locale for local peoples as well as a hunting area for elk and other large game on a seasonal basis.

PIONEERS: 1858 - 1890

After New Westminster was established as British Columbia's capital city, the surrounding lands were surveyed by the Royal Engineers. The discovery of Burnaby Lake by Robert Burnaby in 1859 soon led to the construction of Douglas Road (Canada Way) to Deer Lake in 1861. Charles Finlayson was the first settler to claim land at Deer Lake in 1861. In 1867 Charles Seymour opened the "Lake House" to serve the ever increasing stagecoach traffic on Douglas Road and hunters after Deer Lake's abundant game.

AGRICULTURAL ERA: 1891 - 1909

The completion of the tramline between New Westminster and Vancouver, via Central Park, in 1891 renewed interest in the lands at Deer Lake. Soon a group of gentlemen farmers had established strawberry fields and orchards to serve the New Westminster market. These were the most productive and well managed "fruit ranches" in the Fraser Valley. Local strawberries were so admired that they commanded 50 cents more per crate at local markets. By 1909 one local newspaper reported that the area appeared as if "an English Village had been taken and planted amidst the grandeur of British Columbia scenery."

AN IDEAL SUBURB: 1910 - 1948

The beauty of the Deer Lake District and the construction of the Burnaby Lake interurban tramline in 1911 had a tremendous impact on its development during the real-estate boom of 1910-1912. In 1913 when the "boom went bust" more than ten large estates and many more smaller cottages had been

completed. After the depression and World War I many more homes were constructed in the district which had maintained a reputation for its "artistic development of commodious homes with park-like grounds."

AN URBAN PARK: 1949 - Present

As Burnaby developed into a more urban suburb of Vancouver and New Westminster the Deer Lake area retained much of its rural character. In 1949 Deer Lake Park was established on the lake's eastern shore where the present beach is located. The relocation of the Municipal Hall to the Deer Lake area in 1953 began the vision of developing an administrative and cultural centre for Burnaby. The opportunity for developing this centre began with the opening of the Arts Centre, Century Gardens and the Burnaby Art Gallery in 1967. This was followed by the development of the Deer Lake Park as Burnaby's primary urban Park.

Deer Lake Park Heritage Walking Tour Map



PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS OF THESE HERITAGE BUILDINGS AND DO NOT TRESPASS ON PRIVATE OR LEASED PUBLIC PROPERTIES.

1 Edwin W. & Mary Bateman House “Elworth”

(BURNABY VILLAGE MUSEUM)



Behind the fence of the City’s museum you can see “Elworth”, the only original building constructed on this site. Edwin W. Bateman came to B.C. as the Canadian Pacific Railway’s Right-of-way and Tax Agent in 1910. In 1920 Edwin and Mary Bateman purchased land in the “Deer Lake Crescent” subdivision and began to develop a country retreat which they called “Elworth”. Completed in 1922, the house was designed by Vancouver architect Enoch Evans and is a classic example of a romantic revival cottage. It incorporates the overall form of an Arts & Crafts bungalow, but includes Classical Revival features such as Ionic verandah columns, shutters, and a symmetrical facade. The City of Burnaby purchased this property in 1970 for use as part of Deer Lake Park. It became the focal point for the creation of Heritage Village which opened in 1971. (Check the open hours at the Entrance gate to visit the museum or take a ride on the restored Centennial Carousel.)

2 Robert F. & Bessie Anderson House

6450 DEER LAKE AVENUE



In 1912, shortly after New Westminster hardware merchant R.F. Anderson purchased his lots in the “Deer Lake Crescent” subdivision, local newspapers noted that “his new \$10,000 mansion was well on its way to completion.” Local architect Frank W. Macey’s signature style is evident through the use of unique English Arts & Crafts design elements. After World War I, Anderson sold the house and many different owners came and went. In 1939, the house was purchased by the Benedictine Monks for use as part of the Seminary of Christ the King. In 1971, the house was purchased by Burnaby as part of the Arts Centre and, in 1992, was designated as a heritage site. (For historic photographs and more information see the interpretive sign at the rear entrance of the house.)

3 William J. & Mary Mathers Mansion “Altnadene”

6490 DEER LAKE AVENUE



William J. Mathers was the New Westminster manager for the Brackman-Ker Milling Company. He purchased the first two lots of the “Deer Lake Crescent” subdivision and in 1912 built this magnificent Romanesque Revival styled home designed by architect F.W. Macey for a reported cost of \$13,000.00. During World War I the mansion was used in part as a convalescent home for soldiers wounded on the battle front. After the death of W.J. Mathers in 1929, the estate was rented and finally sold. In 1939, the Benedictine Monks converted the mansion into the Seminary of Christ the King which operated until 1953. In 1971, Burnaby purchased the building for use as part of the Arts Centre and designated it as a heritage site in 1992. (For historic photographs and more information see the interpretive sign at the rear entrance of the house.)

4 Henry T. & Grace Ceperley Estate "Fairacres"

6344 DEER LAKE AVENUE



Henry and Grace Ceperley were the first property owners to decide to build a high-class country residence at Deer Lake. Henry Tracy Ceperley was a local pioneer, having arrived in Vancouver in 1886 and started a real-estate and insurance firm which became the largest in British Columbia. Grace Ceperley received a large inheritance from her brother-in-law, A.G. Ferguson, and used it to build "Fairacres". She purchased the strawberry farm from George Clayton in 1909 with the intention of building a retirement home. Designed by English architect R.P.S. Twizell, the English Arts & Crafts styled mansion and estate cost over \$150,000 in 1911. When Grace Ceperley died in 1917, her will stated that the proceeds from the sale of the estate were to be used to build Ceperley Playground in Stanley Park. In 1939, the local Catholic Diocese funded a group of five Benedictine monks to establish a Priory in B.C., and "Fairacres" was purchased and used for this purpose. This property was acquired in 1966 by City of Burnaby for use as a civic art gallery and designated as a heritage property in 1992. (Tour the estate using the interpretive signs to learn more about the Mansion, Garage & Stables, Chauffeur's Cottage, Steam Plant and Root House.)

5 Thomas O. & Frances Townley Mansion "Deerholme"

6110 PRICE STREET



"Deerholme" was built in 1913 by Vancouver's 1901 Mayor, Colonel Thomas Owen Townley, and his wife Frances. The home was designed by their son Fred Laughton Townley, who had just returned from the University of Pennsylvania where he had received a degree in architecture. The mansion's design, reflects his training, as it is based on the Georgian Revival Style, popular with Americans, so proud of their Colonial roots. The Townley's enjoyed their estate until 1920 when they rented the house to the Cunningham family before selling the property to the Vancouver Anglican College. The college held the building until 1940, when it was again sold and was owned by various owners until being purchased by the City in 1979. The house remains leased as a private residence until future park expansion is completed.

6 Frederick J. & Alice Hart Estate "Avalon"

6664 DEER LAKE AVENUE



"Avalon," now in use as the Hart House Restaurant was built by local real estate agent F.J. Hart. Born on the Avalon Peninsula in Newfoundland, Hart came to New Westminster in 1890. He purchased this site in 1904 as a summer retreat for his family. In 1912 Mr. Hart decided to build an estate and he chose the talented Burnaby architect Frank W. Macey to design this mansion. The British Columbian newspaper noted that F.J. Hart's "beautiful home . . . will be one of the handsomest in Burnaby when completed, costing it is estimated, nearly \$50,000." The home is designed in the Tudor Revival style and features a massive tower with mock battlements, corbeled chimneys, cobblestone foundations and decorative half-timbering. In 1917 Montague and Ethel Moore moved into the home they named Rosedale Gardens and developed a beautiful farm, planting many of the specimen trees and shrubs visible today. Purchased by the City of Burnaby in 1979, the building was designated as a heritage site in 1992. Take time to visit or dine at the Hart House restaurant and see the many historic photos of the house on display in the public rooms.

7

Drs. Blythe A. & Violet Eagles Estate

5655 SPERLING AVENUE



Constructed in 1929, this estate was developed for over 60 years by Dr. Blythe Eagles and Dr. Violet Eagles. The property featured a magical 1.6 acre garden designed by Frank E. Buck, a pioneer Canadian horticulturist who planned and landscaped the grounds of the University of B.C. The Eagles had an impressive garden rockery, trellis work and beautiful perennial gardens. A heritage value assessment of the Eagles Estate Heritage Garden revealed that it is highly significant garden in British Columbia, based on its historic, artistic and cultural significance. A new volunteer program has been initiated by TLC The Land Conservancy of British Columbia to restore the garden to its former glory. Take time to admire the gardens and visit the house to view interpretive displays during open hours and get more information about this restoration project (or telephone 604-733-2313).

8

Dr. William & Ruth Baldwin House

6543/6572 DEER LAKE DRIVE



Dr. William and Ruth Baldwin purchased this Deer Lake property in 1959 and chose their close personal friend, architect Arthur Erickson, to design a waterfront home in 1965. The design of the Baldwin home is an early example of Erickson's famous design aesthetic which demonstrates his vision of "site, light and cadence". A small portion of site was devoted to a reflecting pond in typical Japanese style, an Erickson trademark. As one of a rare group of early surviving modernist structures, in original condition, from one of Canada's most globally prominent and respected architects, it poses significant heritage value. Acquired by the city, this home and garden have been leased to the TLC The Land Conservancy of B.C. to serve a "guest house". It is now available for lease to local residents and visitors for overnight stays. For more information and to book a stay, call 604-733-2313.



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
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For more information on Burnaby's Heritage Program call the Planning Department 604-294-7400 or visit the City of Burnaby web site www.city.burnaby.bc.ca (About Burnaby | History & Heritage)