

# HERITAGE WALKING TOUR TYNDALL & TORQUAY

**NOTE:** Some dates are approximate. See the Saanich Heritage Register for more details. Some streets within the walking tour do not have sidewalks. Trails are to be used at two locations along the walk.

## 1 4423 Tyndall Avenue VANTREIGHT RESIDENCE, Built 1922

1914 Winnifred (1891-1940) and Geoffrey (1880-1959) Vantreight were married and had three children in a small house on the property now known as 4417 Tyndall.

1915 Vantreight acquired some daffodil bulbs from a neighbour, William T. Edwards, and began to grow the crop that has made the family name famous.

1922 After a successful year of fruit growing, the Vantreights, had this grand house built on the top of the hill.

1940 Winnifred died and Geoffrey married his second wife, Hilda Mary Maber Rushon (c. 1898-966).

1950s Vantreights contract with the Canadian Cancer Society and agree to supply the Society with daffodils for their April fund drive; for many years, the Vantreights were the sole suppliers of daffodils across the country.

1959 Geoffrey died; his son G.A. Vantreight, Junior, and his grandsons have carried on the business.



*This eclectic two-storey, hipped-roof house has many features that show the influence of the Arts and Crafts style. Two prominent gables front the house, one on either side of a tall porte-cochère topped by a balcony. A wrap-around verandah stands on the south side and at the back; the back portion has been filled in for many years. The stone work is rough-cut fieldstone. There is a sleeping porch on top of one corner of the main verandah. A hexagonal cupola stands on top of the main roof, and three paired chimneys provide vertical punctuation.*

## 2 4430 Tyndall Avenue, Built 1978

## 3 4432 Tyndall Avenue, Built 1979

Post War forms of modern residential architecture:

These two homes are examples of residences built in Gordon Head between the 1970s and 80s that reflect some aspects of the modern movement. Between the 1950 and 1980s, when the suburban boom gained momentum, variations on the modern style became the prominent form of building for suburban neighborhoods and large tracts of standardized middle-class housing throughout North America. Modern houses of this era include styles like California ranch, raised ranch, split-level, and "sea ranch". These homes reflect a variety of modern architecture ideas and its minimalist style. Modernist architecture emphasizes function and looks to the future, not to the past, for inspiration.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Tom Paradis, Director, Professor, Dept. Of Geography, Planning & Recreation; Northern Arizona University



## 4 4436 Tyndall Avenue, Built 1941 C.U. Haywood of Calgary – owner in 1939

Colonial Revival style - identifies specifically with architecture of an earlier period and place. Possibly linked to that of a single-storey Georgian style often referred to as "Capes" or "Cape Cods". Elements are: classical symmetry, central or end chimneys, classical detailing, and side-gable roof.



## 5 4437 Tyndall Avenue, Built 1951 G. Vantreight contracted Ron Wakefield, Architect

1945 G.A. Vantreight Jr. married Jean Beckwith. This home shows a variation of elements from modernist ribbon-windows and flat roof to the Prairie-style-like horizontal lines. "Prairie style" features include low-pitched roof, overhanging eaves, horizontal lines, central chimney and clerestory windows.



## 6 4450 Tyndall Avenue, Built 1919

W. C. Grant owned the surrounding property in 1888. It was subdivided in 1976

## 7 4445 Tyndall Avenue CLARK RESIDENCE, Built 1903

1873 John (1843-1921) & Wilhemina (1833-1907) Clark arrived in Ontario from Shetland Island.

1887 William John Williamson (1865-1938) a shipwright and carpenter and fellow Shetland Islander married Clark's oldest daughter Wilhemina

1901 The Clark's bought 10 acres on Tyndall Avenue. The Williamsons moved to Gordon Head about the same time as the Clarks, and bought 10 acres south of the Clarks.



*This wood-frame house is clad in brick, which has been painted. The use of masonry for residences was unusual at the time. It is side-gabled, with a shingled gabled dormer on the front, and several additions to the rear. The window openings on the brick are segmentally arched, with double-hung sashes. The carport and the wooden front entry porch are newer additions.*

## 8 4456 Tyndall Avenue OZARD RESIDENCE, Built 1908

1870s Elizabeth (1850-1918) and William (1849-1909) Ozard, a fruit grower, both came from Alderney, one of the Channel Islands, and settled in Chatham, Ontario, where their four sons and one daughter were born.

1891 Relocated to Winnipeg

1908 Moved to Victoria and this house about 1908. Their son Walter Ozard (1879-1936) probably built this house. Walter, along with his sister Marguerite Ozard (1876-1954) continued to farm the land after their parents' death. Walter also worked as a compositor for the Daily Colonist and the Victoria Times. Marguerite taught at Strawberry Vale School and then she was the principal of Craigflower School until 1932.



*The house is a cross-gabled, two-storey structure with double-bevelled siding. Changes were made to the front windows and detailing of the inset corner verandah from scroll-cut to Edwardian-era paired square columns were probably done to "modernize" the appearance of the house*

## 9 1824 Leabrook Place EVANS RESIDENCE

1913 William Edward Evans, a carpenter and farmer, likely built this house. He and wife Ethel May owned the property until 1919. The Evans later won a sweepstake and used their winnings to move to New Zealand.



*The house is a hipped-roof Edwardian era bungalow with shed-roofed dormers on three sides. The verandah is inset beneath the main roof and there are six large, square verandah columns with a low balustrade. The siding is board-and-batten and the main floor windows are multi-paned casements.*

## 10 1827 Leabrook Place THE CROFT, Built 1922

1875 James (1859-1948) Scroggie emigrated from Aberdeen, Scotland and engaged in financial business in Winnipeg. In 1907, James joins the newly formed Queens Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

1919 Lieutenant-Colonel James and Margaret (née Ross 1858-1945) moved to Gordon Head and James's occupation was listed as "inspector of branches" with a trust company.



*The Croft is a British Arts and Crafts-style house. The steep cross-gabled roof has one main gabled dormer and four shed-roofed dormers. Vertical emphasis is provided by two brick chimneys.*

## 11 1890 Ferndale Road, Built 1936

## 12 1861 Ferndale Road LANTERN LANE - Built 1914

1877 Owner, John Fullerton (1852-1939), served as second engineer on the Hudson's Bay Company paddle wheel steamer the S.S. Beaver. John was also the owner of a boot and shoe manufacturing and import establishment at 103 Government Street until 1910.

1878 He married Annie Reid (c. 1857-1913).

1886 At the age of 60, after the death of his wife, he retired to Gordon Head and became a strawberry farmer.

1914 Home designed and built by E.J. Merrett. Colonel Albert and Henrietta Woods later acquired the property. The Woods family owned property further up Tyndall and were likely the first to grow tulips commercially in Gordon Head.

1930 Nellie was appointed as a member of the Canadian delegation to the League of Nations in the 1930s. She authored *Leaves from Lantern Lane* and *The Stream Runs Fast* when living on Ferndale Road.

1935 Robert McClung (1871-1958) and Nellie McClung (née Mooney, 1873-1951) a famous social reformer and author, bought the property.

*One-and-one-half-storey Craftsman bungalow with the brackets, bargeboards and exposed rafter tails that are typical of the style. A converted coach house, which became Nellie's study, is located behind the house and retains the original shingle siding and wooden details.*



## 13 1846 Ferndale Road STAVELY RESIDENCE - Built 1922

1920 Leonie Stavelly, arrived in Saanich to live with her married daughter, Ethel Darcus, on Tyndall Avenue. Leonie was left a private income by her deceased husband, a Dublin barrister.

1922 Leonie had the home (1846 Ferndale) built for herself and her two unmarried daughters, Leonie Jane (1881-1975) and Olive Alexandria (1889-1983). The Stavelys ran a tearoom, by appointment only, in the sunroom and in the garden for about ten years until Leonie Sophia died in 1934.

*Side-gabled Craftsman house with semi-octagonal cantilevered bays on each side.*



## 14 1800 Ferndale Road STRANGEWOOD - Built 1930s

1888 The first house on this property owned by W.C. Grant (4320 Torquay Drive) and named Craigellachie.

1918 Cragellachie destroyed by fire.

1921 The original portion of the existing house built for Mrs. Eleanor Fleming (1862-1942).

1927 Seneca (1873-1941) and Lois (1882-1969) McMullen owned this property and called it Strangewood. The McMullens had coal-mining interests in Drumheller, Alberta. The McMullens made additions to the house and added a picturesque garden with a number of ornamental structures. One section of the garden contains petrified wood from Drumheller. Lois McMullen is remembered for the beautiful garden parties where she hosted hundreds of people to raise funds for the Red Cross during and after the Second World War. The wrought iron gates at the end of the driveway were made in 1933.



*Enlarged again in the 1980s, the home has British Arts and Crafts components with front gabled roof and shed roof dormers on each side. It also has a Chalet style influence with its wide low gables.*

## 15 1775 Barrie Road JERSEY HALL (shed in back yard), Built 1885 THRUMS (main house on street front), Built 1910

1862 Dr. Ash (1821-1886), an English oculist, arrived in Victoria.

1865 Member of the Vancouver Island House of Assembly and the Legislative Assembly after Confederation until 1876.

1885 The structure at the back of the property was built as a hunting lodge and retreat for Dr. Ash. He named it Jersey Hall after the Island of Jersey where his second wife immigrated from.

1889 Elizabeth Watson, sister of William C. Grant (see 4320 Torquay Drive in the Heritage Register), bought the property with the savings she had "squirreled away" from her housekeeping allotment.

1910 The main home was built by contractor, Alex Stewart, for Elizabeth (1864-1947) & George (1867-1930) Watson. George was a stonemason who worked on the Provincial Legislature and the Victoria Post Office. He quarried granite from the property to clad the house and garage.

George Watson was born in the Scottish village of Kirriemuir, Forfarshire. His cousin was famous Scottish author, James Matthew (J.M.) Barrie who wrote *A Window in Thrums* and *Peter Pan*. George named this home after his cousin's 1889 fictional village of Thrums that was modelled after the village of Kirriemuir. In the 19th century Kirriemuir was known as the centre of the weaving industry. Thrums was the name for the bits of thread left over from the linen factory.

1910 Elizabeth ran the Gordon Head Post Office from the sun porch of the house until 1920.

1920 George was the Reeve of Saanich until 1923 at which time he fought for a water system to be installed in Gordon Head (his campaign slogan was "Watson and Water").

*The main house is wood frame using lumber felled on the property. The granite cladding on the main house and garage was quarried from the property laid with red mortar pointing. One of few stone houses in the area.*



## 16 4580 Torquay Drive

Old Barn at the back of the property.

## 17 4570 Torquay Drive, Built: 1940

Cherry Lodge

## 18 1695 Ash, Built: 1940



1920s W.C. Grant and Meliva Todd worked to attract BC Electric Co. to bring power to Gordon Head. a sack full of bulbs from W.T. Edwards to start growing daffodils along with his strawberries. Islands. William also taught swimming lessons at Margaret Bay. Later, Geoffrey Vantreight purchased William T. Edwards was the first commercial grower of daffodils bringing them from his homeland Scilly Hong Kong, Japan and the US.

1915 brothers grew roses on this property as well. The roses were in demand all over the world including Layritz early fruit growing business was located on the land where Somner Place is now. The Layritz Geoffrey Vantreight purchased 20 acres on Tyndall and grew strawberries.

1900 per acre and by 1907 it was up to \$25 - \$60 per acre mostly due to the lucrative strawberry industry. 2 very successful commodity for the Gordon Head fruit growers. In the 1890s land sold for around \$5 W.C. Grant planted the first strawberry plants in the Gordon Head area. Strawberry crops become a The first Gordon Head school is built on land donated by William Dean.

1890 Section 85 from John Work in 1875.

1889 Ferndale Road is built on land donated by James Houllihan who had purchased the southern half of Point and Glencoe Cove – Kwatsch Park.

1886 John & Florence Vantreight (originally from Ireland) moved into a house on land close to what is now called Gordon from Dodd's son Henry to build a country get-a-way.

1884 Dr. John Ash purchased property (located on Barre Road) Dodd family originated Northumberland on the border with Scotland where the of the name Tyndale after the Tyndale Valley in Camps) speculates that the name Tyndall is a misspelling the subdivision. Author Ursula Jupp (*From Cordwood to seven children. Tyndall was one of the dividing lines of The Dodd property was divided amongst the Dodd's Dodd, Section 67: WJ McDonald, Section 85: John Work. Registered land owner of Section 84: Captain Charles James Todd, owner of Section 17, was the first pioneer to move to the Gordon Head area. Most pioneers at this time made their living off of the cordwood they cleared from their land.*

### Land Ownership from 1852 to 1900s

1852 James Todd, owner of Section 17, was the first pioneer to move to the Gordon Head area. Most pioneers at this time made their living off of the cordwood they cleared from their land.

1859 Registered land owner of Section 84: Captain Charles Dodd, Section 67: WJ McDonald, Section 85: John Work. The Dodd property was divided amongst the Dodd's seven children. Tyndall was one of the dividing lines of the subdivision. Author Ursula Jupp (*From Cordwood to Northumberland on the border with Scotland where the Dodd family originated*

1884 Dr. John Ash purchased property (located on Barre Road) from Dodd's son Henry to build a country get-a-way.

1884 John & Florence Vantreight (originally from Ireland) moved into a house on land close to what is now called Gordon Point and Glencoe Cove – Kwatsch Park.

1886 Ferndale Road is built on land donated by James Houllihan who had purchased the southern half of Section 85 from John Work in 1875.

1889 The first Gordon Head school is built on land donated by William Dean.

1890 W.C. Grant planted the first strawberry plants in the Gordon Head area. Strawberry crops become a very successful commodity for the Gordon Head fruit growers. In the 1890s land sold for around \$5 per acre and by 1907 it was up to \$25 - \$60 per acre mostly due to the lucrative strawberry industry. 2

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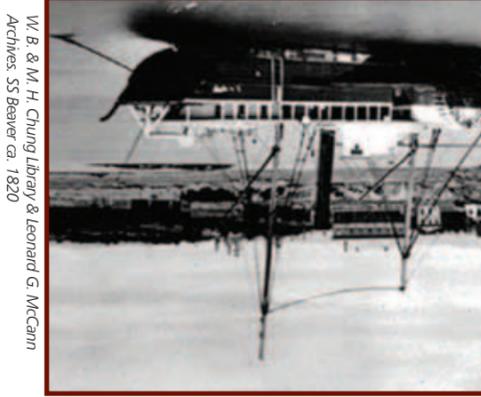
1920s a sack full of bulbs from W.T. Edwards to start growing daffodils along with his strawberries. William also taught swimming lessons at Margaret Bay. Later, Geoffrey Vantreight purchased William T. Edwards was the first commercial grower of daffodils bringing them from his homeland Scilly Islands.

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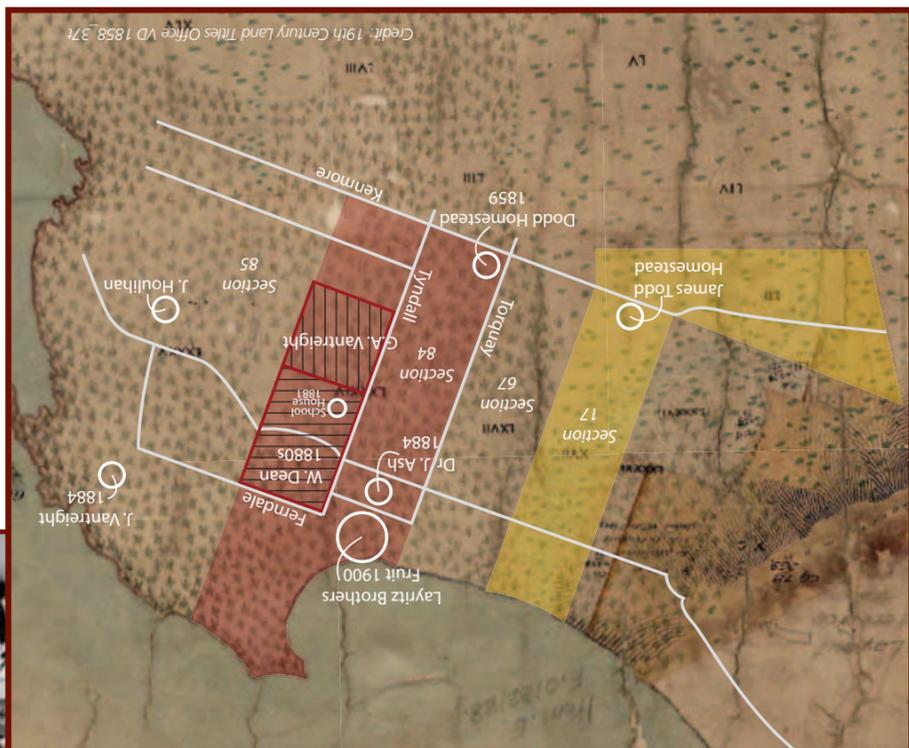


Nellie was part of the **Famous Five** along with Emily Parby, Henrietta Edwards, Louise McKinney, and Irene Parby. These women, challenged the conventional interpretation of "personhood" and by 1929, women became "qualified persons" and were given a status with rights and privileges. The Famous Five group of women took their case all the way to the Privy Council in Great Britain where, on October 18, 1929, it was ruled that women were eligible for Senate appointments.

### Nellie McClung



W. B. & M. H. Chung Library & Leonard G. McCann Archives. SS Beaver ca. 1820



She was a steamship built in England in 1835 for the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and the first steamship to operate in the Pacific Northwest of North America.

### SS Beaver

### A Brief Account of First Nations History in Saanich

4,000 years or more before European settlers arrived, the Victoria and the Saanich Peninsula area was inhabited by Coast Salish people. Sheltered bays along the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and the small islands adjacent to it were popular areas for Salish settlement. In the late 18th century the Salish inhabitants are recorded as being divided into four main groups. One group was the Songish (Songhees) people who wintered at Cadboro Bay (now Cadboro Bay) and summered at Xhappam (Kosampsom) near the Gorge Waterway. Their villages were probably set along the shore for easy access to resources and for the advantages of seeing attackers arriving by canoe giving them time to prepare or to flee to the forest. There is evidence that they lived in "huge shed-like dwellings".

### Community Name

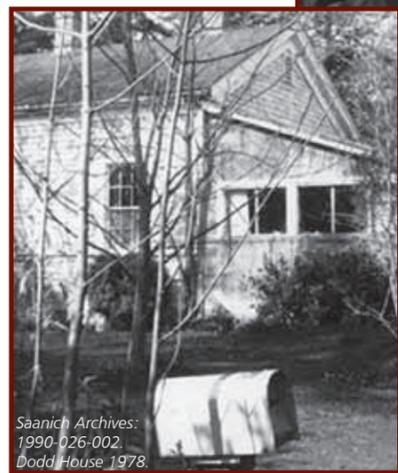
The name Gordon Head referred to the rocky headland near what is now Vantreight Park northwest of Ferndale Road. This point was noted and named on a survey by Captain Kellet of the H.M. Herald in honour of Scottish Captain the Honourable Charles Gordon in 1846. Captain Charles Gordon was in the area in connection with defining the boundary between British and American territory.

### First land owners of Section 84 Gordon Head

Section 84, bordered by Torquay Drive, Pamona Way and Kenmore Drive, originally consisted of 276 acres and was purchased in 1859 by Captain Charles Dodd and his wife Grace McTavish Dodd. Charles Dodd, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, had married Grace in 1842 at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River when she was fourteen years old. Grace was the daughter of fur trader, J.G. McTavish, and his Cree wife, Nancy McKenzie. When Charles Dodd died in 1860, Grace was left with



Saanich Archives: 1980-006-022. Captain Charles Dodd. (185-)



Saanich Archives: 1990-026-002. Dodd House 1978.

seven children who were placed under the guardianship of William Fraser Tolmie and Roderick Finlayson. The Gordon Head property was held in trust for the children with Grace having use of it during her lifetime. However, in 1864 Grace married Alfred Gorridge, an abusive man who had earlier been charged with the beating death of a man and who was rumoured to be after the Dodd estate. Stories of his abuse and their separation were carried in the newspapers of the day. Grace died in 1881 in Oregon and the Gordon Head property was divided between the Dodd children. 3



### Welcome to Saanich Heritage Walking Tours

This Self-Guided Walking Tour is the third in a series of Heritage Tours created by the District of Saanich. The tours are provided to increase awareness of Saanich Heritage. For information please visit [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca).

### Sources for the information provided include:

- Saanich Heritage Structures; Donald Luxton & Associates Inc. and Jennifer Nell Barr <http://www.saanich.ca/visitor/heritage.html>
- The Saanich Archives <http://www.saanich.ca/webapp/saanich> Archives/ located at the Centennial Library.
- Area residents who generously gave their time and knowledge.

**Please Note:**  
All residences on the tour are privately owned. Please remain on public property during your tour and respect the privacy of residents.

Front cover photo credit: Saanich Archives 1984-001-001 J. Woods, Ash Rd (191-)

3 C. Duncan, "This will Find Me" The Life of Grace McTavish Dodd (1828-1881). Journal of the British Columbia History Society, Vol. 41 No. 3, 2008.

HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

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SAANICH