

St Peter's Cemetery Self-Guided Tour

Ordinary Lives, Enduring Legacies

Welcome to Ordinary Lives, Enduring Legacies tour at St. Peter's Cemetery, men and women who were not famous in the traditional sense, but whose work and character helped build New Westminster. Many were French Canadians who came west to labour in the sawmills along the Fraser River. Others were farmers who cleared land, hoteliers who welcomed travelers, local politicians who shaped civic life, and athletes who brought pride to their communities.

They represent some of the 46 nationalities that settled here, each bringing language, faith, skills, and traditions that enriched this growing city. This tour honours the everyday builders of New Westminster, people of determination and resilience whose legacies endure not in headlines, but in neighbourhoods, institutions, and families that still carry their stories forward.

Maillardville and Fraser Mills

Maillardville, founded in 1909–1910 in Coquitlam, was created for 110 French-Canadian families recruited from Quebec to work at Fraser Mills, once the British Empire's largest lumber operation. Named after Father Edmond Maillard, it became Western Canada's largest Francophone centre and remains culturally vibrant.

Salmon Canneries

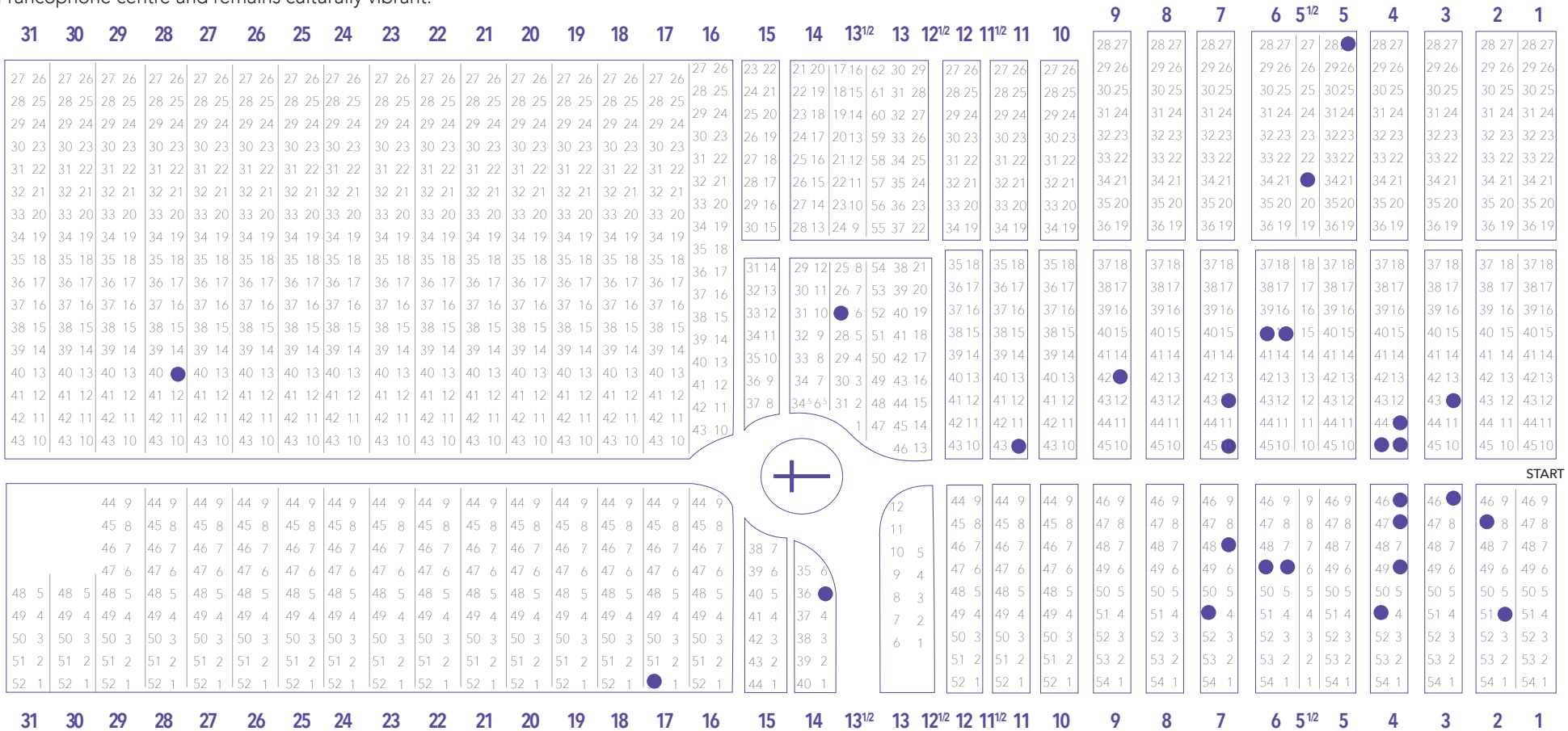
Fraser River salmon canneries flourished from the 1870s to 1890s, centered in Steveston and New Westminster. Pioneered by figures like John Sullivan Deas and M.M. English, the industry relied on Indigenous, Japanese, and Chinese labour.

Farming & Agriculture

Founded in 1859, New Westminster quickly developed agriculture to support its role as colonial capital. Early exhibitions showcased local produce, while Queensborough became a centre for market gardening after land reclamation in the 1890s. The city served as a key shipping and market hub for Fraser Valley farms.

Photographs courtesy of New Westminster Archives, Lacrosse Hall of Fame, Our Families, BC Archives and private sources.

Tour created by Carey Pallister, About Time Archival Consulting and Terra Rusman, Graphic Designer © 2026



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02-04

Beaty, Lucy C.
1870-1885
Student, St. Ann's Academy

02-47

Browne, Owen Wormley

1834-1886

Aponi, Teresa Berra Berra

Owen Wormley Browne, African American pioneer and barber, married Terese Berabera, of Kanaka heritage. An early coal prospector and oyster cultivator, he later farmed near Stave River. After his 1886 death, Teresa successfully maintained their prosperous homestead and raised four children in South Westminster.



03-09

Eickhoff, Henry
1835-1909
German businessman and hotelier

03-12

Doherty, Charles Edward
1873-1920
Doctor of Psychiatric Medicine

03 45

George Feeney

1895-1975

New Westminster-born, Feeney debuted in 1911 as a goalkeeper and helped win the 1915 Mann Cup. After army service, he starred for the Salmonbellies, led Canada's 1928 Olympic side, refereed in the 1932 Olympics. He was inducted into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1969.



04-06

Guichon, Laurent 1836-1902

Guichon, Perrone 1853-1922



The four Guichon brothers, French immigrants from Savoie, France, arrived via the Cariboo gold rush and established influential ranches in the Nicola Valley. At Mamette Lake, Laurent and Perrone founded Guichon Ranch, pioneering innovative hothouse farming near Merritt as well as owning Guichon Hotel. Port Guichon is named after him. Hon. Judith Guichon, OBC, who served as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of BC (2012-2018), was related to the Guichon family through her marriage to Lawrence Guichon.

04-08

Hoey, Thomas
1822-1888
Cattle Rancher, Lillooet
Cariboo Pioneer

04-08

Hoey, Richard
1837-1906
Cattle Rancher, Lillooet
Cariboo Pioneer

04-09

Mr Kay, Thomas

1842-1887

Architect and contractor of several notable buildings in New Westminster including St. Ann's Academy (1877), St. Peter's Cathedral, New Westminster (1886), Provincial Asylum and St. Louis College (1886).



04-10

Mary Frances "Fannie" Molineaux

1848-1935

Fannie English married young on the frontier, endured financial upheaval and relocation, and devoted herself to raising their large family amid early coastal industry.



04-11

Cash, James

1837-1901

James Cash, born Kings Co., Ireland, was a New Westminster saloon and hotel proprietor. He married Emma Kemp in 1891 and had four children. He owned the Central Hotel in New Westminster 1890-1892, and bought Victoria's Colonist Hotel in 1892. He was well known for loaning money to miners.





04-51

Joseph, George -1921
Sophie Esther -1921

Members of the Qayqayt, a small Kwantlen and Musqueam community in New Westminster, was a fishing village displaced by development and remains landless today. This marker was placed in 2022 by the community and Rotary Club.

04-45

Keary, William Holland

1857-1933

Eickhoff, Mary Caroline

1864-1951

William Holland Keary, a printer by trade, served as mayor of New Westminster (1902-1909), managed the Royal Agricultural and Industrial Society, and was Honorary Secretary of the General Hospital for 30 years. His wife, Lena Eickhoff was a well-known piano teacher in her day.



05-27

Herrling, Charles Augustus

1826-1901

Charles emigrated from Austria in 1867 during the Cariboo Gold Rush, later farming on Fraser River's Herrling Island, marrying twice and raising many children.



5.5-21

Sullivan, Harry Joseph

1895-1973

Florence Ruth Bilodeau

1895-1973

Educated at St. Louis College and Gonzaga University. Sullivan had a long and distinguished legal career. He was called to the Bar in 1921, named Kings Counsel in 1936, the BC Supreme Court in 1956 and the Appeals Court in 1964. He served in both world wars. From 1934 to 1940 he served as a City Alderman and volunteered his time for many organizations. He married Florence Ruth Bilodeau, daughter of Peter and Ellen Bilodeau (07-10)



06-06

McNeely nee Chisholm, Theresa Annie

1840-1929

Born in Nova Scotia in 1840, she journeyed west in 1886 to live with her uncle, Donald Chisholm (06-49), Member of Parliament. A devoted Catholic philanthropist, she later gifted her Ladner estate for Westminster Abbey and generously supported hospitals, orphanages, and Catholic education, becoming British Columbia's first woman awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*.



06-15

Meyers, Christian

1835-1891

Frederick, Charles "Fritz" Meyers

(1873-1933)

Capt. Christian Meyers was a respected steamboat Captain in BC from 1859 until his death. Born in Germany, he settled and farmed on Mayne Island with this First Nations wife Mathilda while also worked as a steamboat engineer on the Fraser River. The co-owned to ships, The General Hancock and the Adelaide as well as captaining many more. Two of his sons became Master Mariners.



Capt. Charles Frederick "Fritz" Meyers Worked as a steamboat captain on the Fraser River for 40 years. Two of his four sons also became Master Mariners.

06-15/06-40

N.S./James Bazalgette

1863-1886

A mystery man on the Meyers headstone.

06-49

Chisholm, Donald

1822-1890



Teacher, prospector, medical practitioner and lifelong bachelor originally from Nova Scotia, Chisholm was a very successful entrepreneur, landowner and businessman. After living in New Westminster for a number of years, he opened a hotel and store in Ladner. In 1887, he was elected to Parliament representing New Westminster. In failing health, his niece, Annie Chisholm (06-06) arrived to take care of him.

07-07

English, Marshall Martin

1840-1897

Marshall Martin English, an American, rose from Nevada mining ventures to become a pioneering Fraser River salmon cannery, building the renowned Phoenix Cannery and lasting regional influence.



07-10

Wise, James

1826-1922



A pioneer in salmon canning was in partnership with Alex Ewan (Annieville or Ewan Cannery) and others. He is remembered as a "kindly and publicly spirited man". He was a member of New Westminster City Council. Wise also ran a general store on Front Street and was a partner of Peter Bilodeau (07-12) in the Depot Hotel.

07-12

Murphy, Ellen Elizabeth

-1939

Bilodeau, Peter Onesime

-1940

Mrs. Bilodeau raised nine children, served faithfully through the Catholic Women's League, and was remembered for her resilience, generosity, and gracious hospitality within the community.

A prominent French Canadian who settled in New Westminster established himself as a hotelier, co-founding and expanding the Depot Hotel with James Wise (07-10) and helping shape the commercial growth of Columbia Street.



07-51

Leamy, James

1847-1911

Sawmill operator, railway contractor, Lacrosse player

09-13

Slumach, Peter

1816-1891

An elder of the Katzie First Nation is tied to the legend of "Slumach's gold" at Pitt Lake, BC. In 1890, he shot Louis Bee, allegedly over liquor, not gold.



Convicted and hanged in 1891, aged 75, his story sparked enduring myths of hidden treasure.

11-10

Douglas, Richard Alexander "Sonny"

1907-1932

Sonny Douglas was a senior amateur lacrosse player who competed with the New Westminster Salmonbellies and represented Canada at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

13.5-27

Gerussi, Enrico

1900-1950

Lazzarotto, Teresina
1903-1983

Parents of Canadian actor Bruno Gerussi of the TV series the Beachcombers (1972-1990)



14-13

Lynch, Frederick

1877-1945

Born in Peterborough, ON he played senior lacrosse before moving west in the 1890s. He joined New Westminster's Salmonbellies in 1900, famed for returning wounded to score against Montreal. Lynch was a New Westminster alderman (1905), City Hall employee, pioneer businessman who operated a cigar factory, notably ran for mayor in 1910, and lost.



14-13

Bilodeau, Mary Ellen Lavena

1882-1971

Daughter of Pete and Ellen Bilodeau



17-52

Cyr, Zoel Honore

1867-1954

Legace, Marie Cerile Alma

1879-1968

Established the first logging operation on Stave Lake, famously driving logs over the falls. He and his family lived in Durieu until 1948, raising nine children. Marie was the daughter of early settler Amable Legace buried St. Mary's OMI cemetery, Alma walked much of the way over the Rockies to Kamloops in 1881 with her mother.

14-05

Feeney, James "Pat"

1886-1948

Pat Feeney was considered one of Canada's fastest lacrosse players, even late in his career. When the Ottawa Capitals toured west to face the New Westminster Salmonbellies for the 1908 Minto Cup, the Ottawa Citizen called him "a small, stocky chap," noting he looked quick and had "bundles of speed and grit."

19-21

William Vander Zalm

1897-1958)

Agatha Vander Zalm nee Warmerdam 1900-1991

Born into generations of Dutch tulip growers, William traveled frequently to Canada during the 1930s and 1940s. Stranded in Canada for the war years, the family were reunited in 1947 and began their horticulture and landscaping business. William and Agatha are the parents of BC's 28th Premier and leader of the Social Credit party, William "Bill" Vander Zalm.



28-13

Gribble, Sarah (Sally) nee Sharkey

1932-1996

After 21-year-old Fred Gribble was killed by a drunk driver in 1981, his mother Sally founded Canada's first MADD chapter, transforming grief into national advocacy.

