

# FRONT HARBOUR WALK



**CHESTER NOVA SCOTIA**  
[www.chesterns.com](http://www.chesterns.com)



**1** You are parked in **Church Memorial Park**. This land was purchased from W. Meade Evans and donated to the town by Senator Charles E. Church in 1928. *Eleanor Pew Morris Rink and Curling Club* was opened in 1970, erected on land donated by Ruth Whitford Chandler. The *Chester Boy Scouts Club Room* is on the side hill next to the *Chester Brass Band* practice hall. Built recently, it provides a veranda for outdoor concerts. The band was organized in 1873. The Chester Tennis Club was organized in 1910 at the Hackmatack courts and was moved to this location in 1932. Land for the back court was donated by Ruth Whitford Chandler. Turn right at the Park gates on to Pig Loop Road.



Church Memorial Park

**2** Continue down the hill to "T'other End", an original kit house that was manufactured in New England and then brought to Chester and erected. At one time sea captain David Evans, who fought with Nelson at Trafalgar, lived here. The garage next to it was originally the Frail house.

**3** Next on your right is the *Junger* house, constructed on land owned by Thomas Whitford, a local farmer, for J. Marsh Matthews, a lawyer. The house across the street was once a blacksmith shop.

**4** At the intersection of Pig Loop Road, Duke Street and Water Street is **Jim Smith's Fine Studio Pottery**. The original building, circa 1885 was once a corner store owned and operated by the David Evans family. At one time the water rose and fell beneath this store and the village dump was behind it and now it is called "The Cove Garden" maintained by the Chester Garden Club.

**5** Turn up Duke Street and on the right is the former Casa Blanca Guest House, circa 1890. This is an example of Victorian modified Gothic house and was built by Albert Millett, a lobster packer.

**6** On the left at the corner of Duke and Regent Streets is the *James Barry* house, circa 1803. It belonged to Dr. D. W. N. Zwicker and is now owned by Paul Anderson.

**7** On the right at the corner of Duke and Regent Streets is the *Walther's* house, circa 1824. It was constructed by James Whalen. Mr. Whalen was a local ship wright and lived here during the late 1800's. Since then, there have been many changes to this house. This is now the home of Didier Julien, Laura Mulrooney and family. Continue along Duke Street and on the left, you will see a small building, which was the original location of Chester's first Royal Canadian Legion. It is now a commercial building housing several businesses; **Sears, Bethany Hines Massage Therapy and Cassidy Nearing Berryman, Barristers Solicitors.**

**8** Directly opposite is the former *Forester's Hall*, recently restored as a private home.

**9** Continue along the street to the corner of Duke and Union Streets on the right is **F.E. Butler Branch #44 of the Royal Canadian Legion**, built in 1964. The branch charter goes back to 1932. It stands on the site of the old Lovett House Hotel. The two cannons were part of the original village fortifications. Be sure to visit their Memorial Room.



Royal Canadian Legion

**10** On the opposite corner, where the annex was located, is the *Marcus Schmare* house, circa 1784. This is another kit house built in New England and then reassembled here in the village. This house was originally erected on Queen Street, was moved to this location and placed on a foundation in 1994.

**11** Continuing down Duke Street you will find several commercial enterprises – **Sharon McNamara et al, Chez Glass Lass and Light My Fire Studio**. The original tin metal ceiling has been retained despite several renovations of the building.

**12** Continue along the street to the corner and on your right is a building, circa 1910. This was a post office, then Dr. Hebb's residence, Morse's Drug Store, Coles' Drug Store and now a book store called the **Wayword Used Books**.

**13** On the opposite side of the corner you can see "*Wisteria*" or "*The Blockhouse*", as it is known locally, circa 1768. It is the site of the original blockhouse, where Captain Prescott and the women of Chester saved the town from privateer attack in 1782.



The Blockhouse



14 Turn right on to Pleasant Street and walk to the corner of Queen Street. This building was built in 1923 to house *Corkum and Mader's* store which ceased operation in 1949. Today the **Fo's'cle Tavern** is located here. Across the street is the **Chester Variety Store** and **Tradewinds Realty**.

15 At the corner of Pleasant St., turn right up Queen St. you will find the **Fo's'cle Tavern** next to that is **Claussen Walters Real Estate Office**. Next door is the **Fiasco Gift Shop** and at the rear of the building is **Chester Organics, Slipcovers, Etc., Gwen's Hair Salon** and **Mary MacInnis Accounting**. Up Queen St., the next building is the **Chester Art Centre**. Continuing up the street, next to the post office you will find the **Macklenburgh Inn**, circa 1902. On the west side, of Queen St. is **Sarah Swinamer Massage Therapist**. Continuing down Queens St. is **Julien's Bakery & Cafe**, the site of *Redden's Hardware Store*, built circa 1890. The business begun by James Redden was an extension of his tin shop. This family operation ran from 1890 to 1972. Towards the corner are two retail stores, **Hibiscus** and **Chester Marine Shop**.

16 **The Village Emporium** and **Anthony Smith's Model Boat Shop** are located in the *Corbin House*, which was once the home of Captain Prescott. Later another building close to it was joined on and it became home to Burton Hennigar's Grocery Store, beginning operation in 1885 and closing in 1952. Today you will find **Vadals Hair Movements**, and the **Kiwi Café** as commercial tenants.

17 On the right is **Amicus (Paula MacDonald Pottery Gallery)** and the **Chester Playhouse**. Originally a movie theatre, *The Keneric*, was owned and operated by Eric Redden and Ken Corkum and later home to The Leading Wind Puppet Theatre. Today the Chester Playhouse offers quality entertainment on a year-round basis.



Chester Playhouse

18 Next door was *Irving Corkum's* paint and photography shop. This is an example of Greek Revival, circa 1885. It was in this building that many of the early postcards of Chester were printed. The second floor was a paint room for cars, which at the time did not come painted in their final color. The customer would choose the color and Mr. Corkum would apply the final coat.

Originally produced for: The Chester Municipal Heritage Society  
by: C.A. Nauss, Presentations, Chester, NS  
Reprinted by: The Chester Municipal Chamber of Commerce - 2008  
Photos by: Jim Barkhouse, Chester, NS

19 On this corner is a new building, 2007 a restaurant known as **Nicki's Inn Chester** owned and operated by Nicki Butler. The building on the corner of Pleasant and King Streets was the original site of "Warp and Woof" a well-known gift store. **Flowers, Flowers, Flowers** currently occupies this site. This is a heritage property, the Mitchell house, circa 1885.

20 Across the street on the corner of Pleasant and King Street is a building, circa 1922, that was originally the home of *Dr. & Mrs. Hebb*, then the Bank of Nova Scotia from 1922 to 1957 and then it served as the municipality's Municipal Office until a new municipal building was erected in 1982. It now houses **Exit Realty Inter Lake**.

21 On the corner of Pleasant and King Street is a Second Empire style house, circa 1865. It once housed Swedish soldiers during WWII. It was also used to quarantine a family suspected of having TB or diphtheria. It was known as *Quedah Lodge*. Today, the building is a **Valverde Studio/Gallery** owned by artist Jose Valverde and his wife Doreen.

22 Turn left on to King Street, further along close to the end of the road, you will pass another of the original wells of Chester on the left.

23 At the end of King Street, slightly to your right, is the **Chester Yacht Club**, circa 1875. It is home to the largest fixed keel regatta in Canada. The first regatta was held in 1856 and 3,000 people participated. Part of the present building was originally Charles Hilchie's boat shop.



Chester Yacht Club

24 Beyond the Yacht Club is Parade Square, once called "Market Square", with its sundial (or armillary sphere), gardens and War memorials. The sundial was made at Hawboldt Industries in the village. The statue was designed by J. Massey Rhind. The base and steps of the statue were cut from the same granite boulder by Wakefield Zinck. It was unveiled on August 22, 1922. The Norwegian Monument, erected in 1995 by the Norwegian Government, expresses their gratitude to the people of Chester for their aid during WW II. The bandstand, moved here in 1908 from its original position on Queen Street, is a pleasant spot where you can watch the yacht races on a summer day or listen to a concert by the Chester Brass Band. Adjacent to the square is



War Memorial

the *Cavendish* house, circa 1928. The house sits on one of the first crown grants made to Capt. John Kinghorn in 1765 and was known as the Kinghorn grant. The house was owned by John Henneberry, a cooper. It was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by James David Houghton in 1928. George Cavendish, a member of the family from which the property derives its current name, was a school mate of George VI and was invited to attend his coronation.

25 Retrace your steps on to South Street, continuing east, and take a break on one of the benches lining the shore. On the far left you are looking at *Nauss' Point*, where American privateers landed to bury their dead in 1782 following an unsuccessful attack on the village. The two islands in the center are *Meisner's*, formerly Norse or Nancy's Island and to your right is *Quaker*. To your far right is *Freda's Peninsula*. All of these are drumlins (deposits left when the glaciers melted). The automated light installed in 1937 on Quaker Island replaced a two story lighthouse and 45 foot tower built in 1883, which burned.

26 Continue along and turn left on to Queen Street. On the right is "*Ivy Cottage*", now the *Quarterdeck*, circa 1770. It was owned by James Redden and his family and now by Mrs. Janet Piers, widow of the late Rear Admiral Desmond Piers. On the ocean side at the corner stands a monument erected in 2007 by the Naval Association of Canada as a tribute to Admiral Piers' distinguished naval career. The house was originally built by Simeon Floyd, who was one of the original settlers and reputed to be a cousin of a signer of the Declaration of Independence. J. Massey Rhind, the sculptor of the soldier on the Parade Square, stayed here in a rooming house run by Caroline Redden. Repairs made to this house uncovered cannon balls in the walls and in the garden. This is a heritage property.

27 Turn right on to Water Lane, a one-way street. The house to your left is the "*Woodbox*", circa 1844, was built by William Henneberry, a cooper. As you turn to the left you are approaching the commercial center of Chester in the earlier days and are on Duke Street again. This area was lined with large houses and warehouses with wharves which stretched out into the harbor.

28 On your left is the *Ogilvie House*, circa 1790, a six bay New England Colonial style with a hidden staircase that runs from the basement to the third floor. This building was unusual in that the living room covered the entire first floor. It also contains the original old bake oven. It was also built by Simeon Floyd and was operated as an inn. The building was once owned by Charles Lordly, Chester's first municipal clerk.

29 Next to it is "*Morning Tide*", circa 1875. It was built by John Butler, a local merchant.

30 Across the street a new home is being built on the site of a former lobster packing plant owned by James Redden. Next to this building was the Portland Packing Co. of Portland, Maine, in operation around 1890. This business was taken over by George Mitchell and George Millet who operated it as the "*Chester Packing Co.*" until it burned down in the early 1900's.

31 Turn right along Water Street you can see the *Government Wharf*, where the ferry runs between Tancook Island and the mainland. The ferry has been in operation since 1934. Take a 45 minute ride to the islands, but be sure to check the return times or you could be left there.



Tancook Ferry

32 On your right as you continue is **The Rope Loft**, circa 1813, it was originally called "The Red Store". This was built using the timbers from the "Young Teazer", an American privateer that was blown up in the bay. It was originally Martin Evan's coal storage shed. Here, during prohibition, one could find rum discretely sold. Fifty cents was lowered through the floor in a mitten and in return you received a bottle of 100 proof rum. Later Bremner's Fish Shop was housed in the building and today it is a restaurant and marina.



Rope Loft Restaurant

33 Continue down Water Street, and on your left is the site of the old Nova Scotia Power Garage. Now houses the **Warp & Woof Gifts & Gallery**, the oldest known Gift Shop in Nova Scotia. Continue along until you reach the corner of Union and Water Streets. This house is known as "*The Crooked Six Pence*", circa 1795. Above it on the hill is "*White Cottage*", circa 1795. This house is supposedly haunted by a Yankee sympathizer, who was shot in an upstairs bedroom. The bloodstain is still visible on the floor. It is said his ghost still roams the house playing piano for entertainment.

34 Follow along the harbor to the Cove Gardens. Have a seat and enjoy this area, maintained by the Chester Garden Club and once the site of the town dump.

35 Turn right back on to Pig Loop Road and retrace your steps to the Church Memorial Park.