Walking tour of PORT CLEMENTS

Legend

1. Port Clements Museum
2. Old Dry Land Sort
3. Eli Tingly House
4. Bayview Market
5. Rainbow Wharf
6. Yakoun Pub
7. Community Hall
8. St. Mark’s Church

- Suggested Walking
- Tour Route

Please use care and safety driving on active logging roads - be cautious, use 4x4, turn on your lights and always pull over to let logging trucks pass.
Welcome to

PORT CLEMENTS

www.portclements.ca
Village Office (36 Cedar W Ave): 250-557-4295

Best Sunsets in Haida Gwaii

Nestled at the south-east of Masset Inlet, near the mouth of the famous Yakoun River, this old logging and mill town is commonly known as ‘Port’ to the Islanders. Whereas at the beginning of the twentieth century people and freight gained access to the center of Graham Island on water through Port Clements, today it acts as a ‘Gateway to the Wilderness’. Hunting, fishing for salmon and steelhead trout, picking mushrooms for dinner, walking along Golden Spruce Trail, taking photographs of the beautiful scenery and exploring the interior of the Island with its lakes, rivers and rainforest, containing old growth cedar and Sitka spruce, are only a few of the things which are easily accessible from here. Our Village, being on the Mainland, is the center of access to the center of Graham Island on water through Port Clements. This site, originally home to Bert Tingley’s store complex was turn into a log sort area. The local economy was invigorated and the first paved road arrived in the summer of 1967, a street dance was held in front of the local store then owned by Ernie Chapman.

Port Clements Museum

The Port Clements Historical Society was established in 1985 by volunteers, with the aim of building a museum to house logging, pioneering, homesteading, and mining artifacts from the islands. The museum was built in 1987 near the site of the former Barton Sawmill. Outside the museum, there is a steel spar which, we believe, is the only one standing on exhibit in British Columbia. There is also a LeTourneau skidder, two steam donkeys, and an old D8 Cat with arch. Inside the museum are pictures, artefacts, and written material taking the viewer back to earlier days of pioneering and logging on the islands. (www.portclements technician.org)

Old Dryland Sort

In 1917 there was great activity supplying spruce for the airplane industry that took off during World War 1. At one time, 3 sawmills operated in Port and the place was busy around the clock with brotheIs, bootleggers, and sawmill gangs. Over 800 loggers were working in 14 logging camps that were scattered up and down the inlet. The town got a plank road, boardwalks, a pool hall and a larger hotel. Times were good, however, it did not last. 1918 brought the end of the war and a decline in the spruce market. Later, when MacMillan Bloedel took over the extensive logging leases on the Queen Charlotte Islands, spruce was back in high demand once again. This site, originally home to Bert Tingley’s store complex was turn into a log sort area. The local economy was invigorated and the first paved road arrived in the summer of 1967, a street dance was held in front of the local store then owned by Ernie Chapman.

Eli Tingley House

Eli Tingley, brother to Bert, was the founder of Port Clements. He fought the company who had the timber licence for the area that is now Port Clements, and won the right to create the community. He originally built the house as the local newspaper office for Jimmy Campbell, but when the newspaper moved to Masset, he converted it to a residence for himself and his wife. This is the second oldest building in town, being built in August 1913.

Bayview Market

This building was originally built by the returning servicemen from World War 1, who wanted a place to meet socially. It contained rooms for dances, billiards, and a gaming room. As the population declined the owners could not afford to maintain the facility so it was sold to Frank Pearce who converted it to a store and hotel, later to be purchased by Ernie Chapman, who operated it as today, the general store.

Rainbow Wharf

The town’s namesake, Herb Clements, was the local Member of Parliament in 1913. In return for using his name, the community was given a government wharf. This addition made the difference in the development of the settlement, as a wharf attracted more visitors and commerce. To the left of wharf one can see the cement foundations from the Lynch Sawmill that operated in the early years. Hard to believe there was a mill on the opposite side also. There are two benches at the end of the wharf which one can enjoy the view of Masset Inlet.

Yakoun Pub

The original pub was built in 1890 on the old site of the offices for the Lynch Sawmill. This pub burnt down in 1982, but was rebuilt again in 1984 to be enjoyed by many for its fantastic view overlooking the wharf, old mill and the inlet.

Community Hall

This hall was built during the second world war by volunteer labour and donated materials. It replaced the former hall that was beside St Mark’s Church. These halls were the centers for social activity in the community and are still run by volunteers today.

St. Mark’s Church

The church was built in January of 1913 making it the oldest building in town. Although the Anglican Church built it, they ceded it to the village some years ago and the village restored it. It is still being used by different denominational religions and for group meetings. Behind the church, there is a small treed area called Millennium Park, which contains a nice walking path, a protected seedling of the famous Golden Spruce, a Cenotaph honouring World War 1 and 2 veterans and a village time capsule. The first community hall was on the east side of the church.

For more local information, visit: www.portclements.ca

Accommodation

With Many Thanks: portclements.ca, goHaidaGwaii.ca, Kathleen Dalezell, Willy Cheer, Marilyn Bliss

Emergency Services

Police • 250-626-3991
Ambulance • 1-888-461-9911
Volunteer Fire Department • 250-557-4355
Port Clements Health Clinic • 250-557-4478

Rubber Boots & Chickens • 250-557-2437
Golden Spruce Motel • 250-557-4325
Smillie’s B&B • 250-557-4614
Kumdis River Lodge • 250-557-4217