

## **Rockland/Fairfield Discovery Ride**

*For July 20<sup>th</sup> - August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

Explore the 'points of interest' outlined in each ride package and send us a photo, story, or video telling us about your experience or something you discovered on your Discovery Ride. **Photos, videos, drawings, and other media can be sent to us by filling out the short 'experience reflection form' on the GVCC website under 'themed rides', or via Facebook and Instagram by tagging us at @biketoworkvic or #yyjbike!** With every submission, you will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a gift card for take-out food from a local restaurant or bike shop near you. Prizes for this Rockland/Fairfield challenge will be mailed to draw winners the week after August 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Activities are designed with adult supervision in mind. Before undertaking any outdoor activities, please be sure to follow the latest COVID-19 Provincial Support and Information.*

### **Points of Interest:**

#### **Point 1:**

##### **Background**

Located in Rockland at 1040 Moss Street, this art gallery and museum was established in 1946 as the Little Centre in downtown. Today, the Gallery has almost 20,000 pieces and is the largest public collection of art in B.C.



Photo of Art Gallery of Greater Victoria by John Holland.

**Action item:** What does the mural on Moss Street say?

**Point 2:**

**Background**

Have you ever noticed the Giant Sequoia tree on the corner of Richardson and Moss Street towering over an old yellow character home? This tree is known as the Old Ben Mosser and is now considered a Nature Preserve.



Photo of this Giant Sequoia by John Holland.

**Action item:** Where in North America did the grandparent seeds of this tree originate?

**Point 3:**

**Background**

A National Historic Site located in Rockland, this Victorian castle is “a shining example of a ‘bonanza castle’ – massive houses built for entrepreneurs who became wealthy during the industrial age.

Photo by John Holland.



**Action item:** What is the last name of the family who built this castle?

**Point 4:**

**Background**

“Government House is the office and official residence of the Lieutenant Governor and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians. This summer, Government House is also one of the 30 community partners that has joined the City of Victoria in the ‘Get Growing, Victoria’ free food seedlings distribution program to support communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.” Ride over to this house and enjoy the Victorian Rose Gardens growing here.



*Photo of Rose Gardens at Government House by John Holland.*

**Action item:** Ride over to this house and enjoy the Victorian Rose Gardens growing here.

**Point 5:**

**Background**

A not-so-mossy street market in Rockland/Fairfield that hosts over vendors every Saturday in the spring and summer months.



*Photo of Moss Street Market from BC Farmers' Market Trail website.*

**Action item:** Ride over to this market area. What is the name of the school for which the market is located?

**Point 6:**

**Background**

This seaside cemetery is home to tombstones and burials of many famous Canadians and Americans including Sir James Douglas (B.C.'s first governor), Robert Dunsmuir (built the Craigdarroch Castle), and Emily Carr (world-famous artist).



*Photo of Ross Bay Cemetery by John Holland.*

**Action item:** Find the tombstone with a poem written by a black pioneer and the Japanese memorial.

**Point 7:**

**Background**

This mossy green space overlooking Clover Point Park, also known as Fairfield Hill Park, is home to an impressive display of wildflowers in the spring including camas, Nootka rose, and honeysuckle.



*Photo of Gonzales Observatory by John Holland.*

**Action item:** What plants do you see growing here?

**Point 8:**

**Background**

This park was once owned by the Canadian Department of Defense and leased to the City for use as a park until 1988 when ownership was transferred to the City of Victoria. Today, this grassy seaside, clover-covered area is undergoing development to become the Clover Point Pump Station for a new Wastewater Treatment Project.



*Photo of Clover Point from BC Marine Trails Network website.*

**Action item:** Ride over to Clover Point and see if there are any hang-gliders riding the seaside winds along Dallas Road today.

**Point 9:**

**Background**

Tucked away along the shoreline below Dallas Road is Spiral Beach. The easiest way to get down to these beaches carefully with your bicycle is to walk it along the boat ramp at Clover Point.



*Photo of Dallas Road Beach from Discover Vancouver Island website.*

**Action item:** Ride over to this ramp at Dallas Road and breathe in the salty sea air. After checking out this lovely beach spot beside the ramp, take a leisurely ride along Dallas Road towards Beacon Hill Park. How many other cyclists can you count along the way to your next 'point of interest'?

**Point 10:**

**Background**

The Story Pole in Beacon Hill Park (also known as *Meeachan* in the Lək̓ʷəŋən language) is the World's Tallest Free-standing Totem Pole. It was erected on June 30th, 1956 and was carved by a team led by Mungo Martin, Kwakwaka'wakw chief and renowned carver. This totem was built with cedar from Sooke and overlooks the Salish Sea.



Photo of this Story Pole by John Holland.

**Action Item:** Ride over to this totem and note the carved animal second from the totem's base.

**Point 11:**

**Background**

If you've never tried Ethiopian Food, now is your chance. Messob Ethiopian Cuisine is located in Cook Street Village and offers a delicious selection of vegetarian and meat options for anyone looking to try something new.



Photo of Messob Ethiopian Restaurant in Cook Street Village by John Holland.

**Action item:** Ride over to this little restaurant. What colours are the three colours on the sign?