

Alert Bay

Cormorant Island



Pictures of Historic & Modern Buildings

This whale was carved by **Blackie Dick**. Posts and cap were framed and all put in place by Dave Cranmer and Alert Bay Piledriving. This is when Tom Thompson was Alderman in 1979.

Original Welcome Archway



Current Welcome Archway

Whale was taken down during BC Ferries terminal upgrade in 2007.

It was touched up by Blackie's son Beau Dick and Eugene Isaac.

Mounted on a new archway and unveiled on June 7, 2010.

Thunderbird was carved by Beau Dick and Randy Champagne.

It is a Memorial for Tammy Alfred unveiled April 30, 2011.



This is our traditional big house. This is where we hold our Potlaches and other important ceremonies. The Big House was lost to fire on August 29, 1997. On May 29, 1999, was the Grand Opening of our new Big House. Post card is now out of print.



This is the inside of our old Big House. The ladies standing in the front are Dorothy Hawkins, Ethel Alfred, Agnes Cranmer and Flora Seaweed. Post card is now out of print.



This is the world's tallest totem pole. Although completed in the mid 1960's, it was not raised until 1973. The Totem Pole was originally 173 feet, November 2007 during a Nimpkish Wind the top 10 feet fell to the ground. The above Postcard is out of print. There are several other post cards available at Alert Bay Drugs.



Alert Bay



The 'Namgis Health Centre offers a variety of services, some of them include: Doctor's Offices, Dental Clinic, Community Health Nurse, Counseling and much much more.



The Maya'anł is where the Elders gather during the week to talk and do various activities.



The 'Namgis Treatment Centre is a Drug and /or Alcohol Treatment Centre.



Our Cormorant Island Community Health Centre (Hospital). The move from the St. George's Hospital to the new building was made in March 2002.



The 'Namgis House formerly the Michael's Residential School was opened in 1929, to educate and house native children from the outlying areas in the region. It was one of the last Residential Schools to close in the early 1970's. The building was used as the 'Namgis First Nation administration office, however they have now moved to a new building. The 'Namgis House take down completed mid April, 2015.



This post card is the U'mista Cultural Centre. U'mista exhibits the Potlatch Collection as well as many other artifacts of the Kwakwaka'wakw. U'mista also has a well stocked gift shop. Summer Hours July 1 to Labour Day September Daily 9 AM to 5 PM. September to June Tuesday to Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM.



This post card of panels were carved by Doug Cranmer for the 1974 Expo in Japan where they formed the entrance to the BC Pavilion. U'mista now uses them as door panels. From left to right are the Thunderbird & Whale, Bear & Wren, Dzunukwa (wild woman of the woods), and a Mosquito with Humans who became Mosquitoes.



These two postcards depict just a couple of the beautiful artifacts that you will see at the U'mista Cultural Centre.



These and other postcards are available at the U'mista Gift shop.



The T'hisalagi'lakw School is owned and operated by the 'Namgis First Nation and categorized as an independent School. The School opened in this new location January 3, 1996. It goes from Nursery school up to grade 7.



This white building is the old Airplane Hangar and was once the Salmon Enhancement Building. It is now owned by Stan Hunt. Also near here was the late Jimmy Seaweed's saw mill.



This is the 'Namgis First Nation's Breakwater. It is also known as the "old breakwater" some of our band members use this as a place to dock their boats as well as mend their nets.





This was the House of Prayer also known as the Alert Bay Revival Centre.



This was the Old ABC building dated to c. 1949 which was formerly a company store for the net loft owned by the Anglo British Columbia Packing Company. Adjacent to the store were residences for the company's employees. It is now owned by the 'Namgis First Nation and used as a net loft by their band members.



Although this building has Nimpkish Development Processing Plant on the front door it is no longer used for this purpose. It is still however owned by the 'Namgis First Nation.



This building was the old power house for Alert Bay. It then became Bill Amos' garage. After that it then went on to be the Petro Canada Station. Now privately owned and Harmony Repairs are the current tenants.



This was at first an oil dock, then it became the Canadian Fishing Co. Office, then the fishermen use the dock to mend their nets. It is still owned by Canadian Fishing Co.



This is the Christ-Anglican Church est. 1892. Its first service was held on Christmas Day of 1892. The service was conducted in both English and in Kwakwala.



This building was first established as the Alert Bay Indian Day School in 1900, with Mrs. Paterson Hall, the Reverend Hall's wife, as its first teacher. During the Potlatch Trials of 1922, the building was temporarily co-opted as a lock-up for Kwakwaka'wakw elders accused of participating in the Village Island Potlatch. The Day School was eventually closed in 1947. In 1948 it was reopened as the Council Hall. It is now being used for various activities such as fundraising, meetings, workshops and community dinners. Booklet with more detailed history available at the Alert Bay Visitor Centre.



This is the Old Cranmer's Cafe/Store/Pool Hall, is now owned by Bill & Roy Cranmer with half of the building the Culture Shock Interactive Gallery. The building on bottom left was Bill's Café /Pool Hall/Laundromat unfortunately was lost to fire. New building on right still owned by Bill Cranmer.



This is the BC Ferry dock and waiting room, opened August 24, 2007, located in the middle of the Bay.



Marine Visitor Centre, Boat Harbour Office opened in 2011.



This sheltered stone wall protects our Boat Harbour known as the new Breakwater. Norman Wadhams is our Harbour Manager.



This building was constructed in 1870 as a fish saltery, than in 1881 became a fish cannery. In 1902, it was purchased by BC Packers they continued to can fish but eventually the building became a net loft for the BC Packer boat fleet. BC Packer pulled out of our community and the building was taken down January 2003.





This is Cormorant Island Petroleum was owned by Gilbert Popovich. It is taken down 2005.



This building is the Seine Boat Inn owned by Colin Ritchie.



This building was the Alert Bay Air Services building. It then became The Depot, a Sears outlet. It is now owned by David & Maureen Towers and is On the Beach (accommodation).



The Bayside Inn Hotel previously named Harbour Inn, unfortunately burned to the ground August 27, 1988. It was rebuilt and reopened again in May 1989. Hotel, Bayside Grill Cafe, Cold Beer & Wine 24H ATM.



This building started out as Shop Rite then it was Island Centre, now it is Shop Rite Stores once again. Also located in Shop Rite is RONA and Deli Department.



This the Alert Bay Drug Store owned by Paul Fletcher **24H ATM**



The Gilbert Popovich Memorial Town Square was started in 1987. It is a place where locals and visitors can sit and relax while looking out at the ocean. Also view Memorial Fountain for Gilbert Popovich former long time Mayor of the Village of Alert Bay.





Above is an old picture of the Village of Alert Bay Office and Alert Bay Fire hall. It is now the Alert Bay Visitor, Alert Bay Library-Museum.





This was the Customs House built in 1917, then it became the telegraph building, then Old Customs House Restaurant & Lodgings both of which are now closed. Owned by Bob & Maxine Williams.



This was British Columbia Provincial Police Lock-up (ex RCMP Building), then the Court House. Now it is a privately owned residence.



This was the old Forestry House then it became the Receiving Home. It is now privately owned residence.



This is the Columbia Court which is our Senior Citizens Housing Complex.



This is our RCMP Station. We have five RCMP officers stationed in Alert Bay.



On the right is the Village of Alert Bay Municipal Office. Open Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. They offer a number of services: [ICBC Auto and Driver Licensing 12 PM-4 PM](#), Photocopying and Faxing, etc. Also located in this building on the left is Canada Post Office. Its Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 PM.



This is our Government Liquor Store. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:30-6:00 PM.



This was Alert Bay Foods one of the grocery stores we had on our Island. It is now the Cook Shack owned by Vance Conway and Roberta Harris.



Vancity opened on May 20, 2015. Hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday 10:00 AM-3:30 PM **24H ATM**
Closed for lunch 11:30 AM-12:15 PM



This is our community hall built in the 1940's. Members of the community bought shares to build the community hall, so it was owned by everybody. It is now managed by the Village of Alert Bay. It is used for sports activities and different community events also in this building Lloyds Lanes (5 pin bowling alley).



We have two Tennis Courts and a Skate Board Park next to our Community Hall.



We also have a baseball diamond in the same area. Its grand opening was on July 1, 1996. Also at this location is the Annual Music Fest that ends Seafest weekend off.



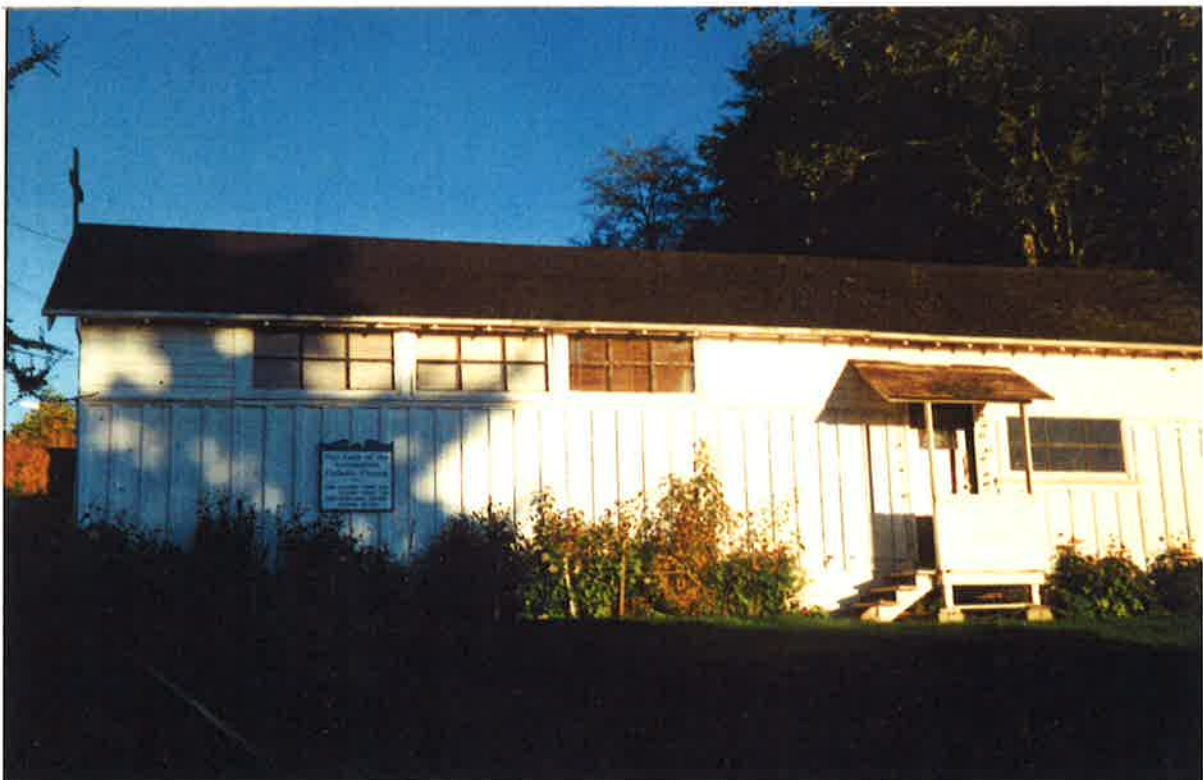
This is our Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, first service February 2015 after many years of being closed.



This is the Alert Bay Campground. Seasonal: April to October. It is \$22.00 per night for hookups and \$13.00 per night for tents. Our campsite is located next to the Ecological Park.



Our Roman Catholic Church had its first service on Easter Sunday, April 25, 1943. Today Alert Bay has many active Catholic members. It is also called our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church.





This is the St. George's Hospital (above) and Nurses' Residence (below). The first Hospital building was constructed in 1909, but suffered fire damage in 1923. A new Hospital was opened in 1925 (below). After World War II the R.C.A.F. Hospital in Fort Rupert was purchased and floated to Alert Bay in sections. It was placed behind the original hospital. The old Hospital building is now the Nurses' Residence. In January, 1947, the Columbia Coast Mission Hospital Society was taken over by the St. George's Hospital Society. The Hospital closed down March of 2002. June 10, 2004 St. George's Hospital (above) was lost to Fire.





The historic St. George's Hospital Chapel built in 1925, preserved in Honour of Mrs. Patterson Hall. The Chapel has been well preserved, the chairs, cushions, altar, and windows are all originals. **The chapel is now located next to the Anglican Church.** (see Historic Alert Bay Brochure for more details)





The Library/Museum was a Centennial Project in 1958 and was formally opened in February of 1959. The control of it was then transferred from the centennial committee to the Village Commissioners. It has small native art collection; it is mostly known for its extensive photograph collection, they have over 6,900 catalogued photographs of Alert Bay and area throughout the years. This building was taken down January 2000. In 1998, the Alert Bay Library-Museum moved next to the Alert Bay Visitor Centre.







These pictures are of the Totem Poles in our Original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. The 'Namgis First Nation asks that you view the Totem Poles from the road only. Thank you for your respect on this matter.





This is the Alert Bay Shipyards. The original shipyard was started in 1908 by Spencer and Huson, sons of one of Alert Bay's first settlers. Small structures have been added to it through the years. (see Historical Alert Bay brochure for more details) The Building is now privately owned.



This is the May House. The House was built in 1925-26 by Dick May for his German bride. Dick May used to operate a machine shop that was built adjacent to the Shipyards. Since the road did not extend this far the move was made by boat.



This is the BlueLine Super Market. This was one of the grocery stores we had on our Island. Now Cormorant Community Health Centre Thrift Store, The Showroom Project-Movies, Art & More....



This use to be the old Shell Gulf Oil Dock it is now Hooked on Seafood, where you can buy fresh and frozen seafood, it is owned by Fred Jolliffe Jr it is now closed. This is now privately owned.



This store was owned by Mr. & Mrs. EddieWong. They sold dry goods, part of the store was their son Chuck Wong's Alert Bay Electronics & Video Store now closed. Privately owned by Chuck Wong.



This used to be a Power House, then it was owned by BC Hydro, then the Village of Alert Bay rented the space from them for our Public Works department. It is now closed but still owned by BC Hydro.



This building was the Cormorant Island Recycling Centre, before that it was the Alert Bay Pile Driving Company. The Recycling Centre has since moved to a different location. The building is now privately owned.



This is the former Methodist Church its structure was built in 1913. The building became the United Church, in 1946 it was taken over by the Pentecostal Mission. It is now a privately owned residence.

This is the Orca Inn. Part of the building use to be the old Royal Cafe and Bing Toy now it is a Hotel-Restaurant-Pub and Cold Beer & Wine Store all closed at this time.



This use to be the Forty-K Taxi Stand. It is the oldest taxi company in Alert Bay. It has been in business since the early 1940's. The business now moved to a different location. Building has been taken down.



This is the Nimpkish Hotel, built in 1920, on 'Namgis First Nation land. The original owners were Moses Alfred and the McJanets. When they tried to apply for a liquor license it was rejected, as it was on First Nation land. Moses sold his share to the McJanets and they decided to load the building onto a barge and float it to its present location. The McJanets then received a liquor license. Now open as an Accommodation only.



This was a service station we had on our Island. It is the Britmech Marine Station owned by Fred Dobson. It is now a privately owned and renovated as a residence.



This is the Fire Hall it was completed in 1986. The old Fire Hall was the Alert Bay Visitor Centre and is now the Alert Bay Library. Kane Gordon is our local Fire Chief. There are 20 volunteer Firemen in our community.



This is the Bay Theatre it was built in 1951. It was taken down November 2003. Lot is privately owned and was rebuilt as a residence.



This building was formerly the Alert Bay United Church constructed from a pan abode kit. The Church was built in 1961 with a loan plus a grant from the Board of Home Missions to replace the building ceded to the Pentecostal Mission. During much of the 1980's, the Church was without a resident Minister. The congregation was served until 1989, by Reverend Don Eisner, who would fly his own small plane to various communities such as Alert Bay and the Mahatta River to provide services and religious counseling. Nonetheless, by the latter part of the decade the congregation had dwindled to a mere trickle and the United Church decided to pull out of Alert Bay altogether. Renovations for the conversion of the Church into an accommodation took place in 1991. It is now the Alert Bay Lodge owned by Midnight Sun Travel.

