

**Statement of Significance**  
**Caulfeild Park**  
**West Vancouver, BC**  
**May 2008**

**Historic Place**

The historic place comprises Caulfeild Park and the foreshore of Caulfeild Cove in West Vancouver. Caulfeild Park is a 3.6-hectare linear waterfront park (approximately 1 km long), which is separated from Lighthouse Park by a lone waterfront residence. The park contains both built and natural features of value. Built features include the Caulfeild Cove public wharf, the oval lawn of Caulfeild Green, and a historic anchor monument to Sir Francis Caulfeild (who gave the park to the community). Numerous trails and bridges draw people along the length of the park and down to the smooth, south-sloping, rocky shoreline, which is unusual in shape and geology in the Vancouver region. The shoreline is edged with a rare plant community representing the driest sub-zone of the Coastal Western Hemlock zone. The park is popular for its tranquil character and its views across Caulfeild Cove, overlooking Burrard Inlet toward Point Grey.

**Heritage Value**

The historic place has considerable historical value. The significance of Caulfeild Cove and the park foreshore begins with its role as a transportation aid to early development in Burrard Inlet, when it served as a safe haven for pilot boats piloting deep-sea ships past the sandy shoals of Burrard inlet. Later the cove was the place where Francis William Caulfeild, a well-to-do Englishman, landed in 1898 and fell in love with the unspoiled wilderness of rocky coast and forest. He determined to build a community – one of the earliest settlements in West Vancouver – in the style of an ideal English village, with village green, ivy-covered church, and narrow winding lanes following the contours of the land. During the first years of the community, the Cove served as the point of entry as lots were offered for sale. Development followed with the foreshore serving as the main access, meeting place, and point of material transport for the community. With no roads or rail line until around 1915, the Cove, with its dock and its combined pilot house, store and mail room, was the hospitable centre of the developing community. After 1915, rail, and later road, access sped development and changed the role of the Cove into a more recreational one.

Caulfeild Park and the foreshore also have considerable environmental value, which was protected by the vision and actions of Francis Caulfeild. He preserved the foreshore in its mostly natural condition as a public park. Today, Caulfeild Park is valued not only as a beautiful place for recreation, but also for its natural heritage, with its rare and endangered environmental features. It has further

value for being the object of ongoing efforts of the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society, which takes a keen interest in preserving the endangered vegetation and habitat in Caulfeild and Lighthouse Parks, and which represents the interest in conservation shown by West Vancouver residents.

The recreational and environmental values of the park are unique and are sometimes at odds with one another. This is a historic place to access the water, soak in the sun and views, ponder the mysteries of geology on the smooth, glacier-worn rock, and discover delicate and rare plants not seen elsewhere in Vancouver. The rocks are used by geology researchers in understanding the processes of granitization and metamorphism. Swimming, clambering along the shore, and social gatherings are common activities in the Park. The area is a popular destination for outdoor weddings as well as youth parties and fires. As more is discovered about the rare habitat of the park, it also becomes more highly valued for its natural heritage, as a place for environmental learning, research and is becoming the focus of environmental protection efforts.

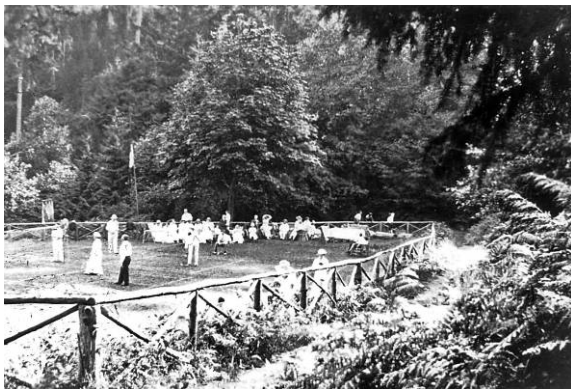
Mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century life in Caulfeild Cove was brought to life by cartoonist Len Norris, who patterned the people and foibles of a fictional place he called Tiddly Cove on Caulfeild Cove. Tiddly Cove's folk were depicted as dotty and slightly out-of-touch residents living an idyllic and humorous semblance of the British lifestyle in the BC wilderness.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The character-defining elements of Caulfeild Park include:

- Caulfeild Park's location next to Lighthouse Park, which contributes to Greater Vancouver's most significant stretch of undeveloped waterfront.
- The park's rare vegetation, which represents the driest sub-zone of the Coastal Western Hemlock zone, and which is very much like the Coastal Douglas Fir zone of the Gulf islands; it features vegetation such as arbutus, camas lilies, fawn lily, chocolate lily, and pine more commonly seen in the Gulf Islands.
- The smooth, glacier-sculpted, rocky shore, which presents a unique combination of geological features. Caulfeild Gneiss is representative of the oldest rocks in the Vancouver area and this geology is well displayed in the textures and patterns of the smooth rock.
- The park's historic function as a landing place for people arriving by boat, which is still evidenced by the public dock. Now under municipal ownership, the dock retains its traditional red colour by popular demand and is used by people launching kayaks and arriving by small recreational vessels.

- The oval lawn of Caulfeild Green in front of the wood church of St. Francis; the lawn has been used for badminton, picnics and play since the early 1900s.
- Individual built and planted features in the Park, including the monument and anchor, the remnant orchard trees in the open lawn at the centre of the Park, the trails, and the bridges.



**Source**

(West Vancouver Archives, West Vancouver Archives collection. 72N41.WVA.DOC, Len Norris cartoon of lawn bowling club, [197-].)