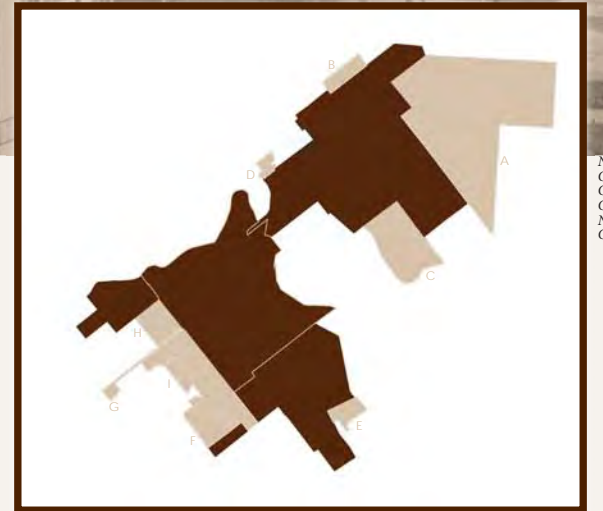


A walk through time... 1986-1995

Growth On The East Side. Construction focused on the east side of the Courtenay River now booms, with the Canadian Tire store, the Superstore plaza, North Island College, Christ the King church, Courtenay Middle School (now Queneesh) and Valley View schools, and Crown Isle Golf Resort and Community all created in this decade.



North Island College Construction | Courtesy of North Island College

Population: 11,698 (in 1991)

Map: Dark brown areas represent the City boundary as it was in 1985. Lighter shaded areas show areas that were added to the City between 1986 and 1995.

BUILDING THE RIVERWAY GREENWAY

The vision of the Riverway Walk goes back to the days of Mayor George Hobson when he negotiated the City's purchase of the original Comox Logging and Railway right-of-way. He imagined it as a basic corridor along the river that could be enjoyed by all. This vision was put into action in about 1986 with construction beginning around the recently decommissioned sewer lagoon. The existing berm provided a walk along the river estuary and the recently constructed airport property. It has been constructed in several stages; first to the south, and then north. Since that time many negotiations have taken place with the property owners along the river trading pieces of private property for right-of-way property which enabled the riverway route to follow the river as closely as possible enhancing the beauty of the walk. The Riverway now extends from 6th Street south to Sandpiper Drive. Interpretive signage has been provided along the route informing those interested in the history of the river.



GROWTH ON THE EAST SIDE

The plans to construct Ryan Road to provide a link connecting the Old Island Highway to the airport commenced in the early 1960's. It was done in two major stages; the first stage was from the Old Island Highway to Back Road, and after much delay and planning, it was completed joining up to the existing Ryan Road at Anderton Road in 1971. This opened up major development in east Courtenay and became a vital link in the valley's transportation system.



Following the completion of Ryan Road, development marched eastward with Canadian Tire, Superstore Plaza, North Island College, and two new schools: Valley View Elementary and Courtenay Junior Secondary, now Mark Isfeld Secondary.



This decade also saw the commencement and growth of a vision in the development of 871 acres in East Courtenay. This property lies east of Lerwick Rd. on both sides of Ryan Rd. Crown Isle Resort & Golf Community became a reality. The centre piece is a 18 Hole, Par 72, Championship Golf Course, designed by Graham Cooke & Associates. The real estate development includes Single Family homes, Semi-Detached Patio Homes, Condominiums, and Quarter Ownership Villas. The hub of the resort for Crown Isle residents and guests is the 48000 square foot Club House, with dining and conference facilities and Pro Shop. The Crown Isle development includes several commercial properties, some of which have recently been developed as Costco, and the Crown Isle Shopping Centre (Thrifty's complex).

CITY HALL BURNS DOWN

In the early morning hours of July 2, 1995, the City of Courtenay suffered a devastating loss when the City Hall caught fire through a callous act of vandalism by an unknown individual. The Tudor styled building had housed the municipal offices since 1952, when the former B.C. Police Headquarters was completely renovated. It served the City well and underwent several additions. The valiant effort of the fire department saved all of the building contents, but it was deemed necessary to demolish it due to its age. Prior to the fire, the City had purchased the building and property immediately south of the City Hall. This building, the former Corfield Motors Garage, had been renovated into a two storey office block. Following the fire, the decision was made to remodel the building to accommodate the City Hall for the immediate future. It was officially opened October 25, 1996, along with improved parking and gardens. A plaque commemorating the former City Hall was placed in the gardens.



Evergreen Club Activities. RIGHT: Boomer Jerritt Photo Courtesy of InFocus Magazine. BOTTOM: Courtesy of the Evergreen Club



FLORENCE FILBERG CENTRE & THE EVERGREEN CLUB

In the 1970's the CRA saw a need and began providing programs for seniors and a Seniors Lounge was opened in the Civic Theatre complex (where the Sid Williams Theatre is now). Demand grew meaning that more space was needed and the lower Native Sons Hall was used for this purpose. Eventually the idea of a dedicated building took hold. Cooperation between the City, the community and the seniors themselves led to the opening of the Florence Filberg Centre on Anderton Avenue on July 10, 1988. Owned and operated by the City, the Centre has become the location of a range of community meetings and activities, from Seedy Saturday to federal elections. But it is best known as the home of the Evergreen Seniors Club which now has over 2500 members who enjoy the Evergreen Lounge, a monthly newsletter, and whole host of activities and events.

