

GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY

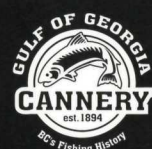
National Historic Site

Situated atop wooden pilings over the Fraser River where mountains of fish once crowded the receiving dock, you can smell the sea and hear the lap of waves beneath the Cannery floorboards. Fishing, as any old-timer will tell you, has a way of hooking you for life.

Built in 1894 in the historic fishing village of Steveston, the Cannery was the largest building of its kind and the leading producer of canned salmon in British Columbia. It stopped canning in the 1930s but remained active as a net loft, fish depot and later as a herring reduction plant.

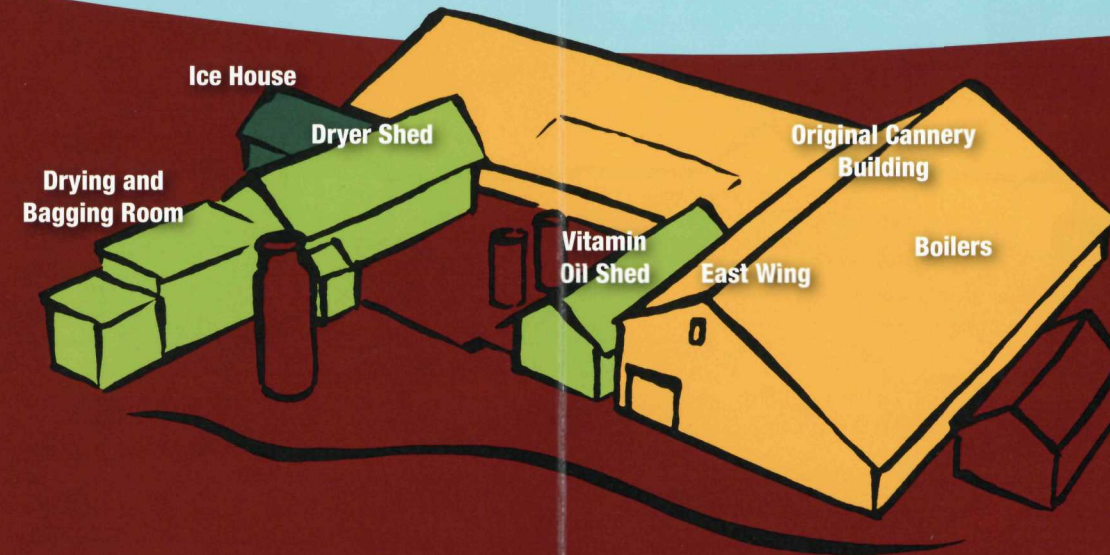
After the Gulf of Georgia Cannery ceased operations, the local community lobbied various levels of government to preserve the building due to its significant contribution to Canadian history. In 1979 it was transferred to Parks Canada. Development of the site began in the early 1990s and the first phase opened to the public in 1994.

The site is now fully restored and operated by the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, an independent non-profit society established in 1986 with the mandate to preserve and promote the history of Canada's West Coast fishing industry. Key exhibits include a functioning salmon canning line that presents both the social and technological history of the canning industry, a herring reduction plant and a flexible exhibit space.



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For more information on upcoming events and programs, facility rentals, birthday parties and membership please visit www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com or call 604-664-9009.



CANNERY BUILDING CHRONOLOGY

- 1894** The original L-shaped Cannery Building was constructed to house one manual canning line and a butchering shed. Many adaptations were made to the building over the years to accommodate the changing needs of the industry.
- 1897** The East Wing was built to provide additional space for packing and a seasonal living area.
- 1906** With the arrival of the Iron Butcher, the West Wing that originally housed the butchering shed was converted to net storage.
- 1932** The Cannery's original west wing was demolished by a windstorm and never replaced.
- 1940-41** The roofline was raised to accommodate an additional boiler.
- 1943** The Ice House was built to provide ice for the Canadian Fishing Company fleet.
- 1940-64** Various additions and modifications were made to the building to accommodate the herring reduction process including the construction of the Vitamin Oil Shed (1940) and the Dryer Shed (1948), raising the roof of the original building to accommodate the evaporator, and the construction of the drying and bagging room (1964).
- 1979** The Gulf of Georgia Cannery ceases operations.
- 1994** The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, commemorating the history of the commercial fishing industry on Canada's West Coast, opens to the public.



Gulf of Georgia Cannery
National Historic Site
www.parkscanada.gc.ca

Explore!

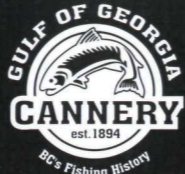
Visitor Site Map



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



WELCOME TO THE CANNERY

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of Canada's West Coast fishing history by joining a guided tour or exploring at your own pace.



Canning Line

Peugh salmon at the receiving dock and follow its journey along the line to discover how the canning process works. Explore the lives of the people who worked at the Cannery.



Herring Reduction Plant

Tour the herring reduction plant and learn how herring is turned into fishmeal and fish oil. Discover equipment that was adapted from the wine, dairy and pulp and paper industry to be used in this process.

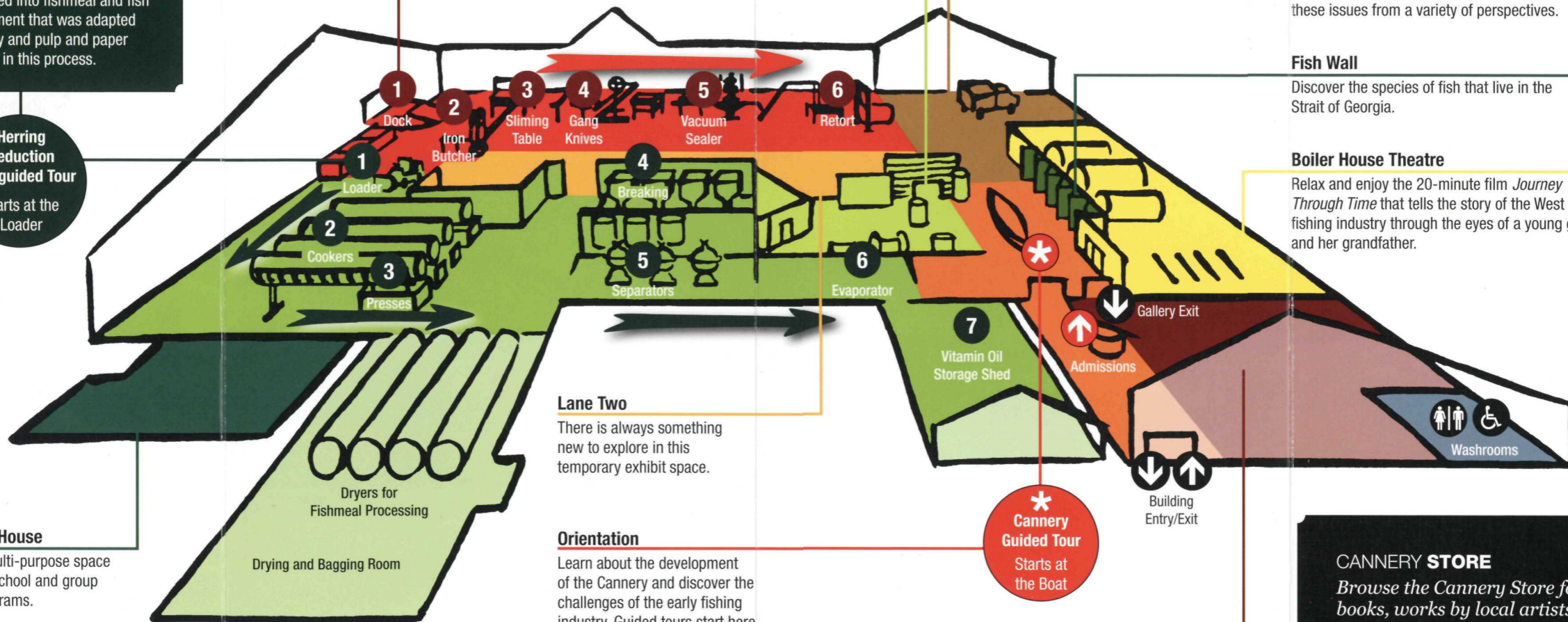


Herring Reduction Self-guided Tour

Starts at the Loader

Canning Line Self-guided Tour

Starts at the Dock



Lane Two

There is always something new to explore in this temporary exhibit space.

Orientation

Learn about the development of the Cannery and discover the challenges of the early fishing industry. Guided tours start here.



Fishing the West Coast

Imagine you are a seine boat captain by exploring the wheelhouse of a contemporary seine boat and learn about the techniques used in modern fishing.



Contemporary Fishing Issues

The modern fishing industry continues to struggle with issues from over-fishing, aquaculture, pollution and fishing rights – take a moment to consider these issues from a variety of perspectives.



Fish Wall

Discover the species of fish that live in the Strait of Georgia.



Boiler House Theatre

Relax and enjoy the 20-minute film *Journey Through Time* that tells the story of the West Coast fishing industry through the eyes of a young girl and her grandfather.



Ice House

A multi-purpose space for school and group programs.

CANNERY STORE

Browse the Cannery Store for unique books, works by local artists and even the Gulf of Georgia Cannery's own private label sockeye salmon.

