

The Victoria & Vancouver Island Travel and Tourism Guide TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Over the next few months, we are going to feature articles that highlight the eastern shore of Vancouver Island and the North half of the Island. Qualicum is central to Island travel and a great place to start your adventures.

Bullets Over Qualicum

Heritage Cottage, Qualicum Beach BC, rich in regional history

by Ron Kirstein, Edited by Lisa Cole and Linda Kirstein

What do "Bullets" Johnson, Naval Commander Sunderland, Brigadier General Money, and I have in common? Our connection is Heritage Cottage in Qualicum Beach, on Vancouver Island British Columbia, and the beautiful property it is on. "Bullets" Johnson was a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman who was wounded a dozen times or so in bank holdups and gun battles. He retired as an RCMP Superintendent and was one of the more colorful residents of Heritage Cottage. Brigadier General Noel Money was the original owner of the land Heritage Cottage is built on. Naval Commander Ian Sunderland and his wife Nancy owned the house during the 70's. I stayed there for one memorable night recently. Thank goodness the bullets stopped flying over Qualicum Beach many years ago. The average age of Qualicum residents is currently 60 years, so Qualicum has grown up and calmed down.



Heritage Cottage
Photo by Ron Kirstein

Heritage Cottage and the lands around it are ripe with history and in the centre of Qualicum Beach. Hal and Jody Vogler have incorporated the history of the cottage and the area as a theme for their B&B. The cottage has been restored true to the vintage of the home. It is decorated with a historical theme and showcases many antiques that reflect the history.

When you go, be sure to ask Hal & Jody about the history of [Heritage Cottage](#).

The Memorial Golf Course is two minutes away, the Beach is just down the hill, and the town centre is only a few blocks up the hill. My first impression of Heritage Cottage was from a photo on a web page and it looked like a small cottage. I was truly wrong. The rooms are spacious and provide a feeling of calmness and serenity. The cottage radiates comfort and warmth and it's decorated with soft colors, making it very appealing. It has hardwood floors and it is fabulously decorated.

We arrive late in the afternoon. Hal and Jody greet us at the front door. They escort us to our room first, then provide us with a tour of the Bed and Breakfast and the beautiful grounds. It's evident very early on that Hal and Jody are determined to set their B&B apart from others by paying special attention to the needs of their guests. They give new meaning to going the extra mile. Upon arriving we'd noticed two antique cars in the parking area. Hal uses them to pick up guests who arrive by train, bus, or plane. Bikes and fishing rods are available for guests to use. The rooms are full of special features and amenities, such as: gas fireplaces, under-floor radiant heating, double sound-proofing for extra privacy, private patios, cable TV, ensuite baths with soaker tubs and showers, fine linens, feather duvets, individual robes, and quality toiletries.



Hal and Jody Vogler your Hosts at HC
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage



The French Creek Room
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage

When we return from dinner, there are two glasses of sherry and Bernard Callebaut chocolates waiting for us. A carafe of ice water is also sitting on our table. Outside our room is a common area with comfy couches, a chess board set up and ready to go, fresh homemade baking, and self-serve drinks. Soft music is playing.

As someone who makes a living in tourism, I'm hard-pressed to think of anything that's missing. There's even a special space to set our luggage, room in the bathroom for our toiletries, lots of mirrors and other small touches - like fresh air spray in the bathroom and a Dixie cup dispenser. Each room also has a cute outside seating area.

We awake the next morning to the incredible aroma of breakfast cooking. When we arrive at the dining area, we see that our breakfast menu is posted on a quaint chalk board sitting on an easel. The breakfast is gourmet, delicious, and as special as the accommodations and hosting.

Jody is an excellent cook and we encourage her to complete the cook book she is working on. As breakfast unfolds, we get to know the other couple staying here, as well as their son. The experience of sharing breakfast with people from different places and different backgrounds is what Bed and Breakfasts are all about. It's what sets B&B's apart from other types of accommodations.

Hal and Jody demonstrate their knowledge of the area and direct us to places to eat, activities to take part in, and sites to see. Qualicum Beach is abundant with activities and attractions. Qualicum has lots of great walking trails and many are close to [Heritage Cottage](#). There are also six golf courses in the area and on this trip we take advantage of one of the best, Arrowsmith Golf Course. We like it because it is executive length and the course doesn't beat us up. It is well maintained and very scenic with Mount Arrowsmith as a backdrop. Qualicum is a golfer's Mecca.

We leave Qualicum knowing that we have found one of the [better B&B's on Vancouver Island](#). My only disappointment is that I didn't get to the Coombs Country Market for an ice



Hal and one of his Antique Cars
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage



The Dining Area for breakfast
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage



Golf at beautiful Arrowsmith GC

cream cone and that I couldn't have a drink with "Bullets" Johnson.



The beautiful gardens at the cottage
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage



Outdoor breakfast area
Photo Courtesy of Heritage Cottage



Pheasant Glen Golf Course also in the shadow of
Arrowsmith
Photo by Ron Kirstein



Sunset at Qualicum Bay
Photo by Ron Kirstein

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