

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.

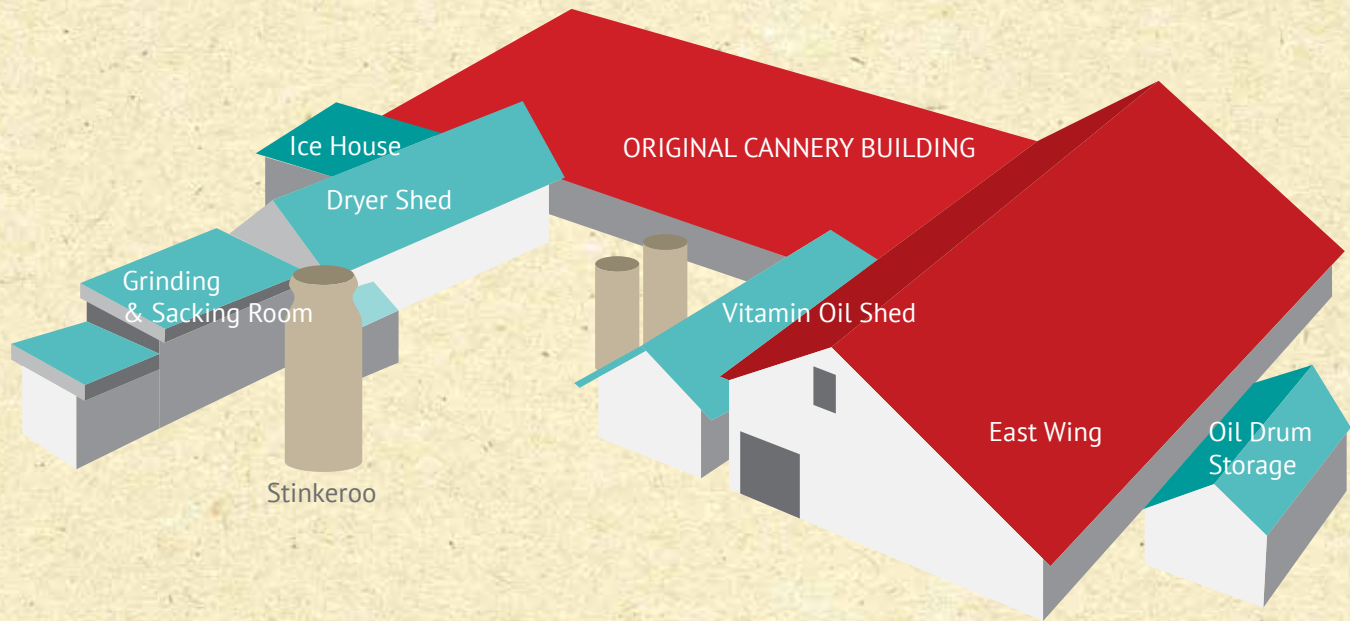
After the Gulf of Georgia Cannery ceased operations, the local community lobbied various levels of government to preserve the building due to its significant contribution to Canadian history. The Cannery was declared a national historic site in 1976, and in 1984 it was transferred to Parks Canada. Development of the site began in the late 1980s 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 mission to preserve and promote the history of Canada's West Coast fishing industry. Key exhibits include a historic salmon canning line that presents both the social and technological history of the canning industry, a herring reduction plant and a feature exhibit space.

For more information on upcoming events and programs, facility rentals, birthday parties, and memberships, please visit www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.org or call 604.664.9009.



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Cannery Building Chronology

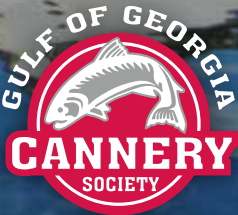
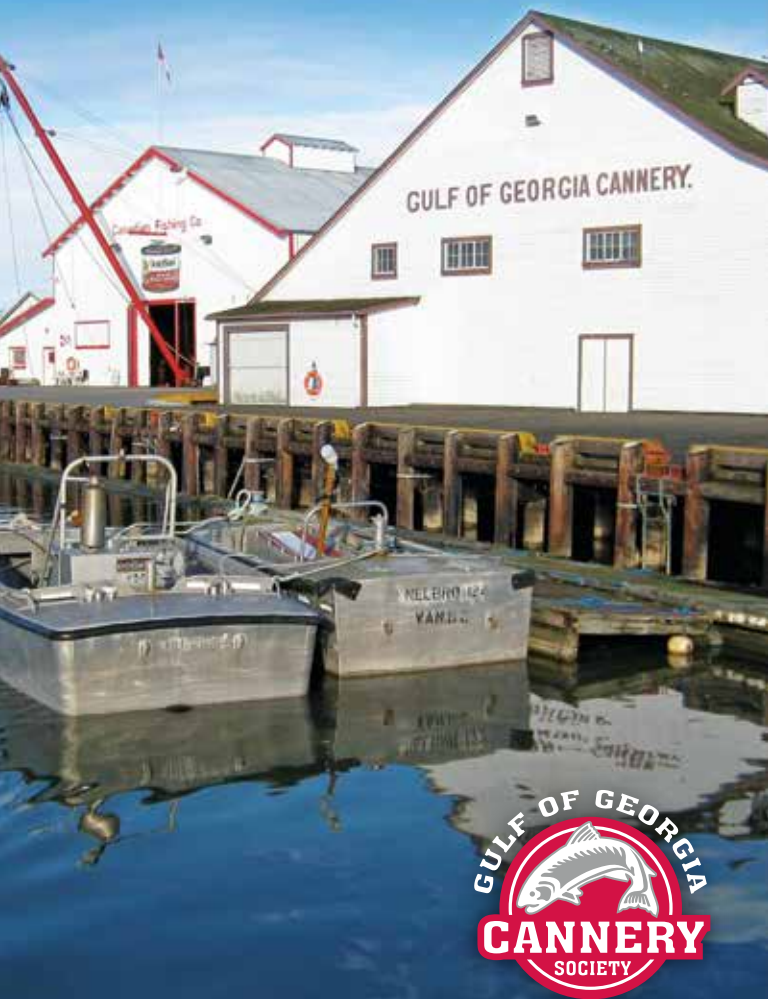
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| <p>1894 The original L-shaped Cannery Building was constructed to house one manual canning line and a butchering shed. Many adaptations were made to the building over the years to accommodate the changing needs of the industry.</p> <p>1897 The East Wing was built to provide additional space for packing and a seasonal living area.</p> <p>1906 With the arrival of the Iron Butcher, the West Wing that originally housed the butchering shed was converted to net storage.</p> <p>1932 The Cannery's original West Wing was demolished by a windstorm and never replaced.</p> <p>1939 The net loft building (next to the Cannery site) was constructed to house seine and gillnets.</p> | <p>1943 The Ice House was built to supply ice for the Canadian Fishing Company fleet.</p> <p>1940-64 Various additions and modifications were made to the building to accommodate the herring reduction process. This included the construction of the Vitamin Oil Shed, Dryer Shed, Grinding and Sacking Room, Tank Deck, and Oil Drum Storage. The roof of the building was also raised to accommodate the evaporators.</p> <p>1979 The Gulf of Georgia Cannery herring reduction plant ceased operations.</p> <p>1994 The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, commemorating the history of the commercial fishing industry on Canada's West Coast, opened to the public.</p> |
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Gulf of Georgia
Cannery
National Historic Site

Lieu historique national
Gulf of Georgia
Cannery

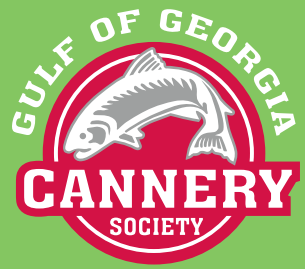
Visitor Map



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada



Welcome to the Cannery

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of Canada's West Coast fishing inside the historic cannery building built in 1894. Explore the exhibits including the Salmon Canning Line, Herring Reduction Plant, and Fishing the West Coast gallery, all with unique stories to share.



Fish Bins



Canning Line



Wooden Skiff

Canning Line

Follow the path of the salmon from the receiving floor and along the canning line to discover how the process worked. Explore the stories of the people who worked in the cannery communities.



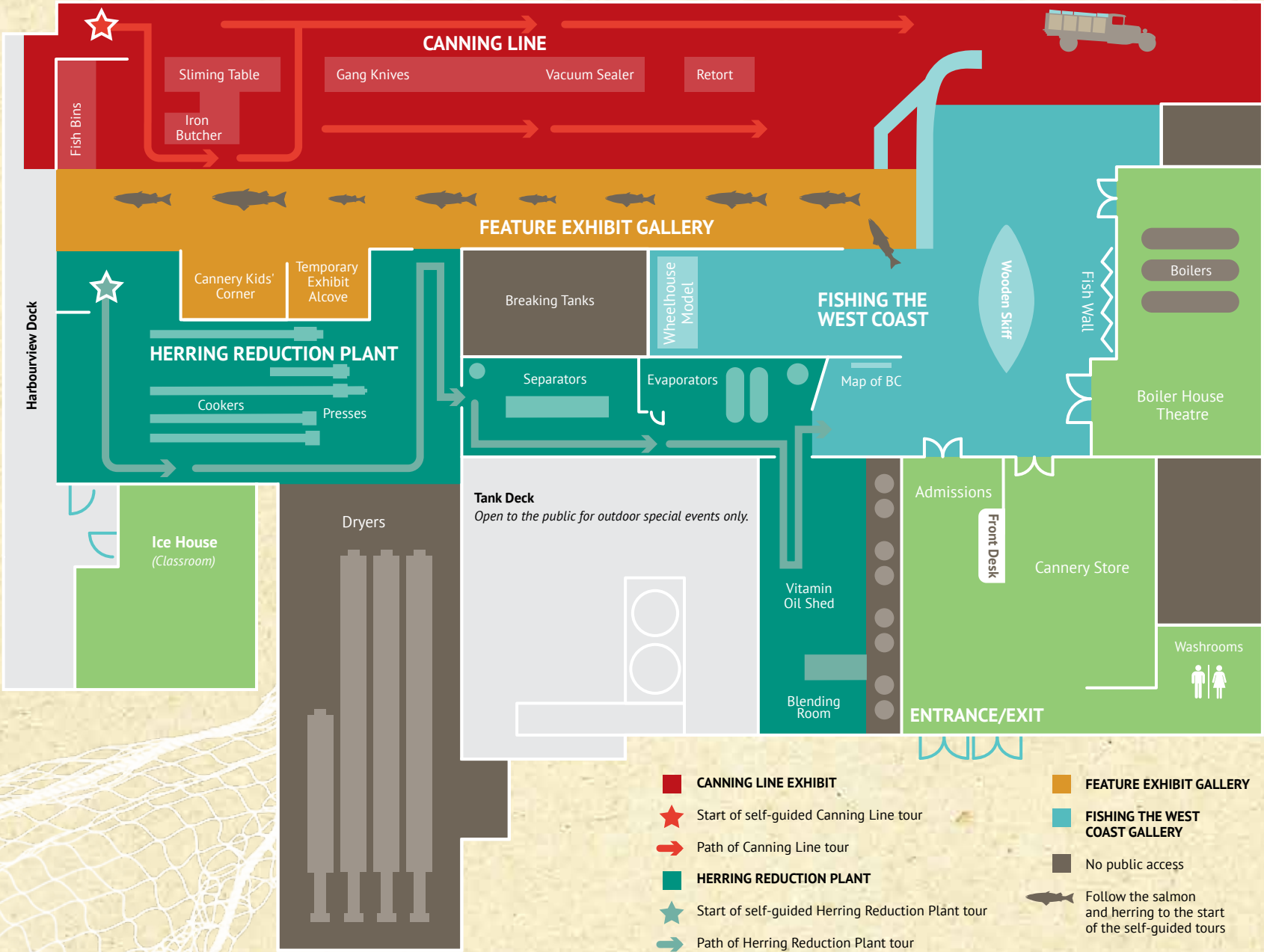
Canning Line

Herring Reduction Plant

Tour the Herring Reduction Plant, which was in operation from the 1940s to 1979. Learn how herring was turned into fish meal and vitamin-rich fish oil.



Herring Reduction Plant



Fishing the West Coast

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



Wheelhouse Model

Fish Wall

Discover the local commercial species that live in the waters of Canada's west coast.



Cannery Store

Visit the Cannery Store for unique souvenirs, books, and gift items with local themes.

