



British Columbia Community Profile...

Parksville

Overview

The growing community of Parksville is centrally located on the eastern shores of Vancouver Island, 37 km north of Nanaimo and the ferry terminals to British Columbia's mainland. The city's easy access to major transportation links has helped to make it both a thriving place to do business as well as a popular vacation destination. Residents enjoy the community's year-round mild climate and spectacular landscape including beautiful beaches, mountains, lakes and rivers. In 2000, the United Nations recognized the Parksville region (known as Oceanside), as one of only seven Biospheres in Canada, based on marine, alpine and meadow ecosystems co-existing in a small geographic area.

Accessibility

Parksville is accessible by highway and regular bus and rail service. The Qualicum Beach Airport, located nearby, offers regularly scheduled flights to Vancouver and other locations on Vancouver Island. The nearest major centre is Nanaimo, 30 km (approx. 40 minutes) south by road. Victoria, the provincial capital, is 150 km (2 1/2 hours) to the south. Regular ferry service to the British Columbia mainland is available through Nanaimo and Victoria.

History

Vancouver Island's southeastern coast has been inhabited by the Coast Salish First Nations people for thousands of years. The Coast Salish had villages and settlements extending from Victoria to Campbell River when Captain George Vancouver explored the area's coast in 1792. Parksville was established in 1910, when the E & N Railroad first stopped at McBride Junction, as it was then known. The town was named in honour of Nelson Parks, its original settler and postmaster.





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Economy

Fishing and forestry have historically been the mainstays of the local economy, however these have been surpassed by tourism over the last decade. Construction is also an important source of employment in the area.

Population Profile

The population of the city of Parksville is 10,993 part of a total catchment area of 25,000. The median age of the population here is 49.6 compared to 38.4 in the province as a whole reflecting the area's popularity with retirees.

Climate

Parksville is located on the sheltered eastern shores of Vancouver Island and experiences a mild, sunny, relatively dry climate due to its sea-level elevation and protected location. The average temperature in January is 4.7 degrees Celsius and in July, 23.5 degrees. Parksville and the neighbouring community of Qualicum receive among the lowest average annual rainfall levels on Vancouver Island (95 cm).

Housing

The average cost of a single family home in Parksville is \$300,000. The average monthly rental cost of a two-bedroom apartment is approximately \$1000.

Education/Daycare

Parksville is home to 9 elementary schools (Kindergarten to grade 5), 3 middle schools (Grades 6 – 8) and 3 secondary schools (Grades 9 – 12) and French immersion programming is offered. A variety of daycare services are available for small children. The community is also home to a local campus of Malaspina University College which offers career and academic planning programs, community education and an exceptional Eldercollege program, boasting over 600 members.



British Columbia Community Profile...

Parksville

Recreation

Recreational facilities in the Parksville area include golf courses, a playground, tennis courts, ballparks, a lacrosse box, and a community ice complex. Parksville beach offers beautiful views as well as swimming and sandcastle building. Nearby Rath Trevor Provincial Park has hiking trails that wind through evergreen forests and lead to sandstone tide pools teeming with marine creatures.

The Parksville area has an abundant variety of service clubs, sports clubs, hobby groups and special interest clubs for all ages. In addition the community hosts a wide range of community and regional events including the Polar Bear Swim, the Parksville Beach Festival, the Brandt Wildlife Festival and more.

Bordered by ocean and mountains, and in close proximity to numerous provincial parks, Parksville is an ideal setting for outdoor recreational activities including golfing, windsurfing, kayaking, boating, fishing, hiking and mountain biking.

Culture

There is a lively arts community in the Parksville area that includes painters, weavers, sculptors, glass blowers and other artisans. The Station Gallery at the Parksville Train Station and the People's Gallery in downtown feature work by local artists.

Services and Amenities

There are two shopping areas in the City of Parksville - a downtown core and an indoor mall, and the community enjoys a local transit system. There is a good selection of shopping, from chain outlets to locally owned grocery stores, small department stores, clothing stores, boutiques, drug stores, hardware stores, restaurants and more. High speed Internet service is available.

Places of worship in the Parksville area serve the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Christian Science, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Reformed, Salvation Army and United faiths.



British Columbia Community Profile...

Parksville

Health Authority

Parksville is part of the Central Island health service delivery areas of Vancouver Island Health. Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) provides healthcare services that include acute care facilities, mental health & addictions, environmental and public health, home, and community care. For comprehensive information on Vancouver Island Health Authority, visit their website (see Internet References below).

Internet References

VancouverIsland.com

[http:// www.vancouverisland.com/regions/](http://www.vancouverisland.com/regions/)

Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce

www.chamber.parksville.bc.ca

City of Parksville

www.city.parksville.bc.ca

Oceanside Tourism Association

www.oceansidetourism.com

Statistics Canada (Community demographic information)

<http://www.statcan.ca>

Vancouver Island Health Authority

[http:// www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca)

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