



British Columbia Community Profile...

Sayward

Overview

The quiet, rural community of Sayward is located 74 kilometres north of Campbell River on the east coast of Vancouver Island, on the beautiful inside passage of the Johnstone Strait. Although the town's economy has traditionally been driven by the forestry industry, efforts are under way to diversify. Surrounded by rugged mountain peaks, lush forests, sparkling rivers and ocean vistas, Sayward offers numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation including sport fishing, boating, caving, hiking and kayaking.

Accessibility

Sayward is accessible by primarily by Highway 19, which serves the east coast of Vancouver Island from Victoria to Port Hardy. The nearest commercial airport with regular flights is located in Campbell River, a major centre, 76 km (approx. 1 hour) to the south. The capital city of Victoria is a 336 km (4 ½ hour) drive to the south.

Sayward is also home to the only Federal Wharf and Small Craft Harbour on the Johnstone Strait. Cruise ships, recreational and commercial vessels travel this section of the inside passage en route to Alaska and destinations south.

History

First settled in the 1890s, the village of Sayward was named in 1911 after William Parsons Sayward, a carpenter and lumber merchant. When the first settlers arrived, there was a small First Nations village nearby. By 1917, the village was empty and today the reserve is unoccupied, with most of the descendants living in nearby communities. The newer Village of Sayward was established as a town site to house the forestry company, MacMillan Bloedel's employees and was incorporated in 1968.





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Economy

Forestry, commercial fishing and aquaculture are the main sources of employment in Sayward. Agriculture also plays a role in the community. The manufacturing, aquaculture, tourism and marine sector are seen to have growth potential for the future.

Population

The population of the Village of Sayward is 410 people with a median age of 41.6, compared to 38.4 for the province as a whole. There is an additional population of approximately 600 people in the outlying areas, also considered to be part of the Sayward community.

Climate

Sayward's moderate climate is typical of Vancouver Island's east coast. There is significant rainfall during the winter months but minimal snowfall. Summer months are warm and dry. The average summer temperature is 14 degrees Celsius, while the average winter temperature is 3 degrees. Each year, Sayward receives an average of 1,870 mm of rainfall and 72 cm of snowfall.

Housing

A variety of housing options are available in Sayward including condominiums, single-family homes, farms and acreages. A three-bedroom house in Sayward ranges in price from \$185,000–220,000, and a 2-bedroom apartment rents for approximately \$600 per month.

Education/Daycare

There is a combined elementary and junior secondary school in Sayward, offering Grades 1 to 9 as well as a nursery school with a licensed pre-school program. Students in Grades 10 to 12 are required to take the bus to Campbell River each day.



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Recreation

The Kelsey Recreation Centre in the Village of Sayward has a 17-metre indoor pool, saunas and a hot tub, gym, weight room and two meeting rooms. The park in the Village has a playing field with two baseball diamonds. Provincial parks and numerous forestry campgrounds are within close proximity. Mount Cain, an hour and a half drive away, provides downhill and cross-country skiing in winter and hiking during the summer.

Sayward is said to be one of Vancouver Island's best-kept secrets with its spectacular views and expanses of natural beauty. Rugged mountain peaks, old and second growth forests, clear rivers and the waters of Johnstone Strait surround the community. Recreational opportunities include sport fishing, wildlife viewing, scuba diving, caving, boating, horseback riding, and hunting. Also popular are hiking, swimming, canoeing, white water rafting, and kayaking.

Culture

Sayward Celebrates its Harvest Fall Fair on the first weekend in October, and Art in the Park on the second weekend in July.

Services and Amenities

A small and friendly community, Sayward offers residents a variety of services and amenities including a grocery store, an automatic teller machine, antique stores, a beauty salon, restaurants, and a library. Fresh seafood is often available from one or more boats tied up at the federal wharf. A wider range of services and amenities are readily accessible in Campbell River, a major centre an hour's drive to the south.

Places of worship in Sayward include the Calvary Bible Church, the Sayward Christian Fellowship – Mennonite Brethren Church and St. Bernadette's Catholic Church.



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Health Authority

Sayward is located within the North Island Health Region of the Vancouver Island Health Authority. 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 Resources

BritishColumbia.com

<http://www.britishcolumbia.com/regions/towns/?webRegionID=2&townID=73>

Village of Sayward

<http://www.sayward.ca>

Sayward Futures

<http://www.saywardfutures.com>

Statistics Canada (Community demographic information)

<http://www.statcan.ca>

Vancouver Island Health

<http://www.viha.ca>

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