



British Columbia Community Profile...

Ladysmith

Overview

The quaint, seaside town of Ladysmith is located just 53 miles north of the capital city of Victoria on Vancouver Island. Described by Harrowsmith Country Magazine as “one of the prettiest towns in Canada”, Ladysmith is enjoyed for its sunny location and spectacular harbour views. Founded at the turn of the century, the town maintains an Edwardian charm with its restored heritage buildings. Ladysmith is surrounded by mountains, streams, lakes and ocean views, which provide opportunities for hiking, hunting, camping, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Accessibility

Ladysmith is accessible by highway, bus and rail service. The nearest major centre with a commercial airport and regular flights is Nanaimo, 24 km (approx. 1/2 hour) to the north. The capital city of Victoria is 85 km (1 hour) south by road. Regular ferry service to the British Columbia mainland is available both from Nanaimo and Victoria.

History

The community of Ladysmith was named in 1899 by coal baron James Dunsmuir, after a victorious battle in the Boer War, which took place in Ladysmith, South Africa. It was established both as a shipping port for coal and a bedroom community for miners and was incorporated in 1904. The coal boom lasted three decades until 1931, when the local mine was closed. Within a few years the community had changed its economic focus to logging, which prospered until 1985. In the 1980s, Ladysmith undertook to revitalize its downtown, rehabilitate aging structures and improve its streetscape with an eye to the tourist industry.





British Columbia Community Profile...

Ladysmith

Economy

The economy of Ladysmith is evolving from primarily a resource-based economy to a mixed economy based upon retail, services light manufacturing and forestry. Tourism is increasingly important to the area.

Population Profile

The population of Ladysmith is 7,538 with a median age of 41.1, compared to 38.4 for the province as a whole.

Climate

Ladysmith experiences a temperate, coastal climate. The average summer temperature is 21.0 degrees Celsius, while the average winter temperature is 7.6 degrees with minimal snowfall. Ladysmith receives an average of 1004.8 mm of rainfall and 92.3 mm of snowfall annually.

Housing

The average cost of a single family residential home in Ladysmith is \$350,000. The rental cost for a two-bedroom apartment ranges from \$750-900 per month.

Education/Daycare

There are 1 primary (Kindergarten - Grade 3), 1 elementary (Kindergarten - Grade 7), 1 intermediate (Grades 4 -7) and 1 secondary (Grades 8-12) schools in Ladysmith. Some daycare services are available for young children. Campuses of Malaspina University College, which offers university and career preparation programs as well as other types of continuing education, are located 30 minutes to the north in Nanaimo, and 20 minutes south in Duncan.



British Columbia Community Profile...

Ladysmith

Recreation

Community recreational facilities in Ladysmith include a beach park with a swimming pool and amphitheatre; a community centre with a swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna, and swirl pool; tennis courts; 10 community baseball fields and parks; an adventure playground; and a regional skate park. There is also a par-three golf course in the area.

A wide variety of recreational programs are made available through the Ladysmith Parks and Recreation Department and a number of sports and special interest groups and organizations are active in the community.

Ladysmith is surrounded by mountains, streams and lakes. Recreational activities enjoyed in the area include golfing, island hiking, hunting, camping, and fishing.

On the BC Day long weekend Ladysmith hosts “Dogwood Days”, a celebration that includes a parade, beach activities, entertainment, BBQ’S, races, and more. September brings on the annual Fall Fair highlighting culinary and garden delights. The “Ladysmith Festival of Lights” held in November, features thousands of lights on display, a parade and fireworks.

Culture

Ladysmith is home to a lively arts community. Local artists and artisans working with the Ladysmith and District Arts Council are exhibited in galleries and shows around the world.

The local Black Nugget Museum, formerly the Jones Hotel, profiles the history of the area.

Services & Amenities

Ladysmith was awarded a national “Main Street Canada” award as one of the four best revitalization projects in the country. It is home to a wide variety of shops and services, located both in the historic downtown area and in a shopping mall. There are grocery stores, banks, clothing stores, antique shops, galleries, pharmacies, hardware stores, restaurants and postal services. High speed Internet service is available here.

Places of worship in Ladysmith serve the Catholic, Anglican, United, and Baptist faiths.



British Columbia Community Profile...



Ladysmith

Health Authority

Ladysmith is part of the Central Island Region of Vancouver Island Health. Vancouver Island Health provides a full range of healthcare services to over 700,000 people living on the Vancouver Island, the Northern and Southern Gulf Islands, and some of the remote coastal communities on BC's mainland. 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

BritishColumbia.com

<http://www.britishcolumbia.com/regions/>

Town of Ladysmith

<http://www.town.ladysmith.bc.ca>

Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.ladysmithcofc.com>

Statistics Canada (Community demographic information)

<http://www.statcan.ca>

Vancouver Island Health

<http://www.viha.ca>

© Health Match BC

www.healthmatchbc.org