

Ladysmith

WHERE OPPORTUNITY
DOCKS

Business Opportunities in the Marine Sector
Ladysmith Economic Development Commission





The business of balance.

There is so much more to life than just work. It is a rare thing to find a business community that balances passion and play. Until you find yourself in Ladysmith. This is where spirited, innovative and creative entrepreneurial minds grow roots and sprout wings. Which makes our job a whole lot easier. We are the Ladysmith Economic Development Commission, and we are in charge of creating the best environment for businesses of all kinds. We do things like support businesses to expand, leverage community assets to attract business investments and encourage sectors like the marine industry to flourish.

Ladysmith:

Where opportunity docks.

An ocean community

Ladysmith is located right on the 49th parallel, on the east coast of beautiful Vancouver Island. This serene hillside town overlooks Ladysmith Harbour, just off tranquil Stuart Channel, with the Gulf Islands in the foreground and the spectacular Coast Mountains beyond. Many homes have ocean views, and the water is never more than a few minutes away.

One of Ladysmith's greatest assets is its spectacular 5-mile natural harbour, with sheltered waters deep enough for large yachts. The harbour, with its three marinas, is a favourite of commercial and pleasure boaters alike. It provides a perfect launching point for exploring the Gulf Islands: Thetis and Kuper Islands lie just offshore, and Saltspring, Galiano, Valdes, Gabriola and several smaller islands are just a few miles away.

A place to grow

Ladysmith has experienced steady population growth since 2000, increasing by 7% over the last five

years. The population has now reached 8,100. Most of this growth is due to relocation – that is, people choosing to move here.

The Oak Bay Marine Group (OBMG) recently chose to be part of our growth by purchasing the Ladysmith Marina. As part of its development plans, OBMG will be building a number of 50' to 80' boathouses at the Ladysmith Marina. These permanent berths are sure to attract the interest of serious boaters all along the coast.

Business opportunities

Ladysmith's natural harbour and marina facilities make us a perfect fit for marine-related industries:

- Boat building, marine manufacturing, and marine-related services and repair
- Knowledge-based businesses specializing in marine technology, electronics and design
- Maritime themed tourism products and eco-tourism
- Value-added wood, custom cabinetry, or wood boat manufacturing



The marine business address of the future

Our property costs – including industrial workshops – are lower than in larger centres, and current development plans include a waterfront work/live complex that would be perfect for many small businesses.

So if you are starting or expanding a marine-related business and are looking for the perfect place to set up 'shop', then Ladysmith is the place for you!

Easy access to major markets

Ladysmith offers convenient access to markets on Vancouver Island and the BC mainland. We are located right on the main population corridor of south-eastern Vancouver Island, on the route between Nanaimo (26 km to the north) and Victoria (85 km to the south). We have excellent highway access for transporting goods throughout the Island, and easy access to Nanaimo's two BC Ferry locations, which provide regular service to the mainland.

Nanaimo airport, only ten minutes away, offers regularly scheduled flights to Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, and float planes fly directly to downtown Vancouver.

West Coast lifestyle

Ladysmith offers a unique blend of small-town atmosphere, big city convenience and spectacular natural environment. The pace of life here is unhurried and relaxed. Many residents enjoy pleasure boating and fishing as part of their daily routine. The popularity of sea kayaking is celebrated yearly during our Vancouver Island Paddlefest event. And sailing, bird watching, hiking and much more are available right on our doorstep.

Ladysmith has a temperate Mediterranean-like climate; we get moderate rainfall in the winter, and it's dry and sunny in the summer months. That means that boating – and many other outdoor activities – can be carried on virtually year-round.

The town's amenities include excellent schools and nearby colleges, 90 hectares of park and open space, a large network of municipally maintained paths and hiking trails, a community centre, pool and senior's centre. Shopping, music, theatre and art facilities are all close by.





A climate for living + A beautiful natural setting + An active and engaged community
 Family-friendly amenities and activities + Great schools and recreational facilities
 An affordable cost of living + Real estate that holds its value + Charming small-town
 ambience + Vibrant arts and cultural scene + Year-round events and festivities
 A gateway to outdoor adventure + Committed to environmental stewardship + A strong
 vision for a sustainable future + Convenient mid-Island location, right on the 49th parallel

Support for your business

As a business owner in Ladysmith, you won't be alone. We have a vision for a prosperous and sustainable future, which is supported by the Ladysmith Economic Development Commission (EDC) and its many pro-business initiatives. If you're interested in moving your business to Ladysmith or starting a new enterprise in our town, the EDC is here to help. We are strongly committed to providing the support you need to become successful here. We have a strategy for economic growth – and we'd like you to be part of it.



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