

# Things to do

## Ladysmith Museum and Archives

Enjoy fascinating displays about life in Ladysmith, and public access to historic documents and archival photographs.

### Archives 1

1115 First Avenue (below Tim Horton's) | 250-245-0100

### Museum 2

721 First Avenue | 250-245-0423

[ladysmithhistoricalsociety.ca](http://ladysmithhistoricalsociety.ca)



## Maritime Museum & Heritage Boats

Experience the sights and sounds of past waterfront industry and beautifully restored wooden boats. Harbour tours offered during the summer.

### Harbour Heritage Centre 3

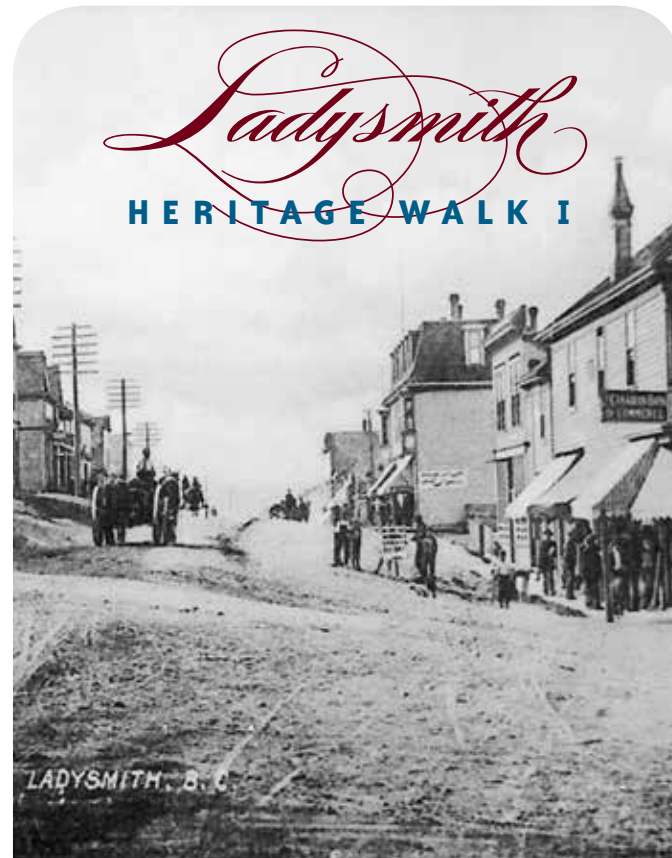
610 Oyster Bay Drive | 250-245-1146

### Maritime Museum and Boat Tours 4

LMS Community Marina | 250-245-1146

[lmsmarina.ca](http://lmsmarina.ca)

\*For opening hours and admission prices, please check the websites.



Ladysmith Heritage Walk I : Artifacts highlights Ladysmith's history of coal mining, forestry, rail and marine industry. The walk links our living heritage downtown to the working waterfront and Transfer Beach Park.

ARTIFACTS



## HERITAGE WALK I



Our past comes alive in the many life-size heritage artifacts lining First Avenue and displayed in the Ladysmith Museum. Our historic downtown is easily accessible by car, bicycle or foot to explore the artifacts while visiting our one-of-a-kind businesses and cafes. On your way to Transfer Beach Park, you can stop at the Waterfront Art Gallery to admire and collect the work of local artists and visit the Railway District. On the water's edge, the Harbour Heritage Centre and floating Maritime Museum will entertain visitors of all ages.

We welcome you to experience the history and small town charm of Ladysmith!



Scan to visit our website and get PDF versions of our heritage brochures



VISITOR CENTRE  
33 Roberts Street  
Ladysmith, BC  
250.245.2112



TOWN OF LADYSMITH  
[ladysmith.ca](http://ladysmith.ca)

[tourismladysmith.ca/history](http://tourismladysmith.ca/history)

PRINTED IN CANADA • Printed on 100% FSC Certified Recycled Paper

# HERITAGE WALK I: ARTIFACTS

## DOWNTOWN LADYSMITH

### 1 LADYSMITH ARCHIVES



**A Fairgrounds Sign and Agricultural Hall**  
The concrete sign was originally placed at this corner to mark the community's completion of Agricultural Hall (the "Aggie") in 1922. The hall and fairgrounds/sports fields were extremely valuable public venues in an era before in-home entertainment or easy transportation to larger cities.

### B Fordson Tractor

This type of agricultural tractor dating from the late 1920's, although originally designed for farm purposes, was used on the west coast for hauling small logs in various operations.



### C Ship Anchor

The anchor in the centre of the traffic roundabout was retrieved from Ladysmith Harbour in approximately 1962 by employees of Crown Zellerbach. It is thought to have come from an early sailing vessel.

### D Diamond Rail Switch

Ladysmith shipped many loads of logs brought directly from the logging "shows" via rail. Log trains had to wait to be switched to cross the Vancouver Island E&N Rail line. A worker operating this switch was stationed in a tower overlooking the rail lines.



### E Bull Block

Blocks of this type were used in logging to direct the large wire ropes used to haul newly cut logs to the loading area or landing. Blocks were built in various sizes and configurations to suit the particular duty and load requirements.

### F Fordson Donkey

Adapted from a Fordson Farm Tractor, this small "donkey engine" was used in logging and to build and repair rail bridges. It was capable of hauling itself on and off rail cars at work sites.



### 2 LADYSMITH MUSEUM



### G Caterpillar

Dating from the early 1930's, this caterpillar was used in Comox Logging's Ladysmith operation in the 1930's and 1940's.

### H 49th Parallel Cairn

This stone cairn was dedicated in 1958 and identifies the unique siting of Ladysmith on the 49th Parallel. The original wooden post that identified the location of the 49th Parallel in Ladysmith (located just north of the downtown) is now displayed in the Visitor Centre.



### I Ore Car

A copper smelter, refining ore mined at Mt. Sicker 13 kilometres to the southeast, was built in 1902. This ore car, filled with original ore from the Mt. Sicker mine, was used to deliver ore from underground to the surface. As designed, the car could be turned and dumped from either side of the small gauge railway.



### N Water Pump

This one cylinder Fairbanks Morse water pump, patented in 1916, produced six horsepower at 450 RPM and was used to pump water from small streams to steam-powered logging equipment over distances up to 8 kilometres.



### J Knight's Clock

For many small towns, a clock near the centre of town was the appointment and meeting place. Such a clock had to be highly visible, easy to find, and keep accurate time! The Knight's Clock served this role for many years. It was originally mounted on Knight's Hardware Store which once stood at this location on First Avenue.

### K Heritage Downtown

Beginning in 1901, many buildings were relocated to Ladysmith from the Nanaimo area, and along with new construction, formed the downtown of Ladysmith we still know today. The heritage revitalization of the downtown was recognized with a Main Street Canada award. "Ladysmith Heritage Walk II: Buildings" provides another interesting walking tour with information on local historic buildings.



### L Metal Collage

This unique display consists of a series of photographs depicting the history of Ladysmith. It was assembled with a collage of historic metal artifacts discovered and donated by Ladysmith residents, and also displays a plaque remembering the mine explosion disaster of 1909.

### M Old Highway Sign

These iconic "Stop of Interest" shield markers were designed by the Province of BC to mark the centennial of British Columbia in 1958. This relocated sign from 1969 provides an overview of the establishment of Ladysmith, incorporated June 3, 1904.



### 3 HARBOUR HERITAGE CENTRE

### P Tube Tumbler

This drum tumbler was used to remove the carbon build-up from the outer surfaces of boiler pipes in steam locomotives.



### Q Humdirgen

The Humdirgen was custom built to push logs off the rail car into the water at the log dump. The loaded log cars would be brought down in a long train attached to the locomotive. The Humdirgen was self-propelled, and one of the very few made locally from a small (shay) locomotive.

## THE RAILWAY DISTRICT



### O Machine Shop/ Waterfront Art Gallery

In 1943, the Comox Logging & Railway Company built the Machine Shop – a large, modern repair shop to maintain the steam locomotive engines and truck logging equipment. The Machine

Shop and the supporting maintenance shops remain as they were first built, and are valued as rare and intact remnants of the waterfront industrial history of Ladysmith. Today, the Machine Shop is home to the Waterfront Art Gallery, the Ladysmith Maritime Society's Harbour Heritage Centre and other community and business uses.

## WATERFRONT DISTRICT

### S Weigh Scales

During Ladysmith's heyday as a coal shipping port, rail cars loaded with coal would arrive at the waterfront and be weighed prior to shipping. This display is all that remains today of the weighing mechanism which was located beneath the rail track adjacent to this spot. An operator would record the weight of each car passing through the station.



### T Steam Donkey

Originally fuelled with wood from the logging operations and creating steam with water from nearby streams, the steam donkey represented a big improvement in logging power in the early 1900s. The steam donkey signalled the end of the era when horses or oxen dragged logs over 'skid roads' constructed of small logs. Some Donkey engines, converted to oil fires, remained in use as late as the 1950s.

### U Transfer Beach

Transfer Beach was once the industrial centre of Ladysmith.

Starting in 1899, millions of tons of coal were shipped from Transfer Beach's massive wharves to locations around the world. The largest of the wharves was almost 1,000 feet long. The Transfer Wharf moved rail cars fully loaded with coal or goods onto barges, making Ladysmith the major interchange for rail traffic between the mainland and Vancouver Island. After the decline of the coal and logging industries, the waterfront was preserved as a park in 1967.



### V Harpoon Gun

Although Ladysmith was not a whaling port, harpoons such as this were used by whalers working along the BC coast. This harpoon gun is from a whaling ship that operated out of Coal Harbour, Vancouver Island.



### W Boom Boat

Small boom boats or 'sidewinders' like this one evolved from the need to move logs effectively in booming grounds. Unlike most boats, the heavily reinforced boom boat has a drive system capable of turning in a full circle under the boat, providing propulsion in any direction, hence the nickname 'sidewinder'.

### 4 MARITIME MUSEUM & HERITAGE BOAT TOURS