

Small town. Big fun.

ON THE 49TH PARALLEL



Town of Ladysmith ladysmith.ca

Trans Canada Trail trailsbc.ca

Rotary Bicycle Route rotaryroute.org

BC Marine Trails bcmarinetrails.org



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

33 ROBERTS STREET

LADYSMITH, BC | VANCOUVER ISLAND

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Other, Paul Biffin, Rick Ruppenthal and Town of Ladysmith

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WELCOME!

This guide is designed to help you plan your next adventure on the 49th Parallel. Enjoy a walk, bike ride, park activity or hike. You can swim, paddle or golf too. We welcome you to enjoy the many year-round amenities that Ladysmith offers.

WALK & HIKE

Our beautiful harbour setting and hillside landscapes offer over 26 km of hiking and walking trails with easy access for residents and visitors to the many natural areas in the community. Trail and walking routes are described on the inside of this guide.

BIKE

Ladysmith offers both on- and off-road cycling for novice and experienced riders. In-town routes connect residents to shopping and services with the least amount of hill climbing!

The hills and trails west of Ladysmith provide prime off-road cycling. The Rotary Bicycle Route & the Trans Canada Trail offer cycling routes to the north and south of town.

The bike rack on the bus fits two bicycles. Bike racks are available downtown and at community services. End of trip facilities are available at Frank Jameson Community Centre.

PLAY

The Town boasts over 110 hectares of parks and open spaces offering seaside fun, nature experiences, playgrounds, and play fields.

In addition to the many activities taking place year-round at **Transfer Beach Park**, locals will recommend taking in a spectacular sunrise and star-gazing too.



Recreation services are available at the Frank Jameson Community Centre, located on 6th Avenue. Known locally as "FJCC", the Community Centre offers a 25-metre, 4-lane indoor **swimming pool**, hot tub, and other facilities, as well as a modern **Fitness Centre** with personal training. FJCC also has a gymnasium and meeting rooms. A wide variety of active living and leisure services and programs are available for every age and interest. WiFi is available in the lobby. The Community Centre is named for former Ladysmith Mayor Frank Jameson (1979-1984).

For team sport enthusiasts and fans alike, the outdoor sports complex located at 4th Avenue and Jim Cram Drive includes **Forrest Field** ④, the home turf of the Mid Isle Highlanders Football Club – Pacific Coast Soccer League. This artificial **turf field** officially opened in May 2011 and all ages are enjoying playing on it. Future plans include the development of two ball fields, fitness track, playground and field house.

Other **playfields** include Holland Creek Ball Park ①, Aggie Fields ②, and High Street Field ③. Dogs are allowed on-leash in the spectator stands and area.

Paddling is outstanding in the protected waters of the Ladysmith Harbour. Rent a kayak or paddleboard from the **Eco-Adventure Centre** at Transfer Beach. Spot seals, purple martins, eagles and other local sea and wildlife. The full-moon paddle is amazing!

The Ladysmith 9-hole golf course welcomes public access. It is operated by the Ladysmith Golf Club. Access the parking lot from Davis Road.



TRAIL CODE

CARE OF NATURAL AREAS

Stay on the trails to minimize damage to natural areas. Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. Please take your garbage with you.

CLIFFS

Many areas adjacent to the water contain steep drop-offs and over-hanging bluffs. Please stay on the designated trails and respect the signs and railings.

HOLLAND CREEK

Holland Creek has fluctuating water levels and swift currents. Throughout the year, severe rapids exist at Crystal Falls. Small children should be accompanied by an adult at all times. Keep well away from the Creek during the fall salmon spawning season.

BEARS

Black bears visit Holland Creek, particularly during the October to December spawning season. Please keep pets on a leash and children close to you. Never approach or feed the bears or other animals.

CLOTHING

When hiking the trails remember to wear proper clothing and footwear and to bring water.

PETS

Enjoy the trails with your pet but please clean up after them. Please check the Town's website for a current list of off-leash areas.

MOUNTAIN BIKES

Mountain bikes are permitted on Stocking Lake Loop, Heart Lake Loop, Rotary Lookout Trail, and Holland Creek Trail.

ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES

ATVs or Quads are not permitted on the trails.



DID YOU KNOW?

COLLIERY DAMS AT HOLLAND CREEK

Weirs were constructed in the early 1900s to collect water to wash coal at Transfer Beach. A wooden flume diverted water to a reservoir to supply the coal washing bunkers at the current site of the horseshoe pitch at Transfer Beach Park.

CRYSTAL FALLS AT HOLLAND CREEK

Known as "The Falls" to many locals, this scenic waterfall is best viewed from the south bank of the Holland Creek Trail.

SEASIDE CULVERT AT ESTUARY TRAIL

The culvert was constructed in 1908 from beautiful sandstone from the Koksilah Quarry Company. In 1994, a highway crew unearthed the culvert which now marks the lowest point on the Holland Creek Trail.



LADYSMITH WATER SUPPLY

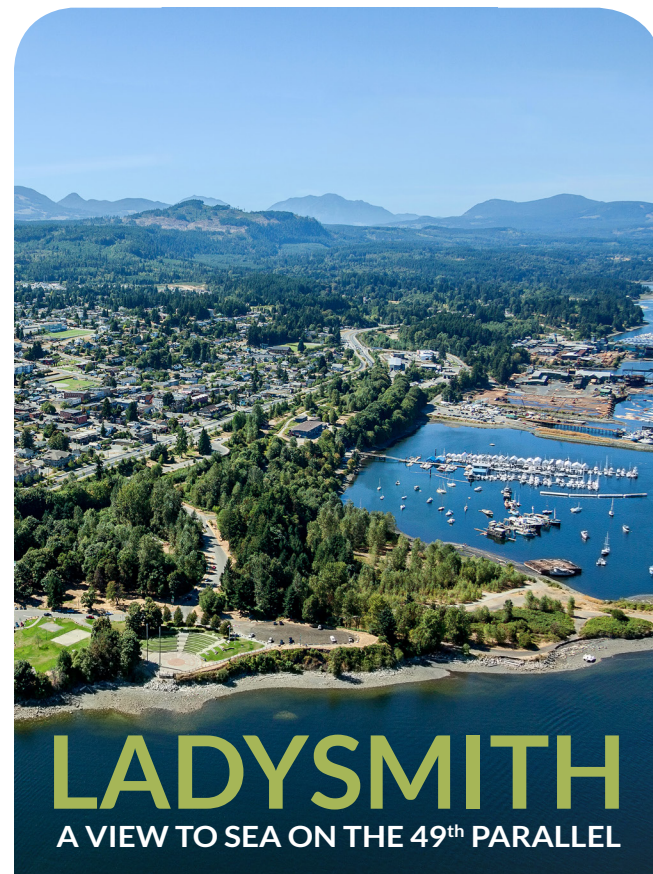
Spectacular Stocking Lake is one of two main sources of drinking water for residents of the Town. Hike this area with great care.

SALMON SPAWNING AREA -- DOGWOOD DRIVE BRIDGE

Each year, salmon return to spawn in Holland Creek. Enhancements started in 1992 thanks to the efforts of the Ladysmith Sportsmen Club. Broodstock and eggs are taken to the fish hatchery at Bush Creek. During June, several thousand Chum and Coho are released into the Creek.

SOCCER IN LADYSMITH

The history of soccer in Ladysmith extends back to the early 1900s when mine workers played on the Ladysmith Football Team – Pacific Coast League. Players were recruited by mine owners to create championship teams.



Walk. Bike. Play. Hike.

Ladysmith offers seaside and hillside trails, parks, and open spaces for recreation and contemplation. You can swim, paddle and golf too. Start here to plan your next adventure.

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC

TRAILS, LOOPS & WALKS

1 ESTUARY TRAIL

This 10-minute walk along the harbour offers views of the marine environment. At low tide enjoy a shoreline stroll to Transfer Beach Park and connect to the Marine Walk. See salmon entering Holland Creek in the fall. Access from a small parking lot located at Roland Road.



2 HEART LAKE LOOP

This challenging 6.4 km trail takes about 2 hours to hike. Spectacular views of the Town, Gulf Islands and Mount Baker make the climb worth the effort. The trail start is very steep. Access is from Davis Road Park or the Holland Creek Trail. Swimming permitted at own risk; day use only, no camping or open fires permitted.



3 HERITAGE ROUTE WALK

This route highlights Ladysmith's history of coal mining, forestry, rail and marine industry connecting our living heritage downtown to the working waterfront. The Heritage Route brochure is available at the Visitor Information Centre or at www.tourismladysmith.ca.



4 HOLLAND CREEK TRAIL

This trail winds 5.8 km along both sides of the Creek and appeals to outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Highlights include Crystal Falls and the Colliery Dams. Salmon spawning occurs every fall. The trail is wheelchair accessible with some assistance from the Methuen/6th Ave. entrance.



5 MARINE WALK

Part of the Trans Canada Trail this 1 km walk starts at Transfer Beach. The trail passes the LMS Community Marina and follows an old abandoned railway path to the Government Wharf.



6 ROTARY LOOKOUT TRAIL

This trail is a short 1.2 km walk. At the top, enjoy the breathtaking view and stop for a picnic lunch. This trail is accessed near the log bridge at the top of the Holland Creek Trail.



7 STOCKING LAKE TRAIL

A challenging 11.8 km trail that begins at Davis Road Park and takes about 2.5 hours to hike. Views of the Gulf Islands from this beautiful winding trail that intersects the Heart Lake Loop. This is the community water supply; no camping, swimming, fishing or boating permitted.



8 Trans Canada Trail

A 4.6 km section of the Trans Canada Trail.



PARKS

1 ARBORETUM

This picturesque park features a lawn, bridge and collection of different trees and shrubs including Sequoia, Garry Oak, Pine, Cedar and Dogwood. Located at Transfer Beach Boulevard.



2 BOB STUART PARK

At the entrance of 1st Avenue, you will find a landscaped green space, garden and rest area. The park is named for former Mayor R.W. Stuart (1977-1978).



3 DAVIS ROAD PARK

Natural linear park providing access to Holland Creek, Stocking Lake and Heart Lake trails.



4 GOURLAY-JANES PARK

A short hike through a forest leads to a beautiful open space bordering the Ladysmith Harbour. Located on Chemainus Road.



5 HARBOURVIEW PARK

This neighbourhood park is located on Louise Road and boasts an open green space, playground and ocean view.



6 KINSMEN PARK & PLAYGROUND

This neighbourhood park offers a large open green space with a small brook. The Kinsmen Club of Ladysmith, with community partners, installed a new playground in 2011.



7 QUEEN'S PARK

This pretty hillside neighbourhood park overlooks the Ladysmith Harbour. The Saltair Garden Club maintains a lovely garden at this site. Access from 1st Avenue or Baden Powell Street.



8 ROOT STREET PARK

This fenced neighbourhood park is a popular spot for young families, featuring a tot playground and small asphalt sports court.



9 ROTARY MEMORIAL PEACE GARDEN & CENOTAPH

This small park and garden located on "Veteran's Way" contains a monument to the local soldiers killed in WW I and WW II.



10 RUTTI PARK

This park is located just off Russell Road and features an open green space next to a unique rock formation as well as several fruit trees.



11 DAVIS ROAD SCHOOL PARK

This former school site features a wonderful playground, a small ball diamond and a popular off-leash dog park. Located just off Davis Road.



12 SKATEBOARD PARK

The outdoor skate park has 1/4 pipes, pyramids, stairs, funbox rails and more. Adjacent to the Frank Jameson Community Centre (swimming pool and fitness centre).



13 SPIRIT SQUARE & LIONS PARK

Ladysmith's Spirit Square, opened in 2011, is a dynamic public square where people of all ages gather for quiet time, play or celebrations. Located at 2nd Avenue, between Buller Street and High Street.



14 STONEWALL PARK

This linear park is located on Ridgway Place.



15 TRANSFER BEACH PARK

This centrally located seaside park is a major gathering spot for activities and community events. Go for a swim, have a picnic, paddle a kayak, or enjoy the fabulous spray park and playground. Live music events during the summer months at the large amphitheatre. Offers a dog-off leash area. Located just off the Trans Canada Highway in downtown Ladysmith.



LEGEND

AMENITIES

	AMPHITHEATRE		HORSESHOE PITCH
	BASEBALL FIELD		KAYAKING
	BASKETBALL HOOP		PARKING
	BENCH		PICNIC AREA
	BIRD VIEWING		PLAYGROUND
	BOATING/KAYAKING		SOCCER
	CONCESSION		SPRAY PARK
	CYCLING		SWIMMING
	DOGS ON-LEASH		TENNIS
	DOGS OFF-LEASH		WASHROOMS
	FISHING		WHEELCHAIR ACCESS
	FLORA & FAUNA VIEWING		VIEWPOINTS
	GOLF		VOLLEYBALL COURT
	HOCKEY		

