

▲ 1891 - FIRST BICYCLE CLUB IN NANAIMO. LEFT TO RIGHT: J. DEEMING B. STEPHENSON DR. HALL J. WILKINSON W. WILKINSON J. HORNER W. O'DELL A. DEEMING REV. MCRAE A. DUGGAN E. FRUER J.R. MCKENZIE



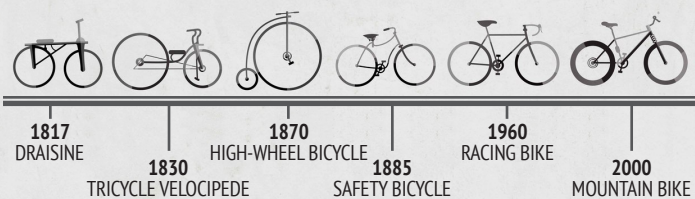
◀ WINNIE GLAHOTMY
E&N RAILWAY TRESTLE, LATE 1800'S



▲ MINERS ON BIKES, LATE 1800'S

EVOLUTION OF THE BICYCLE

FROM 1817 TO 2000



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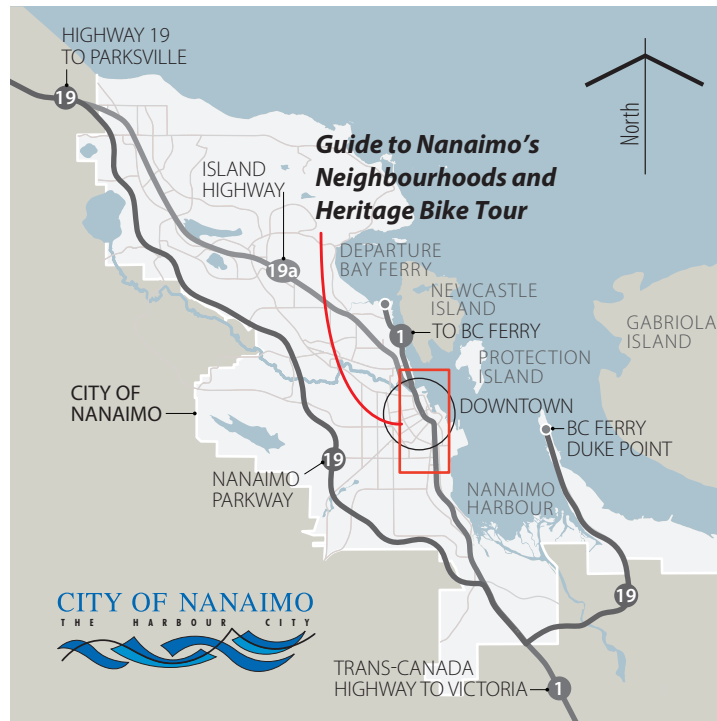
Brochure Produced By:

NANAIMO Culture & Heritage

IT'S WHO WE ARE

For more information about the buildings featured in this brochure, request a copy of the City's Heritage Register. If you have questions about the City's Heritage Register or Heritage Conservation Program, please contact the Community and Cultural Planning Section.

- location: Service & Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street
- mail: c/o Culture & Heritage, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
- phone: 250-755-4483
- online: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage
- email: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca



Continue your visit to Nanaimo's past at the:


NANAIMO MUSEUM
100 Museum Way
250-753-1821


NANAIMO ARCHIVES
150 Commercial Street
250-753-4462

All historical photos courtesy Nanaimo Community Archives

Special Thanks To:

The Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition & Nanaimo Community Archives

A Bike Ride Through Time

Your Guide to Nanaimo's Historic Neighbourhoods and Heritage Buildings Bike Tour

Take some time to ride all or part of a moderately sloped route to learn about Nanaimo's historic neighbourhoods, heritage buildings and sites.

Nanaimo has many stories to tell. It has a rich and varied history that still speaks to us in the way the City has grown and developed over time. In particular, these stories are evident in the city's historic neighbourhoods (downtown, Old City, Newcastle, and South End) and the heritage buildings and sites, which comprise the tangible reminders of each area's history.

A | Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Station, 321 Selby Street
 Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1920, this station replaced the one built by the E&N Railway in 1886 when the railway first opened. The terminal, with its distinctive square central tower, was damaged by fire in 2007, but has recently been faithfully rehabilitated and restored.

B | Nob Hill Neighbourhood

In the late 19th Century, Nob Hill was a prestigious residential area. Today, the neighbourhood is a mix of single-family dwellings, apartments and boarding houses that retain many original Victorian and Edwardian era design elements.

C | Chinatown

By 1911, Nanaimo's Chinatown was well established, with buildings on both sides of Pine Street. The community had a population of approximately 1,500 which would swell on weekends when Chinese workers came from surrounding areas to socialize and purchase supplies. The non-Chinese population also frequented Chinatown for commercial and entertainment purposes. The population and economic vitality of the Pine Street Chinatown waned in the early 1920s due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923 and a decline in the coal industry. The area became increasingly derelict until it was destroyed by fire on September 30th, 1960. By this time, the majority of the population had dispersed throughout Nanaimo or relocated to larger Chinese communities in Canada and the United States.

D | South End Neighbourhood

One of Nanaimo's oldest neighbourhoods, miners, storekeepers and mine executives lived here in the shadow of the No. 1 Mine from the 1860s. The area's original mixed residential and industrial past continues to define the neighbourhood today.

E | No. 1 Mine

On this site in 1883, the Vancouver Coal Company opened the No. 1 Esplanade Mine with workings that later extended beyond Newcastle and Protection Islands and the Nanaimo River. Workers at the mine produced 18 million tons of coal, more than any other mine on Vancouver Island, by the time it was closed in 1938. The memorial plaque remembers the 150 miners who lost their lives in the 1887 mine explosion.

F | Snuneymuxw First Nation

Nanaimo, and the eastern stretch of Vancouver Island, is the ancestral home of the Snuneymuxw, a Coast Salish people. The Snuneymuxw lived in several waterfront villages along Nanaimo's shores, where they found abundant food, fresh water and winter shelter. Accomplished tool makers, wood workers, spinners and artists, they gathered shellfish, fished and hunted in the Nanaimo area in the winter and spring before migrating to the Fraser River to follow the annual sockeye salmon run. It is estimated that before European contact, the Snuneymuxw population in Nanaimo varied from 2,000 to 5,000.

G | Bastion, 98 Front Street

The Nanaimo Bastion is the only known Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) wooden bastion still standing in North America. Nanaimo's most recognizable landmark, the Bastion served mainly as a symbol of community security and has safeguarded the inner harbour since 1853. Relocated from its original position in 1891, the Bastion has been in continuous use since as a heritage attraction and museum.

H | Great National Land Building, 5-17 Church Street

Built for the Bank of Commerce in 1914 during a coal mining strike, the building's imposing Classical Revival style was meant to convey conservatism, tradition, stability and prosperity during a volatile time. With its four massive columns, and located on a prominent downtown corner, it remains one of Nanaimo's most striking landmarks.

I | St. Paul's Anglican Church, 100 Chapel Street

One of the oldest, continuously functioning parishes in B.C., this landmark church, built in 1931, is Nanaimo's only example of Gothic Revival architecture. The original stained glass windows, oak pulpit, stone baptismal font and fir organ case are all intact. A 1914 miner's lamp located on the left side of the altar shines a perpetual light.

J | Industrial Heritage, Nanaimo Foundry

In 1888, Thomas and Nathaniel Dobeson established the Nanaimo Foundry on land that is now part of the Maffeo-Sutton Park site. At first, the foundry catered mainly to the marine industry but quickly diversified into mining, logging and railway work. Thomas Dobeson patented his own line of fire hydrants and the "Dobeson Carwheel", a wheel for coal mine cars with a built-in oiling device. Marine work included the production and design of marine engines, and the conversions of sailing vessels into steamboats. The Nanaimo Foundry also produced "steam donkeys" or engines equipped with drums and cables which aided the logging industry by pulling logs out of the woods. During World War 2, the Foundry operated around the clock, building engine and marine parts for the military. By 1949, the Foundry included a machine shop and fabricating works, and catered mainly to the forest industry. In 1999, the Foundry moved to a modern building near Chemainus, and the original building was later demolished as part of the park redevelopment process.

K | Newcastle Neighbourhood

By the early 20th Century, Newcastle was Nanaimo's most prestigious residential neighbourhood. With its beautiful waterfront, large lots and distance from old town industrial activity, Newcastle attracted merchants, managers and professionals. Many of the neighbourhood's earliest homes still stand and continue to provide an aura of grace and refinement.

L | Van Houten Residence, 184 Mount Benson Street

A Craftsman bungalow, this 1924 home was built for A.C. and Mary Van Houten. A.C. Van Houten was a druggist and the U.S. Consular Agent. Typical architectural treatments of this era include a generous open front verandah accented by a projecting gable, supported on twinned columns.

M | Millstone River – Sawmills

In the 1850s, the Hudson's Bay Company built a small, water powered sawmill on the Millstone River. The mill operated sporadically until it was purchased by a group of local entrepreneurs in 1874. The old water powered mill was quickly dismantled and then replaced with modern, stream-powered equipment. Later sawmills located along the Millstone included Andrew Haslam's Nanaimo Saw and Planing Mill, which included a window and door factory, the Red Fire Lumber Mill and the New Ladysmith Lumber Company. In the 1930s, the Nanaimo Lumber Company, who operated the very last sawmill along the Millstone, shut down. As the waterfront became less industrial with more recreational uses, sawmills were built further north along Newcastle Channel and south on the Assembly Wharf lands.

N | Old City Neighbourhood

Nanaimo's oldest residential neighbourhood, the Old City was established in the 1860s as a middle to upper income residential neighbourhood a comfortable distance from the busy commercial core. By the turn of the 20th Century, Nanaimo's entrepreneurial and professional classes were moving to areas west and north of the original town site. This movement was largely spurred by the development of the No. 1 Coal Mine in what was once a predominantly residential area in the southend, but also reflects a general trend towards single-use neighbourhoods that were increasingly defined by social class and their distance from industrial activity.

DOWNTOWN AREA, NANAIMO

