

A 2024 COMMUNITY PROFILE FROM THE
GENERATIONS CHURCH
PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

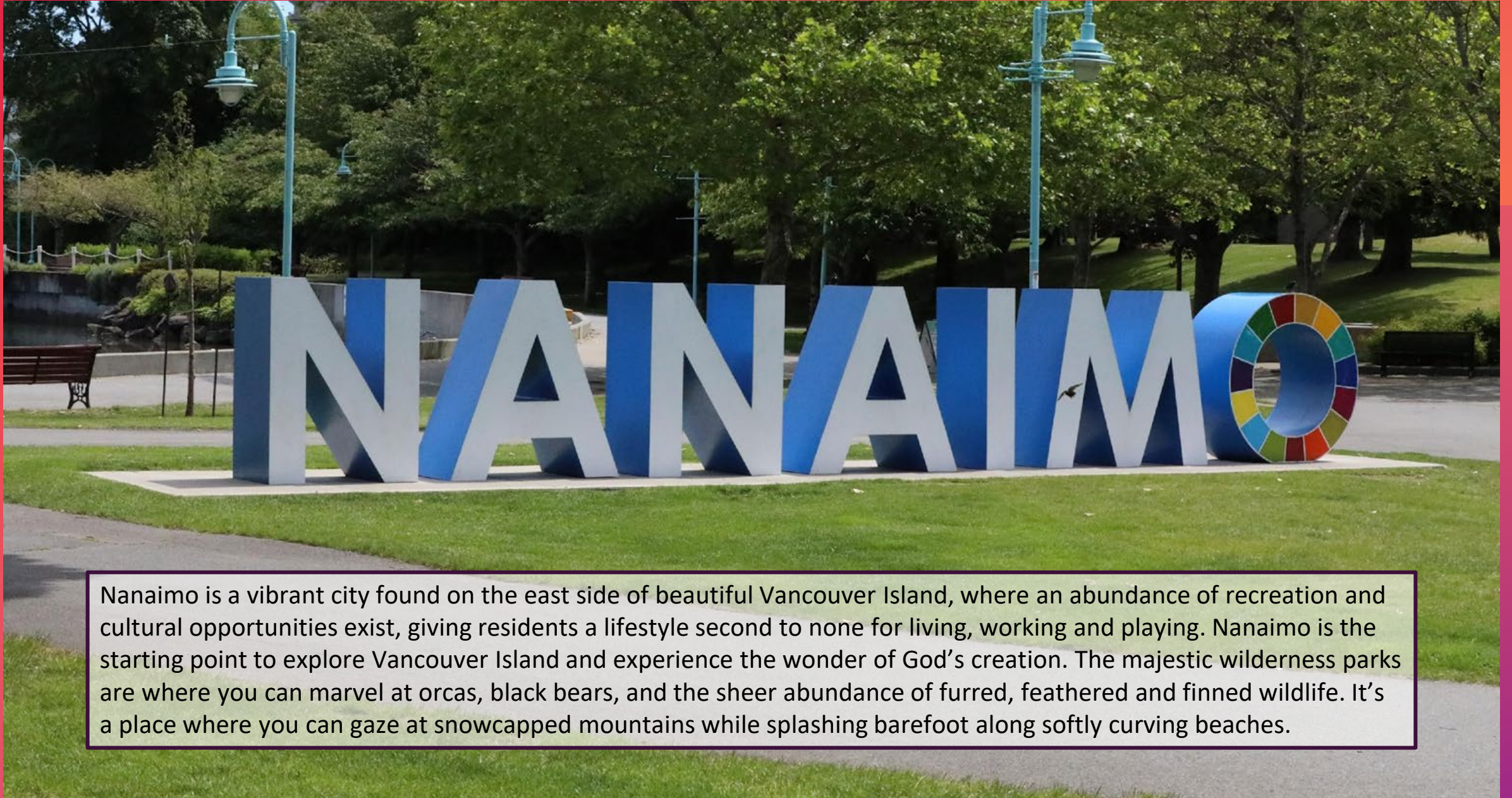
NANAIMO BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



Vancouver Island



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Nanaimo is a vibrant city found on the east side of beautiful Vancouver Island, where an abundance of recreation and cultural opportunities exist, giving residents a lifestyle second to none for living, working and playing. Nanaimo is the starting point to explore Vancouver Island and experience the wonder of God's creation. The majestic wilderness parks are where you can marvel at orcas, black bears, and the sheer abundance of furred, feathered and finned wildlife. It's a place where you can gaze at snowcapped mountains while splashing barefoot along softly curving beaches.

SNUNEYMUXW FIRST NATION

- The Snuneymuxw are a vibrant First Nation of the Coast Salish People, residing in the center of Coast Salish territory on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island. In 1854, the Snuneymuxw People welcomed explorers to their territories encompassing current lands and waters of the City of Nanaimo and signed the Sarlequun Snuneymuxw Treaty of 1854.
- In 2021, the Snuneymuxw signed a memorandum of understanding with Canada and B.C., recognizing and implementing that treaty. The Snuneymuxw First Nation has established a protocol agreement with the City of Nanaimo which adopts a cooperative approach to recognize the treaty.
- The Snuneymuxw First Nation is driven by the urgent need to heal the land and its communities. They warmly welcome everyone to continue the Snuneymuxw legacy of learning from, caring for, protecting and enjoying the unsparing blessings of this sacred place.



POPULATION

- Nanaimo's current population as of 2024:

108,457

- By comparison, Nanaimo's 2012 population:

86,760

- Nanaimo's population is expected to exceed **150,000** by 2046.

(Source: Nanaimo News Bulletin Feb 5, 2024, by Alex Rounsley)



CLIMATE

Nanaimo has a temperate climate with mild, rainy winters and warm, dry summers. Nanaimo typically only has a few snowy days per year.

- Hottest Month: August (18°C average)
- Coldest Month: December (6°C average)
- Wettest Month: November (78.3 mm average)
- Windiest Month: December (36 km/hr average)
- Annual Precipitation: 478.2 mm

(Based on weather reports from 1992 to 2021 compiled at Entrance Island, 11 kms from Nanaimo).

The trend in climate has changed over the last decade, with temperatures higher than the indicated averages over the 30-year review range.



HOUSING

- The following are the 2024 average prices from Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (MLS Data):

- Single Family Home:

\$781,478

- Condominiums:

\$472,943

- Apartment Rentals:

1 bedroom \$1,750/month

2 bedroom \$2,083/month



NANAIMO LADYSMITH SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

- Full Programs from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- 14,700 students attending in 2024
- 28 Elementary Schools (Kindergarten to Grade 7)
- 6 Secondary Schools
- District Population: 132,623



PRIVATE AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

- Nanaimo Christian School is a Christ-centered, grace filled community that in 2024, had 670 students enrolled Kindergarten to Grade 12, and 60 students in Preschool.
- Aspengrove School provides students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 with a challenging and inspiring education. It offers an International Baccalaureate curriculum and diploma.
- There are also several Montessori schools in Nanaimo.



POST SECONDARY & COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Vancouver Island University's largest campus is in Nanaimo with more than 120 programs from graduate to undergraduate degrees to trades diplomas and certificates. Currently in 2024, there are 12,500 students with the majority at the Nanaimo Campus, and 1,500 staff.
- Discovery, Spratt Shaw and Avalon Career Colleges are community colleges in Nanaimo.



HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Nanaimo Regional General Hospital is a full-service hospital with a 24-hour emergency room. Various medical practices, clinics, lab services and specialty medical clinics and dentistry services are located throughout Nanaimo.
- It can be difficult for newcomers to find a family doctor.
- Emergency Services in Nanaimo include full time firefighting and ambulance stations throughout the city with policing services provided by a large Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment. Active Search and Rescue units cover land and sea SAR activities.



SHOPPING

- Nanaimo hosts Vancouver Island's largest shopping centre, Woodgrove Mall, which has over 140 shops and services.
- Nanaimo also has a variety of smaller malls, such as Nanaimo North Town Centre, Country Club Mall, and Brooks Landing Mall, and a wide selection of unique shopping opportunities throughout various parts of the city, including downtown.
- Nanaimo has a Walmart, Superstore, Costco and Cabela's.
- For those who like to DIY, Nanaimo has large, full-service Home Depot, Rona+, Windsor Plywood, Canadian Tire and Home Hardware.
- Nanaimo has a variety of great non-profit thrift stores, as well as eclectic antique shops.



ENTERTAINMENT

- Nanaimo has plenty of entertainment options. The Port Theatre, situated at the city's waterfront, is a special gem, with a mission "to build and serve our community by bringing people together in a vital gathering place."
- Nanaimo hosts two quality movie theatres.
- The Nanaimo Theatre Group performs live productions at the Bailey Studio.
- There are live music venues, art galleries, a museum, exit room experiences and bowling options throughout the city.
- Sports teams such as the Nanaimo Clippers Hockey team, Night Owls Baseball Team, Timbermen Lacrosse Club, VI Raiders Football and Nanaimo Hornets Rugby provide excellent sports viewing.



RECREATION 1

- The City of Nanaimo produces three Activity Guides annually. The activities in the guides are varied and supports interests of all ages (particularly children) with organized sports, lessons, and experiences.
- City Facilities include Beban Park, which contains a social centre, pool and ice/lacrosse rinks; the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre; the Nanaimo Ice Centre; sports fields for soccer, football, rugby, baseball, indoor and outdoor lacrosse and various outdoor racquet courts.
- Nanaimo's Oliver Woods Community Centre has a large gymnasium with a busy pickleball program. Various indoor court sports are enjoyed at Oliver Woods, and facilities are available to rent for birthday parties, meetings and lessons.



RECREATION 2

- The Nanaimo Curling Centre is a welcoming, accessible environment for all people to enjoy the sport of curling.
- Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo boast a variety of well-maintained parks and trails ideal for walking and hiking, as well as wildlife and bird watching.
- There are several active BMX and skateboard parks.
- Bowen Park has a very busy and popular frisbee golf course for all ages and skill levels.
- There are access points in and around Nanaimo for extreme mountain biking, dirt biking, and ATV operations for the adventurous.



RECREATION 3

- Nanaimo has many places to swim, whether in the ocean or in fresh water, such as Piper's Lagoon, Westwood Lake and Long Lake.
- Some of the best diving and snorkeling in Canada can be found along the coastline of Nanaimo.
- Boating, sailing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, kite surfing and other water sport opportunities abound.
- Sight-seeing on your own, or from a plane or whale watching boat, is always exceptional, simply because of the wonderful, natural environment that makes up the Nanaimo area.



PROXIMITY TO VANCOUVER, BC

The distance between Nanaimo and Vancouver is about 55 kms (34 miles).

The publicly owned BC Ferries operates two routes from Nanaimo to Vancouver with vehicle and foot passenger service.

- The route from Departure Bay to Horseshoe Bay (just north of Vancouver) has a 1 hour and 40-minute sailing time.
- Just south of Nanaimo, the Duke Point route with service to Tsawwassen (south of Vancouver), has a 2-hour sailing time.
- The foot passenger only Hullo Ferry service sails from downtown Nanaimo to downtown Vancouver in approximately 70 minutes.
- Vancouver is a 20-minute flight from Nanaimo by float plane, helicopter or airplane.



AIR TRAVEL FROM NANAIMO

- Harbour Air, Sea Air, and Sunshine Coast Air seaplanes fly from the Nanaimo Harbour to a variety of locations on Vancouver Island and the Mainland.
- Heli-Jet's Nanaimo Flight Centre is located at the Nanaimo Port Authority Terminal, and Heli-Jet has service to Vancouver Harbour and Airport in under 20 minutes.
- The Nanaimo Airport is located south of Nanaimo. WestJet and Air Canada offer multiple daily flights out of Nanaimo to several locations. There are 47 direct flights every week to Vancouver International Airport, from which you can travel to a multitude of worldwide destinations.



PROXIMITY TO VICTORIA, BC & WASHINGTON

- Driving time to spectacular Victoria, the capital city of B.C., is approximately an hour and a half, with a distance of 111 km. You can also choose to fly there by way of sea plane, plane or Heli-Jet (Vancouver Island has no passenger rail service).
- Besides destinations offered at Victoria's airport, unique opportunities exist to take the MV Coho, operated by Black Ball Ferries, from Victoria Harbour to Port Angeles, Washington, USA. It is a 42 km, 90-minute scenic sail through the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- There is also the FRS Clipper, a fast passenger only ferry, travelling from Victoria's Harbour to downtown Seattle, Washington, USA in 2 hrs and 45 minutes.



JUST FOR FUN 1

- Wild Play Element Park has a Bungy Jump 150' over the Nanaimo River. It also has an excellent aerial adventure course in the trees, with exhilarating ziplines.
- The Malahat Skywalk is a very popular tourist attraction and engineering marvel, just over an hour south of Nanaimo.
- Mt Washington, approximately 1 ½ hours north of Nanaimo, provides fabulous skiing in winter and world class mountain biking all other times of the year.
- Tofino, BC, is a world class destination for surfing on the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island, with storm watchers also enjoying the wild and awe-inspiring sights in this amazing place. Tofino is approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes from Nanaimo.



JUST FOR FUN 2

- Parks Canada's West Coast Trail draws people from around the world. It is a 75 km backcountry hiking trail along the wild Pacific Coast with starting points south and northwest of Nanaimo.
- San Josef Bay is accessed from logging roads or rugged trails in northern Vancouver Island and is currently ranked as one of the best 50 beaches in North America.
- Fort Rodd Hill and the Fisgard Lighthouse are National Historic sites in the Greater Victoria area and easily accessed from Nanaimo.
- Strathcona Provincial Park, a popular destination for hikers and mountain climbers, is the oldest park in B.C., and is located north of Nanaimo.



JUST FOR FUN 3

- There are 128 Provincial Parks, 3 National Parks and numerous additional regional parks on Vancouver Island, underscoring the “super” in the slogan “Super-Natural British Columbia”.
- Victoria, which is only 1 hour and 37 minutes from Nanaimo, boasts many of these parks. Beacon Hill Park is located within easy walking distance of Victoria’s inner harbour and has beautiful pathways, flowers, shrubs, roses, free roaming peacocks and a petting zoo.
- Butchart Gardens is a 120-year old, world famous, 55-acre display garden and is another National Historic Site located on Vancouver Island. It’s located in the Brentwood Bay area within Greater Victoria.



A WAVE FROM THE TOP OF MT. BENSON

...AND WHAT A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF
NANAIMO FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT.





GENERATIONS CHURCH

Generations Church sits on a beautiful piece of property overlooking Departure Bay in central Nanaimo.



GENERATIONS CHURCH

WE ARE A WELCOMING FAMILY.

NANAIMO'S COMMUNITY OF FAITH

In November of 2022, Nanaimo News Bulletin announced that the “Census finds that Nanaimo is Canada’s least-religious metropolitan area” in a piece written by Greg Sakaki. The piece identified that 62.9% of Nanaimo residents have **no** religious affiliation compared with 52.1% for BC and 34.6% for Canada.



NANAIMO'S COMMUNITY OF FAITH

There are over 30 churches within the Nanaimo and nearby areas. The majority identify as Christian, but there are also three Sikh Temples, several spiritualist centres, the Islamic Centre of Nanaimo Mosque, Christian Science, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Sanctuary of the Rastafarian Order Ministry, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Jewish Chabad Nanaimo and the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo.



A CHALLENGING ISSUE

People suffering from combined conditions of homelessness, addiction and concurrent mental health disorders is a major issue in Nanaimo. There is no easy fix, and it is impacting everyone. Hopefully, initiatives involving multiple partnerships will help those in need.





SPECIAL BANNERS 2024

These banners were put up all around the City of Nanaimo, recognizing Nanaimo's 150 years of incorporation. In December 1874, the City of Nanaimo became the sixth municipality to be incorporated in the Province of BC.

A close look at the banners reveals a lot about this city, and perhaps demonstrates why Nanaimo is currently one of the fastest growing cities in Canada.

THE FINALE: THE NANAIMO BAR

The City of Nanaimo wants everyone to know that the Nanaimo Bar is from this city (no matter what other people say). They even created the Nanaimo Bar “Bar From Home” initiative, complete with the original and correct recipe for this amazing dessert. It is something a little extra special that the City of Nanaimo is happy to embrace.

You can even find these deep-fried or chopped into ice cream. The possibilities are endless.

GRAHAM CRUMBS COCOA & COCONUT SUGAR & BUTTER CUSTARD MIDDLE CHOCOLATE LAYER



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

NANAIMO-BAR

Bar From Home

BOTTOM LAYER: 1/2 cup unsalted butter (European style cultured), 1/4 cup sugar, 5 tbsp cocoa, 1 egg beaten, 1 3/4 cups graham wafer crumbs, 1/2 cup finely chopped almonds, 1 cup coconut, MELT FIRST 3 INGREDIENTS IN TOP OF DOUBLE BOILER. ADD EGG & STIR TO COOK & THICKEN. REMOVE FROM HEAT. STIR IN CRUMBS, COCONUT, & NUTS. PRESS FIRMLY INTO AN UNGREASED 8" x 8" PAN.
SECOND LAYER: 1/2 cup unsalted butter, 2 Tbsp and 2 Tsp cream, 2 Tbsp vanilla custard powder, 2 cups icing sugar, 1 cup cream, CREAM BUTTER, CREAM, CUSTARD POWDER, & ICING SUGAR TOGETHER WELL. BEAT UNTIL LIGHT. SPREAD OVER BOTTOM LAYER.
THIRD LAYER: 4 squares semi-sweet chocolate (1 oz. each), 2 Tbsp unsalted butter MELT CHOCOLATE & BUTTER OVER LOW HEAT. COOL. ONCE COOL, BUT STILL LIQUID, POUR OVER SECOND LAYER & CHILL IN REFRIGERATOR. *Recipe by JOYCE HARDCASTLE*