

Some History about Victoria, BC

- Victoria is Western Canada's second oldest city, incorporated August 2 1862
- Victoria is built on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen People (pronounced Le-KWUNG-en). The Songhees and Esquimalt Nations are part of the Coast Salish family and are descendants of the Lekwungen family groups. Lekwungen is the original language of this land.
- On March 13, 1843, Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company James Douglas, accompanied by the pioneer Roman Catholic missionary Father J.B.Z. Bolduc, anchored off Clover Point in the "Beaver." The next day he selected the site for Fort Victoria.
- HUDSON BAY COMPANY 1843. City of Victoria was founded by the Hudson's Bay Company on March 14, 1843, as a trading post and fort at the location the Lekwungen People called "Camosack" meaning "Rush of Water." Anticipating that under the Oregon Treaty, then being drawn up, the 49th parallel would be chosen as the International Boundary Line, the Hudson's Bay Company moved its fort from Vancouver on the Columbia River to the southern end of Vancouver Island.
- GOLD RUSH 1858 Life of the little community of Victoria centered in the business of the Hudson's Bay Company until 1858 when gold was discovered on the mainland of British Columbia. Then miners and adventurers from the gold fields of California and Australia, and indeed from all parts of the world, flocked to Victoria which was the only ocean port and outfitting centre for the gold fields of the Cariboo
- CITY INCORPORATION 1862. The name "Victoria" was adopted when the townsite was laid out in 1852. Victoria was incorporated as a City on August 2, 1862.
- CONFEDERATION- THE CAPITAL CITY 1871. July 20, 1871, British Columbia became the sixth province of the Dominion of Canada and Victoria was proclaimed the Capital City. The achievement of Confederation was no simple undertaking.
- ABOUT VICTORIA For most of the nineteenth century, Victoria remained the largest city in British Columbia and was the foremost in trade and commerce. However, with construction of the Transcontinental railway, Vancouver, as its terminus, emerged as the major west coast port and the largest city in British Columbia
- Victoria evolved primarily as a city of government, retirement and tourism. The City remains, however, Canada's western naval base and home to a major fishing fleet.
- Victoria has an estimated regional population of 367,000 with a downtown population of approximately 86,000.