



# LAKE COWICHAN

## British Columbia

Community Profile

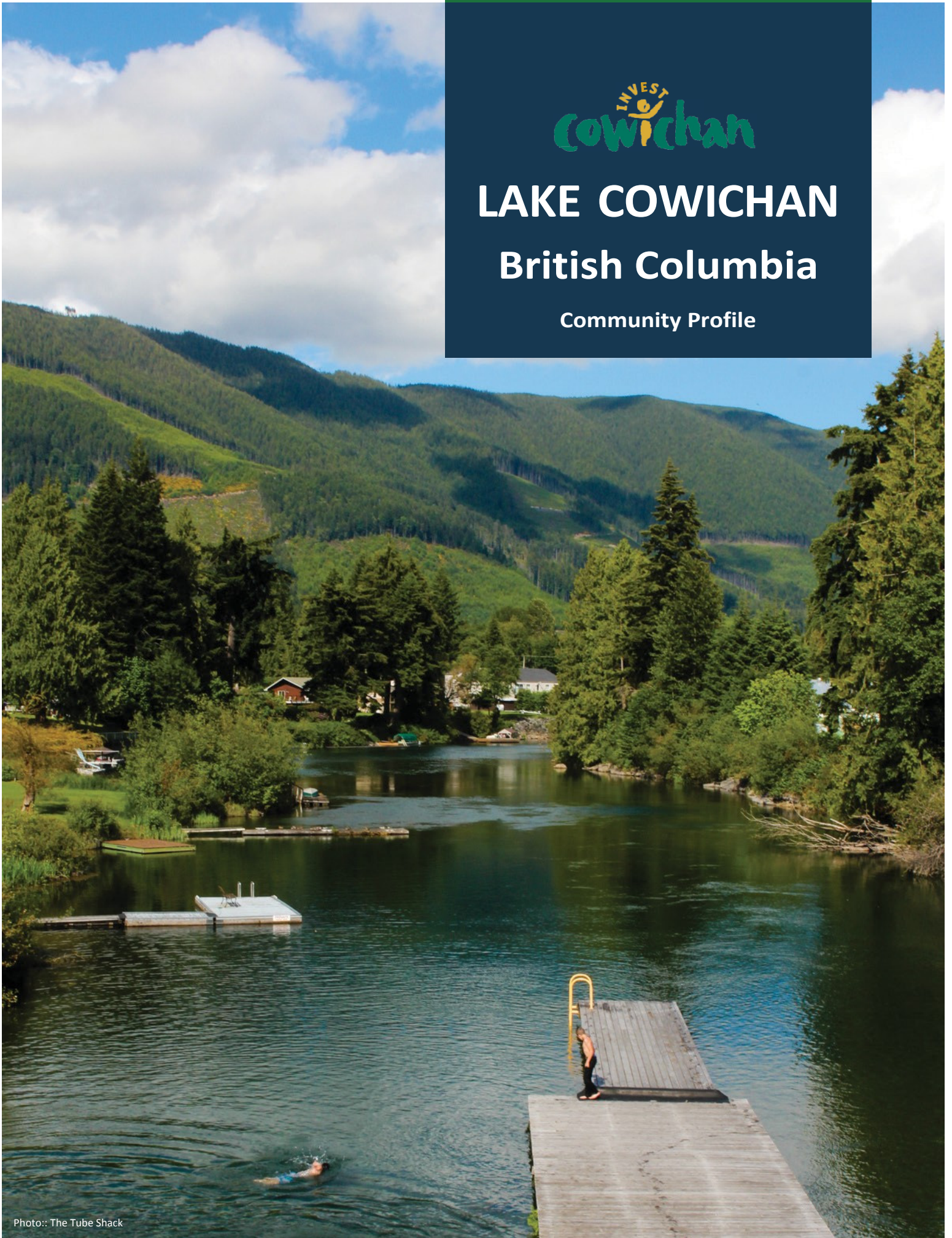


Photo:: The Tube Shack

## LAKE COWICHAN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Location:** South Central Vancouver Island

**Key Economic Sectors:** Resource industry, tourism, service industry

**Population:** 3,226 (Statistics Canada 2016)



*All you have to do is see the natural beauty of the lake, river and mountains where our town is situated and you'll see why so many people are attracted to work, live and play here.*

*Ross Forrest, Mayor of Lake Cowichan*

### INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

Excellent infrastructure, a skilled and educated workforce, a wealth of natural resources, affordable housing, development-friendly and accessible local government, abundant recreation opportunities and a favourable tax climate serve a growing and diverse economy.

### UNIQUE LAKECOWICHAN

We are a vibrant, healthy, sustainable community that exists in harmony with the natural environment, enjoys a balanced economy, supports all generations and provides the opportunities to satisfy diverse social needs.

The area has much to offer potential investors or residents. An increasing number of workers commute to Duncan and as far as Victoria for jobs.

Forestry, tourism and industrial/manufacturing have been key drivers of the economy for many years. Lake Cowichan now seeks investment to diversify and balance the economy.



**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Lake Cowichan Area is open for business! Investment opportunities include:

- **Forestry**  
*Primary* — Logging on licensed woodlots, tree farm licenses and private land, heli-logging and log sorting  
*Secondary* — All aspects of silviculture
- **Wood products value-added manufacturing** — Speciality forest products, sawmills and custom industrial and residential products.
- **Lake Cowichan First Nation** — is seeking investment partners for a waterfront café/ culture centre and residential subdivision.
- **Green industry** — Non-polluting light industries such as renewable energy or agriculture-related industries such as horticulture.
- **Tourism** — Tourism is a significant part of the Lake Cowichan economy, with adventure and eco-tourism the fastest-growing areas. Additional opportunities exist for fishing, kayaking, hiking, sightseeing trips and tours and resort accommodation.
- **Professional services** — Lawyers, accountants and management consultants in the forestry sector.

**GOVERNMENT/ COMMUNITY PLANNING**



A mayor and four councillors are elected every four years. They oversee the planning, maintenance and upkeep of the town’s roads, services and buildings.

In 2011, Lake Cowichan completed a **Community Plan** to ensure sustainable growth to 2031. The Plan estimated a one-percent growth rate, increased need for social housing, the desire to limit the demands on the local water table and the need to develop environmental technologies to protect local resources.

Lake Cowichan upgraded the downtown core in 2013. This included library renovations, a new town square and a floating dock in Saywell Park. The improvements brought two new restaurants, a clothing store, a pre-fab cabinetry company and new medical services to the area.

Community upgrades are continuing with new signage projects and plans for a new municipal hall.



## LIVING IN COWICHAN LAKE

Lake Cowichan is known for friendly people, fresh air, beautiful mountains and the most spectacular hiking, camping and fishing on Vancouver Island. Locals enjoy exploring the wetlands, streams and rivers, rocky bluffs, diverse lakeshores and beautiful forests in the region.

### CLIMATE

Lake Cowichan has a Maritime-Mediterranean climate with warm and dry summers and mild winters. It averages 2,000 hours of sunshine annually. The growing season lasts for 250 days.

### EDUCATION

Lake Cowichan offers comprehensive schooling for children, including two schools that together offer kindergarten to Grade 12. The high school offers community-based learning, extracurricular education and accommodations at the Cowichan Lake Education Centre.

Cowichan Lake Community Services provides education, recreation, career research and employment planning.

In 2013, Lake Cowichan built a new public library. It features computers, a laptop bar, study space, and a designated area for children's programs.

### HOUSING

Cowichan Lake offers Island living at an affordable price. A single-family dwelling was assessed at \$202,700 as of July 2013, or could be rented for about \$1,000 per month. Apartments rent for an average of \$567 per month, compared to a national average rate of \$672.

Use the [B.C. Government's Cost of Living Calculator](#) to find out more about costs in Lake Cowichan.

### HEALTHCARE

Lake Cowichan has quality healthcare available locally. The town has two medical clinics, four doctors, pharmacists, dentists, a physiotherapy clinic and counsellors.

A hospital is a 20-minute drive away in Duncan, BC.



**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

Lake Cowichan has numerous clubs and associations. For children and youth, minor hockey and baseball are available. If you are interested in the environment, there is a local lake and stewardship society.

The town has many active organizations for seniors, including a Seniors' Association, Housing Society and Seniors Centre. A Royal Canadian Legion branch is also active. Artisans will also feel at home here. Over 100 world-class artisans are involved in sculpting, painting, theatre and dance. Lake Cowichan is a founding member of the Arts and Culture highway.

**TRANSPORTATION LINKS**

**Road:** The Cowichan Valley Highway (Highway 18) connects Lake Cowichan to the Trans-Canada Highway.

**Bus:** Seven trips daily to Duncan (except Sundays), with three routes within the area. HandyDART bus for seniors.

**Air Service:** Nanaimo Airport, 40 minutes away, offers service to the mainland. Victoria International Airport is one hour away.

**Ferry:** Regular ferry service to the mainland and USA is available from Nanaimo and Victoria.

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Lake Cowichan is the gateway to some of the most spectacular hiking, camping and fishing on Vancouver Island. In fact, the area has been called the fly-fishing capital of Canada. As well, it is a terminus for the Trans-Canada Hiking Trail.

You can also kayak or boat on Cowichan Lake and River. A floating boardwalk leads through a Douglas-fir forest to the Cowichan Lake Education Centre for outdoor learning and camping.

The updated Cowichan Lake Sports Arena and the Centennial Hall provide sports programs for children and adults, including ice hockey and curling. The Town also has Centennial Park with baseball and soccer fields and a walking trail.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you are interested in moving to the Island, Lake Cowichan would be a great choice. It is clean, safe and beautiful, with friendly people and a growing economy. Give us a call!

**Town of Lake Cowichan**

[www.town.lakecowichan.bc.ca](http://www.town.lakecowichan.bc.ca)  
250.749.6681

**Economic Development Cowichan**

[www.discovercowichan.com](http://www.discovercowichan.com)  
250.746.7880

