



**HONEYMOON BAY
YUBOU/MESACHIE LAKE
British Columbia**

Region Profile

HONEYMOON BAY/YOUBOU MESACHIE LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Region Profile

Location: Southern Vancouver Island
Key Economic Sectors: Tourism, forestry
Population: 2,835 (Statistics Canada 2016)



INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

The area is one of the most natural and scenic areas of the Cowichan Region. It is home to the Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park and is part of the Pacific Marine Circle Route, a 255 km (158 mi) automobile route through the majestic back roads on Vancouver Island. Fresh, clean air and beauty are major contributors to the quality of life and attractiveness of the area for residents and visitors. Tourism is a growing sector, and investors will also find opportunities that build on the region’s forestry resources.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Some good opportunities await entrepreneurs or established firms with an eye on expansion.

- **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** — Specialty forest products, sawmills, and custom industrial and residential products.
- **Green industry** — Non-polluting light industries such as renewable energy.
- **Tourism** — Adventure- and eco-tourism are growing, as well as opportunities to develop hotels and restaurants.
- **Residential construction / retirement living** — People are moving to the region while keeping jobs in Duncan or Victoria. Many seniors are also relocating for the warm weather and relaxed lifestyle.



UNIQUE AREA

Honeymoon Bay is a town on the south arm of Cowichan Lake. In its centre is a park with beautiful views of the lake and Bald Mountain, along with a collection of heritage trees. From Honeymoon Bay you can visit the Honeymoon Bay Ecological Reserve, the Honeymoon Bay Lodge and Retreat or journey to the spectacular old-growth forest of Carmanah Walbran Provincial Park.

Youbou is a lovely village on the lake’s north shore and charms visitors with its natural beauty and historic buildings. The local church and community hall were built in 1937.

The rows of quaint company-built houses, tree-lined roads, mountain backdrop and lake access make Mesachie Lake a fine village. Fruit trees line the streets and are recognized as an important heritage landmark of the community.

DOING BUSINESS

The area is open to new business and investment projects. Here are some organizations that can help you meet the right people and launch your new or expanding business:

- **Economic Development Cowichan**
- **Lake Cowichan First Nation**
- **Cowichan Lake District Chamber of Commerce**

GOVERNMENT/COMMUNITY PLANNING



The area is formally made up of Electoral Area F (Cowichan Lake South/Skutz Falls) and Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek).

The Cowichan Valley Regional District governs West Cowichan. Directors are elected every four years, one from each Area.

Community Plans for the Areas have objectives of interest to investors, including:

- Providing for commercial, tourist and recreational developments
- Encouraging the establishment of new industry, including secondary forest products
- Providing for a mix of housing suitable for all ages and people of various means

LAKE COWICHAN FIRST NATION

The goal of the Lake Cowichan First Nation is to provide opportunity, employment and the means to become economically self sufficient through sustainable economic development. Currently, the Nation is creating partnerships for a waterfront café / culture centre and residential subdivision and recently opened a kayak rental facility.



LIVING IN THE AREA

Lands within the area are within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations including the Lake Cowichan First Nation. For thousands of years, they lived in villages and used the area for camping, fishing and gathering. In the early 1900s, the region’s massive stands of timber attracted lumbermen from eastern Canada and the United States.

Today, the area is home to people who are drawn to its spectacular beauty and high quality of life. Increasing numbers live in the Region and work in Duncan or Victoria.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES / COMMUNITY EVENTS

Keeping fit and active is easy in this area. The Cowichan Lake Sports Arena and the Centennial Hall host ice hockey and curling. Youbou has Arbutus Park, with a large sandy beach and protected swimming area. Central Park in Honeymoon Bay has a beautiful beach, trails, a playground and an off-leash dog park.

The area’s real gem is its outdoors. Many private and provincial campgrounds are located around Cowichan Lake. Excellent fishing, swimming, kayaking and boating are all at the community’s doorstep. You can also golf, cycle and bike, or hike and camp in Cowichan River Provincial Park.

The Lake communities hold festivals and events through the summer, including:

- Cowichan Lake Days
- Honeymoon Bay Outdoor Market Saturdays from May to October
- Youbou Regatta
- 56 km Great Lake Walk around Cowichan Lake

Lake Cowichan has a Seniors’ Association, Housing Society and Seniors Centre. A Royal Canadian Legion branch is also active. Artisans will feel at home here—over 100 world-class artisans are involved in sculpting, painting, theatre and dance.

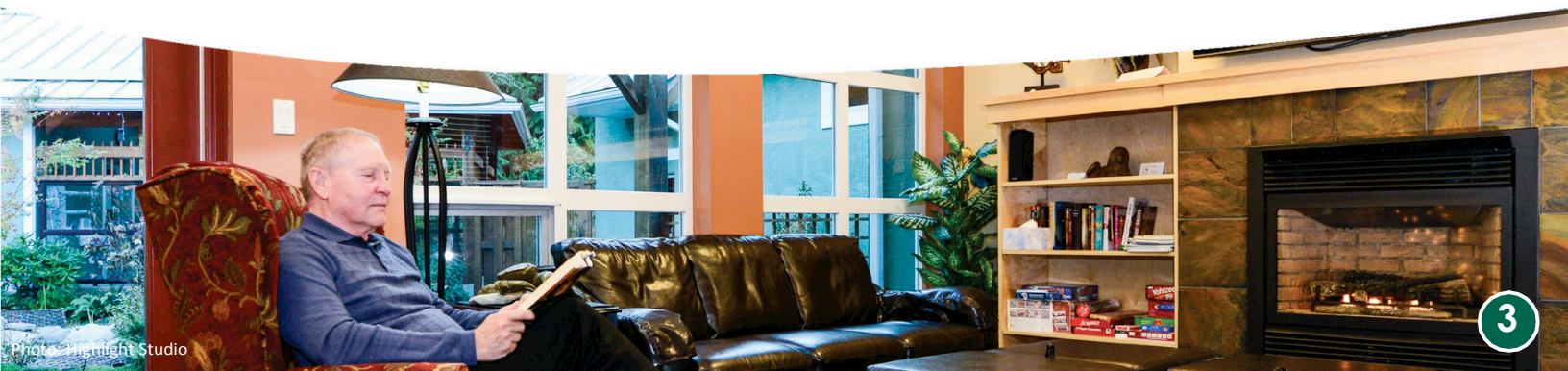
HEALTHCARE

Local quality healthcare is available in neighbouring Lake Cowichan. 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.

FESTIVALS

Laketown Ranch in Lake Cowichan is the 172-acre home of Sunfest, one of western Canada’s biggest and most successful country music festivals, which welcomes world-class entertainment and over 50,000 fans every year.



EDUCATION

The nearby Town of Lake Cowichan has two elementary schools and one high school. For post-secondary students or businesses, Vancouver Island University has a campus in Duncan.

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

In 2013, Lake Cowichan built a new public library. It features computers and a designated area for children’s programs.

The Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education and Conference Centre can accommodate groups of up to 100. The Centre also delivers outdoor educational and recreational programs for school groups and people of all ages.

TRANSPORTATION

- **Highways:** Youbou Road leads to Lake Cowichan. The Cowichan Valley Highway (Highway 18) connects Lake Cowichan to the Trans-Canada Highway and the rest of the region.
- **Air Service:** Passenger, courier and cargo services are available at airports near Nanaimo (40 minutes) and Victoria International (60 minutes).
- **Local buses:** Public transit is available throughout the West Cowichan Region. Intercity bus service is available from Duncan.
- **Ferry:** Ferry service to the Mainland and USA is available from Nanaimo and Victoria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Make the move - it’s a great place to live!

Economic Development Cowichan
www.ecdevcowichan.com
 250.746.7880

Lake Cowichan First Nations
www.lakecowichanfn.ca
 250.749.3301

Cowichan Lake District Chamber of Commerce
www.cowichanlake.ca
 250.749.3244

