

Neighbourhoods



In the *Community*

Like almost any place in British Columbia, Powell River is actually much more than simply “Powell River”. From the Old Townsite, to the charmingly named communities of Cranberry and Wildwood, there are many distinct sub-communities of this unique region.

Cranberry originally grew out of an early 1900s economy built on animal farming and agriculture, and forestry jobs at shinglemills and sawmills, benefiting from the huge tracts of forests growing up from the ocean’s edge and easily transported via the network of lakes in the district.

Wildwood has its own unique character, built on a history of rural isolation that, while dispensed with by all the modern conveniences, still lends the area a wonderful charm in direct opposition to today’s common consumer-driven subdivisions.

Westview, or Powell River Proper, is the most populated area of Powell River, and is the main destination for visitors to the region, with its diverse array of businesses, and many familiar franchises such as restaurants and hardware chains.



Marine Avenue, following (naturally) the waterfront along Powell River, offers a great mix of eclectic shopping, with gift stores, a wide variety of interesting restaurants, professional offices, and other service businesses. Within Powell River Proper you will also find the airport, schools, university and the hospital. Powell River General Hospital is a 33-bed facility providing services that include surgery, endoscopy, ICU, obstetrics, in-patient psychiatry, oncology, emergency and diagnostic services.

This is the spot to be at the annual Blackberry Festival for the renowned “Street Party” held every August to coincide with the ripening of the blackberries, and is also where Seafair is held every year. Just on the edge of town is the wonderful Willingdon Beach municipal park and campsite, a popular destination in the summer months.

Westview is also where those visitors continuing on to Vancouver Island catch the ferry to Comox, or detour instead to beautiful Texada Island aboard another smaller ferry to Blubber Bay.



Texada *Island*

Texada Island is BC's largest Gulf Island and is conveniently located just 8 kilometers away from the City of Powell River. Fifty kilometres (30 miles) long and six miles wide Texada Island is separated from Powell River by the Malaspina Strait. Prior to Don Jose Navarez, a Spanish seaman who sighted and charted the island in 1791, First Nation People spent time on the island. Exploration on Texada Island boomed when iron ore was discovered on the northcoast at Welcome Bay in 1871. Sometime after 1877 marble was found, and in 1880, gold was discovered near present day Van Anda. Gold and copper were produced in the area, as well as extensive logging during the 1800s and 1990s.

A scenic ferry ride from Powell River's Westview ferry terminal will have you on Texada Island in just 30 minutes. Texada is also serviced by air via KD Air, with three scheduled flights per day from Vancouver's South terminal, or Qualicum Beach to the 3000 foot runway at Gillies Bay Airport. After making your way to Texada you will find a population of around 1,200 in the three main settlements: Gillies Bay, Blubber Bay and Van Anda.

Texada's economy is home to multiple quarries and receives attention for its fertile soil conditions which are perfect for market agriculture.



A library, Credit Union, elementary school and a hotel are just some of the amenities you will find on Texada Island. An abundance of bed and breakfasts speak to the Island's tourism marketplace and they cater to the weekend clientele.

There are plenty of recreational opportunities on Texada Island. Excellent hiking and mountain biking trails are populated with over 250 species of birds. Spend the day kayaking from Shingle Beach to the scenic and historic Jedediah Island marine park. Visit Shelter Point Campground for excellent skimboarding and swimming and explore the protected Karsk Caves near Davies Bay. If you would like something more traditional bring your clubs and play a challenging 9-holes at the Texada golf course. In addition, the Texada Island Recreation Commission is made up of resident volunteers who work with the Powel River Regional District to manage and improve recreational facilities on Texada.

Texada Island is called home by a number of organizations and societies that are at the service of visitors, residents and businesses. The Texada Chamber of Commerce is an association of business owners and individuals who have a stake or interest in the local economy. The members band together to improve the business climate and the overall community of the island.

The residents of Texada Island are cared for by the Texada Island Community Health Centre in association with the Texada Health Services Society. The Society provides community advice and support to the Director of the Health Centre to ensure the well being of all those on the island.





In order to foster the advancement of the arts, culture and tourism of Texada Island, the Texada Arts, Culture & Tourism Society (TACT) was formed. Its mission is to support and cultivate the arts, culture and tourism in harmony with the existing economic drivers in the community. In essence, the goal is to support the overall island community and to develop and stimulate new ways for people working in arts, culture and tourism related fields.

You will find all of the comforts of home on Texada. Banking, laundry, grocery and liquor stores, golf & tennis, post offices, shops, galleries, museums and, of course, exquisite dining.



Sliammon First *Nation*

North of the City of Powell River you will find the Tla'amin community on the Nation's main reserve, Sliammon. Sliammon is the name of the First Nation and is derived from the word Tla'amin which means "our people". The Sliammon First Nation reserve is situated on a portion of land between Powell River and Lund which is opposite Harwood Island (also reserve land). The community is more than 1,000 members strong, with the majority living on the reserve.

Throughout the Sliammon reserve there are a number of departments and organizations that serve a special purpose. Each serves a specific function on behalf of the community, including communication with the Canadian government, while other departments focus on enhancing the lives of community members through the betterment of health services or education.

Of the Tla'amin Nation's six reserves, only one reserve, Sliammon, is populated. The additional reserves include Harwood Island, Cortez Island, Theodosia, Okeover, and Grace Harbour. The Nation's reserves total more than 1,907 hectares, or 4,721 acres, and represents less than 1% of Nation's traditional territory. Land use for each of these reserves was identified in 2007 when the preparation of a comprehensive community plan was completed.



Through these extensive consultations and evaluations, it was determined that certain land would be devoted to economic development practices such as housing, industrial and commercial activities.

Tla'amin Nation's economic development opportunities and initiatives are undertaken by the Sliammon Development Corporation. Sliammon Development Corporation is governed by a board of directors, and is pursuing the goals and objectives set out in the Community Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Strategy. The Sliammon First Nation is keenly interested in integrating themselves with the regional economy, while forming strategic partnerships and joint ventures with the territory. A local labour force, resource assets and an unbeatable land base provides an exceptional opportunity for mutual beneficial partnerships across a variety of industries in both the public and private sector.

Nature, culture and industry can all be found in Tla'amin territory, and is an excellent landing spot for businesses, families and retirees. The region's primary exports are paper, lumber, crushed limestone, shellfish and value added products such as furniture. With the addition of Alterra Power Corporation, the region has enjoyed a substantial amount of investment in the energy sector. Furthermore, the area's commercial sector is home to many national retailers which attest to the investment readiness of the community.

Like Texada Island, Tla'amin is one of the few locations on the Southern BC coast that offers marine industrial land with deep-water access at a reasonable price.





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