

HISTORY OF DUNCAN

Name _____

The City of Duncan has a population of just under 5000, it serves the Cowichan Valley which has a population of 80,000 people.

The name *Cowichan* is an English form of the Halkomelem *Quwutsun*, which means "the warm land".

The community is named after William Chalmers Duncan. He arrived in Victoria in May 1862, then in August of that year he was one of the party of a hundred settlers which Governor Douglas took to

Cowichan Bay. After going off on several gold rushes, Duncan settled close to the present city of Duncan. He married in 1876, and his son Kenneth became the first mayor of Duncan. There is a Kenneth Street, as well as a Duncan Street, in the city.



THE RAILWAY STATION, DUNCAN, B.C.

Duncan's farm was named Alderlea, and this was the first name of the settlement. "Duncan" became the official name of the city in 1912.



Downtown Duncan 1914

In the early 1900s, Duncan's Chinese people had their own Chinatown. Chinatown was concentrated in a single block in Duncan. The city tore the buildings down in 1969 to build the law court buildings.



Duncan's tourism slogan is "The City of Totems". The city has 80 totem poles around the entire town. Duncan has a large First Nations community and is the traditional home of the Cowichan Tribes, who are the largest band among the Coast Salish people. The Coast Salish men and women of the Cowichan Tribes are makers of the world-famous Cowichan Sweater.



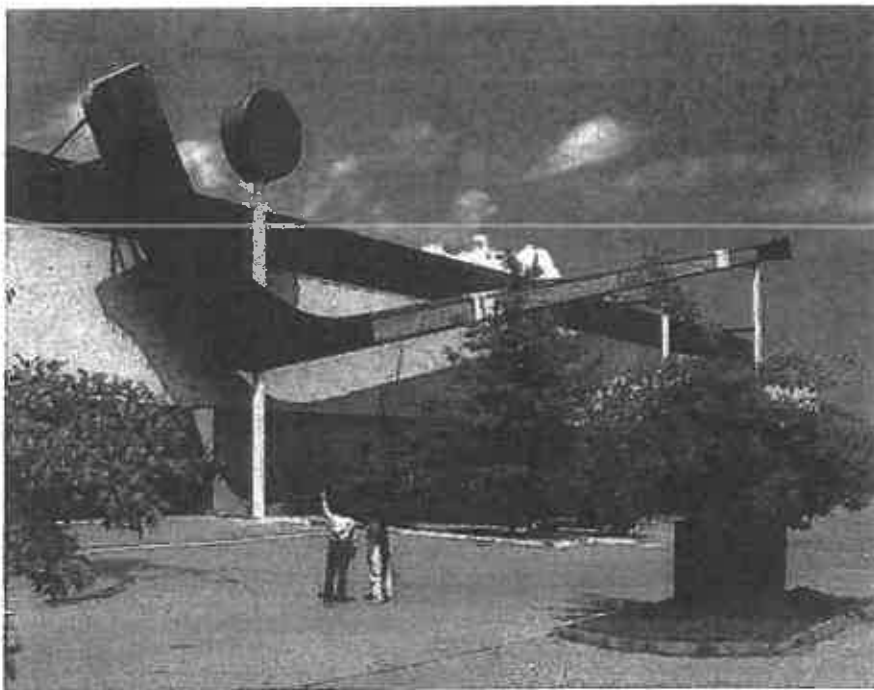


Farming was the first type of work in the new settlement, followed by Logging. Copper mining on Mt. Sicker also helped grow the town.



Station Street

Duncan has the world's largest ice hockey stick, officially recognised by Guinness World Records on July 14, 2008, which is on display on the side of the local arena. The stick was made for Expo 86 in Vancouver, and purchased by the town of Duncan. Several NHL players come from the Cowichan area.



- Greg Adams, former NHL player
- Doug Bodger, former NHL player
- Russ Courtnall, former NHL player

Robin Bawa, former NHL player
Geoff Courtnall, former NHL player
Matt Ellison, former NHL player