



# A Timeline of Victoria History

## ☛ c. 4,000 BP

- ☞ Ancestors of the Songhees (Lekwungen) occupy the area now known as the City of Victoria



## ☛ 1700s

- ☞ Fortified village of the Songhees stands at Finlayson Point
- ☞ 1778 Captain James Cook discovers Nootka Island
- ☞ 1790 Spanish expedition of Manuel Quimper in the *Princesa Real* reaches Esquimalt (Puerto de Cordova)



## ☛ 1837 Captain William McNeill surveys the harbours around Victoria aboard the *Beaver*

## ☛ 1840

- ☞ 1842 James Douglas sights Victoria (*Whosaykum*) aboard the schooner *Cadboro*
- ☞ 1843 James Douglas arrives via the *Beaver* and establishes Fort Camosun (later Fort Victoria) as a Hudson's Bay Co trading post
- ☞ 1844 The HBC forces the re-location of the Songhees village across the harbour
- ☞ The Quamichan warrior Tzouhalum leads an attack on Fort Victoria

## ☛ 1845

- ☞ 1847 St. Charles Roman Catholic Church established at Esquimalt
- ☞ 1849 Crown colony established
- ☞ The HBC expands Fort Victoria
- ☞ Influenza epidemic reaches Victoria, killing at least 3
- ☞ The HBC establishes the Company School with the Rev. Robert Staines as Head

## ☛ 1850

- ☞ The Songhees begin abandoning their winter villages around Fort Victoria
- ☞ Richard Blanshard, first Governor of Vancouver Island, arrives at Victoria
- ☞ 1851 Blanshard resigns his post and leaves
- ☞ Edward E. Langford arrives at Victoria
- ☞ Robert Dunsmuir arrives at Victoria
- ☞ 1852 Helmcken House built



☛ 1855

- ☛ Farm Director Kenneth McKenzie completes the Craigflower Schoolhouse
- ☛ 1856 First House of Assembly election
- ☛ 1858 Fraser river gold rush begins
- ☛ Crown Colony of British Columbia established
- ☛ 1859 Britain assumes direct control of Vancouver Island

☛ 1860

- ☛ Victoria Rifle Corps militia established
- ☛ Race Rocks and Fisgard lighthouses built
- ☛ 1862 City of Victoria incorporated
- ☛ Smallpox epidemic decimates the Songhees nation
- ☛ 1864 Telegraph system begins operation

☛ 1865

- ☛ Esquimalt Harbour becomes the Royal Navy's Pacific headquarters
- ☛ 1866 Vancouver Island and British Columbia colonies united
- ☛ Mifflin Gibbs, the first Black politician in Canada, elected to the Victoria Town Council
- ☛ Gold rush ends
- ☛ 1867 Confederation
- ☛ 1868 Victoria becomes the capital of British Columbia
- ☛ 1869 Fire completely destroys Christ Church Cathedral

☛ 1870

- ☛ 1871 BC joins Canada
- ☛ Pacific Telegraph Hotel, the largest of its day (150 beds), opens on Store St
- ☛ 1872 Second Christ Church Cathedral built
- ☛ Royal Navy stations 5 ships and 1,800 men in Esquimalt
- ☛ All public schools close for lack of funds
- ☛ 1873 The international Financial Panic causes the Federal Government to renege on the plan to make Victoria the Pacific terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway

☛ 1875

- ☛ SS *Pacific* sails from Esquimalt and collides with the SS *Orpheus*, resulting in the loss of 230 out 232 souls
- ☛ Water utility begins piping in from Elk Lake
- ☛ 1877 James Douglas dies
- ☛ Pendray Soapworks starts at Humboldt and Douglas, producing 40,000 lbs of soap per week
- ☛ 1878 John A. Macdonald becomes MP for Victoria

☛ 1880

- ☛ Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company begins operations with 50 subscribers
- ☛ 1882 Princess Louise arrives for a 2 week visit, stays for three months



- ☞ Chinese archway erected at Store Street for Governor General's visit
- ☞ 1883 Robert Dunsmuir acquires remaining interest in Departure Bay mines for \$600,000
- ☞ 1884 Chinese Benevolent Association established in Victoria
- ☞ Chinese population is 15,000, equal to the white population
- ☛ 1885
  - ☞ 1883 Victoria begins replacing gas lighting with electric lighting
  - ☞ 1886 Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway completed
  - ☞ 1887 Esquimalt dry dock completed
  - ☞ Work Point Barracks established as a Canadian military base
  - ☞ 1888 The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway reaches Victoria
  - ☞ 1889 Rudyard Kipling visits Victoria
- ☛ 1890
  - ☞ First street cars begin operation
  - ☞ 1891 The CPR Empress line begins service between Vancouver and Victoria
  - ☞ 1892 Economic depression begins
  - ☞ 1893 First phase of construction begins on the British Columbia Parliament Buildings
  - ☞ 1894 Victoria and Sidney Railway begins service
- ☛ 1895
  - ☞ 1896 Point Ellice Bridge collapses, killing 55 streetcar passengers on board
  - ☞ 1897 An estimated 100,000 immigrants arrive en route to the Yukon gold fields
  - ☞ 1898 Official Opening of the Parliament Buildings
  - ☞ Belle Adams murders Charles Kincaid by cutting his throat with a razor
  - ☞ 1899 Willows Exhibition Building constructed in Oak Bay
- ☛ 1900
  - ☞ 1901 Queen Victoria dies
  - ☞ 1903 Rattenbury and Maclure complete Government House
  - ☞ The Canadian Bank of Commerce hires poet Robert Service as a clerk
  - ☞ Victoria College opens
  - ☞ 1904 The CPR's *Princess Victoria* begins service between Victoria, Vancouver, and Seattle
  - ☞ Opening of the Butchart Gardens
- ☛ 1905
  - ☞ 1906 The Royal Navy removes 1000 personnel from the base in Esquimalt
  - ☞ The steamer Valencia sinks off the west coast, drowning 120
  - ☞ 1907 Willows Exhibition Building destroyed by fire
  - ☞ 1908 The Empress Hotel opens
  - ☞ 1909 The Chinese Imperial School (renamed The Chinese Public School in 1912) opens on Fisgard St



#### ☛ 1910

- ☛ The Arcade Block fire destroys an entire city block from Government at Fort to Trounce Alley
- ☛ 1911 Songhees Band accepts a cash deal for \$434,000 to transfer lands on Victoria Harbour to the province
- ☛ 1912 Height of the Victoria real estate boom
- ☛ Canada's first artificial ice surface hosts first professional hockey game in Western Canada at Oak Bay
- ☛ 1913 John Bryant dies in Canada's first fatal plane crash
- ☛ 1914 B.C. purchases two submarines to defend the coast

#### ☛ 1915

- ☛ More than 1150 volunteers deployed with the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the *Princess Mary*
- ☛ Angry mobs vandalize German-owned businesses like the Kaiserhof Hotel in response to the news of the sinking of the *Lusitania*
- ☛ 1917 The Legislature gives women the vote in provincial elections
- ☛ Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Currie captures Vimy Ridge in the First World War
- ☛ Ogden Point breakwater completed
- ☛ 1918 Dominion Astrophysical Observatory completed

#### ☛ 1920

- ☛ Ogden Point docks completed
- ☛ Willows School built
- ☛ Victoria College resumes sessions at Craigdarroch Castle after five-year hiatus
- ☛ 1922 Federal MPs launch a campaign to segregate Chinese schoolchildren
- ☛ 1924 Johnson St. Bridge opens
- ☛ Leper colony moves from D'Arcy Island to Bentinck Island, remaining there until 1956

#### ☛ 1925

- ☛ Victoria Cougars defeat the Montreal Canadians three games to one to win the Stanley Cup
- ☛ 1926 Second Esquimalt drydock completed
- ☛ 1927 Charles Mair, poet and civil servant, dies in Royal Jubilee Hospital
- ☛ 1928 Emily Carr travels to eastern Canada to meet the Group of Seven
- ☛ 1929 The SS Empress of Canada runs aground off Albert Head
- ☛ Winston Churchill visits Victoria

#### ☛ 1930

- ☛ The Naden Band forms
- ☛ 1931 Police seize 40,000 tickets for a Canadian National Lottery
- ☛ Mount Doug High School built
- ☛ The Legislature bans Alexandra Tolstoy from BC for fear of inciting Sons of Freedom radicals



- ☞ 1933 Five people report seeing "Caddy", a 24 metre-long sea monster off Cadboro Bay
- ☛ 1935
  - ☞ Glenlyon Boys' Preparatory School moves to the former residence of Francis Rattenbury in the same year of his murder
  - ☞ 1937 U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits the Capital City
  - ☞ Canadian Government acquires Hatley Park upon the death of Mrs. James (Laura) Dunsmuir
  - ☞ 1938 Premier Duff Patullo submits proposal to Royal Commission to ban immigrants of Chinese and Japanese origin
  - ☞ 1939 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visit the Capital City
- ☛ 1940
  - ☞ 1941 Six vacant lots are turned into Thunderbird Park
  - ☞ 1942 Japanese submarine I-25 torpedoes the VMD-built freighter SS Fort Camosun in the Strait of Juan De Fuca
  - ☞ Japanese sub fires at lighthouse and wireless station at Estevan Point
  - ☞ Columbia Pictures shoots The Commandos Strike at Dawn in Victoria
  - ☞ 1943 Fifteen year-old Anneta "Molly" Justice is stabbed to death near Swan Lake
- ☛ 1945
  - ☞ Emily Carr dies
  - ☞ 1947 The Chinook begins plying the waters between Victoria and Seattle
  - ☞ 1948 Nancy Hodges named Speaker of the Legislature, a first in Commonwealth countries
  - ☞ Creation of the Greater Victoria Water District
  - ☞ End of streetcar service
- ☛ 1950
  - ☞ Three HMCS destroyers deployed to Korea from Esquimalt
  - ☞ 1951 Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip visit Victoria
  - ☞ Beginning of the Swiftsure Lightship Classic
  - ☞ 1953 Premier W.A.C. Bennett's Socreds re-elected
  - ☞ 1954 Mayor Claude Harrison threatens to burn "communist" books in public library
- ☛ 1955
  - ☞ 1956 Marilyn Bell swims Juan de Fuca in record time
  - ☞ World's tallest free-standing totem pole erected
  - ☞ 1957 The second Government House (1905) burns down
  - ☞ The fifth and last remaining "Birdcage" Parliament Building burns down
  - ☞ 1959 Government House rebuilt
  - ☞ S.J. Willis High School built at former site of Hillside Jail



## ☛ 1960

- ☞ 1961 W.A.C. Bennett introduces bill to take over B.C. Electric Company as a Crown Corporation
- ☞ 1962 Mungo Martin dies
- ☞ 1963 University of Victoria Founded
- ☞ Alice Munro and then-husband James move to Victoria and open Munro's Books
- ☞ 1964 Victoria Conservatory of Music Founded

## ☛ 1965

- ☞ New YWCA – YMCA Centre opens
- ☞ 1966 W.A.C. Bennett's Socred party wins another election
- ☞ The Provincial Government creates the CRD
- ☞ 1967 Centennial Train leaves for a cross-Canada exhibition
- ☞ The Federal Government gives Chinese Canadians full citizenship rights

## ☛ 1970

- ☞ 1971 Tourism becomes Victoria's largest employer
- ☞ Three day Constitutional Conference held to amend the BNA
- ☞ Camosun College founded
- ☞ 1972 The NDP, led by Dave Barrett, unseat the Socreds after seven consecutive elections
- ☞ Frank Arthur Calder named to Dave Barrett's cabinet, becoming the first native cabinet minister

## ☛ 1975

- ☞ Socreds beat the NDP in provincial election
- ☞ Renovations begin to convert a group of derelict warehouses into Market Square
- ☞ 1977 Fire destroys CN Rail's 140,000 square-foot warehouse at Ogden Point
- ☞ 1978 The first class of girls ("Harvey House") attends St. Michaels University School
- ☞ 1979 VIA Rail passenger service begins from Victoria to Courtenay

## ☛ 1980

- ☞ More than 400 boats compete in the Swiftsure Lightship Classic in the Inner Harbour
- ☞ 1982 Royal visits by Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Prince of Wales
- ☞ The province transfers public transit from BC Hydro to the newly-formed BC Transit
- ☞ 1983 Construction begins on a new \$1.2 billion multi-lane highway connecting Nanaimo and Victoria
- ☞ 1984 Spinnakers becomes the first brewpub to open in Canada



☛ 1985

- ☛ Steve Fonyo completes his cross-country "Journey for Lives" after reaching Mile 0 of the Trans-Canada Highway
- ☛ Victoria's first female Mayor, Gretchen Brewin elected
- ☛ 1986 The Royal BC Museum Centennial
- ☛ 1988 Duke of Edinburgh visits
- ☛ Two UVic rowers die when two 8-man shells capsize in a freak storm on Elk Lake
- ☛ 1989 The Victoria Eaton Centre opens on the former site of Marks and Spencer

☛ 1990

- ☛ Derik Lord (17) of Saanich and David Muir murder Muir's mother and grandmother for inheritance money
- ☛ 1991 Four year-old Michael Dunahee goes missing from a playground at Blanshard Elementary
- ☛ 1992 Ocean Pointe Resort and Spa opens
- ☛ 1993 Integrated Ferry Constructors completes the *Spirit of British Columbia* in Victoria
- ☛ 1994 Greater Victoria hosts the Fifteenth Commonwealth Games

☛ 1995

- ☛ Royal Roads Military College restructured as Royal Roads University
- ☛ 1996 the Blizzard of '96 drops a record 2-day total of 124 cm on the city, causing damages in excess of \$200 million
- ☛ 1997 Fourteen year-old Reena Virk is murdered by a "swarm" of six of her peers
- ☛ Major renovations to the Masonic Hall at 650 Fisgard
- ☛ 1998 Music producer David Foster awarded the Order of Canada

☛ 2000

- ☛ Hatley Castle becomes Xavier's School for the superhero film *X-Men*
- ☛ Victoria hosts the Twenty-First BC Summer Games
- ☛ 2001 Iona Campagnolo becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> female Lieutenant Governor of B.C.
- ☛ Hip-Hop group Swollen Members release Platinum-selling album *Bad Dreams*
- ☛ 2002 Nelly Furtado's "I'm Like a Bird" wins the Grammy Award for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance
- ☛ 2003 BC Ferries ceases to be a Crown Corporation and becomes a independent company
- ☛ 2004 Mr Floatie is created to bring public awareness to Victoria's lack of a sewage treatment system



☛ 2005

- ☛ Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre hosts the Ford World Men's Curling Championship
- ☛ Phoenix Suns Point Guard Steve Nash wins Most Valuable Player in the NBA for 2004-2005 (repeated in the 2005-2006 season)
- ☛ 2007 Steven Point becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Aboriginal Lieutenant Governor of B.C
- ☛ 2008 Thirteen percent of Team Canada at the Beijing Olympics is from Victoria
- ☛ 2009 The MV Ocean Lady docks at Ogden Point with 76 Sri Lankan refugee claimants on board
- ☛ Restaurant owner Peter Lee kills four family members and himself in Oak Bay

☛ 2010

- ☛ The 2010 Winter Olympics cross-Canada torch relay begins in Victoria
- ☛ Completion of the Atrium building, a LEED-certified office space
- ☛ Two teenage boys murder 18 year-old Kimberly Proctor and burn her body
- ☛ 2012 V&Q Celebrates 150 years
- ☛ 2013 Congregation Emanu-El Celebrates 150 years