

## HISTORY

The names of our streets tell a story of enterprise and optimism. John Hirst was among the first settlers here when the area was known as "The River." At the turn of the 20th century, a road was built from Nanaimo and a post office soon followed. The mail was distributed from the cabin of Nelson Parks, our City's namesake.

## LEGACY

Parksville is more than just a pretty beach. Stroll through our downtown streets, shop at our unique boutiques, enjoy a meal or a sunset. Parksville Downtown is the real thing, all year long. The legacy of our founders is a City that welcomes visitors and embraces those who make it their home. **Discover us.**

## COMMUNITY

A thriving downtown is essential to a prosperous, safe community. Cities everywhere are rediscovering the importance of a pedestrian-friendly, walkable downtown core. The Parksville Downtown Business Association (PDBA) is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization that administers Parksville's downtown Business Improvement Area and is dedicated to its revitalization.

WALKABLE. REMARKABLE.

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map

More than just a pretty beach!



**1** ROD AND GUN, John and Ann Hirst built the Rod and Gun Hotel to serve the hunters and fishermen who visited the area. It is a popular restaurant, bar and live music venue. Notice the large "fish" sign above the building.

**2** MEMORIAL AVENUE is one of our most beautiful streets. It was selected after World War I by the Parksville Women's Institute to commemorate local soldiers who died overseas. An elm was planted for each of the fallen.

**3** The MAC, The former McMillan School was built by Duncan McMillan on land donated by Ann Hirst. The school opened in 1914 and was used as that until 1978. It is now the home of the Oceanside Community Arts Council. [mcmillanartscentre.com](http://mcmillanartscentre.com)

**4** ABERNETHY HOUSE was built in 1922 by George Abernethy, a pole contractor. He built a new house next door in 1968 and the old home became a restaurant called The Judge's Manor, named for George's son-in-law Judge Eric Wirch. It is now a professional office building.

**5** HICKEY AND THWAITES, In 1912, E.D. Thwaites and Major Robert Hickey opened a real estate and insurance office. A new building – the third – was constructed on the site in 2014. It still houses an insurance business.

**6** THE CENOTAPH was unveiled in 1923 and originally stood at the end of Memorial Avenue in front of the old McMillan School. It was moved to Sutherland Crescent in 1966, to the Community Park in 1976, and to its current site at the Parksville Civic & Technology Centre in 2002.

**1** PDBA commissioned First Nations artist Connie Watts to create "Kinship of Play." It was installed at the corner of McMillan Avenue and the West Island Highway, and presented to the City of Parksville in 2010.

**2** Coffee? Tea? You and me? Parksville Downtown has a burgeoning food scene, with choices and tastes for every palate.

**3** The Summer by the Sea Market on Craig Street attracts hundreds of people, locals and visitors alike, to Parksville Downtown. We celebrate everything we can. From street food, to sandcastles, to the return of the Brant geese.

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Discover PDBA, and our businesses, at [parksvilledowntown.ca](http://parksvilledowntown.ca). Our website is fully responsive on any device.

Logging was always a major industry. The extension of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) Railway in 1901 spurred Parksville's growth. We soon became a tourist mecca for Vancouver Islanders who discovered our incredible beaches and warm ocean waters. Parksville was incorporated as a village in 1945, a town in 1978 and a city in 1986. The rest, as they say, is history.

Historical information kindly provided by the City of Parksville, [parksville.ca](http://parksville.ca)

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## downtown map

### Legend

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rod and Gun                | 10. Parksville Civic & Technology Centre / Community Centre |
| 2. Memorial Avenue            | 11. Brant Geese   |
| 3. McMillan Arts Centre (MAC) | 12. Park Gazebo   |
| 4. Abernethy House            | 13. Sand Sculptures   |
| 5. Hickey & Thwaites          | 14. Skateboard Park   |
| 6. Cenotaph                   | 15. Playground  |
| 7. Kinship of Play Sculpture  | 16. Fit Gym   |
| 8. Labyrinth                  |   |
| 9. Summer by the Sea Market   |   |

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Business Improvement Area (BIA) boundary | Free Parking     |
| Shop and Dine                            | Charging Station |
| Heritage Plaque Sites                    | Stairs           |
| Crosswalks                               | Bus Stops        |
| Island Highway 19A                       |                  |
| Roads                                    |                  |
| PQ Links Trail                           |                  |

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