



The Oak Bay Village and the Bowker Creek Walkway are featured in this 3.2 km trail through the heart of Oak Bay. Heritage areas contain a wealth of historically significant architecture.

- Oak Bay High School opened in 1929 with an enrollment of 258 students and today accommodates well over 1000 students.
- The Oak Bay Fire Hall was built in 1938. Since 1939, the Oak Bay Fire Department has hosted a bonfire every Halloween at Fireman's Park.
- In 2006, the 'Oak Bay Sign' on the avenue was restored to its original 1936 colours as part of the Centennial celebrations. This was the site of the Little Theatre, fondly known as 'The Oak Bay'. In the 1930s and 1940s ten cents admitted local children to a Saturday matinee.
- Oak Bay Hardware is the oldest surviving business in the village, established in 1912, and the former Oak Bay Grocery and Post Office is now the Blethering Place Tea Room.
- The first Municipal Hall was built in 1912 and demolished in 1954. The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay was incorporated on July 2, 1906 and the assessed value of the land at that time was \$632,985.
- The Oak Bay Recreation Centre at 1975 Bee Street was built in October of 1975 and provides activities and programs for all ages. Current amenities include: Arena, Fitness Studio, Indoor Sports Field, 7 Indoor Tennis Courts, Pool with Tunnel Dropslide and Indoor Waterslide, Sauna, Steam Room and Hot Tub, Sports View Deli Bar & Grill, Skateboard Area and Teen Centre. Phone: 250-595-SWIM (7946).



This 8.8 km trail travels through north Oak Bay, visits the excellent viewpoint at Cattle Point and circles the Uplands Golf Course.

- The University of Victoria's first classes were held in 1962 in old army huts, a legacy of the World War II training camp that once occupied the site.
- The Uplands Cenotaph, located across from Cattle Point, commemorates the Oak Bay citizens that gave their lives in World War II. First unveiled on Armistice Day, November 11, 1948, the monument includes the following inscription: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man may lay down his life for friends."
- Once Hudson's Bay Company land, the Uplands Golf Course has been operational since 1922.
- Oak Bay's first school was built in 1885. It was located on the corner of Cadboro Bay and Lansdowne Roads which is now the 18th tee of the Uplands Golf Course.
- Cadboro Bay is named for the first Hudson's Bay ship to moor in the bay, built in England near the village of Cadborough.



The Centennial Trail, a 6.8 km circuit through South Oak Bay, was designated as part of the Oak Bay Centennial celebrations in 2006 and is marked by 14 carved posts.

- Windsor Park, originally called Oak Bay Park or BC Electric Park, has been the site of sporting events since 1890. Cricket has been played at Windsor Park since 1906.
- Windsor Pavilion was rebuilt in 2006 and hosts community groups, recreation programs and sporting events.
- Captain William McNeill, explorer and HBC employee, purchased 202 waterfront acres from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1850 for a homestead. This land was bounded by Gonzales Hill and Anderson Hill and stretched inland to what is now McNeill Avenue. Throughout the late nineteenth century, McNeill Bay was a popular destination for picnics and summer campers.
- Since 1903, the Chinese Cemetery has been located at Harling Point, off King George Terrace. Traditionally, the bodies of the deceased were buried for seven years prior to being sent back to China. In 1996, the Government of Canada designated the Cemetery as a National Historic Site.



From near the Oak Bay Marina, which on a clear day offers a view of Mount Baker in Washington State, to McNeill Bay this 4.4 km trail connects two of Oak Bay's coastal areas.

- In 1893 near the corner of Orchard Avenue and Beach Drive the luxurious five-storey Mount Baker Hotel was built. The hotel accommodated such distinguished guests as the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Mary) before the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1902.
- After the Mount Baker Hotel burned to the ground, only the boathouse remained. In 1914, the boathouse was moved on skids from its original location at the foot of Orchard Avenue to municipal property on Turkey Head. For nearly 60 years, local children 'hung out' at the boathouse, or they rented a rowboat for a day of fishing and exploring Jimmy Chicken Island. In 1960, the Oak Bay Municipal Council decided to fill in the bay and build the new modern Oak Bay Marina on this site.
- Ada Beavan (one of the four Pemberton children) gifted the Oak Bay Native Plant Garden to the municipality. She also donated 500 roses to establish the Rose Garden at Windsor Park.
- The Victoria Golf Course was created in 1893 with a shipping box for a piano as the original clubhouse. Since 1936, there have been rumours of Doris, a resident ghost that is said to appear on the seventh green.



This 4.7 km trail through the Uplands passes some of Oak Bay's finest private residences and abundant green spaces, travelling along Beach Drive and back through Uplands park.

- Between 1843 and 1850, the Hudson's Bay Company established a small fur trading post four miles north of Fort Victoria, near what is now Nottingham Park. Land was also cleared for the Uplands Farm, which consisted of barns for livestock, accommodation for seventeen hands, and a family home for the farm superintendent.
- By 1910 the municipality came to an agreement with the newly formed Uplands Company who purchased the 465 acre farm to allow subdivision of the property for 'high-class residential purposes with all commercial activity excluded'.
- Olmstead Landscape Architects, who designed the Uplands, also designed Central Park in New York City, Mount Royal in Montreal, Boston's 'Emerald Necklace' park system and Brooklyn's Prospect Park.
- Francis Rattenbury, the prominent architect also responsible for the British Columbia Parliament Buildings, the Empress Hotel and Crystal Gardens, was hired as chief architect for the Uplands project.
- Constructed in 1912, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club is the oldest yacht club in British Columbia.



This 5.0 km trail visits the former property of retired Hudson's Bay Chief Factor John Tod, travelling along Camas Lane, through Uplands Park, along Beach Drive and back to Nottingham Road.

- The Camas Lane, an Oak Bay Heritage Byway, runs from Willows Beach to Nottingham Road, and once separated Jon Tod's Willows Farm and Hudson's Bay's Uplands Farm. In use before 1882, this service trail provided access to the southern parts of the farm and facilitated bringing carts and cattle to market.
- Camas is the name of a blue wild flower that was common in local meadows and once a staple food for Pacific First Nations peoples. The name of the plant comes from the Nootka word for 'sweet'.
- Near the corner of Heron St. and Estevan Ave, is Tod House, the former residence of Jon Tod. Completed in 1851 and originally called Oak Bay House, it is Western Canada's oldest house. Occupants of the house have complained of ghostly and unexplained events since 1929.
- Uplands Park was originally a burial ground for First Nations peoples, with cairns of carefully piled boulders marking these sites. Today, most have disappeared.



The back lanes and trails of Oak Bay are highlighted in this 4.5 km trail. However, walkers with an adventurous spirit can find many more unmarked pathways, back lanes and secret places to explore.

- Nestled between Monterey Avenue and Hampshire Road at 1442 Monterey Avenue, the Monterey Recreation Centre is an adult-oriented (50+) centre during the day, attracting over 2500 members who participate in a number of activities from computer to fitness classes. In the evening a variety of courses are offered for adults 19 years and older. Ph: 250-370-7300.
- The Oak Bay Library, the busiest library in the region, is adjacent to the Monterey Centre.
- In 1906, Oak Bay Avenue was still a dirt track with the BC Electric Railway Company tracks on the north side to carry passengers between Victoria and the Windsor Park Terminus.
- St. Michael's School was located at the corner of Roslyn Road and Windsor Road from 1910 to 1954.
- Some of Victoria's oldest manhole covers are found in Oak Bay. These covers were imported from Scotland in the 19th century as ballast in sailing ships and bear the foundry name, such as "Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd. Kilmarnock."



This trail travels 7.5 km along Oak Bay's coast and through two of Oak Bay's most well known green spaces, Uplands Park and Willows Park

- Uplands Park is a seventy-six acre park and an excellent example of a Garry Oak meadow. The park has one of the greatest concentrations of rare plant species in all of Canada.
- Cattle Point, located across from Uplands Park, earned its name as a drop off point for Uplands Farm, which once occupied the surrounding land. Cattle would be barged to the bay in front of what is now the parking lot to swim and wade the short distance to shore. The circular scenic drive has been in place since 1961.
- Willows Beach was the site of a large First Nations village, Sitshamalth. Settlements also existed at McNeill Bay, Gonzales Point and Loon Bay. Artifacts dating back 3000 years have been found at these locations.
- The first Oak Bay Tea Party celebrating Oak Bay's Golden Jubilee was held in 1956. In 1963 the event was changed and introduced teacup races, a midway, a parade and live entertainment at Willows Beach. This event is held each year on the first weekend in June.
- One of Oak Bay's best kept secrets is the lovely Lokier Gardens in Estevan Village at Musgrave Street.
- In 2008, a fully assessable scented garden will be planted at Willows Beach (corner of Dalhousie and Beach Drive).