

BOWEN ISLAND

COMMUNITY PROFILE



**BOWEN
ISLAND**
Municipality



Cover photos: Bowen Recreation staff, Lisa Howland, Bowen Recreation staff, Joanne Mogridge, Jody Lorenz, Rafal Izdebski, Jennifer Hall, Bowen Recreation staff, Bowen Island Undercurrent, Chantal Russell, Sean Lande, Bowen Recreation staff, Jody Lorenz, Bowen Recreation staff, Bowen Recreation staff.

Photo this page: Peter Robinson

Overview

Bowen Island is a natural jewel surrounded by the spectacular beauty of Howe Sound, and an ideal place for those who want to live close to the city—but not in it.

A short ferry ride and a few kilometres from downtown Vancouver, Bowen is home to some 3,700 permanent residents. It's been a municipality since 1999, and a tight-knit community for decades. Increasingly vibrant, Bowen remains resolutely a sanctuary of nature, peace and safety for Islanders and visitors alike.

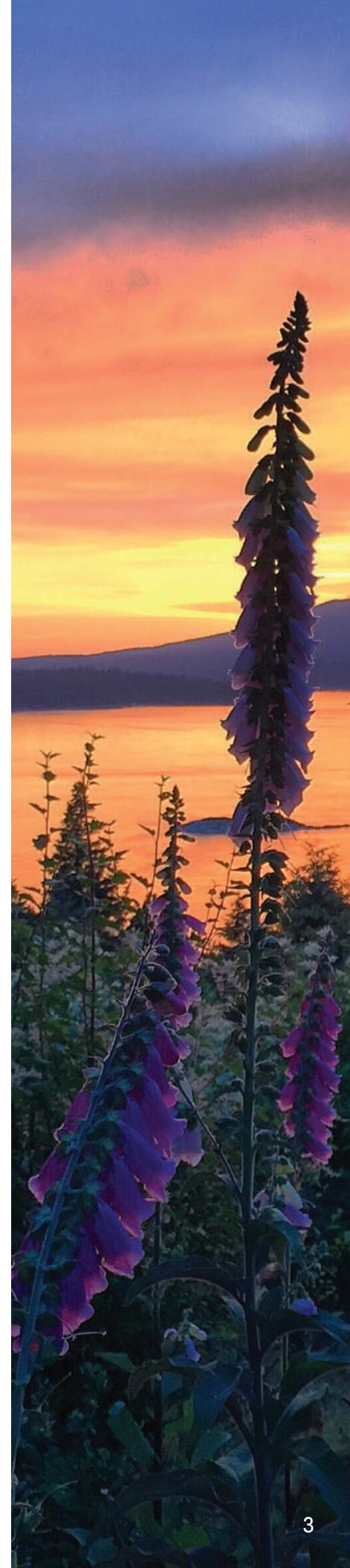
A popular place to own a vacation home, Bowen grows by about 1,500 part-time residents in summer, along with thousands of short-term and day visitors. Major attractions? Hiking and walking, kayaking and boating, swimming and picnicking at clean scenic beaches. More and more, new residents and visitors are drawn to the Island's growing arts, music, artisanal and culinary delights. And, as it has been for over a century, Bowen is ever the perfect place for restorative retreats from city life.

Setting

Bowen sits at the south entrance to Howe Sound, the second-largest island in the sound and the only one with car ferry service. Mount Gardner, the highest of three peaks, attracts hikers by the score with shimmering panoramas of the Salish Sea, Sunshine Coast and Vancouver.

Settled areas consist of over 20 neighbourhoods that, all told, consume only a tiny portion of Bowen's total area. The remainder is largely Crown Land. Snug Cove village is the commercial hub, with restaurants, food and specialty stores, medical offices, pharmacy, public library, post office, museums, credit union, elementary school and other useful amenities. Nearby, Artisan Square is home to artist studios and galleries, boutiques, cafes and more. Wrapping around the village, 242-hectare Crippen Regional Park offers 12.5 kilometres of walking trails through nature and history, forest and seaside.

- Geo-position: 49°23'00" latitude, 123°22'00" longitude.
- 49.94 sq km or 5,260 hectares total area.
- 12 km long and 6 km wide at its widest point.
- 37 km of coastline.
- Highest peak: Mt. Gardner at 719 m / 2,500 ft.
- 2nd highest: Mt. Collins at 411 m / 1,350 ft.
- 3rd highest: Mt. Apodaca at 360 m / 1,181 ft.
- Largest lake: Killarney in Crippen Park.
- Other lakes: Grafton, Josephine and Honeymoon.
- Numerous wetlands dot the valleys and lower lying areas.
- 399 hectares in the southeast are protected as an ecological reserve.



Climate and Weather

Overall, Bowen enjoys the same weather as Vancouver—just slightly more rain and a couple of degrees cooler on average, thanks to steep mountainsides and its location at the gateway to Howe Sound. The island has two climate zones: Coastal Western Hemlock, and the drier Coastal Douglas Fir zone. July and August are typically hot and dry.

- Average annual rainfall: from 150 cm to 180 cm.
- Winter temperatures can drop to just below freezing and can climb to about 30°C in summer.

Major Visitor Attractions

- Exploring in and around Snug Cove.
- Hiking Mt. Gardner.
- Walking around Killarney Lake and other trails in Crippen Park.
- Cycling to westside beaches.
- Participating in a theatre, art, music, culture or culinary event.
- Kayaking around Bowen and Howe Sound.
- Golfing at Bowen's excellent public 9-hole course.
- Boating around Howe Sound, with pleasant harbour at Snug Cove's marinas.

A Few of Our Annual Events

June

Round Bowen Sailboat Race (since 1987)

July

Bowen Island Logging Sports Event

Canada Day Celebration in the Park, a family event hosted by Bowen Island Community Recreation

Round Bowen Kayak Challenge, a gruelling self-propelled race

People, Plants & Places Tour, a rare chance to see inside Bowen's most charming homes and gardens, and meet the interesting Islanders who own them (a biennial event)



August

- Volunteer Firefighters Annual Dock Dance
- Dog Days of Summer, a highly entertaining fundraiser for BC Guide Dogs
- Bowfest, the Island's community fair, with Run for the Ferry, parade, concerts, games and more



Photo: Jody Lorenz

October

- Applefest, a Thanksgiving Sunday heritage tradition
- Hallowe'en: Community Trick-or-Treating hosted by Deep Bay neighbourhood, with fireworks by Volunteer Fire Department

December

- Light Up Bowen: Holiday Kick-off Event in Snug Cove and Artisan Square Community Craft Fairs

The Tourism Bowen Island website includes a community events calendar. See www.tourismbowenisland.com.

Government

Bowen Island Municipality (BIM) is governed by a mayor and six councillors, assisted by a chief administrative officer and about 42 full-time equivalent staff. BIM is responsible for all of Bowen Island, Finisterre Island and Hutt Island as well as the land covered by water extending 300 metres around these islands from the high-water mark.

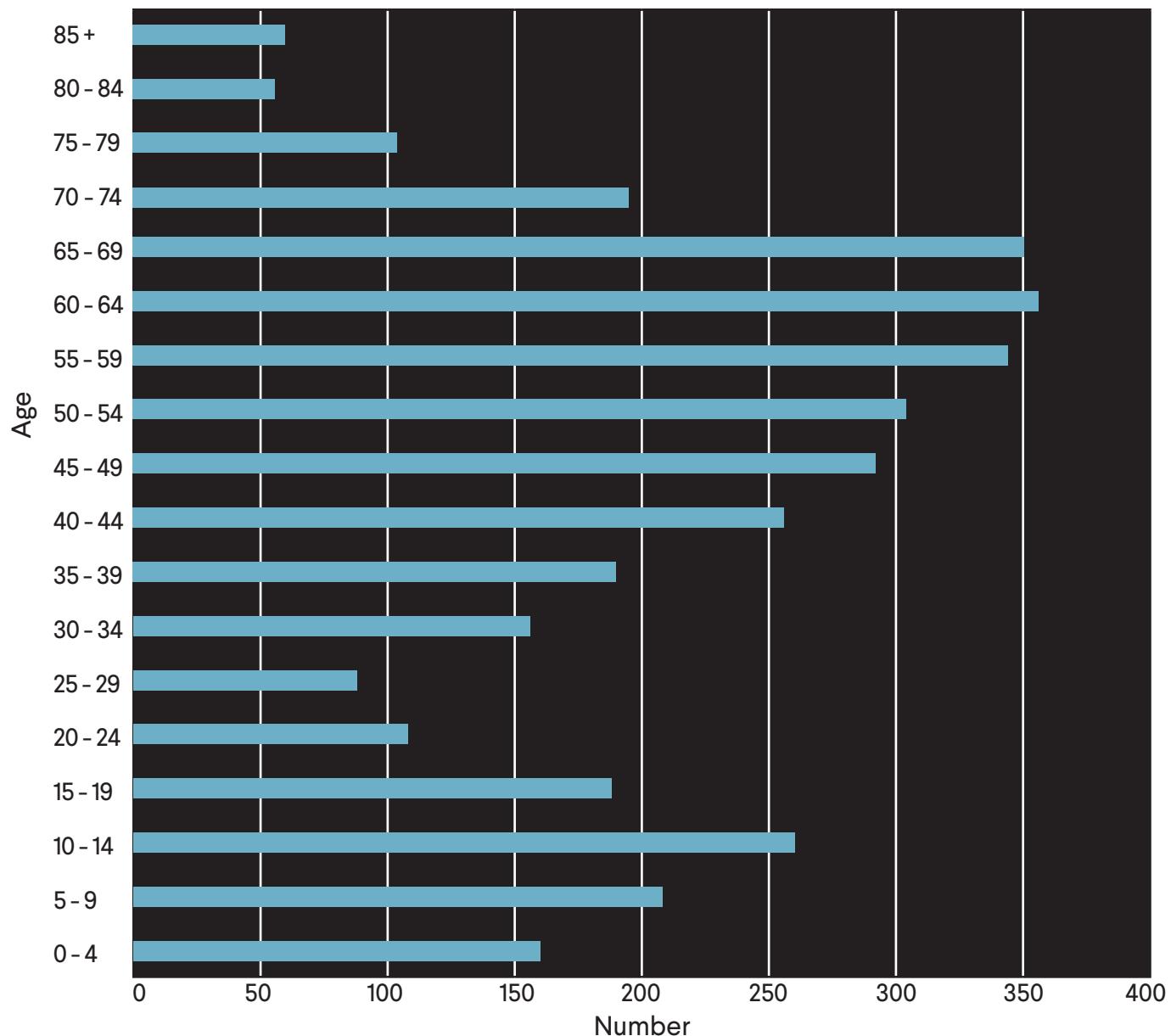
The Official Community Plan guides local economic development, environment and natural resource use, housing, municipal services, parks and trail development, and transportation. BIM is a member of the Metro Vancouver regional government with a seat on its Board of Directors. Bowen is the only Island Municipality in the Islands Trust, with two elected trustees on the Islands Trust Council. See www.bowenislandmunicipality.ca.

People and Community

“Come for the nature. Stay for the community.” Islanders are passionate about their home, as the unofficial motto implies. They are very proud of its natural beauty, rich heritage, arts scene, volunteerism, reputation for safety—and, perhaps above all, its difference from every place else.

Here, “community” is more than a pleasant lifestyle feature. A measure of pioneering spirit is required to live here year-round, a willingness to make do and pitch in. Neighbourly caring that fills the gaps of absent “frills” is what makes it all work. Although older adults still dominate the demographics, more and more young families are drawn by Bowen’s reputation as an outstanding, even magical, place to raise children. Community spirit runs deep here, with residents reporting a higher than average sense of belonging.

Age demographics in 2016 for Bowen Island.



Population and Demographics

- The 2016 Census counted 3,680 permanent residents on Bowen Island, up by 8.2% over the last five years.
- The 8.2% growth rate is a significant increase over the 1.2% rate reported in the 2011 Census.
- Bowen's rate of growth was higher than Metro Vancouver's rate of 6.5% in the same period, and is one of the highest among similar-sized BC communities—probably due to the Island's proximity to Vancouver and relative housing affordability.
- Since 2011, some 950 residents, or 26% of the total population, are new to Bowen.
- 672 people counted in 2011 no longer live on the Island (20%).
- Between 2001 and 2016 the total population grew by 24%, compared to 20% growth in all Metro Vancouver over the same period.

- The Island's population, however, remains relatively small, accounting for only 0.0015% of Metro Vancouver's total population.
- If the current five-year growth rate (8.2%) continues, Bowen Island will be home to approximately 5,000 residents by 2031.
- Bowen Island's population skews older than the region as a whole with 39% age 60 and older, an increase of 6% in this group since 2011. In Metro Vancouver overall, 29% are age 60 and over.
- The median age is 48.7 years, up 2.1 years from age 46.6 in 2011, and almost 8 years older than the median age of 40.9 for the whole region.
- The largest population category is age 60 to 64, with 355 residents accounting for nearly 10% of the population.
- Similar results were posted for age 50 to 54, 55 to 59, and 65 to 69—with these categories representing from about 8% to 9.5% each of Bowen's total population.
- Just over 68% of adult residents are married or living common-law.
- Children age 0 to 19 numbered 815 in the 2016 Census, or 22% of the population. While the percentage of children slipped marginally versus the 2011 Census, the absolute number is up slightly and continues to reflect Bowen's reputation as an attractive place to raise children.
- Of the Island's 1,145 census families, 580 have children living at home—a jump of 22% compared to 2011.
- The percentage of those age 25 through 39 remained the same, with a 1% uptick in the age 30 to 34 group. However, there was an average 1.5% drop among the five-year buckets in the Census spanning age 40 to 54.
- Although ethnic diversity on Bowen Island has always been low, it is slowly growing. The 2016 Census reports 6.5% of the population are from visible minorities (versus more than 48% in all Metro Vancouver). In 2006, visible minorities were 5.5% of all Bowen Island residents.
- In the 2015 "My Health, My Community" study, 82% of Islanders reported feeling a sense of belonging here, versus only 56% in Vancouver.

Education and Income

Overall, Bowen Island residents are relatively better educated and earn more income than elsewhere in Metro Vancouver.

- Education rates are high on Bowen Island, with 72% of the population holding a university degree or equivalent, compared to 57.5% in the region.
- University graduates here included 525 individuals with graduate and professional degrees—that's 17% of the population over 15.
- Post-secondary numbers in the 2016 Census also counted 535 graduates or college, diploma and trades and apprenticeship programs, or nearly 18%.



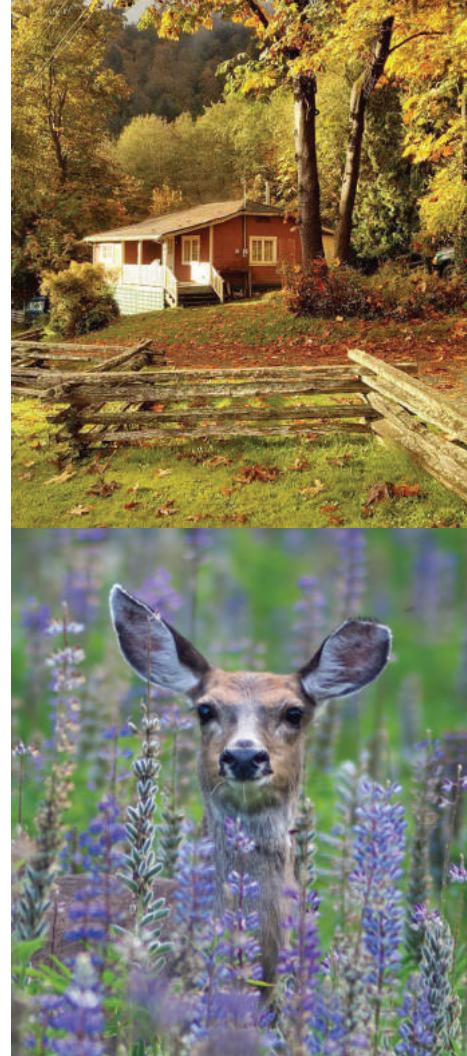
- The median annual income for Bowen residents is about \$40,000, or about 25% higher than in the region.
- Looking strictly at employment income, however, the Metro Vancouver median was 11% higher than on Bowen Island. The difference most likely points to the community's large percentage of older residents receiving retirement and investment income.
- Exactly 11% of the population fall into the low-income bracket, as defined in the Census. In Metro Vancouver, 16.5% are deemed low income.

Housing and Density

- The majority of Bowen Island's 1,915 dwellings are single-detached houses set on comparatively large lot sizes.
- About 75% of homes on Bowen are principal residences, a ratio that has remained roughly the same since at least 2001.
- Single-detached houses constitute 89% of all occupied private dwellings.
- Of new residences built since 2011, just under 99% are owner occupied, while slightly over 1% are renter occupied—evidence that Bowen Island shares the region-wide challenge of a shrinking rental pool.
- Just over 50% of island homes were built before 1990, with 550 built before 1980.
- The 2016 Census reported an average home value of \$942,977 on Bowen Island, or about 6.5% lower than in Metro Vancouver. The median value, \$798,877, is less than 1% lower than Metro's median value, reflecting the Island's smaller percentage of lower-priced homes. (Comparisons to the very high values of City of Vancouver or North Shore homes, however, continue to show a big discount factor on Bowen.)
- 40% of residents report spending more than 30% of income on shelter costs.
- Density continues to be very low on Bowen, with 73.4 people per square kilometre compared to 854.6 in Metro Vancouver overall and 486.8 in West Vancouver. However, Bowen's density figure includes its vast tracts of mountainous Crown Lands, where housing is not possible.

Occupations and Employment

- 69% of Bowen's adult population are in the labour pool (both employed and unemployed), compared to less than 66% in Metro Vancouver overall.
- Nearly one-third (690) of the 2,100 in the labour pool are self-employed, evenly divided between men and women. In Metro Vancouver as a whole, only 13% are self-employed.



Photos from top: Jennifer Wheatley, Richard Simms

- The largest occupational categories are Management Occupations and Education, Law and Social, Community and Government Services – about 19% for each of these National Occupational Classifications (NOCs).
- The next largest group, Sales and Service Occupations, accounts for 14% of the Island's labour pool.
- In terms of industries, the largest portion (16%) of the labour pool work in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
- Larger numbers are also reported in Healthcare (12%), Education (10%), Construction (9%), Retail (7%), and Accommodation and Food Services (7%).
- 59% of Bowen residents who work commute from the Island to their employment. Over two-thirds of those commute by private vehicle, with about 30% using transit, walking or bicycling.

History

Kwílakm. That was most likely the original name for the Island as a whole, although other names are often cited. It describes the abundance of clams and other food resources that, for centuries, attracted Coast Salish peoples to fish, hunt and harvest. Spanish explorers, on their way by in 1791, dubbed it Isla de Apodaca. Then, 70 years later, the British named it in homage to Rear Admiral James Bowen.

Between then and now, Bowen has seen a few major but gradual transitions:

- Crown Land grants in the 1890s opened up early industrial activity and Bowen's long-reigning cottage era. A few hardy permanent residents, chiefly engaged in fishing, logging and farming, shared the Island with clusters of summer people.
- Bowen's destiny as a get-away took off in 1900 when steamship magnate John Cates developed a large resort in and around Snug Cove. In the 1920s, Union Steamship Company took over, attracting thousands of holidaymakers a day in summer with its "Happy Isle" brand. Few, however, lived on the Island year-round.
- Bowen's artistic and literary heritage took form in the 1940s and 50s; several Canadian arts luminaries, such as poet Earle Birney, came here to commune and create.
- In 1958, car ferry service ushered in Bowen's modern future. Growth in full-time residents was minimal before the 1980s, but by the late 1990s demand arose for own local government. After a successful referendum, Bowen Island Municipality was incorporated in 1999.

Since then, Islanders have been engaged in the challenge of ensuring, despite growth, that Bowen's best attributes will endure, for residents, visitors and nature itself.



Arts and Culture

Bowen's arts scene flourishes and is integral to the social fabric of our island community. In a 2016 study conducted by the Bowen Island Arts Council (BIAC), 63% of respondents reported being involved in arts and cultural endeavours, including writing, painting, singing, acting, dancing and designing. A wide spectrum of arts and culture disciplines are represented here: artisans and artists working in a variety of media, musicians, actors, producers, directors, writers, poets, instructors, cinematographers and photographers.

- Through a myriad of programs, BIAC offers all residents an opportunity to experience and explore diverse creative activities.
- The Island's Cultural Master Plan—a bylaw of the Municipality—identifies priorities and strategies to advance arts and culture while creating a socially healthier, more liveable community.
- The Cove Commons, a new cultural hub, opened in early 2018 in Snug Cove, adjacent to the historic Public Library building.
- The Municipality is moving forward on a Community Centre project. The much-anticipated Centre will provide facilities for arts, recreational and community activities, including a performance arts space.



Photos from top: Sean Lande, unknown

Learning

Bowen Island Community School, known as BICS, is part of the West Vancouver School District. BICS provides outstanding learning for children and youth from kindergarten to grade 7.

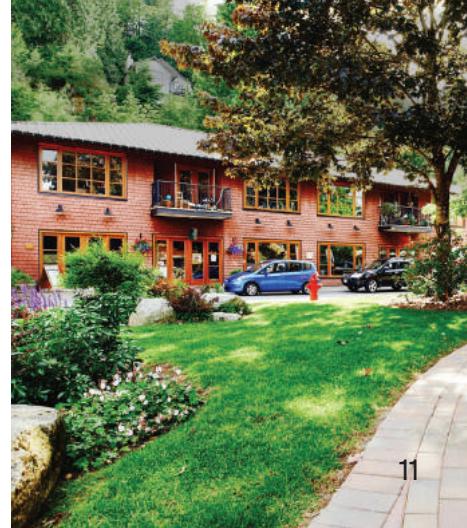
- Most high school students attend West Vancouver's Rockridge Secondary School, Sentinel or West Van High. (Students travel free on the ferry.)
- French Immersion at Pauline Johnson in West Vancouver is an option for middle school.
- Island Pacific School, a private day school on Bowen, takes up to 70 grade 6 to 9 students.
- Some elementary and high school students attend private schools in West Vancouver.
- The Island Discovery Learning Community offers programs focused on child-led learning as well as support for full-time or part-time home-learning families.
- Bowen Island Preschool and Bowen Island Montessori Preschool both offer early childhood learning.
- Bowen Children's Centre, home to the Preschool, also provides community daycare and runs the "After School Club."

Healthcare

A 2015 health study found that Islanders rate themselves as considerably healthier than Vancouver residents rated themselves—even though Bowen residents enjoy far few local healthcare services per capita, and virtually no specialized services. To address some of these gaps, an initiative to build a Community Health Centre is under way, in early stages.

Services

- Two family practitioners serve local patients, with varying schedules.
- A family practice clinic in Horseshoe Bay is a nearby option.
- A new Community Paramedicine Program was recently launched, with two paramedics sharing a four-day per week schedule to provide “Wellness Checks.” These visits are aimed chiefly at helping seniors live longer in their homes, keeping them connected with a primary care physician, and reducing medically unnecessary 911 calls. Patients are referred by their doctor or other community healthcare provider, and the service is provided at no cost to the patient.
- Some Vancouver Coastal Health services are delivered on Bowen, including home care nurses, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. LifeLabs comes to Bowen twice a week to provide medical testing services. To connect with other Vancouver Coastal Health primary care programs and services, Islanders must travel to the Mainland.
- A dentist visits the Island on Fridays, and also sees Bowen patients in Horseshoe Bay. Cates Pharmacy in Snug Cove is a full-service dispensary and offers an array of non-prescription healthcare products.
- Various private practitioners offer physiotherapy, occupational therapy, massage therapy, counselling, naturopathic and homeopathic care, and other complementary modalities.
- The Caring Circle Health Resource Centre provides free information about access to local and regional healthcare services, and caregiving and support resources. Caring Circle also helps residents navigate the health system, and advocates for improved services.
- *The Health Resource Guide*, a comprehensive directory of local and off-island practitioners and support services, can be found at www.caringcircle.ca.



Transportation

The ferry plays a vital role in the lives of virtually every Islander and visitor. How to improve transportation options at both ends of that crucial sea link is an ongoing focus. The Municipality is currently developing an Integrated Transportation Master Plan, aimed, among other goals, at better, seamless service to, from and on the Island.

Transportation services are subject to changes in schedule and operations. Up-to-date information can be found on the service providers' websites and the municipal website.

Between Bowen Island and Mainland

BC Ferries: Makes 16 return runs most days, taking about 100 vehicles and 457 passengers and crew. Fares are round-trip only; tickets are sold in Horseshoe Bay only (and are not collected on the Bowen side for the return trip). A preloaded “Experience” fare card offers significant discounts. During the summer, ridership swells with visitors to the Island.

TransLink Bus: Two routes terminate at the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal, with service to West Vancouver and Downtown Vancouver.

Bowen Express Bus: This service, operated by a Bowen Islander, saves transit passengers considerable time and stress by connecting directly with three morning ferry runs and going straight downtown (unlike the TransLink 257 Express, which is routed through West Vancouver and Park Royal). Three afternoon runs offer the option of connecting directly to a water taxi, rather than waiting for the ferry.

Water Taxi: Two Islander-owned and -operated companies offer several options. Bowen Land and Sea Taxi (BLAST) operates scheduled routes between Snug Cove and Coal Harbour, the most direct means of travelling downtown. BLAST adds a Granville Island run in the summer between the May and Labour Day long weekends. Cormorant Marine makes a late-night run from Snug Cove to Horseshoe Bay and back every night, enabling residents to work later or attend nighttime events off-island. It's also available for private hire.

Delivery: Several trucking and courier services give Islanders an array of transport and delivery options to and from the Mainland.

On Bowen Island

Private vehicles dominate on-island transportation, with a recent uptick in use of scooters, electric bikes and “mini” or electric cars. The other options are:



- Community Bus: Two TransLink community shuttle routes take passengers from both the East and West sides to Snug Cove and back, with a timetable tied to the real-time ferry schedule. Passengers just wave it down anywhere along the route.



- Hitchhiking: There is a long tradition of hitchhiking on Bowen Island. Riders use designated LIFT pick-up spots—or hitchhike from anywhere at all.
- Taxi: An on-island taxi service is operated by BLAST.



Infrastructure

Emergency Services

Emergency 911 service and a new Emergency Notification System (BowENS) are available on the Island. Policing is provided by the RCMP; three full-time resident officers are assigned to the Island. BC Ambulance service is on call 24 hours a day, while the Fire Department, led by a full-time Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief with highly trained volunteers, responds to all emergency calls from two fire halls. The community recently voted to replace the old No. 1 Fire Hall, built in the 1960s, with a new facility.



Photos from top: Sean Lande, BIM, Tobyn Ross

Roads

All roads on the Island are single-lane, except ferry-marshalling zones on Trunk Road in Snug Cove. Public roads are maintained by the Municipality. By choice, Bowen has no municipal streetlights.

- 70 km paved primary roads.
- 60 km paved secondary roads.
- 5 km unpaved roads.

Water

- About half the population is served by municipally managed water systems. Cove Bay System is the largest, serving homes in and around Snug Cove.
- Others have private water systems or individual or communal wells.
- The Municipality operates 38 km of waterlines.
- Conservation is practised in some systems through metering and rationing from June 1 to September 30.

Sewage

- Only the Snug Cove area is served by a municipal sewage system.
- Everyone else is required to have an inspected and properly functioning septic system.
- An oil-water separator in Snug Cove mitigates the run-off of oils into the ocean.

Waste and Recycling

Bowen Island has progressive and well-organized waste management services and practices, and the community has strong values about waste reduction and recycling.

- Garbage is collected every other week, with weekly pickup of organic materials.
- The Municipality operates BIRD, a community recycling depot, originally established and run by volunteers.
- A volunteer-run “re-use- it” store, the Knick Knack Nook, sells eclectic used items cheaply, donating the proceeds to community sustainability projects.

Amenities

The Island has all the essentials: grocery and other food and beverage stores, several restaurants and cafes, post office, credit union, gas station, shops and boutiques, physicians and other healthcare providers, childcare, pharmacy, hair and personal care services, several churches, real estate agents, an indispensable hardware/lumber yard, marinas, notary and insurance services, pet care and boarding, and a plethora of other skilled trades and services. Information and referrals are easily found in the local Bowen Phone Book and elsewhere online.

In the spring, summer and fall, a Farmers Market run by the Bowen Agricultural Alliance offers local produce and artisanal treats.

Volunteerism is arguably Bowen’s most important “amenity,” making possible an abundance of charitable, arts, social and recreation initiatives. A Community Centre project is currently on the drawing board. However, Islanders have long made creative use of available venues, such as the school gym, church halls, the Legion and others, to present a calendar chock-full of events and classes all year.

Tourism Bowen Island maintains a Community Calendar at its website identifying local events and activities.



Recreation and Sports

Islanders are outdoorsy. They love to walk and hike, making great use of an ever-expanding network of trails and greenways—find maps and more at Bowen Trails. They also enjoy an abundance of other sport and recreation options:

- Bowen Island Community Recreation coordinates seasonal programs of classes, activities and events for all ages, engaging skilled local instructors; mostly held at BICS.
- All ages participate in popular outdoor soccer leagues at Bowen's "outdoor gym" and soccer turf, located at BICS.
- Clubs and private classes are also offered for many other sports and fitness pursuits, such as yoga, equestrian, sailing, martial arts and more.
- A challenging and picturesque nine-hole public golf course on South Bowen is an important social and recreational resource, attracting residents and visitors.
- On the waterfront, Bowen's two commercial marinas and municipal dock in Snug Cove are popular with area boaters and local residents.
- Snug Cove is the ideal starting point for kayaking around Howe Sound, with rentals available from Bowen's kayak outfitter.
- Crippen Park, with its 242 hectares and wide web of trails, offers many delightful destinations for walking, sightseeing and quiet contemplation.

Major Community Organizations

For a municipality of only 3,700 people, Bowen pulses with community activity of all kinds. A list of community organizations and clubs can be found at www.bowenislandmunicipality.ca/community-links.

Communications

Bowen is served by a weekly newspaper, the *Bowen Island Undercurrent*. Several Bowen-only websites and Facebook sites enable online real-time communication and discussion.

- Telus provides telephone, television and internet service, and Shaw provides internet and cable services.
- Bowen Island Municipality communicates regularly through print and social media.
- Free computer and internet access are available at Bowen Island Public Library.



Photo: Rafal Izdebski

Business and Economic Activities

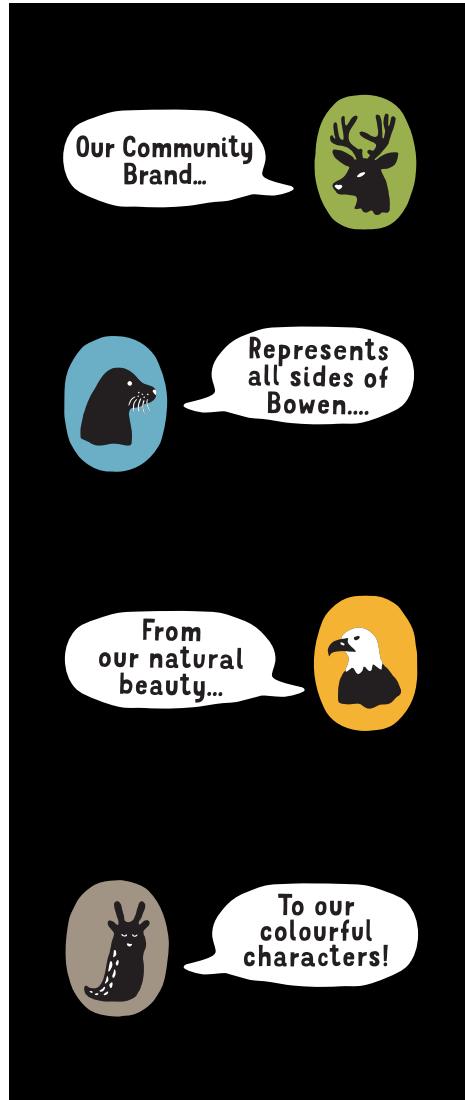
By a wide margin, Bowen Island is a net importer of revenue, with most in the labour force working off-island and others, notably retirees, receiving income from elsewhere. Economy and employment on the island are dominated by home construction, tourism and local services—with construction employing the largest share of the workforce. Other small enterprises and home-based companies are flourishing.

The Bowen Island Brand

A municipal initiative is underway to stimulate a more robust on-island economy, capitalizing on Bowen's strengths in tourism, the arts and education, and potential for creative light industry. To support this work, the Municipality's Economic Development Committee recently led the development of an official brand for Bowen Island. The new brand has been well received by both residents and visitors and has, by all reports, contributed to a substantial increase in tourism which has benefited island businesses.

Economic Data

- Home construction continues to dominate the island economy, growing in 2017 to over \$29 million in project value—a 59% increase over 2016 and nearly twice the 2014 total.
- 36 new dwellings, including all types, were built in 2017, more than doubling the 2016 count of 17 new homes.
- Real estate values have increased markedly in recent years, with the June 2017 Home Price Index (HPI) of \$892,100 representing a 42.8% jump over five years, and a 16% rise over the 2016 HPI.
- However, the HPI's rate of increase on Bowen was the lowest among the 25 regional areas covered by the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, including Whistler, Squamish, the Sunshine Coast and other suburban communities.
- BC Stats reports that 1,342 businesses are registered on Bowen (including sole proprietorships).
- Just over 14% of these businesses employ staff, mostly in the 1 to 4 employees category.
- Three employers engage 50 to 99 full-time and part-time staff, including the Orchard Recovery Centre, the Ruddy Potato Store and Kitchen, and the Municipality.



Opportunities

For Businesses

New enterprises are welcome. The Official Community Plan and Municipal and Islands Trust policies set out the types of activities and enterprises deemed to advance the Island's social, environmental and economic goals. (Heavy industry and chain/box stores are not permitted.)

The business property tax rate is the same as the residential property tax rate. Enterprises in these categories are particularly encouraged:

- Arts, health and wellness.
- Education.
- Visitor accommodation: small inns, lodges, retreats, B&Bs.
- Other hospitality-oriented services.
- Services for residents: Islanders are receptive to new services relevant to their needs.
- Light industry: Selected light industries are permitted.
- Technology and start-ups: Office space is available, and Vancouver's business centre is an easy ferry or water taxi ride away.



Photo: Jody Lorenz

For New Residents

Bowen Island offers North America's most sought-after lifestyle: the ability to spend time in nature, and relax and enjoy time with family and community.

- Homes in all categories are more affordable than in Vancouver, by as much as 40%.
- For children, Bowen is safe and nurturing, with excellent education options and child-focused activities.
- For all ages, easy access to nature and recreation, and a caring community, promotes physical and mental wellness.
- A highly social community, Bowen is home to dozens of clubs and associations catering to diverse pursuits in the arts, recreation, environment, charity and politics.
- Digital technologies are enabling more telecommuting and flex-schedules, easing the transportation challenges of living on an island.
- Bowen Island Municipality publishes *Welcome, Neighbour! A Newcomer Guide to Our Island*, offering field-tested advice and tips aimed at helping new residents settle happily into our community.

We're all better



for being here.



Credits

The *Bowen Island Community Profile* is a living document produced by the Bowen Island Municipality Economic Development Committee. Additions, updates and corrections are welcome. Please send to bim@bimbc.ca.

Welcome, Neighbour! A Newcomer Guide to Our Island is also available from the Municipality.

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