



Carved by Richard Hunt

City of Totems

Duncan is located in the Cowichan Valley, traditional home of the Quw'utsun' People and was designated as the *City of Totems* in 1986. The Totem Poles bear witness to a proud heritage of carving amongst the First Nations people of the Pacific Northwest Coast. The City's Totem Pole Project has drawn carvers from across the Pacific Northwest and from as far away as Quebec and New Zealand.

The skill and effort of all the carvers of this unique and beautiful art form are recognized and appreciated.



Contact Us

Free guided walking tours of Duncan's Totem Poles are coordinated by the Cowichan Valley Museum in partnership with the City of Duncan.

If you have any questions, please contact our office:

Address: 130 Canada Avenue

Phone: 250-746-6612

Email: info@cvmuseum.ca



Carved by Doug LaFortune

Free Guided Totem Tours

**Cowichan Valley
Museum & Archives**

City of Totems



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The Totem Poles

The City of Duncan has strong ties with Cowichan Tribes, who have lived here for more than 4,500 years. We border the Cowichan Reserve Lands and our citizens come together in many settings. To recognize this union the City has erected thirty-nine Totem Poles to date, most of them concentrated within the downtown core. It is the world's largest collection of outdoor Totem Poles.

As a result, Duncan is home to one of the most unique outdoor museums in the world. Today, our Totem Poles stand proudly beside our roads, businesses, and parks - a celebration of an ancient art form and deep-rooted traditions that continue to thrive today.



Take a Self-Guided Totem Tour

Follow the footprints for a self-guided tour of Duncan's Totem collection. To add to your experience, be sure to purchase a copy of the 'Duncan City of Totems' book, which explains the artist's story behind each pole. Books and totem information are available at City Hall, Cowichan Valley Museum, Judy Hill Gallery, Visitor Information Centre, or Volume One Bookstore. Be sure to also see our two Outdoor Exhibits: 'Duncan's Chinatown' (near 149 Station Street); and 'Duncan's V.I.' (across from the Museum on Canada Avenue).

While enjoying your tour, please be aware of your surroundings and avoid standing in the street or blocking pedestrian traffic on the sidewalks. Your safety is important.

Free Guided Totem Tour

If you would like to discover more about our Totem Poles, please join our guide for a free walking tour.

Tours are offered 7 days a week from June 15th to September 20th. One hour tours are given every hour on the hour starting at 10:00 a.m. with the last tour of the day at 3:00 p.m. Please meet at the Cowichan Valley Museum in the Train Station, located at 130 Canada Avenue.

Contact the Cowichan Valley Museum at 250-746-6612 or info@cvmuseum.ca for further information.