



THE BEST OF RURAL LIVING IN AN URBAN CENTRE

Coquitlam's earliest roots were entrenched in agriculture and a large French-Canadian population. Growth was slow but steady. By 1891, the municipality of the District of Coquitlam was officially incorporated.

The municipality got its first real economic boost at the end of the 19th century when Frank Ross and James McLaren founded Fraser Mills, a then state-of-the-art lumber mill on the north bank of the Fraser River. By 1908, the mill town was home to about 20 families, a store, post office, hospital, office block, barber shop and pool hall. But it wasn't until the mill owners searched for experienced loggers from Quebec that Coquitlam really started to expand. By June 1910, Maillardville

was born. Maillardville, named for Father Maillard, a young Oblate from France, soon became a vibrant community and the largest Francophone district in Western Canada.

Today, Coquitlam offers the best of rural living in an urban centre, and that has attracted significant interest from industrial and commercial development over the past three decades, and it continues to grow.

From 1981 to 2012, Coquitlam more than doubled its population - from 61,077 to 130,000. Within a decade, Mayor Richard Stewart says the city projects it will be home to 160,000 residents.

"Half of those expected 30,000 new residents will be those who move into Burke Mountain and the other half from densification of city centre and neighbourhoods around the new

SkyTrain line," Stewart says. "There are very positive changes happening in our city; changes that we have been working on for 25 years."

There are many reasons why Coquitlam is considered one of the fastest growing communities in British Columbia. Factors such as its proximity to Vancouver, parks, trails and community facilities, arts and culture opportunities, excellent educational institutions, efficient and modern transportation and infrastructure, innovative business community and open and accessible government, are just some of the reasons.

"Another key component is that for many Metro Vancouver residents Coquitlam is the last city before a bridge toll," adds the Mayor. "From Coquitlam, there are no bridges to

cross to get to Vancouver."

The City of Coquitlam says it wants to be Metro Vancouver's new commercial hub. Capitalizing on its major transportation infrastructure, the city is focusing on creating development and business opportunities for lands in the Port Mann/Highway 1 Corridor. Besides the increased development of the city centre core, the city is also intensifying redevelopment of the Burquitlam neighbourhood and areas near other rapid transit line stations.

The Evergreen Line represents a significant, long term transportation investment in Coquitlam and a key city building opportunity. For the first time, the Evergreen Line will connect Coquitlam, Port Moody and Burnaby through rapid transit with a direct connection to the existing Millennium Line. [[Coquitlam](#) Page 3]