

The Heritage Walk

Distance 5K Allow: 1.5 hour Grade: easy



This pleasant walk takes you back through time, past historical buildings and landmark moments in Harrison Hot Springs history. The Visitor Centre (1) started life as a logging camp bunkhouse. It was donated to the Village in the early 50's and served as the Municipal Hall until 1983. Adjacent to the Visitor Centre is the Village Office (2). This building was one of the first residences in Harrison built in 1888 and located on the site of the current Old Settler Pub. When the pub was built in 1978, it was donated to the Village and moved to its current location.

Walking towards the lake turn left at Lillooet Ave & when you reach Alice St. turn right. On your left, you will see St. Alice Hall (3). This building built in 1947 has acted as a curling rink, skating rink, concert hall and convention centre. Turning left at Esplanade walk past the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa(4). The first hotel built in 1886 burnt down in 1920 and was replaced by the current Resort in 1926. Many additions later the current Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa is what you see today.

Continue following the lakeshore till you arrive at a little yellow building housing the hot springs source (5). The springs were first discovered by Europeans in the 1850's and were initially called St. Alice Springs until being officially named Harrison Hot Springs. First Nations peoples knew the springs as "Kwals" meaning boiling water.

Walking back towards the Village you will find the Harrison Lake Market (6) and Inkman Mall directly across from the Harrison Lake Plaza. This corner has been occupied by a store since 1894 when Charles Inkman first opened Harrison Lake Supply. The current store was built in 1949 and the Inkman mall is now operated by Charles great grandchildren. Continuing down Esplanade you pass Memorial Hall (7). This Hall has been the community-gathering place since the 1950's when it was built by volunteers. It is dedicated to members of the Canadian Forces who have served our country.

Continuing east along the Harrison Dyke (8) a few interesting facts. Harrison Lake is 60 km long and up to 8 km wide. The present dyke was built after the flood of 1948 which devastated the Village. In 1962/63 the sandy beach and the lagoon that offers much warmer summer swimming was built. Past the current boat launch you will enter Rendall Park (9). Set aside as a lakeshore park in 1958 it is named after Belle and Tom Rendall who lived nearby. Belle wrote "Healing Waters" an early history of Harrison. Turning left at Rockwell Drive you find the Ranger Station Gallery(10) built in 1951 as the Harrison Forestry Station. The property is now shared by the Kent-Harrison Arts Council & the Harrison Yacht Club.

Returning to town via Lillooet Avenue, you will pass the Harrison Gospel Chapel (11). The first chapel was built in 1947 with the current church being built in 1972. Continuing along Lillooet you pass Naismith House (12) now known as Harrison Heritage House. This house built in 1938 is named after its best known owner Colonel Andrew Naismith who arrived in 1946 and was instrumental in incorporating the Village in 1949. He acted as the first council chair, as well as serving as magistrate and coroner.

From here you can either return to the Visitor Centre or head into town for a much deserved piece of pie.