

A Brief History of the North Shuswap

For centuries, the First Nations traveled the lake and pathways of the North Shuswap hunting, fishing and collecting berries. Many artifacts have been found along the lakeshore. During the later half of the eighteen hundreds, there were gold seekers (many Chinese) up Scotch Creek as well as crews cutting ties for the Canadian Pacific Railway and wood for the steamers. Harry Fowler is considered the first white settler to move into the North Shuswap. He drove a herd of cattle up to Meadow Creek, a natural meadow, where he homesteaded. The Bischoffs, the first white family moved into Scotch Creek in 1895. Their home is still standing today. Between 1907 and 1913 many families squatted on land in this area and finally around 1913 they were granted the right to have a homestead. Almost everyone was logging, cutting ties for the railroad as well as subsistence farming. Many farms developed fruit orchards, especially apples. Shuswap Lake continued to be a vital link with several paddle wheelers and steamships plying the waters over the years. A ferry ran between Sorrento and Scotch Creek from 1914 until 1956. During the forties and fifties there were several large strawberry farms. With improved roads and transportation the five small schools in the various communities amalgamated into one school the North Shuswap School in 1950, which eventually grew into North Shuswap Elementary Secondary School. It has since returned to an Elementary School.

Seymour Arm has a long and interesting history dating back to when it was called Ogden City in the 1850's. It's history includes a community of over 500 people at one point.

History of The North Shuswap Historical Society

The first meeting of the Historical Society was held in the clubroom of the Community Hall on April 17th 1985 where Mary Zoretich was elected President. The first two years the main activities were tours of the old houses built before 1940. The group began gathering photographs and memorabilia and started collecting material for an Archive. The first "Shuswap Chronicles" was published in 1988. Since then the Society has successfully published nine Volumes of the Shuswap Chronicles and five Calendars. Although they have developed quite an extensive photograph collection and Archives they continue their work in these areas. Recently, they are trying to interview and tape pioneers as well as create a register of various historic sites in the North Shuswap. Presentations to the public as well as the school help to preserve our local history. If you have any information or photographs which would add to our history please contact us.

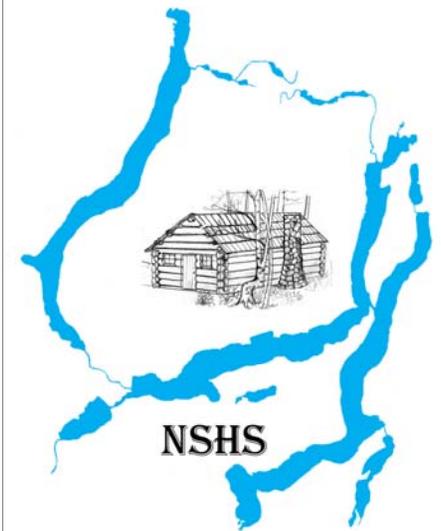
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Self - Guided Driving Tour of Historic Sites in Lee Creek



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10 Squilax General Store - Squilax Store and Hostel



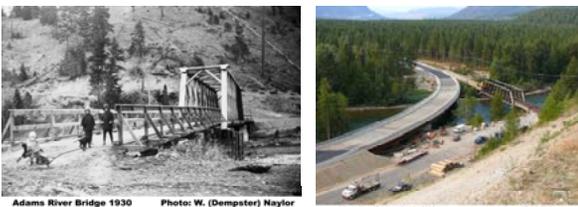
This landmark on the Trans-Canada Highway was built in 1935 by Wilhelmina and Cliff Herring to replace an original wood store that burned down. It served as the local store and post office for many years until the early 80's. The Squilax Store and Hostel was reopened in 1993 with the addition of the youth hostel by Blair Acton. Today it is well known for a colony of Yuma and Little Brown bats which live in the area.

#11 Squilax Bridge



The first Squilax Bridge opened in 1930 and served the North Shuswap for many years. The cement pillars can still be seen. Prior to that there was a cable ferry crossing Little River. This new bridge was completed in 1990.

12 Adams River Bridge



Our new Adams River bridge opened in August 2009. The previous bridge was built in 1957 shortly after the government removed the Scotch Creek—Sorrento

ferry. The cement pillars of an even older bridge can still be seen.

13 McKay Homestead

Bill & Helen McKay pre-empted this quarter section in 1916.

14 McKay Homestead

In 1909, Alex and Isabelle McKay homesteaded in this bay now McKay Bay named after them. They lived in a tent for the first year before building a log home. They built this particular home in 1915 and lived in it for the rest of their lives.



Alex & Isabelle McKay Home 1924 Photo: B. (McKay) Woods

15 Lee Creek School

Lee Creek School once was located on this land which was donated by Oliver Freeman. It was built by local pioneers and first opened in 1919 with twelve students. The first teacher was Miss Winifred Smythe. Depending on the number of students attending it was open off and on until it finally closed in 1954 when the students were bused to the North Shuswap Elementary Secondary School.



Lee Creek School 1988 Photo: J. Cooperman

15 Log Dump

The Federated Co-op built this log dump around 1946. The Co-op has modernized the



Co-op Log Dump 2007 P: T & L Reflections

equipment over the years. Thousands of truck loads of logs have been emptied into McKay Bay. The logs are collected in booms and towed by tugs to their mill in Canoe.

16 Oliver Freeman

Oliver Freeman arrived in 1906 and settled on this quarter section. He was instrumental in enticing many of his relatives to move to Lee Creek, such as the McKays and Lockerbys. Oliver Freeman planted cherry trees and some apple trees in his orchard. He built a wooden sawmill and had a planer. Unfortunately, the sawmill caught fire and burnt.



Oliver Freeman 1952 Photo: Barbara (McKay) Woods

#36 - Frank (Inky) Fraser

Frank has been a pioneer of Adams Lake since 1930. He was the owner operator of Adams Lake Towing from 1960 to 1996. He salvaged the paddlewheel shaft from the steamboat Helen

