

The Summerland Townsite was first surveyed along the lakeshore in 1903 to take advantage of the close proximity of sternwheelers on Okanagan Lake. Shops and services could be found on the main street (now Lakeshore Drive), with residential areas both on the hill and along the lake.

Drive down Peach Orchard Road to the end at Lakeshore Dr.; turn left at the bottom and continue north by car to Crescent Beach at the end of the road.

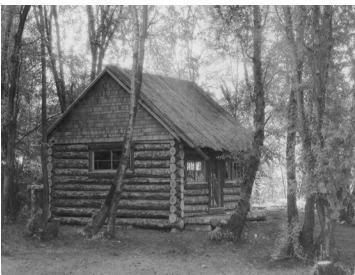
1. Storehouse Point (Crescent Beach)

When gold was discovered inland in the Similkameen region in 1885, boats dropped off supplies here to be taken overland to Granite City (near Coalmont B.C., northwest of Princeton). Later, a grandstand and horseracing track were built to host an annual fair and races. In the early 1900s, lakeshore lots sold for \$100, and many local built their summer homes in the area.

Return south along Lakeshore Dr. Just before the Peach Orchard Rd. junction, look right (west).

2. The Log Cabin (15216 N Lakeshore Dr.)

This cabin was constructed when Lakeshore Drive was the main highway, and used to have a totem pole out front to attract visitors. Built by Jack Logie in 1920, it displayed



and sold works of art from local artists and craftsmen under the supervision of the B.C. Art League. These local artists were often orchard workers taking advantage of part time employment

over the winter months. Over the years, the cabin has been home to other enterprises including a gift shop and motel room.

Return south to Peach Orchard Beach Park and park the car. Walk south along the lakeside path to the Kiwanis Walking Pier.

3. Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Wharf and Barge Slip (Kiwanis Walking Pier)

Built in 1910, the CPR wharf was one of many wharves that accommodated for freight and passengers from sternwheelers.

The first wharf in Summerland was built in 1904 to the south, near the present day Trout Hatchery (#6 below). From here a ferry service operated to Naramata and Penticton. The wharf was dismantled in the 1920s.



Looking south, CPR Wharf (foreground), with Summerland's first wharf (behind), and businesses of Lower Town.

4. The Lakeshore Telephone Co (13818 Lakeshore Dr.)

Summerland was the first town in the Okanagan Valley to get telephone service in 1907. The Lakeshore Telephone Co operated a system that covered Summerland, Peachland, and Penticton. In 1928 it sold to the Okanagan Telephone Co, and later to B.C. Tel.

Continue south on Lakeshore Drive

5. Packing Houses and Cannery (13415 Lakeshore Dr.)

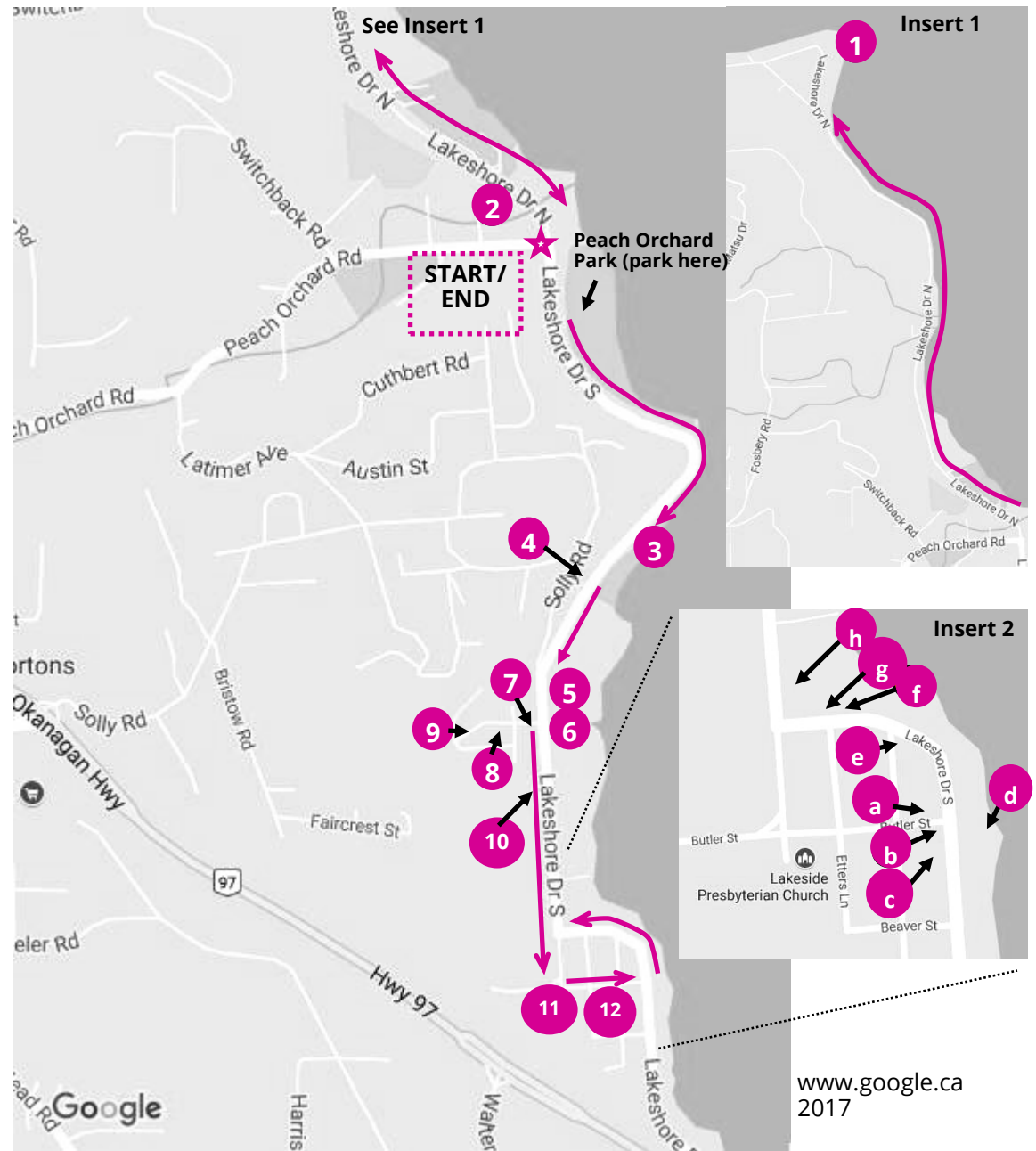
The first of many packing houses appeared in this location in 1908. As orchards in Summerland grew, fruit was transported in railway boxcars from the packing houses directly onto lake boats and barges. These went north to Vernon by boat, then by rail to markets across Canada and overseas.



6. Trout Hatchery (13405 Lakeshore Dr.)

The Trout Hatchery first began operating in 1925. The site was chosen because of the nearby freshwater spring in Chinaman's Gulch, which maintained a nearly consistent 10°C temperature regardless of the season. The current building was constructed in 1948, and is one of five major hatcheries in British Columbia.

LOWER TOWN WALKING/DRIVING TOUR



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It's good idea to wear good walking shoes and bring a bottle of water.
Please respect private property.

Before the Trout Hatchery started, this was the site for a hydro-electric plant (opened 1905), which operated a Pelton wheel to provide the townsite with the first electric light in the Okanagan.



Summerland Hotel (left), Manse (behind) and Empire Hall (right).

7. Summerland Hotel (Lakeshore Dr and Gowan's)

The Summerland Hotel was built in 1902 by the Summerland Development Co. It had twenty-five rooms, a large dining room, and a billiard room, but no bar. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1925. Behind the hotel up Gowan's Street was the Gartrell Block, built in 1907, which held a drug store, butcher shop, and dressmaker, with offices on the top floor. In 1921, it was dismantled and its cement blocks used to build the Odd Fellows Hall (now IOOF Hall) up the hill in West Summerland.

Across Gowan's road from the hotel was The Empire Hall, built 1903, which housed the Summerland Supply Co (general store) with a hall on the upper floor frequented by travelling theatre companies.

Across Lakeshore Drive from the hotel was a band shell, constructed 1905, which held the town's firefighting equipment in its base.

8. The Methodist Church Manse (5711 Gowan's St.)

Built in 1907 and since renovated, the manse was part of the Methodist Church. The Church was constructed in 1905 and was the town's first church building. It also had a men's club.

9. Gowan's Street

The gulch up Gowan's Street once served as a transportation route up from the lakeshore to the bench above. Originally called Chinaman's Gulch, it was named due to the presence of the Kam Sing Laundry. It was also the site of a spring offering the first domestic water source for Lower Town.

10. Lakeshore Drive

Shops and services once lined both sides of Lakeshore Drive (then called Shaughnessy Ave). On the lakeside was the town's first post office (1902-1922), the Bank of Montreal, a barbershop, and grocery. On the other side was J. Logie's Red X

Pharmacy, another barbershop, J.R. Brown Indian Agent's office (with a jail behind), and the Dominion Bank. The only one of these original buildings still standing is the Hogg Drugstore (13020 Lakeshore Dr, now a private residence).

A large fire in Lower Town in 1922 destroyed many of these shops and businesses, and a subsequent fire in 1927 destroyed the Empire Hall as well.

Landslides plagued Lower Town over the years, including one that caused a fatality in 1970.

Continue walking south along Lakeshore Drive until a sharp corner. Continue straight on Shaughnessy Ave.
11. Lakeside Presbyterian Church

(5505 Butler St)



The Lakeside Church was built as a Baptist church in 1909, and became a United Church 1926-1956. It had a period as the Masonic Lodge until 1991, then changed again to a Presbyterian Church. It is now privately held. A huge Lyle pipe organ was added to the building in 1929, and still remains.

Turn left down Butler Street

12. A number of residences for employees from the Cornwall Cannery were on this street. Two of these residences built in 1945 were for the plant foreman (5313 and 5317 Butler) and are still standing. Smaller cabins for the workers, mostly women, once stood to the east in a large complex shaped as an "H".

Turn left on Lakeshore Dr. S, and continue back north along the lake.

Many homes built during the early years of Lower Town are still standing along Lakeshore Drive. These include (Insert 2 Map): E. Butler Home (a-12404); McAlpine Home

(b-12216); Robson Home, built 1908 (c-12212); Beavis Home (d-12217); J. Tait Home (e-12412); the Angove Home (f-12603); S. Sharpe Home, built 1902 (g-12605); and the R.H. English Home, the first framed house in Lower Town (h-12609).



Lakeside church (left), cannery foreman houses and residences (middle), and packing houses (behind).

Over time, many businesses moved up the hill from Lower Town to West Summerland (the current downtown) in search for more space. This trend accelerated after a large fire in Lower Town in 1922. Traffic continued to pass through Lower Town until 1956, when the highway was diverted to its current route. Today, Lower Town is seeing a slow revitalization as people rediscover the beaches down the hill.

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SUMMERLAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

LOWER TOWN:

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WALKING TOUR

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1 HOUR