



Welcome to Coal Creek Heritage Trail

Coal Creek Townsite

By 1897 the newly discovered coal was being extracted from mine portals by hardworking miners with picks and shovels, and "pit ponies" to pull the loaded coal cars to the surface. Coal transported to the mouth of Coal Creek was stockpiled, awaiting the coming railway lines, which were yet to be constructed. By 1901 the mining operations had taken on a full industrial process, with rail spurs extending up the valley, to tie into the C.P.R. and G.N.R. mainlines, which in turn provided a connection to the outside world and its coal markets.



Looking downstream at the steel tipples



The tipple crew 1913



There was more than coal at Coal Creek as this winter scene suggests

The Coal Creek Townsite weathered its ups and downs with labour disputes, destructive fires, the depression, massive floods, isolating avalanches, and mine accidents, but the people persevered, and sustained this vibrant community until the end.



Socializing on Coyote Road

On May 31st, 1957, then president of CNP Coal, W.R. Wilson, announced that the mines at Coal Creek would be closed. Above ground, a wildfire that consumed part of the settlement that year and forced its evacuation foretold the community's ultimate fate.

As you follow the trail through the Coal Creek Townsite, and old mining ruins, reflect on what life would have been like here 100 years ago.

With the early miners, eventually came families, with the "Townsite" becoming home to 1000 residents by 1905. Homes had plumbing with waterlines extending from Matheson Creek. Electricity was provided by the coal fired powerplant, and gave this rather remote community a sense of place. A three room school house, three churches, and an Athletic Club complimented the social structure which was beginning to take root at the turn of the 20th century. Recreational time in the summer was spent, swimming in the Coal Creek pool, playing football at the sports field, and in winter skating, tobogganing and many indoor pursuits kept everyone content when leisure time was available.



Coal Creek Heritage Trail Townsite Loop

You are beginning your adventure at the Townsite Trailhead Kiosk parking area. The trail is evident to your left when facing north, and is marked by a yellow metal sign on a tree. After passing some old stone foundations, you will enter into a large clearing, where you will continue through this area and come to one of the old mine portal areas. The smell of sulphur will be evident here as the old mine seeps water from the depths. Further along the trail ascends to your right, into "Slav Town" an area where some of the workers lived. 300 m. later the loop trail departs to the right where a steep track follows along a mossy creek. If water is flowing in the creek, a small waterfall splashes down from the cliffs above. You will arrive at a view point, where expansive views of the Coal Creek Valley can be enjoyed. The route descends on an old road to your right and returns back to the trailhead parking area.

