


Historic Steamwheeler Wharves & Landings:

Points about Westside Road


The trail between Fintry and Nahun was the last remnant of the Hudson Bay Trail. It was used to travel between the two communities after the Shorts Point Post Office was closed. A rough and narrow wagon road was used to join Westbank to Nahun around 1908. Eight years later, the road to Ewing's Landing was completed using horse teams, which made Vernon accessible without crossing the lake by ferry. During the depression, scores of able-bodied men from the relief camp in Wilson Landing worked to improve the narrow and generally unsafe portion of Westside Road from their camp to where you will now find Traders Cove.

Traders Cove




There was a sternwheeler landing at Bear Creek, just south of where Traders Cove lies today. It was originally called Bear River in 1883 by David Douglas (of Douglas Fir fame) and was changed to Lambly Creek in 1922. Despite the name changes, it is referred to as Bear Creek today. When the SS Sicamous discontinued its services in 1935, mail and freight was delivered by truck from Vernon. There are references to Traders Trail Estates and Newby's Cove near the current log dump at Bear Creek.

Wilson Landing



So named for Boer War veteran Harold Fitz-Harding Wilson who settled in the area in 1900. In the 1930s it was home to a relief camp sponsored by the Anglican Church. It housed scores of burly men who improved the hazardous portions of Westside Road between here and Newby's Cove. The post office opened in 1908 and was located in the Browse house. In 1935, when the SS Sicamous stopped delivering mail, Jack Kitson of Bear Creek used boats that he owned and operated to deliver mail. This continued until late 1937 when the family moved to Victoria

Caesar's Landing




The Hudson's Bay Fur Brigade Trail ran just above Caesar's Landing and was named after Northcote Henry Caesar, one of the areas first settlers in 1893. Caesar's Landing is the site of a government wharf and sternwheelers called in two to three times a week (or when signalled) with mail and groceries from Vernon or Kelowna. There was an orchard, cannery, sheep farm, vegetable patches, horses, hay fields and cattle. It had a post office and a garage with a gravity gas pump. As with other areas, when the SS Sicamous discontinued service in 1935, mail and freight was delivered by truck to Nahun from Vernon.

Fintry




Called Biche Creek in 1877, it was later changed to Short's Creek after Captain T.D. Shorts. The land was sold in the 1890s to a member of the Dunsmuir family. Capt. J.C. Dunwaters then bought the land from the son-in-law of Ex-Governor Dunsmuir and renamed the property Fintry, after his family home in Stirlingshire, Scotland. Dunwaters developed a large fruit and dairy ranch here. Each house in Fintry had running water supplied by gravity flow from Shorts Creek. They also had electricity, which relied on sufficient water flow in Shorts Creek. In 1938 Fairbridge Farm Schools acquired the ranch. The Shorts Point post office opened in 1905, and closed two years later in 1907. Fintry was also home to a fruit packinghouse with a wharf.

Ewing's Landing



Originally called Morden's Landing, it was renamed to Ewing's Landing in 1889 after Robert Leckie-Ewing, the first Post Master. Ewing's Landing had a wharf, a post office (1902 – 62), orchards, a teashop, and a general store. The school held 15 students up to grade eight. The schoolhouse doubled as a community centre where they held dances, whist drives and heated public debates. The community boasted a tennis court that drew people from all over the valley. Some fruit was grown here and shipped from here. Ewing's Landing was also home to Herbert Kenyon, who became a member of Canada's Hall of Fame (1973). He was one of the first men to fly over the Antarctic and flew rescue missions in the far north.

Killiney Beach



Originally called Sproul's Landing, it was then named after the Hill of Killiney, Monkstown, County Dublin, Ireland, by Harry Percy Hodges who settled there in 1903. Hodges was previously the bookkeeper at the Coldstream Ranch. Orchards and a wharf were here until the 1970s.

Westside Road Historic Route



Steamwheeler wharves/landings



Sternwheelers Serving on Northern Okanagan Lake – The White Queens

The Boats:

Aberdeen

1892 to 1913: 44.5m long and burned 10 cords of wood per trip. Coal burner after 1902

Fairview

1894, burned in 1897: 17m long, wood burner (Not CPR)

Okanagan

1907, dismantled late 1930s: 59m long, coal burner

Kaleden

1910, dismantled in 1920: 28.6m long, coal burner

Sicamous

1914, modified in 1935: 61.1m long, coal burner, last passenger trip summer of 1936

Compared to other same size boats of the time, these boats had low construction and maintenance costs. They were highly adaptable to pioneer conditions and built to allow the bow to run ashore without damage. To call a boat, you simply signalled from shore. The boats were equipped with searchlights to scan for the wharf in the dark. The boats brought clothes, food items, fruit and vegetables, tools, reading material, horses and cattle, large steam boilers, cow hides, and gold bricks to people living on the shore. They also transported visitors and men going off to and returning from war.

