



Volkssport Association of British Columbia



CVF Director's Walk

PT 159 Prince George – 12 km – Rated 2B

The walk begins at the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum at 850 River Road. Washrooms and parking are available at the Museum. *This Heritage River Trail will lead you through the city's history. The rivers and their towering cutbanks are pre-glacial in origin. The earliest settlement was based on river transport – first by cottonwood dugouts of the native Carrier people, then by birchbark canoes of the fur traders. Around the turn of the century, pioneers arrived by paddlewheel steamboat.*

1. Exit the museum. *The museum is dedicated to preserving, restoring and interpreting artifacts of historical significance related to railways and industrial development in Central BC. There are over sixty pieces of rolling stock, nine historical buildings and numerous smaller artifacts.* Walk to the road. **LEFT** on the road.
2. After 400 meters **LEFT** on a gravel road (unsigned) leading to a parking lot. Walk to the far end of the lot and continue on a paved path with the Nechako River on your left. This leads to the confluence with the Fraser River. *Since pre-historic times, flooding has occurred here. In spring, melting snow fills the Fraser and the Nechako rises because the Fraser's channel is full. Flooding can even occur in winter if ice dams the shallow Nechako. The highest flood was in 1936. Other floods in 1972 and 2007 were nearly as great.* Continue along the Fraser, over a wooden footbridge, under the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Bridge and under the Yellowhead Bridge. *The Grand Trunk Bridge was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$1.6 million. It is 810 m long (just over ½ mile) making it the longest railway bridge in BC.*
3. Continue straight ahead on a gravel path by the river. **LEFT** on Taylor Dr. **LEFT** onto a paved path. **(2 km)**
4. At the intersection with 17th Ave., continue straight on Taylor Dr. #5 on map. *Indian village and cemetery. Beginning sometime in the mid-19th century, a village of the Lheidli T'enneh ("people where the rivers meet") grew here next to the Catholic church and Hudson's Bay Co. trading post. When the railway purchased the Indian reserve in 1912, the native people were relocated and the village was burned. Only the cemetery remains.*
5. After the road turns right, away from the river, **LEFT** on a paved path over a footbridge with yellow railings. **RIGHT** at Y junction.
6. Follow path to Queensway St, cross Queensway St at crosswalk (Regents Cr), **LEFT** and then **RIGHT** at Hudson's Bay Slough Park sign on a gravel path. *Hudson Bay Slough is a remnant of an early channel of the Fraser River that flowed through downtown Prince George hundreds of years ago. Hudson's Bay Co had a trading post here from 1821 to 1915.*
7. The path continues along the left side of the slough. Stay on the main path keeping closest to the slough at all times. The path, the Heritage River Trail, crosses 3 roads at crosswalks - Oak, Pine and Victoria (all unsigned) - and continues with a creek on the right and a wire fence on the left.
8. At the road (Diefenbaker), **RIGHT** on gravel sidewalk, cross Upland St., **RIGHT** over creek and **LEFT** on gravel path with ball diamond on your right.
9. The path leads under Highway 16, **LEFT** over a footbridge towards Spruce City Stadium, and **RIGHT** on paved road out to Massey Dr **(5.8 km)**.
10. **RIGHT** on Massey Dr to traffic light,
11. **LEFT** at Carrie Jane Gray Park sign. Cross Massey Dr and continue up Carney crossing 15th Ave. and 5th Ave at traffic lights. *Carney St. was the western boundary of the Prince George Indian Reserve and in 1915 became the western boundary of the City of Prince George. BX Pub was named after the most famous and luxurious sternwheeler boat on the upper Fraser River. It plied the river from 1910 to 1919 when it sank in the Fort George Canyon. Stay on the left side of Carney towards the river where it bends right and becomes River Rd and crosses over a railway. Pass the Cameron Street bridge (how early settlers crossed the Nechako) on your left, and veer **LEFT** down a path to the river bank. **(8.6 km)***
12. *This part of the walk is very prone to washouts. If necessary, take the adjacent road back to the start point.* Continue along the path with the Nechako River on your left, pass the boat launch, until you come to a parking lot. Continue straight ahead through the parking lot and finish at the Railway and Forestry Museum. **(12 km)**

We hope you enjoyed our walk!

If there are any problems with the instructions or the map, please contact:

David Cattrall 250-598-4316, david.cattrall@telus.net

