

“Welcome to Horsefly”

The community of Horsefly is dedicated to creating wheelchair access in and around our community.

All businesses in Horsefly are wheelchair accessible, as is the Horsefly Lake Provincial Campground, the Tisdall Lake Fishing Dock, the Horsefly River Spawning Channel Trail, and Lynn’s Bed, Breakfast & Bale with 3 accessible suites and two shared bathrooms. Phone 250 620 3310 for reservations.

There are accessible washrooms next to Clarke’s General Store, in the recreation area across the bridge, the library, and the community hall.

Let us Introduce Ourselves!

The Horsefly area has many natural attractions: Quesnel Lake, Horsefly Lake, Horsefly River, and hundreds of small lakes, rivers & creeks. It is known world-wide for hunting, fishing, mountain biking, back country skiing, hiking and other outdoor recreational activities. The natural beauty of the area draws many artists and skilled craftsmen so it is possible to obtain a good variety of services and interesting products locally.



Community Events

Spring – Horsefly Follies: A hilarious stage show that has been going on for over 25 years.

Summer – Arts on the Fly: Annual music, dance and arts festival on the second weekend in July.

Fall – Horsefly Salmon Festival: A celebration of the return of the Sockeye Salmon

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Accessible Horsefly

Horsefly welcomes low mobility residents and visitors



Sockeye Salmon in Horsefly



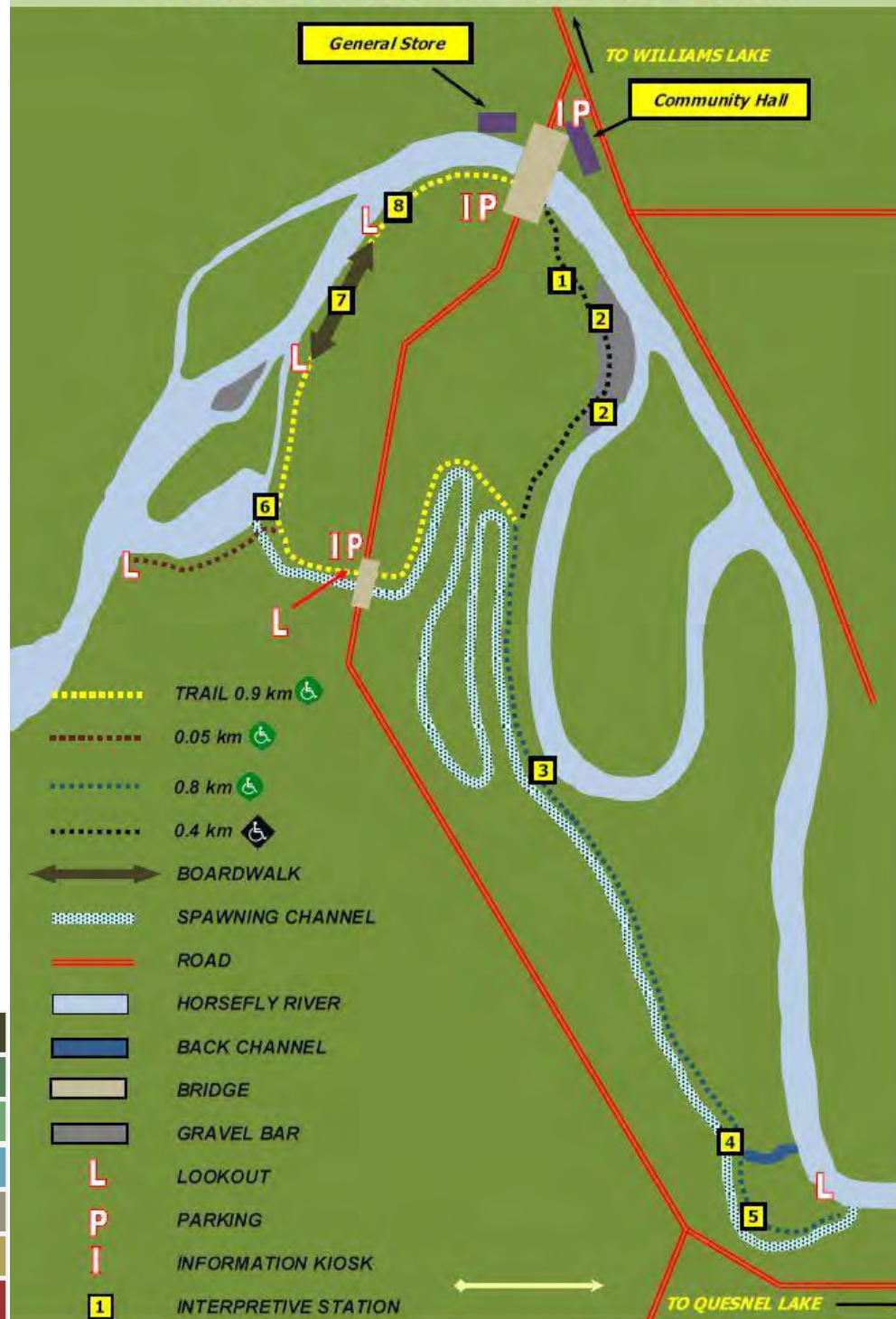
The big red fish you see here in August and September are sockeye salmon. If you look closely, you can see the scars they have sustained on their incredible journey – thousands of kilometres in the northeast Pacific Ocean, followed by 800 kilometres up the Fraser River. These fish have escaped commercial fisheries on the high seas as well as Canadian and

American coastal fleets and many other challenges. Watch for net marks, wounds from predators, abrasions and other injuries; even sea lice can be found on Horsefly sockeye. You may also see the females digging “redds” or nests, in the gravel, or swimming with rainbow trout and mountain whitefish which benefit from the newly-spawned salmon eggs. In nature, about 1 in 10 eggs survive to emerge as fry, while in the spawning channel this survival rate has been as recorded as high as 80%, but averages about 50%.

The number of sockeye returning to spawn in the Horsefly River can fluctuate from a few thousand to a few million. Like most Fraser River sockeye, they are nearly all 4 years old and the population is cyclic: the “dominant” (most abundant) run occurs on the 2009 cycle, then 2013, 2017. During the dominant cycle, the Horsefly run is the largest component of the Fraser River sockeye population. It is important to remember that Horsefly sockeye directly sustain the economies of many coastal B.C. communities, and First Nations people as well as, other species including birds, insects, wildlife, fish and even the very trees that sustain our forest industry.

Sockeye salmon are characteristically a temperature-sensitive species and high temperatures in the Horsefly River are a concern. Nearing the end of their lives and using their final energy reserves, spawning fish are easily stressed and when temperatures remain above about 18 degrees Celsius, they can die before they are able to spawn. Maintaining healthy riparian zones, protecting the stream environment itself from disturbance, and fostering appropriate activities in the watershed are important goals for the Horsefly community, as a part of our role as watershed stewards and protectors of the salmon.

HORSEFLY SALMON HABITAT TRAIL



About the community

Horsefly is a 45 min paved drive from Williams Lake, BC. It sits at the foothills of the Cariboo Mountains with amazing views all around. It is a small, but close-knit community of about 1000 people.

We were not the biggest, but we were the first! The first gold in the Cariboo Gold Rush was discovered in the Horsefly River in 1859. Following that discovery, miners ventured further north to Likely, Quesnel Forks and Barkerville.

The community of Horsefly has been an un-incorporated village since then. When the gold miners moved on many people stayed, farming the fertile land, trapping the extensive wilderness, logging the forest and mining on a smaller scale.

For Geocachers, there are three locations within the Horsefly area.