

# WELCOME TO BENNETT

## THE BUSTLING BOOM TOWN OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH



Imagine you were here in 1874 when prospector George Holt became the first outsider to arrive at Bennett's shore. As the trickle of hardened "Sourdough" prospectors over the mountains continued to grow, in 1897 they were joined by thousands of "Cheechacko" newcomers.

Come with us and explore Bennett, the gold rush town that formed at the junction of the White Pass and Chilkoot trails! Although these hills once resounded with the sounds of 10,000 voices, today it is a serene trek with little but the church to remind us of its gold rush past.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- The complete walking tour is one-half mile (0.8 kilometres) in length. Please keep track of time, it is important you don't miss your train!
- Beautiful vistas and views can be had without traversing the steps leading up to the church.
- There are no washroom facilities on the walking tour route. There are facilities on the train and at Bennett station.
- Drinking water is only available on the train.

- Bennett townsite is part of Parks Canada's Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. All land and artifacts are protected, and to collect or disturb artifacts is a federal offense. Take nothing but photographs!
- Fire is an ever present danger, please **DO NOT SMOKE** on the tour!
- This cold desert environment is **very fragile**, please **stay on existing walkways at all times!**



### YOUR TOUR BEGINS

At the station. Take a moment to look at the large panoramic photo of Bennett, taken in the hectic gold rush days. Today's quiet vistas are a contrast to that time, when the trees were clear cut, and hundreds of tents, shacks and log buildings hugged the hillsides. Proceed across the tracks to the replica boat on display by the lake shore to begin your tour.

# BENNETT WALKING TOUR

Come, step outside the station into a unique sub-alpine ecosystem. Walk in a landscape carved by glaciers millennia ago, and see it much as it was when coastal Tlingit traders first slipped over the Chilkoot Pass to meet their trading partners, the interior Tagish First Nations peoples.

## BE BEAR AWARE!



Bennett is home to bears and other wild creatures. Although you will probably not see them on your walk today, any piece of trash or discarded food attracts their interest. LEAVE ALL FOOD AT THE STATION! This protects the bears from becoming dependent on human handouts, and keeps them alive and wild. Do not wander from the tour route by yourself, and NEVER approach a bear. If frightened, a bear could become dangerous.



Since 1898

# HISTORIC WALKING TOUR MAP



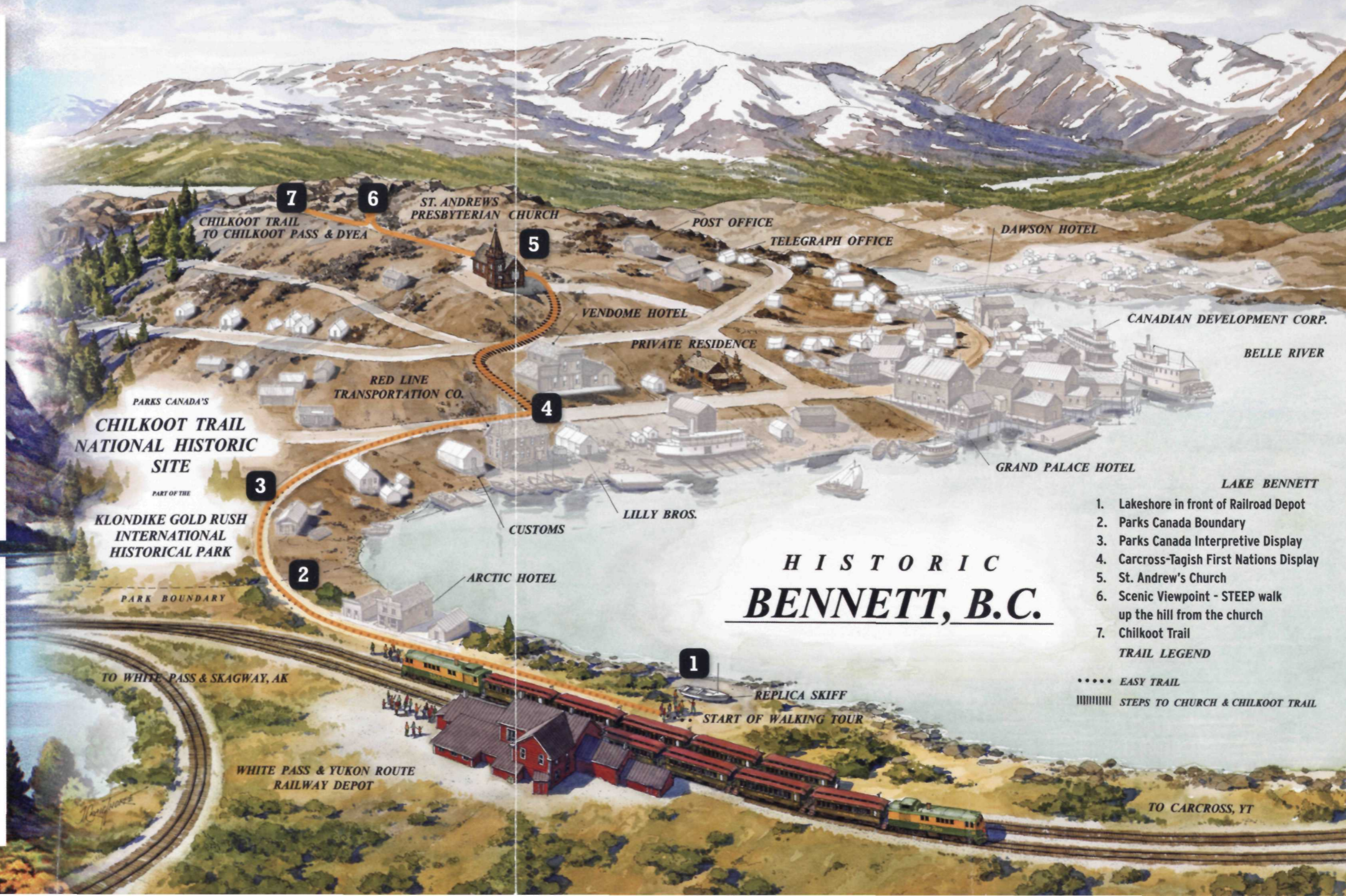
On June 1, 1898, the shores of Lake Bennett were teeming with gold hungry stampeders ready to make their way down the Yukon River system to Klondike Gold Fields in Dawson City, Yukon.



Homemade boats built with the surrounding timber at Lake Bennett had to be trusted to make the 560 mile journey on the Yukon River to Dawson City, Yukon. The gold seekers fought dangerous rapids, wind swept lakes and the wild frontier while navigating the river system.



Numerous boats were brought onto Lake Bennett and the river system to accommodate the building of the northern reaches of the Yukon. The boats aided in the moving of supplies and people including tourists waiting to experience the Klondike Gold Rush in person years after all the stakes had been claimed.



PARKS CANADA'S  
**CHILKOOT TRAIL  
NATIONAL HISTORIC  
SITE**

PART OF THE  
**KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH  
INTERNATIONAL  
HISTORICAL PARK**

**HISTORIC  
BENNETT, B.C.**

1. Lakeshore in front of Railroad Depot
2. Parks Canada Boundary
3. Parks Canada Interpretive Display
4. Carcross-Tagish First Nations Display
5. St. Andrew's Church
6. Scenic Viewpoint - STEEP walk up the hill from the church
7. Chilkoot Trail

TRAIL LEGEND

- ..... EASY TRAIL
- ||||||| STEPS TO CHURCH & CHILKOOT TRAIL

7

6

5

3

2

1

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHILKOOT TRAIL TO CHILKOOT PASS & DYEA

POST OFFICE

TELEGRAPH OFFICE

DAWSON HOTEL

VENDOME HOTEL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT CORP.

BELLE RIVER

PARKS CANADA'S

RED LINE TRANSPORTATION CO.

GRAND PALACE HOTEL

LAKE BENNETT

CUSTOMS

LILLY BROS.

ARCTIC HOTEL

PARK BOUNDARY

TO WHITE PASS & SKAGWAY, AK

REPLICA SKIFF

START OF WALKING TOUR

WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE RAILWAY DEPOT

TO CARCROSS, YT