

KILBY

HISTORIC SITE

TEACHER'S PACKAGE

1920s HERITAGE TOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



FRASER HERITAGE
SOCIETY

THE KILBY HISTORIC SITE AND THE KILBY INTERPRETATIVE PROGRAMS ARE
MANAGED BY THE FRASER HERITAGE SOCIETY

KILBY HISTORIC SITE
TEACHER'S PACKAGE 2006
1920S HERITAGE TOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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KILBY HISTORIC SITE
1920S HERITAGE TOUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
(ADAPTABLE TO ALL AGES)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To discover and understand the importance of general stores in rural communities during the 1920s through guided instruction, self-directed exploration and hands-on activities.
2. To discover the similarities and differences between modern amenities and 1920s shopping by discussing bulk buying, self service, warehouses, general stores and recycling.
3. To experience what life was like on the farm by visiting the animals, observing their daily activities and understanding the integral role each animal played in a rural 1920s community.
4. To participate in group and individual activities in a creative and challenging learning environment appropriate to the student's abilities and the grade's curriculum.
5. To develop awareness of museums and living history sites as places of culture, education, learning and entertainment.
6. To build an understanding of our history and its impact on modern technologies.
7. To preserve our history by having students share in an experience that they will carry with them and foster an environment where heritage is appreciated, respected and cherished.
8. To preserve our history by having students share in an experience that they will carry with them to adulthood.

We at the FRASER HERITAGE SOCIETY welcome your feedback. Please feel free to offer your suggestions and impressions so we may better meet your needs and expectations. For further information, call Meghan Dahl, Visitor Services Coordinator at the Kilby Historic Site 604-796-9576 or e-mail us at events@kilby.ca. Regular mailing address is: P.O. Box 55, Harrison Mills, BC, V0M 1L0.

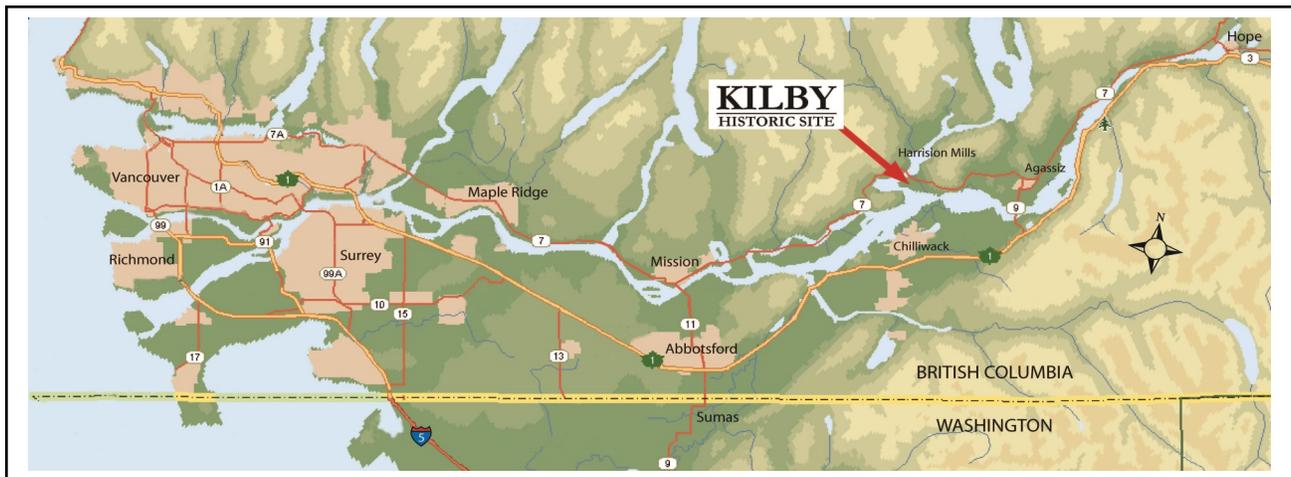
KILBY HISTORIC SITE

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

As there are a number of activities planned for the students, punctuality is essential in order to make the most of your visit to the Kilby Historic Site. Please have your group arrive approximately fifteen minutes early to make use of the washrooms. Activities will last approximately 2 hours, and can be adjusted to include a short lunch break if necessary. The program will start under the Willow Tree, or in the Orchard Shed in inclement weather. Mosquito repellent or raingear may be advisable at certain times of the year. Call ahead to be sure. Please ask your students to leave their back packs or bags on the bus until needed.

LOCATION AND MAP

The Kilby Historic Site is located just off Highway #7 in Harrison Mills. We are approximately 1 hour east of Vancouver, thirty minutes east of Chilliwack and Mission, twenty minutes west of Harrison Hot Springs and fifteen minutes west of Agassiz. The turn off is clearly marked at the east end of the Harrison River Bridge.



“Located just 1.6 km off highway 7 (Lougheed Highway) on the north shore of the Fraser River, the turn-off from Highway 7 is clearly marked at the east end of the Harrison River Bridge.”

KILBY HISTORIC SITE

SITE AND LOCAL FACILITIES

The picnic tables on the grounds are great for lunch in warm weather and more tables are offered undercover in the open air Orchard Shed. The Orientation Barn, or other areas, can be made available for lunch if the weather is poor. *At your request*, the Kilby Restaurant can provide hotdogs, popcorn, fresh sandwiches, muffins, soft drinks and assorted juices. The Kilby Gift Shop offers many items of interest to both students and adults, including books, local crafts, wooden toys and souvenir items. There are washroom facilities on the site located in the barn and on the main floor of the cottage. The entire site is wheel chair accessible except for the third floor of the museum. The museum site is also within walking distance of the Kilby Campground on Harrison Bay. There are many pleasant walking trails along the dyke, and historic points of interest in the area.

PRESENTATION AND GROUPS

To use your time effectively at the site, please divide the students into **two groups**, before you arrive. Although we welcome discussion with the students during the program, we would appreciate if the attending adults would refrain from interrupting the interpreter's dialogue or answering questions directed toward the students. We appreciate your cooperation!

NAME TAGS

Prior to your visit to the site please have each child create a name tag. Color coding the tags by group will also assist in organizing the students.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We also welcome chaperones, assistants and parent volunteers to assist on these field trips. For every 15 students, a chaperone is admitted free of charge. Chaperones exceeding this number are charged regular adult admission. As group leader, the chaperone must take full responsibility for their assigned group. We thank chaperones for refraining from taking an active part in the program itself as it is specifically directed to the students.

CANCELLATIONS

Please inform us within 48 hours before your scheduled date if your group is unable to attend. Your \$25.00 deposit is non-refundable if notice is not received by this time. Please call the Kilby Historic Site at 604-796-9576 if your group is late or unable to attend.

KILBY HISTORIC SITE

“1920S HERITAGE TOUR” (ALL AGES)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The 1920s Heritage Tour was created for the budget conscious classes. It provides the students with two informative, costumed interpreters during the museum tour, while allowing you and your students to explore the farm. Each station of the program is fun, educational and highly interactive. We explore issues involved with the operation of a 1920s general store in a rural Canadian community, and the students get to step back in time to experience the way their grandparents shopped and lived in contrast to modern day methods.

Please have the students divided into two separate groups, with at least one adult per group as supervisor. Each group will switch and a lunch break may be planned at an appropriate point if needed. Upon your arrival, there will be an opportunity for the students to visit the washroom facilities before the designated program begins.

“INTRODUCTION” ~ GROUP STATION / 5 MINUTES

The program begins at the Front Gate, and the introduction will cover a few basic questions. What is a museum? What is an artifact? What can you touch in the museum? The students are asked to share their museum experiences and the theme of the general store is introduced. There will be a brief site orientation and the students will divide into their pre-established groups.

“THE GENERAL STORE” ~ CONCURRENT STATION / 30 MINUTES

The students will be guided by an interpreter, up the wooden ramp and into the general Store that is packed with “a little bit of everything.” The Storekeeper (your interpreter) will help the students discover the diversity of the general store and experience shopping in the 1920s, while comparing today’s methods of shopping to the 1920’s bulk buying, self-service, and recycling. The students then continue their tour through the museum to see the intriguing artifacts in the original post office and the family’s living quarters. The Manchester House Hotel and other exhibits are upstairs.

“WALK ABOUT THE FARM” ~ CONCURRENT STATION / 30 MINUTES

The second station is guided by our farmyard interpreter. Our Visitor Site Guide allows you to point out and discuss the farm animals, various buildings, old-time farm machinery and equipment. Students will see the workshop and Sunshine Furnace. They will also acquaint themselves with early methods of farming and the activities of everyday rural life in the 1920s.

“WRAP UP” ~ GROUP STATION / 5 MINUTES

A brief question period will re-emphasize the central concepts of the program. The students are asked a few questions to reinforce the concepts they have learned throughout the program and asked to share what experiences they will carry with them.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HARRISON MILLS

THE FIRST NATIONS

For thousands of years, aboriginal people have lived in the vicinity of what is now known as Harrison Mills, a former meeting place and cross roads in the confluence of the Fraser and Harrison Rivers. Today, aboriginal people form a large part of the present-day Harrison Mills population. Across the railroad tracks in front of the Kilby Historic Site is the Scowlitz reserve. The name "Scowlitz" is said to mean "steering around the point," and band members may still do so in their outboard motor boats, which are the successors to earlier dugout canoes. Upriver from the highway bridge, is the Chehalis reserve. The name "Chehalis" is said to mean "running aground on a sandbar" which past and present generations have tried to avoid during periods of low water. Other sources indicate that Chehalis is pronounced "Sts'ailes" and means something similar to "Beating from the Heart." Aboriginal people continue to be an integral part of the Kilby Historic Site as neighbors, employees, customers and visitors.

THE KILBY FAMILY'S STORE AND FARM

Thomas Kilby was born in England in 1868 and immigrated to Ontario at the age of sixteen. In the late 1880s, he moved west to British Columbia, where he went to work for a company store at the Brunette Sawmill in New Westminster.

He married Eliza Tompkin, a widow from Manchester, England in 1889, and their only son, Acton, was born in 1890. Thomas and Eliza established a dairy farm in Vancouver but a downturn in the economy led them to Harrison Mills in 1903. Here they took over the management of a boarding house and company store. In 1906 the boarding house and store burned down, so Thomas and Eliza built their own store, and the Kilby General Store began. The next year they added to the building and Eliza began the thirteen-room Manchester House Hotel.

In 1919 their son Acton married Jessie Barton, and after a short time away from Harrison Mills, Acton and Jessie returned in 1922 to help the ailing Thomas with the store, farm and post office. When Thomas died in 1928, Acton took over the business. From 1935-1955 he augmented the family income by managing for the Milk Shippers Agency in Vancouver, commuting on weekends to Harrison Mills, while Jessie ran the business.

In 1968, Acton was forced to retire as the Postmaster for Harrison Mills at the age of 77. He then decided to organize the old General Store into a museum. The Province of British Columbia bought the site in 1972, and Acton and Jessie stayed on as curators until ill health obliged them to retire. Acton died in 1978 at the age of 87 and Jessie died in 1997 at the age of 101. Kilby descendants still reside in British Columbia, although not in Harrison Mills, and they maintain a close relationship with the historic site that was once their family home.

THE COMMUNITY OF HARRISON MILLS

Today the population of Harrison Mills is greatly reduced from its peak in the early twentieth century when the town was a thriving mill town. The town's name is partially derived from the sawmill that once stood beside the Harrison River, which became the mainstay of the local economy.

The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s drew industry and business to the place where the railway crossed the Harrison River. Where steamboats and the railway met, a transportation hub developed. Several earlier mills had been in existence, but it was the Rat Portage Lumber Company's new mill, built between 1903 and 1909, that permanently changed the face of the community. Soon a settlement was established, complete with houses, a school, a church, a pool hall, stores, hotels, a railway station and a sawmill, all connected by a network of raised wooden walkways and ramps. These boardwalks became a distinctive feature of Harrison Mills, necessary because of the annual Fraser River floods.

The mill closed in 1911, never to re-open, although a shingle mill across the bay continued for many years. Gradually the old buildings disappeared until the Kilby General Store remained as the only reminder of the once thriving town of Harrison Mills.

THE KILBY HISTORIC SITE TODAY

Harrison Mills, bordered on three sides by water, endured a number of floods. The ramps and elevated boardwalks, built to stay above the floodwaters, give the Kilby Historic Site a unique architecture. At the bottom of the main ramp, the oil shed and gas pumps await the return of the Model A Ford. Walking up the ramp and through the front door of the General Store is like entering a time capsule. The original shelves are crowded with the necessities of life from the 1920s. The friendly storekeeper is waiting to show you around and pass the time with a story or two.

Nestled next to the store is the Post Office, cluttered with old letters and business machines. Beyond that is the kitchen and pantry, where you'll be greeted by a wood burning stove and the smells of home cooking. The dining room table is set for dinner around a centerpiece of wild flowers.

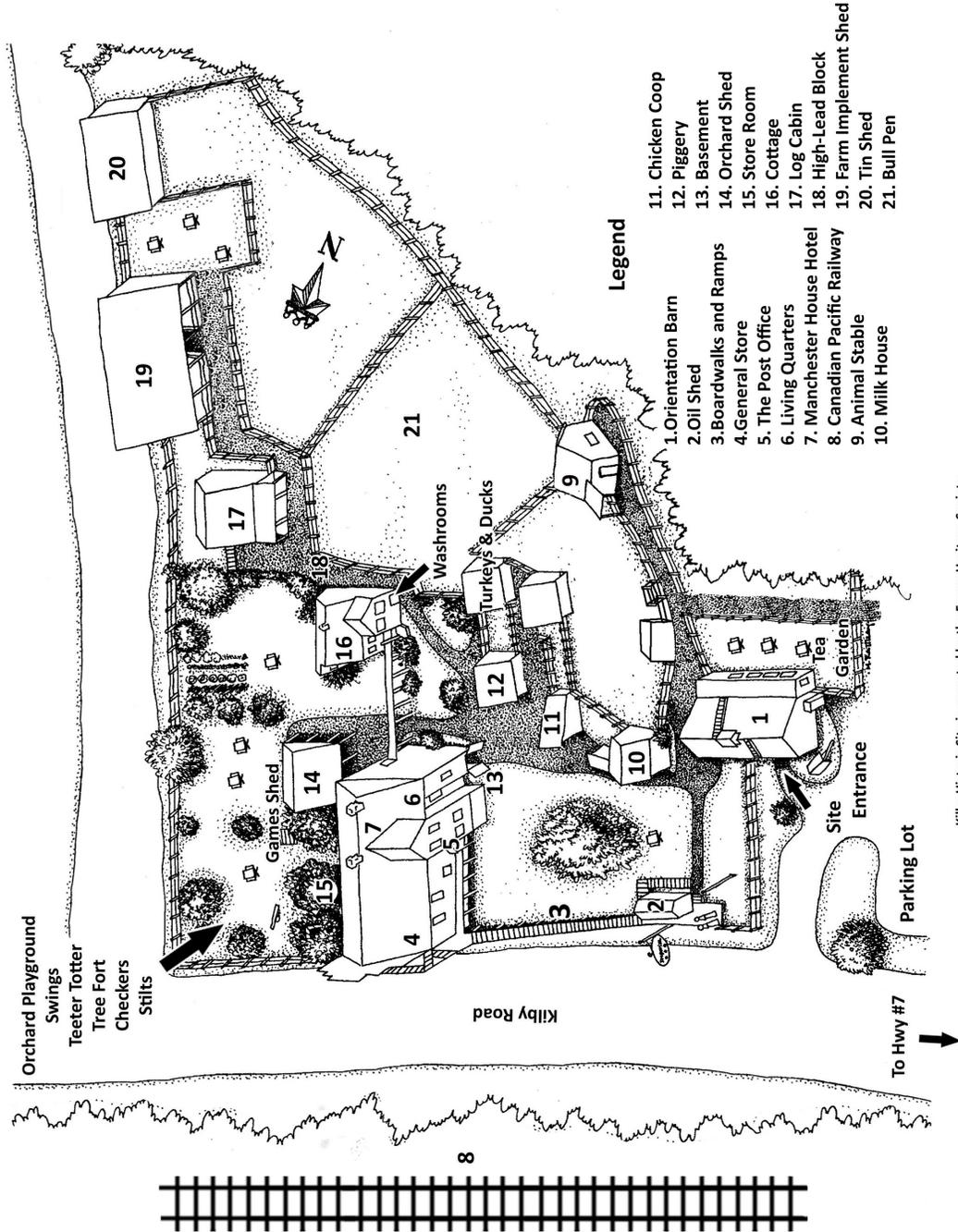
You are welcome to head up the creaking staircase to the hotel rooms that reveal clues about life in the 1920s. Uncle Ed, a Great War veteran, is a heavy sleeper and you may still find him in one of the Manchester Hotel beds. While upstairs, take some time in the Reading Room with a book or the picture puzzle. Exhibits on Harrison Mills and Product Packaging await history buffs and the curious alike.

Back on the grounds, a weathered garage leads to a basement full of tools, and other odds and ends. The farm is nearby and students are encouraged to visit the many wonderful animals before or after their three staged program. Stay and have a picnic under the cover of our Orchard Shed. The Orchard Playground provides fun for all ages with stilts, an old tire swing and even a tree house to play in. You can even just relax on the porch of the 110 year old Log Cabin and watch the world go by.

RELATED BOOKS OF INTEREST

- Buckland, F.M. Eli Lequime. *The Okanagan Historical Society Annual Reports*. 1:7, 6:96, 17:87.
- Cherrington, J. (1974). *Mission on the river*. (Vancouver, BC: Mitchell Press). Chapters 1-4 are useful for examining the development of communities in the Fraser Valley. Trethewey, DesBrisay, Cox, Catherwood, and other general merchants reviewed.
- Clement, D.M Early Days in Kelowna. *The Okanagan Historical Society Annual Reports*. 24: 59. Refer to the History of Eli Lequime, the first general merchant and founder of the Kelowna area. This entire series of reports has invaluable data on the settlement of B.C.
- Elliott, G. (1958). *Commercial Centre of the Cariboo Gold Rush*. (Quesnel, BC: Cariboo Observer Ltd.).Details of the story of the Cariboo Gold Rush and the Quesnel area.
- Gellatly, D.H. Eli Lequime. *The Okanagan Historical Society Annual Reports*. 11:59.
- Kalman, B. (1981). *Early stores and markets*. (Toronto, ON: Crabtree Publishing). Discusses the role of the general merchant in Eastern Canada and similarities to Western Canada are numerous. (Suitable for adolescents.)
- Ladner, T.E. (1979). *Above the sand heads*. (Cloverdale, BC: D.W. Friesen and Sons Ltd.). Chapter 11 gives an excellent account of the living conditions of children in the early days of settlement. The majority of the text discusses the fish canning industry.
- McCombs, A., and Chittenden, W. (1988). *The Harrison-Chehalis challenge*. (Harrison Hot Springs, BC: Treeline Publishing). This is an excellent overview of logging in the Harrison area.
- McGeachie, P. (1975). *Bygones of Burnaby: An anecdotal history*. (Burnaby, BC: Century Park Museum Association).
- Ramsey, B. (1975). *Five Corners: The story of Chilliwack*. (Vancouver, BC: Agency Press). This book describes a brief overview of the history of Chilliwack.
- Sleigh, D. (1983). *Discovering Deroche: From Nicomen to Lake Errock*. (Abbotsford, BC: Abbotsford Printing).
- Sleigh, D. (1990). *The people of the Harrison*. (Abbotsford, BC: Abbotsford Printing). This is an excellent book on the history of the Harrison River area. Chapter 7 discusses Harrison Mills and the Kilby General Store.
- Smythe, F. J. (1977). *Tales of the Kootenays*. (Vancouver, BC: J.J. Douglas Ltd.).
- Whiteside, R.V. (1974). *The Surrey pioneers*. (Vancouver, BC: Evergreen Press).

KILBY HISTORIC SITE MAP OF GROUNDS



Kilby Historic Site is operated by the Fraser Heritage Society