

**Ey kwesé e'mi..**

***"it is good that you are here"***

Welcome to Chilliwack, situated in the traditional territory of the Stó:lō Nation – spanning from the community of Yale in the Fraser Canyon to Fort Langley. In Halq'emeyem, the language of the region, "Stó:lō" translates as "river".

The Stó:lō First Nations people, or "people of the river" have always lived in the region and their legends, stories, history, culture, teachings and knowledge of the area passed down through the indigenous generations in an oral tradition.

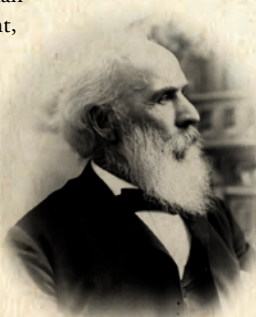
Please visit [www.stolotourism.com](http://www.stolotourism.com), email [stolotourism@stolonation.bc.ca](mailto:stolotourism@stolonation.bc.ca) or visit 7201 Vedder Road for educational guided grounds, road and river tours, artifacts, fine arts and historical information.

## European Settlement

During the 1850's the lure of gold brought around 30,000 fortune seekers who used the Fraser River as a route to B.C.'s Cariboo, travelling through Chilliwack to Yale where they continued their journey.

When their fortunes were not realized many settled in the Chilliwack Valley - taking advantage of the rich agricultural land and moderate climate.

Chilliwack's downtown has been the centre of the community for more than 140 years. Within its core you will find businesses, churches, civic buildings and homes. Chilliwack's built heritage chronicles the city's development from the 1860's to present and today Chilliwack is a prosperous community of more than 80,000 residents. Farmer, merchant, contractor and philanthropist - Irish born settler **Arthur Cotter Henderson** (1825–1914) arrived in Chilliwack in 1875. He preempted land in Chilliwack's downtown, becoming one of the largest non-native landowners in the area.



A.C. Henderson donated portions of land for Cooke's Presbyterian Church, a public park and Chilliwack's first courthouse & High School – the site of Central Elementary.

Chilliwack's Henderson Avenue was named to honour this pioneer.



*A Pack Train at Five Corners, 1890*

This walking tour has been presented by the



We are a community based initiative established to engage, advocate for and promote Chilliwack's heritage.

Email: [heritagechilliwack@gmail.com](mailto:heritagechilliwack@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Heritage Chilliwack Society](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageChilliwackSociety)

Twitter: [@heritagechwk](https://twitter.com/heritagechwk)

[www.heritagechilliwacksociety.wordpress.com](http://www.heritagechilliwacksociety.wordpress.com)

Developed in partnership  
with Tourism Chilliwack



All photos were provided by the  
Chilliwack Museum and Archives

Downtown Chilliwack

## HERITAGE Walking Tour



*Wellington Ave, 1948*



Self Guided Tour



## Start your tour at Five Corners...

### 1 The Clock Tower at Five Corners

(intersection of Yale, Wellington and Young Road)

Five Corners was named for the intersection of the Landing Road, Westminster-Yale Wagon Road, (route to B.C.'s interior), and Young Road, (leading to Minto Landing, where steamboats crossed the Fraser River).



Around 1873 this area became Chilliwack's new business district with a church, blacksmith, flour mill and general store. Chilliwack's first business district was located at Chilliwack Landing; also home to a First Nations community and subject to flooding so relocating the commercial core to this location made sense.



St. Thomas Church, 1900

St. Thomas was replaced by a new church in 1897, built with local timber and situated where the courthouse is. In 1909, St. Thomas sold their downtown property and the church was moved to its current site on Gore Avenue by the Royal Engineers; a task that took two weeks. From here you can see the spire of St. Thomas.

Notice the tall grey building on the south side of Yale Road (east of Young Road). It is over one hundred years old and was Chilliwack's first movie theatre.

### A Imperial Theatre Building

The Imperial Theatre (c. 1913) provided a venue for vaudeville acts before being remodeled in 1926 for motion picture viewing. It was also used for meetings, community gatherings and conventions as well as live entertainment. News reels kept Chilliwack's residents informed of current events. In 1915 a suffragette convention was held at the Imperial.

The theatre closed in 1928 and Copp's Shoes occupied the bottom floor until the 1970's. A retail shop is now located on the main floor (complete with original pressed tin ceiling) and the upper level contains loft apartments.

### Fire on Wellington!

Wellington Avenue has suffered several devastating fires over the years; 1898, 1906 and again in 1930. A new fire protection by-law was passed in 1909 requiring any new commercial buildings to be constructed from brick, stone, concrete or cement.

As you walk down Wellington notice the mix of building styles and ages.

### B Skelton's Mens Wear

(45957 Wellington Avenue)

R.G. Skelton and Son, "Chilliwack's Smartest Store for Men" opened in 1926. Fire destroyed the building in March 1930. A replacement building was quickly erected and the store re-opened in June 1930. Gord-Ray Menswear was born in 1966 and is still operating today.

Notice the original mosaic tiles on the storefront.



R.G. Skelton & Son, circa 1930



Wellington Avenue, 1912



## 2 Mill Street

On the corner of Wellington and Mill Street, Chilliwack's oldest building, **Boyd's Feed Store**, (c 1890) was built by Chilliwack pioneer James Chadsey and demolished in 1950 to make way for this new block of retail businesses.



*Feed Store,  
Wellington and Mill St.*

Stand at the corner of Mill Street and Wellington and notice the large mid-century building on the south side of Wellington. It once housed Eaton's Department Store.

### ★ Former Eaton's Department Store

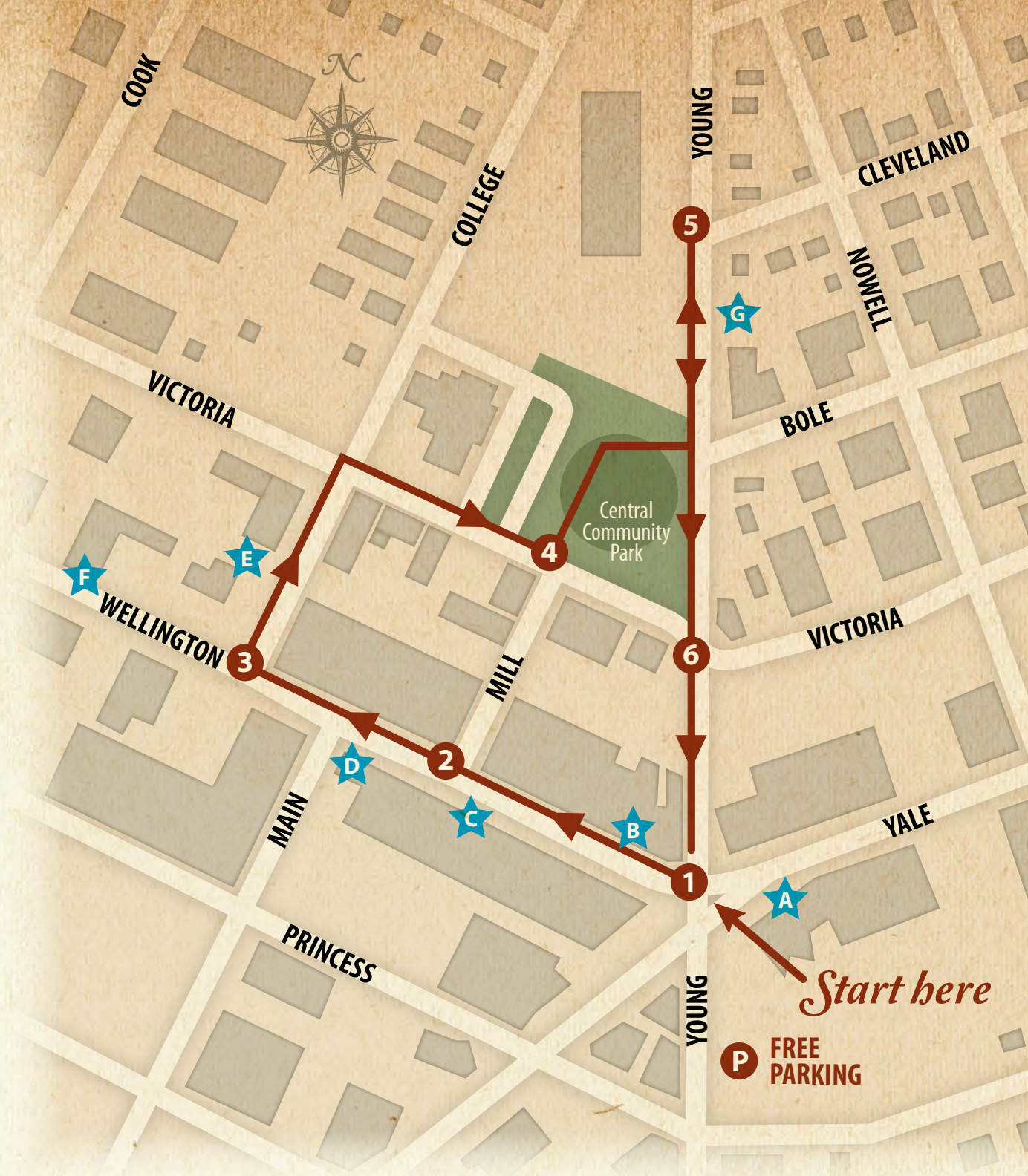
(45900 Wellington Avenue)

Since 1889 a department store has occupied this site on Wellington.

Ashwell's Department Store opened in 1889; was sold to Pride & Nash in 1924 then David Spencer Ltd. took ownership in 1925. The T. Eaton Company bought Spencers in 1948 and built this store in 1951 and replaces four buildings that made up the former department store. Eaton's permanently closed in 1976.



*Ashwell's, 1912*





## ★ *The Royal Hotel* (45886 Wellington Avenue)

When the **Royal Hotel** opened in May 1909 it was one of the tallest buildings in Chilliwack. The Royal was purchased by Tom Berry Sr. in 1926 and owned by the Berry family for almost 70 years. The 29 room heritage hotel continues to welcome guests today.

The former **Royal Bank** building (on the corner of Main and Wellington) was re-purposed into the Royal Hotel Beer Parlour in 1950 with separate entrances for men and women & escorts, as required by law.



The Royal Hotel has been used multiple times for film and television productions.

*Walk west on Wellington Avenue and stop at the corner of College Street and Wellington*

## 3 *Mid Century Boom*

Like the rest of Canada, the population growth in Chilliwack after WW2 created a demand for new housing and civic buildings.

In Chilliwack's downtown core, **Fire Hall #1**, the **Paramount Theatre**, the **Library**, (all c.1949), the **Court House** (c.1952) and **Eaton's** (c.1951) are examples of buildings that were built during this period.

## ★ *Library & Court House*

(45845 Wellington Ave. to corner of College & Victoria)

In December, 1949 the new library was completed. With its low profile, flat roof and use of brick the building is a great example of mid-century architecture in Chilliwack and a nod to Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style of architecture.

The **Court House** opened in September, 1952 replacing Chilliwack's first courthouse (c.1894); destroyed by a January 1952 fire. It was located at Victoria and Young Road, home of **Central Community Park**.

## ★ *Cooke's Presbyterian Church* (45825 Wellington Avenue)

Just west is **Cooke's Presbyterian Church**. The c. 1965 church replaced a simple wood-framed church that was built in 1888. The property originally occupied 14 acres of land donated by Chilliwack businessman A.C. Henderson and included a tennis court.

Before Chilliwack's first fire hall was built in 1906, the bell at Cooke's was rung whenever fire broke out – to alert the fire brigade.

*Cross College Street at Victoria Avenue to continue the walking tour.*

Constructed as a **Government Liquor Store**, the building on the opposite corner of College and Victoria opened in June 1950 and now houses a senior's centre.

## 4 *Dr. McCaffrey's House* (Mill Street & Victoria Avenue)



**Dr. McCaffrey's house** - where he lived and practised medicine, once occupied this corner of Mill Street and Victoria Avenue.

He was Chilliwack's second doctor and served patients in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Hope and Harrison travelling by horse and buggy, canoe and later automobile.

Dr. McCaffrey helped establish Chilliwack General Hospital and also served as Chilliwack's official health officer. He passed away in 1960.

## 5 *Central Elementary* (9345 Young Road)

In the spring of 1904 **Chilliwack High School** opened where **Central Elementary** is now located – on land donated by A.C. Henderson.

A new high school was built in 1913 and the old high school building used for the gymnasium of Central Elementary, completed in 1929.

## ★ *Chilliwack's First Chinatown*

Chilliwack's first **Chinatown** was located opposite Central Elementary. A dozen or so wood framed buildings housed both businesses and residences. All evidence of Chinatown was erased by a devastating fire in November, 1921.

## 6 *Chilliwack Fire Hall #1* (9355 Young Road)

**Fire Hall #1** opened in June 1949 and was considered the most modern fire hall of its size in B.C., with room for three firetrucks, sleeping space for fire fighters and living space for the caretakers above. The fire hall remained in use until 2004 then re-purposed by CHP Architects.

Vancouver-based architects, Townley and Matheson, designed Chilliwack's Paramount Theatre, Fire Hall #1 as well as Vancouver's City Hall and General Hospital.

*That concludes the tour.*

*If you wish to learn more about Chilliwack's history, be sure to visit the **Chilliwack Museum** located at 45820 Spadina Ave.*

