Penticton's Heritage Tours on the Bus

Routes 1 - 5

We're so glad you joined us for the Penticton Museum & Archives' heritage bus tours! We examined the BC Transit bus routes in Penticton, picking out a number of our heritage landmarks that you can see from the bus. The folks in the Archives researched these locations and we've put that information here for you to explore.

In this package there are five guides for each of the five Penticton bus routes. Each guide has a map of the route with markers showing the location of the heritage site. The rest of the guide describes the heritage spots throughout the route. Ride the entire route to see all the heritage sites for that route. Ride all five routes to enjoy more of Penticton's heritage.

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this guide was created on the traditional territory of the s'yilx/Okanagan People. The landmarks that are highlighted in this guide are located in a place commonly known as Penticton.

The name Penticton comes from the nsyilxcən* word snpintktn, which is commonly said to mean 'a place to stay forever'. A more accurate translation, 'a place to live year round' describes the abundant resources found in the floodplain between Okanagan and Skaha Lakes, which would have been available to people living in this area thousands of years ago.

Traditionally, the Indigenous People lived a lifestyle where they had a "homebase" but also moved around their territory to find food resources. However, this may not have been as necessary for the s'yilx People living in the area we know today as Penticton. Food, water and shelter would have been relatively easy to obtain all year round because of the variety of ecosystems found in the area.

limləmt

Thank you

*nsyilxcən is the name of the language used by the S'yilx/Okanagan people.

Sponsors

This map was created with the generous support from the following sponsors:

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How to Use this Guide

Choose a bus route you would like to explore. Go to the Cherry Lane Exchange to catch the bus. Ride the bus. Each route takes about one hour to complete. Find your location on the map provided for each route. Find the nearest landmark and read about it. As you travel along the route, follow along the descriptions and learn more about Penticton landmarks. Let us know your thoughts.

250-490-2451 or museum@penticton.ca

General Bus Information

Effective March 2023. Information provided may change. Please check with BC Transit to confirm. 1-844-442-2212 or bctransit.com

Fares

All fares: $2.25
Children, 12 and under: Free
Day pass: $4.50
Day passes can be purchased at:
City Hall (171 Main Street)
Penticton Community Centre (325 Power Street)

Catch the Bus

All five bus routes can be caught at the Cherry Lane Exchange. The Exchange is located in the Cherry Lane Mall parking lot at Atkinson Street and Warren Avenue.

South side (Warren Ave side): Routes 1, 2, 3, 4
North side (The Bay side): Route 5

Scheduling

Routes 1-4 are available Monday to Saturday. They run every hour. Pick up times vary.
Route 1: 12 minutes past the hour
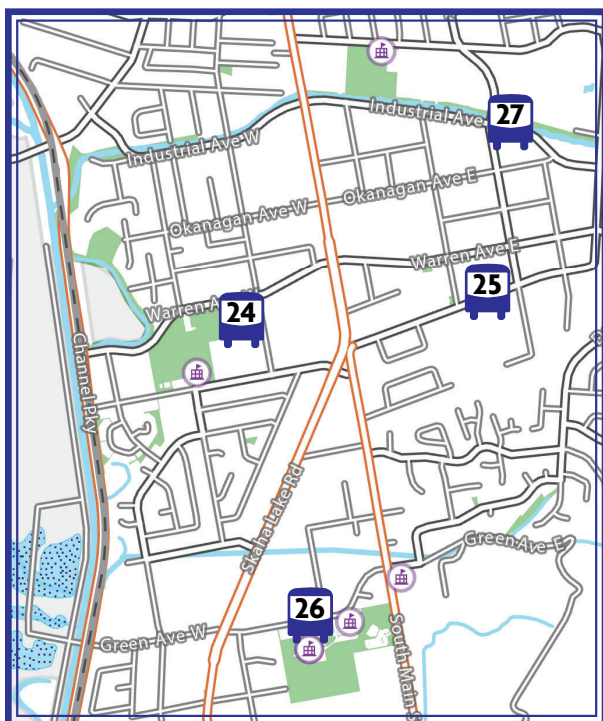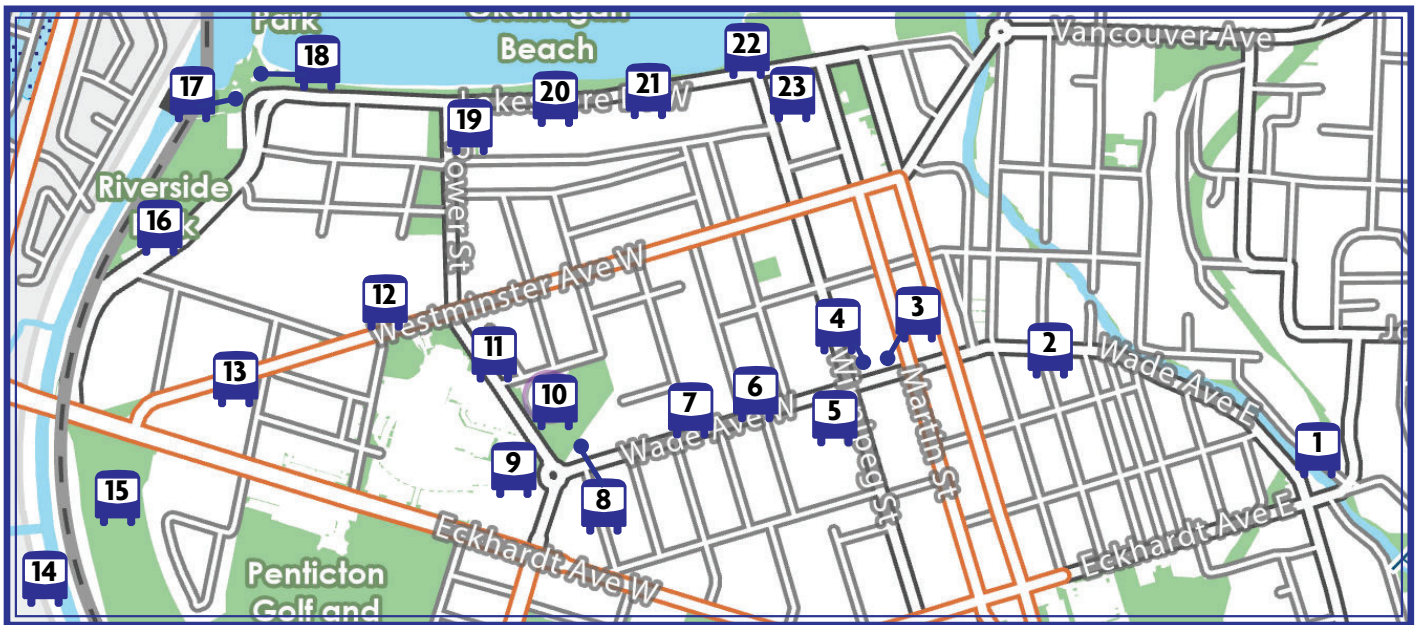Route 2: half past the hour
Route 3: 42 minutes past the hour
Route 4: on the hour

Route 5 is available Monday to Sunday with a different schedule for Sundays and holidays.

Monday to Saturday: on the hour and half hour

Sunday and Holidays: on the hour and half hour between 12:30 pm and 3:00pm.

Route 1 Okanagan/Wiltse

LOCATIONS

1. Penticton Creek
2. Wade Avenue
3. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
4. Jack Ellis House
5. Penticton & District Society for Community Living Building
6. St. John Vianney Catholic Church
7. Small houses on Wade
8. Oliver Chemical Plant
9. Memorial Arena
10. Queen's Park
11. Power Street
12. El Rancho Motel
13. Elm trees on Westminster Avenue
14. Locatee lands
15. Penticton Golf & Country Club
16. Riverside Marsh
17. Rose Garden
18. Inland Marine Museum
19. Lakawanna Park
20. Colquhoun Residence
21. Cranna House
22. The "Peach"
23. Incola Hotel
24. Athens Creek
25. Forestry Building
26. Princess Margaret School
27. Ellis Creek

Government Street

1. Penticton Creek

Penticton Creek is spawning grounds for rainbow trout and Kokanee salmon. The creek was channelized for flood protection in the late 1940s. Recently, restoration work is removing concrete, improving the habitat, and replacing invasive plants with native species.

Wade Avenue

2. Wade Avenue

Wade Avenue is named after A.H. Wade, brother-in-law of Thomas Ellis, the area's first European settler. Wade dedicated his life to helping others in the community. In 1889, he was the area's first postmaster. He was also a storekeeper, and chosen as Penticton's first Reeve in 1909.
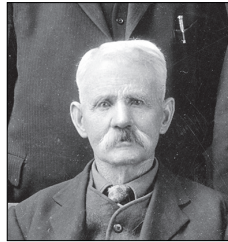
Alfred Wade, 1920 PMA10092

3. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
(392 Martin Street)

When the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations united in 1927, those who remained with St. Andrew's built the present church at the corner of Wade and Martin Street. The corner stone was laid in 1927 and the church was dedicated June 17, 1928.

4. Jack Ellis House
(189 Wade Avenue W)

The one and one-half storey house was built circa 1910. The original occupant was Jack Ellis, who took over as Fire Chief in 1914.

5. Penticton and District Society for Community Living (PDSCL) Building
(453 Winnipeg Street)

In 1971 planning began to build a facility to serve seniors choosing to retire in Penticton. The City purchased and demolished eight historic homes for the much-needed area. Strong community fundraising nearly reached the $250,000 goal. The Penticton & District Retirement Centre was opened in October 1974. In 2006, Penticton and District Society for Community Living (PDSCL) received a 30-year lease creating a new seniors' assisted living complex.

6. St. John Vianney Catholic Church
(361 Wade Avenue W)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church is built on the original site of St. Ann's Church. Dedicated in 1915, St. Ann's became too small for a growing congregation. A larger St. Ann's was built on Main Street, opening in 1959. St. John Vianney opened in 1965, serving the north half of the city, with St. Ann's serving the south.

Wade Avenue & Power Street

7. Small houses on Wade Avenue W

The homes on Wade Avenue represent houses built since 1900. House size gives a clue to the building's age. Homes were smaller in the early 20th century compared to today. The era of the house can also be estimated by looking at the overall shape (does it have a pointy roof or flat-top?), siding (wood, stucco or vinyl?), and other architectural features like window shape, presence of a porch, gables over the door, and more.

8. Oliver Chemical Plant
(645, 695 and 697 Wade Avenue W)

Oliver Chemical Plant, 1963 PMA21110

The Oliver Chemical Plant was owned and operated by Charlie Oliver, son of 'honest' John Oliver, BC premier from 1918 to 1927. Established in 1922, the chemical plant made sulfur sprays for orchardists. You knew spring was on the way when you could smell rotten eggs from the sulfur used to make the sprays. Later the factory produced vinegar from unused apples from local orchards.

9. Memorial Arena (399 Power Street)

Built in 1951, Memorial Arena is valued for its role as a community memorial to war veterans from World War II, and for its role in Penticton's legacy of sports. The community raised funds to build the arena. A bronze plaque on the east side of the building dedicates the building to veterans and war dead.

10. Queen's Park

Horse racing was a very popular event in Penticton's early days. A race track was located in an area first known as the Meadows, and now Queen's Park. The area included Memorial Arena, the Community Centre and the Trade & Convention Centre.
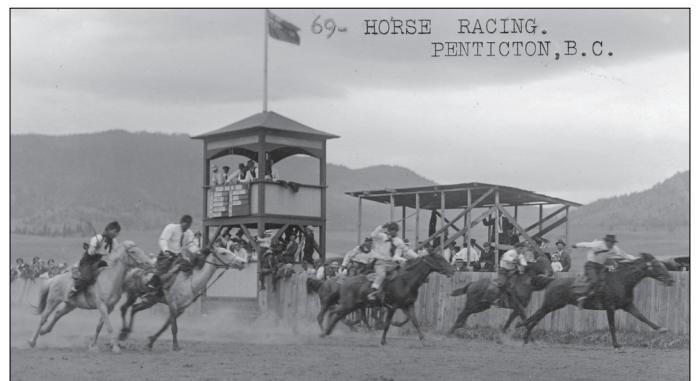
Queen's Park horse racing, 1912 PMA7025

11. Power Street

Power Street is named for John Power, responsible for finance for the first Penticton City Council in 1909. When his operation with the South Okanagan Land Co. and Okanagan Cattle Co. closed, he devoted his full attention to The Penticton Herald, which he co-partnered with W.T. Shatford. The South Okanagan Land Company developed Penticton's subdivisions, attracting settlers to the area.

12. El Rancho Motel
(877 Westminster Avenue W)

The El Rancho Motel was built in the 1960s, providing summer time accommodation to visitors within walking distance of Okanagan Lake. A nearby restaurant served meals to visitors.

El Rancho Motor Hotel, 1963 PMA8950

13. Elm trees on Westminster Avenue

This treed boulevard welcomes visitors to Penticton, bringing cool respite from the intense summer sun. The grafting lines of these American elms can be seen by examining their trunks.
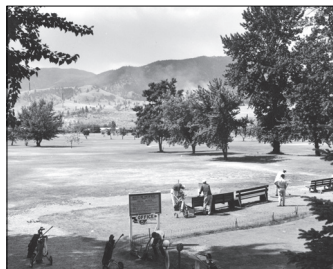
Highway 97

14. Locatee Lands

On the Penticton Indian Reserve there are allotments of land that have shifted from collective rights of the band to rights of possession by an individual band member. This unique form of land tenure means that an individual band member will decide what happens on the land, rather than the band. There are locatee lands next to the Channel.

15. Penticton Golf and Country Club

The Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) owners promoted a golf course as a way to bring visitors to the area. In 1961 the Penticton Golf and Country Club opened

Penticton Golf Course PMA20447

the first 18-hole golf course in the British Columbia Interior. The club moved many times before settling in its current location along Highway 97.

Lakeshore Drive

16. Riverside Marsh

Riverside Marsh is a remnant of an oxbow from the Okanagan River. It is connected to the Okanagan River by a pipe, flooding often in the spring. The marsh is being restored by the City of Penticton and the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society.

Bus Route Alert

NOTE: At Riverside Dr. and Churchill Ave. the Route 1 bus travels down Churchill Ave. You will need to disembark and walk along Lakeshore Dr. to see the landmarks 17–23. Route 16 Lake-to-Lake on Sunday travels down Lakeshore Drive.

17. Rose Garden (69 Lakeshore Drive W)

Penticton's Rose Garden has beautiful scents and blossoms. Volunteers have given care to the garden planted in 1975. There are many rose varieties, shrubs, and ornamental crabapples.

18. Inland Marine Museum
(1099 Lakeshore Drive W)

S.S. Sicamous

S.S. Sicamous at wharf in Penticton, ca. 1914 PMA3855

In the early days of Penticton, the mighty sternwheelers were the primary mode of travel in and out of the road-less valley. Three lake boats plied Okanagan Lake: the S.S. Aberdeen (1892 to 1919), the S.S. Okanagan (1907 to 1934), and the S.S. Sicamous (1914 to 1936). Settlement and local businesses depended on these boats.

Mine Car

The mine car in front of the S.S. Sicamous is from Penticton's once active mine, Lakeside Mine (a.k.a. Okanagan Mine, Torpedo Mine or Lakeshore Mine). The mine held sizeable deposits of copper and gold.

19. Lakawanna Park
(796 Lakeshore Drive W)

Penticton's first Finance Officer, John Power, lived at 796 Lakeshore Drive. The property was purchased by the City of Penticton and is the present site of Lakawanna Park.

20. Colquhoun Residence
(524 Lakeshore Drive W)

County court judge M.M. Colquhoun lived in this house. Prominent Penticton architect Robert Lyon designed it. Lyon was experimenting with Art Moderne and Art Deco designs but used a more traditional design for the Colquhoun residence in 1938, a testament to Lyon's architectural versatility.

21. Cranna House
(364 Lakeshore Drive W)

The Cranna House is unique for its whimsical form of architecture known as "Storybook". This style is associated with sets of Hollywood films in the 1920s and 1930s. W.R. Cranna, a successful jeweler, built the house in 1928.

W.R. Cranna residence at 364 Lakeshore Drive, 1958 PMA3724

22. "The Peach"

Bob Gordon built two "peach" concession stands in 1963. Each peach graced the shores of Okanagan and Skaha Lakes. Gordon used wood and fiberglass. The Skaha peach changed hands a few times and was last known to be in Keremeos. The Okanagan peach was

The "Peach" concession, 1963 PMA2151

destroyed in a riot on July 27, 1991. Its replacement sits near Winnipeg Street and Lakeshore Drive.

23. Incola Hotel

Across from the Peach is the former location of the Incola Hotel. It was a luxury hotel built by the Canadian Pacific Railway, like Chateau Lake Louise and the Banff Springs Hotel, as a vacation destination for the wealthy. It closed in 1979 and was demolished in 1981.

Incola Hotel on left, Lakeshore Drive on right, ca. 1915-1920 PMA1036

Atkinson Street and Warren Avenue

24. Athens Creek

One of many Penticton hidden creeks, Athens Creek runs between the two apartment complexes on Atkinson Avenue west of Cherry Lane Mall. It then flows towards Lions Park, entering a culvert, and resurfaces on the northwest side of Warren Ave. It goes past the houses on the south end of Troy Place before flowing into the Channel.

Dawson Avenue

25. Forestry Building/Kettle Valley Memorial (461 Dawson Avenue)

The distinctive architecture of this small barn-style building with clapboard siding marks it as a Forest Ranger station. Built in the 1950s throughout BC, these buildings housed six rangers and a clerk, and fire suppression crews (as needed) were based here. The building on Dawson Avenue was moved from its original location at the corner of Main Street and Industrial Avenue.

Green Avenue

26. Princess Margaret School
(120 Green Avenue W)

The school officially opened in September 1958 with 200 students enrolled in Grades 2-9. The next year, Grades 1 and 10 were added. A growing population in the south end of the city added Snowden Elementary. In 2002, Snowden was converted to Princess Margaret Secondary School. Artist Gerhard Moser created the stainless steel sculpture of school mascot, the Maggie Mustangs.
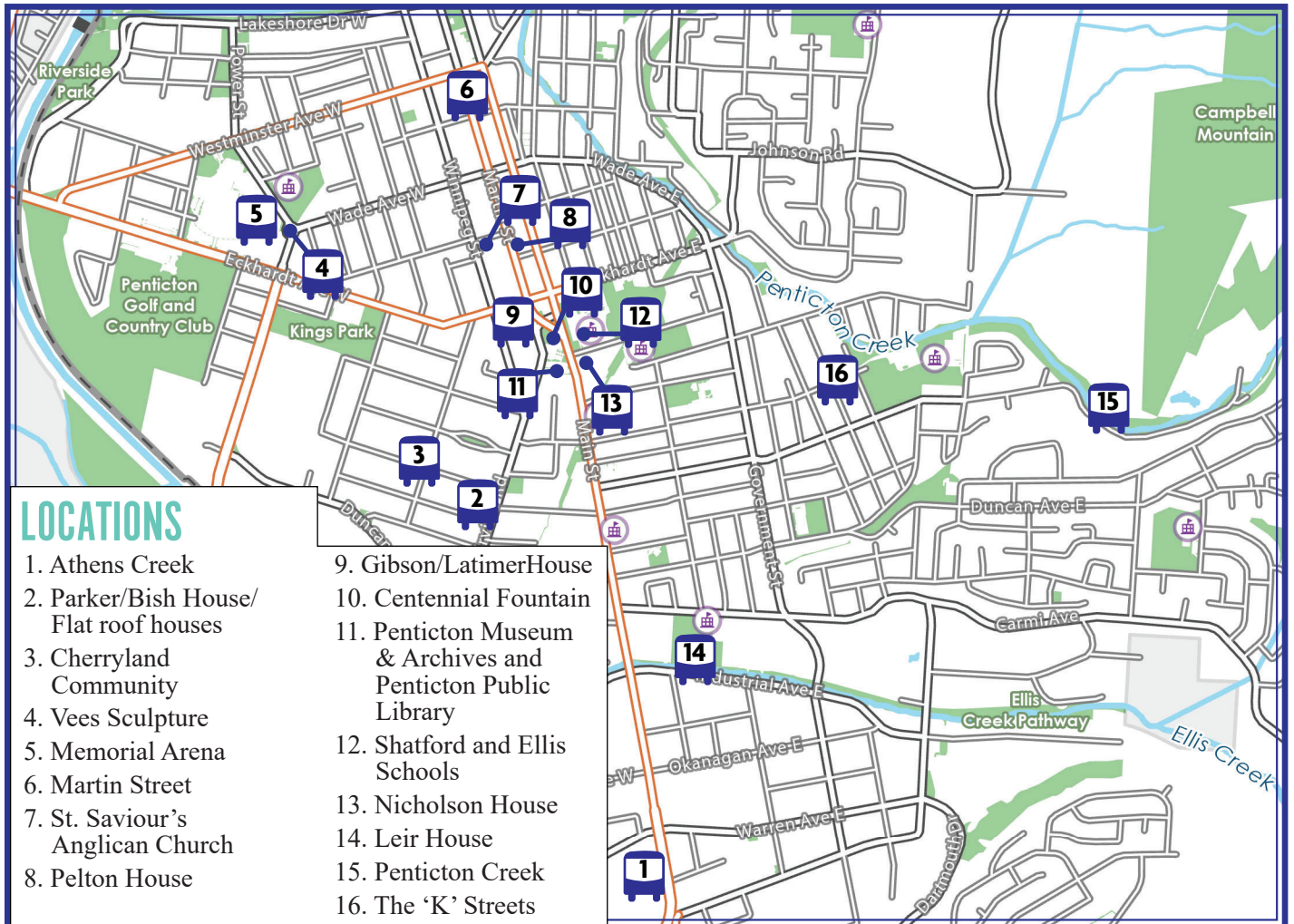

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Grant in front of Princess Margaret School, a school for 250 students, completed at a cost of $359,000 in 1958 PMA22509

Government Street and Industrial Avenue

27. Ellis Creek

Towering Black Cottonwood trees line Ellis Creek along Industrial Avenue. The name Ellis comes from the first European settler in the area, Thomas Ellis.

LOCATIONS

1. Athens Creek
2. Parker/Bish House/ Flat roof houses
3. Cherryland Community
4. Vees Sculpture
5. Memorial Arena
6. Martin Street
7. St. Saviour's Anglican Church
8. Pelton House
9. Gibson/LatimerHouse
10. Centennial Fountain
11. Penticton Museum & Archives and Penticton Public Library
12. Shatford and Ellis Schools
13. Nicholson House
14. Leir House
15. Penticton Creek
16. The 'K' Streets

Atkinson Street

1. Athens Creek

One of many Penticton hidden creeks, the creek runs between the two apartment complexes on Atkinson Avenue west of Cherry Lane Mall. It then flows towards Lions Park, where it enters a culvert, resurfaces on the northwest side of Warren Ave. It flows past the houses on the south end of Troy Place before flowing into the Okanagan River Channel.

Fairview and Conklin

2. Parker/Bish House
(1205 Fairview Road)

This house is relatively unaltered from its original design created by Robert Lyon, an acclaimed BC architect originally from Scotland. The flat top with curved edges is characteristic of the Art Moderne architectural style. Lyon designed many buildings in Penticton including City Hall, the federal post office at Nanaimo Avenue and Main Street, as well as the Leir House. Originally built by the Olsen family, the Parker family lived here for a number of years. Mr. Parker encouraged families to buy in the area known as Cherryland.

Olsen/Parker/Bish House, present day

Flat roof houses

Watch for homes in this area with flat roofs, rounded edges, corner windows, horizontal bands and grooves, and light-coloured stucco. These characteristics indicate homes built from the mid-1930s until the early 1950s in the Art Moderne architectural style. Art Moderne reflects the spirit of the times and excitement with technological advances, high-speed transportation, and new construction techniques.

3. Cherryland Community

In 1947 Penticton Herald ads for the Cherryland Subdivision offered residents "large ¼ acre parcels of rock-free, well-fertilized, level land; some lots have bearing fruit trees." Anyone interested in the average price of $600 per lot could contact Mr. Parker with Okanagan Investments Ltd.

6

This community is centred on the Windsor Avenue oval where Penticton's first European settler, Thomas Ellis, settled with his family in 1869. His original pre-emption boundary followed Fairview Road on the east, Hastings Avenue on the south, the Okanagan River (before it was channelized) on the west, and Scott Road (now Scott Avenue) on the north.

YOUR FUTURE HOME . . .

We offer for sale more than 20 excellent building sites in our latest sub-division—CHERRYLAND.

CHERRYLAND is:

Convenient to school and business district of Penticton;

restricted to a minimum developing cost, thus protecting your investment and assuring a good neighborhood;

composed of large (60'x188' approx.) ¼ acre parcels of rock-free, well fertilized, level land; some lots have bearing fruit trees.

CHERRYLAND is situated on Moosejaw St. at Conklin Ave. Look for our SIGN.

Average Price
$600
per lot

Ask for Mr. Parker.

Over 37 years Investment Counselling Experience

Okanagan Investments Limited
A. G. Hand . . . . . Branch Manager
Street Building   Penticton   Phone 678

1947 Penticton Herald ad for Cherryland

Railway and Wade Avenue

4. Vees Sculpture (Roundabout)

On a Sunday morning in 1955, with every Penticton church packed to hear the game, the Penticton Vees beat the Soviet Union 5-0, putting Penticton on the map. The golden era of hockey in Penticton was underway. The sculpture honours the Penticton Vees, the 1955 World Hockey Champions.

5. Memorial Arena

Memorial Arena was built in 1951 following a strong citizens' movement to build a 'living memorial' to residents who lost their lives in World War II. The building features laminated wooden arches spanning 44.5 m (146 feet) across and 57 m (187 feet) over the arc, the largest of their kind in North America at the time of construction.
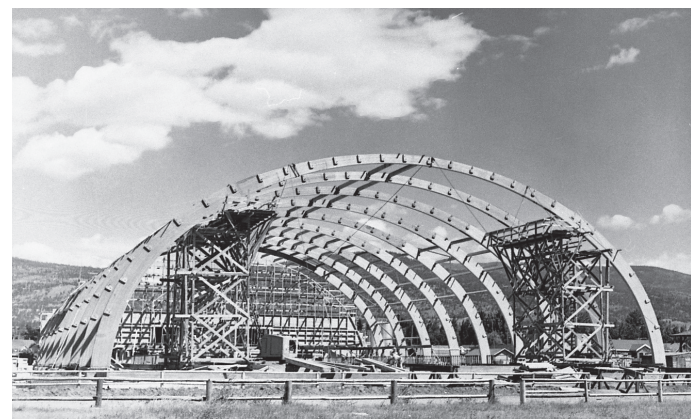
Memorial Arena under construction in 1951, PMA4541

Martin Street

6. Martin Street

With frequent economic booms in the early part of the 20th century, a professional and relatively wealthy middle class moved into Penticton. Homes that reflect this growing class include the Gibson/Latimer House and the Pelton House. Many of these houses were also built along Winnipeg Avenue, Victoria Drive and Wade Avenue.

7. St. Saviour's Anglican Church
(150 Orchard Avenue)

St. Saviour's is the oldest continuous Protestant congregation in the South Okanagan. The original Anglican Church was built in 1892. In 1934 the Chancel of St. Saviour's was relocated from the original site on the Ellis homestead (Fairview Road Cemetery) to become part of the new Anglican Church at the corner of Winnipeg Street and Orchard Avenue. The Ellis Memorial Chapel still stands at St. Saviour's, and is Penticton's oldest historical building.

St. Saviour's Anglican Church on Orchard Ave. and Winnipeg St., 1930 PMA4443

8. Pelton House
(570 Martin Street)

Pelton houses on Martin Street, 1911 PMA1122

Designed and built in 1911 by the architect Arthur F. Pelton, the original owner, it is the last survivor on a street of high-style residences built in the first decade of the Penticton townsite. Pelton is best known in Penticton for designing the Incola Hotel in 1911, the Empress Theatre on Front Street, and Haven Hill hospital.

9. Gibson/Latimer House
(112 Eckhardt Avenue W)

Gibson/Latimer House, 1968 PMA 2888

One of the oldest surviving houses in the Penticton townsite, built in 1906. This historic house is an example of the type of high-quality residence which suited its original owner, surveyor F. H. Latimer, who lived here for 40 years, and civic leader Dr. Gibson, a prominent physician who lived here for over 50 years, from 1946 to 2000.

Main Street

10. Centennial Fountain

Centennial Fountain, 1967 PMA 8790

This fountain commemorates Canada's Centennial with beavers and the coats of arms of the Canadian provinces and territories of 1967. It is located on the north end of the Penticton Museum/Library complex.

11. Penticton Museum & Archives and Penticton Public Library
(785 Main Street)

The Community Arts Complex was built in 1965. It housed Penticton's museum, library, and visual and performing arts centre. It cost $225,000 to build, just over $2 million in 2023 dollars. It featured a gazing pool on the north side of the building. An expansion at a later date turned the pool into the children's library area.

The bus stops every half hour at the museum/library. We welcome you to visit the museum, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

The Community Arts Complex shortly after completion, 1965 PMA4557

12. Shatford and Ellis Schools
(760 Main Street)

The Shatford Centre with the rounded entry arch was built in 1921. The Ellis School with its square entry was built in 1913. The schools are framed by a fieldstone wall and a row of mature maple trees, both of which date from around 1915. The wall was built by local stone mason Harry Agnew with stones from the fields.

Corner of Main Street and Jermyn Avenue

13. Nicholson House
(800 Main Street)

Nicholson House at Main & Jermyn, 1912 PMA 486

One of Penticton's early homes, it was owned by Murdock Nicholson, who was a partner in Johnson & Nicholson Grocers on Main Street. The size of the house reflects the success of his business. Their store was located in the Mitchell Block (See Route 5 for more information). The grocery remained in place from at least 1913 until 1937. Nicholson retired in 1938 and passed away in September of that year.

Duncan Avenue

14. The Leir House
(220 Manor Park Avenue)
(Seen from the back from Duncan Avenue)

The Leir House took nearly three years to build and contained 13 bedrooms for Hugh Leir, his wife Joyce, and their 11 children. Stones from the building site and wood from Leir's sawmill were used to construct this massive home. The family lived in the house from 1929 to 1951. It was the nurses' residence for the hospital for nearly 30 years before transforming into a community arts centre.

Penticton Avenue

15. Penticton Creek

Penticton Creek is spawning grounds for rainbow trout and Kokanee salmon. The creek was channelized for flood protection in the 1950s. Recently restoration work has improved the natural habitat for fish and riparian plants and animals.

Penticton Creek, 1964 PMA 21132

Kilwinning Street

16. The 'K' Streets

In 1945 "the whirr of saws, the clatter of hammers, and the clean, pungent odor of freshly cut lumber" marked what was considered the biggest single housing project ever undertaken at that time in Penticton. Contractors worked tirelessly to build the 100 Wartime Housing rental homes for war veterans and their dependents. Just over 80 of these homes were built on Kilwinning, Killarney, Kensington and King Streets, commonly known as the 'K' Streets.


View of Killarney Street, ca. 1947-48 PMA7507

Wartime Housing in Penticton

The need for housing for enlisted men returning to the Okanagan at the end of World War II initiated the Wartime Housing Project in 1945. Having left as single young men, many were now returning as married men with families. 100 homes were needed in Penticton. Construction began in the fall of 1945 but was slowed by supply shortages felt in the Okanagan and across Canada.

By January 1945, 12 houses were ready on Penticton's cricket pitch, now Bassett and Maple Streets. The main build was on Kensington, Killarney and Kilwinning Streets with some infill homes on Queen and King Streets.

A full page ad in the January 10, 1946 Penticton Herald asks residents to open their homes to returning veterans and their families until houses were built. The ad was sponsored by 41 "Public-Spirited Business Men" included businesses like Betts Electric Ltd., Grant King Co. Ltd., Penticton Tire Hospital & Garage, and the Three Gables Hotel.

Go bus!
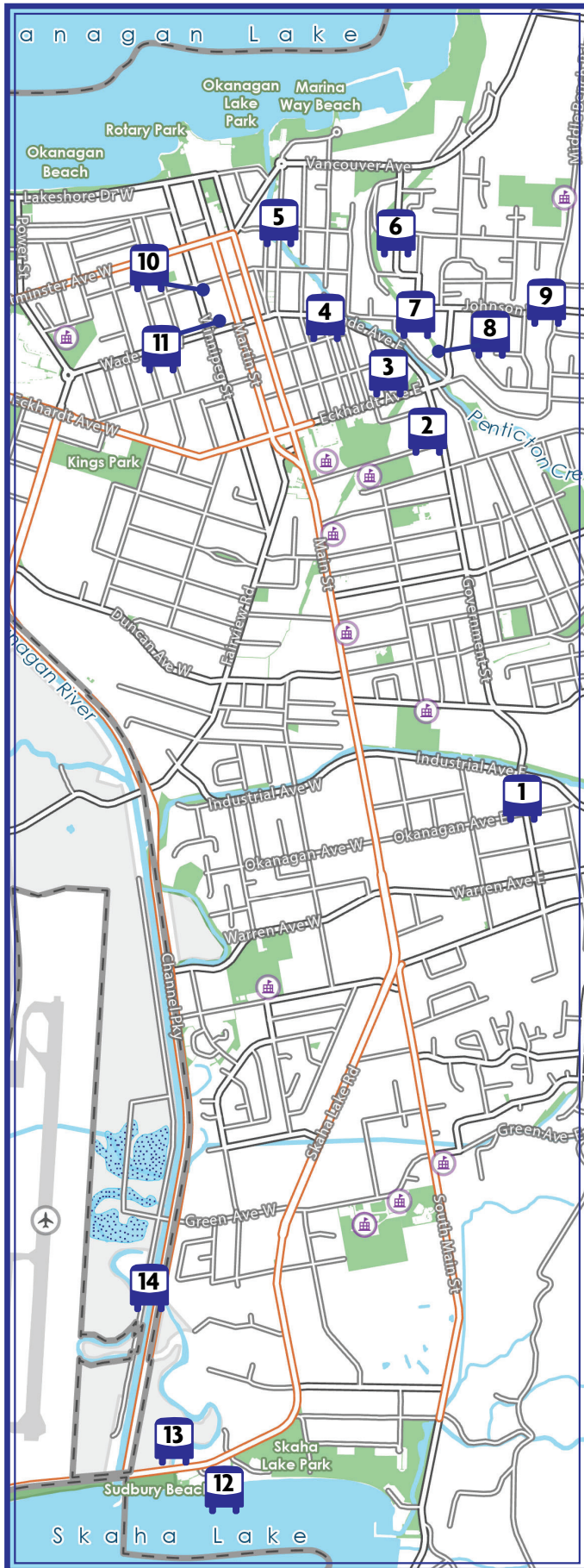
LOCATIONS

1. Ellis Creek
2. Eckhardt Avenue
3. Penticton Creek
4. Wade Avenue
5. Ellis Street Cottage
6. Cambie Street
7. Farrell Street
8. Haven Hill Hospital
9. Atkinson House
10 Penticton Herald Building
11. Jack Ellis House
12. Skaha Lake
13. Penticton River Oxbows
14. Okanagan River Channel

Government Street and Industrial Avenue

1. Ellis Creek

At one time in Penticton's history, 11 creeks flowed into the Okanagan River. Over the past one hundred years the community has manipulated these streams to control flooding and, in the case of Ellis and Penticton Creeks, built dams in the hills to provide water for irrigation and household use*. Today, towering Black Cottonwood trees line the banks of Ellis Creek as it parallels Industrial Avenue.

*From Friends of the Oxbows Newsletter No. 16 Winter 2018

Ellis Creek flood damage in 1981 PMA8231

Eckhardt Avenue and Wade Avenue

2. Eckhardt Avenue

Eckhardt Avenue is named after H.B. Eckhardt, who was a wholesale grocer in Toronto. He was president of the South Okanagan Land Company. The South Okanagan Land Company was tasked with developing the land it had acquired from Thomas Ellis and selling it for profit.

3. Penticton Creek

The name Penticton derives from the nsyilcen word sn'pintktn, sometimes translated as 'a place to stay forever'. A more accurate translation, 'a place to live year round', describes the abundant resources found in the floodplain between Okanagan and Skaha Lakes, which would have been available to people living in this area thousands of years ago.

Recent work on Penticton Creek has been progressing to restore the creek to a more natural state. The habitat restoration is improving conditions for kokanee and salmon, giving them pools to spawn in and places for fry to mature.

Penticton Creek bridge on Ellis Street in 1949 looking north towards Okanagan Lake PMA21229

4. Wade Avenue

Wade Avenue is named after Alfred H. Wade, brother-in-law of Thomas Ellis, the first European settler in the area. Considered a "good and faithful servant", Alfred Wade dedicated his life to improving the life of those in the community. In 1889 he became the community's first postmaster. He was a storekeeper and community worker, and was chosen as Penticton's first Reeve in 1909.
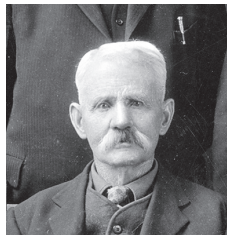
Ellis Street

5. Ellis Street Cottage (127 Ellis Street)

This little wood-framed cottage was built in 1899, making it likely one of the oldest surviving houses in Penticton's history. Its location is a reminder of

Penticton's early townsite laid out on the east side of Penticton Creek by Thomas Ellis in 1892. Over time the town's commercial area shifted to the west side of Penticton Creek on Front and Main Streets.

Ellis Street Cottage in 2011

Cambie Street

6. Cambie Street

H.J. Cambie was a celebrated Canadian Pacific Railway engineer.

Farrell Street

7. Farrell Street

William Farrell was an early investor in Penticton's beginnings as a town, when Thomas Ellis entered into an agreement to sell his land to the Penticton Townsite Company in the early 1890s. The company's efforts focused on the land on the east side of Penticton Creek.

Johnson Road

8. Haven Hill Hospital
(415 Haven Hill Road)

The Haven Hill Hospital replaced a four-room home on Fairview Road that was Penticton's first hospital. Construction of the town's second hospital was completed in 1915, meeting the Hospital Board's desire for a practical and cost-effective building. The Ladies' Hospital Aid, later the Ladies' Auxiliary, raised funds for the new hospital, often through teas held mostly at the home of Dr. and Mrs. McGregor's house (a.k.a. Granny Bogner's or Bogner's Restaurant).

Haven Hill Hospital, 1922 PMA4566

Johnson Road and Middle Bench Road

9. Atkinson House
**(235 Middle Bench Road)**

A glimpse of a red roof signals the location of the Atkinson House. The house is named after one of the early Penticton settler families. Edward Atkinson moved to Penticton in 1907. His experience as a Canadian Pacific Railway mail service employee made him a good fit as a Penticton post master. He was Chair of the school board when the Ellis school was under construction. He planted one of the first orchards in Penticton. His wife Anne made dried fruit and jellies, which she sold to local Woodward's stores. His son Reginald became the Penticton Museum's first curator.

Nanaimo Avenue

10. Penticton Herald Building
(192 Nanaimo Avenue W)

Penticton's first newspaper began its life in July 1906. Originally called the Penticton Press, it provided residents with news around the Okanagan valley, throughout Canada and around the world. It was renamed the Penticton Herald in 1910 when new owners, L.W. Shatford and John Power, took over. The original subscription price was one dollar a year, paid in advance.
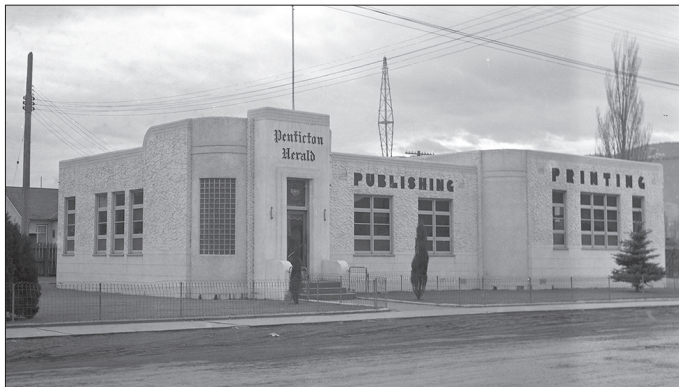
Penticton Herald Building, ca. 1945-1955 PMA2494

Wade Avenue

11. Jack Ellis House
(189 West Wade Avenue)

The one and one-half storey house, located on a lot that was created during a 1907 subdivision by the Southern Okanagan Land Company, was built around 1910. It may have been built on speculation by W.A. MacDonald, a steward working on the CPR boats. The original occupant was Jack Ellis, who took over as Fire Chief in 1914.

12. Skaha Lake

Archival photos of Skaha Lake show a forest of Ponderosa Pines edging a sandy beach. In the early days of Penticton, residents would often camp on the shores of Skaha Lake. Over time the forest has shrunk to a sizeable grove due to development and windstorms. A particularly massive windstorm uprooted many trees in the fall of 2007.

Skaha or Dog Lake and beach, ca. 1908-1912 PMA9692

13. Okanagan River Oxbows

The oxbows are remnants of the Okanagan River from before it was channelized. They are curved wetland areas that can store excess water during flood seasons, improve water quality and provide habitat to many plants and animals. The Friends of the Penticton Oxbows are working to restore and rejuvenate some of Penticton's oxbows.

Air photo of Penticton in the 1940s from south with Okanagan River Oxbows

14. The Okanagan River Channel

Before 1948 the Okanagan River flowed wild and free between Okanagan and Skaha Lakes. That year, the flood of a century stirred residents to tame the waters and the Channel was constructed. While residents breathed a sigh of relief, the lack of seasonal flooding reduced Black Cottonwood seedlings. The seeds only sprout after spring floods.

Today, the Black Cottonwood ecosystem is among the rarest plant communities in the southern interior. The Growing Strong Together Riparian Restoration Project being carried out by the En'owkin Centre ECOmmunity Place is intended to restore this endangered ecosystem.

Route 4
West Side/Duncan East

LOCATIONS

1. The Cannery Trade Centre
2. Kettle Valley Railway Station
3. Vees Sculpture
4. Memorial Arena
5. Trade and Convention Centre
6. KVR Right of Way
7. Bike Barn/Dynes Feed Store
8. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
9. St. Saviour's Anglican Church
10. Pelton House
11. Gibson/Latimer House
12. Fairview Road
13. Beaton House
14. Ellis Homestead
15. Fairview Anglican Cemetery
16. Leir House
17. Cleland Drive
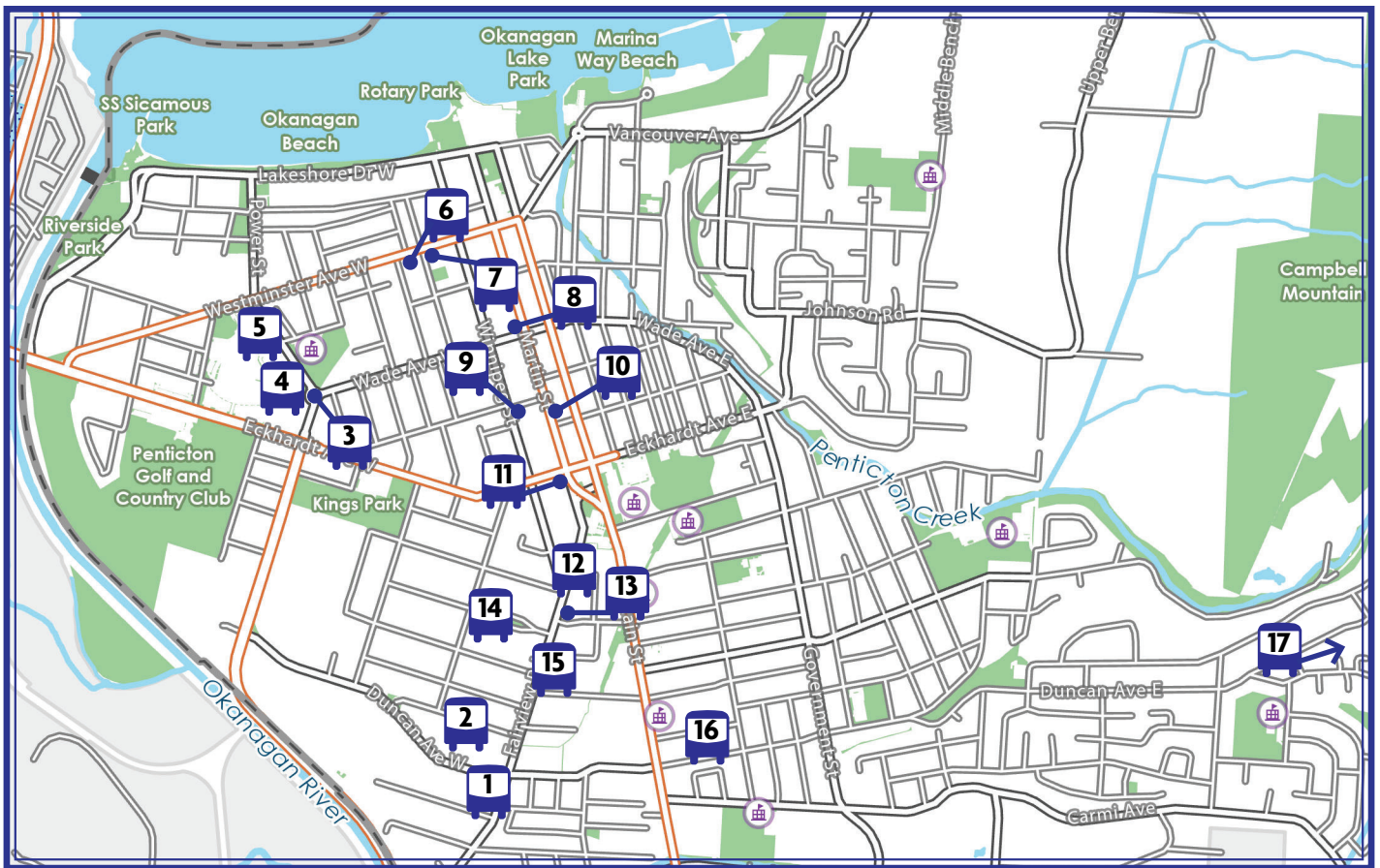
Duncan Avenue West

1. The Cannery Trade Centre
**(1475 Fairview Road)**

The Cannery is a reminder of one of Penticton's historic economic reliance on agriculture. The Aylmer Cannery was an important employer from 1948 to 1982. Women worked alongside men in the cannery, providing alternative employment for women, aside from teaching and secretarial work.
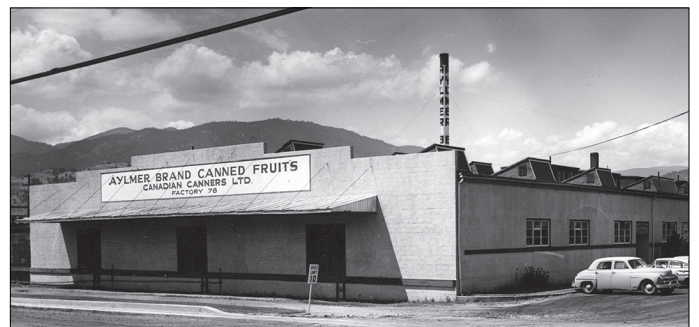
Aylmer Cannery at Fairview Road & Duncan Avenue, ca 1964 PMA9154

2. Kettle Valley Railway Station
(216 Hastings Avenue)

Built in 1941, the Kettle Valley Railway Station is a two-storey structure with a steeply pitched chalet-style roof and two gabled bays at each end, the easterly one having been added in 1945. It is associated with the transition in the 1930s and 1940s of railway passenger service at the original station location on Penticton's waterfront to the movement of goods at Penticton's industrial area in the south.
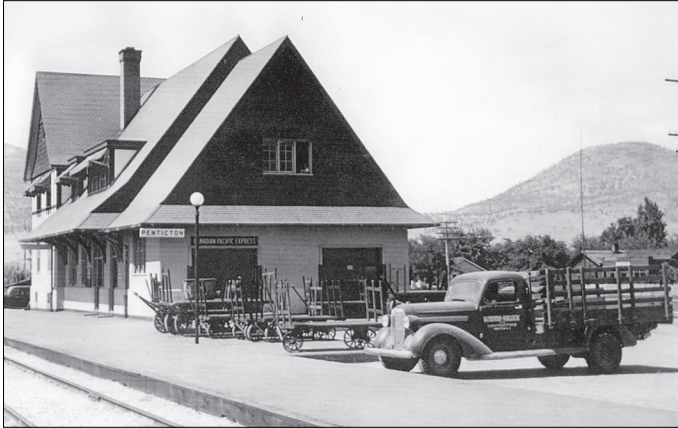
Kettle Valley Railway Station on Hastings Avenue, ca 1964 PMA7609

Railway Street and Power Street

3. Vees Sculpture (Roundabout)

On a Sunday morning in 1955, with every Penticton church packed to hear the game, the Penticton Vees beat the Soviet Union 5-0, putting Penticton on the map. The golden era of hockey in Penticton was underway. The sculpture honours the Penticton Vees as the 1955 World Hockey Champions.

4. Memorial Arena (325 Power Street)

Built in 1951, Memorial Arena is valued for its role as a community memorial to war veterans from World War II, and for its role in Penticton's legacy of sports. The community raised funds to build the arena. A bronze plaque on the east side of the building dedicates the building to "those who served their country and especially those who did not return".

Memorial Arena soon after completion, ca 1952 PMA10095

Power Street

5. Trade & Convention Centre
(273 Power Street)

Originally called the Penticton Peach Bowl Convention Centre, it opened in 1965 to welcome visitors and host conventions.

Peach Bowl Convention Centre, ca 1965 PMA10832

Westminster Avenue

6. KVR Right of Way

The Kettle Valley Railway's townline spur moved the trains from Penticton's commercial core along Okanagan Lake out to the KVR mainline. Draw a straight line from the corner of Westminster Avenue and Brunswick Street to the intersection of Wade Avenue and Power Street on a map of Penticton, and you'll notice how many buildings have been built angled along this section of the right of way.

7. Bike Barn/Dynes Feed Store
(300 Westminster Ave)

This building is a large wooden warehouse with a gabled roof. Its location along the Kettle Valley Railway's townline spur maximized

Bike Barn, 2015 PMA23232

shipment of goods in and out of the Okanagan Valley. From 1922-1982 the building housed Dynes Feed and Supply, and supplied local farmers with all their needs from early on in Penticton's agricultural economy.

Martin Street

8. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
(397 Martin Street)

When the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations united, June 14, 1927, those remaining with St. Andrew's built the church at the corner of Wade Avenue and Martin Street. The corner stone was laid in 1927 and the church was dedicated in 1928.

9. St Saviour's Anglican Church
(Can be seen looking west on Orchard Avenue)
St. Saviour's Anglican Church is the oldest continuous Protestant congregation in the South Okanagan. The original Anglican Church was built in 1892 and was located on Fairview Road. In 1934 the Chancel of St. Saviour's was relocated from the original site on the Ellis homestead (Fairview Road Cemetery) to become part of the new Anglican Church at the corner of Winnipeg Street and Orchard Avenue. The Ellis Memorial chapel still stands at St. Saviour's, and is Penticton's oldest historical building

10. Pelton House (570 Martin Street)
This grand wooden house was built in 1911. Designed by the architect A.F. Pelton, who was the original owner, it is the last survivor on a street of high-style residences built in the first decade of the Penticton townsite. Pelton is best known in Penticton for designing the Incola Hotel in 1911. He also designed the Empress Theatre on Front Street. The twin on the south of this house tragically burned shortly after construction.

E.C. Pelton house in foreground & A.F. Pelton house in background, 1911 PMA1122

11. Gibson/Latimer House
(112 Eckhardt Avenue W)
The Gibson/Latimer House is one of the oldest surviving homes built in the Penticton townsite. Built in 1906 for F.H. Latimer, this historic house is an example of the type of high-quality residence which suited its original owner for 40 years. Latimer worked as Penticton's City Engineer. The second resident was civic leader Dr. Gibson, a prominent physician who lived here for over 50 years, from 1946 to 2000.

Fairview Road

12. Fairview Road
Travelers and goods moving to the mining community of Fairview, west of Oliver, used this road to get there.

13. Beaton House (984 Fairview Road)
This one-and-a-half storey log house was built in 1921. The Beaton family bought it within five years

of construction and they lived there for 75 years. Arriving in 1906, Bertie Beaton ran the Penticton Hotel and her husband worked for the Kettle Valley Railway.

14. Ellis Homestead (Windsor Avenue)
The original homestead of the first European settler, Thomas Ellis, was located in this area. He was a rancher. He employed local Indigenous people to help maintain his ranch.


Remodelled Ellis homestead, 1892 PMA1601

15. Fairview Anglican Cemetery
(1136 Fairview Road)
This two-acre churchyard was first used as a cemetery in 1892. It is the oldest Christian burial place in the city, and contains the graves of many of the earliest pioneers.

Duncan Avenue East

16. Leir House
(grassy area and stone building between 195 and 301 Duncan Ave E)
Built by Hugh Leir for his wife and 11 children, this eclectic
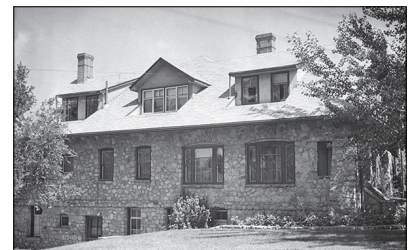
Leir House, 1979 PMA9099

stone-clad mansion is now home to a number of Penticton's art and cultural organizations. Leir used wood from his own sawmills, and stone gathered from the grounds in the construction of the building. Started in 1927, it took Leir's workers three years to complete.

17. Cleland Drive
Cleland Drive is named after Eva Cleland, Penticton's ardent arts patron. She moved to Penticton in the mid-1930s with her husband, Hugh Cleland. She was Penticton's first professional arts administrator, using her skills and contacts gained through working on the Chautauqua entertainment shows. Her drive to make the arts accessible to all in the BC Interior affected provincial arts policies, as well as creating the Okanagan Valley Music Festival, the Okanagan School of the Arts, and the Penticton and District Community Arts Council.

Route 5
Main Street

LOCATIONS

1. Ellis Creek
2. Penticton Museum & Archives and Penticton Public Library
3. Shatford and Ellis School Buildings
4. Greer Building
5. Elite Cafe
6. Capitol Theatre
7. Post Office
8. Mitchell Block
9. Palace Hotel
10. Erickson Building
11. Power Block/Safeway
12. Chinatown/Shanghai Alley Monument
13. Court house
14. Cenotaph/Veterans Memorial Park
15. Coronation Oak
16. Gyro Park
17. Bottom of Main Street
18. Fairview and Main

Main and Industrial

1. Ellis Creek

At one time in Penticton's history, 11 creeks flowed into the Okanagan River. Over the past one hundred years the community has manipulated these streams to control flooding, and in the case of Ellis and Penticton Creeks, built dams in the hills to provide water for irrigation and household use*. Today, towering Black Cottonwood trees line the banks of Ellis Creek as it parallels Industrial Avenue.

*From Friends of the Oxbows Newsletter Issue No. 16 Winter 2018
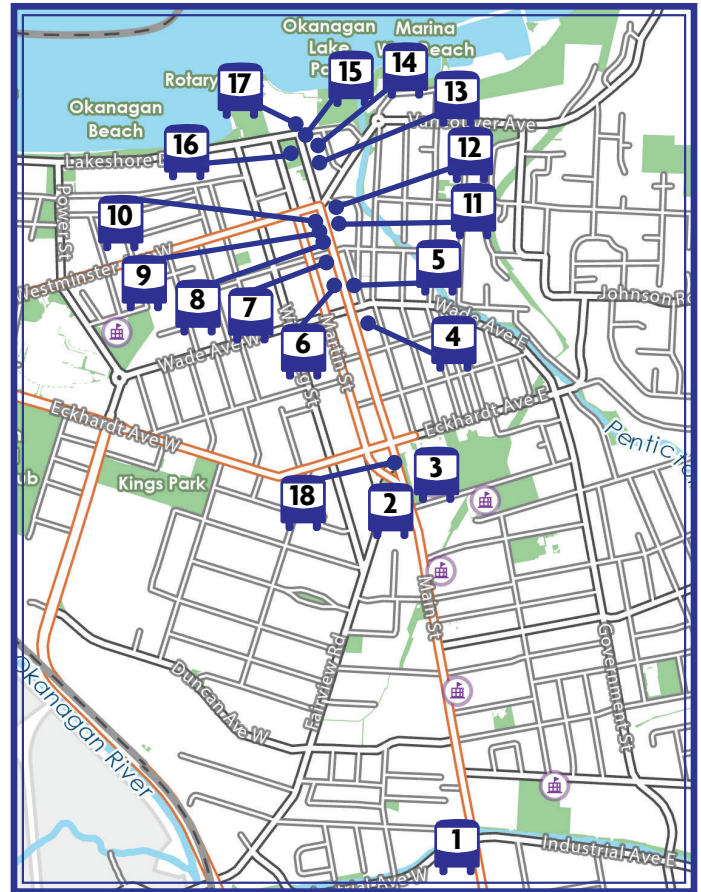
700 Block

2. Penticton Museum & Archives and Penticton Public Library
(785 Main Street)

Built in 1965 as a Community Cultural Centre, the building housed Penticton's museum, library and a community art gallery. The auditorium featured a stage with a lighting and film projection booth to showcase local theatre and musical productions. Outside the museum/library building is the Centennial Fountain, built in 1967 to celebrate Canada's Centennial.

The bus stops every half hour at the museum/library. We welcome you to visit the museum, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

3. Shatford and Ellis School Buildings
(760 Main Street)

The Ellis School has a round archway over its main doors and was built in 1913 using bricks made from Penticton's only brickyard. The Shatford building is recognizable by its square archway. It was built in 1921. The schools are framed by a fieldstone wall and a row of mature Maple trees, both of which date from around 1915. The wall was built by local stone mason Harry Agnew with stones picked from the nearby fields.

400 Block Main Street

4. Greer Building
(410 Main Street)

Currently housing the Cellar Restaurant, the Greer Block is a two-storey cement block commercial building. It was built in 1922. It is named after businessman and former councillor Charles Greer. The building reflects economic the boom that took place in the early 1920s after WWI. As Penticton's economy grew, the business district expanded south from its core around the waterfront and two lower blocks of Main Street and Front Street historic areas.

300 Block Main Street

5. Elite Cafe
(340 Main Street)

The Elite Café was valued as a symbol of the beginning of café culture on Main Street from the 1930s to present day. It was built in 1927. It was the only building on Main Street to retain its 1950s neon sign when City Council passed a bylaw outlawing them in the 1970s. It was strategically located across from the Capitol Theatre and next to Woolworths.

6. Capitol Theatre
(333 Main Street)

This example of Art Deco/Moderne architectural style was built in 1936. The rounded corners, curving forms, long horizontal lines, flat roof, and smooth walls with no ornamentation are characteristic of Art Deco/Moderne. When the Capitol Theatre opened, it was the most modern, luxurious theatre in western Canada. The Capitol has had life as a movie theatre, nightclub and currently, a pawn shop.

Main Street, Capitol Theatre on left, Elite Cafe on right, ca. 1938 PMA 7530

7. Post Office (301 Main Street)

Built in 1936, it is symbolic of the federal government presence in Penticton, originally housing not only the post office, but customs offices and other federal agencies from 1936 to 1979. It was refurbished to hold private offices in 1989. Did you notice the two clock towers?

200 Block Main Street

8. Mitchell Block
(271 to 277 Main Street)

Now housing a clothing store and a toy store, the Mitchell Block was one of the largest remaining commercial buildings on Front Street and Main Street built in 1911 during an economic boom in Penticton. It was fitted with the most modern features of the time, including steam heating and electric light. Three stores at street level and offices above was typical of the day but the scale was larger and represented the most modern retail storefront and office building in town at that time.

Mitchell Block on Main, 1912 PMA2695

9. Palace Hotel
(251 Main Street, AudioVisions Store)

Built in 1902, the Palace Hotel building is the only remaining wood framed commercial building on Main Street. As a hotel, it served as an important meeting place for visitors and locals alike. In 1911, it changed owners and was run as a boarding house. It was thought to be a 'nice' place to stay, possibly because it did not have an attached saloon or bar.

10. Erickson Building
(243 to 249 Main Street)

The Erickson Building was built in 1922. It is a two-storey concrete and brick commercial building that reflects the postwar economic prosperity of the time. At different periods of time, it housed clothing stores, a tobacco store, a wool shop, a barber shop and for many years it was the Harris Music Shop.

11. Power Block/Safeway
(239 Main Street)

The Power Block was built in 1912 for John Power, Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Okanagan Land Company (SOLC), and a part owner of the Penticton Herald. The SOLC was responsible for developing the Penticton townsite and irrigation system that served the town. The Power Block was a Safeway store from the late 1920s until 1950.

12. Chinatown/Shanghai Alley Monument
(On grassy area at the corner of Front Street and Main Street)

At its largest, Penticton's Chinatown had no more than 60 people, mostly men, focusing their work and life on three buildings. By comparison, Kelowna's Chinese population was 350 inhabitants. Prominent businesses were laundries, restaurants, and garden markets. Many Chinese worked as chefs for the S.S. Sicamous. A few stories of racial tension stemming from other settlers and the Chinese workers can be found in the Penticton Herald in the early 1900s. Penticton's Chinese residents are remembered for being kind, friendly and conscientious workers, often helping those in need regardless of background.

100 Block

13. Courthouse (100 Main Street)
The Courthouse was constructed in 1948 and reflects the growth of Penticton as a regional business and government centre after World War II. Its architecture is an example of the transition between Art Deco style of the 1930s and Art Moderne style of the 1940s, with its streamlined elements and rounded corners.

Front view of completed courthouse, 1950 PMA2383

14. Cenotaph/Veterans Memorial Park
(100 Main Street)

The Cenotaph originally stood across from the Penticton Secondary School campus on the triangular piece of land between Fairview Road and Main Street. It was moved north to the park next to the Courthouse in 1948. The grassy area surrounded by mature trees gives a peaceful feeling to Remembrance Day ceremonies held at this location.

15. Coronation Oak (100 Main Street)
This Oak tree was sent by the Royal Gardens in London to the local Women's Institute in Penticton to commemorate the coronation of King George VI in 1937. It has grown into a stately tree located on the northwest corner of the Courthouse property. A plaque can be seen from the Lakeshore Drive sidewalk side.

16. Gyro Park (53 Main Street)
When it was created by the Gyro Club from 1932 to 1936, it was Penticton's only park. The first bandshell was erected in 1912. It was made of wood. The second bandshell replaced it when the Gyro Club became patrons of the park. The current bandshell was constructed in 1951, and is notable for its continuous use as a place of public assembly for entertainment and civic functions from early on in Penticton's history.

Gyro Park bandshell from 1934-1936, PMA3155

17. Bottom of Main Street
At one time the bottom of Main Street had a roundabout. The highlight of young drivers was the chance to show off their wheels driving a never-ending loop through Penticton. A cruise through the A&W lot (now China Palace Buffet), down Main Street to the roundabout and back again, repeated until you got the attention you were looking for, or curfew approached.

Martin Street

18. Fairview and Main
The junction of Fairview Road and Main Street offered a unique triangular piece of land. This spot was home to Penticton's original Cenotaph, as well as the elementary school. The Cenotaph was moved to its current location next to the Courthouse in 1948.
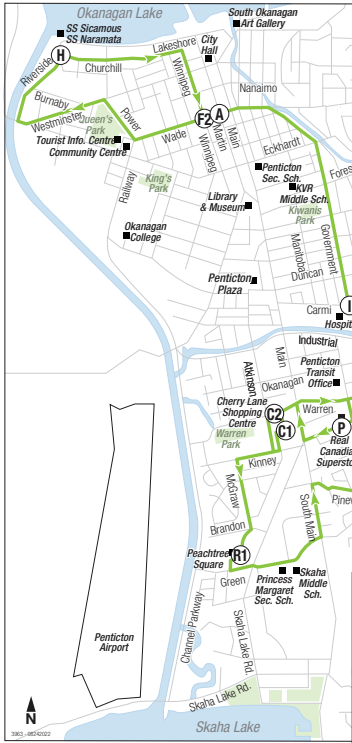
Go bus!

Cenotaph and school house at the junction of Fairview Road and Main Street, ca. 1920-1940 PMA4424
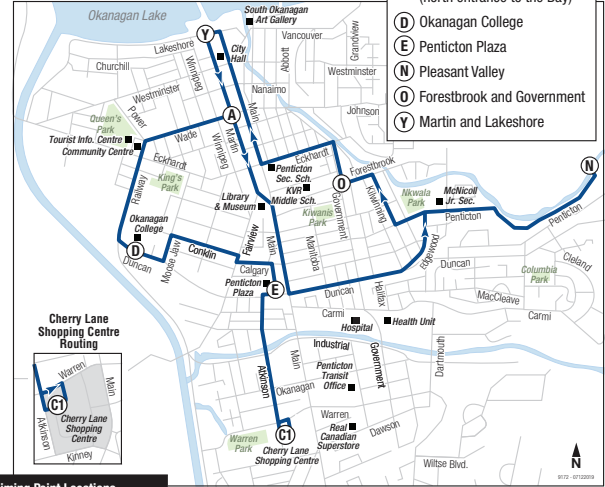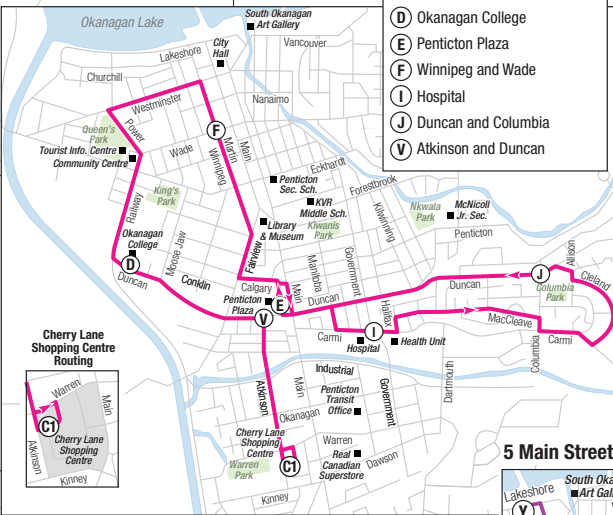
1 Okanagan Lake/Wiltse

Timing Point Locations

- **A** Wade and Martin
- **C1** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (north entrance to the Bay)
- **C2** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Warren Ave.)
- **F2** Winnipeg and Wade
- **H** Riverside and Churchill
- **I** Hospital
- **L** Dartmouth and Pineview
- **P** Real Canadian Superstore (on Dawson)
- **R1** Peachtree Square

2 West Side/Penticton Ave.

Timing Point Locations

- **A** Wade and Martin
- **C1** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (north entrance to the Bay)
- **D** Okanagan College
- **E** Penticton Plaza
- **N** Pleasant Valley
- **O** Forestbrook and Government
- **Y** Martin and Lakeshore
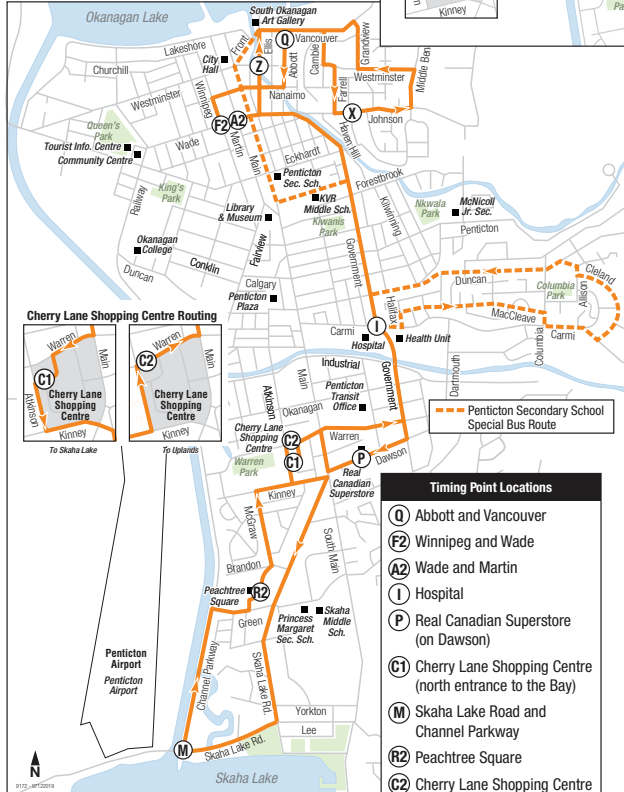
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre Routing

4 West Side/Duncan East

Timing Point Locations

- **C1** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (north entrance to the Bay)
- **D** Okanagan College
- **E** Penticton Plaza
- **F** Winnipeg and Wade
- **I** Hospital
- **J** Duncan and Columbia
- **V** Atkinson and Duncan

Cherry Lane Shopping Centre Routing

Penticton BC Transit Bus Routes 1 - 5

Original source: BC Transit

3 Uplands/Skaha Lake

Cherry Lane Shopping Centre Routing

Penticton Secondary School Special Bus Route

Timing Point Locations

- **Q** Abbott and Vancouver
- **F2** Winnipeg and Wade
- **A2** Wade and Martin
- **I** Hospital
- **P** Real Canadian Superstore (on Dawson)
- **C1** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (north entrance to the Bay)
- **M** Skaha Lake Road and Channel Parkway
- **R2** Peachtree Square
- **C2** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Warren Ave.)
- **Z** Ellis and Westminster
- **X** Johnson and Haven Hill

5 Main Street

Cherry Lane Shopping Centre Routing
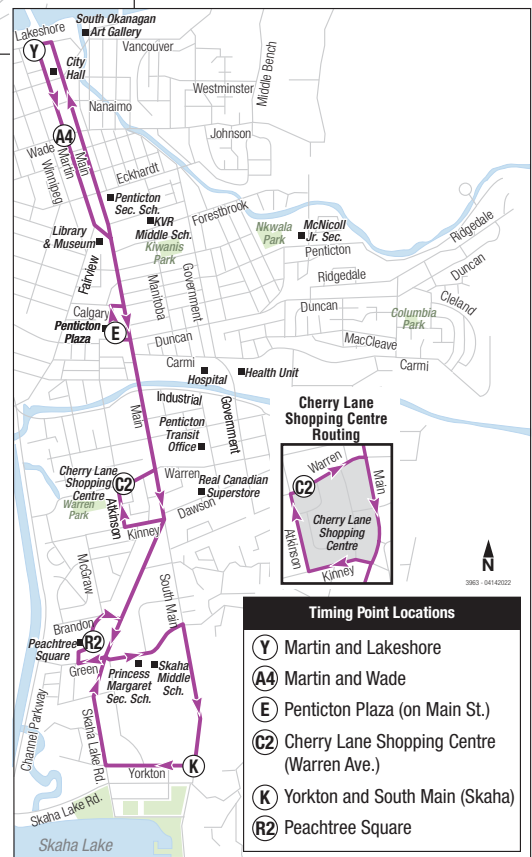
Timing Point Locations

- **Y** Martin and Lakeshore
- **A4** Martin and Wade
- **E** Penticton Plaza (on Main St.)
- **C2** Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Warren Ave.)
- **K** Yorkton and South Main (Skaha)
- **R2** Peachtree Square