



Riding the Rails

The Kettle Valley Railway was created between 1910 – 1915. Because of its 325 miles through challenging mountain passes, it was considered one of the most difficult and expensive rail lines ever built. The line was built primarily to take advantage of the rapidly growing silver mining and fruit industries in the region that were previously inaccessible.

The KVR opened up the Southern Interior, allowing for economic and resource development, along with a new influx of people looking to settle in the region, creating the communities we have today.

Our Fur Trading History

The earliest commercial trail in the Okanagan Valley was the Fur Brigade Trail. The trail ran through Washington and BC and was used to take supplies to the fur trappers in the interior and to take furs out to world markets. The trail fell out of use in 1846 when the border between US and Canada was created.

Our Roots Run Deep

Due to the KVR's existence, our agriculture industry grew exponentially and led to the creation of a national research facility in Summerland –The Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre. They celebrated 100 years of science in 2014 and are responsible for 80% of the world's cherry varieties and many apple varieties as well.

Re-live History!

You can still enjoy the scenery and the history of riding the last remaining active train on this line in Summerland. The view over the canyon is spectacular and you can also experience the thrill of a train robbery if the Garnett Valley Gang is in town!

Want to Learn More?

Contact Summerland's former Mayor and local historian, Dr. David Gregory
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