

**A GUIDE TO THE PAINTED FIRE HYDRANTS IN DOWNTOWN QUESNEL**

# QUESNEL'S LITTLE PEOPLE



## TAKE THE WALKING TOUR

The tour begins at City Hall on the corner of Kinchant Street and St. Laurent Avenue. Follow the map below to see all the hydrants in the order they are presented in this brochure.



### FIRE HYDRANT SPONSORS (IN ORDER OF THE TOUR):

- 1) Ron Rasmussen CA · 2) Subway · 3) City Furniture
- 4) Safeway · 5) Expressions by Ewe
- 6) Circle 'S' Western Wear · 7) Outlaws
- 8) Willis Harper · 9) Spa Rivier · 10) Cariboo Observer
- 11) Rocky Peak Adventure Gear · 12) Chudiak-Schmidt
- 13) Just Anne's · 14) Billy Barker Casino
- 15) The Millionaires Hockey Club
- 16) Shell Gas Station
- 17) Royal Canadian Legion Branch 94
- 18) Regency Chrysler · 19) Bank of Montreal
- 20) Granville's · 21) K-Max Video
- 22) Integris Credit Union
- 23) Rocky Mountaineer Vacations

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### 19. BANKER

The first bank that opened in Quesnel was the Northern Crown Bank. It was temporarily located in the annex of the Occidental Hotel that was located on Front Street (where the Cariboo Hotel presently stands). All the buildings located there were destroyed in the fire of 1916.



### 20. CYCLIST

A.J. Elliot rode his bike from Ashcroft on his way to Barkerville. He had to leave the bike at Cottonwood due to snow. Pop Elliot moved his family to the city and purchased the Rex Theatre.



### 21. CHARLIE CHAPLIN

The Empress Theatre was built in 1910 and Quesnel's first motion pictures were shown there. It is also where the huge fire of 1916 started.



### 22. NURSE

In 1950 Willa Stevenson started being the attending nurse for baby deliveries in Quesnel. Willa helped to deliver over nine hundred babies through her career here at Baker Hospital.



### 23. ENGINEER

Bobble head Bob of the Rocky Mountaineer Vacations welcomed its first train into Quesnel May 2nd, 2006 — 86 years after the first passenger train came through in 1921.



**1. TEACHER**  
Alice Northcott arrived in Quesnel on August 4, 1884, after being hired as one of the first school teachers. She married Otis Earley in 1902. They were active members of the community and well respected.

**2. SHIP COOK**  
The sternwheelers brought cargo and adventurers from the south from 1863-1915. Ship cooks had an important job keeping the passengers and crew fed during their long journey north.

**3. CAN CAN GIRL**  
Also known as the Hurdy-Gurdy Girls, these energetic and sassy dancers performed in the saloons during the gold rush.



**4. NATIVE MOTHER**  
The Native mother and child were the honour of the people of the Chentait'hala nation that used the flats at the junction of the Quesnel and Fraser Rivers as their summer camp.

**5. SCOUT**  
Lord Baden Powel sent a letter welcoming Quesnel into the scouting movement in 1912. The organization continues to thrive in our community to this day.

**6. RODEO CLOWN**  
The first Quesnel Rodeo was held in 1966 at the Bert Eberding property at Bouchie Lake. For five years the rodeo was held there before it was moved to its present location at Alex Fraser Park.



**7. BANDIT**  
"Hands up!" It is said that this adage was coined by Bill Miner right here in BC. Over his career, Bill Miner and his gang stole approximately \$250,000 in coin, cash and gold.

**8. CARPENTER**  
Bill Willis and Lloyd Harper originally opened Willis Harper Furniture and Hardware in 1946. Located on the corner of Reid and Barlow, the store still operates under this name.

**9. HAIRDRESSER**  
May Eagleson became the first female "barber" in Quesnel when the local barber left to serve his country during the war.



**10. PAPER BOY**  
The Cariboo Observer newspaper started in Quesnel in 1908 on Reid Street. Their present building originally was the Royal Bank.

**11. VOYAGEUR**  
The Northwest Company explorer, Alexander Mackenzie was the first European to stop here on June 21, 1793.

**12. JUDGE BEGBIE**  
BC's first judge who became known as the "Hanging Judge" actually sentenced very few hangings.



**13. BLACKSMITH**  
An accident left Kong Sing in a wheelchair. He turned his blacksmithing skills to knife making. He became renowned for his quality work. Some knives have been used for 70 years.

**14. CARD DEALER**  
During the gold rush, gambling was a popular pastime. The Chinese merchants ran many gambling houses. You can see some of the gambling artifacts at the Quesnel and District Museum.

**15. HOCKEY PLAYER**  
The first fenced skating rink and rink house was built in 1908. It was flooded with river water using a gas pump or by volunteer bucket brigades. Four gas lanterns were used for night skating.



**16. GAS JOCKEY**  
When Shell Oil was formed in BC in 1913, it was not owned by Shell Canada but by Shell California. The BC operations became part of Shell Canada in 1945.

**17. PILOT**  
This hydrant was painted as a World War 1 pilot to commemorate all the brave men and women that fought for the right for us to enjoy peace and freedom.

**18. GOLDMINER**  
This hydrant represents the gold rush years and the miners that were so integral in the building of our city.