

# A visit to Malakwa

Malakwa is a small community of about 700 people about 11 kilometres east of Sicamous. They have a store, a service station, an antique store, a couple of restaurants and a pub that used to be a beehive burner. Throw in a few campgrounds, sawmills and some nearby ranches and you've summed up what you'll see in Malakwa. Or so you might think.

But there is so much there for tourists you really need to spend some time to explore and enjoy what they have to offer.

First of all there's the fun Malakwa suspension bridge, which spans the Eagle River. It was originally built in 1915 to connect the farmers to the community. It was rebuilt to better standards in 1940 and it's still in use today for locals and tourists.

There are the Eagle River Nature Trails and Yard Creek Provincial Park. Yard Creek is made up of 175 hectares of beautifully forested upland. With extensive hiking trails and a log picnic shelter, it's a lovely spot.

This year there's the big salmon run and Yard Creek is a great place to watch this natural phenomena.

History buffs will enjoy stopping at Craigellachie. It's the location of the ceremonial last spike put down to finish the CP Railroad on November 7, 1885. Information signs, a gift shop, picnic tables and washrooms make this a great rest stop.

On July 1st Malakwa residents enjoy a strawberry social and a parade that might be smaller than other parades but just as much loved and enjoyed.

And in August they pull out all the stops for their Malakwa Music Summer Slam. It's the 21st year of this family fun event. Enjoy all kinds of music, fun games for the kids, concessions and vendors, ultimate wrestling, and who knows if the fire truck and the pony rides might show up again this year? It all takes place at the ball-park in Malakwa from noon to midnight.



## Geocache 'treasures'

Geocaching is a hybrid of the old-fashioned treasure hunt and modern technology.

It began in Portland, Oregon. Someone hid some 'treasures' and challenged people over the internet to find it using GPS technology. Within the same day several people found it and the fun caught on. There are now close to one million geocaches throughout the world on every continent including Antarctica.


Geocaching is a great way to explore the Shuswap, exercise and enjoy the great outdoors. There are many caches hidden by hiking trails and other outdoor attractions.

To begin you get the co-ordinates of the geocache from the computer. Then all you need is a GPS and you're ready to find the 'treasure,' which can be anything from pins to stickers to wooden coins. You can take something from the stash if you have something of equal value to replace it. If you're visiting, bring along some pins from your community to do a swap.


You can add to the fun by telling the kids to avoid the 'muggles' (aka non geo-cashers).

There are often geocaching events so check out the website. Go to <http://shuswapgeoquest.com/> or phone 250-833-5906.

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