

Learn About the Land

Before beginning your walk, it is important to acknowledge the sacred land in which you will be walking. We acknowledge that this walk extends across the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Whonnock, Matsqui, Semiahmoo and Katzie First Nations. Many Stó:lō people living in Matsqui “commonly settled along side-channel waterways and sloughs rather than directly beside the Fraser River, as was more common to the west and east”. Pre-European contact, generations of foot traffic and the Fraser river linked Stó:lō communities. Along the Fraser River, various types of canoes made of cedar and either woven reed, or cloth sails were used for fishing and for transporting people, goods and messages across waterways. Fishing, hunting, cannery work, and harvesting hops were common practices for the Stó:lō people in this area during 1908-1916.

Generally, “the seasons determined what the majority would be doing”. School aged children normally were away from home at residential schools in Mission and Sardis. Their families would often harvest fish in the summer, and hops in the winter, where they would be away from families for extended periods of time with short hunting and fishing trips throughout the year. Unfortunately, as time has gone on “the combined effects of urbanization, agriculture, and increasing road density have negatively impacted water resources and displaced Indigenous wildlife and vegetation.

Numerous salmon bearing streams and wetlands have been degraded or destroyed”. While careful planning could have prevented this, we now face the challenge of how to restore and rebuild the various lost and endangered streams which you will encounter during your walk. This walk is primarily located on an Agricultural land reserve where you will see increased roadways and settlement which have drastically affected natural streams and waterways interfering with the natural slow trickling of waterways into the land.

Reference

Blomfield, K., Boxberger, D. L., Carlson, K. T., Duffield, C., Hancock, R. L. A., Lutz, J., McHalsie, A. S., Ormerod, P., Peters, T., Rafter, T., Roburn, A., Schaepe, D. M., Smith, D. A., & Woods, J. R. (2001). *Stó:lō Nation. A Stó:lō – Coast Salish Historical Atlas.*



Walk in the Spirit of Reconciliation

May 28 - 30

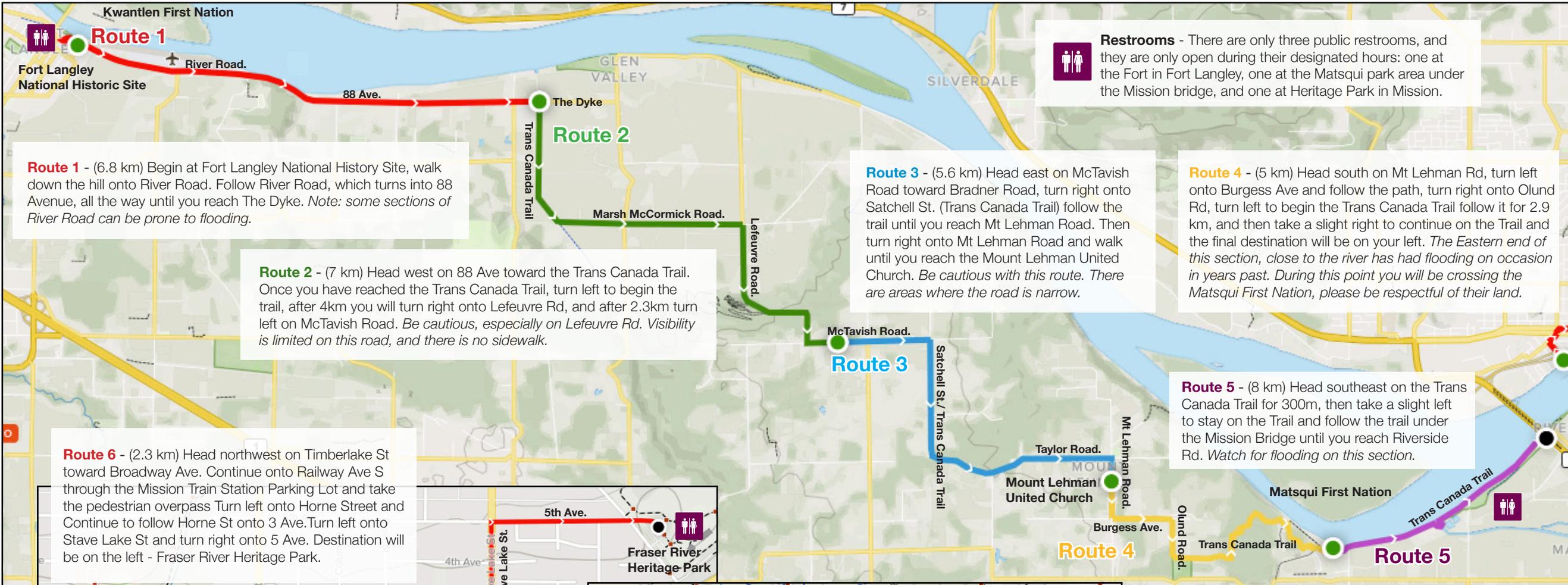
“The sacred walk is a distinctly Canadian and Indigenously flavoured act of political, spiritual, and social witness.” ~ Archbishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Archbishop for the Anglican Church of Canada.

During this 6th annual walk in the spirit of reconciliation between Fort Langley and St. Mary’s residential school on the unceded traditional territory of the Kwantlen, Whonnock, Matsqui, Semiahmoo and Katzie First Nations, we walk to promote awareness, rebuild relationships, express solidarity and to build a community of reconciliation. Ever since the Truth and Reconciliation commission released its final report in 2015, we have been walking to promote healing to harm done by colonization and residential schools. We pray that all of our paths are ones of healing, of peace, restoration and of loving regard for one another.

Visit reconciliationwalk.com for more information and to register!

The walk event is an ecumenical event in partnership with the:

Christian Reformed Church | Diocese of New Westminster | Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church
| Mennonite Church British Columbia | Mennonite Central Committee BC | United Churches of
Langley | Willoughby Christian Reformed Church



Route 1 - (6.8 km) Begin at Fort Langley National History Site, walk down the hill onto River Road. Follow River Road, which turns into 88 Avenue, all the way until you reach The Dyke. *Note: some sections of River Road can be prone to flooding.*

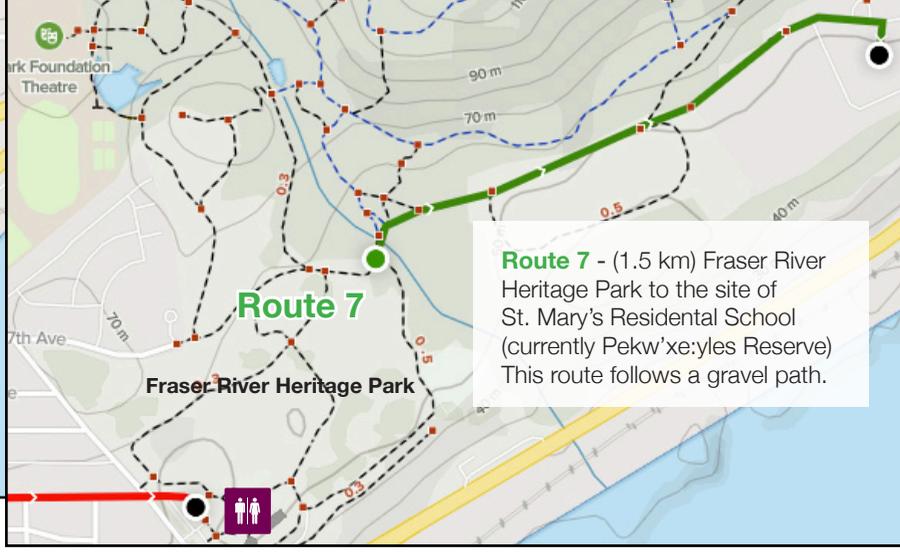
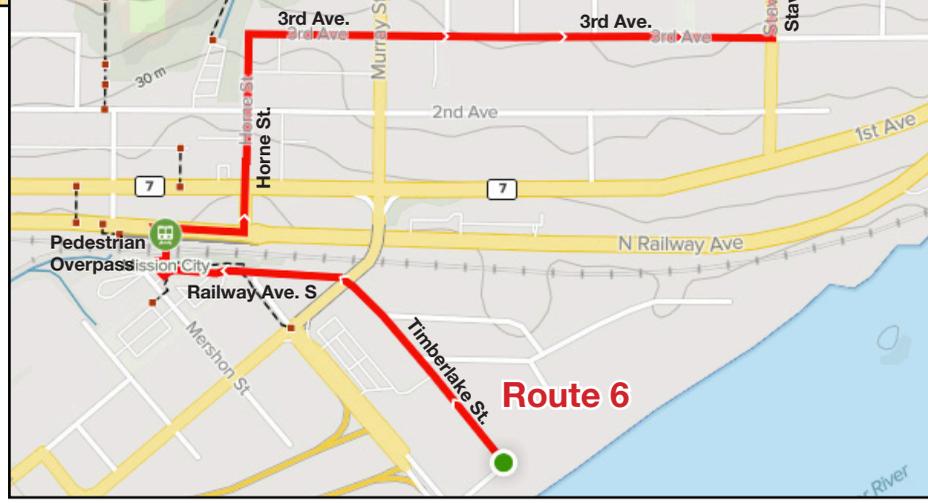
Route 2 - (7 km) Head west on 88 Ave toward the Trans Canada Trail. Once you have reached the Trans Canada Trail, turn left to begin the trail, after 4km you will turn right onto Lefeuve Rd, and after 2.3km turn left on McTavish Road. *Be cautious, especially on Lefeuve Rd. Visibility is limited on this road, and there is no sidewalk.*

Route 3 - (5.6 km) Head east on McTavish Road toward Bradner Road, turn right onto Satchell St. (Trans Canada Trail) follow the trail until you reach Mt Lehman Road. Then turn right onto Mt Lehman Road and walk until you reach the Mount Lehman United Church. *Be cautious with this route. There are areas where the road is narrow.*

Route 4 - (5 km) Head south on Mt Lehman Rd, turn left onto Burgess Ave and follow the path, turn right onto Olund Rd, turn left to begin the Trans Canada Trail follow it for 2.9 km, and then take a slight right to continue on the Trail and the final destination will be on your left. *The Eastern end of this section, close to the river has had flooding on occasion in years past. During this point you will be crossing the Matsqui First Nation, please be respectful of their land.*

Route 5 - (8 km) Head southeast on the Trans Canada Trail for 300m, then take a slight left to stay on the Trail and follow the trail under the Mission Bridge until you reach Riverside Rd. *Watch for flooding on this section.*

Route 6 - (2.3 km) Head northwest on Timberlake St toward Broadway Ave. Continue onto Railway Ave S through the Mission Train Station Parking Lot and take the pedestrian overpass Turn left onto Horne Street and Continue to follow Horne St onto 3 Ave. Turn left onto Stave Lake St and turn right onto 5 Ave. Destination will be on the left - Fraser River Heritage Park.



Route 7 - (1.5 km) Fraser River Heritage Park to the site of St. Mary's Residential School (currently Pkw'xe:yles Reserve) This route follows a gravel path.

Restrooms - There are only three public restrooms, and they are only open during their designated hours: one at the Fort in Fort Langley, one at the Matsqui park area under the Mission bridge, and one at Heritage Park in Mission.

St. Mary's Residential School (currently Pkw'xe:yles Reserve)

Parking - There is no designated parking for this event or any parking spots at the beginning of any of the routes. Also, there is no vehicle at the end of your chosen route to take you back to where you began your walk, so you may have to walk back unless you arrange transportation for yourself.

Photos & Videos - We are asking walk participants (who are willing) to post photos or videos of them at the beginning and end of their walk or along the way on the Facebook event page, <https://fb.me/e/11KajSCKV>