

# Location and Contact

# Bridge Lake Ice Caves



## Location

Bridge Lake and the Ice Caves are located in the Interlakes area on Fishing Highway 24, midway between Lone Butte (Hwy 24) and Little Fort on Highway 5, approximately six hours northeast of Vancouver, two hours from Kamloops in the Thompson Valley and 56 km southeast of 100 Mile House on Cariboo Highway 97. The Interlakes area is home to approximately 2,800 residents. The area's beautiful lakes, scenic trails and pristine wilderness attract approximately 20,000 visitors each year.

## Contact

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## Welcome to the "Entrance of the Bear World"

**The Ice Caves Project** will create a unique, family-friendly fitness/recreation/heritage site at Bridge Lake. The existing trail from Highway 24 to the Ice Caves on the southern shore of the lake will be expanded. The current heritage site will be upgraded to create an outdoor recreational destination that will promote tourism, strengthen the Interlakes infrastructure and benefit local families and visitors alike.



# The Ice Caves Project

## Improving the heritage tourism infrastructure of the Gold Rush/Spirit Trails corridor

### Background

The unique geology of the Bridge Lake shoreline features caves and crevices that are sheltered from sun and wind. Melting snow seeps through the rock crevices into the caves where it refreezes, creating a year-round supply of ice. This resource was used by both the First Nations and early European settlers. A spectacular rock formation, the Ice Caves lacked any safety features, was slippery and dangerous to navigate in parts. The site also needed safe parking.



Photo courtesy KamloopsTrails.net

### The Project

The Ice Caves Project is transforming this important, nearly forgotten landmark into a community/public space by:

- Providing safe access to the Ice Caves, installing bridges and railings and other features
- Improving access to the public beach on the southern shore of Bridge Lake
- Creating a European-style "fitness path" consisting of an interwoven trail system of 2.5 km with eight fitness stations for outdoor workouts
- An upgraded gravel parking lot
- Amenities like picnic tables, benches, outhouses and bear proof waste containers

The development of an enhanced family-friendly trail system with fitness stations and public beach access will give local residents of the Interlakes community a destination for their recreational outdoor enjoyment and attract more visitors to the region.

### Project Partners



### The Jobs Creation Partnership Project

The Jobs Creation Partnership Project is a \$400,000 initiative with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation's Community and Employer Partnerships Branch and other organizations, including the Highway 24 Ice Caves Project. Five eligible job-seekers are gaining valuable work experience and skills training while working on the Ice Caves component of the project. The JCP Project is providing much-needed amenities for the Ice Caves complex, including:

- Two bear proof containers
- Five picnic tables/benches
- Two full service outhouses
- Parking lot upgrade/gravel supply
- Bridge construction
- 2.5 kms of trail construction



The New Pathways to Gold Society, Canim Lake First Nation (Tsq'escenemc), Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail Regional Management Committee, Government of Canada, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Recreation Sites and Trails Branch) and the Province of British Columbia are also JCP Project partners.

### The Fishing Highway 24 Tourist Association

The Fishing Highway 24 Tourist Association (FHTA) has been an incorporated not-for-profit association under the Societies Act since 2011. The association represents members which offer services to visitors and locals alike.

They include accommodation services like bed & breakfasts, resorts and guest ranches, as well as other services like restaurants, grocery stores, gift stores, outdoor stores, repair shop, massage therapist, land developers and real estate agents. The FHTA board works closely with other community groups, including the region's First Nations.

