

# PIONEER LIFE

IN WHAT WE NOW CALL SUMMERLAND



# The start of Summerland

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At first,  
Summerland was  
on Okanagan Lake.



1908

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# How did they get here?

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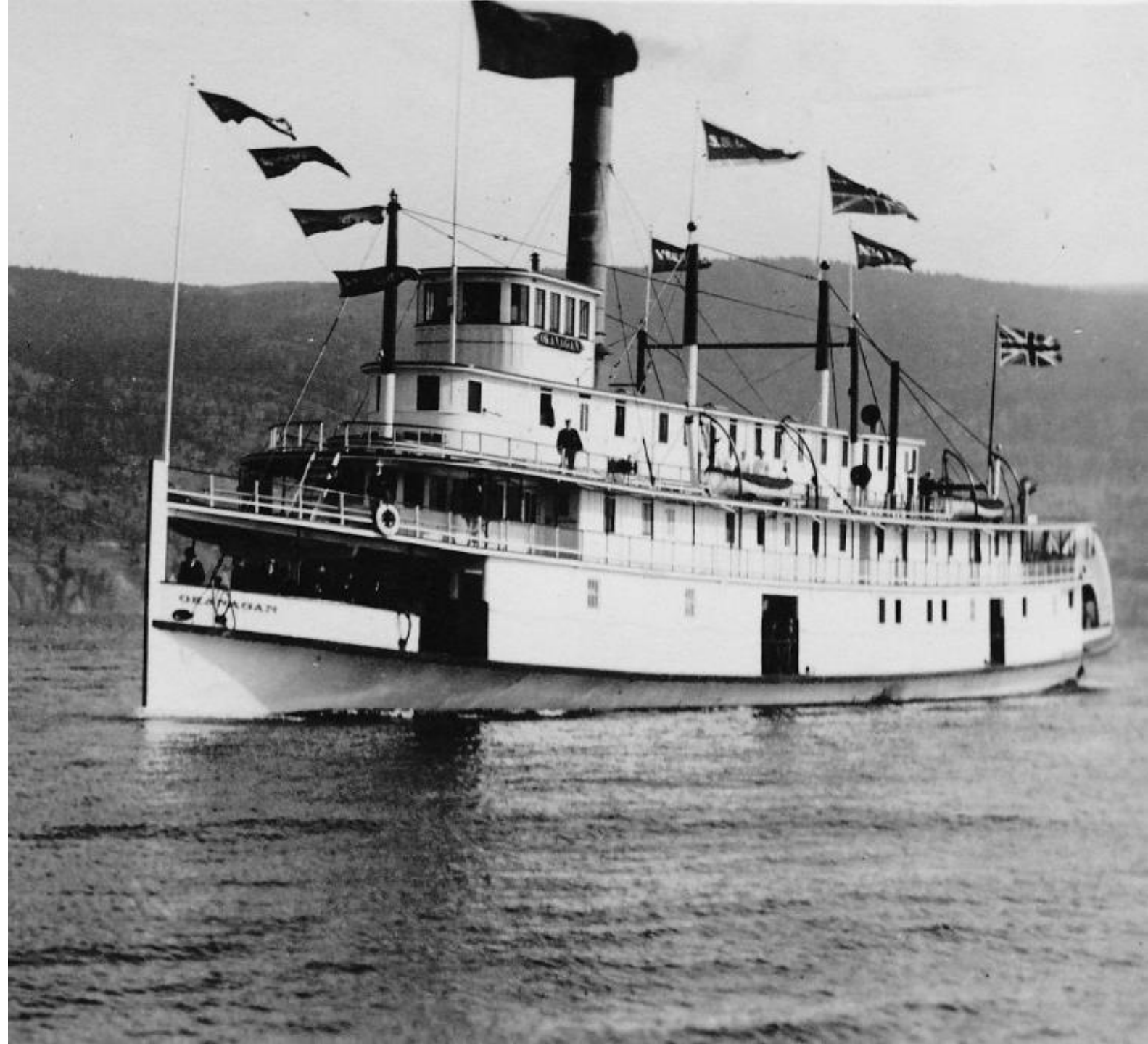
Many pioneers came here on big sternwheelers like the S.S. Sicamous and S.S. Okanagan.



# Sternwheelers

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The S.S. Okanagan  
coming to shore.



# Transportation

Boats were also used to travel to different towns along Okanagan Lake, like Penticton and Naramata.



# Where did they settle?

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First, people settled along the lake in Lower Town.

Then they moved out to:

Trout Creek

Upper Benches

Garnett Valley

Prairie Valley



1906

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# Lower Town

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The S.S.  
Sicamous at  
the CPR wharf  
in Lower  
Summerland  
between  
1914 to 1927.



# Businesses

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All of the shops and some homes were along the lake on Shaughnessy Avenue.





# Living on the flat

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Some people lived up above Summerland on the flat. Some of these people were cattle ranchers.

George Barclay on Barclay Ranch in 1890.



# Nicola Prairie

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The future town site in 1905.



# Barclay Ranch

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The Barclay  
Ranch in 1890.



## Barclay home

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In 1903, the Barclay Ranch and home was sold to James Ritchie. He and his family are shown here.



## What did they grow?

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Many fruit trees were planted up on the flat, in Prairie Valley, and Trout Creek.

This is a view of Jones Flat in 1905.



# Early orchards

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Young orchards  
in Prairie Valley  
in 1910.



## Working in an orchard

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It was hard work to start an orchard, and people would have to wait years for the trees to grow and bear fruit.

This picture shows orchard workers in 1910 using sacks that went over one shoulder and wooden boxes.



## How did they water the trees?

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At first, water was sent  
to orchards by ditches.





# Flumes

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Later, flumes were used to bring water to orchards.

This shows irrigation flumes in 1917 that brought water from Trout Creek to the Research Station.



# Flumes

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This photo shows the construction of the south main wooden flume in 1914.



# West Summerland

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Soon, a new town site began to grow up on the flat, and it was called West Summerland. This is the town site in 1913.



# West Summerland

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John Ritchie with  
his son Bill on  
Granville Road  
(Main Street) in  
West Summerland  
in 1911.



# West Summerland

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View of the  
town site from  
Giant's Head in  
1928.



# What did people live in?

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Many pioneers lived in **tent houses** until their homes were built.

Others built log homes, which often had dirt floors and sod roofs.



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Tent house in 1910.

## Tent House

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Walter and Lizzy  
Verity's tent  
house at Trout  
Creek Point in  
1909.



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## Log houses

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Duncan Woods' sod roofed log home in Trout Creek in 1910.





# How did people get around?

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People travelled roads at the bottom of the gulches.

Boats were used to get to Naramata and Penticton.



# Horses

Horses and wagons could also be used to transport goods.

Here, Fred McKinnon is using horses and a wagon to transport cantaloupes in 1922.



# Bicycles

Bicycles were used for shorter distances. Below is a picture of an early bicycle, while to the right is Kutch Imayoshi in 1945.



# Where did children go to school?

There were several one-room school houses in the area. Here is the Garnett Valley School in 1909. Mary Lister taught here after completing her schooling in New Westminster in 1913.



# Schools

Classroom in  
1919.



## Getting to school

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Some students went to other communities, like Vernon, for higher grades.

Here is a horse-drawn school bus in 1915.



## Getting to school

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Children would also walk long distances to school.

Here are the Dunsdon children in 1912 walking to school with lard pails for lunch kits.





# EVERYDAY LIFE



## Laundry

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Laundry day was often called “Blue Monday” because of the bluing agent used to keep clothes white.

Clothes were boiled in water to remove dirt and oil and then scrubbed on a washboard.



Boiling clothes with an agitator



Washboard

## Drying and ironing

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Once the clothes were washed and clean, they would wring out the extra water and hang them to dry.

For ironing, three to six irons were heated on the stove and alternated when used.



Wringer machine



Clothesline

# Kitchen

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The kitchen was the centre of the home. There was lots going on and always something to do.

Wood and coal ranges were used both for cooking and heating the home. Toasters and waffle makers were used on the stove.

Ice boxes were used for freezing. Extra ice was stored in a shed outside and sawdust was used to keep it frozen in the summer.



1893-1895

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# Parlour

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A parlour room was where guests would gather. Parlour rooms often included sitting areas and pianos or record players for entertainment.

Here are Mr. and Mrs. Campbell sitting in their parlour in the early 1900s.



# Recreation

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When school and work were done, people enjoyed life in many ways!



Harry Dunsdon's children playing with a rocking horse and stroller in 1913.



Lloyd Gartrell and Richard Yamabe playing baseball in 1933.

# Birthday Party

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A birthday party in 1914 with many Scouts in Memorial Park.



# Picnics

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Picnics were also a popular pastime.

This shows people at the June 3 annual picnic at the Research Station in 1930.



# Riding Horses

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People would ride horses for fun and to get around.





# Recreation

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Young boys  
with home  
made apple  
box rafts in  
the water.



Sources:

Slide 33. Boiling Laundry Photo. Retrieved from [https://www.allposters.com/-sp/Boiling-Clothes-Posters\\_i6846981\\_.htm](https://www.allposters.com/-sp/Boiling-Clothes-Posters_i6846981_.htm)

Slide 34. Wringer Laundry Machine. Retrieved from <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/7a/89/36/7a893699d3f71bb88737a7b67431bc75.jpg>

Slide 34. Clothesline. Retrieved from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/44543483786949236/?lp=true>