

- 3,000-5,000 years ago Native Peoples in area (according to Jennies(?)- Similkameen's are a branch of Athapaskan tribes that migrated south and intermarried extensively with Thompsons)
- 1812 Alexander Ross travelled from Kamloops through Similkameen valley. He was with both the N. West and Astorian fur trading companies – located Astoria Ft Okanagan
- 1821 Union of Hudson Bay Company and the North West Company
- 1826 Archibald McDonald (hbc) visited and described the area
- 1846 A.C Anderson's trail to Kamloops via Tulameen – not implemented for some years
- 1846 Boundary treaty: U.S. (Canada) and Britain. Not implemented for some years
- 1856 Gold found in the Thompson and Fraser rivers.
- 1858 John Fall Allison arrived in Similkameen-found gold, coal & copper showings. He settled here, operated a way station ranch, raised cattle and horses. He is considered the "Pioneer Settler."
- 1858 Nora (Yakumtekum) Upper Similkameen Indian Band, HBC packer from Hope to Fort Colville, bears three children with John F. Allison. Returns to Chuchuwayha Reserve with children sometime later.
- 1858 Crown Colony formed British Columbia
- 1859 Gold rush at Blackfoot, opposite Allenby
- 1859 Sgt. McColl builds Sappers' trail, Hope to Princeton
- 1860/3 Royal engineers built 16 miles of the Dewdney trail
- 1860 First Princeton town site laid out in east Princeton- 600-700 acres by Sgt. McColl of royal engineers. Named Princeton by Governor James Douglas in honor of Prince Albert who was visiting Canada that year.

- 1860 Royal engineers began construction of the Hope-Princeton highway. A.C. Anderson was commissioned to find the best route to the coast as early as 1864.
- 1862 Governor Douglas visits Princeton
- 1865 Hudson Bay post founded at Keremeos
- 1867 First mail carrier, Jim Wardle, from Hope to Similkameen
- 1868 John Allison marries Susan Louisa Moir from Hope. She wrote poems about the Similkameen Native Peoples and recorded early life in the Similkameen.
- 1868 First white child, Edgar Moir Allison, born in Similkameen
- 1871/2 The Allison's move to Westbank. By this time the gold rush of 1860 was over, the Allison's were almost the only white people in the area. He needed better grazing for his cattle. Opened the Princeton – Summerland trail.
- 1871 British Columbia joins Canadian Federation
- 1874 Barrington Price and Mr. Nicholson start flour mill in Keremeos
- 1877 Geological survey undertaken by Dr. G M Dawson
- 1880 Earthquake in Similkameen
- 1880 Moses rebellion in Similkameen led by an American Indian, Moses
- 1880 Earthquake in Princeton area after many Natives turned to Christianity
- 1880-1881 Very severe winter. Allison's move back to Princeton
- 1881 Allison's home swept away by flood

- 1882 Frank Richter Sr. planted fruit trees in the Similkameen valley
- 1883 Long dispute in Similkameen by rival Chinese gold panners Guong Yuens and Lee Muns. Arbitrated by Allison.
- 1884 The Jameson family moved to Princeton- this family was Princeton's first famous prospector family
- 1884 Gold strike on Granite creek- W.M. Briggs, Mike Sullivan & John Bromley.
- 1885 Granite Creek gold rush. The rush was over by 1895 and the town lingered on until a fire in 1907.
- 1885 John Fall Allison appointed gold commissioner
- 1885 "Discovery claim" – John Chance & E M Allison "wild goose" claim- Bill Jenkins & Tom Curry
- 1885 First bridge over the Tulameen river built located on Bridge street and Tulameen road.
- 1885 Princeton-Granite creek road built by Bobby Stevenson
- 1886 AH Tuck (Chinese) had a store near the Tulameen river
- 1887 Allison staked claim on Copper Mountain
- 1884/8 Copper Mountain staked by Bob Jameson & "Sunset" Brown
- 1890 Bill Garrison established the first freighting business in Princeton
- 1892 Smallpox epidemic - Natives suffered
- 1894 1st claim stakes in Hedley for Edgar Dewdney

- 1895 "Sunset" Brown sank a shaft on "Copper Mountain"

- 1895 Mrs. Allison turned over the property to her son in law S.D. Sands who sold what is now downtown Princeton to the Vermillion Forks Mining and Dev. Co. (Mine buildings on hill East End of Bridge Street across the river)

- 1895 Second bridge built across the Tulameen (government project)

- 1897 John Fall Allison, Similkameen's first European settler dies

- 1897 Nickel Plate started

- 1898 S.D. Sands sells Princeton town site to T.P. Arthur Hickling for syndicate (Vermilion Forks Mining and Development Co.)

- 1899 J.H. Jackson opens the first Princeton hotel

- 1899 First mining at Copper Mountain done by Sunset Brown

- 1899 First Princeton sawmill by Tom Hunter of Nicola

- 1898/9 Voigt's camp located

- 1900 Princeton can be reached via stagecoach from Spence's Bridge otherwise by saddle horse from Hope or Keremeos. The stage trip takes 2.5 days.

- 1900 Nicola connected to the world by CPR telegraph through Kamloops. Messages delivered to Princeton on horseback.

- 1900 Indian reserves established

- 1900 March 1st - 1st edition of the Similkameen star

- 1900 First Princeton school

- 1900 Feb. 17- first session of Yale County Court at Princeton under Judge Spinks
- 1900 "Sunset" Brown sold his claim to the B.C. Copper company
- 1900 Bromley and Goldsbury crews started Princeton to Keremeos road.
- 1901 June 15 – Wagon road completed from Princeton to Twenty Mile Creek (Hedley)
- 1901 Gold Commissioner's office moved from Granite Creek to Princeton
- 1901 Tulameen Hotel opens in April (Bridge Street)
- 1901 "Klootchman" races were held on what is now Vermilion Avenue
- 1901/2 First Provincial building/courthouse built
- 1903 Hedley brewery was bought out by the Princeton brewery.
- 1901/8 Vermilion Mining and Development Company mining coal in Princeton
- 1903 Princeton board of trade first meeting
- 1904 First telephone service (Dominion)
- 1904 The Old Hedley road link from Penticton – Hedley - Princeton was completed
- 1904 Head tax of \$500 imposed on Chinese immigrants – many stayed on to mine creeks and work in service jobs as cooks, laundrymen etc. Later they operated their own establishments sometimes called "confectionaries."
- 1905 Bank of Commerce opened
- 1905 Princeton's first school was built

- 1905/13 Welby stage coach operated between Penticton, Hedley and Princeton. The stagecoach ran for a short while up to Allenby but automobiles made it obsolete.
- 1904 Bill Miner (George Edwards) lived here and robbed train at Mission (Silverdale)
- 1906 Livery stable opened by W.S. Garrison
- 1906 Services held at St. Paul's (Presbyterian)
- 1906 Princeton's first fire brigade was raised.
- 1906 Bill Miner train robbery at Ducks (Monte Creek)
- 1907 Fire at Granite Creek - town abandoned about 1913
- 1907 Princeton brewery opens
- 1907 G.N. railway 1st train reaches Keremeos
- 1909 G.N. railway reached Princeton and Hedley (Jackson Hotel renamed the Great Northern)
- 1909 Ladies Auxillary W.C. McDougall Prs.
- 1909/17 Vermillion Forks Mining and Development Company. Became Princeton Coal and Land Company (dissolved 1928)
- 1910 A subsidiary of the above supplied water to village as "Princeton Waterworks"
- 1910 Services held at St. Peters (Roman Catholic)
- 1910 Earthquake in Princeton area
- 1910 Similkameen hotel opened, burned down in 1929
- 1911 BC Portland Cement Company construction begins
- 1911 Great northern railway reaches Coalmont B.C.

- 1911 Columbian Coal & Coke Co. First shipment by V.V.E railway, closed 1916
- 1911 First Princeton hospital built. Builder, A.E Irwin
- 1911 Electricity in Princeton. Supplied by Cement Plant coal powered generator.
- 1911 Princeton General Hospital officially opens, March 3. First matron, Mabel Thomas. first baby, Gladys Wardle
- 1912 Hospital ins. \$5-10 for 6-12 months
- 1912 Princeton hotel opens
- 1912 First Royal Bank opened
- 1912 East Princeton town site formed to support the Cement Plant
- 1912 Jackson house burned down, built 1898-1899
- 1913 Hospital's first annual meeting
- 1914 New bridge built over Tulameen river to Merritt highway
- 1914 First World War started
- 1914 Addition added to Princeton Hospital by A.E. Irwin. cost: \$2600
- 1915 "Last spike" and the KVR reaches Princeton
- 1917 Coalmont Collieries ltd (Blakeburn)
- 1915/40 Early coal mines operating in and around Princeton – United Empire, Tulameen, Lind Blue Flame, Pleasant Valley, Wilson, Bromley Vale etc.
- 1920 B.C. Copper Company closed on Copper Mountain
- 1920 Tramway installed at Blakeburn
- 1917/18 The KVR spur line to Copper Mountain was built
- 1918/19 Canada Copper Corporation built mill at Allenby - company chose name
- 1918 First World War ended

- 1920 Worlds first suffragette – Mrs. Pankhurst came to address gathering in Princeton
- 1920 Twenty people die in town from flu epidemic
- 1920 Road completed to Merritt
- 1920 St. Paul's church built
- 1921 Hospital undergoes renovations
- 1923 Vermillion Forks Mining Company formed
- 1923 Granby took over from Allenby Copper Co.
- 1922 West Kootenay brings in power, Princeton light & power company formed. Still used in 2002.
- 1924 KVR spur opened to Copper Mountain
- 1924 Princeton Coal & Land mine abandoned. New shaft tried on Town side of river (abandoned 1926)
- 1925 First x-ray machine in Princeton. cost: \$1350
- 1926 First attempt made to have the community incorporated
- 1926 Podunk Davies rescues nurse Warburton · receives medal from Premier
- 1926 November 11th · cenotaph used for first time
- 1926 Granby reopened Copper Mountain Mine
- 1928 Copper Mountain bunkhouse fire, 11 killed
- 1928 B.C. telephone takes over from Dominion
- 1929 Capitol theatre built
- 1930 Granby closed except for skeleton crew
- 1930 Blakeburn mine disaster · 45 killed

- 1930 New courthouse opened
- 1930 Another wing is added to the hospital
- 1931 Old courthouse moved to school grounds
- 1931 New telephone exchange building – 1965 telephone changed from manual to dial.
- 1932/33 Airport built and opened
- 1932 Bromley Vale Collieries opened (closed 1943)
- 1933 First Overwaitea store in town
- 1934 Record cold in Princeton · -44 degrees C
- 1935 Jan. 20 – record snowfall of 63 inches overnight.
- 1936 General Utility Co. Ltd. (Al Murray) water system · two wood storage tanks (3rd bench)
- 1937 Granby reopened on Copper Mountain
- 1937 Granby opened power plant
- 1937 Nurse's home built-grand opening gala with Premier TD Patullo
- 1938 Man cage plunged 300 feet at Copper Mountain-no fatalities
- 1938 Western Canada Ski Championship was held in Princeton
- 1939 Second World War (1939-1945)
- 1940 Blakeburn closed
- 1940 St. Peters church built
- 1944 National Selective Service was built and opened
- 1947 Citizenship extended to include Chinese & Natives who voted for the 1st time
- 1948 Fire protection district formed- fire hall built
- 1948 New Princeton – Keremeos road opened

- 1949 Two-way radio installed in police car
- 1949 Hope – Princeton highway built and opened. Previous to this it was necessary to go to Nicola and down the Canyon.
- 1949 B.C. hospital insurance
- 1951 Diesel locomotives tested on KVR – line dieselized spring/summer 1953
- 1951 January ice jam causes flooding
- 1951 Letters of patent issued to incorporate Princeton as a village, first commission elected. Chairman I. Plecash
- 1952 Merritt – Princeton highway was paved
- 1953 St. Barbara's church was built at Copper Mountain – closed in 1957, moved to the south Okanagan
- 1955 New post office opened
- 1955 Village purchased tailings pond from Granby for \$10.00
- 1956 Pentecostal church was built
- 1956 Skating rink opposite of Rotary Park
- 1957 Western Pines Lumber Co. Opened (now known as Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. Many small sawmills operated with a few employees)
- 1958 Amber Ski Hill centennial project
- 1958 Rotary Park completed with the B.C centennial celebration
- 1958 Welby stage sent to Vancouver
- 1958 Granby closed the mine
- 1958 Centennial committee published "History of the Similkameen" by Dr. J.C Goodfellow
- 1958 Princeton Museum opened in log cabin.
- 1959 Sam Gould brings first TV to Princeton
- 1960 Fire at Allenby mill

- 1960 New reservoir
- 1961 Health Center – Dr. Hicks, Phillips
- 1961 New Similkameen Spotlight built (First Newspaper in BC to change to offset method of printing)
- 1961 Princeton installed 357,000 sewage system
- 1961 Health center (Dr. Hicks, Phillips)
- 1963 New legion building built (Canada Legion Operated since 1924. Originally known as Br. Empire Service)
- 1964 New Anglican church built
- 1964 Granby closed its magnesium foundry (Allenby)
- 1964 Princeton Racing Days association formed
- 1965 1st Racing Days celebration
- 1965 Natural gas installed in Princeton
- 1965 Direct dial telephone service initiated
- 1965 New curling rink completed
- 1965 Christian education centre built at United church
- 1965 New town hall built
- 1965 Memorial park purchased from Indian band
- 1965 Canadian pension plan
- 1966 Kettle Valley Sawmill burnt to the ground. Sold out to Nicola Valley Sawmills in '66
- 1966 Princeton hospital board purchased 11 acres for the construction of a new 1.2 million, 25 bed hospital.
- 1967 1st Princeton Fall Fair
- 1967 New water tank is installed

- 1967 Centennial project swimming pool at memorial park
- 1968 New credit union building
- 1970 New Princeton Hospital opens, May 9. Cost: 1.2 million. Patients admitted Oct. 17, 1970. First baby, Theodore Dredge
- 1970/1 New Library and Museum building
- 1972 Silvercrest housing units put in for the elderly
- 1972 Radio station opened
- 1972/4 Princeton Community Service mental health Society formed
- 1973 Princeton arena, village and town boundaries extended
- 1973 Old hospital demolished in Feb.
- 1974 New fire hall opened
- 1975 Royal Bank reopened
- 1975 Castle Park opened (closed after five years)
- 1977 Human Resources office opened
- 1977 Opened Ridgewood Long Term Care Facility adjacent and linked to the Princeton General Hospital
- 1977/8 Snowpatch Ski Hill Opened
- 1978 1st Spring fair at the arena
- 1978 Princeton now officially a "town"
- 1979 Extended care addition is built for hospital
- 1980 Ridgewood Lodge opens in July
- 1980 "Chums" arts and crafts club
- 1980 Recycling depot
- 1981 Baptist church burnt to the ground

- 1983 Community service apartments opened
- 1985 Princeton hosts provincial parachuting meet
- 1985 Museum livery stable opened
- 1985 Princeton's 125th birthday
- 1986 Town takes over old school site
- 1986 Huge ice jam takes out highway #3
- 1986 Coquihalla opens May 16th
- 1986 Burt Reynolds stars in movie "Malone" filmed in Hedley and Princeton
- 1987 Feb 10th Royal Bank closes
- 1987 Utilicorp purchased West Kootenay Power
- 1987 Television transmitter installed by Apex Mountain
- 1987 UFO sightings in Princeton area
- 1987 Mascot and Golden North purchase Hedley Pacific
- 1987 Mascot mines to begin August 17th
- 1988 Old school property sold to 296864 B.C. Limited
- 1988 Newmont mines to be bought by Similco June 17th (Cassiar)
- 1988 Princeton senior drop-in center opened April 19th
- 1988 1st Intl. Tonasket – Princeton pony ride
- 1988 Fossil Stonebergia found and named
- 1988 Coronado Hedley (leaching)
- 1988 Old school grounds sold to Pattison
- 1988 New agricultural bldg. Opened Fall Fair
- 1989 Mine, Princeton Dev.co. (Edmonton)

- 1990 Snowpatch Ski Hill
- 1990 Bill Miner days
- 1990 PXA buildings facades installed
- 1990 Okanagan connector road opening
- 1990 Canada world youth group
- 1990 Princeton Golf and country club (New house opens)
- 1990 Museum basement, renovations – rock and fossil rooms added

Hotels

- 1900-04 first Tulameen Hotel (Burned down 1904)
- 1898-99 Jackson House built (Burned down 1912)
- 1906 Second Tulameen Hotel (Demolished 1961)
- 1899 Wallace house (burned down 1911)
- 1912 Princeton Hotel opened (Alex Broomfield)
- 1911 Similkameen Hotel built (burned down 1930)

Schools

- 1949 Princeton Elementary-secondary
- 1971 Vermillion Forks School opened.
- Riverside School opened
- 1973 John Allison school opened
- 1980 Princeton School burned down on Friday the 13th
- 1981 New Princeton Secondary school opened

Churches

- Father Le June came to the area about every 6 months to perform weddings and services.
- Services held in houses, halls, schools even in the courthouse.
- At granite Creek in the saloon
all operations ceased during the service
- St. Peter's Catholic Church
- St. Cuthbert's Anglican building erected 1911 and closed 1977
- St. Paul's Presbyterian and United church 1925

- Pentecostal church
- Baptist church
- Jehovah's Witnesses hall

Updates

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December 20, 2022 Added references to Nora Yakumtekum...TD