



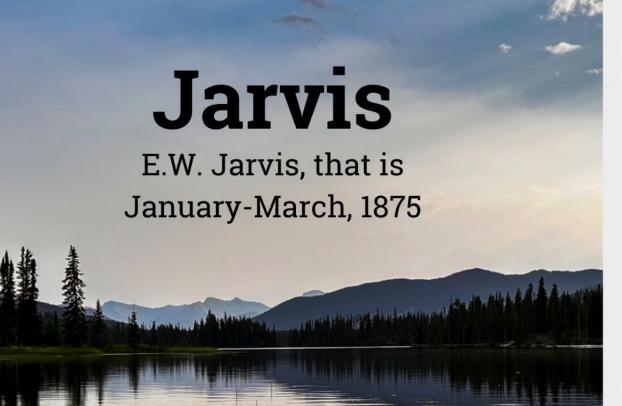
### In the Fifth Year.

#### 1875.

(Exploration from Fort George to Edmonton, vià Smoky River Pass.)

The operations of this year were commenced in mid-winter, by sending a party across the Rocky Mountains from the northern bend of the River Fraser, viá the Smoky River Pass.

The party left Fort George on the 14th of January, pursuing an easterly course along the north fork of the Fraser, between the 54th and 55th parallels of latitude. The north branch of the river was followed to its source, which was discovered in a semi-circular basin, completely closed in by glaciers and high bare peaks. The southern branch was then followed, and for about fifty miles the course was favourable. The route then entered the heart of the Mountain Range, still ascending with easy grades for some twenty miles further. The ascent rapidly attained the highest point or continental "divide" at 5,300 feet above the sea. The exploration then continued in an easterly direction along the flank of the mountains, to the River Athabasca, not far below Jasper House. By this exploration we obtained a correct knowledge of the geography of the region, and established the fact that a railway might be carried through the Smoky River Pass; but that no object would be accomplished which could not be much more easily and better attained by adopting the Yellow Head Pass.



<sup>\*</sup> Vide Appendix G, page 137, Report on exploration by Charles Horetsky.



of days and we groped along almost in darkness. But one bright morning the rising sun dispelled the mist, and from an elevated and burnt side hill on which we were travelling, Alec caught sight of a, to him, well-known feature in the landscape, the "Roche à Miette" whose peculiar and distinct profile was plainly visible about twenty-five miles south of us. This mountain is opposite Jasper House, at the eastern end of the Yellow Head Pass, and the sight of it was an immense relief to the minds of the leaders of the party, since it was from the Hudson's Bay Company's post there that we expected shelter and supplies, the latter having now reached very small proportions. The packs were thrown off in the snow, and we took a long rest and smoke—the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the snow of the feeling of sacrify afrog wome dot advance us much, so we marched off against the snow of the sno

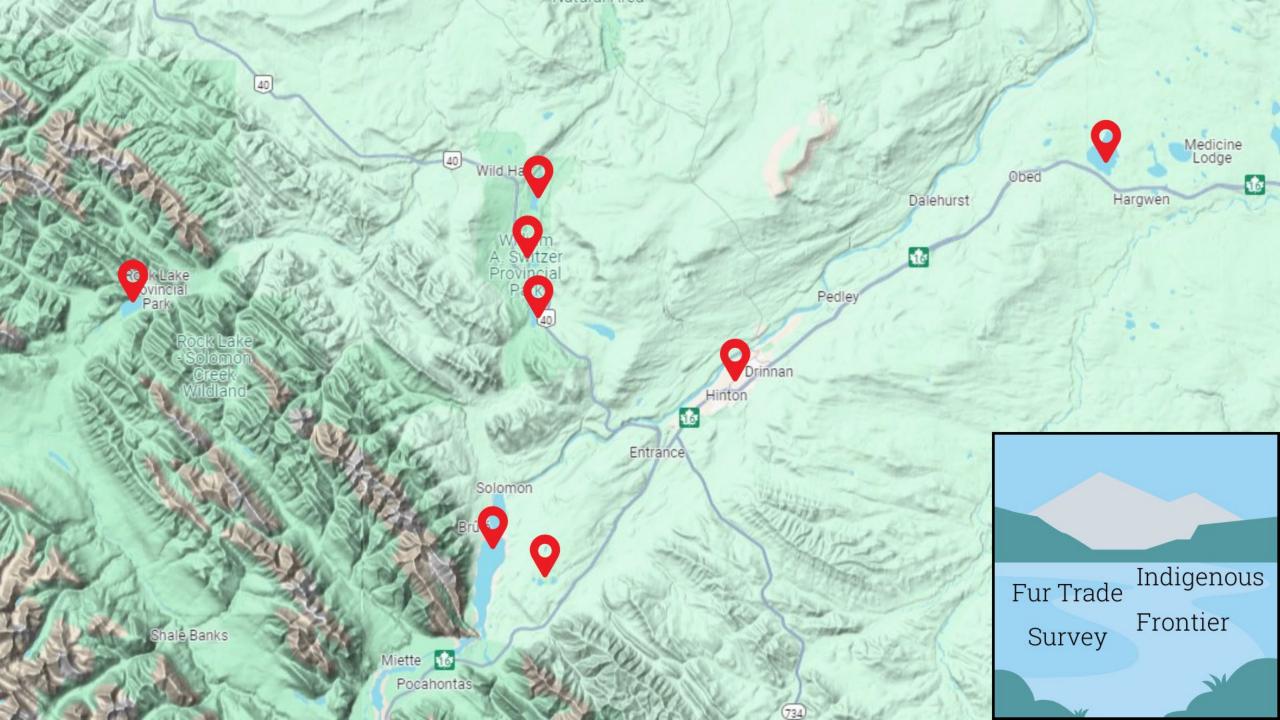
the thought of a good feed and a respite from their incessant labours. But sitting on a log would not advance us much, so we marched off again, and getting on the ice of three or four small lakes made good time towards our goal. A bluff precipice intervening soon shut out our view, and to avoid it, we turned away to the left, crossing a high and heavily timbered hill, on the eastern slope of which we camped, with pleasant anticipations of returning to the land of the living on the morrow. But after supper Alee was seen stealing quietly away from campaint being all the evening did not pass as

pa in (not to say meagre) diet and constant hard exercise, ensure that.

About three miles from camp next morning we found ourselves on the benches overlooking the long-sought river, and it became a perfect scamper who should reach it first—mal de raquette was forgotten, (though it is generally a pretty attentive companion) and the half-starved dogs staggering along after us, joined in the enthusiasm with the most feeble of barks. But the effort was too much for them, and one more faithful servant dropped in his traces a few yards from the river bank. Ascending the river a couple of miles we came to the "Lac à Brûlé" where the ice was almost glare, the snow being blown off by the furious winds that rush down through the Pass like a funnel; and we travelled without snow-shoes the first time for three and a half months. The eight miles up this lake was soon got over, and arriving at the Fiddle River Depôt (built by Mr. Moberly) we were cordially received by the Iroquois Indians camped there. An immense dish of boiled rabbits set before us disappeared in quick order, and after this good meal we were more reconciled to hear the Company's post at Jasper House was abandoned. What was now to be done? We were at least ten days' journey from Lake St. Ann's, the nearest post





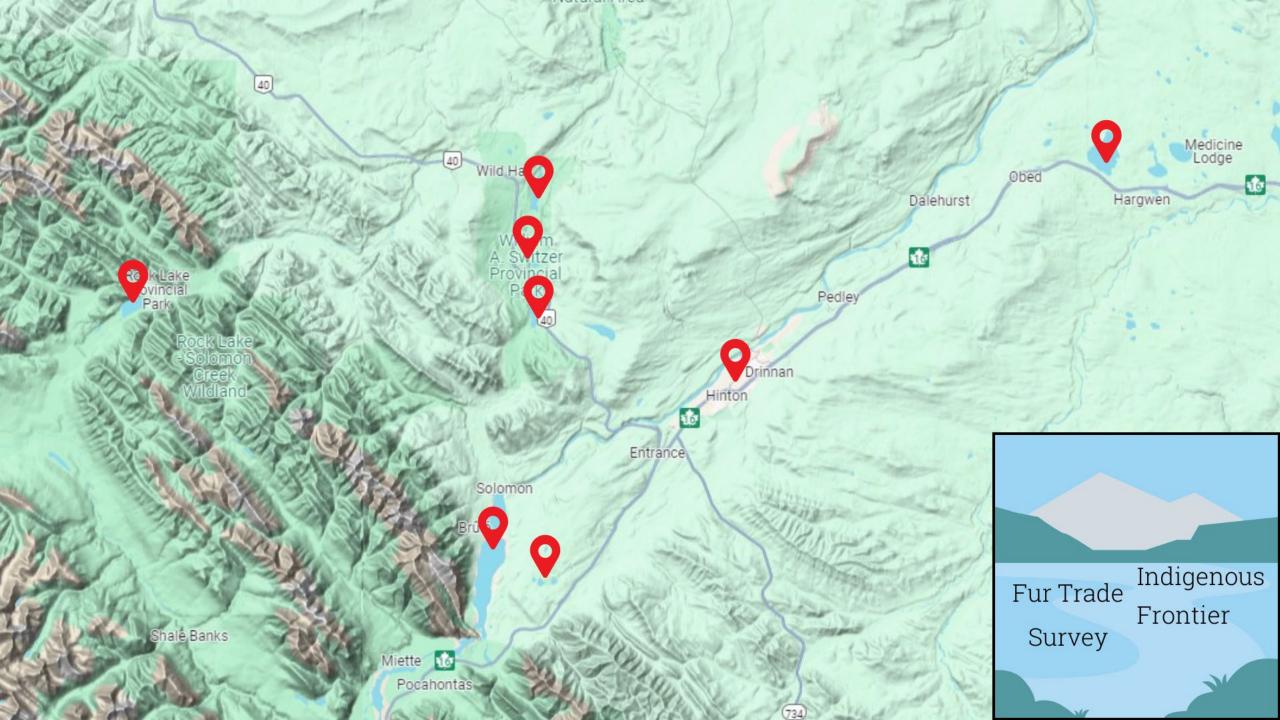




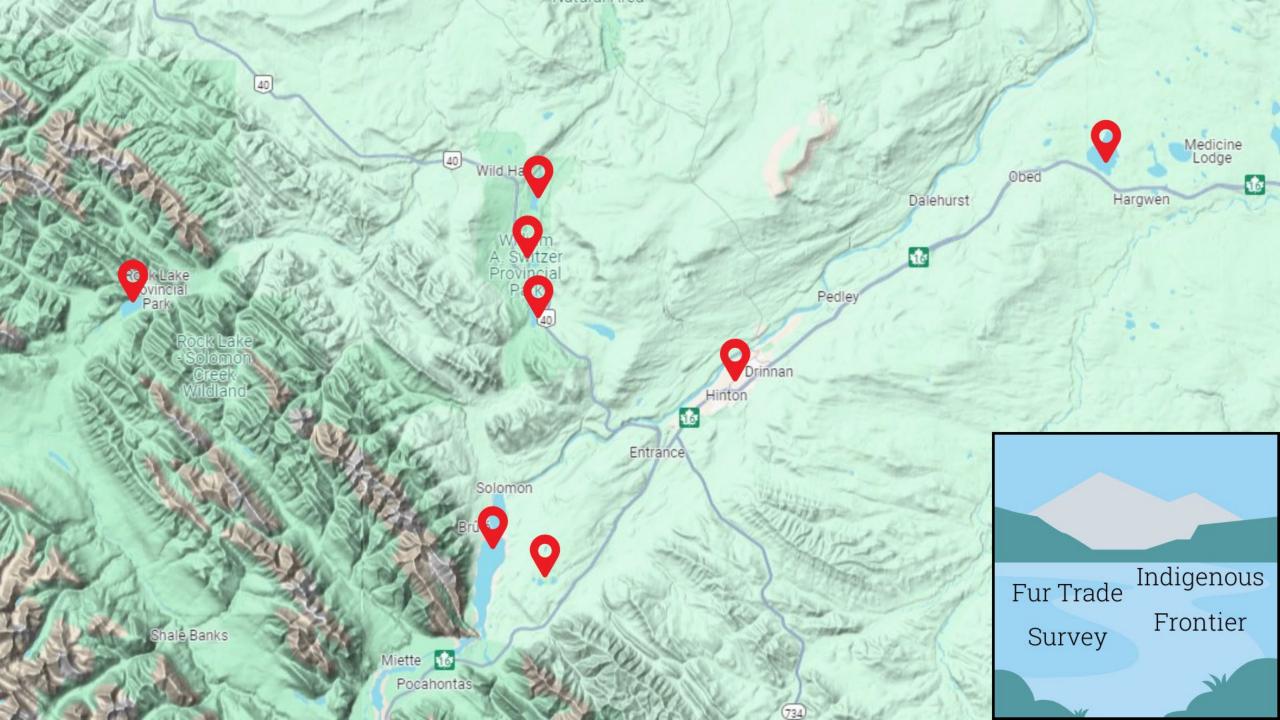




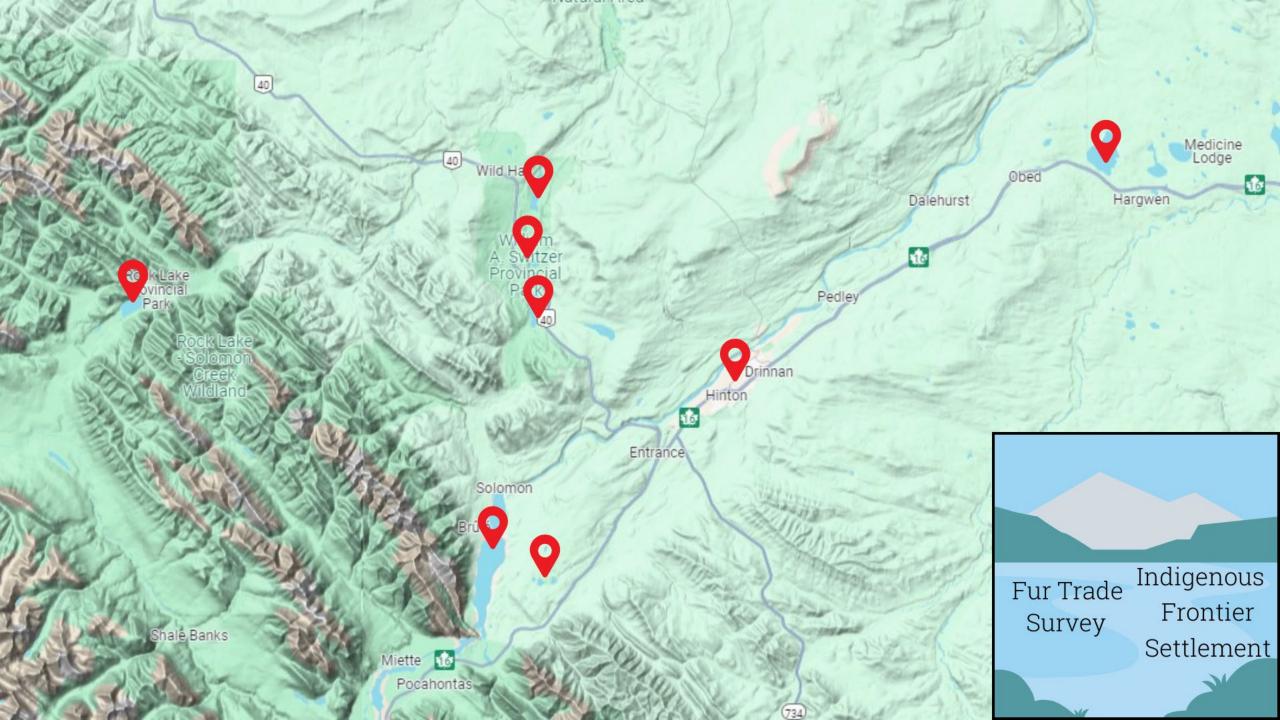






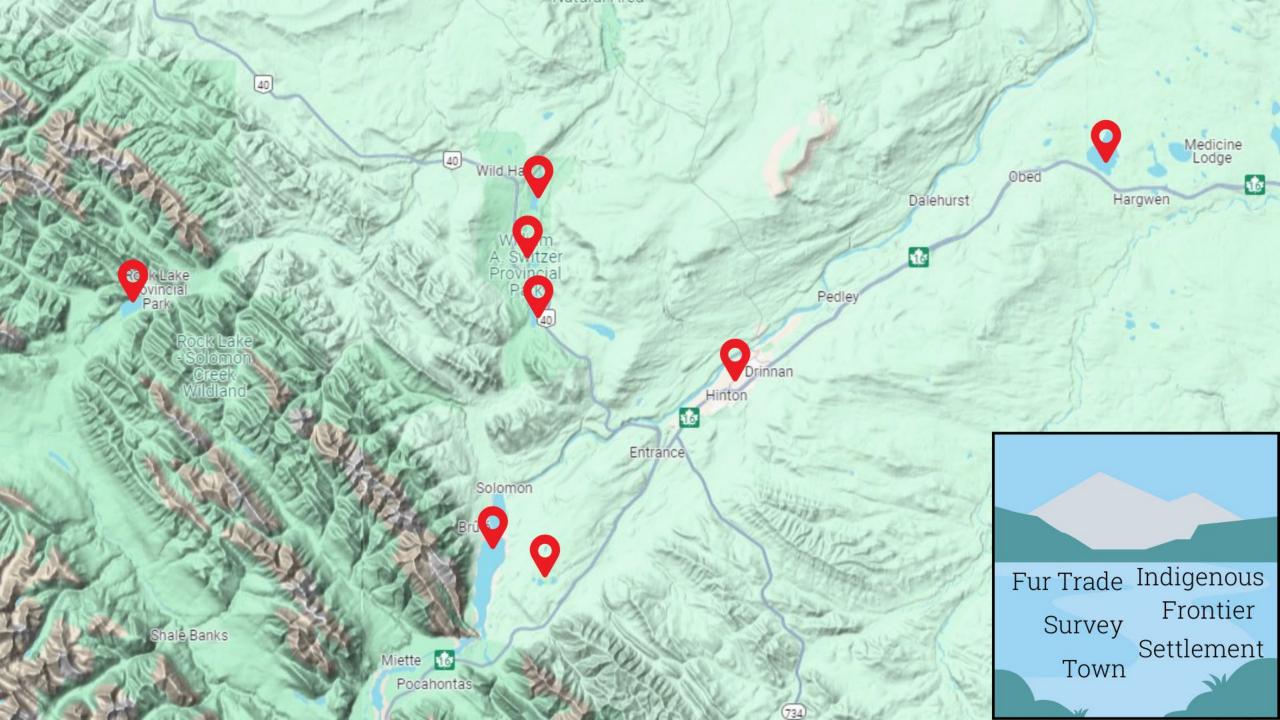


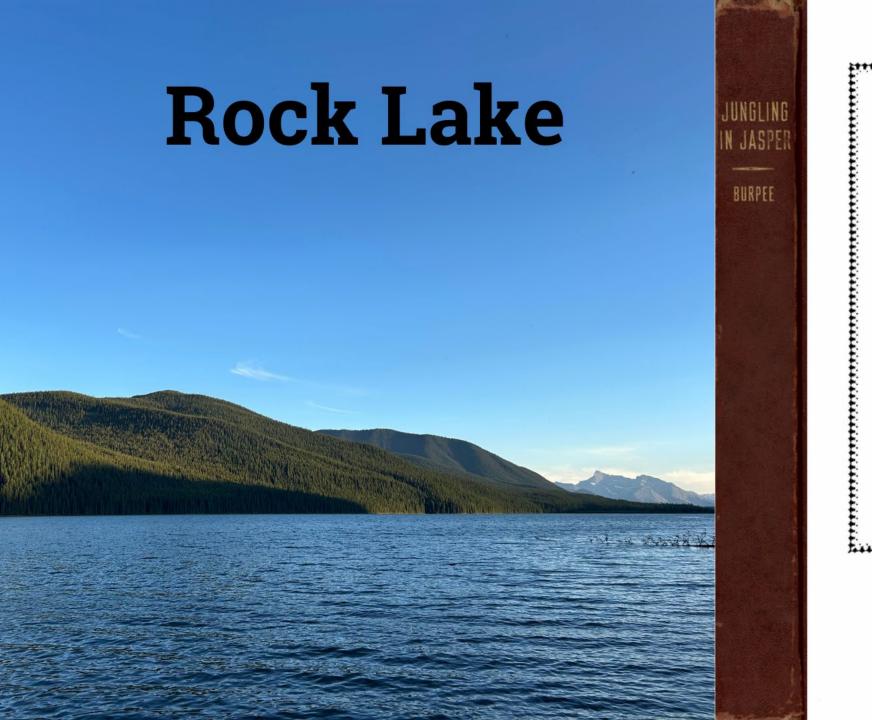






HINTON BEAR conson





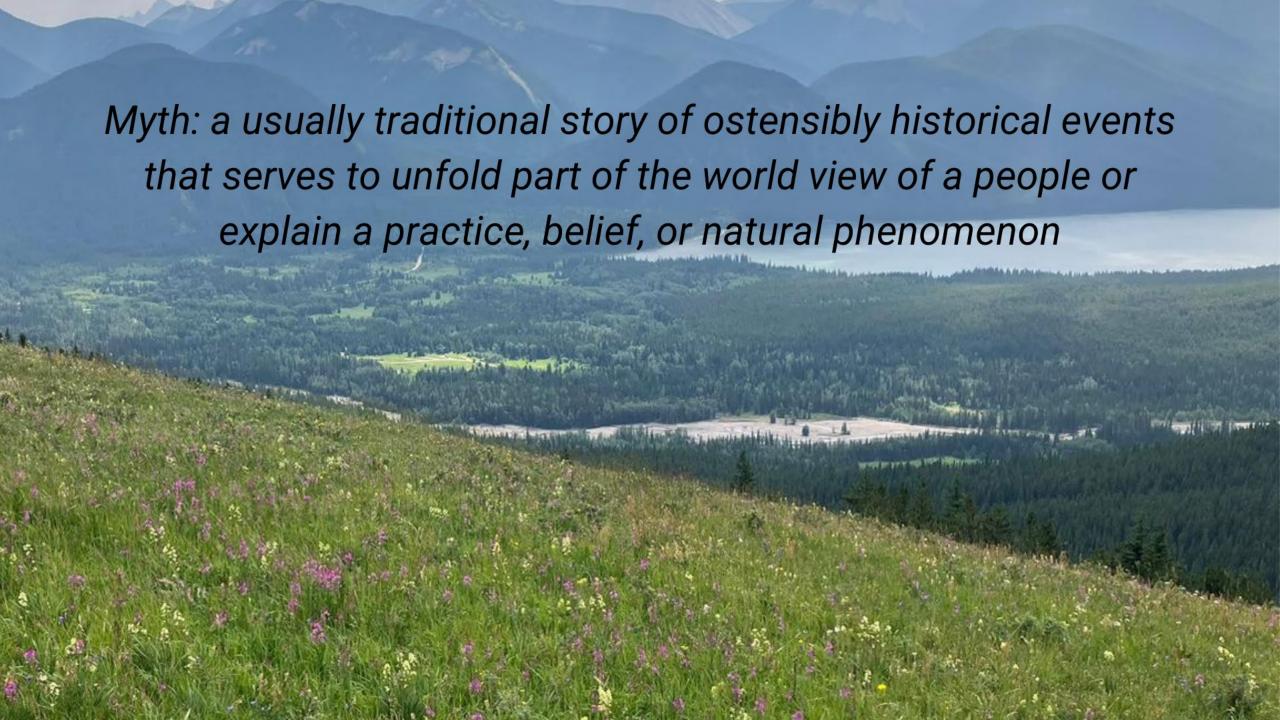
### JUNGLING IN JASPER

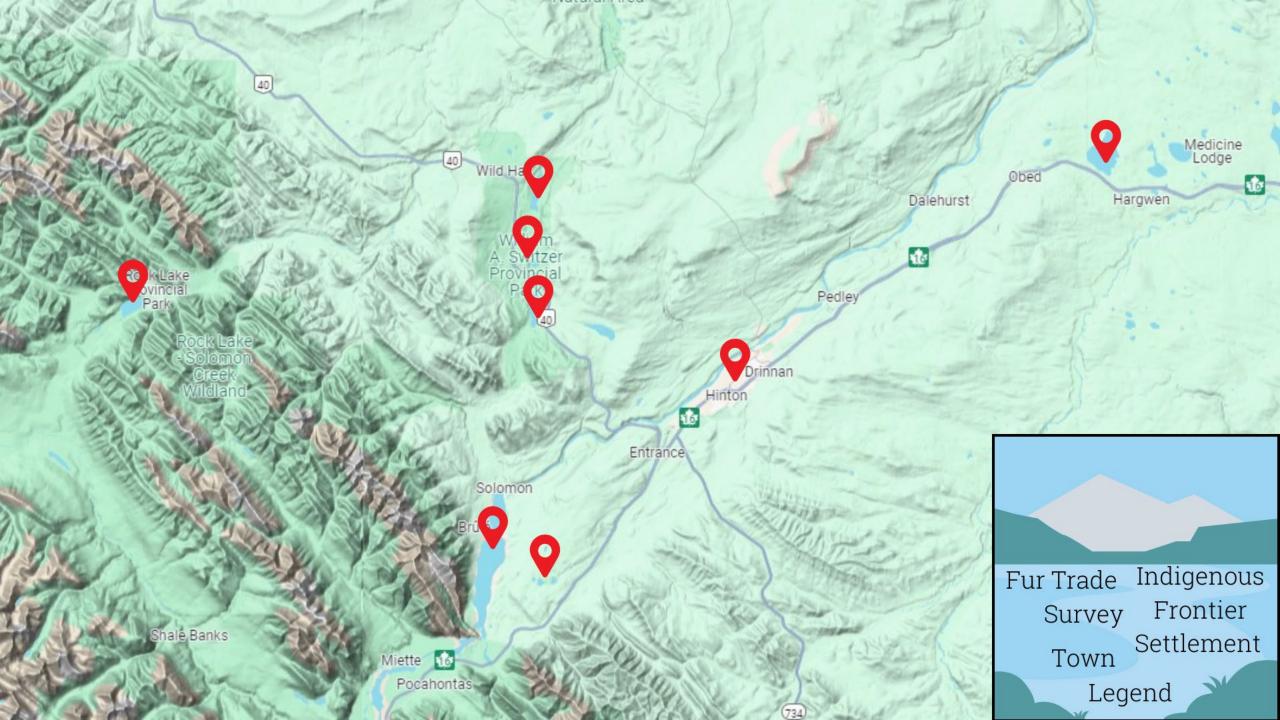
3Y

LAWRENCE J. BURPEE



THE GRAPHIC PUBLISHERS LIMITED OTTAWA, CANADA







# Thank you

## Resources

- A Hard Road To Travel by Murphy et.al
- History of Canada in 10 Maps by Adam Sholts
- History of Hinton by Hazel Hart
- Manitoba Historical Society Archives
- Over 2000 Place Names of Alberta by Eric Holmgren
- Through an unknown country: the Jarvis-Hanington winter expedition through the northern rockies, 1874 1875 by Murtha, Helm, and Sandford
- Jungling in Jasper by Lawrence Burpee

- Reports on Surveys and Preliminary
   Operations on the Canadian Pacific
   Railway by Sandford Fleming
- Mountain Legacy Project: https://mountainlegacy.ca/
- Canadian Heritage Rivers: https://www.chrs.ca/en/heritage-riverstory-maps

## **Photos**

- Sophie Allain
- Coal Branch Archives

- Trent Enzol
- Rachel Imrie
- Josie Middleton

