

And more

- * **Odegaard Falls** - The trailhead to this remote alpine falls is just off Nusatsum Road, deep in the back country. A wonderful view in the summer, great ice climbing in the winter!
- * **Walker Park Hiking/Biking Trails** - Created for horseback riding, these gentle trails lead through an old growth forest. Trailhead is located off Walker Island Road midway between Bella Coola & Hagensborg.
- * **Rock Climbing** - Rock Climbing – Sheer granite cliffs offer outcroppings & cliff faces with pitches from 5.8 - 5.11 plus.
- * **Heli-Sports** - From unparalleled biking and hiking in summer to deep, untracked powder in winter, all just a five minute helicopter ride away.
- * **Flightseeing** - Wing your way over the Monarch Ice fields and Hunlen Falls. View the mountain goats at eye level, then drop down for a dip in the isolated wilderness hot springs.
- * **Norwegian Heritage House & Grave Yard** - For 100 years this sturdy log home has preserved the memories of the Norwegian settlers, the nearby graveyard their final resting place.

Events:

- * **Farmer's Market** - Held every Sunday throughout the summer, enjoy homemade preserves, baking, organic produce, and honey from bees feasting on wild flowers. Local craftsmen sell everything from quilts to jewelry, crafts and woodcarvings.
- * **Discovery Coast Music Festival** - Hosted mid July, well known musicians from across Canada entertain with blues, jazz, country, classical and contemporary. In addition to music, this popular family event draws food vendors and children's entertainers, making it the high point of the summer.
- * **Fall Fair/Loggers Sports** - Beginning with the First Nations trade of cedar goods, ooligan grease and soap berries, to today's modern garden produce and harvesting, the entire valley celebrates their cultural heritage on the Labour Day weekend at the end of summer.

The Freedom Road

From Bella Coola to Anahim Lake, this engineering feat dubbed The Freedom Road, was accomplished by locals when the provincial government refused to tackle the daunting task. In 1952 locals got together with \$250, donated dynamite, loaned equipment and volunteers to carve a road across the granite faces of the Coastal Mountains. Sheer determination and backbreaking work, encouraged by small financial contributions from the province, saw the valley linked by road to the outside world just one year later, connecting with Highway 20 on the Chilcotin Plateau.



It was just two ruts, had 18% grades in parts, and crawled around 11 switchbacks, but it was a vast improvement over the former access, the Precipice Trail. Two years later, in 1955, the provincial government held a ribbon cutting ceremony. The dignitaries of the day called it remarkable. It still is. Today, the grades have been lowered to no more than 11%, and the two ruts have been upgraded to well kept, hard surfaced gravel, allowing two vehicles to pass on most of it. Known locally as The Hill, almost all freight is brought into the Valley via Highway 20. Visitors including those driving Class A motor homes navigate the 11 switchbacks into and out of this hidden Valley.

Photo courtesy of British Columbia Central Coast Archives