

## Dewdney Trail



Richie Mann on Dewdney Trail - 2014

### Heritage Register - Site

- 1) **Historical Name:** Dewdney Trail
- 2) **Common Name:**
- 3) **Location:** a short portion of the Dewdney Trail passes through the south east corner of Rossland
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1865

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Dewdney Trail is of historic significance as it was the first engineered land transportation corridor in the Rossland area and was used by early prospectors to access the Rossland Range with its rich ore deposits.

## HISTORY

In 1865, The Dewdney Trail was extended from Rock Creek to the East Kootenays to provide a direct Canadian supply route from the Pacific Coast to the gold rush camps on Wild Horse Creek. The Trail crossed the height of land just south of the site of Rossland and then followed the Trail Creek almost to its mouth on the Columbia River before veering east along the Columbia River. The gold rush in the East Kootenays was of short duration and the Trail was not maintained thereafter but was used by travellers into the Kootenays. The prospectors who made the first claims on Red Mountain, Morris and Bourgeois, used the Dewdney Trail to access the Lily May claim in 1890 which was located beside the Trail. It was from this claim that they saw the red ore on Red Mountain and decided to investigate. Their 5 claims were the beginning of the Rossland Mining era!



Construction of the Dewdney Trail near Rossland c 1865



A couple walk the Dewdney Trail between Rossland and Trail in 1900