

Barbour Falls and Nesbitt's Knee Falls Trails

These two waterfalls are accessed by short hiking trails, and provide interesting diversions on the way to or from Kinuseo Falls and Monkman Provincial Park. Foehn Wall is a short trail to a beginner rock climbing area and cave 500 m past Nesbitt's Knee parking.

Directions to the Trailheads

To reach the trailheads, drive towards Kinuseo Falls on Hwy 52 E. Turn right 14 km from Tumbler Ridge onto the gravel Kinuseo Falls Road. At km 9, after the road crosses the Murray River, there is a junction. Continue left, staying on the Kinuseo Falls Road. 21 km along this road (35 km from Tumbler Ridge) there is a signed turnoff to the left. Take this turnoff onto Barbour Creek Rd, which crosses the Murray River after 500 m and forks after another 500 m. The right road leads to Barbour Falls; the left road leads to Nesbitt's Knee Falls. If you are returning from Kinuseo Falls, the signed turnoff is on your right, 29 km from the falls.

Barbour Falls (#25)

Time/Distance: 1 hour/2 km return
Rating: Easy ●

The trailhead for Barbour Falls is 2.3 km from the fork mentioned above, with the parking lot on the left side of the road soon after the road crosses the bridge over Barbour Creek. This parking lot was built for WNMS in 2006 by Hillsborough Resources, a coal mining company that was active in the area.

The 800 m long trail is mostly flat, leading through forest, and over a small creek, until it reaches a viewpoint just downstream from the falls. Soon after crossing the small creek there is a short signposted side trail down to a nice pool below a smaller falls surrounded by cliffs. At the end of the trail, Barbour Creek plummets into a large pool after forcing its way through a gap in a resistant layer of bedrock. In spring a number of smaller falls also drop into Barbour Canyon near this point.

Caution: Drop-offs are steep and there are no barricades. It is a very steep scramble down to the creek level, and not generally recommended.

In winter it is sometimes possible to ski or snowshoe up Barbour Canyon to near the base of the falls.

Harry Barbour served as a forest ranger in the area for over 25 years.

Nesbitt's Knee Falls (#26)

Time/Distance: 1-2 hours/3 km return
Rating: Moderate ■

The trailhead for Nesbitt's Knee Falls is 3.6 km from the fork mentioned above. 1.5 km along this road there is a bridge across Barbour Creek (the start of the Barbour Falls ski trip). After 3.5 km Waterfall Creek is crossed, and the parking lot is 100 m further on the right. It was also constructed by Hillsborough Resources in 2006.

The trail is just under 1.5 km long. It climbs for the first 50 m to the top of a ridge, then becomes mostly flat, leading along the edge of the valley through pine forest. After a few hundred metres the first views of the falls and canyon are seen. The rock layers here are flat, and are in the centre of a large syncline or trough in the strata. The views are most impressive in spring, when the falls are at their most powerful and the leaves are not out on the aspen. Once you reach the cliff, it is possible to scramble steeply down beside it to the base of the falls. Ropes have been installed to hold onto, but be aware that the rocks are slippery, the water is very cold, and the pool is only waist deep. The trail continues a few hundred metres further, briefly joining an old exploration road, then ending at a pleasant spot beside the creek above the falls.

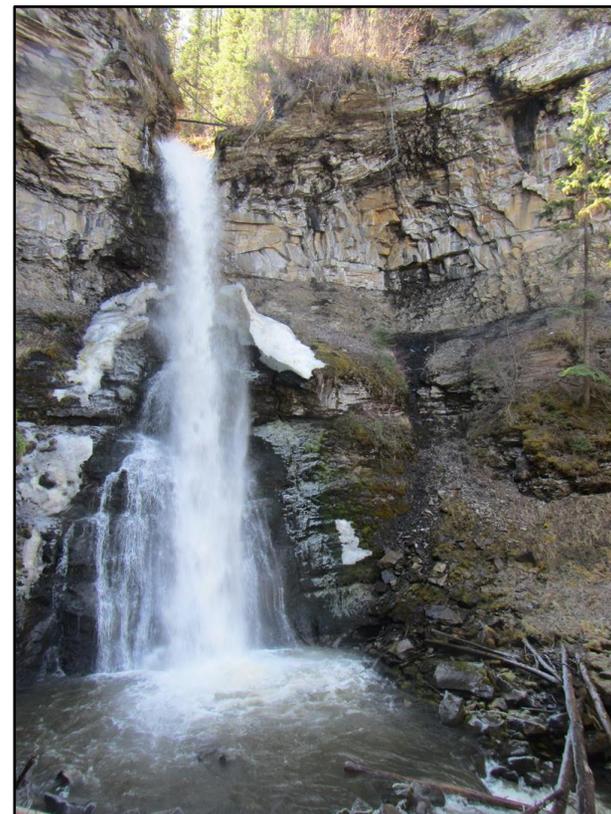
Caution: getting carried off by the waters of the creek here will lead you into a chute and then over the falls. Views of the canyon are airy. There are no barricades above enormous drop-offs.

Don Nesbitt was a legendary local resident.

The Foehn Wall (26A) is 500 metres past the Nesbitt's Knee Falls parking on the right. This moderate 1 km loop trail leads to a beginner climbing area, as well as a cave. The trail is maintained by the North East Climbing Association (NECA).

#25 & #26

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#25 Barbour Falls

Rating: Easy ●

Time: 1 hour

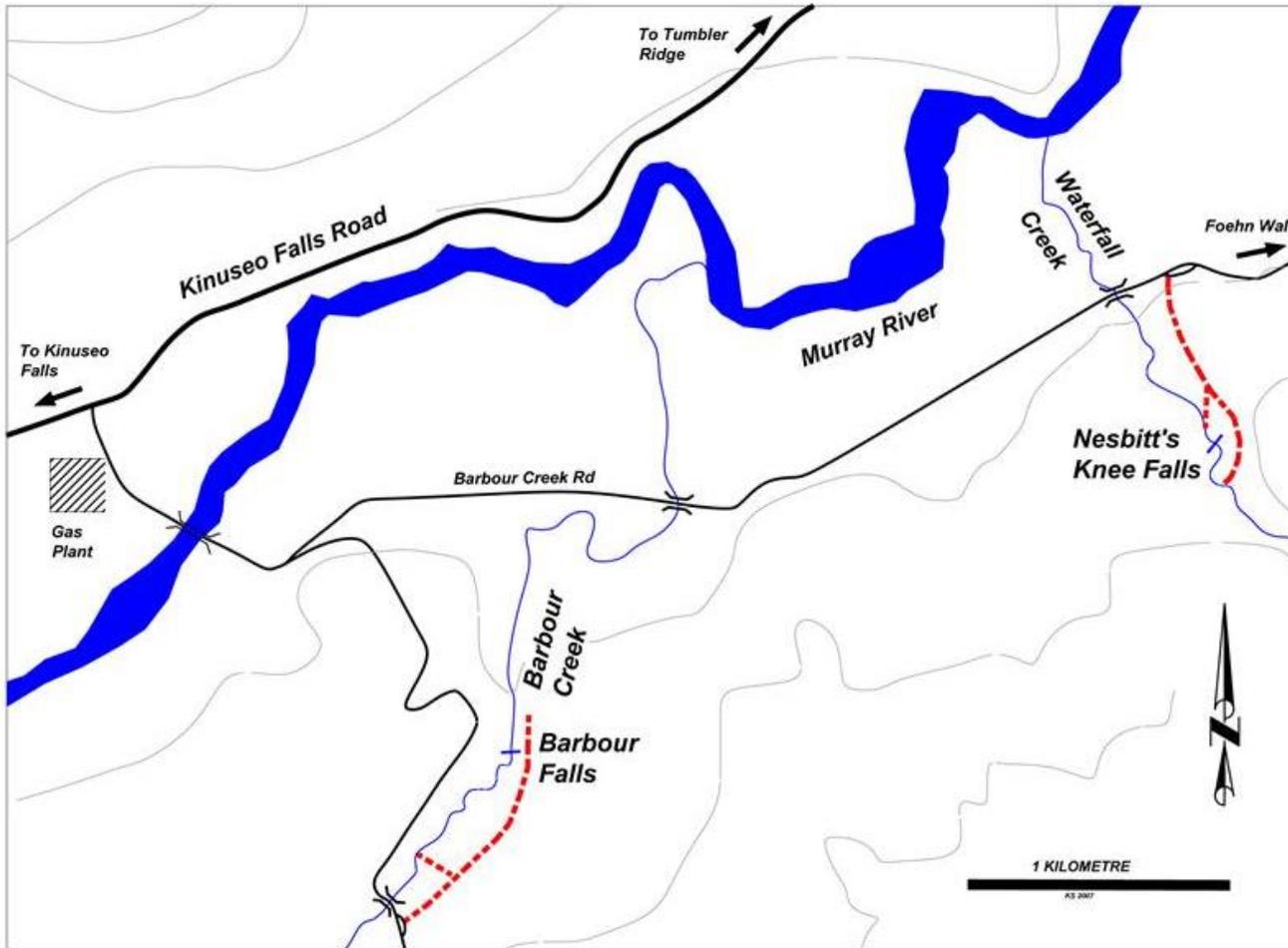


#26 Nesbitt's Knee Falls

Rating: Moderate ■

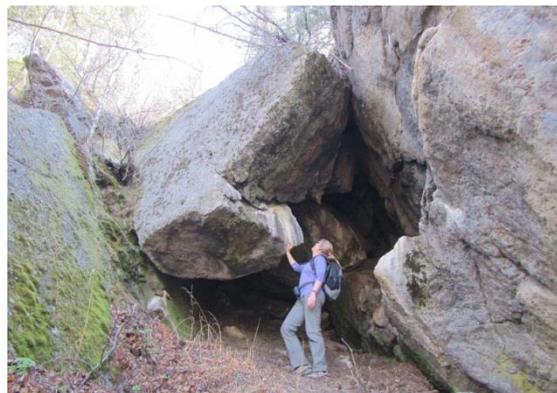
Time: 1-2 hours



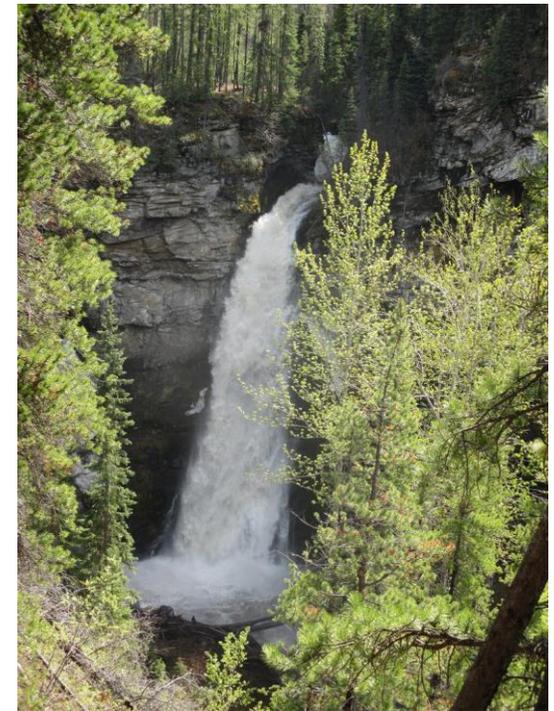


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- *These routes are in bear country; travel in groups and make noise*
- *Please pack out what you packed in*



Cave at Foehn Wall



Barbour Falls

For more information, contact:

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Photo Gallery website: www.wnms.ca

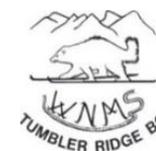
Tumbler Ridge Visitor Centre
(250) 242-3123

Tourism website: www.TumblerRidge.ca

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