

NORTH Canol Road



③ Dragon Lake – km 338

This is one of the best spots along the road to catch jackfish, trout and grayling. Robert Riddell trapped in this area around 1898. Ten years later, he guided Joseph Keele of the Geological Survey of Canada as he mapped the headwaters of the Pelly, Ross and Gravel rivers.



Camping is available at Dragon Lake. This site is not maintained; please leave no trace.



The Ross River suspension bridge was built to carry the 10 cm steel Canol oil pipeline over the Pelly River.

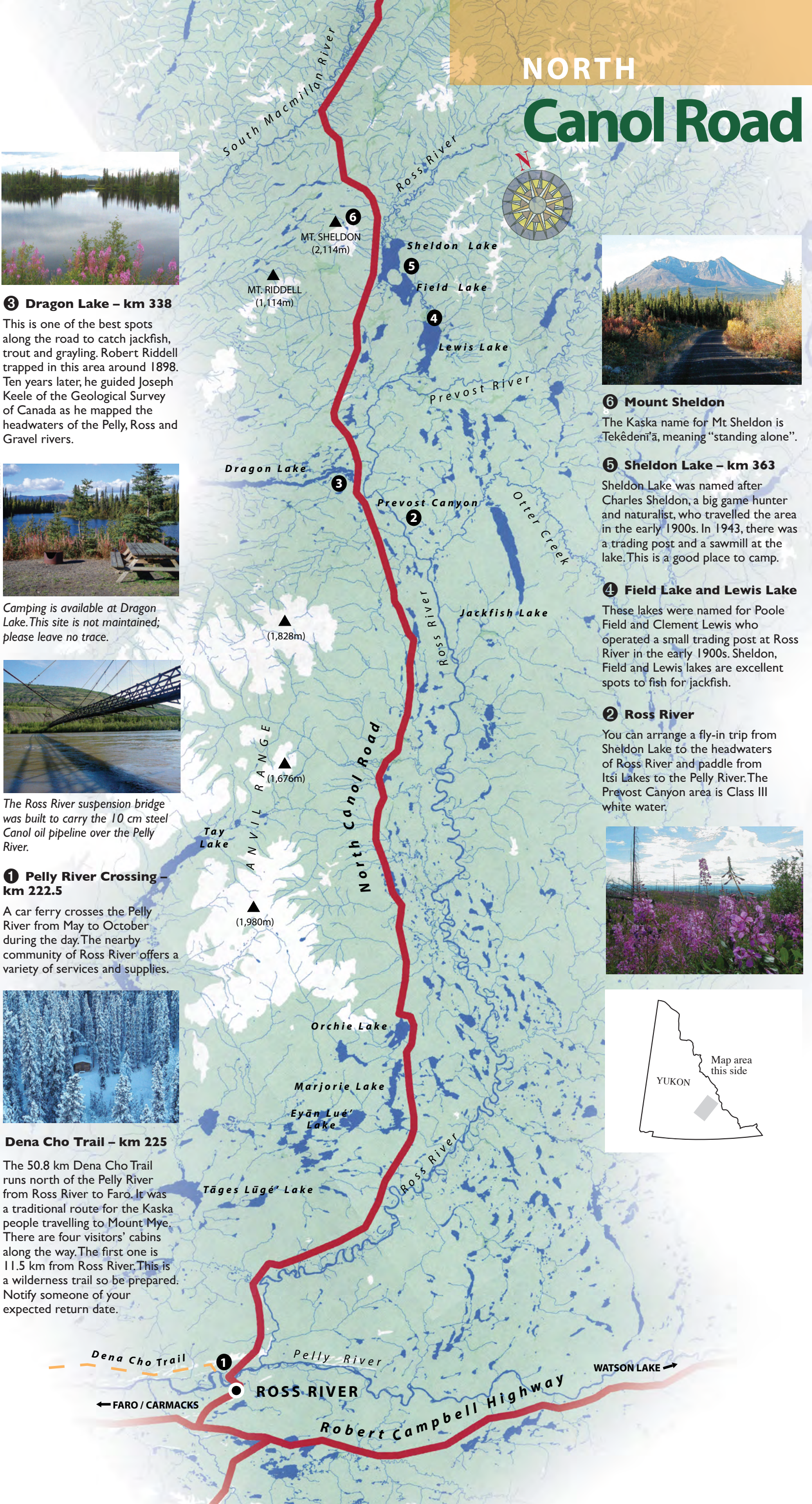
① Pelly River Crossing – km 222.5

A car ferry crosses the Pelly River from May to October during the day. The nearby community of Ross River offers a variety of services and supplies.



Dena Cho Trail – km 225

The 50.8 km Dena Cho Trail runs north of the Pelly River from Ross River to Faro. It was a traditional route for the Kaska people travelling to Mount Mye. There are four visitors' cabins along the way. The first one is 11.5 km from Ross River. This is a wilderness trail so be prepared. Notify someone of your expected return date.



⑥ Mount Sheldon

The Kaska name for Mt Sheldon is Tekêden'ā, meaning "standing alone".

⑤ Sheldon Lake – km 363

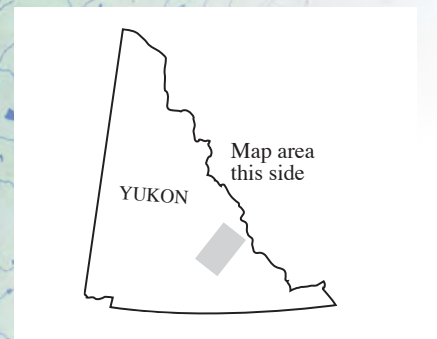
Sheldon Lake was named after Charles Sheldon, a big game hunter and naturalist, who travelled the area in the early 1900s. In 1943, there was a trading post and a sawmill at the lake. This is a good place to camp.

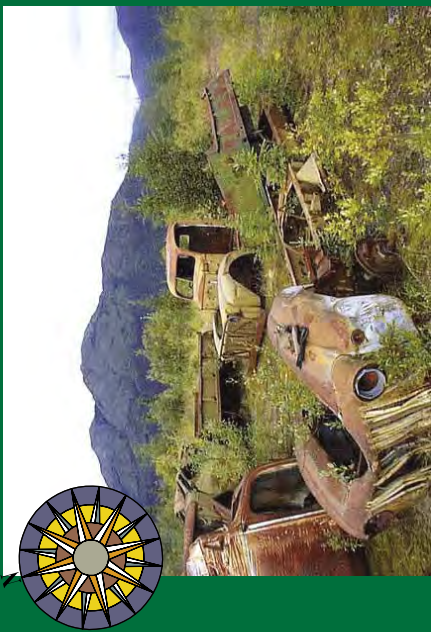
④ Field Lake and Lewis Lake

These lakes were named for Poole Field and Clement Lewis who operated a small trading post at Ross River in the early 1900s. Sheldon, Field and Lewis lakes are excellent spots to fish for jackfish.

② Ross River

You can arrange a fly-in trip from Sheldon Lake to the headwaters of Ross River and paddle from Itsi Lakes to the Pelly River. The Prevoist Canyon area is Class III white water.





In 1943, the U.S. Army and their contractors built the Canol Road as a “tote” or supply road for the Canol, or Canadian Oil pipeline. This short-lived oil pipeline was built to supply a secure, domestic source of fuel. It ran from Camp Canol, near the oil wells at Norman Wells, Northwest Territories, to Johnsons Crossing, Yukon. The North Canol is a seasonal road that provides access to the wilderness of eastern central Yukon and the Canol Road Heritage Trail. The road passes by several big lakes and the spectacular Itsi Range of mountains. You will be travelling through the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena.

The North Canol stretches 232 km from Ross River to Macmillan Pass at the Northwest Territories border. It is very steep and narrow in places. The road can be slippery when it rains and you are advised to pull over until the surface dries. There are *no services* along the North Canol.



Hess Mountains

9 South Macmillan River

The Macmillan River was named by Robert Campbell for Hudson’s Bay Company Chief Factor James McMillan. The river is an exciting trip for intermediate whitewater paddlers. You may see eagles, geese, loons and a variety of ducks.

8 Pump Station #7 and Elliot Maintenance Camp – km 387

This is the site of a camp and a pump station for the Canol pipeline. Each station had storage tanks, barracks, equipment buildings and a power house. The mobile “wanagon” on the east side of the road was used to house the construction crew.

7 Boulder Creek Relay Station – km 387

The U.S. Army returned in 1948 to remove their Canol pipeline assets. The remaining equipment and buildings were salvaged by locals until the Canadian government cleaned up the sites between 1974 and 1976.



Itsi Range



A North of this point the creeks are heavily mineralized.



13 Keele Peak (not visible from the road)

This is Yukon’s highest peak outside of Kluane National Park and Reserve. The glaciated summit is a popular site for experienced climbers.



Keele Peak

12 Yukon/ Northwest Territories Border – km 462.5

The 355 km Canol Road Heritage Trail extends from here to Norman Wells, Northwest Territories where most people start their hike. It is a difficult trail as many of the bridges are washed out.



NWT border

11 Army Vehicle Dump – km 437

These artifacts are protected under Yukon’s Historic Resources Act.



10 Itsi Creek – km 408.6

Itsi is from the Kaska word lhts’ı, meaning wind. You may see mountain goats if you hike into the Itsi Range highlands.



Photos by Doug Bishop except as noted.
For more information contact Historic Sites at (867) 667-3458