

As will be seen from the map, the lake shores rise rapidly, and few points is there land which will ever be fit for cultivation; but the slopes are steep, they are covered with the finest merchantable timber to be seen anywhere, and practically all the land adjoining the lake has now been taken up as timber limits. The timber is principally fir, with some hemlock and a sprinkling of white pine which usually occurs in small bunches. The Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company has surveyed a line of railway to the lower end of the lake, so that when it is built there will be no difficulty in getting logs to salt water. There are no dangers to navigation on the lake, the shores being steep, and the four small islands easily seen.

There are two main passes on either side of the lake; Ash Pass on the north, at the base of Thunder Mountain, leads to Ash River and the Alberni Valley; it is only 500 feet above the lake. On the south side, towards the upper end, is Taylor Pass to Taylor River which flows into Sproat Lake. The pass is 1,800 feet above the lake level. At Indian Point are some very old Indian rock carvings which seem to represent a mythical fish.



A Mythical Fish Carved on the Rock, Great Central Lake.

Following Drinkwater Creek from the head of the lake is a trail to the Big Interior Mine. The trail has a gradual ascent, being steeper towards the end, till just below the falls from Della Lake a height of 1,500 feet above Great Central Lake is reached. Beyond this point the narrow valley rises rapidly till at a mile further on the head of the pass to Buttle Lake is reached at an altitude of 4,570 feet above the sea. At the falls referred to, the trail turns to the left and rises up a nearly precipitous mountain side, which is only made accessible by the bushes which cling to it; the height of the bluff is 2,075 feet above the trail below. When the top is reached the view will well repay the exertion of getting there.

Della Lake lies like an emerald surrounded by lofty and rugged mountains, its mirror-like surface reflecting back their wild beauty. The waters of the lake find their way through a cleft in the rock and shoot out over the top of the bluff, falling a thousand feet before reaching the rocks below. Following with the eye the narrow