**Don’t be fooled BY THE Other Harrison Hot springs**

A friend of mine had told me about some hot springs in the Harrison Lake area that was a “local secret”. I knew right away that I had to find them so I messaged my cousin Garrett who lives in Harrison and asked him if he knew of the place.

He had been there a few times and agreed to take me but since he traded his 4X4 in for a car I would have to drive. The road is known to be sketchy with washed out areas and I was not sure how my 2014 Toyota Rav 4 would fare but I decided to take a chance.

The farther we got the worse the conditions; I could see why there were only ATV’s and 4x4’s on the road.

▲ The “Other Harrison Hot Springs” that the locals like to frequent.

After driving about 40 minutes up the Clear Creek Road through the worst potholes, I was about ready to call it a day. Confident that we were almost there, Garrett convinced me to drive another 5 minutes; sure enough the hot springs were around the next corner.

 It was a Saturday and the place which didn’t have a lot of parking in the first place was full. We found a spot by the road to pull over and walked along the boardwalk to the source of the springs.

I must admit, it wasn’t the backwoods natural hot springs that I had envisioned. Apparently at one time small pools were made by logs but not anymore.

The logs had rotted and had been replaced by old fiberglass hot tubs that the locals had brought up. I could see where the source came out of the earth and from there a green rubber garden hose collected it and diverted it into one of the tubs where a young woman was enjoying a beer. In front of the tub was a large trashcan full of empty beer cans, the lucky ones that made it into the trash, many others were scattered by the side of the road and in the bush. They had also built a rickety change room out of construction scraps.

I could hear Dueling Banjoes play in my head as I imagined a group of rednecks flying up the dirt road in their pickup truck and smashing their empty beer cans on their foreheads before throwing them out the window. This was not a hot springs, it was a hick springs. Needless to say I didn’t stay long.

As we carefully navigated the potholes on the long slow drive back to the main road I suggested to my cousin that he only takes a girlfriend there if he’s hoping she will dump him. When he showed me the pools at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort later than day I told him to bring the girl he wants to marry there.

Thankfully there were lots of cool little waterfalls along the side of the road so the drive wasn’t a total bust.

▲ One of the small waterfalls along the Clear Creek Road

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**HOW TO GET THERE** – From Kamloops drive past Hope and between Hope and Bridal Falls turn right at the signs for Harrison. Follow the Agassiz-Rosedale Highway in Harrison Hot Springs and then turn right onto Lillooet Avenue. Follow it as it turns into Rockwell Drive and goes past Sasquatch Provincial Park. The road turns to gravel and transitions into the Harrison East Forest Service Road follow it until you come to the Clear Creek Service Road and drive up this road to the 35 kilometer mark and you will see the hot springs from the road on your right.