

## **Jyväskylä's landmark the Vesilinna observation and water tower**

Jyväskylä's landmark is the Vesilinna observation and water tower on the Harju ridge, which is part of the Central Finland terminal moraine. The ice sheet retreat stopped in 9000 BC for a hundred years forming the Central Finland lateral ridge. Had the Vesilinna building existed at that time, it would have been like a lighthouse in the middle of an open lake.

The Vesilinna observation and water tower, designed by City architect Olavi Kivimaa, was completed in 1953. Jyväskylä's Swedish twin city Eskilstuna donated a clock on each side of the Vesilinna water tower. Thus, a clock became the symbol of the friendship between Eskilstuna and Jyväskylä.

The first Jyväskylä Rally of the Thousand Lakes, today known as WRC Neste Oil Rally Finland, took place on the Harju ridge in the year 1951.

The Harju ridge is a significant green area, the lungs of the city. There is also a sports ground.

The Vesilinna observation and water tower was listed as a protected building in 2000, and the very same year Vesilinna Restaurant was opened on the roof of the cistern. Two years later the Natural History Museum of Central Finland was opened on the first floor of the Vesilinna water tower building.

