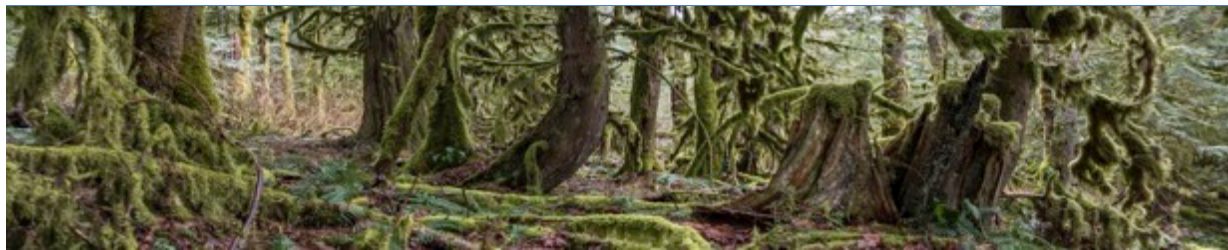


## THE TRIPPER



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club C/O 381 Cedar St., Cultus Lake B.C. V2R 4Z1

## TRIP REPORT

## HAYWARD LAKE RESERVOIR TRAIL - FEB. 25



Still can't hike around Hayward Lake due to ongoing Ruskin Dam seismic upgrades. I believe upgrades will be completed sometime in 2018. Let's hope then that we'll be able to hike around the lake. Until now one could hike to Hairsine Inlet where the floating bridge has been removed. But, not today. Winter had done its damage with many fallen trees and damaged foot bridges. We did get as far as the canoe landing. The trail was closed beyond. Closed too was the side trail to Steelhead Falls. Fortunately trail repairs were under way. Guestimate was we hiked about 12 km return.



Hayward is a nice year round trail. There is little elevation gain and the few upsy downsy gullies are not too difficult for beginner hikers. Plus the silence of the all forest hike is meditative. What helps is that motorboats are not allowed on the lake.

Aside from winter's impact there is nothing to report about this familiar hike. Except that in the midst of the green forest floor were the very sporadic hoar frost clumps on fallen twigs and branches. Many were flowerlike a rare testimony to the delicate side of creation.



Cathy and Willie S, Bev H, Barb H, Sharon R and I posed for our group shot at a mystery site. Perhaps a memorial to a lost friend or loved one.

Refreshments afterward was at the Lepp Farm Market on the corner of the Abbotsford-Mission Highway and Clayburn Road. Very casual. You have to get your own coffee, which was pretty good flavour. But, the food was in a word, awesome.

- Dave Ortis

## TCT; CENTRE CREEK – MARCH 1

This is a long fairly level broad FSR/trail until 2 km from Chilliwack Lake where it climbs steeply for 100m above a former landslide (4.5km in). It offered open views of Williams Ridge and Goat Peak.



At 10:00am we started snowshoeing, having driven about a km in from the Riverside Campsite by Chilliwack Lake Rd. We parked by the last of the ponds for salmon and trout habitat and by the big green sign titled: "Salmon Habitat Restoration Project". In half an hour we came to the Lindeman / Slesse junction. We stayed left, following the many little yellow square TCT markers in the trees. There were 2 large open meadows with good views to our north.

For the most part this trail followed alongside Chilliwack River, sometimes ambling away from it but then returning. At 4.5 km the climb began in the forest with sections of no snow. We got to the highest point on the trail and called it quits. It would've been another 2 km to the lake, all downhill. Lunch and then back by 3:00ish. We had beer & tacos at the Bistro in Garrison.

Stats: 14.32 km / 382m gain / 695m high



Thanks guys for coming: Steve C, Vic D, John U, Harry W & Joce T

## CHADSEY LAKE – MARCH 8



We do this hike several times every year but this was the first time we hiked almost the whole trail in the snow. Although we had snowshoes on our packs we did not put them on. The powder snow stayed compact under our feet. It also helped that a lone snowshoer was ahead of us.

We started hiking at the west trailhead at 9:00am. There was a bit of a dip to the first bridge, then up again and a second bigger dip to the next bridge, then a steady climb through beautiful second growth forest till about an hour later we came to the FSR. There we turned right for a wee bit, watching for the trail to the left that cut back into the forest. More broad switchbacks led us to the fern gully where giant trees crisscrossed on the slope we were hiking on. This involved a few unders and overs and even a small section of rope. A tiny little older bridge and then we were back in the forest again and soon at a viewpoint overlooking the Fraser River and Dewdney area. But the view wasn't ours till we were going back 1.5 hours later. From the viewpoint we

## VEDDER MT. – MARCH 15

This is a familiar trail to us but again (as with Chadsey Lake the week prior); it's the first time we ever did it in the snow. We could not drive all the way up because of the snow + a truck was parked right in the middle of the road + there were 4 spots where big branches had fallen across the way. But it only took 15 minutes to walk to our usual parking spot.



hiked high above another gully, passing a rocky bluff dangling with icicles. At the end of the gully a short curved path soon led us to Chadsey Creek. This third wood bridge + stairs are only a few years old. A bit of a steep section (stay left) and past the fallen giants and soon we were at the lake.

We were greeted with blue sky! Didn't expect that after a morning of off & on drizzles. Cloud shadows flowed across the frozen lake while sun highlighted the snow cloaked evergreens and bare trees cast sharp black shadows on the perfect sheet of snow. The friendly snowshoer took our group shot. When we got up to go Judy realized why her foam sitting pad was perforated and things "felt funny" down there: she'd been sitting on a broken branch sticking straight up about a half an inch above the snow.



By 2:30pm we were back at the vehicles. The morning's snow and ice on the road had disappeared. Three of us went to Starbucks where we met up with John Laf. It was good to see him again.

Stats: 10.2 km / 670m gain / 667m high

Participants: Terry B, Debbie H, Judy P + Case & **Joce T.**



At 9:15am, cloaked in full rain gear, we set out on old crunchy snow. Within a half an hour we got to the trailhead where the wire/log barrier and two signs mark the way. It's just in the very beginning of the trail that branches litter the path. Soon it turns to snow and inconsequential twigs. The trail follows along the edge of the clear-cut, ambling up and down again through pretty second growth forest.



About 1.5 hours & 4.5km in we came to the first viewpoint, which overlooked Vedder Canal and Sumas Prairie. Then a hop and a skip and we were at the pond with the staircase, then soon at the second viewpoint with no view of Cultus Lake because the trees have grown too tall, and then a sharp steep drop to the lake with the new board walk submerged in a foot of snow. We carried on a bit farther to a smaller pond where we parked ourselves on a log and had lunch



We were all wet, if not from the rain then from our sweat. Being immobile brought on the cold. I thought to go ahead and check how close we were to the summit while the others turned back. Not even 10 minutes got me to the steep slope with the ropes and then log ladder. So we were only 20 minutes from the summit but the ice on the trail and steep grad made it too dangerous to proceed.

By 2:30pm we were back at the precariously parked FJ. It was a pleasant surprise to see that whoever was in that truck, has cleared the road of blocking branches. And it was a pleasure to meet up with snowbird Dave Walton, and Harry at the Waves coffee shop afterwards. Dave had been gone for 5 months.

Stats: 13.9 km / 611m gain / 890m high

Thanks for coming out today regardless of the rain, for what proved to be a very good workout, walking on wet snow:

Terry B, Don F, Wayne H, Liz L + Case & Joce T

## BOUNDARY BAY REGIONAL PARK AND MUD BAY DYKE - MARCH 18



Reluctant hikers gathered at the rendezvous site at Whatcom Road. Reluctant because the rain was deluging. One hiker emailed me that morning saying, "forget it, I'm staying in bed." After assurances from yours truly that the weather prognosticators of five different forecast stations predicted fine weather for Tsawwassen, our destination. Overcoming their skepticism Deborah L, Lisa R, Geoff L, Sharon R and Ray D expressed great trust and courage and

we were off to the park with its bird sanctuary ending with a walk on the mud bay dyke.



No rain! Half of our hike was cloudy, the other half sunshine. A chilly wind, yes. But, no rain. It was a pleasant relaxing hike of about 10 to 12 kms. Followed by delicious coffee, goodies and continued good hikers' fellowship at the Frog and Wood Coffee Company in Tsawwassen.



Nothing to report about the condition of the trails except to say they were in good shape and well used. But, the birds and ocean scenery as well as the Northshore Mountains certainly made for a worthwhile trek. Especially the birds. Our hike was in what is called the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds. I assume there are non-migratory as well because we saw countless eagles soaring and peering curiously at us from their perches. And, one surprise sighting seldom seen on a hike; a donkey. Yes, by happenstance we met Jake and his owner Mark who took our group shot with Ray's camera. Thanks Ray and thanks for the other great pics. I end my report with Deborah's poem of tribute to Jake.

There once was a donkey named Jake;  
a walk on the dike he did take.

Jake was hairy and smelly  
with a big furry belly...  
he left piles of poo in his wake.

- Dave Ortis

## EDMESTON / TEAPOT LOOP HILL – MARCH 21



This was the first hike we did this year that was snow free. The low elevation is deceiving, because despite the highest point being only 334m, the total elevation gain adds up to 743m.

Starting at the yellow gate at 9:00am on Edmeston Rd, we walked on the well-trod

trail, soon coming to our first of nine signed junctions. Going straight went to International Ridge so we turned right onto Edmeston Trail. Thus came hill #1, through such lush green forest covered in all sorts of moss. The streams were flowing at full speed and there was some blow down but not a lot.



Then a dip down to the second intersection followed by another climb up hill #2. At the third intersection we turned left, rather than right to Teapot Hill. This took us to a fourth



intersection where we turned left again which headed towards Camp Stillwood. This little valley still harboured some old snow. Just after the new washout, where the stream re-routed itself and another green sign leaning against a large tree said: Watt Creek 1.5 km / Teapot Hill .8, we turned right. Crossing the creek again, and walking just a wee bit, we turned right again where a smaller sign (also leaning against a tree) points down the trail and says: Watt Creek.

But do not carry on. Instead turn right again. There's a bit of blow down on this less used section but don't let that deter you. This takes you on the old original trail up the southwest slope of Teapot Hill (hill #3), which is steep but short. As soon as we got to the fenced summit we were no longer with just our group. It being spring break, there were many children there with their parents looking for teapots in the trees. As we ate lunch at 12:30pm with the company of an Abbotsford meet-up group, the sun came out, illuminating Cultus Lake down below.



Most of our return route was a loop, which included the Seven Sisters giant Douglas Firs. This time we descended the east more popular slope, turned left for a bit and then got back onto the Edmeston Trail for about half an hour. At the first green-signed junction we turned left. The sign does not point to the Seven Sisters but it is one of two ways to get there. At the 9<sup>th</sup> junction there was a Seven Sisters sign where we turned right and soon were at the boardwalk where only three of the Sisters remain standing. From there we carried on east until we got to Clear Creek campsite. We cut through the campsite, walked along the road for a bit and by 3:00pm were back at the vehicles after Dave saved a salamander from getting run over. It was off to the Waves for hot drinks and a well-deserved sit-and-socialize rest.

Stats: 19.6 km / 743m elevation gain / 334m high

Participants: Terry B, Don F, Margaret T, Harry W, Dave W + Case & **Joce T**

## 2017 MULTI DAY TRIPS

**TRIP: HIKE SOUTHERN SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL**  
**ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: MAY 15-18**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: HIKING IN THE SOOKE AREA, VAN ISLAND**  
**ORGA: IRENE HOFLE AT IHOFLE@TELUS.NET**  
**DATE: MAY 19-25**  
**PART: 8-12**

**TRIP: 3-4 DAYS HIKING OUT OF THE NAHATLATCH LOOKOUT TOWER**  
**ORGA: JUDY PASEMKO AT JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: MAY 26-29**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: BACKPACK THE NORTH COAST TRAIL, VAN ISLAND**  
**ORGA: JOHN MCLELLAN AT JHMCLELLAN@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: JUNE 10-18**  
**PART: 10**

**TRIP: HIKING IN THE LAKE LOUISE AREA**  
**ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: JULY 17-23**  
**PART: OPEN**

**TRIP: BACKPACK THE 1849 TRAIL**  
**ORGA: TERRY BERGEN AT TERRYBERGEN@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: JULY 22-30**  
**PART: 10**

**TRIP: ASSINIBOINE AND THE BUGABOOS PROV PARK**  
**ORGA: JOCE TIMMERMANS AT JOCELYNTIMMERMANS@HOTMAIL.COM**  
**DATE: AUG 01-09**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: HIKING IN THE JASPER NP AREA, FRYATT VALLEY, MALIGNE LAKE, SKYLINE**  
**ORGA: RON DART AT RDART@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: AUG 12-20**  
**PART: 10**

**TRIP: HIKING CATEDRAL LAKES PROV PARK**  
**ORGA: CHRISTINE FAULCONBRIDGE AT CHRISFAULCONBRIDGE@GMAIL.COM**  
**DATE: AUGUST 19-27**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: HIKING IN THE BELLA COOLA AREA, GRIZZLEY BEAR VIEWING**  
**ORGA: AMRG TRANAH AT MARGARET\_TRANAH@HOTMAIL.COM**  
**DATE: SEPT 02-17**  
**PART: 6-10**

**TRIP: CAPE SCOTT PROV PARK**  
**ORGA: LORI BODKIN AT FIRECHICK@TELUS.NET**  
**DATE: SEPT 07-11**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: BACKPACK GLACIER PEAK, WASHINGTON STATE**  
**ORGA SUE LAWRENCE AT GWELU@TELUS.NET**  
**DATE: SEPT 12-17**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: GREEN LAKE, CHILCOTIN, CANOE OR KAYAK**  
**ORGA: JUDY PASEMKO AT JUDYPASEMKO@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: SEPT 23-30**  
**PART: 6-8**

**TRIP: HIKE THE LAKES DISTRICT OF NORTH WEST ENGLAND**  
**ORGA: STUART WOOD AT STUART\_WOOD@SHAW.CA**  
**DATE: OCT 01-08**  
**PART: 8-10**



## CLUB INFORMATION

### Notice to Trip Participants

It is understood that risk is inherent to some degree in all outdoor activities. Please ensure that you understand the risks involved and are prepared to accept them. As a participant, you are responsible for your own safety and equipment at all times. Trip organizers are not professional guides—they are simply club members who have volunteered their time for your enjoyment.

Inform the trip organizer of any medical conditions that he or she should be aware of in an emergency, for example: diabetes, asthma, and bee sting reactions. Ensure that your previous experience, ability and fitness level are adequate for the trip. Be sure that your equipment and clothing are adequate for the trip. Stay with the group. Wait for other group members frequently and at all route junctions. Tell the trip organizer if you must turn back. **Be safe and enjoy!**

### Required Equipment

Trip organizers will be pleased to answer any questions regarding the required equipment for any outing. For more information, it is recommended that you visit one of the many websites that provide such information. Some recommended sites are: [www.valhallapure.com](http://www.valhallapure.com) (club sponsor), [www.backpacker.com](http://www.backpacker.com) and [www.mec.ca](http://www.mec.ca).

**Safety first, last, and always!** It is the responsibility of trip participants to be equipped appropriately. Plan for the **worst!**

### The Ten Essentials

Before you hit any trail, no matter how easy, no matter how short, no matter how close to home, make sure your backpack is loaded with the ten essentials. When in the backcountry you are responsible for your own safety, and any one of these ten items may help to save your life. Carry them all and know how to use them.

1. Map
2. Compass
3. Extra clothing
4. Sunglasses and sunscreen
5. Headlamp/flashlight
6. First-aid supplies
7. Fire starter
8. Matches
9. Knife
10. Extra food and water

### Equipment for Club Members' Use

2	canoes with accessories	1	stove
2	backpacks	1	water filter
1	two-person tent	1	pruning saw
1	three-person tent	1	dehydrator
1	projector and screen	13	ice axes
3	9 mm climbing ropes	4	pairs of crampons
4	climbing harnesses	8	assorted carabiners
2	avalanche transceivers	?	avalanche probes

**Note:** All equipment must be returned in the same condition as borrowed or repaired appropriately.

## Hike Grading System

Duration (hrs.)		Elevation Gain (m)		Difficulty	
A	0-4	1	10-500	a	Easy
B	4-7	2	500-1000	b	Moderate
C	7-10	3	1000-1500	c	Difficult
D	10+	4	1500+	d	Advanced

## CLUB CONTACTS

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