



Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

TRIP REPORTS

Hello Everyone:

What a summer it has been. Trip cancellations, landslides, park closings, fire and smoke across the provinces has compelled us to be more resilient and adaptable.

We regret to announce that we have one more casualty to add to the list. For personal reasons Grant Acheson has stepped down as President.

I know that you join me and the rest of the Executive in wishing him all the best and thanking him for his leadership over the past year and a half.

In spite of the constraints this past summer our club still managed many activities which you can enjoy in the Tripper.

Add our hosted club picnic to your calendar on Sunday September 19 at Yarrow Hall come rain or shine from 3 to 7 pm. Please help set up by arriving early and masks are required if we are inside. You will also need to pre-register. We are needing volunteers to flip burgers so bring your apron! We will be presenting Gary Baker with his Honorary Lifetime Membership certificate (this time in person). Let's think SUN. Enjoy the fall tripping season and stay safe.

-Christine Camilleri, Vice President

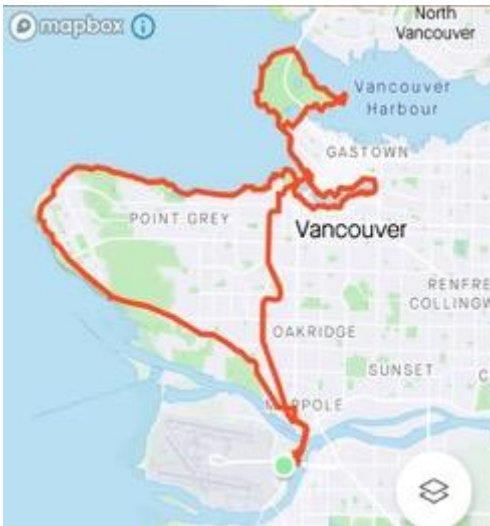
GALLOPING GOOSE CYCLE - AUG. 4



It was an awesome bluebird day 6 of us rode our bikes onto the ferry over to Swartz Bay and rode to Victoria and return.



Riding Lochside and Galloping Goose trails it was 33km to Spinnakers pub for beer and lunch. Loaded my bike bag with some Spinnakers craft beer then we did a loop through downtown Victoria with photo ops at the Inner Harbour, the Legislature, Empress hotel, etc. Return to Swartz Bay via the same route. Approx 71 km total riding. It was a fabulous outing.
-Herb Chlebek



It was yet another gorgeous weather day 8 of us rode an incredibly scenic Vancouver route. We started at 9am at a small parking lot near YVR. The ride headed across the Arthur Laing Bridge and onto Marine drive around UBC. Down the big hill and onto the seaside bike paths through

Spanish Banks to Kits beach and onto the False Creek seaside path.



We stopped at the halfway point at the Tap and Barrel in Athlete's Village for beer and lunch. Then continuing around False Creek to Stanley Park for a trip around the entire Seawall. Back to the start via the entire length of the Arbutus Greenway. Vancouver riding doesn't get better than this.

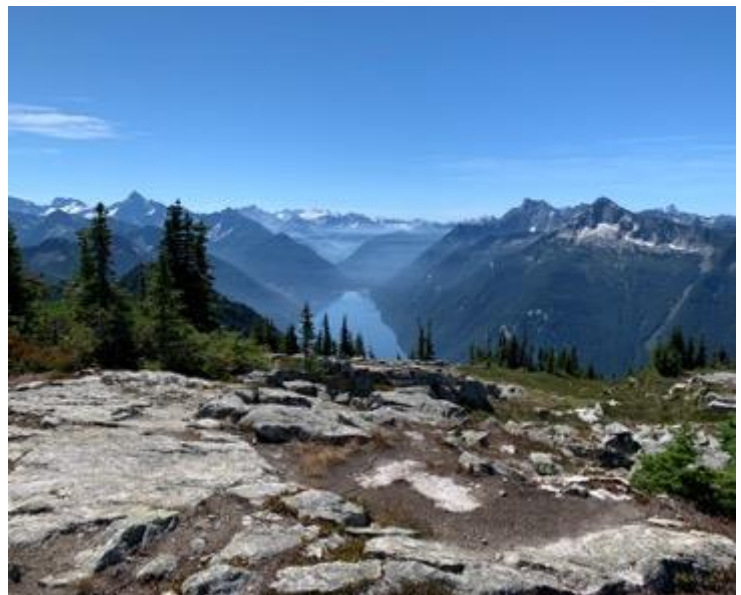


-Herb Chlebeck

A small group of us left in the morning about 7:45 from the parking lot. Got to the peak in about 3 1/2 hours. The trail is so easy to follow and well-marked. Steady steep incline the whole way. Bring lots of water when you go.



The first 2-3 km are through a lovely forest, then it becomes exposed with wonderful views of Chilliwack Lake on your right, and a peek-a-boo-view of Mount Webb. There was some smoke hovering over the lake in the morning as we climbed up, from a smouldering fire on the US border side. Some wildflowers are still to be seen, the purple Leafy- Aster and yellow Mountain Arnica and the purple Mountain Lupine. We found several trickling streams along the way and a bit of mud - which was surprising considering it was over 30 degrees and had been hot for a few weeks. We took our rest breaks when we could under the trees because it is exposed about 50% of the entire way to the top.





IMPROMPTU TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORKDAY: VEDDER RIDGE TRAIL (AUGUST 28)

This workday was posted with very short notice, so I was pleased when Jim A., Jim S., and Loreno B. met me to carpool up to the upper (upper...) trail access point. The original plan was to start the day by rebuilding the damaged steps at the trailhead, but Patrick R. and I had gone up the day before and completed this task. He and I also walked the trail clearing windfalls. The trail was in good shape.

It definitely is uphill all the way other than a very few short level bits. The first 2-3 kms are through the forest and steep. The next 2-3 kms go through a variety of terrain and then the last km is pretty much straight up and the most difficult part of the hike: it is quite steep with a small boulder field that you walk across (nothing intense) followed by a steep uphill dirt trail that may require in some spots some scrambling or strategic trekking pole use until you get to the top. It's not too much farther though, and so worth the hard work, so persevere.

The two Jims carpooled up in Jim A.'s Rav4, Loreno and I followed in my Frontier. Both vehicles full of tools. We had tools for 15 (... hopefully we'll have the need for them next time....).

To my surprise Brian T. had driven up to the trailhead and was waiting for us there. As we collected Brian we could see a family (with young children) standing on the FSR road past the trail head looking somewhat lost. They watched in amazement and then with concern as our 2 vehicles crawl over the obstruction berms. I misjudged the centre line cresting the berm and there was a loud, long scrapping noise. I stopped to survey the damage (there was none) and they asked, "Where is the start of the VRT?". We pointed them on their way and then continued the drive up the FSR.



The 2 tasks I really wanted to tackle were the rebuilding of the retaining structure at the switchback just before the boardwalk over the tarn and to install some steps on a steep (often slippery) section of trail near the switchback.

Jim and Loreno decided to tackle the steep section of the trail. Rather than build steps they opted to engineer another solution. The trail there crosses soft deep topsoil, so with a lot of shoveling and digging they recontoured about a 50ft section of the trail, perfect. As they hadn't used the wood intending to build in the steps, they used the wood to install several steps approaching the recontoured area of the trail.

The 360-degree views at the top are excellent with mountain views of Slesse, Rexford, Spicard, Redoubt, Welch, and even the backside of Hozomeen to the east. The lakes you see below are Lindeman, Greendrop, Flora and Chilliwack. The trekking poles coming back down from the peak will be your savior as it's quite steep, otherwise without them you'll need to just take your time and use your hands and stay close to the ground by bending those knees. The black flies were annoying, but not unbearable, so bug spray is recommended.

The retaining structure has been in poor condition for years (it was rotting out) and rebuilding it looked to be a challenging task. A plan was hatched, several dead trees were cut down, bucked into suitable length (15-20ft) then hauled up the trail from where they were dropped below the trail or slid down the bluff from above the trail. The tree we got from above the trail was a bit stubborn, it didn't want to fall (hung up high in the branch canopy) but in the end gravity and a lot of pushing and shoving got it down to the trail. We were able to fashion long cedar stakes and drive them into the soft soil (using a heavy rock as a hammer) to brace the new logs in place to form the retaining structure. Retaining logs in place we rebenched and widened the trail above and below the switchback.

Elevation 1950 m at the summit. Gain of approximately 1305m. Tracked 12.94 km return. We had a moving time of 6 hours and 30 min. Breaks accumulated for about an hour. Participants were: Sue A, Audrey V, **Tracy G** (reporter) + **Iraj Filsoofi** (organizer)

All in all, a VERY productive day, thanks guys!



Both tasks completed, successfully we headed back. The plan for later in the fall is to schedule another workday to brush out and groom two short route by-passes to provide a safer way around some short, steep, often slippery rock steps.

-Gary Baker

PARADISE WON:

THE STRUGGLE TO CREATE GWAI HAANAS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

RMB, 2020

ELIZABETH MAY

A few years ago I had a lingering breakfast with the Honorable John Fraser in Whistler. We talked about the impact Roderick Haig-Brown had on his emerging environmental vision and the role he played in inviting Elizabeth May to assist the Progressive Conservative Party in shaping a more significant ecological vision. The relationship between Fraser, Tom McMillan and Elizabeth May, at the highest political level, is ably recounted and bard like told by May in *Paradise Won: The Struggle to Create Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve* in this updated

version of the tome that was originally published in 1990. Farley Mowatt wrote the “Foreward” to the 1990 edition and May contributed yet another “Foreward” for the 2020 edition of *Paradise Won*.

Paradise Won cannot but hold the interested and curious reader as May unfolds the drama and battle contra loggers (and others) to create a National Park Reserve (Gwaii Haanas) in Haida Gwaii in the 1980s, thirty-three animated chapters and page turners that cannot but mesmerize the reader, living history in the making as May brings the events to life. Most of the major actors and actresses are brought on front stage in this animated and not to be missed struggle to honour and preserve, in the end, both the land of the Haida but, equally important, their culture, language and way of being. The coloured photographs in the book bring to life the women and men who were front and centre in the struggle to formally bring into being the National Park Reserve of Gwaii Haanas (southern end of Haida Gwaii). Each chapter in the book is short, highlights the issues, tensions and people in the thick of the fray, then moves on, fitting the various pieces of the puzzle into a coherent and unified picture more than worth the seeing.

May has travelled quite a distance from her struggles in the mid-late 1970s in Nova Scotia-Cape Breton Island to oppose the spraying of pesticides and herbicides, but it was by the early 1980s that John Fraser made it clear to May her passion and skills could be needed to shape and form a more demanding environmental vision for the Progressive Conservative Party. Fraser was replaced by Tom McMillan as the Environmental Minister and the convergence of many grass roots activists, committed Haida leadership and federal-provincial levels of government meant the 1980s, in Haida Gwaii, a mindless and aggressive form of logging (and much else) was halted. May tells this story (as have others) in a way few can for the simple reason that she has worked the tale from many different angles and taken the time to hear from a variety of those in the fray.

I am fortunate that a former student of mine is on the Band Council in Skidegate and he has walked most of the trails and seen most of the sights from north to south on the archipelago. The last email he sent me (a few weeks ago), he informed me he is seriously thinking of putting together a trekking guide for Haida Gwaii. I’m sure when the beauty is done, trips to the area will be even more organized and affordable delights to do on this won paradise, a paradise, though, that as May rightly notes, is ever contested by a variety of competing groups.

La Lotta Continua

-Ron Dart

Masthead – view from Flora Peak

COC 2021 MULTI DAY HIKING TRIPS

TRIP: BIKE RIDE (240KM+) “THE HEART OF THE KOOTENAY”, NELSON/KASLO AREA, BOTH ON AND OFF ROAD
DATE; EITHER AUG 09-15 OR SEPT 07-13, 7 DAY TRIP
LEADER: GARY BAKER @ garywbaker@shaw.ca
PEOPLE: 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: DAY HIKING/CAR CAMPING SOUTH OF MT BAKER AND INTO CASCADES NP ON HIGHWAY 20
DATE: EARLY TO MID SEPTEMBER
LEADER: CAL FRANCIS @ calfrancis@gmail.com
PEOPLE: 12 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: BACKPACK THE SUNSHINE COAST TRAIL, WATER TAXI FROM LUND TO SARAH POINT & END AT POWELL RIVER
DATE: OCT 09-17, 5 DAY TRIP, SUBJECT TO GETTING HUT RESERVATIONS
LEADER: JANE DESBARATS @ janedesbarates91@gmail.com
PEOPLE: 8 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: DAY HIKING/CAR CAMPING IN UTAH (ARCHS, CAPITAL REEF, ZION, BRYCE CANYON NP, ETC ETC)
DATE: OCT 02-23, 3 WEEK TRIP
LEADER: DAVE BIEHN @ dave.biehn@gmail.com
PEOPLE: 12 PEOPLE MAX

TRIP: DAY HIKE/3-4DAY BACKPACK ON MAUI HAWAII
DATE: NOV 06-21, 16 DAYS
LEADER: JOHN MCLELLAN @ jhmclellan@shaw.ca
PEOPLE: 10 PEOPLE MAX

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 (club sponsor), www.backpacker.com and 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

3	shovels	1	climbing dead man anchor
2	pairs of crampons	13	ice axes
2	avalanche transceivers	1	avalanche probe
6	climbing harnesses & a few carabineers	5	ice screws contact Cal Francis to use: calfrancis@gmail.com

Note: All equipment must be returned in the same condition as borrowed or repaired appropriately. The equipment is being examined to determine its state of repair and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors as to what should be retained, scrapped or sold.

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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