



## COC TRAIL MAINTENANCE - MARCH 2023 –

During the period January to March, 20 COC members have participated in several projects in the Chilliwack River Valley to improve the Trans Canada Trail. Emil Anderson Group (EA) donated salvaged timber from various renewal projects. We were able to select various sizes of material to construct four bridges. To get started, a small boardwalk/bridge was constructed on a wet section of the TCT about 200m east of the EA gravel pit near Ford Mountain Institute using planks left at the EA pit.



Next we cut and placed the decking.



Gravel was transferred by wheelbarrow to raise the embankments and approaches.

The next project was much more demanding and involved construction of a replacement bridge across the fish channel east of Riverside campground. We transferred materials from an EA pit near Hope and obtained cedar logs from Wayne Furnass for the construction of the base for the centre pier. Next we constructed two sets of stringers.





The railings were added using salvaged material Jim Shirk obtained plus pressure treated material COC previously purchased.



The railings were completed with lumber obtained from a local small sawmill and purchased by Trails BC.

The snow and frozen ground prevented us from completing the permanent ramps and railings; this work will be completed this spring.



Temporary approach ramps at each end of the bridge were added.



The old bridge shown on the left in the photo below by the new bridge on the right, is failing and will be removed by Department of Fisheries and Oceans this summer.





Curbs will be added to the second bridge once the materials are obtained, and adjustments will be made to the end ramps of both bridges this spring.



In addition to the bridge work, clearing of deadfall was completed on the TCT from the Tamihi section through to the Riverside campground in record time due to the great turnout from the Club trail workers.



The following 20 members contributed at least once on the various work days since January – Jim S, Patrick R, Jim A, Gary A, Gary B, Tim Y, Christine C, Heinz & Emily B, John M, Leora P, Annette W, Brad M, Kelly H, Paul E, Don F, Ingrid F, Ross Y, Irene H, Greg S. In addition, Leon Lebrun and Trails BC members also participated.

By **Jim Alkins**

## CULTUS LAKE HORSE TRAILS LOOP – FEB. 27



A familiar hike in the rainforest at Cultus Lake on a cool day with fresh snow on the trail. First time a few of us had visited the old growth Douglas firs known as the Seven Sisters. Surprise was that Gary was meeting the Sisters in his backyard for the first time!

Out for a leisurely 8.8 km loop hike with 350 m gain were: Sue McK, Christine C, Irene H, Gary B, Jennifer D, Simon H, Brenda R, Carolyn H.

By **Heather B**

## MT. KLAUDT: TRY TWO – MARCH 6

Back to Sasquatch Ski Resort we drove, bound and determined to give this snowshoe another try. Having gotten 2/3 of the way there the week before, we knew what not to do this time. The stats were close to what we did on our first attempt, but we avoided the large unnecessary loop and two smaller ones, taking a more direct route. Our failure to summit last time made this success that much more satisfying. And this time we were blessed with blue skies and far fetching vistas.



We parked beside Mary at P3, the south end. From there we crossed the road, went over the bank, down through the clearing and into the forest. Once we got to the groomed Brett Creek FSR, we turned left and within half an hour got to

the unsigned junction that would bring us up Mt. Klautd's west facing slopes. This time we did not follow the blue squares that showed up around a quarter way up this slope and led us on a square detour. Instead we went straight up a steep slope dotted with evergreens and tree-wells. Mary & Fred stayed in the lead for the most part, taking on the backbreaking task of breaking trail.

It didn't take long on Mt. Klautd, to start getting views to the north. Once past the point we'd gotten to on our first attempt, we came to some beautiful pristine meadows and Dr. Seuss trees. It seemed a shame to mess it up with our snowshoe prints. There were several minor dips through the forest before we plodded back up to the sub alpine, doing a final push to the summit on a very steep slope in the forest. For those of us who had done Cartmell Mt, we all agreed that Klautd is steeper.



Wow. What views! All the way from the Breakenridge Range in the north, to the familiar Slesse, Border Peaks and MacFarland to the south. After lunch we headed a little ways over to a lower knoll where we could see the ski resort surrounded by snow clad peaks. Almost all of these peaks are named after veterans of the First and Second World Wars. They're marked with small crosses placed there by Niel Grainger, sometimes aided by Jack Bryceland (author of "103 Hikes in Southwestern BC"). Both are former members of this club.

I was a bit worried about descending that very steep slope. But it wasn't that bad. We all tackled it in our own ways. Some jogged down in the powder, some cautiously picked their steps and clung to trees and some sat on their butts and slowly slid down. Back in tree-well territory, Mary called an abrupt halt to her followers, when her leg disappeared. So we stayed left a bit more and regrouped at the bottom by the groomed FSR.

As we stood waiting, we heard a bit of a commotion. When Terry, Gary and Anne appeared, Gary was looking rather frosty and sheepish. Apparently, as he was pointing at a hole and warning the ladies not to step there, he lost his balance and fell into another hole. A bit before that, Terry took her



love a trees a bit too far. She ended up wrapped around one. When she got up and out and took a step, she ended up falling into another tree well. Lol.

Thankfully we all made it out in one piece. I couldn't say as much for my snowshoe. Just before we got back to the parking lot, it broke. Take about timing! Most of us gathered again at the Sasquatch Inn restaurant afterwards. It was a gratifying way to end a wonderful successful day.

Stats: 8.35 km / 655m gain / 1402m high

Participants were: Sue A, Gary B, Terry B, Brigitte G, Fred H, Sheri K, Sonia J, Mary R, Allana W + **Joce T**

## WINDY JOE – MARCH 9



This was my first time on this mountain. It was a great sunny day with spectacular views. The trail was packed so some used microspikes to the top.

16km / 667m gain / steady pace 6:20 min. total time.  
Great group: Lori B, David G, Mark S, Lorenz B, John McL (group shot)

By **Iraj F**

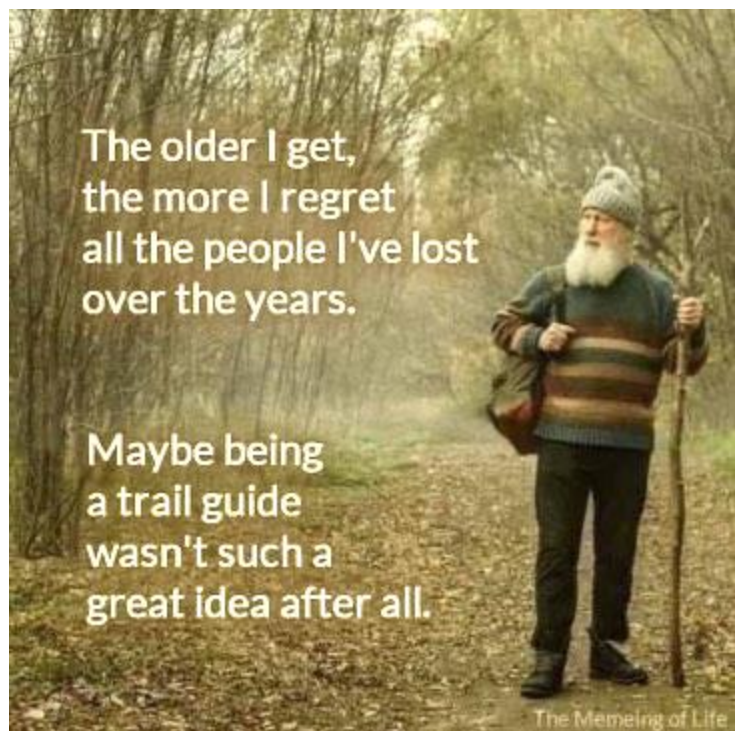
## THE VEDDER RAMBLE - MARCH 11

Random walks of the many Dirt Bike (DB) and Mountain Bike (MB) trails on Vedder Mountain has been something I've intended to do more of for years. Why did I wait so long!!!! As a COC rep on the Vedder Mountain Trails Association, I've had access to detailed maps of all these trails for years. Now there are digital maps of these trails on most mapping software, Trailforks and Gaia I think have the most detailed. Trailforks even has some interesting loops mapped out for MB'ers. that would make for a fun forest walk. After considerable study of my paper maps and downloading the digital maps to my 'phone' I had a 10km route with approx. 350m of elevation gain mapped out for the day's hike.



As there was no formal sign-up required for this hike, I had no idea who or how many folks might show up. We were a group of 6: Marcel B., David G., George D., Tom S., Chris I., and me.

I could not have asked for a better group to deal with my leadership idiosyncrasies.



We were never lost, but often we were not sure of where we were. True to form my route, even after I had checked that it was on my phone and that it was working....FAILED...no route, no track. Not that it mattered, I wouldn't have been able to see it anyway as my transition glasses became so dark in the sunlight, I couldn't see anything on the screen. So more often than not I just peered over Chris's shoulder as his Gaia mapping was working perfectly as we attempted to determine where we were and where to go next. No one seemed the least bit perturbed about this uncertainty; we were so thoroughly enjoying being on such interesting trails and in such a magical forest area.

This was 'forest bathing' at its finest. The MB trails were amazing. Clearly hundreds of hours of labour had been put into the building of jumps, and some other trail features. The contouring of the turns on some trails was amazing...WOW!. Do they actually attempt some of those jumps?

So much for pre-planning, as after 5 hrs of wandering this way and that, up and down we actually hiked just over 12 km with slightly over 500m of climbing. For the most part we just 'booted it'. At the higher elevations, we did encounter snow and for safety used the micro spikes on the descents. I think it is fair to say that we all want to hike more of these trails, and there are a lot more. Oh, on one of the trails we did see through the forest and got a narrow glimpse of Cultus lake.

By **Gary Baker**

## BLUE HERON RESERVE EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS – MARCH 17

The first of two Great Blue Heron Reserve Educational Outings was a great success. In fact, the herons just arrived from outlying areas JUST YESTERDAY and have claimed their nests and partners and will be producing eggs soon. Learning about the herons, their habits, habitat and ways they survive, we all agreed was totally fascinating!



Again, the COC Exec **hired** the tour and tour leader (an amazing wealth of info from Dillon, who did his thesis on the colony here in Chilliwack) at a cost of \$300 for the 2 days and this was organized free for interested COC members -- your membership dollars at work!



Thanks to Cal Francis for suggesting the tour and Tim Yochim for his fabulous "scope photo" of the herons nesting and courting. Those of you on the tour group tomorrow we suggest you dress warm since there is some standing and listening between the walk around the loop. Have fun...we did! PS BRING BINOCULARS TOO! Many of us forgot!

By **Christine C**

## ZOA – MARCH 16



We had an absolutely great day SS up to Zoa Peak on Thursday, it was warm, sunny, no wind, magical views and we did not see anybody else all day. We only had one downer and that was when one of our members 100m from the vehicles while crossing a narrow snow bridge the edge broke away and she tumbled 15' face first into the creek below. Denise's string of bad luck continues but after we extricated her out of the hole, got her safely into the vehicles and back to Chilliwack emergency she was in a good mood.



In the end she had a small crack in her fibula so cast & crutch's and walking boot for 4 weeks then a revisit, it could have been so much worse, when I was in the creek I thought she had broken her ankle as it was at 90 degrees to what it should be but in the end it turned out to be about as good an ending as you could have hoped for. Just goes to show you that stuff can happen at any time and that we should always be prepared. Denise wants to thank everybody for their help and understanding throughout the whole process. Thanks to Denise, Irene, Allana, Mark, Iraj, Don Field & Don McDonald for helping out and coming out on such a great day in the alpine.  
By **John McLellan**

## VEDDER MT. – MARCH 17



Jocelyn Timmermans invited the Chilliwack Outdoor Club to join her again for a hike up Vedder Mountain from her house. Access to the trail is through her private property so it is a privileged hike. Even more privileged is the delicious dessert she serves at her house afterward. She is definitely ambitious because 21 people joined this hike.

16.77kms and 877 meters and 614m high



It is a good workout with lots of steep trails before you get to the logging road and relief. But you soon realize that there is little relief because the road is relentlessly uphill for the duration. We finally got to the end of the road where we had lunch and soaked up the fabulous views. The hike back was pleasant, with great company and excitement looking forward to Jocelyn's dessert. Her husband Case made coffee and I loved it because it was serious Cowboy coffee bordering on Espresso. The old Mountain Men used to make coffee like this.

Stats: 17.4 km / 888m gain / 618m high point / 5:50 hours moving time

Participants: Terry B, Frank B, Lori B, Peter F, Brigitte G, Rob G, Charlotte H, Simon & Irene H, Sheri K, Sonia L &



Bubble, Liz L, Bote M, Judy P, Al S, Dave S, Ed W, Cathy U, Qing Z + **Don Tocher** (report) & **Joce T**

## WILD HAZEL, TCT ... HORSE TRAIL LOOP – MARCH 19



A loop near Cultus Lake with a name almost as long as the 14 km hike from Edmeston Road trailhead to Wild Hazel trail, Trans Canada Trail, F350 logging road, International Ridge trail, Cultus Lake Horse trail back to Edmeston road. On the Wild Hazel trail we took the longer route option for views of Cultus Lake and three ponds on Department of National Defence (DND) property. We turned right onto the road with TCT markers as we skirted the fenced DND property. Instead of carrying on to Newfoundland, we turned right again onto the F350 logging road which headed up hill to the International Ridge trail. From there we were on familiar ground for our return to Edmeston Road via Cultus Lake Horse Trails. With only 603 m gain, this was a social hike with a steady buzz of voices on every stretch of the loop. Photo credit: Heather B. Around the truck: Paul, Caroline, Brigitte, Susan, Val. On the truck: Patrick, Gerald, Dave, Anita, John McL, Allana.

By **Heather B**

## VEDDER ROTARY CYCLE – MARCH 19



Great day cycling Vedder Rotary Loop, thank you Jackie for organizing this event.



By **Jackie P**

## VEDDER RAIL LINE – MARCH 22



Great Sunny Day hiking along the Vedder rail line. Just over 14 km, we did a loop hike starting and ending near the Vedder Campground. Started at 10 and finished around 2:30. We dodged a bit of construction on Vedder Mt. road, headed up the Duck farm loop and on to the rail line. Didn't expect that much mud on the trail, but no one got a soaker. Foliage had been cut and the trail maintained so must be some hard





working mountain bikers cleaning up the trail. There was some wonderful views, especially going up the duck farm loop trail.

Thanks to Terry (1<sup>st</sup> photo), Lori, Alisha, Charlotte, Cal, Dorothy, and Jim for going with me. And special thanks goes out to 3 well behaved dogs, Rusty, Ocho, and Klyde. Pleasure hiking with you.

By **Irene H**

## ELK MT. – MARCH 22



Magnificent day hiking Elk Mountain, first time witnessing a paraglider taking off. Road to the trailhead was very muddy. Great day hiking with Carol, Jennifer and Dave.

By **Iraj F**

## ARTISTS POINT – MARCH 29

The cobalt blue skies and stark white peaks presented a perfect palette for the artist's eye. It was a relaxing day, with no rush to soak in the vistas and regroup at intervals with 20 snowshoers being out and about. What is exceptional about this route, is that it offers far reaching views 100% of the time.



By 10:15 we were on our way, having parked at the end of the cleared road, right of the Mt. Baker ski area. Our long line ambled upwards, on the Wild Goose trail, alongside a ski slope. At the top of the steep slope, we turned right and got our first sights of Huntoon Point, at the end of Artists Ridge. At the base of a second steep slope, we veered off to the left, beginning a loop. Once on the ridge, we were sandwiched between the highest majestic mountains: Shuksan on our left and Mt. Baker on our right.



By 11:45 am we were at Huntoon Point (1599m) and ready for a leisurely lunch.

Descending the north-facing slope was fun. Try running down wet snow. The sinking steps in heavier snow increased the possibility of face-plants. But everyone made it down without losing their dignity. After a bit of down, we had to go up again to get to the base of Table Mt (1625m). From there it was all downhill. We scattered on the open rounded humps, messing up the smooth blanket of snow until we got to the steepest



but shortest slope that completed the loop.

Somewhere in the center of our loop was the upper parking lot with its restrooms. But it was nowhere to be seen, buried beneath layers of snow.

By 2:15 pm we were back at the parking lot. Two of the five vehicles headed for El Nopals by the Sumas border crossing afterwards.

Stats: 7.35 km / 500m gain / 1625m high point today

Along for this spectacular day were: Terry B, Frank B, Johnny G, Brian F, Iraj F, Laura F (guest), Heather F, Janice H, Charlotte H, Irene H, Michelle K, Carolyn M, John McL, Nancy N (guest), Maureen S, Anita U, Jerry U, Allana W, Ed W + **Joce T**

## SKIING AT MANNING PARK - MARCH



MARCH 15  
Enjoying spring skiing at Manning yesterday. Lots of CARVING. Ideal snow.



MARCH 24



MARCH 31  
Epic ski buddies out yesterday at Manning: Linda, Ron, Lorenz, Sheryl, Christine F, Graeme. Continuing to enjoy winter.

By **Christine Camilleri**

Masthead by Joce Timmermans of Artists Point, Mt. Baker

## 2023 MULTI DAY TRIPS

**TRIP:** Illal Meadows – backpack & winter camping  
**DATE:** April 5  
**CONTACT:** Al Smith & Sue Lawrence  
[hikethepeak@gmail.com](mailto:hikethepeak@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 6

**TRIP:** Monument 83  
**DATE:** May 20  
**CONTACT:** Allana Warkentine [allanalee@shaw.ca](mailto:allanalee@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 6

**TRIP:** Howe Sounds Islands – car camping / day hike, camp at Porteau Cove  
**DATE:** June 7  
**CONTACT:** Al Smith & Sue Lawrence  
[hikethepeak@gmail.com](mailto:hikethepeak@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 8

**TRIP:** Bella Bella Kayak  
**DATE:** June  
**CONTACT:** Dave Biehn [dave.biehn@gmail.com](mailto:dave.biehn@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 8

**TRIP:** West Coast Trail – backpack  
**DATE:** June  
**CONTACT:** John McLellan [jhmclellan@shaw.ca](mailto:jhmclellan@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 10

**TRIP:** Garibaldi Lake – backpack  
**DATE:** June 14  
**CONTACT:** Al Smith & Sue Lawrence  
[hikethepeak@gmail.com](mailto:hikethepeak@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 6

**TRIP:** Craters of the Moon, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Badlands National Parks – car & RV camping  
**DATE:** June 26 – July 13  
**CONTACT:** Jocelyn Timmermans  
[jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com](mailto:jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com)

**TRIP:** Illal Meadows – backpack  
**DATE:** July  
**CONTACT:** Allana Warkentine [allanalee@shaw.ca](mailto:allanalee@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 10

**TRIP:** Banff – backpack  
**DATE:** July 12-16  
**CONTACT:** Skagit Pellegrino  
[carmen.pellegrino80@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.pellegrino80@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 4 - FULL

**TRIP:** Kananaskis – Ribbon Creek Hostel  
**DATE:** July 23-28  
**CONTACT:** Ron Dart [rdart@shaw.ca](mailto:rdart@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 10

**TRIP:** Waterton / Glacier National Parks – car camping / day hike  
**DATE:** July 22  
**CONTACT:** Cindy Waslewski [twin-creeks@shaw.ca](mailto:twin-creeks@shaw.ca)

**TRIP:** Mt. Frosty via Windy Joe trail – backpack  
**DATE:** August 5  
**CONTACT:** Terry Bergen [terrybergen@shaw.ca](mailto:terrybergen@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 8

**TRIP:** Fernie  
**DATE:** August 12  
**CONTACT:** Fred Hahn [freddyhahnjr@gmail.com](mailto:freddyhahnjr@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 15

**TRIP:** Skoki Trail Loop in Banff Nation Park – backpack  
44km on horseshoe-shaped trip with many side trips  
**DATE:** mid July to beginning August  
**CONTACT:** Christine Camilleri  
[4christinecamilleri@gmail.com](mailto:4christinecamilleri@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 8

**TRIP:** Desolation Sound – Kayak  
**DATE:** August 20  
**CONTACT:** Fred Hahn & Peter Epp  
[freddyhahnjr@gmail.com](mailto:freddyhahnjr@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** 12

**TRIP:** Tour de Mount Blanc – trekking tour  
**DATE:** Aug. 28 – Sept. 6  
**CONTACT:** Irene Hofler [ishofler@gmail.com](mailto:ishofler@gmail.com)  
**LIMIT:** FULL

**TRIP:** Mowich camp / Hozameen Ridge - backpack  
**DATE:** September 16  
**CONTACT:** Terry Bergen [terrybergen@shaw.ca](mailto:terrybergen@shaw.ca)  
**LIMIT:** 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 Shovels	2 ice axes
2 pairs of crampons	2 avalanche probes
2 avalanche transceivers	
2 pairs of snowshoes	
contact Cal Francis to use: <a href="mailto:calfrancis@gmail.com">calfrancis@gmail.com</a>	

**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

Position	Name	E-mail
President:	Christine Camilleri	<a href="mailto:4christinecamilleri@gmail.com">4christinecamilleri@gmail.com</a>
Vice President:		
Secretary:	Jackie Chambers	<a href="mailto:Jackie.p.chambers@hotmail.com">Jackie.p.chambers@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Carol Ault	<a href="mailto:carolault@gmail.com">carolault@gmail.com</a>
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For trips and announcements to be forwarded to all		
Note: also you can post in members: Facebook: Chilliwack Outdoor Club Group		
Librarian:	Ingrid Fisher	<a href="mailto:ingyfisc@gmail.com">ingyfisc@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Pub:	Jocelyn Timmermans	<a href="mailto:jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com">jocelyntimmermans@hotmail.com</a>
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