



## Newsletter of the Chilliwack Outdoor Club

## TRIP REPORTS

### IN MEMORY OF VERN STANLEY



Vern Stanley passed away Dec. 18, 2021 at the age of 75. He was a very regular active member of our club from about 2001 till his last trip with us to Iceland Sept. 2015. He seldom missed the mid-week hikes. He was a giving good-hearted person. I remember when we were hiking the West Highland Way in Scotland and the guys kicked Griff our of their hotel room because no one could sleep due to his very loud snoring. Guess who offered to share a room with Griff for the remainder of the trip.

And how Terry B, Phil & Liz L, Ray Daws, Case & I hiked Hope Mt. with him and helped him build a rock tower where we buried the ashes of his precious dog, Tia. She had accompanied us on all those day hikes. – Joce T

A great hiker and a great shopper at at Vedder Mountain, hiked with him many a time, RIP – Hans Roos

Will always miss Vern. So many wonderful and great memories. I've known him for 35+ years. Did he ever tell you about his pet crow he had for years that would grab a pebble, then fly to the next-door farm, and wait above the door for

hours until someone would walk out. Then it'd casually drop the pebble on the person's head! Lol  
Also when we would be brushing with chainsaws in Allison Pass, he'd always ask me to help him with his chaps. I'd have to wait to do up his crotch buckles until traffic wasn't around! Haha!! I'll always miss him.

Vern always pushed the Prosthetics industry to it's edge, because nobody could bust a titanium arm so easily. His desire to push life, pushed the prosthetics industry. He had many homemade "attachments" to help him drive plow trucks that require constant arm movement... I'll always love him. Vern and I plowed snow together for 18 winters in Allison Pass, in Manning Park. I knew him for 15 years prior to that. He's given us so many great memories that I could share around a campfire with you all... He had a heart of pure gold.

-David Lee



There are so many good memories of not only hiking and backpacking with Vern but also the many extra activities he did with our family, from many shopping trips for hiking gear at the MEC and Valhalla, to sight-seeing places, to spending time with us on all the holidays, birthdays and Sundays.

Every hike with Vern has a special memory from the full enjoyment of being out in nature and climbing mountains, to all the conversations we've had, to even the "unplanned" events.



One such event was having Search and Rescue locate him close to a trailhead while he was in his silver "emergency" bag and enjoying every minute of watching the helicopter (he thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience). – Edna VZ



Lots of great hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and camping memories. Never heard him complain. He was sure an inspiration! – Skagit Pelligrino

Vern was a kind soul, so sad to hear this news. – Robbin Yager

I am very sorry about this news! Vern had a great sense of humour. RIP friend! – Linda Irwin

And he was no more, for God has taken him...until we meet again my friend, I hold good memories of you in my heart. - Lori Bodkin

A really nice guy. Enjoyed sharing time with him on the trails. – Lisa Siddons



## A WALK THROUGH AN ANCIENT FOREST, PRINCE GEORGE - SUMMER 2021



In August I was travelling north to avoid smoke and fires. I stopped in Prince George and stayed a week exploring the area. I joined the Caledonia Ramblers, a sister outdoor club tripping since 1974 and hiked with several members along a beautiful, forested trail. I met Nowell Senior, an unassuming, humble man who said he was going to the Ancient Forest in the next few days with his wife Rita to meet some school kids and give a presentation. Did I want to come along? One of the members that day said to me "If you have the opportunity to see the Ancient Forest Trail with Nowell you should take it. You won't regret it." Little did I know just how knowledgeable and instrumental Nowell Senior was in founding this newest (2016) BC park along with numerous other volunteers.

The Ancient Forest Trail pops up on Google search as THE hike to do in the area. It's about 1 hour east of PG. Located in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, the park protects a portion of the only inland temperate rainforest in the world that is both farthest north and farthest away from the ocean. A university student, Dave Radies, found the area by accident over 15 years ago: "It's a place he didn't set out to find. In fact, Radies was conducting research on lichen biodiversity and had the area 130 kilometres east of Prince George targeted as one of his randomly selected research sites. What he actually found was a relic of the past and a





treasure for today. Massive western red cedar trees, some estimated to be 2000 years old, rise from the forest floor in numbers not seen anywhere this far north or this far inland. "It's just an incredible area," says Radies. "There are other big trees in the vicinity, but I've never seen something quite like this, where the cedars are this big and old. It's like a rainforest, but it's probably more appropriate to call it a snow forest because of the amount of snow this region gets in a typical winter."

What he also found was red flagging tape — a sign that logging was about to commence. Cue the involvement of the Caledonia Ramblers who decided with approval to build a trail to preserve the ancient trees.

Here is what the club had to say about the building of the trail: "Little did we know in 2006 when the trail was started that this nature trail through the old growth cedar forest would turn into a major tourist attraction. This trail, which was developed in cooperation with the provincial government, Recreation, Sites and Trails BC, had about 15,000 visitors in 2013."



Between May 2006 and August 2013, the Caledonia Ramblers hiking club assisted by other friends of the ancient

forest have built the 15 km Driscoll Trail, the Ancient Forest Trail and the Universal Boardwalk.

These volunteers have made over 400 trips from Prince George and a total of 8000 hours of labor has gone into these three projects.

Nowell, along with a couple of other Ramblers, has been involved with the Ancient Forest Trail since the beginning in 2005 that envisioned a public recreational trail among the ancient cedars. A few months later, volunteers plotted a route and work began. The Ancient Forest Trail officially opened on September 24, 2006.

As he put it to me, he did not see how logging could be the fate of trees which would be cut down in weeks what had taken thousands of years to grow. It didn't feel right.



With the trail built, "Nowell often talked about providing easier access to the forest. He spent many years working with youth who had physical disabilities and wanted them to be able to experience the wonders of the ancient cedars. This idea inspired what was to become the Universal Boardwalk, a raised trail that is 457 meters long and fully wheelchair accessible."

"There has to be an equal playing field for all our citizens," said Nowell Senior, Caledonia Ramblers President, "so all citizens have an opportunity to live a wholesome, inclusive life."

I have since found out that in 2015 Nowell was named Citizen of the Year by Prince George. He did not mention this to me but Rita seemed to be very proud of him and his



accomplishments. When we arrived I saw the Universal Boardwalk and his name at the top. I was just amazed at what one person was able to accomplish though I am sure he would talk about all the volunteers that helped.

“Over the past nine years, Nowell has carried lumber, hauled stones, hammered nails, sawed wood, installed signs, and cleaned the facilities. And more. He’s also written grants for funding, ordered supplies, and organized volunteers, among many other background activities.

During those nine years, Nowell’s also made over 400 trips to the forest, and has contributed more than 5,000 hours of his time.”



But in the meantime, the Ramblers and the rest of the volunteers can expect to gather more stories of satisfied visitors, like Senior's recollection of a 99-year-old woman who eagerly took on the boardwalk with her walker recently.

"She walked the entire way, right to the platform and she was absolutely delighted," said Senior. "But she was no more delighted than we were to see her because, then you realize, this is what it's all about."

Just as it was for the young man with his friends and family who just arrived that morning out to experience the forest using the Universal Boardwalk — being in a wheelchair was not an obstacle for him.

By **Christine Camilleri**

## TRANS CANADA TRAIL CROSSOVER BETWEEN CHILLIWACK LAKE & SILVER SKAGIT VALLEY – NOV. 1



The TCT is a 17,250 km network of roads and trails and is the longest of its kind in the world, connecting Canadians from sea to sea. For all of us (even Jim with his pruners), this was a first-time hike. Jim and his maintenance crews had cleared the trail on both ends but had not met in the middle. What would we run into? Bushwhacking, route finding or rivers? To our relief, it ended up being obstacle free.

Cal's group drove 29 km up the Silver Skagit Road before turning right onto the Silverhope Creek FSR. Our group drove about 2/3 way alongside the east side of Chilliwack Lake. Then we turned left onto the Chilliwack Paleface FSR. Both of our groups started hiking at 10:00am. The FSR was in good shape, other than a few water-bars. We were able to drive right up to 1217m, parking at a fork in the road. What is a road now used to be a narrow trail on an alder enclosed FSR. We went left and soon were on the Paleface Pass trail. It was a steady gain through the forest where we put our micro-spikes on.





About half an hour later we were at the highest point, at Paleface Pass. Paleface Mt. was not so far away but that was not our objective for the day (as has been in the past). From the pass it was a gradual descent on the broad slightly snow-covered deactivated Upper Silverhope Creek FSR. Klesilkwa Mt. to our right, kept the sun from reaching into our valley. Delicate patterns were etched in the ice. Feathers, triangles, tubes & stars were there to behold. Icicles draped from branches lining small wayside waterfalls. It was so pristine and pretty.

After two hours on the trail, our tummies were telling us it was time for lunch. Would we run into the other group, or did they have to turn back at the 25' wide river or who knows what other barriers would be in their path. We were just settled in when we thought we heard voices. Yes! It was them! What a happy reunion. We were quick to swap information & keys. Our group removed their spikes and Cal's group put them on. They had hiked just over 7 km and we had hiked 6.4 km.



Cal told me there wasn't much to see any more on their half but I beg to differ. Maybe they didn't see it because they had their backs to it, but the range of white mountains on the east side of Skagit valley stood out starkly in the blue sky: Fordred, Rideout & Silvertip Mtns.

Before they came into view, we passed by Mt. Wittenberg (1980m) to our left and then as we rounded the bend, pointed Mt. Holden stayed in our line of vision for the remainder of the hike.

About a km before the parked vehicles, high to our left we passed a long waterfall cascading down a big black cliff. This FSR followed alongside Silverhope Creek for the most part. We could glimpse rapids through the evergreens.

By 3:00pm us ladies piled into Cal's jeep and the guys went in the other truck. Driving back on the Silver Skagit Road was challenging. It was so full of potholes. At one point I was just creepy crawling and getting fed up with all those blasted

deep holes. We just sort of gave up on bracing ourselves and just let our bodies go like a Raggedy Anne doll. We had a good laugh.

Our group got back to Chilliwack 25 minutes before the other group. They did have more uphill to do than us. Stats were: From Chilliwack Lake side: 12.9 km / 321m gain & 696m loss / 1391m high point

Along for this adventure were: Sue A, Jim A, Dave B, Lorenz B, Christine C, Ingrid F, Sheri K, Patrick R, Anita U, Phoebe Z, Frank, Paul, Pat + **Joce T** (report + pics) & **Cal F**

### PALEFACE PASS TREE CLEARANCE – NOV. 8

During the Paleface crossover hike lead by Jocelyn and Cal on November 1 several clusters of deadfall, as shown in the following photo, were encountered in the pass about 1km and 2km from the trailhead.



On November 8 three club members Don F, Kyle W and Jim A went back to the pass from the Chilliwack Lake side. What a difference a week made. There was substantially more snow which prevented us from driving to the trailhead; fortunately Kyle drove his jeep which was required to prevent my RAV-4 from sliding off the road while turning around.





It was a beautiful day, so we hiked about 2km up the FSR to the trail head. Fortunately the rock weir allowed us to get around the deep water pond across the FSR.



It was a perfect day for a hike to the downed trees with a beautiful view along the way.



We made good use of the club's electric saw and gas powered saw as well as the wedges and axe to clear numerous trees across the trail about 1 km apart.



We managed to clear both locations and made the hike back to the vehicles without incident. It was another fun day on the trail. **By Jim Alkins**





## TAGGART PEAK - NOV. 13

I did not expect 13 hikers to come out on this not-so-nice weather day to hike a mountain with a not-so-nice summit view. But it was still a nice day, thanks to the fellow hikers and friends who made it one and the beauty of nature that shows itself in even the smallest ways. Like the orange jelly and yellow round mushrooms clinging to the black bark trees and the small still tarns with a colorful mix of pale grasses, bronze ferns, orange & gold leaves and bright green lichens growing in their water.



The first 2 km were a steep 400m gain up the Abby Grind. We had a break at the viewpoint at the top of the grind, having done over half the elevation gain already. From there the trail's grade soon became more comfortable, doing several mellows ups & downs, passing a picturesque tarn to the left and catching glimpses of Sumas Prairie through the trees to the right.



About 3 hours later, just as we were about to start thinking, "Are we there yet?", we saw the radio towers poking up above the trees. The rounded rocky summit offered some partial views to the northwest of the Fraser River and Matsqui prairies. Mt. Baker remained hidden behind cloud.

Lunch was not too long as it started to drizzle. The last half hour it poured so by the time we got to our cars we were a

saggy drippy cold wet muddy mess. That's when Cal got busy taking pictures. Good times.

Stats: 13 km / 1040m gain / 806m high / 5:20 hours MT

Along for this wonderful day were: Jim A, Dave B, Cal F, Ingrid F, Iraj F, Corrine H, Irene H, Michelle K, Bote M, Harry W, Phoebe Z + Case & **Joce T**

## ELK MOUNTAIN - DEC. 31

8.2 km, 746 meter elevation gain.

Participants: Cal, Jan, Lorenz, Denice, Kyle, Paul, Iraj.



Beautiful sunny day and cold -7C. Left Vedder park at 8:30am, carpoled with Cal and Kyle and arrived at the trailhead parking lot at 8:55am. The parking lot was packed. Decided to wear micro-spikes only and didn't take the snowshoes because the trail looked packed from early morning hikers.



Started the hike at 9am, had a short stop at the service road, then another stop at the east side lookout. Arrived at the top of the steps by the west lookout at 10:50am. Did a short stop to layer,





continued to the ridge where there was one meter of snow in some places but mostly packed. Arrived at the ridge at 11:05am and got a spot to rest by the wind flag with magnificent views. As soon as we started having some snacks there, the whisky jacks came. They were all over, looking for food. After rest and taking a few pictures, we left the ridge at 11:45am. The trail was getting slippery with many sliding down in some spots. We made it back to the parking lot at 1:15pm.



3:45 trail time +1/2hr rest. This was club's last hike of 2021. Best hiking day with good group of people. By **Iraj Filsoofi**

#### CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB ACTIVITIES NOV 2021

01 Nov Hike Trans Canada trail Crossover 14 Km  
 06-21 Nov Trip Maui Hawaii Backpacking and Day Hiking (postponed)  
 08 Nov Hike MT Sumas 19 KM 1000 MR  
 08 Nov Trail Maintenance Trans Canada Trail Paleface section  
 13 Nov Hike Taggart Peak 12 Km 860 MR  
 18-19 Nov backcountry skiing/snowshoeing Whistler  
 29 Nov Club Meeting Canceled Flood Guest speaker Cascade Skyline Gondola Backpacking

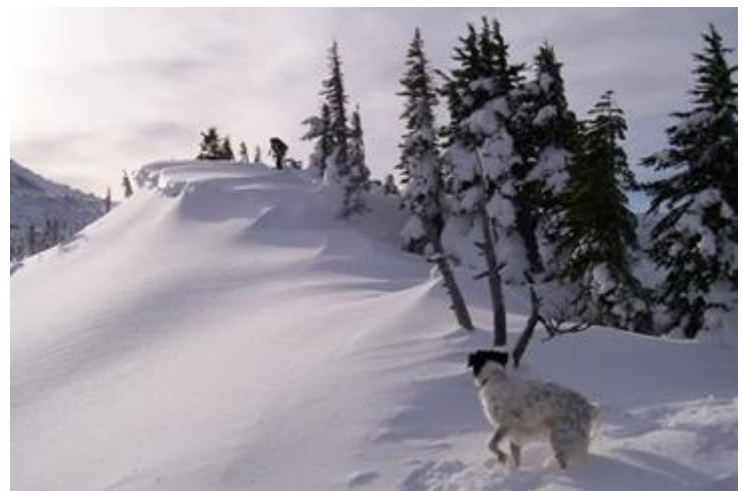
#### CHILLIWACK OUTDOOR CLUB ACTIVITIES DEC 2021

03 Dec Christmas Party Chilliwack Outdoor Club Cancelled  
 16-17 Dec Ski Trip Whistler  
 19 Dec Walk Christmas walk Vedder River  
 31 Elk Mt.

A few more pics of Vern Stanley by Heather Burles:



Slesse – Aug. 2013



The Needle – Jan. 2019

Masthead – Elk Mt. by Iraj F



## 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

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: <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

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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		
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