



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

We had a good meeting at Yarrow Hall on Oct 26 with 40 attendees. We followed PHO requirements to maintain a register of attendees, set up chairs for physical distancing, require all attendees to wear masks, to not share food and to sanitize hands upon entry. Thanks to Jim Alkins, and John McLellan and Maurice Dodd for their excellent presentations on the awesome Pierce Creek Bridge Project, and the epic GR5 trek in Europe, respectively.

With work ongoing on the Pierce Creek and Vedder Mountain trails in recent weeks, I thought it would be timely to encourage members to consider spending a day maintaining the trails that we enjoy so much. If it wasn't for volunteers from our Club and others, there is no way the province could keep the trails open. Case in point was the damage done to the Vedder Mountain trail by the wind and snow event the weekend of Oct 24. If it were not for a crew of nine members that cleared the alders and debris on Oct 27, the access road and trail would still be inaccessible. So think about it. As Eben Weiss said in his blog in the Outside, "I did trail work once and felt smug for a lifetime".

It's great to see Cal, Jocelyn, Cindy and others step up to lead a few more hikes this fall before the rain and snow return in full force in the alpine. While the outdoor environment is relatively Covid-safe, remember to maintain your distances along the trail and when commuting with others, wear a mask. To all, stay safe and enjoy the colours!

**-Grant**

### A MONTH OF TUESDAYS: VEDDER MOUNTAIN RIDGE TRAIL WORK

When I first announced this project, I commented that the plan was to work on the trail every Tuesday throughout the fall until all the planned repairs were completed or the weather forced us off the mountain. In hindsight one aspect of this agenda was ill advised. Why? Every time we have gone to work on the trail we have seen other potential 'little' fixes that would improve the hiking experience, so the reality is work on this trail, as work on every trail is and will always be..... endless.



In total we had 4 workdays on the mountain: Oct. 6, 13, 20, & 27 with a total of 10 club members coming out one or more days for a total of 86 hrs (Grant A., Jim S., Carol A., Christine C., Kim B., John B., John C., Jeremy S., Cal F., and Gary B.). Day # 1 was more re-con and inspecting the trail and in particular the rope scrambling aids on the rock bluffs. it was the first time that Grant had been to the summit of the mountain. The skies were clear, and we had great views of



Mt. Baker and up the Chilliwack River Valley. On the way down we reconfigured the lower of the two ropes (mainly increasing the frequency of the knots to provide better handholds). Going up and down the trail we did considerable trail re-benching.

Day #2 the team did more re-benching, build a set of rock steps, added more length to the rope up the lower rock face and replaced the rope up the upper rock face scramble.

Day # 3 (Oct. 2) a team of 6 brushed (cut back) the ground growth and encroaching alder on the road up to the upper parking area and along the deactivated FSR from the current trailhead to the original trailhead (approx. 400m of trail). We were particularly pleased with getting this task done as we knew Cal had scheduled a hike to the summit for the following Saturday.

I joined Cal on this hike and was the lead car with the plan to drive up to the upper parking lot. I didn't mak it, none of the vehicles did, as the road was blocked by dozens of trees (mainly Alders) that had collapsed across the roadway under the weight of the overnight snowfall. The walk from the lower parking area to the actual trailhead is approximately .8km. When we got there, we were gobsmacked by the sight. The trail we had completely cleared a few days before was buried in a blanket of broken, twisted, bowed trees. The trail was barely discernible (see Cal's event report on this hike). The original plans for Day # 4 (Oct. 27) were put aside, the task now was to re-clear the roadway and the trail. Aided by heavy duty loppers, a machete, handsaws and a chainsaw literal hundreds of trees were cut back and then dragged and thrown off the trail.

The work is not finished. The plan is to continue the weekly work days as long as we can. The focus will be on re-benching and reinforcing the trail; perhaps adding additional steps in some of the steeper sections and installing scramble aids up rock incline to the bridge before to rock

scramble aids.

A big thanks to everyone who has volunteers some of their time and energy to work on the trail. There is more to do, so if you can do come out.

-Gary B

## FROSTY MT – OCT 2



On Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> we set out early from the Cottonwood Mall. We arrived just after 8:30 and the parking spots were almost full at Lightening Lake. We anticipated a busy hike, but everyone spread out on the trail. We had summer weather, fall colors and great views. The other hikers on the trail were friendly, gathering to rest and soak in the beautiful sunshine at a variety of rest stops.



We all hiked a brisk pace to the Larch meadows where there was the option of staying to soak in the colors. The trail through the boulder field was well marked and travelled. There was no wind along the ridge at the top and even the summit was warm and calm. We ate lunch, basked a bit in the sun and then made room for others to get their photos. We made very good time and had some breaks to rest our feet on the way down. We saw many going up with backpacks to spend the night; we heard it was insanely busy on Saturday and were glad we could go on Friday in the mild weather.



On the trip: Don Field, Denise Davidson, Brian Flett (along with Shasta and Harley), **Cindy**

**ZUPJOK – LLAMA – ALPACA – OCT 3**



Ignoring the smoky skies around Chilliwack, three of us headed to the Zopkios Rest Area on Hwy 5 to spend the day hiking on these three peaks. We found the trailhead a little west of the bathroom building, crossed a bridge, and followed an old logging road for 45 min before turning uphill at the cairn.



The climb through the trees was steep but after an hour we emerged into the alpine on Zupjok peak. From here, we could see our trek ahead, across the not-Llama and Llama bumps leading to the long gradual climb towards Alpaca. The terrain is

interesting with exposed granite slabs eroded smooth interspersed with stubby spruce and krummholz. The day grew increasingly clear and warm and we had good views of the Yak-Nak-Thar range and other granite batholithic domes with their sharply down sloped smooth faces. But the day's highlights were Cindy falling in the mud pit and having burgers and smokies at the food truck at the rest stop.



Total return stats: 21km; 1400m gain; 8 hours. Participating: Andrew, Grant, **Cindy**

**FROSTY MT AND THE GOLDEN LARCHES – OCT 5**



Alpine larches live at high elevations with rocky soil and cold temperatures. The ones on Frosty Mountain live at about 2000m above sea level. The larches can live incredibly long – over 1000 years – which is surprising since they aren't particularly large trees. Alpine larches grow mostly in the Rocky Mountains and in Eastern BC since they need a drier, and colder climate than we get in Vancouver. But Manning Park has a teeny tiny pocket of prime larch habitat. It's high enough, dry enough, cold enough and rocky enough to



support larch trees. And it's waaaay up on the side of Frosty Mountain, so you have to hike up there to see them. Cindy posted this hike on a Friday and Cal posted it on a Monday. The weather was fantastic for both days. I have done this hike every year since 2013 and this was the first time that I have done it with no snow and summer-like conditions. It was great having lunch, sitting in the sun while enjoying the Larches.



I was also happy to watch three Chilliwack Outdoor Club Members summit MT Frosty for the first time. Along for the Monday hike were Mark, Denise, Tracy, Jackie, Peter and Cal.

### MT LINCOLN – OCT 7



Mt Lincoln is a short steep hike near Yale BC. 5 KM return and 578 MR of elevation. It can be a challenging hike. There are several rope assists and a 20 foot exposed section that has a chain bolted into the rock to hold onto. October and November is called shoulder season and this is a good shoulder season hike. Seven Members joined up for this short hike on what was the last warm day of the year.



On the summit we had great views of Yale and the Fraser canyon. We could clearly see Hope MT which we hiked last month and the three peaks of Wells Mountain which we did a few weeks ago. David B test flew his new drone at the summit, so we are looking forward to some awesome videos and pictures in the near future. It was tough to leave the summit as we all knew that this would be the last day of the year to enjoy the hot sun. Along for this hike were, Brigitte, Setsuko, Grant, Don, David, Len, and Cal.

## WATERSPRITE LAKE – OCT 15



Watersprite lake near Squamish BC is a crystal clear, turquoise lake framed by dramatic peaks. It is one of the most awe-inspiring hikes around. Watersprite Lake was a hidden gem for years. Unknown to most and tucked away down a long, bumpy forest service road. But the word is out and it's 'hidden gem' status has changed. A new trail to Watersprite Lake has been built by the British Columbia Mountaineering Club. It took several years of legal negotiations with the B.C. Government for the trail to be allowed.



There is also a 10-person cabin at the lake available for reservation. The Chilliwack Outdoor club has stayed at this cabin several times. The entire trail up to the lake is full of amazing views. Gorgeous mountains, valleys, and creeks – all along a well-marked and easy to follow route. The new trail offers better scenery, less mud, and bypasses an ecologically sensitive bog. We sat down for lunch enjoying the lake, Martin Peak, Gibson Peak, Watersprite tower and Dreadnought Peak behind the lake. I shall be going back when there is more daylight to hike Demon Ridge trail which is a newer trail that spurs off the main watersprite lake trail. A great day was had by all. Attending this adventure were Cindy, Michelle, Leora, David, Irene, Jackie, Peter and Cal.

## EATON LAKE – OCT 22



Eaton lake is a beautiful hike and is just less than an hour drive from Chilliwack. The trail is well defined. The forest floor is very green and soft to walk on. There is a wonderful lake



with several waterfalls to view. I love this hike and usually end up doing it numerous times a year. It is my locally preferred hike.



Many of my friends' preferred hikes are Elk and Sumas MT which I am not able to understand. We had the trail to ourselves today. The conditions were perfect and the waterfalls were roaring.



Snow on the top third of the hike added to the beauty. Just before the lake grazing in the snow we saw a large deer with a huge Antler rack. We all had a great view of the lake while getting dive bombed by the many whisky jacks which kept amusing us. On the way home we saw a coyote in full stride. What more could you ask for?

Along for the great day were Denise, David, Jackie, Brigitte, Don, Mark, Steve, Colleen, Marry, Heather and **Cal**.

#### VEDDER RIDGE TRAIL - OCT 24



The forecast looked great when this hike was posted and 19 members signed up. Ten of them newer members. However, the night before the hike the snow line dropped considerably and was now below the trailhead road. We started the hike with a bonus icy walk up the Forest service road to the trailhead. Most members put their microspikes on at the start of the hike and those that did not have them surely went out



and bought them after the hike The wind the night before downed a considerable number of alder onto the first 400 meters of trail making this adventure more exciting. The entire trail was covered in snow and ice. The wind made this a cold hike for some members and I am sure this experience taught many members the need to pack proper clothing.



There was some hesitation from a few members when we came upon the rope assist sections but everyone made it to the viewpoint without assistance. It turned out to be a great day for a wonderful hike in a winter wonderland. I certainly hope to see all the new members out on the trails again.



Nineteen people on a hike is a large number so I thank everyone who went on this hike for their patience. I am hoping to start splitting up the large groups with different starting times on some future hikes. Along for this journey were Grete H, Denise D, John C, Ginger C, Marlene D, Liz L, Denise P, Kathy H, Maeve C, Siavash, Jane D, Setsuko K, Gary B, Fiona J, Jim, Brian T, Lori B and **Cal**.

## SQUAMISH CHIEF – OCT 29

I usually write up trip reports for the tripper on hikes that I have led. I saw Don T's serious and humorous post on facebook about the Squamish Chief hike we did and thought that members might appreciate the write up from his point of view. It certainly was an interesting hike. The situation up on the first peak was dangerous and it was a very difficult situation for the RCMP to be in. We did not find out the outcome and the trail was still closed when we left. I feel sad that the RCMP have to deal with these mental health situations as their training is minimal in this field. We did not attempt the third peak because of slick conditions. Along for this adventure were club members, Don, Irene, Dave, Sonia, Brian, Tracy, Lori, Denise and Cal F.

-Cal F



Yesterday, I joined the Chilliwack Outdoor Club on a hike up Stawamus Chief in Squamish. It was one heck of a hike. It had 3 components to it like I've never experienced before. Nicomen Mountain stands in a category of its own and now these 3 components do likewise.



The first one is the relentless stairs that are either rock or man made. I really never understood the true definition of relentless until these stairs. They truly cannot be

exaggerated. They go on for days and days, and they are bloody steep. When we were in Universal Studios, in Anaheim, last year, the 3 Tocher boys (grandson, son, and me) did all the stairs there and I never believed there were more stairs anywhere. But here we are.



In addition to the adventure of these stairs, we were almost up to the first peak when we got turned around. Hikers coming down told us that there was a crazy guy up there with no clothes on that wasn't letting anyone get past him. The police had been called. Earlier, we had seen a backpack and a jacket on the side of the trail and later found out that they were his and his clothes were all along the trail further up. It just added to our adventure.

The second one was going to the Second Peak. We had to navigate quite a few extremely steep sections up a rock cliff area. Just before this I stepped on a really slippery rock and slipped and fell forward. I had to use my hands to block the fall and damaged my left palm quite a bit on the rough rocks. I only mention this as I needed my hands to pull myself up the long chain sections that you needed to get up that rock wall section. There were quite a few of them and they were challenging which made it fun and another adventure. The chains were number 2.

The third was coming down from Second Peak. The route was steeply down through a very rugged valley. Rocks, roots, creeks and generally challenging footing. More adventure. We finally got through all that and decided to take another crack at First Peak. We had barely gotten started when hikers informed us that the police were still up there and were turning people around.

So back down we went, only this time we had to go Down those relentless stairs. Did I mention that they were relentless? Or that they were steep?

We finally got back to our vehicles and I ticked another adventure off the list.

It was another great day with a wonderful group of people.

-Don T

Enjoy life folks.

## SUMAS MT – OCT 31

Cal Francis of Chilliwack Outdoor Club volunteered me to lead a hike up to Chadsey Lake and beyond to the Sumas Mountain Eastern Lookout. I guess he felt it wasn't enough to send me up five thousand stairs on Thursday. Then he only gives me one day to recover before harnessing me up to lead a pack of seniors up this long and challenging trail.

We had a group of ten people. Cal Francis, Christine C, Grant A, David B, Mark S, Len S, Miriam S, Val S, Glenn R and Don T.

This trail is very diverse with a wide range of surface types, from rocky and rooty, to soft and smooth. From straight walking, to scrambling up rocky banks or large steps. Some of the trail was very dangerous as it had lots of small, loose rocks hiding under large Maple leaves. A significant risk to causing a fall or a twisted ankle.

It DID have stairs. 5 of them. NOT five thousand of them. The first great viewpoint was accessed on the FSR that most people aren't aware of. It gives a great view of the valley looking west and north over Matsqui Prairie, Hatzic Lake, Dewdney and the northern mountains.

Then it is back to the trail and some more climbing. Eventually we get to the beautiful Chadsey Lake. The group decides it is lunch time even though we haven't reached our objective yet. This is lunch number? I've lost count. My first hint that this day of leading this group is going to be like herding cats. A very nice and fun group of cats, but cats nevertheless. Did you know that a group of cats is called a Clowder?

Also, one of the cats has an abundance of sandwiches with them and is determined to stop and sit down and eat every one of them. Approximately every 10 minutes. A debate ensued on how many were in this cat's pack. Was it 20? Was it 21? We eventually settled on 20.5 in order to settle the debate and move on. Oh well, it seems cats need to eat. A Lot.



After the extended lunch break at the main Lake viewpoint and mostly failed efforts to get people moving, we headed off again. We barely got around the bottom of the lake when the

group found a rope tied to a tree branch that you could swing out over the lake on.

After much frivolity we got all the way around the lake to the junction which took us up to the Eastern Lookout. At that point, I had to have a nature break. I had a break all right. I broke my zipper. I had to spend the rest of the day with my fly open. All the time thinking about how many people saw my fly undone and thinking, 'typical old guy forgetting to pull up his fly'.

From this junction, the trail goes up very steeply with lots of switchbacks and steep sections that required a lot of high stepping to get over. Not best for short legs. The clowder spread out more than normal on this section.

Eventually, we made it to the minor lookout that most people think is the only lookout. More photos. A large group of hikers showed up and it immediately became apparent that their leader knew about the real lookout, so I tried desperately to get the clowder herded up in order to beat them to the real lookout so we could get a group photo as that area is too small to accommodate two large groups and still get a group photo or any clear photos. Another leadership failure. Have you ever tried to herd cats?

The other leader was trying to do the same thing with the same results. We both looked at each other with that look of frustrated understanding.

I have no idea how it happened, but somehow, we managed to get there ahead of them. I think they gave up because they never did show up and they weren't there when we returned. We got all our photos as well as our group photo.



The view from here is nothing less than spectacular. You can see more than 180°. Starting from the south and Mt Baker all the way through the Border Peaks to the Mt Cheam range then looking up the Fraser River and across to the north and the spectacular monster mountains of Mt Judge Howay and Mt Robie Reid.

Then it was time to head down. That was another adventure. However, we managed to finally get going after much cajoling. The trip down was eventful as there were a few falls and some minor injuries. One of the hikers was cramping up pretty badly and that is really no fun at all. On top of that he



had a couple of falls. I fell down myself. I stepped down a rock bank onto a rock ledge that looked fine but was just grease and I fell headfirst about two or three feet and landed on my forearm. Mark thought I had hit my head and asked me if I had. I told him I would have no idea if I ever hit my head. However, I did manage to get a very bruised forearm and consider myself extremely lucky.

Going down the sections of trail that were covered in leaves was deadly and far worse than going up. You had to do it slowly, by feel, as you couldn't see any of the loose rocks covered by the leaves. A very slow and stressful process. Eventually we made it back to the vehicles. I'm pretty sure we set a record that will stand for many years to come as the longest duration hike to the East Summit Lookout.

All kidding aside, in spite of how long it took us (2 hours longer than my previous longest) it was truly a lot of fun with a great group of people.

Happy living everyone. ❤️ Don

### UNNECESSARY MT. – OCT 31

Glenn Gadicke, Andrew Dunlop, Brian Flett and Cindy Waslewsky hiked up Unnecessary mountain and beyond. 18.5 km. 1400 meters elevation gain.



We left home as the blue moon was setting and watched a beautiful sunrise as we drove to West Vancouver. The nice gravel trail started through the Cyprus Mountain ski area, passing frozen ponds, frost encased foliage to switchback gradually up. The trail transitioned into a rough, rooty trail that was frozen in the morning and muddy in the afternoon. 2 hours up this rugged trail we reached St Marks, which was our halfway point, timewise.



The next portion of the hike involved steep up and down scrambles, a few ropes, frozen ledges, and dramatic views. The group travelled at a steady pace, stopping to admire the views, take photos and carefully negotiate slippery terrain. We had 2 dogs, Shasta and Koda, who were well behaved and added color to our photos. After summiting Unnecessary mountain, we hiked unnecessarily past to an overlook directly across from the Lions. Unfortunately, the clouds moved rapidly up to shroud

the peaks during our lunch break. We made very good time on our return, hiking down to a few overlooks and chatting with people we now met along the trail. Back at our vehicles Glenn provided us all with a beer to celebrate as we chatted and reviewed our stats. This was a dramatic, rugged hike with terrific views and great hiking partners.

-Cindy

Coastal Mountain Mountaineering Literature:  
The Birthing Years

Mt. Garibaldi Park:  
Vancouver's Alpine Playground  
Don Munday: 1922

In The Western Mountains:  
Early Mountaineering in British Columbia  
Susan Leslie: 1980

I was going through my library of mountaineering literature the other day and two books stepped out to greet me from a more dusty part of the book shelves.

Don Munday, and his wife Phyllis Munday, are best known as first generation west coast pioneers in mountaineering, but Don was also a fine writer. Many were the more popular and scholarly articles he had published on the history and geography of mountains. But, Don's missive, published in 1922, Mt. Garibaldi Park: Vancouver's Alpine Playground, is a literary and visual beauty not to miss—a collector's item I would think (almost 100 years since it was first published). Don dedicated the booklet "to the truest lover of the mountains I know—My Wife". The pamphlet, and the many

black and white photos included in the booklet, was published shortly after Garibaldi became a park, and, in many ways, it was one of the first trail maps in BC for exploring and enjoying the newly born park. The multiple photos and potential destinations (many a good glacier trip worth the making) are described in intricate depth and detail. There is a breadth in this 50 page overview that many can still learn from. The larger fold out map of Garibaldi Lake and environs is a delight to sit and ponder. There is a grateful nod, by way of conclusion, to both BCMT and ACC-Vancouver section, Don and Phyllis active at different times with both groups.

black and white photo not to miss, each picture a journey into the origins of mountaineering in the western mountains, the dramatic photo on the front cover and varied maps illuminating treks taken. The interviews done by Susan (included in this heritage series book) bring to light many of the women and men (and their memories) that are now mostly forgotten—kudos to Susan for her sleuth work in the 1970s to bring into being such a book.

Those who have some abiding interest in the birthing phase of mountaineering on the west coast can learn much from the solid midwife work of Don Munday and Susan Leslie.

montani semper liberi  
-Ron Dart



I was fortunate for a few years to work with Susan Leslie at University of the Fraser Valley (she taught in the English department). In *The Western Mountains*, by Susan, is a hasty but insightful overview of mountaineering in Canada and the western mountains. The short eight sections in 75 pages cover much terrain. “The Alps of North America”, “A Field for an Alpine Club”, “Mountaineering at the Coast” and “Mystery Mountain” are tasty morsels of chapters that whet the appetite for more. Many women are brought to the fore as innovative climbing partners with men and Susan covers, in a finely textured manner, some of the trips taken by groups in the Coastal Mountains (and the legends and leaders of such challenging trips for those times). Needless to say, Don-Phyllis Munday are significant actors on such an expansive stage. Susan, like Don before her, has many a dramatic



These two pics taken by Cal 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 carbineers	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

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