

# **BMN HIKE REPORT**

## **Fraser River Big Bend to East Kent Urban Walk (Nov 18 2017)**

**by Chris Wright**



**View down the Fraser River toward the Knight Street Bridge. *Ian McArthur photo.***

The last hike of the 2017 season was along the North Arm of the Fraser River starting at Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park at the foot of Byrne Road. Nine BMN members set off northwards under overcast but dry conditions. We could see the edge of the clouds off to the southwest and hoped that we wouldn't see rain.

This was a new area for most of the nine and the first time that BMN had explored the area. The trail wound its way along the Fraser River through cottonwood and mixed coniferous forest and we spotted several birds in the trees, including chickadees and possibly pine siskins. The river itself had plenty of wildlife to see, including cormorants, wood ducks, mallards, and a heron which was standing still on the log booms. The river traffic was light but several tugboats and small vessels made their occasional appearance.



Great blue heron on a log boom.  
*Ian McArthur photo.*

As we crossed into Vancouver, we left the Fraser Foreshore Park and walked along a more rustic trail beside the partially developed River District. This 130-acre site will eventually have over 15,000 residents. It was a leisurely stroll with time for enjoying each other's company and spotting various birds in amongst the trees. At the foot of Kerr Street, within the eastern edge of Riverfront Park, our planned destination and turn-around location, we gathered for a group photo on the pier jutting into the river. There was a cool breeze

blowing but we all enjoyed the view up and down the Fraser River.

**Shaggy Mane (*Coprinus comatus*), growing by the side of the path. According to *The New Savory Wild Mushroom*, this edible mushroom is "of good flavor and consistency when young." Ian McArthur photo.**

With the weather continuing to be dry, the clouds thinning out, and the walk being enjoyed by all, the group decided to continue along the trail and extend the outing. Soon after leaving Riverfront Park, we passed the Langara Lodge, docked for the winter. This multi-storey fishing lodge, built on a barge, spends its summers moored along the south side of Langara Island in Haida Gwaii. We stopped for lunch near the western end of Gladstone-Riverside Park overlooking the Fraser River and the eastern end of Mitchell Island. After a leisurely lunch, we returned the same way back to Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park, all with no rain and having walked 10 kilometres.





**On the way back: BMN hikers re-entering Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. Ian McArthur photo.**

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*Birds seen or heard, in roughly the order in which we encountered them: black-capped chickadee, song sparrow, pine siskin (large flock, not certain of identification), northwestern crow, glaucous-winged gull, northern flicker, spotted towhee, mallard, green-winged teal, great blue heron, bald eagle, hooded merganser, common merganser, rock pigeon, dark-eyed junco, bushtit (small flock), double-crested cormorant, house sparrow, Steller's jay, wood duck; in all, 20 species*