

BMN HIKE REPORT

Lower Slopes of Eagle Ridge (July 3 2015)

by Terry Puls



A view from the third viewpoint under the power lines. The Mary Hill development visible in the middle ground.
Terry Puls photo.

To take advantage of the long hours of daylight in early July, we decided that a local evening hike might be something that the BMN hikers try. So twelve of us met at Aspenwood Elementary School on Heritage Mountain in Port Moody on a warm summer evening to enjoy a short hike.

After a quick introduction, as we had some new people on this trip, we crossed Panorama Drive and picked up some of the local urban trails that exist in the greenbelt along West Noons Creek between the various housing developments. We all were happy to enter the forest and escape the warm sun and commented on the dryness of the forest and that the west branch of Noons Creek was a mere trickle. We also noticed that the blackberries were well ahead of their normal schedule due to the warm spring and early summer the Lower Mainland has been experiencing. Eventually we reached the top of the subdivisions and the end of the urban paths; here, we started on a network of trails created by the local mountain bike community. These trails are not as well groomed as the urban trails, but we continued along, now on a trail called "Randy's," and marvelling at some of the stunts the local mountain bikers have created. Soon, we arrived at the red communications tower that is visible from many areas of the Lower Mainland; from here we proceeded a short distance to a viewpoint looking south and east and stopped to take break and enjoy the view. Although there is some interference by power lines, this viewpoint provides a great view to the east, highlighted by Mt. Baker in Washington State. There was some smoke and haze in the air, but we were still able to identify some of the peaks that rise above the Chilliwack Valley such as Mt. Slesse and the Border Peaks. We also discussed the density that is taking over the Coquitlam Town Centre area, with all the high-rise towers that have been constructed over the past few years.

After our break we started heading westward along the power line service road to another viewpoint. Along the way we enjoyed the sounds of some of the resident birds. Once we reached the viewpoint, we were able

to enjoy the view to the west; we could see the downtown core with its many skyscrapers, Stanley Park, and parts of Burrard Inlet. With the evening sun slanting in and some haze in the air, the views of the North Shore mountains were somewhat limited, but we could still see an outline of Mt. Seymour, Runner Peak, and Mt. Elsay through the haze.

It was soon time to begin to retrace our steps, so we started back, now traveling in an eastern direction to one more lookout. The approach to this viewpoint normally involves having to try to negotiate a large puddle, but with the dry conditions, there was no issue in accessing the viewpoint this evening. The view here is quite similar to that of the first viewpoint, but over the course of the evening some of the smoke that had filled the eastern sky earlier had now cleared. Once again we enjoyed the view of the mountains to the east of us and commented on how the SkyTrain construction is changing the area around Coquitlam Centre mall, as the elevated section of track heading north up Pinetree Way is very noticeable from this point.



View to the southeast over Coquitlam Town Centre toward the Fraser River and beyond. The SkyTrain guideway along Pinetree Way is prominent in the foreground. *Terry Puls photo.*

After a short break we started back to our starting point on Panorama Drive, this time utilizing another bike trail, “Blue Line”. This trail provides a much gentler grade to descend upon. We returned to our meeting spot at 9:00 pm, just in time to catch some colour starting to develop in the western sky as the sun began to sink below the horizon. We all agreed that this was a great way to end a Friday, or start a weekend.