

BMN HIKE REPORT

A Multilingual Group Hikes the Coquitlam Lake View Trail (Sunday, November 8, 2014)

by Terry Puls



View from the new Coquitlam Lake Viewpoint, looking southwest over the Coquitlam gravel quarry and the Westwood Plateau toward the Fraser River delta. *Terry Puls photo.*

For the last BMN hike of the 2014 hiking season, a group of fifteen headed out to do the Coquitlam Lake View Trail. After all the rain that our area had received over the past few weeks, we were very fortunate to be treated to a dry day, and with a mostly clear sky to start the day.

We set off from the parking area on Harper Road and headed up the trail known as “Garbage” or Lower Elevator. As we made our way up the trail, we noticed a wide variety of mushrooms growing in the forest. Shortly after starting our hike, we realized that our group was very multilingual and decided to have some fun with this. Normally, it is our practice that the hike leaders will do occasional headcounts to ensure the group stays intact over the duration of the hike, but we thought it would be fun if everyone who spoke

another language would help us do the headcounts in a different language. Over the course of the day, we performed headcounts in Mandarin, French, Greek, Spanish, and German!

Even with all the rain we had received in the days leading up to the hike, crossing a few streams along the way did not pose any real difficulties. Shortly after crossing Coho Creek, we branched off of the old trail which follows the creek, and picked up the new route which travels through the forest and avoids the slippery rocks that one had to contend with on the old route.

BMN hiking group crossing Coho Creek along the Coquitlam Lake View Trail.
Terry Puls photo.

Gaining elevation, we pictured how this forest must have once looked before it was logged. Eventually, we popped back out onto the old trail, and from here it was just a short distance to gain the original Coquitlam Lake lookout. We



all took a moment to take in the views, which included Coquitlam Lake below us and Eagle Ridge off to the west. From this viewpoint we could also see Ridge Park on the Westwood Plateau, the site of our first BMN hike of the 2014 hiking season.

View from the new Coquitlam Lake Viewpoint, looking northwest over Coquitlam Lake and Coquitlam Island toward Eagle Ridge.
Terry Puls photo.

After taking in the sights from this viewpoint, the group headed off to the newly created viewpoint just a few minutes above. The trail to the new viewpoint begins very steeply and switchbacks up the hill for a few moments until it reaches a bluff which rewards one with a fabulous view of Coquitlam Lake, Eagle Ridge, Burnaby Mountain, and even some of the mountains of Vancouver Island off in the distance. We were also able to identify Sky Pilot and Ledge mountains in the Squamish area off to the northwest, as well as some of the peaks at the head of Indian Arm. We had our lunch on this bluff while soaking up the view in front of us.

After a well-deserved rest, we began our trip back. On our return trip we decided to pay a visit to the impressive Saw Blade Falls. We picked up the Saw Blade Trail shortly after crossing Coho Creek. At the entrance to the Saw Blade Trail is an old saw blade from a handsaw used by loggers many years ago. Mountain bikers have erected this at the entrance of the trail. We continued downward until we reached the falls. We stopped to take in the beauty of the falls, which were considerably fuller than on our June public hike. From here we returned via the “False Solomon’s Seal Trail” (CLVT’s Lower West Fork) back to our starting point on Harper Road.

This was a good way to end the 2014 season: a new viewpoint to enjoy and sharing the headcount duties to give other participants the opportunity to share counting in a variety of different languages.