



View from Mt. Killam looking towards Horseshoe Bay. (photo by Terry Puls)

BMN TRIP REPORT

Mount Killam (July 12, 2008)

by Mark Johnston

Over the years, we have, on occasion, combined a bit of seafaring with our hiking. We've taken the ferry to Bowen Island and hiked up Mt. Gardner, a water taxi to Anvil Island and climbed Leading Peak, and a ferry and taxi to Gambier Island and gone up Mt. Liddell. Those of us who have enjoyed one or more of the previous trips were happy for a new adventure combining sailing and hiking: a return trip to Gambier Island and, this time, a climb of Liddell's eastern companion, Mt. Killam.

Trip day—Saturday, July 12—proved to be gorgeous. The early-summer day was crystal clear and eventually very warm. Six of us made the ferry crossing to Langdale and then hopped aboard the *Stormaway III* for the relatively shorter run to Gambier. Actually, the latter voyage turned out to be something of a milk run, with two stops at Keats Island—the westside main dock and then the opposite side's Eastbourne—before our landing, shortly after nine, at Gambier's New Brighton on Thornbrough Bay.

The hike up Killam was surprisingly steep. On the way up, we were happy to take two or three lengthy breaks, and were, from time to time, pleurably distracted by discovering large, old-growth, fire-blackened Douglas-firs.

We reached the summit in the heat of the day. Although the top is treed and its views limited, we were glad to be able to eat our lunch in the summit canopy's shady coolness. Like Liddell, Mt. Killam is named after a local man who was killed in the Second World War. As we ate, we were interested to read in the summit register that only a few days before, some of the deceased's family had been up the mountain. Perhaps, an annual ritual?

After lunch, we hiked back downhill for fifteen minutes to some cliffs we had noted on the way up. From the top of these cliffs, we had breathtakingly sweeping views: from the Britannia Range on the east side of Howe Sound to the Sunshine Coast mountains on the west side; and across Bowen, Keats, Paisley, and a number of lesser islands—and the open waters of the Strait of Georgia—to Vancouver Island beyond.

After a careful descent of Killam's steep slopes, we arrived back at New Brighton by 5:30 or so. We had time for a cold drink at the general store/cafe before catching the *Stormaway III* for the first leg of our return journey. A most satisfying day!