

BMN HIKE REPORT

Brothers Creek to Hollyburn Lodge (July 28, 2018)

By Sigrid Felland



A view of West Lake at the end of the Brothers Creek Trail. *Dave Samis photo.*

On a sunny Saturday, six of us set out to hike the Brothers Creek trails. We parked on Millstream Road at the top of British Properties in West Vancouver. From Millstream we went up the fire access road and passed by an old mill site dating from 1912. There is a lot of logging history in the area of Brothers Creek and Hollyburn Mountain, including remnants of an old cable railway and a loading dock.

After an hour of walking on rough gravel on the fire road, we came to the junction of the washed out Brothers Creek Bridge on the left and the trail to Lost Lake on the right. At the time of our hike, the creek was low enough that we wouldn't have needed a bridge to cross Brothers Creek. Fortunately there was enough of a trickle in the creek for a cooling off. Ali took his shirt off and soaked it with the cold water before putting it back on. While walking up the gravel road, we had noticed mostly second-growth forest, but also admired some majestic old-growth giants still standing.

The first portion of the hike follows a rough gravel fire road.
Dave Samis photo.

After a short break at the junction, we hiked up the more rugged trail to Lost Lake, which is surrounded by thick vegetation. We continued on to West Lake via an up-and-down trail in the woods. Along the way we crossed Brothers Creek. At West Lake we saw a bald eagle on the other side eyeing two ducklings closer to where we were standing. The ducklings' parents were nowhere in sight. We tried to coax the ducklings back to shore, though without offering any food. Eventually the eagle moved location and when we left, the ducklings were still alive. But without parents around, the likelihood of the ducklings surviving is not great, especially on an open lake.

We then climbed up the hills to our lunch stop, Hollyburn Lodge, by First Lake. The lodge was open and everyone was very eager to quench their thirst with a beer. Our lunch was outside by the lake in partial sun. First Lake would have been the most suitable for swimming of all the four lakes we would come to, as it has a sandy beach.



Our lunch was finished with a fresh cup of green tea, generously provided by Mahasti and Ali.

On our return trip we first followed a skiing trail, Grand National, down to the remnant foundation of the old West Lake Lodge. There is a good view from this trail of North and West Vancouver. We then walked to Blue Gentian Lake and found the lake with yellow pond lilies and an old picnic table.

Blue Gentian Lake. *Dave Samis photo.*

After a short water break, we continued to Brothers Creek. From this point we followed the scenic trail on the west side of the creek, where we had views of the creek, deep down in its canyon, with three waterfalls with scant amount of water.



The rougher trail on the west side of Brothers Creek on the return trip.
Dave Samis photo.

The trail on this side of the creek is more challenging than the fire road, but far more interesting. We followed the westside trail down to one of the crossover trails, the Trans Canada/Skyline trail, then turned left to cross back over the creek. The trail goes down a steep ravine, 100 m down to the last waterfall, where there is a bridge across. This was the last opportunity for a cool down in a pool of the creek amid some flat rocks. On the other side, the trail also rises 100 m,

but with the help of steps. This crossover trail took us back to the power lines and out just above the fire access road and the entrance of the gated gravel road.



Cooling off in Brothers Creek near the end of the hike.
Dave Samis photo.

This was a perfect hike for such a day—we were out of the hot sun, protected by the forest canopy for most of the day.

The distance covered was about 14.5 km.