

# BMN HIKE REPORT

## Bert Flinn Park and Shoreline Trail (March 14, 2020)

By Chris Wright



**GPS map of the hikers' route, made using *gurumaps*. Provided by C. Wright.**

We met for our first hike of the year at Old Orchard Hall under mostly clear skies, though it was a bit cool. It was interesting to see the eleven of us standing at the meeting location some distance apart as the early COVID-19 best practices were just beginning to become a new reality.

After the usual introductory remarks, we crossed Ioco Road and made our way steeply into Bert Flinn Park using Jacobs Road and Wilkes Creek Trail. Reaching the Lower Backyard Trail, we had a brief break, caught our breath from the steep ascent, and admired the coastal forest.

Our plan for the hike was to complete two loops in the park and its surroundings, the first to the northwest, and a smaller one to the southeast. We headed off westward and quickly reached the dry creek bridge for Hett Creek, then ascended slightly through the forest. The trail turned northward and soon led us to Flavelle Park, which provided partial views of Port Moody Inlet.

**View from Flavelle Park,  
looking southwest toward  
Port Moody Inlet.  
*Terry Puls photo.***



After a brief stop for the views and some water, we walked along a few residential roads—Flavelle Road and Chevalier Court—before re-entering the forest on the Flavelle Trail. It was at this point that we could see the waters of Mossom Creek at the bottom of a steep slope. The trail continued northward following the creek and we looked for glimpses of the Mossom Creek Hatchery through the forest.



**View along the gas line right-of-way.  
*Terry Puls photo.***

Upon reaching the gas right-of-way at Mountain Ayre Lane, we headed southeast along the right-of-way soaking up the sun. We soon re-entered the forest and continued our southeast hike to the western end of David Avenue, another location for some sun, catching up on news, and having some water.

From David it was off to the west to complete our first loop before retracing our path to where we had originally ascended from Ioco Road. It was at this point that Ian gave us all a pop quiz, asking if we recognized the location. I believe we all passed the test, having recognized our near starting point.

We began our second loop by heading off to the east and southeast through the sun-dappled forest, descending past the new heron rookery (although not seeing any nests) to the intersection of Campbell and

Ioco roads. Crossing Ioco, we admired a red house that appeared to be an original from the early 1900s. We made our way into Old Mill Site Park and headed westward along the Shoreline Trail



to complete the smaller loop at Old Orchard Hall. Along the way we stopped a few times looking to spot herons in the previously established Shoreline rookery in among the cottonwood trees.

All in all, it was a great way to start the BMN hiking season. Hopefully, depending on COVID-19 developments, we can schedule some more hikes later in the summer and into the fall.



**Hikers along the Shoreline Trail. *Terry Puls photo.***



**Previously established Shoreline heron rookery in among the cottonwoods. *Terry Puls photo.***