



Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society

P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N3

www.cypresspark.ca

Summer 2018 Newsletter

2018 TRAIL PROJECTS

Howe Sound Crest Trail: As can be seen in the photo, the Trail Crew was making good progress on rerouting to reduce the length of one of the last switchbacks (and avoid hiker traffic through the construction area) when the snow hit early at this elevation [1,160m.] on October 12th, and it was decided to get the machinery to a lower elevation, where some minor projects could be tackled in safety.



This means that major trail rebuilding projects which have to go to BC Bid each year, i.e. following the rules set by Victoria, can end up only having a three month season, as the Bid contract work obviously can't be estimated until the snow melts, - and then by the time the Bid process is complete and a crew and machinery arrive on site, it can be late July. The snowpack at this elevation remaining from last winter could again result in a similar short 'window' for trail rebuilding in 2018.

Black Mountain Plateau: As reported last fall, the multi-year proposal by Friends of Cypress (funded by a bequest from the late Halvor Lunden, the well-known local trail builder) to upgrade the very popular Baden-Powell trail on Black Mountain, ended up being postponed to 2018, as the time frame to do the scope of work, environmental assessment and hire a qualified crew could not be met before the end of the season loomed, and the snow started to fall ...in October! The intent is to do this work without machinery such as a mini-excavator and power wheelbarrow, which has been standard on many projects, including the busy Howe Sound Crest Trail section to St Marks Summit, i.e., where work has to stop and start repeatedly on weekdays during fine weather. The preliminary work such as the environmental assessment has now been completed by BC Parks, and the joint planning process has determined that the several slippery rock slabs and other hazards to hikers are going to be tackled this season, with creek crossings, wetland erosion and other regular repairs to follow in later years. The recent initiative by Victoria to hire Student Rangers has been put forward by BC Parks as a possible way to tackle this project promptly and deal with the BC Bid complications of these projects, i.e., that are at elevations over 1,000m, and have short work seasons - as noted above. However this proposal to 'redirect' our funding was reviewed by FCPP and BC Parks in the context of this funding already being committed by FCPP to the project as a bequest, and as part of several years of trail upgrading (similar to the Howe Sound Crest project, now in its 10th Year...). Hopefully the work will go ahead as soon as possible, given that this trail is in need of work and very busy in summer. As this trail leads to Eagle Bluff, overlooking Horseshoe Bay, this viewpoint is most often the destination of visitors, and it is one of those where the 'Instagram Effect' has been seen in recent years, where picturesque trail destinations can end up being quite crowded and trails seriously eroded to the point of destruction— not to mention the additional meetings we have attended in recent years, devoted to frustrating wrangles over hiker parking

in summer and winter resulting from increased use of local provincial parks. It's not entirely clear how to deal with this new and welcome increased popularity of certain hiking trails, but repairing them using a crew working without power equipment is one strategy that we are exploring with BC Parks. Another could be marking and signage of trails that have fallen into disuse, as there are areas in provincial parks which are zoned for recreation but are underutilized both in summer and winter, mostly due to the perennial funding and staffing issues. One retired park planner has noted in the past that the extensive Black Mountain Plateau at Cypress is close to a large population base and has areas that could see an expanded trail network in summer and winter. However this would take considerable time and money, and despite the area being zoned for recreation, the effect on wetland and other "untouched" areas has to be carefully assessed. It is, in reality, not likely to happen any time soon, as BC Parks is still trying to manage and operate over 1,030 Provincial Parks and protected areas with a budget of about \$40,000 per site, i.e. just over \$40 million as of February 8th 2018, which is now less than the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks system has in their annual operating budget - at \$41.3 million for their 24 Regional Parks, 5 Parks Reserves and 4 Greenways in the Lower Mainland (up from \$36 million in 2017.)

Lost Lake Trail: North Shore Wetland Partners Paul Berlinguette and Fiona Wright hope to build a new bog bridge over the very wet section at the top of the hill from Stoney Creek to Lost lake; to stabilize bog bridges closest to the Lake; and build one more bog bridge to keep dogs out of the wetland.

BC PARKS NEWS

Congratulations to Scott Donker who has been appointed Area Supervisor for BC Parks South Coast Region. Erin Rutherford, who was Senior Ranger last year with Scott, has now been joined by Simon Debischopp also as Senior Ranger. We are pleased to welcome Simon back to Cypress from a short stint with Metro Vancouver. The two summer Auxiliary Rangers are David Whiteside and Kristen Murrell. David is the ranger who liaises with Trail Watchers and is well known to many of us. We look forward to getting to know Kristen. To have two full time Vancouver area rangers is a significant increase in staff. However, we need to bear in mind that the rangers are responsible not only for Cypress and Seymour Provincial Parks but for Plumper Cove, Haklett Bay, Apodaca, Porteau Cove, Say Nuth Khaw Yum (Indian Arm Park), Peace Arch, and Pinecone Burke.

Also working out of the Seymour BC Parks Office is Elyse Curley, Community Liaison Officer for the South Coast region. Elyse is now 5 months into her position, a position that was introduced under the previous government 's BC Parks Future Strategy to encourage participation and volunteerism in local area parks. Her role includes work on public outreach and communication, supporting staff with partnerships and volunteers, and coordination of various community meetings and projects.

Cypress will benefit as well from the new Student Ranger Program, an initiative that was launched by Parks in April 2018. Funded by the federal and provincial governments, the Student Ranger Program provides youth training and employment opportunities for 48 young adults in B.C.'s parks and protected areas, with a 30% Indigenous hiring target. The Province is contributing \$610,000 over 2 years from the proceeds of the BC Parks licence plates program. Scott Donker has announced that 6 of those 48 student rangers will be assigned for the summer as a shared resource for Cypress and for South and North Fraser Areas. At Cypress they will be doing invasive plant removal and working on the Black Mountain Trail reroutes.

CYPRESS MOUNTAIN RESORT NEWS

Russ Chamberlain, President and General Manager of Cypress Mountain Resort (CMR) has confirmed Boyne's reacquisition of the Cypress Park use Permit 1506 and the ski area facilities as of May 8, 2018. Boyne, CMR's parent company, is the largest mountain resort company in North America. CMR is planning to start work on installing further snowmaking pipes on Strachan starting in July, as well as installing electrical cable and finishing some of last year's work. (You might remember the machinery at

work on Collins Run on Strachan last summer.) Grooming (brush cutting) on the ski runs will continue all summer, mostly on weekdays. CMR is also planning to proceed with the approved parking lot addition in 3A. As most of us have experienced, parking in winter, particularly on the weekends and holidays, is of major concern. Russ has also confirmed the upgrading of toilet facilities in The Black Mountain Lodge. The toilets have long been on FCPP's "complaint" list. Under the Park Use Permit, Black Mountain Lodge is to be maintained by CMR. Black Mountain Lodge is heavily used not only in the summer when the Cypress Creek Lodge is closed, but also in the winter by those accessing the back country and by skiers heading to the slopes. Most of the parking lots are closer to Black Mountain Lodge than to Cypress Creek Lodge.

Crazy Raven Grill in the Lodge will open on June 30, Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on holidays. FCPP will again have our park information display panels up in the Lodge near the Grill.

Hollyburn Lodge will open on June 30, Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on holidays. The Lodge will not be operating children's summer camps this year.

CYPRESS INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

BC Parks Conservation Specialist Joanna Hirner has advised that Stakeholders will be notified soon about time and location for the much anticipated meeting to discuss invasive plant management within the park. The meeting will be late afternoon or early evening to accommodate those who are still working. FCPP is deeply concerned about invasive plant management.

SUMMER WALK AND HIKES – co-sponsored with NATURE VANCOUVER

We hope you will be able to join us on several of the Cypress Provincial Park walks and hikes listed below. All the leaders are both FCPP and Nature Vancouver members and very familiar with the park.

Hikes are based on the Nature Vancouver Difficulty Rating System:

- A. *Easy: easy path or road with minimal elevation change and minimal hazards.*
- B. *Moderate: trail with possible rocks, roots or other hazards. Moderate gradient, occasional steep but short sections. Up to 100 m elevation change*
- C. *Strenuous: moderately steep gradient. 100 m to 500 m elevation change.*
- D. *Very Strenuous: constant steep gradient. 500 m to 1,000 m elevation change.*

What the number in the rating means:

The expected duration is then added to the letter category to obtain a combined letter/figure rating

Example: a "C-6" hike will be a C (strenuous) hike, as described above, with an estimated time on the trail of 6 hours.

Participants will be asked to sign Nature Vancouver's Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risks & Indemnity Agreement.

Meeting locations in Cypress Provincial Park: For trips leaving from Cypress Bowl Alpine Ski Area meet outside Black Mtn. Lodge. For trips leaving from the Hollyburn Nordic Ski Area meet at the BC Parks Kiosk.

Dress for changing mountain weather. Wear sturdy boots. Bring adequate water and food.

JUNE 30 (Saturday) Yew Lake Area Botany Walk. Join Eva Nagy and Katharine Steig for an exploration of the Yew Lake area. The 2.5 km mostly level Yew Lake Trail and Old-Growth Loop pass through meadows, wetlands and old-growth forest. If the alder has been cleared on the Pumphouse Road, we will also walk down to check on butterworts. Focus will be on plant ID & recording what's in bloom. Bring a hiking pole in case of lingering snow on the trail. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Black Mtn. Lodge (not Cypress Creek Lodge) in the Cypress Bowl parking lot. PLEASE register with Eva at 604-929-4286 or evnagy@shaw.ca Let Eva

know if you need a ride up the mountain. Contact Katharine at 604-922-7949 or katharine@steig.com if more information is needed.

JULY 8 (Sunday) Old-Growth Ecology & Plant ID on Hollyburn Baden-Powell Trail (East from Cypress Bowl Alpine Ski Area). Leader: David Cook. Difficulty Rating B3. Duration approx. 3 hrs. Moderate terrain, but several rough/rooty sections. Hiking poles recommended. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Black Mtn. Lodge. Registration advised in case of cancellation due to unfavourable weather. Contact David at cokeco2@yahoo.com or 604-924-0147 to register

JULY 22 (Sunday) Yew Lake Area Botany Walk. Join Eva Nagy and Katharine Steig for an exploration of the Yew Lake area. The 2.5 km mostly level Yew Lake Trail and Old-Growth Loop pass through meadows, wetlands and old-growth forest. If the alder has been cleared on the Pumphouse Road, we will also walk down to check on butterworts. Focus will be on plant ID & recording what's in bloom since the June 30 visit. Meet at 10:00 a.m. outside Black Mtn. Lodge (not Cypress Creek Lodge) in the Cypress Bowl parking lot. PLEASE register with Eva at 604-929-4286 or evnagy@shaw.ca Let Eva know if you need a ride up the mountain. Contact Katharine at 604-922-7949 or katharine@steig.com if more information is needed.

AUGUST 5 (Sunday) Geology of Cypress Provincial Park Leader: David Cook with Bill Kinkaid. Difficulty rating C5. Distance 7 km. Duration 5 to 6 hrs. Elv. gain 500 m. This will be a slow hike up the Collins Ski Run to the South Peak of Mt. Strachan (1442 m) with many stops on the way to view the geology of the area. We will make a short side-trip to look at an area of sub-alpine pasture returning to forest after an ancient lightning fire. The ski run has a loose pebbly surface. Hiking poles recommended. Full day hike.

AUGUST 18 (Saturday) Blue Gentian Lake Leader: Lyn Grants. Leisurely 4 hr, 3.2 km hike with frequent botany stops. Difficulty rating B4; 180 m. gain. Return via West Lake. Hiking poles recommended. Carpool from Park&Ride on roof of Park Royal North (west end of roof) at 9:00 a.m. or meet at Hollyburn Nordic Area BC Parks Kiosk at 9:30 a.m. Contact Lyn at lmgrants@gmail.com or 604-980-9050.

AUGUST 25 (Saturday) Black Mtn. Baden-Powell Trail to Eagle Bluff. Leader: Anne Leathem. Difficulty rating: Strenuous C5: 8.6 km; 5-6 hrs; 490 m gain. Hike up steep B-P Trail to Cabin Lake, over Black Mtn., then SW past several small lakes, descending gradually to Eagle Bluff. Views of Georgia Strait and Mt. Baker. Carpool from Park&Ride on roof of Park Royal North (west end of roof) at 9 a.m. or meet at 9:30 a.m. at Black Mtn. Lodge. Contact anneATleathem.ca or 604-988-9390.

SEPTEMBER 2 (Saturday) Yew Lake Area Botany Walk Leader: Gail Ross. The 2.5 km, mostly level Yew Lake Trail and Old-Growth Loop pass through meadows, wetlands and special old-growth forest. Focus will be on plant ID & recording what's in bloom. Meet at 10:00 a.m. outside Black Mtn. Lodge (not Cypress Creek Lodge) in the Cypress Bowl parking lot.

SEPTEMBER 8 (Friday) Hollyburn Mountain Trail (to Peak). Leader: Kitty Castle. Difficulty rating C5; 5 hrs; 8 km return; 430 m elevation gain. Hike will include stop at newly restored Hollyburn Lodge. Meet at Hollyburn Nordic Area BC Parks Kiosk at 10 a.m. Contact Kitty at 604-980-9464 or kcas4139@gmail.com for further information.

THIRD EDITION CYPRESS PROVINCIAL PARK SUMMER HIKING MAP

Mike Castle, resolute and talented map maker, is currently working on the completion of third edition of the summer hiking map. We are grateful to Mike for his tireless energy and enthusiasm for ensuring the accuracy of this very helpful and free hiking map/brochure.

F CPP and Archives

F CPP has found a home for its archives with the West Vancouver Archives, located at the Gertrude Lawson House at 680 17th Street, West Vancouver. An important aspect of preserving documents in an established archives with a trained archivist is that they are stored in a fireproof, locked location at humidity-controlled conditions. Another is that it allows public access to them.

F CPP has over 30 years of records including minutes, legal and historical documents and photographs. Most F CPP documents will be publicly available; however, access to minutes will be restricted to members or at the discretion of Directors. The signed agreement between F CPP and

West Vancouver Archives states that if the Archives chooses to dispose of any FCPP materials, FCPP will be notified and can retrieve the documents. Because of the long history of FCPP, and preservation of documents by its dedicated and diligent members and Directors, many documents, including minutes, photographs and legal documents, could be of interest to historians, environmentalists, and others. To date, we have moved 4 boxes of documents pertaining to the Judicial Review – [Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society v. British Columbia \(Minister of Environment, Lands & Parks\) 2000. BCSC 466](#). Later all our documents will be moved. The West Vancouver Archives is open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons or by appointment. Phone 604-925-7298 or see website <http://archives.westvancouver.ca/>

And now before we conclude this Summer Newsletter Katharine Steig has been into her archives to retrieve the following article which she wrote for Vancouver Naturalist -June 2007.



Terry's Tidbits - Salmonberries and Mummy Berries

Anyone who has been on a field trip with Terry Taylor knows that more interesting information will be provided than ordinary folks can remember.

For this reason, some participants bring notebooks or even tape recorders. On a Cypress Provincial Park trip last August, we looked at salmonberries and mummy berries, but did we all remember what Terry said about them? I was therefore glad to see Terry's comments about salmonberries in the new VNHS publication, *Discovering Nature in Stanley Park*. To paraphrase Terry's words: Some salmonberry plants have yellow berries while others produce red berries. While there is a difference in berry taste, the two plant forms look identical in every way, differing by only one gene. (Put another way, yellow salmonberries are not unripe red salmonberries.)

I was also glad to see information on mummy berries in print in an article by Don Campanella in the Native Plant Society of BC's Autumn 2003 newsletter, *Menziesia*. Campanella tells us (as Terry has) that mummy berries are those shrivelled whitish berries, shaped like tiny pumpkins, that one sees among normal blueberries growing in the wild or in commercial berry crops. This condition is caused by a fungus (*Monilinia* sp.) that uses "a kind of bribery to recruit the [blueberry] plant's allies to aid in its spread."

In his "Mummy Berries of Lulu Island" article, Campanella reports on research done by Suzanne and Lekh Batra on mummy berry disease among wild blueberries in Maryland. To greatly abbreviate Campanella's description of *Monilinia's* specialized life cycle and insidious propagation technique: mummy berries



winter in the soil beneath blueberry bushes. In spring, they sprout mushroom-like structures that eject millions of spores which drift through the air, landing on and infecting the blueberry bushes' leaves. One can see the infection with a hand lens, appearing as chains of tiny spheres called conidia – fungal propagules that will then infect the blueberry flowers, aided by pollinating insects. The fungal infection on the leaves imitates certain characteristics of flowers, as seen by bees, which may also be attracted by the fungus's odour. The bees land on the leaves, lick the infected surface, then enter the blueberry flower, bringing the infection with them. The fungus enters the flower's ovary through the stigma. The

infected berry will continue to grow, not into a juicy blueberry, but into a hardened, shrivelled mummy berry. Later it will fall to the ground, ready to start the cycle again the next spring. "Only a few kinds of

fungi are known to infect plants by a pollinator vector, and there are even fewer examples of floral mimicry.”

It should be remembered that the above description is based on East Coast mummy berries. In a note to me, Campanella commented that he has no knowledge of the insect interaction described above having been studied on our local mountain blueberry species. Put a hand lens in your back pack, and when next in the park examine local mountain blueberry bushes to look for “floral mimicry” and observe the “hardened masses of fungal tissue” that are, in Campanella’s words, “the curse of the mummy berries.”

To Our Members - a note from our treasurer

... a great big Thank-You to those who renew their membership so faithfully every year and thereby support our efforts on behalf of the Park, and a gentle reminder to those who, for one of a myriad of reasons, are not quite as diligent. Please remember that the membership fee is due at the beginning of each year and expires with the last day of that year; it can be paid at any time during the year, notably at the AGM. As of next year we will be sending out reminders to members who have not renewed by the time of the AGM and who may have simply forgotten to do so. In this context it is worth remembering that while the financial support is important to us and much appreciated, the actual number of our members is equally essential. The more members we have the more effective and legitimate we are in our dealings with BC Parks, the Ski Resort owners, and others. When there aren’t any attention getting issues threatening Cypress Park, it is easy to forget that there is a lot of work going on behind the scenes, and we would like to be able to say that we speak for and act on behalf of a sizeable number of people: you, our members. If you haven’t done so already, please give some consideration to renewing your membership today!

APRIL 17, 2018 FCPP AGM REPORT

The AGM was again held in the Potlatch Room in North Vancouver’s Capilano Library. Thirty-four members attended to hear an excellent presentation by Bev Ramey on Professor John Davidson and the Vancouver Natural History Society-Nature Appreciation and Conservation in Cypress Provincial Park. Directors and members reported with PowerPoint images on the year’s many activities and projects. Copies of the Directors’ and Treasurer’s reports were provided to attendees and are available on request. Alex Wallace was elected as President, Anne George as Vice-President, Anne Leathem as Secretary, Irene Miller was re-elected as Treasurer, Eva Nagy and David Cook were re-elected as Directors-at-Large. Lyn Grants and Bill Kinkaid were newly elected as Directors-at large. Bill Kinkaid is well known to many for his unfailingly energy as hiker and naturalist, and for his many years as Board member and President of Nature Vancouver. With great reluctance we saw both Marshall Bauman and Katharine Steig step down as Directors. Katharine will continue to serve as Advisor. She will receive the Minutes and will certainly act as a valued mentor. And Marshall—we look forward to seeing you on the trails with your excellent eye and camera. A most deeply felt thank you to both of you.

FCPP Directors for 2018
President: Alex Wallace; Vice-President: Anne George;
Secretary: Anne Leathem;
Treasurer: Irene Miller;
Directors-at-large: David Cook, Eva Nagy, Lyn Grants, Bill Kinkaid.
Advisor: Katharine Steig

Contact us at info@cypresspark.ca

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Your \$10 FCPP membership is for a one year period. If you wish to check your membership status for renewal, please contact Treasurer Irene Miller (ivm3924ATshaw.ca or 604-224-7768) or Katharine Steig (katharineATsteig.com or 604-922-7949)

Please clip and mail the membership form below or print out the "Join Us" form on www.cypresspark.ca Or you can renew directly at the AGM.

FCPP Directors greatly appreciate your support of the work our Society does to protect and enhance Cypress Provincial Park. THANK YOU!

For membership in Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society, please mail to:

Treasurer, Friends of Cypress Provincial Park Society
P.O. Box 91053, West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 3N3

Date: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City & Postal Code _____ Tel _____

E-Mail _____ New member ___ Renewal ___

Enclosed is \$10 for single/family membership.

\$ _____ is added as a tax-deductible donation.

Total enclosed is \$ _____

(Charity BN/Registration # 89249 2372 RR0001)

Thank you for your support.