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Trip Report

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Moat Lake And John Brown Lake (hiking)

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Sun Jul 21, 2013

Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

John Brown Lake and Moat Lake 21-7-2013

Last year, when scouting out the back roads looking for easy access points into Strathcona Park, we finished up at an end of the road point less than 1 mile from Moat Lake. So, it seemed like a good plan to scout out a route down to John Brown Lake and then up to Moat Lake.

Sunday was the day and, with good weather, 9 of us turned out for this exploratory adventure. And an adventure it truly was. As mentioned on the trip schedule this would be a trip all off trail, with bushwhacking and some steep sections. Well, we certainly had all of the above and most probably more than we expected. One of the highlights of the trip was the exciting climb out of John Brown Lake up to the next level section. Exciting, that is, if you like literally pulling yourself up a very steep and slippery section by hanging onto the slide alder or whatever else was available to hold your weight. Needless to say, we didn't return that way.

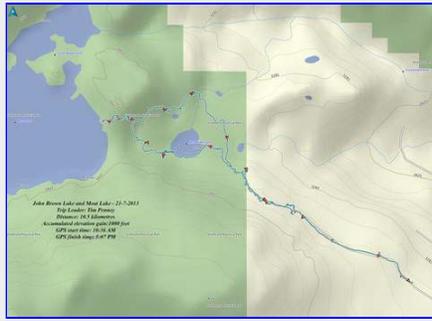
Having gained the next ledge it was, by comparison, a fairly easy scramble the rest of the way to Moat Lake by following up a steep, but well treed, gully between the sheer rocky outcroppings. We stopped for lunch break at the Lake where several of our group enjoyed a refreshing dip in the cool lake water.

On the return trip back down to John Brown Lake we followed an old flagged route to the north of the lake. It was still quite steep with lots of obstacles to navigate around or over, but infinitely better than the route we took on the way into Moat. For those hikers wearing shorts it was quite a blood fest of scrapes and scratches. The pesky mosquitos also had a good feast as we past through their domain.

It is always a bit of fun to find a new route for club hikes and, although others have done this route before us, it didn't diminish the sense of achievement that us 9 hikers had at the end of the trip. Surprisingly, everyone seemed to really enjoy the hike and I heard no complaints at the end of the day. My only gripe was having a flat tire discovered when we parked at the end of the road, but that was taken care in short order with help from our fellow hikers.

Check out Lindsay Elms website here for information about John Henry Brown 1867-1963

http://www.beyondnootka.com/biographies/john_brown.html



GPS Map and stats
[Tim Penney photo]



At the trail head
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



The end of the road
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



*Some bog plants in the fen
below John Brown Lake*
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



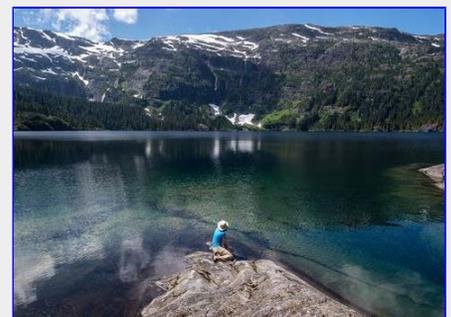
*Grassy area above John Brown
Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



*John Brown Lake looking
towards the Moat Lake ridge*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Into the bush with the objective,
the Moat Lake moat, in the
distance*
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Beautiful colours at Moat Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



One of the fun sections
[Tim Penney photo]



No first aid required
[Tim Penney photo]

Report contributors: Tim P, Darrell T,

Participant list (9 of 9): Jill H, Susan H, Craig J, Kathryn L, Harold O, Tim P, Wink R, Ken R, Darrell T,

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