

CDMC

Trip Report

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Sun Jul 29, 2012

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

Mirren Lake - July 29, 2012

This trip, cancelled from the previous weekend, attracted a good turnout of 14 people, including two guests.

The water level at the washed out road crossing was not much more than a trickle and hardly required the removal of our hiking boots. About 4 kilometres further down the road we arrived at the trailhead. From here we had to do the miserable 700 foot climb through logging slash to get into old growth forest and the Strathcona Park boundary. However, the rewards were well worth the effort.

Snow levels were, like the creek crossing, much lower than I had expected. The meadow area was already starting to green up and, looking ahead to the first waterfall, we could see that we would have a lot more solid ground to traverse as well as some steep snow chutes to cross. Several of us had crampons and ice axes to help on the snow, but everybody managed to navigate these areas without too much sliding.

Beyond the first waterfall we were pretty much on deep snow for the rest of the trip out to Mirren Lake. Both Mirren and Gordon Wood Lakes were free of ice, but with steep snow slopes leading down to the waters edge. We stopped for lunch at the east end of Mirren Lake and enjoyed the spectacular views whilst sitting comfortably on the warm rocks.

After lunch several of us walked to the far end of the lake and were rewarded with a view up to the North Peak of the Comox Glacier and the edge of a lower glacier that used to terminate right at Mirren Lake.

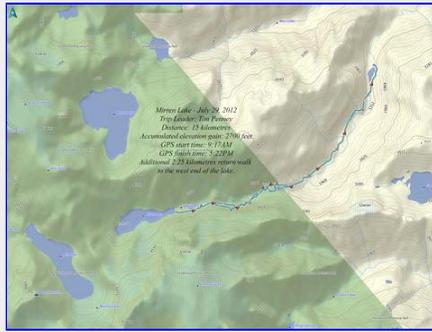
At 2:20 we started heading back and took our time to carefully navigate the steep snow sections and the logging slash back down to the road. With no mishaps along the way we were back to the vehicles a little before 5:30.

For some of our members this trip was a great personal achievement which I am sure that they will be proud of, and happy that it has now been added to their list of completed hikes.

Whilst this group enjoyed our recreational hike, Ken Rodonets and Peter Rothermel were busy working on clearing and reflagging parts of the route to Carey Lakes. This will be very much appreciated for a hike later in the year.

GPS map and images will be added later

[More photos from this trip](#) can be seen here.



Mirren Lake GPS map
[Tim Penney photo]



Washed out road crossing
[Tim Penney photo]



*Open meadow at the start of
Strathcona Park*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Climbing up beyond the first
waterfall*
[Tim Penney photo]



Gordon Wood Lake
[Tim Penney photo]



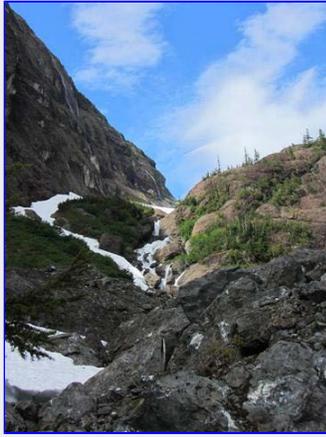
Mirren Lake lunch break
[Tim Penney photo]



Heading back
[Tim Penney photo]



*inside one of the several ice
caves*
[Linda Hamilton photo]



*Lots of water in the falls
coming from the lakes*
[Linda Hamilton photo]



*The north end of the Comox
Glacier*
[Linda Hamilton photo]

Report contributors: Linda H, Richard M, Tim P,

Participant list (16 of 14): Sylvia A, Chris B, Leslie D, Dany F, Betty F:**guest**,
Linda H, Frank H, George K, Ron L:**guest**, Heather M, Richard M, David O, Tim P,
Ken R, Peter R:**guest**, Otto W,

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