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Mount Geoffrey Escarpment (hiking)

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Wed Aug 10, 2016

Leader: **Joe Lumsdon**

Co-Leader: **Mary Finnan**

It was the early risers rhapsody as we gathered at Harmston just before 7am, did our initial introductions, especially for the benefit of our guest. We headed to the ferry and parked our vehicles on Denman just before the Hornby ferry dock.. We were pleased to have club member C.Carter in tow who spent his day sketching near Ford's cove and connected with us at the end of our hike.

Hiking started just before 9am after the Trailhead review done by our co-leader. From Shingle Spit we walked up the main road to Mount Road walked straight up to the park entry to commence our wander southwest along the "middle bench" stopping for a wee bit at the Tibetan prayer flags blowing in the wind praying for a peaceful trip we continued on through the beautiful groves of trees including oaks, maples and arbutus with the usual douglas firs. We headed back northwest in the direction we had just come across the outer ridge back to the top of the escarpment (bluff) to many view points where we had a short break then onward to a beautiful viewpoint overlooking the islands and towards Comox.

We headed back in the woods along the old skidder trails and mountain biking routes down to the main path "Northwind" and to Strachan road.

Briefly a "recce" was required as we were plodding in the wrong direction, which was quickly corrected. Back to Strachan Rd, connecting with the main Central Rd by about 2pm we headed towards Shingle Spit in time for the 3pm ferry back to Denman. Total 20km of walking on a very pleasant hiking day, clouds kept us from viewing the Beaufort range yet the island vistas were fantastic and temperatures were perfect for hiking.

Happy to be back to Vancouver Island and the short highway jaunt home it was great to soak the legs and reflect on why we are blessed with such a great place to reside.



[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Ferry to Hornby with Mount Geoffrey
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Ferry landing and Garry Oak
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Serrano Arbutus
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



*Two of the dead aliens have come
alive!*
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



Stumpy
[Darrell Tomkins photo]



[Michele Hind photo]



[Michele Hind photo]



[Michele Hind photo]



[Juanita Wells photo]

Report contributors: Michele Hind, Joe Lumsdon, Darrell Tomkins, Juanita Wells,

Participant list (12 of 12): Janet Beggs, Heather Crombie, Mary Finnan, Michele Hind, Susan Holvenstot, Joe Lumsdon, Brian Mitchell: **guest**, Jana Tomanek, Darrell Tomkins, Dave Weaving, Mary Weiler, Juanita Wells,

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