

CDMC

Trip Report

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Lake Helen McKenzie Loop (snowshoeing)

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Sat Jan 28, 2017

Leader: **Susan Osso**

Co-Leader: **Petra Strougal**

Once again, CDMC snowshoeing enthusiasts headed off for a trek to Lake Helen McKenzie. Although the promise of sun and cloud did not materialize, the spirits of the six trekkers were not hampered. The group was organized and off before the set 9 am meeting time. Greeted by gusty winds in the parking lot, the group headed off to Paradise Meadows. Once in the forest, the winds were not an issue. Warmer weather from the previous days enhanced the icicle display along the path to Pigott Creek, and of course, the leader had to stop to take copious photos. We met a large group of Scouts from Victoria. I couldnt help but wonder if these young 11 and 12 year olds looked upon this group of 50+ year olds with some trepidation. Winds were kicking up on the lake so we sat and enjoyed a hearty snack by the trees. The Whisky Jacks were dining elsewhere and we were left in peace. Deciding to snowshoe along the shore of the lake, we stopped on the bridge at the mouth of Pigott Creek to listen to the melody of the rushing water and take a few more photos. At the far shores of Lake Helen McKenzie a group had left their sunken tenting snow platforms for us to enjoy another snack. The Whiskey Jacks found us and we entertained them as much as they entertained us. The weather shifted from drizzle to ice pellets, and light snow to drizzle. An astonishing fact that many snowshoers have come to realize is the mountains offer their own beauty no matter the weather presented on that day. What a gorgeous backyard we have!!

P.s. If you have better photos of the banded Gray Jays, the researcher is interested in seeing them - you can email them to dan@grayjaystudy.ca Here is an example <http://ebird.org/ebird/canada/view/checklist/S33792481>. I think the bird on Petra's head may be the same one in my photo! (Krista)



A Great Group!
[Susan Osso photo]



"Click"
[Susan Osso photo]



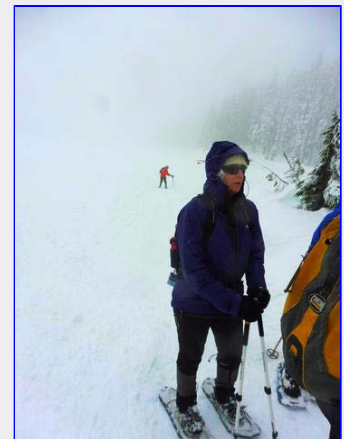
Sculptor: Mother Nature
[Susan Osso photo]



Too Much Fun
[Susan Osso photo]



*Not a lot of snow on
most of the trees, must
have been warm and/or
windy*
[Ed Tickner photo]



*Weather was closing in
behind us as we left
Battleship Lake*
[Ed Tickner photo]



*Wait a moment! At Helen
MacKenzie.*
[Petra Strougal photo]



*Oh, here they are
coming!*
[Petra Strougal photo]



Pigott Creek Crossing
[Susan Osso photo]



*Thanks for the P.S.
Krista, I'll send this
photo on to Dan*
[Susan Osso photo]

Report contributors: Krista K, Susan O, Petra S, Ed T,

Participant list (6 of 6): Denise A, Michele H, Harold O, Susan O, Petra S, Ed T,

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