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Trip Report

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Mirren Lake Backpack (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Sat Jul 18 to Sun Jul 19, 2015

Leader: **Glenn Ord**

Co-Leader: **Julianna Wells**

Our trip participant numbers were limited to three, due to vehicular constraints. We struck out on a beautiful, warm, clear morning and drove up the logging roads as far as we felt comfortable, about 200 metres before a huge winter wash-out beyond which vehicular travel is now impossible.

The additional 3 km walk along the old logging road under a warm sun lead us to the trip mantra; "shade is good". We pushed on though a steep, overgrown ugly logged-out section until we reached forest shade.

From there on in, we walked through a grassy meadow, along a dry creek bed, hopped over the creek and enjoyed a well deserved lunch break at the first small waterfall. Beyond that we made our way up above two waterfall series, the second of which was completely free of snow and necessitated using the longer "snow-free route". Once through more boulders, we dropped down to Gordon Wood lake for a chance to swim. The short climb up to Mirren Lake was easy enough, but traversing across the rock slides and a somewhat exposed section was more difficult under the relentless sun. We were happy to reach our destination (campsite on the heather) alongside the mid-section of the lake. After dinner, a couple of us had the energy to cautiously inspect the 2 ice tunnels above Mirren lake.

Temperatures remained mild through the starry night and after a relaxed breakfast, we headed back down the Kweishun valley. At the base of the upper cascades, we watched a healthy black bear saunter across rock faces and disappear into the bush. A refreshing dip at the last waterfall provided temporary relief from the heat. When we returned to the slash section, we worked on the route with brush cutters and cleared what we could in the 30C sunshine. Finally, the rough 3 km walk out on the shadeless logging road made the sight of Julianna's white Suzuki a welcome relief.

It was an extra-ordinary hike, with excellent company, surprisingly difficult in the warmth, but well worth the effort.

Note that it is a powerful contrast to compare the photos taken on the 2011 Mirren Lake day trip with those of this year.

<http://www.comoxhiking.com/init/archive/display/138>



*view of the snow-free 2nd set of
waterfalls*
[Glenn Ord photo]



crossing Kweishun Creek
[Glenn Ord photo]



Mirren Lake
[Julianna Wells photo]



*approaching the campsite,
finally!*
[Paula Field photo]



View up from Mirren Lake
[Glenn Ord photo]



*A quick peek at one of the ice
caves*
[Julianna Wells photo]



setting sun on the peaks
[Paula Field photo]



the team ready to descend
[Glenn Ord photo]



*morning break at Gordon Wood
Lake*
[Paula Field photo]



feeling "out there"
[Paula Field photo]



a sense of adventure!
[Glenn Ord photo]



team photo on the descent
[Glenn Ord photo]



crossing Kweishun Creek, again
[Paula Field photo]



*a beautiful black bear just above
the Kwieshun Creek*
[Glenn Ord photo]



it's just a walk in the park
[Paula Field photo]

Report contributors: Paula F, Glenn O, Julianna W,

Participant list (3 of 3): Paula F, Glenn O, Julianna W,

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