

CDMC

Trip Report

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Indianhead Mountain Via Mckenzie Lake Lake (hiking)

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Sun Sep 01, 2013

 Leader: **Tim Penney**

Co-Leader:

Indianhead Mountain -1-9-2013

Fifteen of us in total, including 2 new guests, turned out for the relatively easy hike to Indianhead mountain in excellent weather conditions. We started at 9:21AM and were back at the vehicles by 4:30 PM. Distance was 12.5 kilometres with an accumulated elevation gain of about 1200 feet.

The 4WD roads are in good condition for the drive to the trailhead where we parked just outside of the Strathcona Park boundary. The logging stops pretty much right at the border of the park where we started on a really nice trail, mostly courtesy of the Well's family. The trail follows an almost due south route through beautiful old growth forest. It is one of the nicest trails that I have hiked on for some time. The lush understory truly provides a spring to your step with lots of interesting fungus to study, and photograph, along the way. The trail emerges from the old growth forest at the north end of McMenzie Lake where it dips down to meet the lake. At this point we had to cross the outflow creek, the headwaters of the Browns River, to continue along the west shore of McKenzie Lake.

The water level at the lake was much higher than it was on the 29th July when I was last in this area and that meant removing boots and wading across to the other side. Except, if you were happy to balance on a few rocks, it was fairly easy to hop and jump across without removing your boots and socks. We had no problems with the crossing, but Steve S got stung on his ear by an angry insect that obviously resented our easy progress. Apart from now having one painful ear, that was several sizes larger than the other one, steve bravely continued on the trip. I hope that the Benadryl Spray applied by the WFA guy at the lunch break helped ease the sting a little.

Partway along the side of McKenzie Lake we met up with Julianna Wells, who had been overnighting at the Douglas Lake Cabin. She then joined us for the trip to the Indianhead summit following on a better, and Well's flagged, route that she had recently improved.

Beyond McKenzie and Douglas Lakes we were on the Plateau Crossing trail which we followed to the lookout on the saddle between Drabble and Indianhead. Another 100 metres beyond the lookout turnoff we turned off the Plateau trail and onto the flagged route to the Indianhead summit. We spent about an hour on the summit enjoying lunch and exploring the area before starting back down the trail.

Because of the heavy rain last week the McKenzie Meadows were well saturated with crisscrossing deep water channels that had to be navigated over or around. The trail was also very wet throughout the meadows with several inches of standing water in places.

At the river crossing most people managed the rocks rather than remove their

footwear again before returning on the fairly level trail back to our vehicles.

This was one of the four trips offered by our club this weekend that had everything from fairly extreme, to very strenuous, to moderate, to very easy. This was the moderate trip and was enjoyed by us all with a special thanks again to the Well's family for the great trail improvements.



*The trail to the north end of
McKenzie Lake*
[Tim Penney photo]



The water crossing
[Tim Penney photo]



*Lunchbreak area on the edge -
Looking for the Glacier hikers*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Mount Becher on the left behind
the trees*
[Tim Penney photo]



*A brilliant splash of colour and a
perfect Amanita specimen*
[Tim Penney photo]



*Indianhead Mtn, beyond
McKenzie Lake*
[Krista Kaptein photo]



*Female Goldeneye on
McKenzie Lake
[Krista Kaptein photo]*



*One of the abundant King
Gentian (Gentiana
sceptrum)
[Krista Kaptein photo]*



*Douglas Lake
[Linda Hamilton photo]*



*Cabin Karl helped build in 1966
where Julianna was staying
[Linda Hamilton photo]*

Report contributors: Linda H, Krista K, Tim P,

Participant list (16 of 15): Bucky B:***lapsed***, Linda H, Jill H, Frank H, Krista K, Bev K, Ralph L, Tim P, Clive P:***guest***, Sheree-Lee P:***guest***, Andy R, Steve S, Karl S, Darrell T, David W, Julianna W,

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