

CDMC

[Home](#)
[Future trips](#)
[Past trips](#)
[Trip guidelines](#)
[Conditions](#)
[Routes >](#)
[Forum](#)
[Membership](#)
[Reference >](#)
[FAQ](#)
[Photo contest](#)
[What's new](#)
Member
[Login](#)
Changes
 today

 yesterday

 < 7 days

 < 30 days

Trip Report

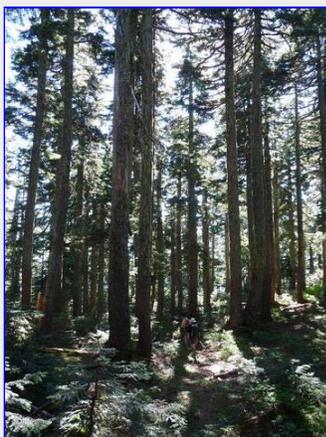
Mt Kitchener (hiking) [return to Reports list](#)

Sat Sep 10, 2011

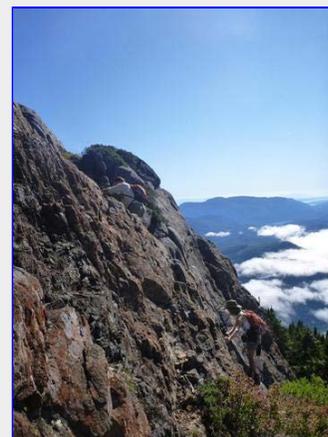
 Leader: **Len Wells**

Co-Leader:

The Arrowsmith Judges trip had to be cancelled due to Island Timberlands' road closure due to high fire hazard. Len came up with the idea of trying Mt Kitchener, a peak he had tried before but without success. Apparently he got onto the wrong logging spur and tried to bushwack his way to the top...



Trail through old growth
[Carol Hunter photo]



A bit of rock scrambling
[Bob St. John photo]

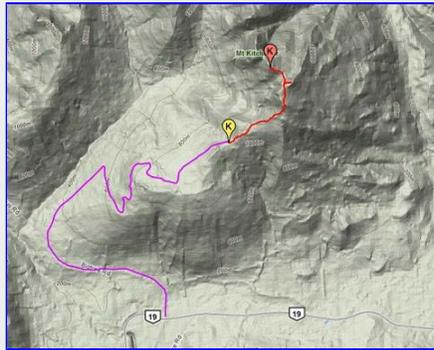
So four of us piled into the Delica and drove about 40 km north of Campbell River where Big Tree Main logging road heads up the west slopes of Kitchener. About 4 of the 8 km could be done with a 2-wheel drive vehicle. The upper 4 km are cross-ditched, and require a 4X4 with good clearance. The correct fork to take at intersections is marked with orange tape or painted triangles.

At the end of the correct road spur is a small area to park, and a well flagged trailhead. The distance to the top of the south summit is quite short - about 2+ km. The elevation gain is fairly stiff though, about 460 m or 1500 ft. The trail is well marked and surprisingly, looked well used. After 100 m or so of clearcut brush at the start, the trail enters very nice open old growth forest. In places it looks like a park, especially on a flat bench mid-way up. There is a bit of a scramble up a rock bluff, but from then on the forest gives way to easy alpine slopes with ever expanding vistas.

We visited a couple of knobs on the way to the south summit, each one with better views. Our destination was soon upon us, adorned as it was with a suggestive tower that seems to appear on many island peaks. Here we stayed for lunch, and enjoyed looking at the distant peaks... Mt Victoria, Mt Hkusam, Mt Waddington, and even Mt Arrowsmith far to the south. We wandered over to the north side of our summit to look at the route over to the main summit of Kitchener. It looked entirely possible to do, but I would guess it would take an hour each way, and would involve a higher level of scrambling with much more exposure... to be done another day.

We returned in no time at all... about 3 hours round trip. The 4-wheeling over the cross ditching was kind of fun too. A quick stop at Sues for a cone rounded out our day.

Thanks Len for coming up with this great alternate trip at the last moment.



GPS track of logging road and trail
[Bob St.John photo]



Peaks of Mt Kitchener
[Bob St.John photo]



South summit
[Bob St.John photo]



The Magnificent Three
[Bob St.John photo]



Exploring the summit
[Carol Hunter photo]



Mt Waddington
[Carol Hunter photo]



Mt Hkusam
[Bob St.John photo]



Panorama of Coast Mountains
[Bob St.John photo]

Report contributors: Bob S,

Participant list (4 of 4): Derek G, Carol H, Bob S, Len W,

[See similar trips on this Route](#)

[return to Reports](#)