



Barbara Waldern

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to me

CONFEDERATION TRAIL MAY 28

Everything brightened as soon as the five of us broached the head of the Confederation Trail off Hastings Street, which is also the Trans-Canada Trail. It was a new path for the BOC and proved to be full of adventures. We were not denied fine views of the sea. Sunshine began dancing among the leaves as we followed the Burrard Inlet shoreline above the Parkland refinery/ storage properties until a warm day welcomed us at Confederation Park. Our mood lifted and we searched for fun. We admired the soccer game in full play when we stopped for our first break then continued our tour of all the park's bounty. From there we joined the Heights Trail above the shoreline and Parkland Terminal to reach the underbelly of the Iron Workers' Memorial Bridge just past the Vancouver-Burnaby Boundary. A freight train crossing the adjacent trestle inspired us. The sky clear by then, we decided to extend our walk along the grain silos as far as New Brighton Park; getting there just before opening time, some of us chose to take a refreshing dip after a quick bite of lunch. The sparkling pool was unexpectedly uncrowded.

Recharged, we were ready to head back, this time opting to explore residential neighborhoods with their diversity of well-groomed and attractive homes and gardens. Passing through Burnaby Heights Park, we observed another girls' soccer match. After reconnecting with Heights Trail, we explored an unfamiliar minor forest trail as an alternate path on the final leg back to Confederation Park. The demand to visit "Rainbow Creek Station" and go for a train ride grew louder. Loaded up with snacks from the concession wicket, we queued up. Our group filled up an entire tiny train car. It was a grand ride, nonetheless, full of bridges, gnomes and creatures of fiction. An amusing finish to our day's outing.