

# trip report for Vedder Loop October 1



**Barbara Waldern**

Mon, Oct 2, 5:18 PM (2 days ago)

to me

Our group chose to leave Highway 1 to take the gorgeous pastoral route along No. 3 Road and Keith Wilson Road to get to the trail head. There are vegetable and berry crops as well as dairy and beef cattle. We remarked on the many huge farmhouses on expansive acreages. Of course, squash including pumpkins were being harvested.

It was a glorious, warm day when a few BOC members and their guest arrived at Vedder Park, a recreational complex near Chilliwack Centre. The popular area was buzzing with activity, especially fishing. We took the sunny north bank path along the Vedder River reveling in the scenic beauty. The hikers passed by a collection of memorial rocks painted orange to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day. We continually observed the many fishers standing in the rushing water and ashore and casting their lures as gulls and raptors circled above. The tree shade offered relief as the day grew hot; we opted to avoid the dike under the circumstances.

The name Chilliwack comes from the Halkomelem word Tcil'Qe'uk, meaning "valley of many streams." We learned that the Vedder River is actually an extension of the Chilliwack River flowing out of the Chilliwack Lake that resulted from a flood one year that filled a creek bed. The name "Vedder" is probably a Dutch and Low German word close to the words for father or uncle. This river is frequented by anglers trying to catch trout, sturgeon or salmon. Right now, the fall salmon run is under way and the waters were teeming with coho, pink and chum. We spotted them swimming at the surface and spawning in nearby streams.

Joggers, cyclists, dog-walkers and horseback riders passed us as we approached the Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve. The Reserve's website states the following.

*The Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve Society manages 325 acres of forests and wetlands located on the only un-dyked floodplain of the Vedder River. The Nature Reserve is known for the large breeding colony of Pacific Great Blue Herons nesting onsite from March to July. The site also offers notable bird watching opportunities and salmon spawning streams which come alive in the late fall with Chum, Coho, and Pink salmon.*

We passed by the lagoons and explored three of the reserve trails. We did not notice any herons on this day; however, we saw wood ducks and wigeons as well as many marsh and woodlands birds and songbirds. The interpretive centre was quite informative. We ate lunch on the benches outside it. We ventured onto the north dike for

a short distance, curious about the farming activities and structures. Back at the river, the area appeared so beautiful and calm that we were reluctant to leave it.