

Sumas bike ride – September 20, 2020

Five of us met up in Abbotsford at 9:30 am. Our plan for the ride was to cycle a loop extending to the south side of the Fraser valley and then back to our starting point, about 40km in all.

The forecast had been a bit dubious with cloud and possible showers. But we were lucky and had great weather, with sun and cloud and perfect cycling temperatures.

We made our way, via a mixture of gravel-topped dykes and mostly quiet country/farm roads, through flat farmland to the south side of the valley, where the land rises to form the southern boundary of the Fraser Valley.

One of our group was riding a bike with electric “assist”, so it was somewhat appropriate that we stopped for lunch near the old (1906) building which used to be the Sumas electric substation for the BC Electric Railway. In the first part of the 20th century there was an extensive network of electric inter-urban trains and trams, discontinued when car travel became more practical. The imposing Sumas Substation has recently been converted into an equally imposing Airbnb “mansion”. It is worth checking out on the Internet.

During the day we passed many fields of corn, with ripe corn cobs waiting to be picked. But we resisted the temptation! As we headed back toward where we had left our cars in the morning we stopped at Birchwood Dairy Farm for ice-cream. This is made on site from milk and cream from the resident cows.

Photo credits: David Cater