

Trip Report – St Mark's Summit on Aug. 27th, 2022

By: Lina Scigliano

The St. Mark's Summit hike began at 9:40 a.m. at the trailhead located at the Cypress Mountain skier's parking lot. The day began a bit hazy but as we arrived at our first trail junction, we saw blue skies that enticed us to hike to the Bowen Lookout. The 12 hikers spent a few minutes enjoying the expansive views of Bowen Island and Howe Sound along with all the blue jays. As we continued our ascent, we followed the trail leading to the Lion's along the Howe Sound Crest Trail. Closer to the top we would discover the signage leading us to St. Mark's Summit. The trail was full of wild blueberries and huckleberries which slowed us down a bit as we consumed the delicious wilderness snacks. The trail became more intense with incline, loose rock and wet roots but nothing too unmanageable for this group. Slow and steady wins the race! There were a few peekaboo harbor views along the way to enjoy and many hikers hiking along with us. When we arrived at our destination, we were a bit disappointed to find that the clouds had come back and were hiding the fabulous Howe Sound view. We had lunch at the top of the summit with about 50 other hikers, one making grilled sandwiches on a small frying pan fueled by a tiny propane tank. Three chipmunks (one without a tail) entertained us for a bit, unafraid of humans and very playful. After about 20 – 25 minutes we started our return back to the parking lot via the same trail (this trail is an out and back trail). The travel back was uneventful and we all arrived safely at the parking lot at 2:52 p.m.