

Cheakamus Canyon – December 8, 2019

There were 8 of us who left Burnaby under dark cloudy skies and headed north, with a promise of fine weather around the Squamish area. Sure enough, the sun was shining when we reached the trailhead and stayed with us all day.

This was the first time for most of our group hiking in the Squamish Canyon. It is a nice, relatively easy, hike which has great views of snowy peaks for most of its distance. As we reached the canyon itself, after climbing up out of the valley, we heard a rumble of large diesel engines. A CN freight train came into view as it made its way north along the track which hangs on the side of the canyon. We watched it disappear along the steep winding canyon.

As we passed Starvation Lake we admired tree reflections in the placid water and noted that the crocodile (or alligator?) was still there, waiting for unwary swimmers.

After a couple of hours we reached our turn-around point. This is a rocky bluff, unfortunately close to the noise of highway 99, which offers great views south down the canyon and across to the Tantalus Range and its snowy peaks. After taking in the view, and admiring what might have been an ideal Christmas tree, we headed back along the trail to a peaceful sunny spot to eat lunch.

Later, back at the cars we split into 2 groups. One group returned to Burnaby while the other went on a Xmas tree hunt under the Hydro line right of way. After liberating a fine tree we stopped at Timmies for well earned refreshments.

Thanks to Victor for driving the other vehicle. A warm welcome to Lily, who decided to become a club member following this hike.

Photo credits: David Cater