

Trip Report: Mt. Gardener, Bowen Island, June 24th, 2023

Eight BOC hikers gathered at the Burnaby City Hall parking lot, bright and early on a beautiful Saturday morning, to drive out to the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal.

Upon reaching there we parked the two cars and used our hike leader's Experience Pass to buy discounted tickets for us all, on the 9:05 am Bowen Island Ferry.

After a quick and pleasant ride on the Queen of Capilano, the group disembarked at Snug Cove and walked towards the Visitor Information Centre, where we were cheerfully greeted by Sophie. Sophie gave us new maps and shared useful information about the recent upgrades to the Mt. Gardener trail.

Armed with this new information and curious to check-out the new connector trail, we headed towards lake Killarney. After a quick break at the picnic tables by the lake, and on the way to the new connector trail, we saw a small waterfall.

The Connector trail took us to Skid trail and from Skid trail we went to the North Summit trail. Each of the three trails were well marked and had beautifully engraved sign posts along the way.

With little traffic en-route, the BOC hikers took full advantage of the journey, chatting gregariously with each other and enjoying each other's company.

At 1:00 pm the group reached the North summit and was rewarded with magnificent views of Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver on one side and fantastic views of Howe Sound, Strait of Georgia and the Sunshine Coast on the other side. The weather that had been cloudy and perfect for the ascent

turned clear and sunny while we had our lunch break. Seeing how much the group was enjoying sunbathing after lunch, our hike leader extended our stay on the summit and after a whole hour of relaxation and soaking up the sun we started our descent on the North Summit bypass trail. The group enjoyed another relaxing break at a viewpoint overlooking Keats Island and Gambier Harbour, on their way back to catch the 5:10 pm ferry.

While waiting for the ferry to dock, half of the group indulged in ice cream treats - a fitting reward after almost 16 kms of intermediate hiking! It was a Saturday well spent!!

Special thanks to our hike leader Su-Jane, our drivers Lina and Charlie and our photographer Yoko.

Trip Report prepared by Monisha