

Galiano Island – August 25, 2019

11 of us met up at the BC Ferries Tsawwassen terminal to catch the Galiano ferry which left, on time, at 9:15am. The sun was shining and sparkling on the water during our 50 minute voyage across the Strait of Georgia. One little known fact about this ferry crossing is that at least half of it is in USA waters – fortunately no passports are required.

Once on Galiano, we headed up the hill from the ferry dock and, in a change from our usual route, turned onto the trail from Whaler Bay which cuts through Bluffs Park. This trail eventually emerges on to Georgeson Bay Road and thence to the Mount Galiano trailhead on Active Pass Drive. From there the trail winds up the slopes of Mount Galiano and emerges, in “tah-dah!” moment, on top of the bluff. The views from the bluff on a clear sunny day, such as we had, are spectacular. We could see many of the Gulf and San Juan (USA) islands spread out below us, along with the Saanich Peninsular and parts of Vancouver Island.

We lingered there a while and ate our lunches. Wasps were keen to join us for lunch so we deterred them by leaving small scraps of smoked salmon and apples on a rock some distance away from us. Some of our group indulged in some serious snoozing after lunch while others soaked up the views and explored the bluff.

Sitting in the sun is thirsty work so we decided it was time to carry on to our next destination – the Hummingbird pub. Some of the private trails on Mt Galiano no longer officially welcome hikers, so we took care of the route we followed while descending down to Georgeson Bay Road. Various pauses for blackberry picking in the hedge-rows slowed our progress somewhat, but we eventually arrived at the Hummingbird. The owner has applied to include the large grassy lawn in the licenced area where alcohol may be served. It is a great spot, shaded from direct sun, so we were happy to help in her attempt to make the temporary licence a permanent one by penning and signing our support for her application for a permanent licence.

After enjoying food and drink at the Hummingbird, we resumed our hike. We followed the trail which, conveniently, leads from the pub to the ferry terminal along a route which roughly parallels the road. Back at the ferry terminal it was a short wait before we were able to catch the 5:45pm ferry back to Tsawwassen.

Thanks to Jim and Lorretta for driving the other cars to Tsawwassen from Burnaby.

Photo credits: David Cater