

# BMN Hike Report

## Stoney Creek and Burnaby Mountain (April 14, 2012)

By Mark Johnston



Looking north from Burnaby Mountain toward the mouth of Indian Arm, with Mt. Seymour behind. *Ian McArthur photo.*

For our second hike of the year, we kept things pretty close to home with a climb of Burnaby Mountain. Weatherwise, we enjoyed a mix of sun and cloud, but found temperatures at the top still a bit on the cool side.

Nine of us met at Stoney Creek Community School near the Burnaby/Coquitlam border. After Ian gave us a brief overview of the hike, we began by following surfaced streets and then a dedicated path across a pedestrian overpass of busy Gaglardi Way to a grade-level crossing of Production Way. Once across the latter roadway, we proceeded via trails through a series of townhouse complexes. This was more pleasant than it sounds, as the townhouses are set into a heavily wooded slope cut by deep ravines.

For the first part of the hike, we trended northwest, but above the townhouses turned to the northeast, recrossing a switchbacking Gaglardi Way, this time without benefit of a bridge. Upon reaching Mel's Trail, we resumed a west-northwesterly direction, again crossing a busy thoroughfare, University Drive East. On the other side of the road, we

paralleled a power line for a while, heading generally west, and then crossed back over Gaglardi Way, just before its intersection with University Drive West. We now turned in a more northerly direction through a dense forest of alder, the white trunks contrasting beautifully with the patchy blue sky. Eventually we emerged on the sloping lawns of Burnaby Mountain Park, and soon gained the top with its magnificent views over western Burnaby and Vancouver, up Indian Arm, and along Port Moody Inlet. Although clouds hung on the mountaintops, we could see beneath them for a considerable distance. We also had a sidelong view of Burnaby Mountain's northside cliffs. Here, the mountain falls away precipitously, with a chain link fence providing a measure of security.

After we had a good look at the views, we sat at picnic tables in back of Horizons Restaurant and had our lunch. Unfortunately for us, clouds were momentarily prevailing, and with a cool breeze blowing, it felt more like the end of winter than the beginning of spring. Ironically, the conversation at our table was about a recent Hawaiian vacation!

**The hikers on the mountain bike trail parallel to North Road. Ian McArthur photo.**

Following lunch, we picked up the Trans Canada Trail (Joe's Trail) heading east. Past the cliffs, this trail runs just below the mountaintop through fine second-growth forest with tree-filtered views to the north. Amazingly, except for one or two spots where your approach is quite near, you would never know that a sprawling university is just upslope, over the crest.

We finished our circuit by turning downhill along a power line right-of-way (with a distant view of Orcas Island), then using a bike trail parallel to North Road, and finally, upon reaching the main stem of Stoney Creek, following the wide streamside track back to where we had begun. A most satisfying early season outing.

