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# Chilliwack Hiking Trail Guide

Printed in Canada • 05-12



Tourism Chilliwack Visitor Centre  
44150 Luckakuck Way • Chilliwack, British Columbia • Canada V2R 4A7  
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Photo: Eppic Photography

The northwestern Cascade mountain range boasts some of North America's roughest, most spectacular terrain. Waves of knife-edged ridges, jagged peaks soaring a dizzying 2,000 metres above dark valley floors. Crystal clear mountain streams teeming with fish and pristine lakes are plenty. Rugged roads meander up valleys with limitless recreational options.

How do you like your hikes? Short ones or long ones? Small ones or tall ones? Whatever your trail preference, we're sure to have some trails to fit your tastes. Once you've sampled some of the fabulous hiking and walking trails our area has to offer, you're sure to be back for more. Come explore the "Great Outside" and discover Chilliwack's spectacular backcountry.

We hope you'll find our mountains hikeable, and our community likeable.

**Degrees of difficulty**

- walk
- easy
- moderate
- difficult
- very difficult

**Fraser Valley South/West**

- 1 Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve**  
*Distance:* up to 5 km  
The Chilliwack Rotary Club provides an Interpretive Centre along with a friendly, flat trail system adjacent to Great Blue Herons' nesting grounds. Info on site. No dogs please.  
*Directions:* The site is located at the southern end of Sumas Prairie Rd. Highway 1 Exit 116 (Lickman Rd.) south. Drive 3 km turn right on Keith Wilson Rd., drive 3 km, turn left on Sumas Prairie (1km to parking lot).  
*Alternate:* Highway 1 Exit 109 (Yale Rd. West) east 2.5 km to Sumas Prairie Rd. Turn right and drive 4 km.
- 2 Vedder Greenway (North side)**  
*Rotary Trail (7.3 km) • North Dyke Trail (7 km) • Peach Creek Trail (1.2 km)*

Popular multi-use trails let you enjoy various sections of the north dyke of the Vedder River. Maps located at parking areas.  
*Directions:* Highway 1 Exit 119A (Sardis-Vedder). South on Vedder Rd. to Keith Wilson Rd. Turn right to access the trails and parking lots by turning left on either Peach, Lickman, or Sumas Prairie Rd.  
*Alternate:* The Rotary Trail can also be reached from Vedder Rd. by continuing 1 km past Keith Wilson to the parking lot, located to the right of the Vedder Bridge.
- 3 Bridlewood/Salmon Ridge**  
*Distance return:* 2 km *Time:* 1 hr.  
*Elevation gain:* 200 m *Highest point:* 200 m  
This short woody trail leads you from Chilliwack Lake Road to the subdivisions of Promontory, making it a fine leg and lung trainer for more arduous hikes in future. Take the first turn to the right, pass in front of the houses and climb up stairs and hill to the

surprising rooftop viewpoint.  
*Note:* At present this is not a trail with any great destination. It is part of a long-term trail network project by Chilliwack's Parks and Recreation Department.  
*Directions:* Highway 1 Exit 119A (Sardis-Vedder). South on Vedder Rd. until you reach the Vedder Bridge. Turn left onto Chilliwack Lake Rd. and travel 600 m to a wide pull-out on the left with the trail visible above it.

- 4 Mt Thom Park**  
*Distance return:* via Ryder Lk: Horse/ Lookout loop to Summit: 1.5 km (via Promontory: Thom Creek Trail 8 km)  
*Time:* Summit Loop 1 hr (Thom Creek 3 hrs)  
*Elevation gain:* Summit Loop 100m (Thom Creek 300m)  
*Highest point:* 484 m  
These trails are superbly maintained by the City of Chilliwack's Parks and Recreation Department and offer up unbelievable views from the top of Mt Thom, locally known as Promontory Hill. Note that the Thom Creek Trail is up and down both ways.

*Directions to Summit loop via Ryder Lake area:* Highway 1 Exit 123 (Prest Rd.) south 4 km to Bailey Rd., turn left, 1 km to Elk View Rd., go right (uphill). Follow signs 5.8 kms to parking area. Maps and signage await.  
*Directions to Thom Creek Trail via Promontory area:* Highway 1 Exit 123 (Prest Rd.), south 4 km, then Prest changes to Teskey Way. Continue 1.6 km on Teskey to Jinkerson Rd. on left. Another quick left on it, then travel 300 m to Thom Creek Drive on your right. Drive 400 m up it to Sylvan, turn right and park at base of steps on left. Map and info on site.

- 5 Elk/Thurston**  
*Distance return:* 8 km (Thurston 15 km)  
*Time:* 4 hrs. (Thurston 7 hrs.)  
*Elevation gain:* 800 m (Thurston 1,030 m)  
*Highest point:* 1,400 m (Thurston 1,630m)  
Everyone's favourite hike will soon become yours! Never easy but always rewarding, if the strenuous hike up doesn't take your breath away, the alpine meadows and stunning views from the top will surely do the trick. Easily accessible trail head, suitable for the fairly fit.  
*Directions:* Highway 1 Exit 123 (Prest Rd.) south 4 km to Bailey Rd., turn left and go 1km to the bottom of the hill turning right and uphill on Elk View Rd. Stay on the same road for 8 km, where the pavement ends and the road continues straight ahead for 2 km as the

Chilliwack Bench Forest Service Rd. The gravel pit/parking lot is on the left, with the trailhead to its right.

- Cultus Lake Area**  
*Directions:* The following hikes can all be reached by Highway 1 Exit 104 (Yarrow-Cultus) following the signs to Cultus.  
*Alternate:* Highway 1 Exit 119A (Sardis-Vedder), south on Vedder Rd. to the Vedder Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left at the next light on to Cultus Lake Road.
- 6 Vedder Mtn. Ridge**  
*Distance return:* 10 km *Time:* 4 hrs.  
*Elev. gain:* 500 m *Highest point:* 945 m  
Logging has led to road improvements, so 2wd vehicles with enough clearance to get through cross ditches can access the start of this enjoyable, undulating trail. Parking is much closer to the trail head, and gone are the days of suffering through the 'horrible old road' piece at the beginning and end. There is still a 'buffer zone' of trees flanking the trail so your connection with nature will remain intact as you trek this family-friendly route. Enjoy the occasional view to both north and south along the ridge. Ooh...and one short section of unexposed, rope-assisted rock scrambling near the top adds a touch of adventure on your way to the rounded, treed summit and that well-deserved lunch.

*Directions:* See Cultus Lake Area directions. 1.5km past the traffic light, pass the 'Welcome to Cultus' sign on the left, and turn right onto Parmenter Rd (paved) at the next corner. Drive 600m, turn right onto Vedder Mtn Forest Service Rd, go another 600m, turn left and drive 3km. Old parking area is on your left, follow improved road right for 500m to new parking area on the left. Walk left on older road for 100m to trailhead on your right. Orange squares mark the route.
- 7 Seven Sisters**  
*Distance return:* 4 km *Time:* 1.5 hrs.  
*Elevation gain:* 120 m  
Seven giant Douglas fir, some standing, some fallen, await you on this trail. Steps allow a close-up view when you near the trees.  
*Directions:* See Cultus Lake Area above. Follow signs to Cultus Lake Provincial Park and travel 1.3 km from the park entrance to Spring Bay picnic area on your right and park. Crossing the road, go uphill to your right, turn left into Clear Creek Campground,

Cover photo: Eppic Photography

and left at the sign for the trail. 25 m further turn left again to hike to the giant trees. From there you can turn around or continue to Entrance Bay Campground and turning left, return to your car via the main road.

*Alternate:* Trail can be accessed from Entrance Bay Campground. Park at Day Use, cross main road to campground and keep right. Trail starts just past Site #7. Steeper this way.

## 8 Giant Douglas Fir

*Distance return:* 1 km *Time:* 45 min.

*Elevation gain:* 90 m *Highest point:* 180 m  
This 800 year old tree is the oldest and largest in the park. Just think...it was a sapling when Genghis Khan roamed the earth!

*Directions:* See Cultus Lake Area directions. Travel 2 km from the Park Entrance. Just past the Delta Grove Campground, watch for the sign and roadside parking on your left.

## 9 Teapot Hill

*Distance return:* 5 km *Time:* 2 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 280 m *Highest point:* 360 m  
Most popular hike in the Park. Interpretive signs and views of the lake. Some very steep sections. Suitable footwear is a must.

*Directions:* See Cultus Lake Area directions. Follow signs to Cultus Lake Provincial Park. Travel 2.3 km through the park to the sign and parking area for Teapot trail on your left.

## Chilliwack River Valley

*Directions:* The following hikes are all accessed via Chilliwack Lake Rd. From Highway 1 Exit 119A (Sardis-Vedder) travel south 5.4 km on Vedder Road to the Vedder Bridge. Do not cross. Turn left on Chilliwack Lake Rd. and set your odometer to “0”.

## 10 Chilliwack River Hatchery

*Distance return:* 1 km loop (flat)

*Time:* 20-30 min.

Like fish or fishing? Then here is your opportunity to look and learn about the incubation and rearing of chinook, coho, pink and chum salmon, as well as steelhead trout. This Salmonid Enhancement Program (SEP) site has been operational since 1981, and is located alongside one of B.C.'s premier salmon rivers. Beauty of a setting for this self guided tour, with info available on site. Open daily 8am-3:30pm

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 20 km, cross the wooden bridge over Slesse Creek and look left to the hatchery sign, with the public parking lot just past it.

## 11 Pierce Lake/Mt. MacFarlane

*Distance return:* 16 km (Mac 21 km)

*Time:* 7 hrs. (Mac 10 hrs.)

*Elevation gain:* 1,040 m (Mac 1,760 m)

*Highest point:* 1,375 m (Mac 2,100 m)

If you like your hikes long and steep, then this is it! Glorious forests lead to Pierce Lake and the meadows beyond and the beautiful alpine lake before the summit of Mt. MacFarlane makes it all worthwhile.

Caution: This is a long haul, with difficult sections both ways. A good overnighter.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 22km, having passed the Fish Hatchery and driven up the steep hill, the Pierce Lake trail marker is on the right. Parking is 100m in at the base of the new logging road. The trail has been re-routed to avoid the road's ambience and you will find markers to the right of the parking area. Follow these to guide you across the road and lead you to the old trail, where you bypass fresh clear cuts and eventually veer away from them on the steep grunt uphill. Orange squares mark the route.

## 12 4x4 Ford Mountain

*Distance return:* 14.6 km

(with 4X4 only 6 km/3hr hiking)

*Time:* 5 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 1,005 m

*Highest point:* 1,410 m

Fabulous forest trail leads to a show-stopping 360 degree panoramic view. Break out the binoc's and play 'Mr. Ranger, Sir' from the site of an old Forest Service fire lookout.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 28.4 km watch for Ford Mountain Forest Service Road and trail signpost on the left. 4X4's can travel 4 kms of rough, steep road: 2WD can make it about 2km. Before the metal gate (at 4 km), park and walk the 300m to the trailhead via the old road on your left. The trail makes the road forgettable. Except on the way down. Orange squares mark the trail only.

*Note:* The trail continues 5 km along the ridge (beyond the viewpoint) to join Williams Ridge trail (see #13).

## 13 Williams Ridge

*Distance return:* 11 km *Time:* 8 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 1,435 m

*Highest point:* 1,880 m

Chilliwack's answer to the Grouse Grind! Your glowing heart will see thee rise sharply from the valley floor to gain 1,000 m in 1.7 km. And that's just your warm up...you're not done yet.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 32 km, look for signage on your left just before a sharp left curve in the road. Park and walk 100m into the bush on an old road, keeping a sharp eye out for a marker on the left. A few more metres in, watch for markers guiding you to the right. All's flat so far, until the base of the mountain where the

vertical (literally) begins. Follow the orange squares up. And up. 1000 m later you reach the ridge (lots of orange markers on tree). Rest. You deserve it. You'll need it. A right at this junction means hiking the ridge up another 435 m in 4 km to the open meadows at the base of Williams Peak. (The peak itself requires rock scrambling experience and equipment). Left leads you 5 km along the ridge, with few views, to Ford Mountain (see #12). *Note:* Choosing the easier descent via Ford Mtn means your chariot awaits 3,6 km to your left upon touchdown on the valley floor. Full circle (roads included) = 18 km. Ouch.

## 14 Slesse Memorial

*Distance return:* 8 km *Time:* 3 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 460 m

*Highest point:* 1,100 m

On December 9, 1956 TCA Flight #810 from Vancouver to Calgary crashed into Mt. Slesse killing all 62 aboard. In 1995 a plaque was erected

to honour those who lost their lives, and the area was declared a Commemorative Site. The route is mainly out in the open when you're following the old road and takes you not only to the plaque but to a breathtaking vista of Mt. Slesse and its neighbours. The route continues along the old road to its end where a rough trail leads up a ridge to the base of Slesse's rock slopes (add on 3 hrs return).

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 31 km you will see the second entrance to the Riverside Recreation Site. Turn right, and reset odometer to “0” again. A bridge immediately crosses the Chilliwack River and you are on the Chilliwack South Forest Service Road. 400m further turn right again and follow this FS road, with Nesakwatch Creek on your right, for 6.4km to the latest trailhead. Park here. Flagging on your right leads you to mother nature's log bridge, cross the creek here and follow the trail upward to turn left on an old logging road, your trail to the memorial. Out in the open a lot, the fore and aft views almost make the slide alder, muddy spots, rocks and creek crossings inconsequential!

*Note:* Greendrop is not a big crowd-pleaser like Lindeman. It is still precious but not quite as pretty.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. 40 km from the bridge the signpost and yellow gate are on the left. Orange squares mark the route. After reaching Lindeman the trail follows its shore to the far end, crossing some talus (big rock) slopes along the way. The trail crosses Post Creek to its right side, continues up the valley crossing many more talus slopes, re-crosses to the left side of the creek, and the next right fork takes you to the near end of Greendrop Lake.

## 15 Radium Lake

*Distance return:* 15 km (Webb/McD 19 km)

*Time:* 6 hrs. (Webb/McD 8 – 10hrs.)

*Elevation gain:* 910 m (1,402m/1,694m)

*Highest point:* 1,460 m (1,952m/2,244m)

Plenty of trees, bushes, bridges and swift-flowing water accompany you on this sheltered hike that follows Radium Creek up its valley to the lake. Alas, the lake is no beauty, but if you get that far and still seek reward, turn left just past the remains of the old log cabin and follow the flagging up the rocks to catch the view from the saddle between Mts Webb and MacDonald. Allow for extra time and exertion if you venture that far. It's a long way back.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. Drive 42 km to Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park and turn right at the Gatehouse. Park in the Day Use parking lot and walk back towards the sani-dump, turning left and passing the Info Board on your way down the campground road to the TC Trail Radium Lake sign. This will take you to the footbridge over the Chilliwack River where you cross, turn right and follow the TC Trail downstream for 1km. Watch for the Radium Lake signpost on the left. If staying overnight please let park staff know.

*Note:* Due to snowpack trail is best June-Oct.

## 16 Lindeman/Greendrop Lakes

*Distance return:* 3.4 km (Greendrop 10.4 km)

*Time:* 3 hrs. (Greendrop 6 hrs.)

*Elevation gain:* 215 m (Greendrop 365 m)

*Highest point:* 825 m (Greendrop 1,010 m)

The 'Crown jewel' of Chilliwack Lake Provincial Park once more has a throne at the trail head! And the log bridge has undergone repairs: much better for dogs and kids. Thanks BC Parks.

*Note:* Greendrop is not a big crowd-pleaser like Lindeman. It is still precious but not quite as pretty.

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. 40 km from the bridge the signpost and yellow gate are on the left. Orange squares mark the route. After reaching Lindeman the trail follows its shore to the far end, crossing some talus (big rock) slopes along the way. The trail crosses Post Creek to its right side, continues up the valley crossing many more talus slopes, re-crosses to the left side of the creek, and the next right fork takes you to the near end of Greendrop Lake.

## 17 Flora Lake

*Distance return:* 14 km *Time:* 8 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 1,585 m (to ridge)

*Highest point:* 1,770 m

Not for the faint of heart or the short of breath. The trail climbs 1,585 m to the ridge, then drops 345 m to the lake. Great views of Chilliwack Lake and wide open spaces make the saddle area on the ridge a

fine destination. Flora Lake has more trees and less of a view. (Think: 'up and down again' on the way back.)

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. 40 km from the bridge the signpost and yellow gate are on the left. Follow this road and turn left where it meets another old road and follow orange squares marking the route on the long, switch-backed trail uphill to the saddle.

*Note:* This trail can be hiked as part of a loop with Lindeman and Greendrop (#16), but be aware it is a 20 km round trip, 1135 m elevation gain and 10 hrs of real hiking. Only suitable for those who are very fit, experienced and well prepared. Overnight would be best.

## 18 4x4 Mount Cheam

*Distance return:* 9.5 km *Time:* 4 hrs.

*Elev. gain:* 665 m *Highest point:* 2,112 m

This peak experience will put you on top of the world! The prominent mountain at the eastern end of the Fraser Valley is accessible from the backside. Out in the open the whole time, the trail zig-zags its way up and through lush meadows to the gravelly terrain near the top. Unsurpassed views all round. Now a Fraser Valley Regional District trail.

*Caution:* There are sheer drops near the top. Take care up there!

*Directions:* See Chilliwack River Valley directions. At 28 km turn left on Foley Forest Service Rd. "0" odometer again and drive 2km, cross bridge over Foley Creek, turn left at T-junction. 2 km further cross Chipmunk Creek Bridge, take next right uphill (passing gravel pit on your left) on Chipmunk Creek Forest Service Rd. This is a rough road with many cross ditches, but not too steep for the first 7 km. Keep right after crossing Chipmunk Creek. The road is rougher and steeper (4x4 recommended) for the final 4 km to the parking area. Orange squares mark the route.

## Bridal Falls Area

### 19 Cheam Lake Wetlands

Great place for enjoying Mother Nature at her best! Flat trails in and around these reclaimed wetlands make it easy for all to enjoy. Maps and info on site.

*Directions:* Highway1 Exit 135 (Agassiz-Harrison). Highway9 (500 m) to Yale Rd. East. Turn right and at the Popkum Fire Hall turn left on Popkum Rd. and left on Elgye Rd. Follow it to the parking lot. Sorry, no dogs.

### 20 Bridal Veil Falls

*Distance return:* 2 km *Time:* 1 hr.

The name says it all! And what a delight these falls—the 6th highest in Canada—are to view up close and personal. The trail is not

flat but the experience of so much cascading water overhead and in your face is too great an opportunity to miss.

*Directions:* Highway1 Exit 135 (Agassiz-Harrison). Do not cross over highway. Go straight on access road 1km to commercial area. Look for and follow Bridal Falls Provincial Park signage on your right, just before the gas station. Ample parking at the picnic area. Follow the trail to the right along Bridal Creek to the falls, admire, and for the sake of variety, return via the trail to your right. Both trails start and end at the picnic area.

## Harrison Lake Area

### 21 Campbell Lake

*Distance return:* 10 km *Time:* 6 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 650 m

*Highest point:* 650 m

A challenging hike with plenty of round rock underfoot to start, steep sections through the forest, and broken log bridges to cross further along. You do get a grand view of Harrison Lake from an old heli-pad part way up, but be aware that the lake itself is not the prettiest and offers no great views.

*Directions:* Highway1 Exit 135 (Agassiz-Harrison). Follow the signs to Harrison Hot Springs. The trailhead is 2 km past the overhead "Welcome to Harrison" sign. Watch for a bench and kiosk on your left. Be sure to stay to the right after climbing to the water tower near the bottom. Orange squares mark the route.

### 22 Bear Mountain

*Distance return:* 18 km *Time:* 6 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 1,010 m

*Highest point:* 1,048 m

A double whammy! Super-views of Harrison Lake and the Fraser River...both on the same hike!

*Note:* Route is no longer well-marked or maintained.

*Directions:* Highway 1 Exit 135 (Agassiz-Harrison). Follow the signs to Harrison Hot Springs. Turn right on Lillooet Ave. at the 3 way stop (1 block before the lake). Travel 4.9 km (name changes to Rockwell Drive) and turn right just before the 7190 address marker. Park before the chain link gate and red and white 'ABO Gold Mine' sign. Walk up the Bear Mtn Forest Service road, keeping to the right at the mining debris.

The first 6km follows the unused road uphill (watch for flagging at junctions), and features an old mining site, a nifty little waterfall, and good views of the lake. Another 2km of flatter road (slide alder growing on it) lead to the last bit, a really sweet trail through

second growth forest. Bursting out onto the viewpoint you will thrill to the sights you see! The mighty Fraser below, Mt Cheam across the way, Fraser Valley to the right, and Harrison Lake behind you. Dine atop the heli-pad and visit Bear Lake (at km 7) on your way down.

### 23 Hicks Lake Loop

*Distance loop:* 6 km *Time:* 3 hrs.

This fabulous trail offers easy access to a fine, sandy beach at the far end of Hicks Lake. Continuing the loop around on the old road is not as pretty nor as close to the lake so you may choose to return via the same trail. Either way will get you back to your vehicle. There is also a flat Beaver Pond Trail (1 km loop) on your left as you enter the parking area.

*Directions:* Highway1 Exit 135 (Agassiz-Harrison). Follow the signs to Harrison HotSprings. Turn right on Lillooet Ave. (just before the lake) and follow the signs to Sasquatch Provincial Park and Hicks Lake. Park at the Hicks Lake day use area. Start the lake loop by going to your right, through the shore through the campground and takes you to the second picnic site. Carry on via this fine trail to the far end of the lake. The pit toilet marks the left turn down to the beach.

## Hope Area

### 24 Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park (Othello Tunnels)

*Distance return:* 3 km *Time:* 1 hr.

Witness first-hand one of the most amazing engineering feats in B.C.'s history. Andrew McCulloch and crew carved rough tunnels for the Kettle Valley Railway through the treacherous rock canyon of the Coquihalla River near Hope. Prepare to be impressed. Information plaques on site.

*Directions:* Highway1 to Hope, exit right at 'Welcome to Hope' sign Exit #170, turn left at first lights, right at second (just under the highway) onto the old Hope-Princeton Highway. Driving through the commercial area, turn left at 6th Ave. then right on Kawkawa Lake Rd. Keep right at the lake, following Othello Rd. to Tunnels Rd., where another right takes you to the Parking area. Alternate: Can also be reached via the Coquihalla Hwy. just north of Hope. Watch for signs. *Note:* TUNNELS CLOSED NOV. — APRIL due to falling rock and ice.

### 25 Hope-Nicola Valley

*Distance return:* 7 km (loop) *Time:* 2 hrs.

*Elevation gain:* 195m

While visiting the Othello Tunnels, be sure to add on the bonus of hiking through even

more history! Follow the 1860 pack mule route up and over the hill above the tunnels. Enjoy a truly grand old forest along the way...with a truly fine view of the Coquihalla River and Hope Mtn...on a truly great old trail. (P.S. Nifty plaque to read at the top...)

*Directions:* Follow directions to 'Othello Tunnels' (#24). Note the sign marking one end of the trail at the start of the Coquihalla River and Hope Mtn...on a truly great old trail. (P.S. Nifty plaque to read at the top...) *Directions:* Follow directions to 'Othello Tunnels' (#24). Note the sign marking one end of the trail at the start of the Coquihalla River and Hope Mtn...on a truly great old trail. (P.S. Nifty plaque to read at the top...) Continue to the parking lot, from where you can hike the trail in either direction. For the preferred clockwise route, walk through the tunnels and, 300 m past the last (4th) one, look for an old kiosk on your right, with the marked trail just beyond it. Both you and the trail climb up from here. *Hint:* the best of the trail is from this point to the top of the hill, so you may want to turn around at the plaque at the high point, returning through the tunnels and avoiding the road traffic. Distance/time are about the same as the loop. *Hint:* To avoid the busy road if hiking the loop clock-wise, there is a short-cut trail to the parking lot. It is on your right at around 6 km. Counter-clockwise loop can now start from the parking lot.

*Note:* TUNNELS CLOSED NOV. — APRIL due to falling rock and ice.

*2012 Note:* Winter windfall and erosion have taken a toll on the trail. It needs adopting.

### 26 Eaton Lake

*Distance return:* 8 km *Time:* 5.5 hr.

*Elevation gain:* 915m *Highest point:* 1325m

The end justifies the means on this ambitious foray up to one of the prettiest lakes the North Cascades has to offer. The trail has all you could wish for; a rushing gushing creek complete with log bridges and a waterfall, trees overhead with little underbrush underfoot, roots to trip over and curse, kilometre markers that you'll swear are miles, and as a final reward "the serenity of a clear blue mountain lake" complete with its backdrop of tantalizing peaks.

*Directions:* Highway 1, Exit 168, follow signs towards Skagit Valley Provincial Park. Turn right onto Silver Skagit Road. "0" odometer and travel 16km, ignoring the right turn into Silver Lake Campground and passing by with the lake on your right. Just past 16km look carefully to the left for the old Eaton Creek Forest Recreation Site. Park roadside or venture in the short distance to the rustic parking area. Follow the old road which becomes the trail. Orange squares mark the route. *Note:* Take care on the log bridges; slippery when wet.

*2012 Note:* First log bridge has collapsed leaving difficult open log crossing (no railings) — not for the faint of heart or wobbly of leg.