



Autumn 2010

PRPAWS

Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

2009/10 Highlights



Bob Davey sweeps the steps of the new Mount Troubridge Hut, which PRPAWS is building with funding from BCTC (now BC Hydro) and ICET.

The past year has been an exciting one for PRPAWS - lots of work, but lots of rewards and fun too. Since we haven't put out a newsletter for quite some time, we'd like to list some recent happenings. But first, we'd like to let you know that WE NEED YOUR HELP. The more of us are involved in this project, the more our community will benefit from it. That has become abundantly clear to us recently, through our work with the BOMB Squad, and many other local groups. When we work together, we get more done, and it's more fun too! If you want to get involved, contact us at prpaws.bc@shaw.ca. And without further adieu, here are some of the things we have been up to recently:

- Worked on trails including Browne Creek and Hurtado Point Loop, Swinedog Pass, and many sections of the Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT);
- Hosted most successful Marathon Shuffle (#17!) to date;
- Sponsored World Premiere of ultra-marathon documentary, XS-NRG;

- Helped establish Millennium Park, and provided maintenance of Millennium Park trails and Tees Kwat Trail;
- Negotiations with Island Timberlands (IT) regarding Millennium Park selective logging plan;
- Negotiated buffers for numerous trails with IT and Western Forest Products (WFP);
- Partnered with SD47 and Model Communities for the Disabled to apply successfully for \$3

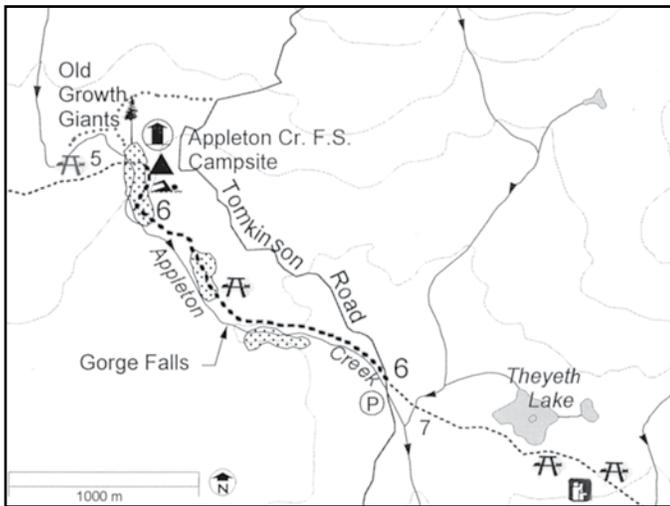
million from Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) for the SCT Enhancement Project. PAWS' portion is for \$320,000, half of which comes from ICET, the other half of which comes from in-kind volunteer labour and other donations and funding sources. Proposal to build 8 open shelters and 1 hut, improve rough trail sections and install markers and signage (see details of progress inside);

- Applied for and received \$7,000 UBCM tourism grant, and built Fairview Bay shelter, a prototype for the ICET shelters, and a \$38,700 grant from BCTC for construction of a log hut on Mount Troubridge;
- Revived Outdoor Recreation User Groups (ORUG) to address access issues arising from Plutonic's deactivation of backcountry roads;
- Promoted the SCT widely, through presentations, tours, geo-caching, and website.

This is just a taste of what PRPAWS is about. Get out on the trails, and help us spread the word about this amazing place (that is how we can protect it), and if you have time, come help us make it even more accessible!

Hike Appleton Canyon

Trail Location: At the junction of Wharf Street and Marine Avenue, drive north toward Lund, past Willingdon Beach, through the Townsite, Wildwood and Sliammon. At Scuttle Bay at about 12 km turn right onto Wilde Road heading uphill for exactly 6 km. Where the road branches in the hamlet, keep to your right onto Tomkinson Road. Pass the access to Big Sliammon Lake at 4 km on your right. After 2 km you will come to the bridge across Appleton Creek. Just 100 m beyond the bridge, turn left into a gravel pit which is a good place to park. The northern end of the Sliammon Lakes Trail lies directly across the road from the entrance to the pit. There are two trailheads for the Appleton Canyon Trail. One is located on the upper side of the gravel pit where a cairn may be visible. A second, well-signed entrance can be found along the road 20 m uphill from the pit entrance.



Trail GPS Coordinates: N 49°56.590', W 124°35.005'

Altitude: 400 m to 200 m

Hiking Time: 1 hr, one way

Distance: 2.1 km, one way

Difficulty: Moderate, Level 3

Map: 92 F/15, Recreation Map

Trail Description: As you leave the pit and enter the forest, the trail rises gently and winds its way along Appleton Creek. Hiking upstream is not difficult as the trail takes advantage of natural terraces and benches that form part of the canyon. The trail is well defined and marked with orange metal squares. Within 300 m from the start you will notice a steep and rugged spur trail down to the left. If you are sure-footed you can scramble down to the edge of the canyon. There you can see pools below, and the first of a handful of falls this hike has to offer. This is the waterfall that prevents salmon

from getting further upstream.

As you resume your hike, the trail rises briefly, levels out, then comes close to the creek down in the flats, before climbing again, now to a vantage point that looks right into Sylph Falls. Though the vegetation is mostly maturing second-growth fir, you will see some old growth on the slopes toward the creek.

At Gorge Falls you can get down to the creek on a spur and swim in the pool, or even take a skull-numbing shower underneath the tumbling sheet of water. At Bandit Falls you will find one of the several dozen wooden benches that PRPAWS has constructed all along the Sunshine Coast Trail. This one invites you to take a break at the bank of the melodious creek.

Carry on as the trail follows the rising rim, then cuts across a side hill at elevation. All along you will see old growth sprinkled among maturing trees. One huge tree, measuring about 1.5 m in diameter, leans out at a precarious angle, its lofty top attempting to grow vertically again.

Next you will come to a high spot overlooking the big bend where, invisible to the casual eye, the creek turns abruptly. From a certain vantage point, two sections of the creek are visible—apparently running in opposite directions. This provides a puzzling illusion.

For a short distance the trail balances on the rim, not quite a knife-edge, but an interesting phenomena nevertheless. Then it reaches a junction. The right branch would carry you 300 m up along the ridge toward an outhouse. Here, the original Appleton Creek Trail presents a short exit out to Tomkinson (Wilde) Road 8 km from the highway.

Meanwhile, the left branch (SCT) dips down onto a small flood plain where picnic tables and tent sites are nestled amongst huge forest giants. A sign declares that you have arrived at the Appleton Forestry Recreation site. It signifies the end of the Appleton Canyon Trail section.

A refurbished wooden bridge spans the creek to the start of the Marathon Trail. At first the trail follows the creek upstream and within 200 m you come to another junction. The dead-end spur continuing straight ahead would take you to a picnic table overlooking a swirling swimming hole. This spot lends itself to a symphonic lunch and a refreshing swim.

Back at the junction a sign advises that Rieveley's Pond is an hour away, but it is really only half an hour. Last spring PRPAWS partnered with the BOMB Squad to build our second shelter overlooking the pond. It follows the same pattern as the prototype we constructed at Fairview Bay last fall. Early this summer PRPAWS partnered with the Powell River Rotary Club and built the third of these shelters at Rainy Day Lake. Next PRPAWS will partner with the Powell River ATV Club to build a fourth shelter on the SCT at Elk Lake in the Smith Range. Ω

(*for more SCT trail descriptions, see *The Sunshine Coast Trail*, by Eagle Walz).





Fairview Bay Shelter, in progress.



Rieveley's Pond Shelter - newly finished.



A tired but happy cement crew at Rainy Day Lake.

The construction of these shelters on the SCT is made possible through matching funding by the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) and our in-kind donation of volunteer labour, as well as some funding provided by BC Hydro, and UBCM.

ICET Shelters

The shelter at **Fairview Bay** is a beautiful piece of work located about 2 hours into the SCT when you start hiking at Saltery Bay. PRPAWS started building it in the fall of 2009 and completed it last winter. This shelter is the prototype of seven others PRPAWS is building and has a sleeping loft upstairs, with a cooking counter and picnic table downstairs and an outhouse nearby. A gorgeous view overlooks the bay - and there is a good anchorage right out front.



PRPAWS and the BOMB Squad collaborated on the shelter at **Rieveley's Pond** (about 15 minutes in toward the Appleton Creek Trail from Branch 10). Despite all the bonfires and the laughter, they managed to complete this shelter in May. It was a thrill, on one of the last work party days, to find two hikers already sleeping in the loft - a true sign that this shelter will be well used and loved. This site features a new outhouse, a lovely view of the pond, and lots of room for tenting.



The **Rainy Day Lake** shelter (with loft) was another collaboration - this time with the Powell River Rotary Club. Lots of trailwork was necessary in this area, to provide hikers with good access to the lake. This site is easy to reach, a prime location with water on three sides of the shelter. The site features a new outhouse, tenting site, and a firepit - perfect for cooking dinner after a good day of hiking! This shelter was built early this summer and is ready to receive visitors.



Recently PRPAWS began building a log cabin near the summit of **Mount Troubridge**. After that climb, you are sure to need a good night's sleep, and this is where you'll get it. This log cabin is already looking like a work of art, and is slated for completion around the end of September, weather permitting. Work will be ongoing until the fall, so if you are interested in helping out, get in touch with Scott Glaspey at 604-485-9463. We need cooks, trail builders and construction hands.

President's Message



Since last fall PRPAWS has been busy constructing three shelters and a cabin along the SCT, promoting new destinations and hut-to-hut hiking. One by-product of building the shelters has been working side-by-side with other community groups and getting to know people who share our appreciation of the spectacular outdoors that surround us. As we learn skills from each other laughs are the order of the day. With that much banter going on you might wonder how anything gets done, but by the time we pack up the tools we can take stock of an incredible amount of work that took shape in some stunning wilderness setting or another.

Want to help?

If you or your group are interested in participating in the construction of the shelters, or contributing to the promotion of these unique recreation facilities, please contact us. We anticipate being busy through the fall and winter.

On October 17 we are planning a potluck dinner at the Recreation Complex together with other outdoor recreation user groups (ORUG) and guests to celebrate our outdoors and making it more accessible and user-friendly. RSVP required. Email Emma at emlarocque@shaw.ca for details, or call 604-487-1945.

Backcountry Update

Negotiations are ongoing with Plutonic Power regarding backcountry access, although deactivation has taken place and the roads in question are not currently useable. We are working to re-establish access and make some roads more user-friendly. Please check our website or facebook page for current updates in coming weeks.



Get PRPAWS updates on



Search for PRPAWS and join the group!

You will be kept informed of any upcoming events, like the annual Marathon Shuffle, meetings, new trail work that is being done, and more.

The Sunshine Coast Trail encompasses areas of old growth, spectacular views, and a wide variety of scenery. It is only by using it that we will succeed in protecting the areas through which it runs.

Get involved today!

Want to volunteer, or become a member of PAWS?

Single - \$20/year

Family - \$30/year

Donation: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make cheques payable to PRPAWS. A tax-credit-able receipt will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

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