

Taking a hike

North Shore News

Sunday, June 07, 2009

Trail: Richard Juryn/Lynn Creek Loop

Elevation gain: 170 metres.

Total hiking time: Between one hour, 45 minutes and two hours, 15 minutes.

Good to know: Trails are dog-friendly

This all-season, North Vancouver hike with only moderate elevation gain combines a loop around the scenic Richard Juryn Memorial Trail with a return trip on part of Lynn Creek's historic Old Lillooet Trail.



CREDIT: photo submitted
 Mount Seymour's Power Lines trail as viewed from the Richard Juryn Memorial Trail lookout.

The hike takes you from the Premier Street trailhead, around the Richard Juryn (RJ) Trail then over to Lynn Canyon via the Baden-Powell (BP) trail and back along Lynn Creek. You reach the trailhead by taking exit 22 (Lillooet Road) from Highway 1, then going around behind the Holiday Inn to turn onto Premier Street. Follow it north, going left at the Inter River Park sign, then right up a short hill to the Richard Juryn trailhead sign at the end of the parking lot.

This trail is dedicated to the memory of Richard Juryn, who died Oct. 7, 2007 in a tragic kayaking accident on Howe Sound. Juryn's dream of building a trail network on the North Shore was realized with the construction of this trail through a massive effort by more than 250 volunteers on July 19, 2008.

Begin by following the path north around the playing field. Watch for the RJ sign directing you up Inter River Park Road to Lillooet Road. Go left there and follow the RJ signs through part of the North Vancouver Cemetery just ahead. The route rejoins Lillooet Road a few minutes later. Cross the road at the RJ signpost, about 100 metres ahead, and continue north.

In about 10 minutes, you'll reach another RJ signpost, where you'll turn right into the woods. A bench with a fine viewpoint south is about 50 metres in. From here, follow the wide, winding gravel path uphill leading to a grassy area with another bench and picnic table about five minutes later. Continue following the RJ signs uphill to the BP trail junction.

Pick up the RJ directly across from BP and continue north into the forest. Other trails branch off to the left, but continue straight ahead. Follow the series of RJ signposts, watching for the one indicating a viewpoint. From the top of the bluff the lower slopes of Mount Seymour are visible to the south and east. Return to the signpost and

continue along the trail until you emerge at the junction with BP.

You could cross the BP trail here to retrace your steps back on the RJ, but for an alternative route providing some additional variety, go right on BP to Lillooet Road. Pick up BP across the road and follow it to its sign-posted junction with Old Lillooet Trail to Premier Street. The BP trail turns downhill here, but go left and south along this well-maintained trail. As you descend into Lynn Canyon, the trail becomes rather rocky and rooty in places, but does have some boardwalks across marshy areas.

Where the trail levels out into a wide path, stay to the right and in about 10 minutes you will see a footbridge across Lynn Creek. Take the trail leading uphill to your left to return to the Inter River Park playing field and the parking lot. The Lynn Creek portion of this hike is at the District of North Vancouver's GIS digital maps website, www.geoweb.dnv.org/maps.asp. Select Topography & Trails-Grouse Area. The Richard Juryn portion is at www.richardjuryntrails.com/about-the-trail.

Norm Watt has been a resident of the North Shore for more than 35 years. During that time he has hiked the trails of North and West Vancouver extensively. He is currently working on a hiking book to be published in spring 2010.

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