

## Trails Committee March 2015 Update

Boyle Point Provincial Park is definitely a “go to” place for Denman visitors and residents alike. Now the main trail in Boyle Point is even easier to access thanks to members of the Trails Committee. Seven volunteers took part in a work party on March 10 to clear the remaining section where the undergrowth had grown so quickly. Left unchecked the salal, ferns and Oregon grape would soon have obliterated the trail. Volunteers trimmed the undergrowth back so that trail users can see the trail more easily and stay drier when out for a stroll. In the space of just over two hours approx ½ km of the main trail was trimmed, cleaned up and raked.

On March 24 members of the Trails Committee did a reconnaissance hike to Ripple Rock. The turnoff to the start of this hike is approx 17 km north of Campbell River. There is a parking lot on the right hand side of the highway (heading north) just past the Ripple Rock sign. The round-trip distance was 8 km and with almost an hour’s rest at our destination overlooking Seymour Narrows (where Ripple Rock once was) the group hiked for approx 4 hours. The hike was moderate with a couple of tricky sections. The history of Ripple Rock is interesting because prior to it being blasted out on April 5, 1958 in what was the largest non-nuclear explosion of its time, the two rocks in the middle of Seymour Narrows were a navigational hazard and had claimed many ships. For more information on this piece of BC history click on this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W9PV\\_s\\_zF4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W9PV_s_zF4)

As well as spending a wonderful afternoon in the great outdoors, the Trails Committee came across a new aluminum bridge across a creek near the beginning of the hike and a very impressive aluminum set of stairs just before the top of the lookout area. The Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources maintains the trail and they have done a fine job. As the bridge and stairs are aluminum there is virtually no maintenance required. Maybe we can see about similar structures in some of our park areas which would eliminate slippery boardwalks and scrambling up steep slopes – something to consider anyway.



**Aluminum Stairs with wood railings & aluminum foot bridge**

**Back:** Michael Gorman, Allan Danks, Margie Gang & Graeme Johnston. **Front:** Howard Stewart & Anne Page.

**Photo Credit:** Ralph McCuaig

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, Trail Committee volunteers will be walking the Cross Island Trail to inspect for damage, cut back encroaching vegetation and pick up any garbage. Some maintenance issues will be remediated by the Trails Committee as part of the maintenance agreement with the CVRD, however substantial maintenance issues will be referred to the CVRD.

The Trails Committee is looking for new members who would like to take part in maintaining the trails in our public parks. Work parties are scheduled approximately once per month for 2 to 3 hours to maintain specific trails using our gas brush cutters and hand tools. If you are interested in joining the Trails Committee or for more information, please contact Allan Danks at [acdanks@telus.net](mailto:acdanks@telus.net)