



VANCOUVER ISLAND TRAIL

SECTION 3 - PORT ALBERNI TO CUMBERLAND

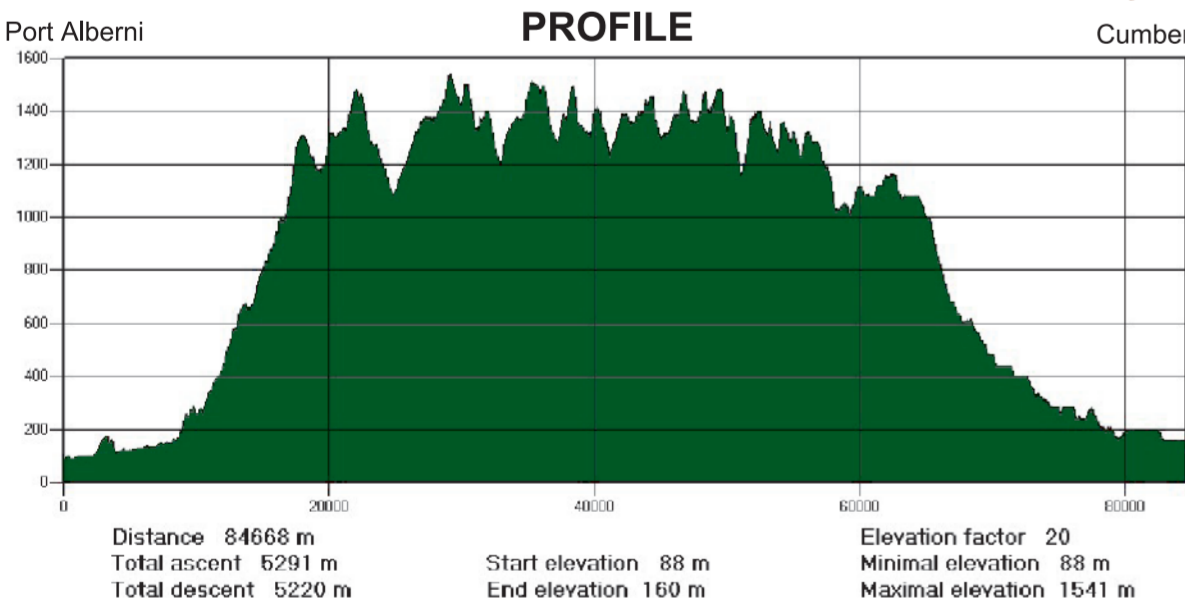
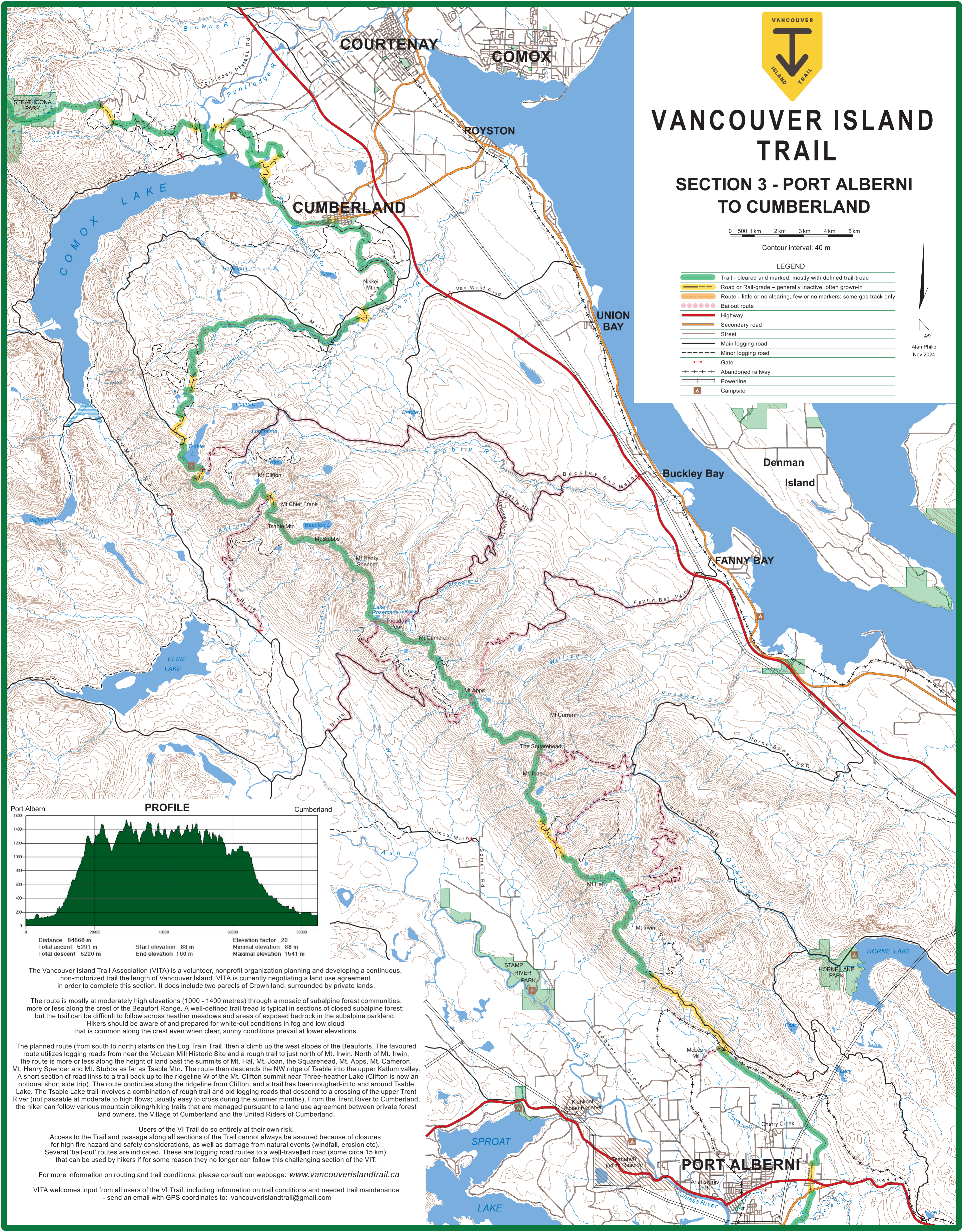
0 500 1km 2km 3km 4km 5km

Contour interval: 40 m

LEGEND

- Trail - cleared and marked, mostly with defined trail-tread
- Road or Rail-grade - generally inactive, often grown-in
- Route - little or no clearing, few or no markers; some gps track only
- Bailout route
- Highway
- Secondary road
- Street
- Main logging road
- Minor logging road
- Gate
- Abandoned railway
- Powerline
- Campsite

Alan Philip
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The Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) is a volunteer, nonprofit organization planning and developing a continuous, non-motorized trail the length of Vancouver Island. VITA is currently negotiating a land use agreement in order to complete this section. It does include two parcels of Crown land, surrounded by private lands.

The route is mostly at moderately high elevations (1000 - 1400 metres) through a mosaic of subalpine forest communities, more or less along the crest of the Beaufort Range. A well-defined trail tread is typical in sections of closed subalpine forest; but the trail can be difficult to follow across heather meadows and areas of exposed bedrock in the subalpine parkland. Hikers should be aware of and prepared for white-out conditions in fog and low cloud that is common along the crest even when clear, sunny conditions prevail at lower elevations.

The planned route (from south to north) starts on the Log Train Trail, then a climb up the west slopes of the Beauforts. The favoured route utilizes logging roads from near the McLean Mill Historic Site and a rough trail to just north of Mt. Irwin. North of Mt. Irwin, the route is more or less along the height of land past the summits of Mt. Hal, Mt. Joan, the Squarehead, Mt. Appis, Mt. Cameron, Mt. Henry Spencer and Mt. Stubbs as far as Tsuble Mtn. The route then descends the NW ridge of Tsuble into the upper Kattum valley. A short section of road links to a trail back up to the ridgeline W of the Mt. Clifton summit near Three-heather Lake (Clifton is now an optional short side trip). The route continues along the ridgeline from Clifton, and a trail has been roughed-in to and around Tsuble Lake. The Tsuble Lake trail involves a combination of rough trail and old logging roads that descend to a crossing of the upper Trent River (not passable at moderate to high flows; usually easy to cross during the summer months). From the Trent River to Cumberland, the hiker can follow various mountain biking/hiking trails that are managed pursuant to a land use agreement between private forest land owners, the Village of Cumberland and the United Riders of Cumberland.

Users of the VI Trail do so entirely at their own risk. Access to the Trail and passage along all sections of the Trail cannot always be assured because of closures for high fire hazard and safety considerations, as well as damage from natural events (windfall, erosion etc). Several 'bail-out' routes are indicated. These are logging road routes to a well-travelled road (some circa 15 km) that can be used by hikers if for some reason they no longer can follow this challenging section of the VIT.

For more information on routing and trail conditions, please consult our webpage: www.vancouverislandtrail.ca
 VITA welcomes input from all users of the VI Trail, including information on trail conditions and needed trail maintenance - send an email with GPS coordinates to: vancouverislandtrail@gmail.com