



VANCOUVER ISLAND TRAIL

SECTION 4 - CUMBERLAND TO STRATHCONA DAM



Contour interval: 40 m



Alan Philip
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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
	Highway
	Secondary road
	Street
	Main logging road
	Minor logging road
	Gate
	Abandoned railway
	Powerline
	Campsite
	Cabin

The Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) is a volunteer, nonprofit organisation planning and developing a continuous, non-motorised trail the length of Vancouver Island.

The Cumberland to Strathcona Dam section of the VI Trail involves the use of well-established trails to and across Strathcona Provincial Park and a combination of logging roads and light trails between the north boundary of Strathcona Park and Strathcona Dam.

From Cumberland, the route follows the old Colliery Railway grade to near Comox Lake, then a series of logging roads and trail as far as Lake Trail Road. It then uses the BC Hydro trail system alongside both sides of the Puntledge River to/from the bridge over the Puntledge as it flows out of Comox Lake, before climbing up to Forbidden Plateau via a series of mountain bike trails. From the parking area of the former Forbidden Plateau ski hill to the north boundary of Strathcona Park, the VI Trail follows BC Parks trails across the Park and past formal campsites at McKenzie, Kwai and Cirlet Lakes.

From the north boundary of Strathcona Park, the route continues along the ridge north of Mt Jutland to logging roads that lead into the upper Oyster valley towards Pearl Lake. A trail is located through steep, rocky terrain around the north side of Pearl Lake to connect with logging roads into a side valley providing access to Mt Adrian. Route-finding is necessary on the steep climb up to the Mt Adrian ridge. From near Adrian, the route is through open/semi-open subalpine terrain near the height of land, apart from one substantial deviation to the west to get around a major band of cliffs. Once back up to the height of land, first the route and then trail continues below Mt Beadnell, along part of Rogers Ridge trail, and then a route along the rocky ridge to the pass and a small lake between the two summits of Lupin Mtn. Northwards, trail is roughed in down to upper Quinsam Lake logging roads. A mix of road and light trail connects Upper Quinsam Lake with Strathcona Dam.

As most of this section is quite remote, hikers need to be self-sufficient.

North of Wokas Lake, the Quinsam River must be forded.

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). For more information on routing and trail conditions, please consult our webpage: www.vancouverislandtrail.ca

VITA welcomes input from users of the VI Trail, including information on trail conditions and needed trail maintenance - send an email with GPS coordinates to: vancouverislandtrail@gmail.com

