

3 At this junction, continue up the fireroad. You are now entering an area logged for shinglebolts, sections of cedar logs used to make shingles, between 1923 and 1926.

4 The abrupt right turn at this point reveals a long straight section rising ahead which was part of an old incline cable railway, abandoned in 1926. The fireroad turns left sharply at the next switchback. Do not follow the fireroad but proceed straight ahead into the forest.



5 This site area was the upper terminus of a cable railway where logs were loaded on rail cars attached to the cable of a “snubbing” donkey and lowered to a shingle mill several kilometres below.

A “skyline” spar tree nearby used to bring the logs to this point for loading.

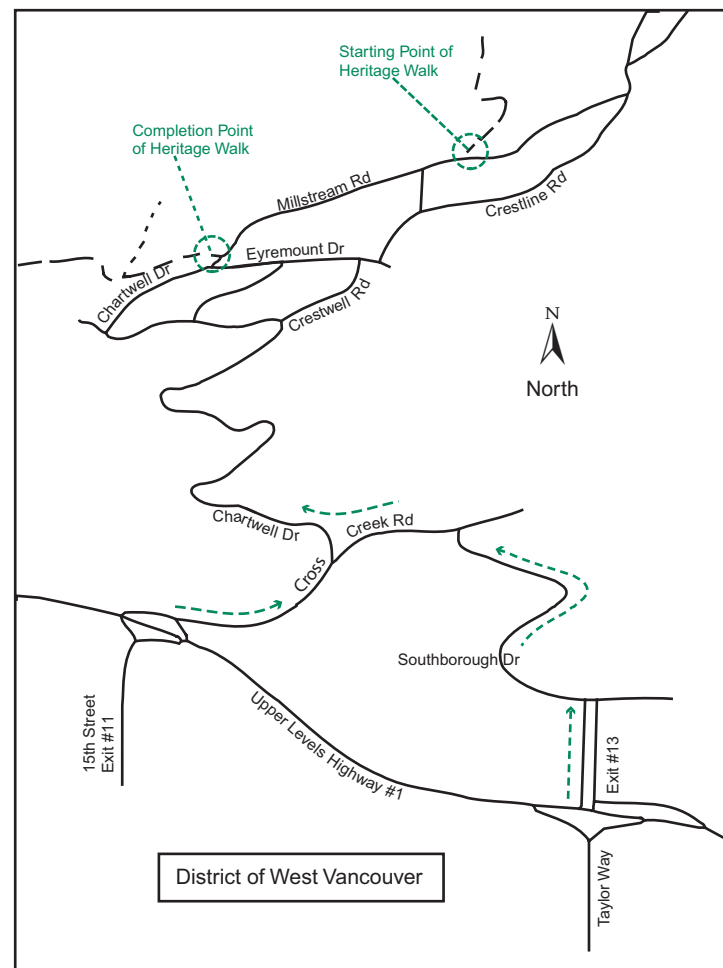
6 Return back towards the fireroad. A rough trail to the east leads down from this site (about 200m) to the Candelabra tree, a dead old-growth Douglas fir with a pitchfork-like form. Several other giant snags (dead barren trees) occur further down the path leading to a large, old growth Douglas fir measuring 42.7 metres in height and 2.7 metres in diameter. These trees provide habitat for woodpeckers who feed on the insects in dead stumps, as well as eagles that perch silently on snags, searching for prey. Return back to the junction and down the incline of the fireroad trail.

7 At this junction where the fireroad turns sharply left, continue straight ahead through the low undergrowth. Within 10 metres, a former railway bed is apparent along the ground. Look for old crossties as you continue down the railway bed.

8 The rail trestle, which formerly crossed this creek, has long since disintegrated. You may see the large notched stump which braced the trestle. Cross the creek and pick up the railbed on the other bank. Cross a second creek.

9 Cross a third small creek and rejoin the railbed high on the opposite bank. Note the fire scarred stumps in the area.

10 This viewpoint presents a magnificent vista of Burrard Inlet and the city. Continue west along the trail. Descend the switchback trail and steps to the footbridge at Brother’s Creek Falls, a pleasant rest stop before the ascending the short, steep section on the west bank.



This brochure has been cooperatively produced by:
The West Vancouver Historical Society



**The District of West Vancouver
 Parks & Recreation Department**

The West Vancouver Museum and Archives

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Shakes, Shinglebolts & Steampots

Brother’s Creek Forestry Heritage Walk

WEST VANCOUVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

West Vancouver Museum & Archives

**District of West Vancouver
 Parks & Recreation Department**

Forestry Heritage Walk

Time required: 3 – 3.5 hours

280 Metre Elevation Gain

Some difficult sections.

The Forestry Heritage Walk begins at the fire protection road adjacent to 1121 Millstream Road (Altitude 380m). The land below this point was first logged in the 1870’s by axmen and teams of oxen. In the early 1900’s a logging railroad and steam donkeys (specially designed steam powered engines) appeared in West Vancouver. From 1930 to 1950, loggers using diesel trucks gradually opened up the land for settlement.

West Vancouver’s forests document this natural and human history at various sites within the Brother’s Creek area. This walk traverses a forest which was logged in the early years of this century. Fine stands of cedar contributed substantially to the economy of the young community developing below the mountainside. Evident throughout this walk are the large stumps left by the woodsmen, many of which show the charring left by the forest fires of 1910 and 1916. The area demonstrates the succession or natural evolution of the coastal forest following disturbances from fires and logging.

1 Enter at the gate marked Brother’s Creek Fire Road and proceed into the forest. Look for charred stumps left by the 1916 fire. At a distance of approximately 220 metres along the trail, note the parallel logs in the roadbed. These logs once supported the “Walking Dudley,” a unique locomotive designed for steep slopes which was used in West Vancouver between 1908 and 1913.



2 The stone foundations of the 1912 Mill Boiler house, and base of a steam sawmill can be seen to the right of the trail. Remains of a Donkey Engine, or “Steampot” sled, which held the steam winch, exist in the woods on the left. This site was also abandoned in 1913. Continue left up the Fireroad. Some distance ahead watch for a large granite rock off to the right. This 220 ton “Glacial Erratic” is a remnant of the last ice age and was deposited here when the ice sheet retreated about 11,000 years ago.

11 At this junction, the Brother's Creek trail on the right leads to viewpoints over the canyon and the upper falls. Continue West along the Baden Powell/Skyline trail.

12 The trail meets an old truck road at this junction. Turn right and ascend to the power line. Enter the flat area on the left. On the immediate left in the brush is a deep trench, which is a section of the 1910 Skid Road, once used for hauling logs. Caution: Watch out for the 3 metre dropoff.

13 Return down the old truck road and continue downhill past Brother's Creek Trail on the left. You are now entering a young, pioneer forest where deciduous trees, such as Alder, are building nutrients in the soil. As they mature, they will gradually be replaced by conifers, mainly Cedar and Hemlock. Further on down the road you will pass the remains of a War Surplus Army truck which ended its days on this road.

14 Turn right at this junction. About 60 metres ahead on the left, a path leads to an old dam and flume pond.



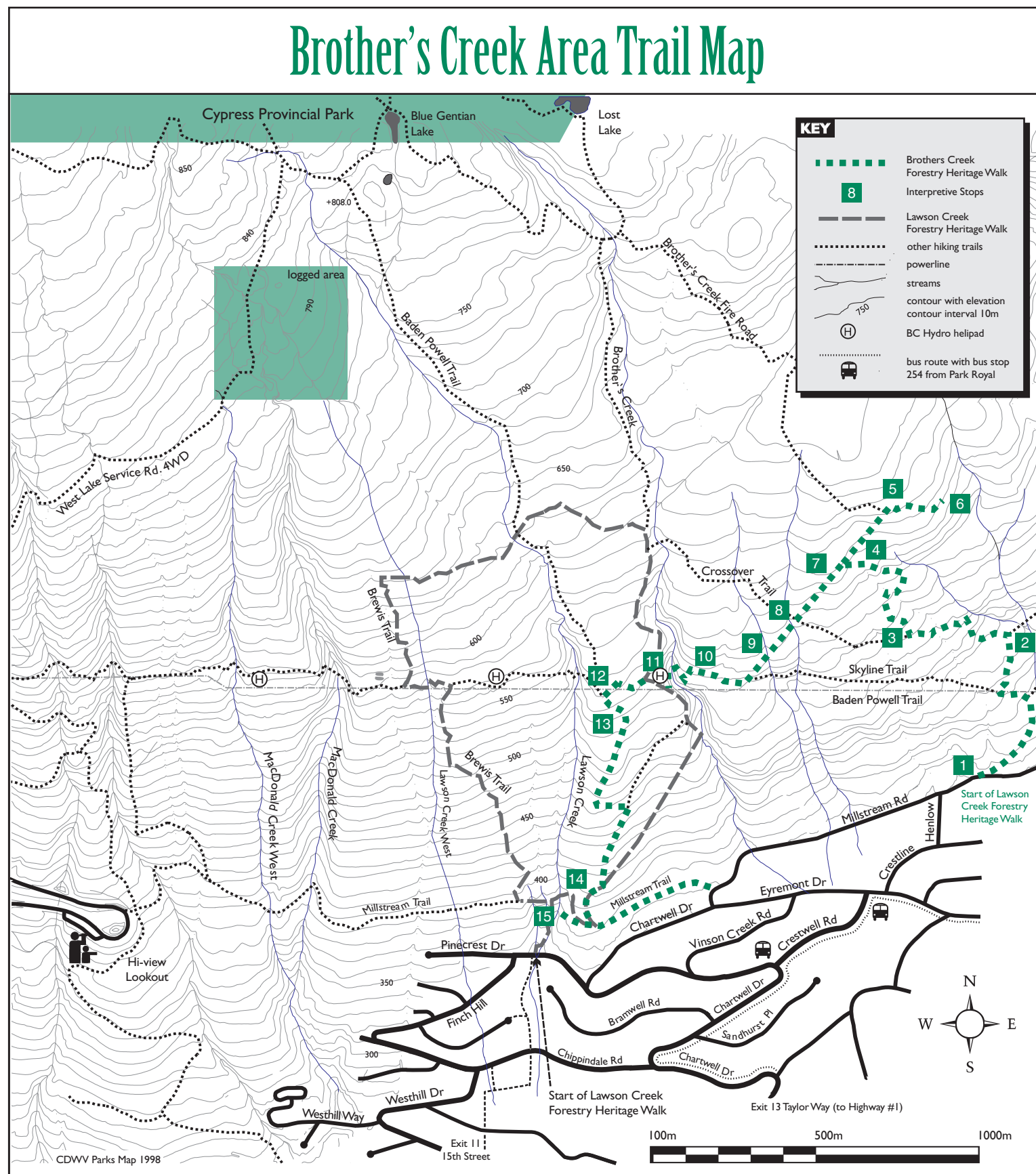
15 The Shields Log Dam at Lawson Creek was named after the logging operation that was active in this area in the 1910's and 1920's. Built in 1916, this unique log crib dam fed water to a wooden flume which transported shingle bolts to a mill 2 kilometres below. The dam was used until 1926.

END OF WALK

Return to junction 14 and continue ahead to Millstream Road and start point.

Cover Photograph: L. Frank, JHS 9-A

Photographs courtesy of: City of Vancouver Archives (CVA), Gordon Montgomery, Jewish Historical Society (JHS), Vancouver Public Library (VPL)



The Brother's Creek Area

The Brother's Creek Area contains a variety of impressive trails for both short and longer trips. Routes pass through second and old growth forests where different birds, small mammals and occasionally deer and bears may be sighted. Dramatic views of the canyon and waterfalls may be seen along the Brother's Creek trail. The Baden Powell trail and Brother's Creek trails connect to trails in Cypress Provincial Park. Maps of the area are available from Provincial Parks



"Take only pictures, Leave only footprints."

We are fortunate to have such an accessible and beautiful wilderness area right in West Vancouver's backyard. Please help protect this valuable resource for future generations. Do not damage or take away any part of the area's natural or human heritage including plants, artifacts, even rocks. Pack all garbage out with you. Please stay on the trails identified in the area map. Short-cutting causes erosion and damages the forest floor.

Be Prepared

Remember you are hiking in a large wilderness area where wildlife exists and mountain weather may change rapidly. Safety on hiking trails is the responsibility of the hiker. Plan your trip. Make sure you notify someone where you are hiking and when you expect to return. Dress appropriately.

Private Property

Portions of the trails identified in this brochure pass through private property owned by British Pacific Properties Ltd. As a condition of use of these trails, users fully and willingly accept all physical risk and liability.

Helpful non-emergency & Information Numbers

- District Police Department 604.925.7300
- District Fire Department 604.925.7370
- District Parks and Recreation Department 604.925.7200
- Gertrude Lawson House 604.925.7295
- West Vancouver Historical Society 604.925.7299
- B.C. Provincial Parks 604.924.2224