

**SEE NEW FILE FOR 2013  
THIS IS THE LAST FOR 2012**

January 2/13

The Holidays Live On

No work party tomorrow. Some of us [me] are still in Holiday mode. Rest assured, we'll make up for it later.

Michael

December 25/12

Sorry, Die Hards

No work party tomorrow. For those of you with your hearts set on working tomorrow I'm sorry to disappoint.

Perhaps you can enjoy those 'Boxing Week Blowouts!' instead.

Michael

December 18/12

Look Outside

No session tomorrow. Wouldn't you rather be hunkered down by the woodstove than soaking wet in the slush?

Merry Christmas to all you hard working elves.

Michael

December 5/12

Massive Blowdown

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. There are probably 50 - 60 trees accross the Green Trail in the vicinity of #19 along the recent clearcut. Ken and I made a dent in the mess today but will attack it tomorrow with 2 chainsaws.

Bring gloves for dragging limbs.

Michael

November 27/12

Final Section

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We will be [hopefully] finishing the final section of Yellow Trail leading up to the base of Pine Bluff.

Tool up accordingly and bring clippers.

Michael

November 13/12

Back on the Trail

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be continuing the upgrading of the Yellow Trail as it approaches Pine Bluff from the south.

I'll bring a wheelbarrow, otherwise tool up accordingly.

Michael

PS: The culverts from last week are doing their job and the covering soil has firmed up nicely.

Down The Drain

November 6/12

9 am Wednesday at the parking lot.

Following a tip from Mineral Mike, I found two drainage problem areas on Monty's Way. I'll be picking up some culverts from DoS works yard tomorrow. We'll be digging in the culverts across the trail as well as digging out catchment basins and drainage ditches on either end. Muddy work, bring boots.

Michael

Neither Rain Nor...

October 30/12

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

We'll be upgrading the Yellow Trail from Take It Easy to the base of Pine Bluff .

I'll bring wheelbarrow, pinch bar and other misc. tools. Suggest clippers and loppers as well as the usual picks and shovels.

Michael

October 23/12

Hanging Over Our Heads

Something different this time out.

9 am at the bridge over the Deer Fern Streamlet in the Heritage Forest between #25 and #26.

A leaning hemlock snag has finally broken off, blocking the bridge. Luckily for us it broke off in such a way that the bridge was not damaged and removing the rest of the tangled mess is now easier.

I'll bring 2 chainsaws plus scraping tools to remove moss

from the bridge superstructure. A small stiff broom would be helpful to sweep away the duff from the bridge deck. Otherwise it's gloves and hearing protection.  
Michael

October 16, 2012  
Serving On The Mount  
9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. With the break in the rain I'd like to finish the stone steps on Pine Bluff.  
I'll bring 2 bags of quick setting concrete. Those not involved in the steps can work on improving the Yellow Trail leading up to the Bluff.  
No generator needed.  
Michael

October 9/12  
Work On High  
9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll continue with work at the viewpoint that we began last week. Cementing/pinning in place stone steps, digging in another signpost and moving annoying rocks out of the way. I want to take advantage of the last of the dry weather for this work. Long awaited rain due on Friday!  
Michael

October 2/12  
Push To The Summit  
9 am tomorrow morning at the parking lot.  
It's all about the Viewpoint trail where we will be installing safety and signage improvements. We'll be planting a sign post, drilling the rock for rebar markers, installing handrail posts in three places, wire brushing the rock for cementing in stone steps and dragging trees across the old trail in a couple of places. Mineral Mike is bringing his generator, Ken the hammer drill plus assorted other equipment.

I'll bring stuff as well including wheel barrows so you probably don't need to bring much except gloves.

Michael

September 25/12

Thursday Work Party

9 am Thursday at the parking lot.

[I'm in Vancouver tomorrow]

Damien and I discovered a lot of corrosion on the backs of all the aluminum signs in the parking lot, some all the way through!.

We started to unbolt them, wire brush the corrosion with a cordless drill, treat with oil and reinstall with 2 washers behind for air space. Often the bolts shear off when being removed.

Please bring a cordless drill, wire brush, drill bits and socket set if you have them. Once we finish that little chore we'll finish trimming the roots on the roughed in Monty's Way.

Clippers and loppers.

Michael

September 18/12

'Warm up' work party

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

Odds and ends such as digging up some sign posts, attaching 'no biking' signs and clipping roots on Monty's Way.

Still waiting for the fall rains before we begin surfacing the new trail.

Michael

July 31/12

Root Cause

Sorry to interrupt the summer idyll but there's work to be done!

Not much actually, just pruning the roots on the first half of Monty's Way which Jason has roughed in.

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

Long handled pruners primarily needed.

Michael

July 06/12

Our Day in the Sun

9 am Saturday at the parking lot to finish staining the upper portion of the Kiosk. Ken and Damien made a great start on this last time after we finished the posts.

Ken and I will be there and hopefully others. We'll have ladders, scaffolding and some brushes. One way or another we should be able to finish well before lunch.

Michael

June 19/12

Tired of Waiting

As of this morning's forecast, the three days of sunnyish weather has dwindled to partly sunny tomorrow with showers/rain to follow.

Unless the forecast gets even more dismal we will meet at 9 am tomorrow at the Kiosk to sand and stain. We'll have two 5" random orbital sanders plus sheet sandpaper.

While the posts are being sanded others can start right in on the staining of the beams/roof. Bring a 4" brush if you have one.

Michael

May 22/12

Summer Vacation

As in years past, we will be suspending regular work parties until the fall.

That could change if we get the check from the Feds for Phase II and Jason completes the rough trail before the end of the summer, in which case we'll want to take advantage of the good weather to work our magic once again.

The other upcoming task is sanding and staining/sealing the Kiosk. I have a small [5"] random orbital sander [primarily for the posts] but could use another. Sealer will be brushed on but we need a stretch of dry weather.

Michael

May 15/12

Take a Break

No work party tomorrow. You knocked yourselves out spiffing up the trail and providing traffic control for last Saturday's big event.

Michael

May 7/12

Spiffing Up 'Take It Easy'

9 AM Wednesday at the parking lot.

As per your requests, we will be re-leveling and compacting the HC Trail in advance of Saturday's big event. Ideally we can use two people in the lead with leaf rakes to clean the litter from the trail, switching to metal rakes to loosen the top inch or so of crusher dust which will be levelled by a third worker with a custom wide rake.

Fourth worker will follow with the compactor. We'll start at the parking lot and head up the hill. Tool up appropriately. Weather looks to be outstanding.

Michael

May 1/12

Off Again, On Again

Strippers needed!

It appears that I was a bit hasty in cancelling tomorrow's work party. The pour today went well and now we need to strip the bracing and fill the footing holes tomorrow. I have other tasks as well, so don't worry about not enough to do.

9am tomorrow at the parking lot.

Michael

April 30/12

Concrete Comes Tomorrow

No work party on Wednesday.

Instead, we will be pouring the Kiosk forms at noon tomorrow.

We can use extra bodies

besides Ken and myself

in case we have to use buckets instead of the chute. Please

bring extra 5 gallon buckets with strong handles if you have them.  
Michael

April 24/12

Dig and Tidy Up

My apologies for the last minute email.

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We have 1 1/2 Kiosk footing holes left to dig as well as general clean up of branches, etc., in the parking lot area in anticipation of the big event on May 12. I'll bring the utility trailer.  
Michael

April 18/12

Timberrr!

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. I'll arrive early to start falling the small Alders near the Kiosk site. I'll bring my trailer for taking all the branches to the landfill. Firewood is up for grabs. Loppers, hearing protection and a leaf rake or two. Hopefully I will have batter boards up for the Kiosk foundation in a few days at which point I will be asking for help in the digging.  
Michael

April 3/12

Rocks and ferns

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We'll be extending the low rock retaining wall where the Handicap Trail meets the parking lot.

We'll also transplant ferns from deeper in the woods to cover the bare spots.

One lucky volunteer gets to go with me around the Red Trail to clear the 3 trees across it.

Michael

March 24/12

Back in the Saddle

I'll be taking delivery on the tracked Bobcat tomorrow morning at 8:45. I'll spend Saturday building up the low areas with the pile of native soil.

Sunday and Monday will be spent delivering the rest of the crusher dust for the crew to work their magic on. There's no need to finish forming the trail immediately but I want to finish delivering material as quickly as possible to cut down on rental costs and stay ahead of the rain. Since you've done such a good job organizing yourselves previously I'll stay away from that task. I could use one person tomorrow to help pick out big rocks and sticks as I spread the loads of fill.  
Michael

March 21/12

No work party tomorrow  
No work party tomorrow am.  
Ken and I will be picking up the newly milled Kiosk roof 2 x 6's tomorrow afternoon.  
Michael

March 14/12

Take a Pass  
No work party tomorrow - I have to attend a meeting with the Indian Band at 9:15 plus the forecast is for wind and rain.  
Gertrude's opening is tomorrow evening from 5 - 8 pm at the Arts Centre. Free coffee and goodies. Hope to see some of you there.  
Michael

March 7/12

Ivy Pulling  
9 am tomorrow morning at the parking lot.  
This will be a light day with few tools. I checked out the Red Trail yesterday and realized that we never got rid of the ivy patch along the trail - Northwest corner. We need to pull it out by the roots and lay it out on a tarp to thoroughly die before it can be returned to the forest floor. We also have the option of taking it to the landfill which would be a lot more work.



Gloves and clippers, I'll bring a tarp.

Michael

Feb 29/12

Thursday Workparty

Tomorrow morning looks to be too wet for working.

Thursday is supposed to be dry so let's meet at 9 am at the parking lot.

Sparky has suggested redoing the first part of the trail where it leaves the terminus in order to match your later standards.

Detail edges to a uniform width with native soil beyond and touch up any low spots with shovel fulls from a wheelbarrow full of crusher dust as needed. I also have a few small tasks to do with trail preparation once the tractor is fixed [it's been a saga].

Michael

Feb 22/12

Calling a Halt

Congratulations! - you've successfully worked yourselves out of a job [for now].

I paced off the remaining trail and we are at the 70% completion mark.

Until the tractor is repaired and I can spread more crusher dust, all work parties and sign ups are suspended.

The hairpin looks great.

Michael

Feb 22/12

Test the Waters

I know everyone is chafing at the bit to get back to the trail so give it a go today.

Because of all the rain in the past 24 hours the crusher dust may still be too wet

use the wide rakes or compact but tomorrow's forecast is for more precipitation.

Gertrude and I both have other commitments this morning so no visit from the Coffee Goddess.  
Michael

Feb 21/12  
Too Wet!  
No work party today.  
Tomorrow may be drier and Wed is supposed to be sunny.  
At this point it looks like there are only enough piles left for one more session until the tractor is fixed.  
Michael

Feb 20/12  
Lffy  
The weather looks OK now but could turn before 9 AM  
Gertrude has generously offered to bring coffee if you let her know it's on.  
Michael

Feb 19/12  
It's a Go!  
As of 7 AM it looks to be a relatively dry morning for trailbuilding.  
Monday is also looking better than previously forecast. I'll be in Vancouver all day Monday so carry on without me. I return the Bobcat tomorrow AM and the tractor won't be ready until later in the week so whatever piles are left at the end of today is what you have to work with for now.  
Michael

Feb 18/12  
Rain Days  
After watching Damien, Rupert, Ken and his nephew Jason slogging it out in the rain this morning I've decided to amend the rain or shine policy when it comes to the H.C. Trail. The crusher dust was so wet that they couldn't even use the wide

rakes, let alone the compactor. From now on I'd like to wait until the morning of your scheduled day to decide on whether to proceed. I'll send an email before 8:30 AM based on the latest forecast for the morning. At the moment, tomorrow looks relatively good, Monday and Tuesday not so good [rain]. Beyond that the forecasts tend to be unreliable. If your shift gets cancelled please feel free to sign up for a future one.  
Michael

Feb 18/12

Sign up Sheet Extended

In order to complete the trail we have extended the sign up page on the SGS website to the end of the month. We will post the March calendar [if needed] when the time comes.

Michael

Feb 16/12

Third Persons Needed

We now have slots on the sign up page for a third Volunteer which haven't been filled yet. Ken thinks we could even use a fourth and both he and Mike Lane are going to ask around for more helpers. Today the crew was like a well oiled machine with the new forming system and a lot of trail was put down.

Michael

Feb 15/12

Threesome Anyone?

Word from the morning shift is that they can use a third volunteer.

Lou has a new system for placing and levelling the crusher dust which makes for a precise and beautiful trail. I have stockpiled quite a bit of material on the trail so a third person would not have to worry about lack of things to do.

Bob has once again rejiggered the website to allow for 3 volunteers to sign up, so feel free. I'll be fine by myself on the afternoon shift. Thanks again for the grit and determination shown in everyone's commitment to complete this lengthy task. The results so far are a huge motivator for me.  
Michael

Feb 11/12

Machine #4, Meter's Running  
We now have a tracked Bobcat loader which is 10" narrower on the total tread width and supposedly has a 'softer' footprint.

Bob is reactivating the signup page on the website for 2 person morning shifts beginning tomorrow morning and running through Sunday, Feb 19th. Any previous commitments to certain shifts have been wiped clean. I may go to afternoon shifts as well as the mornings once we get closer, depending on the turnaround time with the new machine.

Our latest rental is almost twice the rate of the wheeled version so I am trying to finish in a week or so to stay within budget. Many thanks to all of you who have helped thus far.

Michael

Feb 9/12

Misery Loves Company

Have I mentioned that we've run into a few wrinkles concerning the machines?

With the Tractor and Nissan dumper both dead in the water I have rented a wheeled Bobcat front end loader. After dumping a half dozen loads at trail's end, the wide/heavy machine is really tearing up the corners and tight curves. We will probably trade it in for

the more expensive but less damaging tracked version. But before we send back the one we have I want to spread 3/4" crushed rock in the worst ruts on top of 16" geotextile strips. I plan to fill the Bobcat bucket with the crushed rock and follow behind 2 volunteers who will lay down the geotextile strips and fill up the ruts with shovelful's of rock as we work our way up the trail. For the time being the, current sign up calendar is no longer in effect. Bob will be reworking it yet again once I iron out the machine issues. If you have put your name down already, consider yourself a free man now. By popular request we will be going to 2 man teams once we have the delivery system worked out rather than the single volunteer. I seemed to have overlooked the fact that most of you signed up because you wanted to work with others, not stand around in the rain by yourself. There's also a safety factor, since none of us are exactly spring chickens. Once I get the load of 3/4 crush I'll call whoever is available to help mend the ruts.  
Michael

Feb 6/12

Back to the Drawing Board  
It just keeps getting better! The Nissan dumper isn't going to cut it. Michel's tractor wouldn't start this afternoon so Ken and Sparky hand loaded the dumper and we started up the trail. At about 2/3 the way to the end it overheated and stalled. Ken and Sparky had to hand bomb all the crusher dust out of the dumper. We might be able to lighten the load or go in compound low but it would be a painfully slow method of moving material.

I'm going back to my original plan of using a Bobcat with a 1/2 yard bucket. It arrives tomorrow. My plan is to eliminate the afternoon volunteer shift so that I can stockpile loads along the trail for the morning shift to spread and compact. I will also deliver loads in the morning shift and hopefully the volunteer won't have to spend too much time waiting on material.

I will call all of you who have signed up for afternoon shifts - thanks for your enthusiasm.

Michael

Feb 5/12

Don't Be Shy

Having worked through some starting issues with the tracked dumper, we are now ready to rock 'n roll on the Handicap Trail.

I encourage all those interested in spreading and compacting crusher dust to fill in your dance card now:

Michael

**Feb 1/12**

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

We will be clearing a better route for the machines for their daily commute from their night time nest at the top of Sandy Hook Rd. to the handicap parking area.

Loppers, picks and shovels etc. Also rakes for clearing branches and other forest duff from the Handicap Trail so that the machines don't grind it in.

If we have time we will also clear a larger 'landing pad' at the far end of the trail since we will be starting there and working our way back. I'll explain the logistics more in a separate email.

Michael

Jan 31/12

The Rubber Finally Hits the Road

The time has finally come to line up volunteers for helping to spread the crusher dust on the Handicap Trail. The professional advice I have received is to begin at the far end and work our

way back to the parking lot. This avoids tearing up the new surface in the tighter turns by the loaded Nissan tracked dumper as well as by the Kubota tractor and belly dumper trailer.

The idea is to have teams of 3 volunteers [one of which would always be myself] :

Me on the tractor, loading both Nissan and trailer as well as rough spreading after dumping  
Someone on the Nissan going back and forth [I think it's slower than the tractor]

A third person at the dumping spot on the trail with a rake and flat plate compactor.

Although we may decide to change things a bit after we work the bugs out of the process, my initial plan is to have a morning shift from 9 to 12 and an afternoon shift from 1 to 4. If it proves to be too long a stretch in the wet and cold we could end the shifts at 11:30 and 3:30. Rain gear, snowmobile suits, warm gloves and hearing protection are highly recommended.

I will have Bob post a calendar sign up page on the website with the shifts blocked out so that you can see what slots are open and fill in the blanks. We would take Sundays off.

You can have a look at the machines tomorrow and give me your feedback on the above plan.

Michael

Jan 31/12

The Eagles Have Landed

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot. We will be clearing a better route for the machines for their daily commute from

their night time nest at the top of Sandy Hook Rd. to the handicap parking area.

Loppers, picks and shovels etc. Also rakes for clearing branches and other forest

duff from the Handicap Trail so that the machines don't grind it in.

If we have time we will also clear a larger 'landing pad' at the far end of the trail

since we will be starting there and working our way back. I'll

explain the logistics

more in a separate email.

Michael

**Jan 25/12**

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

We'll be working on the beginning of the Red Trail just North of #6. This was our first serious trail building effort and we've learned a lot since then. It needs a lot more sand/gravel to cover roots and rocks.

We'll also try to address the mud hole just North of #8 on the same trail.

Michael

**Jan 18/12**

**Baby, It's Cold Outside**

No work party on account of the frozen ground.

Gather round the woodstove and count your blessings.

Michael



**Jan 11/12**

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

We'll finish the last section of the Green Trail above the ledge. If time permits we'll also fix up a muddy dip on the Red Loop just north of #8.

Michael

**Jan 4/12**

9 am tomorrow at the parking lot.

Mineral Mike says that there's only about 100 metres of trail left until we hook up with

previous work on the Green Trail coming from the other direction.

When we finish, it will be a milestone of sorts in that this is the last of the existing trails

to be upgraded. Then it will be on to virgin trails until we get interrupted of course.

I understand Sparky is back in town, unfortunately because of health problems with Sonny.

Michael