

Walk #11



Drop to Daniel GaLTT's Great Winter Walkabout

Watch for **GREEN FLAGGING TAPE** at confusing spots, but please note that the entire walk is NOT flagged. (The tape will be removed when the Walkabout series ends in February.)



You have until February 28 to hand in your trail journal to North Road Sports for a chance to win a prize. Due to extremely wet weather, trail markings will remain in place until the end of February.

What to expect

Approx time: 80 mins
Approx distance: 4.2 km
Difficulty: challenging (with an easy option)
Begin: park on Balsam near corner at Spruce

You might want to take walking sticks on these lesser known trails that connect two neighbourhoods to a view over Lock Bay before strolling on quiet Phase 4 roads.

Directions

Walk back along Spruce and look for the trail head marker on the left where Chelwood changes to Spruce. Enter the lovely Douglas-fir forest* and follow the trail for about ten minutes before emerging onto the Norwich Rd. hill. Cross over and turn right up to Chelwood Road where you turn left. Walk down the road to its end, admiring the interesting trees on the left. At the trail sign by the second pile of boulders that block the road, take the steep trail down into the forest. (The well used pathway ahead is on private land). *If the trail looks too challenging at this point, skip the walk down and turn back to complete the walk from the ★.*

The trail zigzags down to emerge on Daniel Way where you turn left and walk to the end of the cul-de-sac. Take the public access trail to the right of #201, and a five minute walk down to the rocky beach overlooking Lock Bay (and Sandwell Provincial Park to the right), where seals and sea lions are often spotted. After a rest, return the way you came, climbing back up the trail to Chelwood.

★ Walk back out to Norwich Road. Turn left by the bank of mailboxes on Hemlock Avenue and follow it, crossing Spruce to Tamarack. “When Wildwood Developments (and others) were busy cutting Gabriola into half-acre lots (before the establishment of the Islands Trust) they were doing so in ‘phases’. The last phase took place off Berry Point Road and up Norwich hill to Chelwood. The “Phase Four” developers went for the tree-named streets.”** At that time, the Firehall trail connected Phase 4 to the village when it was cut off by downed trees. Soon Spruce Road will connect through to Church Road by the health clinic.

Continue through this quiet Phase 4 neighbourhood as Tamarack curves back into Balsam and your starting point.

* For more info on coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems, see: islandstrust.bc.ca/media/350087/itc_cdf_gabriola_web.pdf

** gabriolahistory.ca/gabriolore.ca/tag/phase-four/index.html

The trails on our Great Winter Walkabout cross public and private lands. Please respect other users, obey all posted rules, and keep your dog leashed where required and under full control elsewhere.



Gabriola

RECREATION SOCIETY

THANKS TO THE GRS
FOR PROJECT
FUNDING!

PLEASE REMEMBER that even the easiest Gabriola trails may have mud and rough or rooty sections that make sections awkward or slippery.