

Walk #7



Commons/Wilkinson Way

GaLTT's Great Winter Walkabout



What to expect

Approx time: 70 mins

Approx distance: 3.5 km

Difficulty: easy but wet

Begin: Commons parking lot opposite the school

Explore the Gabriola Commons, quiet neighbourhood roads, and dip into the 707 park on a lesser used trail licence. (Take along your GaLTT Trails map, available from North Road Sports, Pages, the gas station and the museum for \$5.)

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

Directions

Begin at the Commons, opposite the school parking lot. The Gabriola Commons is 26-acres of land and amenities protected in perpetuity for the benefit of the people of Gabriola Island, and intended as a source of agricultural, ecological and community well-being. The Commons is stewarded entirely by volunteers and supported by community donations. Currently PHC, GERTIE and the Tool Library rent space here. (Learn about the rentable commercial kitchen, new reservoir/outdoor stage, and more at gabriolacommons.ca.)

Walk down the slope to the left of the cob wall (with goat), passing blueberry, apple and fig orchards and the allotment gardens where many Gabriolans grow their veg. Look for the 'trail to south road' sign and on the boardwalk bear right at the bench. Walk past

the South Commons garden and out the lane, turning right to reach the junction of Redwood and Dogwood. Turn left on Dogwood and left again on Pinewood. Turn left on South Road and walk uphill to the Wilkinson Way trail post (not the trail by the corner). Enter the licenced trail (thank you land owner!) and pass through the lush forest and two tranquil meadows for about 15 minutes. The trail is named for Merv Wilkinson who for many years practised and promoted sustainable selective forestry in the Wildwood Forest near Ladysmith.

Pass post 33 and go left on the 707's Erratic Trail at post 32. Turn left at post 3 onto the narrow Tin Can Alley trail—a favourite with bikers, so keep your ears open as you walk to North Road. Turn left when you emerge opposite the Hope Centre; stay on the wide shoulder as you walk back to the Commons, admiring the animals at the alpaca farm.



Gabriola

RECREATION SOCIETY

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