

### 3 1.2 km McNair's Skidway

This trench is visible in several locations across the mountainside and was known as McNairs 'Fore & Aft' skidway. In the early 1900s loggers pulled (skidded) logs down this trench by a steam powered cable system (steam donkey). The logs were then transported to the waterfront via a logging railway. The trail leading to the west returns to the Millstream trail. In the 1950s, this old truck road was used to haul logs off the mountain.

Continue uphill. A large granite rock on the right was left behind when the last glacier retreated about 12,000 years ago. This is one of several erratics found on Hollyburn Ridge. Continue to the Skyline Trail. At this point we leave private land and the clear-cut logging of the 1950s. Turn left; a BC Hydro helicopter pad is 20m on the right. Follow the trail, keeping to the right to join the Brother's Creek Trail.

### 4 1.4 km The Brother's Creek Trail & Canyon

You may notice a change in the forest at this point. In contrast to the young forest below, many mature douglas-fir, amabilis fir, pacific yew and western hemlock still stand here. Only the large western redcedar were taken by shingle cutters of the 1920s. Yellow-cedar, a tree typically found at higher elevations, is also present here. Cool air from up the mountainside flows down the canyon creating a micro-climate. This enables yellow-cedar, a conifer that prefers cooler temperatures, to out-compete other trees at this elevation.

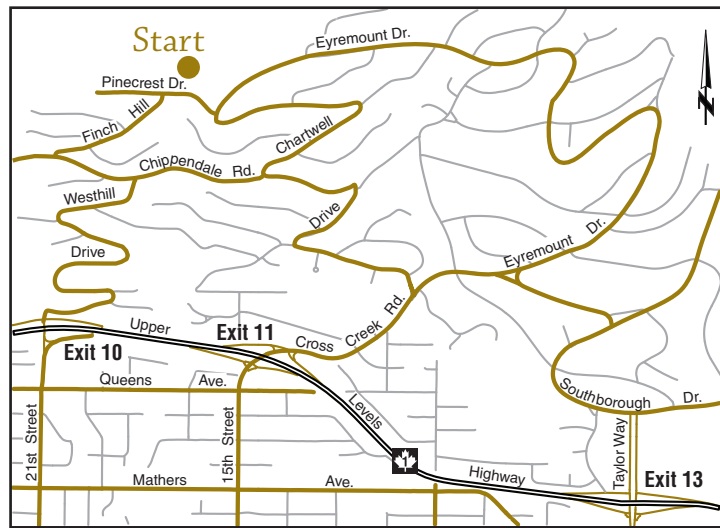
This section of Brother's Creek follows glacially scoured bedrock readily visible from several points along the trail. The west side is granitic rock, which rose to the surface about 100 million years ago. The east side is basaltic (crystallized lava) rock created 32 million years ago. The layers above the bedrock are largely glacial deposits left by subsequent ice ages.

At 1.9 km a trail on the right leads to the Brother's Creek Fire Road. Continue past this intersection 30m to stop number five.



NVMA 9087

Early loggers used shinglebolt sleds to haul blocks of redcedar c. 1900. Shinglebolts were loaded by hand therefore they had to be kept to a manageable size. The average shinglebolt measured 143 cm long, the comfortable span of a logger's arms. Note the corduroy road in the photo.



## West Vancouver's Upper Lands

The forested area contains a variety of trails. Routes pass through second and old growth forests where a variety of birds, small mammals and occasionally deer and bear may be sighted. Many routes provide connections to the trails in Cypress Provincial Park.

### "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 Parks and Community Services . . . . . 604.925.7200
- District Police Department . . . . . 604.925.7300
- District Fire Department . . . . . 604.925.7370
- Gertrude Lawson House . . . . . 604.925.7295
- West Vancouver Historical Society . . . . . 604.925.7299

# Lawson Creek Forestry Heritage Walk

...a self guided interpretive walk following the logging history and forest regeneration of the West Vancouver Upper Lands.



VPL 170 (cropped)

Logging crew posing in front of a felled giant western redcedar. c. 1911.

## West Vancouver's Upper Lands

The Lawson Creek Forestry Heritage Walk gives the mountainside explorer an opportunity to see how a logged forest can regenerate itself. The walk takes you through areas of the mountain that have been clear-cut and selectively logged from the early 20th century up to the 1950s. In the early days loggers took only what was most valuable: the prime stands of western redcedar provided excellent shakes and shingles, and were a valuable export commodity. During the 1950s the private land between the starting elevation (350m) and the Skyline Trail (540m) was clear cut. The walk passes through these areas allowing you to compare the various stages of forest regeneration. Along the way historical remnants of this logging industry add insight to the ingenuity of these early woodsmen.

The notes in this brochure refer to many destinations off the main route. Please use the map to locate these areas.

### START: Elev. 350m Pinecrest Bridge

Enter at the sign marked 'Lawson Creek Forestry Heritage Walk' on the west side of the Pinecrest Bridge. Cross the footbridge and proceed uphill along the main branch of Lawson Creek. Within 100m of the Pinecrest Bridge the Shields Log Dam comes into view.

### 1 0.1 km Shields Log Dam & Flume Pond

This Dam was built in 1917 to store floating blocks of redcedar (shinglebolts). The dam also supplied water to a wooden channel (flume) that transported these shinglebolts to a shingle mill 2 km below. Once water reached a certain level in the pond, a gate was opened and the floating shinglebolts were released individually into the flume. The shinglebolts floated on the running water down to the mill. Before it was dismantled, riding shinglebolts in the flume was a popular activity among adventurous young people. This dam is one of the last remaining examples of its type in western British Columbia. For your safety and preservation of the dam, please stay on the trail.

Continue up to the trail to the Millstream Trail and turn right onto this old logging road. Continue along, crossing Lawson Creek, to a junction 175m ahead. Turn left (north) and proceed uphill another 175m to the sign indicating Shields Incline Railway on your right.



55 WVA CRU

Two early hikers resting in the flume c. 1922. The walkway and handrail on the left allowed workers to clear shinglebolt jams and make repairs on the flume while it was operating.

### 2 0.6 km Shields Incline Railway

This trail follows the route of an inclined cable railway built in the early 1920s to transport shinglebolts down to the shingle mill. Railway ties, cables and spikes are still visible along the trail. This section was last used in 1926. Proceed up this trail about 500m to the remains of an old bridge that once crossed Brother's Creek. Turn left (uphill) following the coloured flashes to a trench 50m ahead.

### 5 1.95 km Crossover Trail Extension

Turn left (west) on this level trail. The Crossover Trail passes over several old skid roads which have now become small streamlets or swampy areas. In the fall, this area abounds with many species of fungi and mushrooms. This older forest was selectively logged for western redcedar around 1919. Large snags (dead trees) and large redcedar stumps dot the area. The predominant cover in this area is western hemlock with trees ranging from young saplings to 500-year-old specimens.

### 6 2.3 km Baden Powell Trail Junction

The trail on the left returns downhill to the starting point. Proceed straight ahead across Lawson Creek and follow the coloured flashes heading west. You may notice the lack of vegetation on the forest floor. The dense evergreen canopy and lower humidity of this area discourages the undergrowth found at other points along the trail. At approximately 450m along the trail, a massive tree comes into view.

### 7 2.8 km The Hollyburn Fir

This giant Douglas fir has been growing here for nearly eleven hundred years. This living tree measures 2.96 metres in diameter and rises with little taper to its broken top at 44 metres. Logging took place in the vicinity of the Hollyburn Fir as indicated by several corduroy roads (early logging roads made of logs placed width-wise across a trail) that pass near the tree. The shingle men, only interested in western redcedar, spared this giant from the axe. Note the young western hemlock growing along side the Hollyburn Fir.



43 WVA JOH

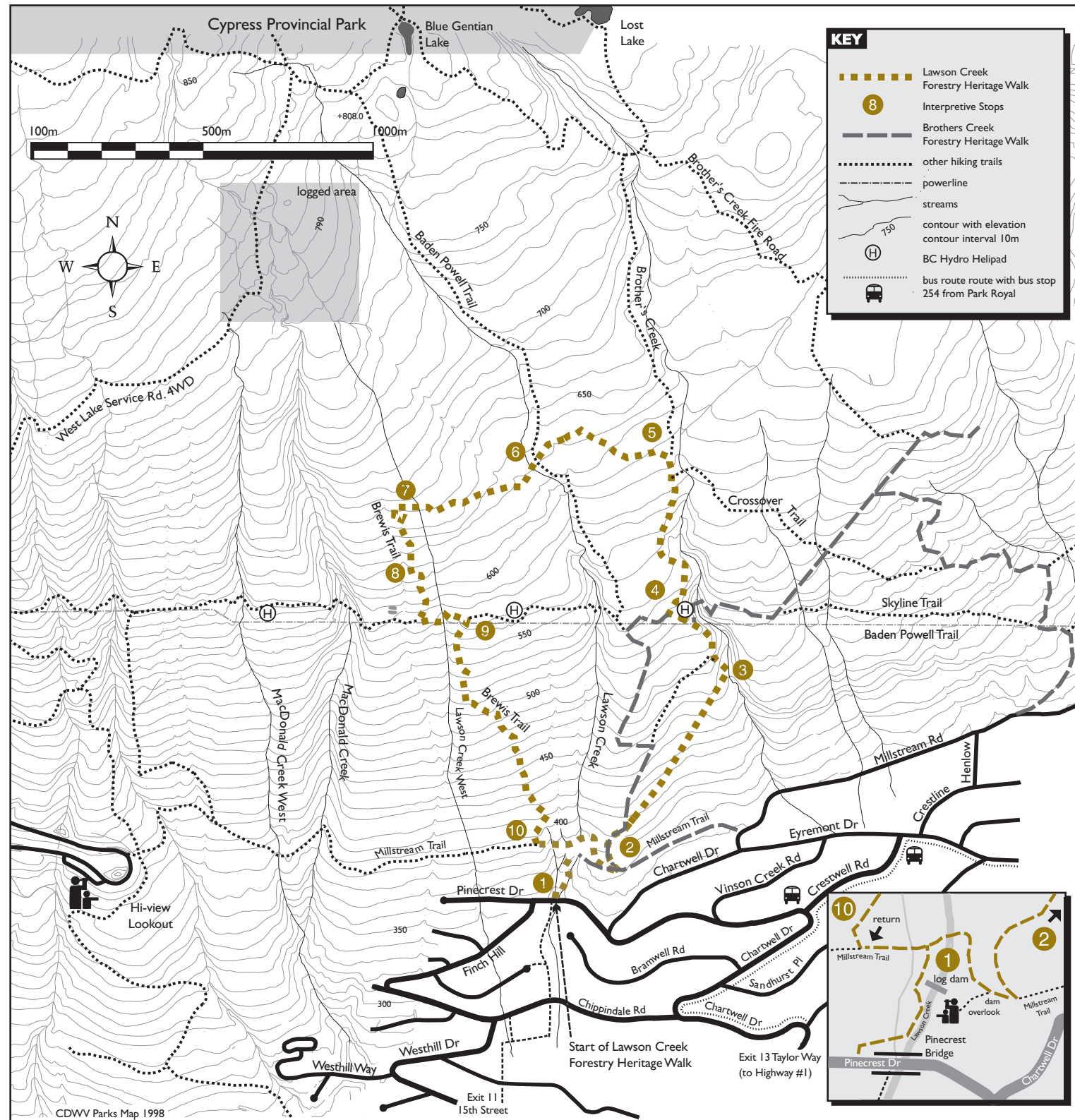
Four men conducting a timber cruise in the Hollyburn Ridge/Capilano area. One man takes notes while another measures the diameter of giant Douglas fir. c. 1907.

The Brewis Trail, on the right leads up to MacDonald Canyon, the West Lake Road and the Hollyburn cabin area. Turn left (south) down the Brewis Trail. The trail crosses and follows several corduroy roads; these date from about 1918. Continue down the trail approximately 350m to the powerline.

### 8 3.2 km The Skyline Trail

The Skyline Trail marks the boundary between public and private land; public on the uphill side and private on the downhill side. To the right (west) is Cypress Bowl Road and the Quarry Lookout, to the left (east) the trail eventually leads to Craighmohr Drive and the Cleveland Dam. Turn left (east) on this trail. Continue on until you reach a junction 150m ahead (stop nine).

# Upper Lands Trail Map



### 9 3.3 km Lower Brewis Trail Junction

Turn right (south) following the coloured flashes. At this point the walk rejoins the Brewis Trail. Since the 1860s this private land has been logged twice and burned by two major forest fires. The forest here consists of trees that have grown since the clearcut logging of the early 1950s. The trails follow several old logging roads and join the Millstream Trail below.

### 10 4.2 km Millstream Trail Junction

The walk intersects Millstream trail at this point. The road to the right (west) leads to Hi-view Lookout on Cypress Bowl Road 1.8 km to the west. Turn left (east) following markers to the trail above Shields Log Dam 150m ahead. Turn right on the trail, descending to the starting point of the walk on Pinecrest Drive.



VPL 4131

Large radial saws were used in the mill to cut the redcedar bolts into shingles. c. 1940

### End 4.7 km End of Walk

As you descend the trail past Shields Dam, try to imagine the watery sounds of the flume passing overhead. A narrow wooden highway winding its way through the silent forest – filled with floating shinglebolts bumping their way down the mountain.

This brochure has been cooperatively produced by:  
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**west vancouver**

The following District of West Vancouver departments:  
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Legislative Services  
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