

A WALKING REPORT 04 – PART B

Posted on 2020-06-17 2020-06-18 by spd_wp_admin

Sunday June 14 – Prairie Mountain Trail – <> 5.0 km with AB

Tuesday June 16 – Prairie Mountain Trail (PMT) – <> 6.4 km

The trail is a relatively short 3.2 km one way but it is not for the faint of leg or heart. The trail's shortness is due to the lack of switchbacks as it ascends 666 (according to AllTrails) metres straight up the side of Prairie Mountain, which works out to an average grade of over 20%.

For a number of Sunday's there has been a 10:00 family zoom meeting that crosses multiple time zones. I figure I can drive to the trail head and back (75 min one way) and walk all before 10:00. AB and I begin shortly after 5:30 am. The trail is slick from the previous night's rain. At 7:45 I run out of time, and AB decides to also join me on the retreat from the false summit. I recently read the term false summit, and I love the meaning some people give it. It is wherever you decide to turn around before reaching the peak. The term has a wonderful sense of both humour and accomplishment. There is also a lesson in today's walk. Do not put a fixed end time to a walk as it changes the dynamic at a sub-conscious level. The thought or sense of time means that the walk takes on a sense of urgency that is antithetical to my still inarticulate ideas on walking.

On Sunday we meet people of all shapes sizes and preparedness going up as we descend.

On Tuesday I return by myself and the hikers are different. Vancouver has its Grouse Grind and Calgary, unbeknownst to me until yesterday, has Prairie Mountain. I encounter (they can't really talk as it might slow them down) any number of men and women who are running the trail competing for bragging rights in a conversation that I imagine goes something like "I do the pmt in 47 minutes – what's your time". One man around my age and wider tells me that this is his second time hiking the trail this week. He tells me that he is training. When I ask for what, he says to stave off the grim reaper.

A fledgling raven (Johnny) and I share the summit. Johnny the Raven is named after Johnny of Johnny Crow's Garden – a book written by a distant relative that was first published around 1903. Johnny obviously owns the summit and stays less than 10 feet away preening himself and playing with a stick. When I start eating my snack he comes a little closer and then flies off in disgust when I don't feed him.

Sunday's photos were selenium toned and yesterday's photo were copper toned. Images 5,6,8, and 9 will be added to the series "Land Mass".

Upon reflection I realize there were any number of rabbit holes you could have taken before reaching the end of this post. If you did stray please don't blame me for your now empty glasses, pots, bottles, or mugs.

Cheers, Sean











3 Replies to “A Walking Report 04”

1. **Richard Lang** says:

2020-08-11 at 18:20 Edit

Hi Sean,

1906 – Good mountain pattern with interesting sky. Your water photos might be enhanced by slower shutter speeds as it provides different photographic opportunities.

2. **Keith** says:

2020-06-18 at 10:51 Edit

It's always interesting to see what another photographer captures when you're both at the same place at the same time. Not just on a hike looking at the scenery, but almost at the exact same spot, shooting the exact same thing, at the same time. I was particularly fascinated with your water shots. Your number two water shot is also one I took, looking slightly to the right of yours, it showed up on Facebook, but not my blog, at least not yet. I liked the bit of moss and the framing of the tree branches off to the left. What captured me about the shared water shot was that little branch sticking almost straight up, with some water peeling off it. I was trying to capture that, and the rest was a happy accident. Yours is a faster shutter speed, freezing the water, showing more of the water boil, and a hint of the tree beneath.

#6 water shot with the arc of shadow matching the bit of falls, and the matching bit of water foam is lovely! The next one, showing the surge of water beside a rock had me wishing there was just a bit more rock to anchor the photo around. The swirl of foam and wave action leads the eye around nicely. I did a few of the water foamy splashy action shots, and was not happy with any of them. I think the difference is that you've given the viewer something to relate the foam splash to.

I prefer #2 in the third set as well. There is some detail in the top of the photo that seems to show up better in the colour version. I'm pretty sure I got one similar to your #5 in that set, but I was looking more at the water texture.

Love the detail in the raven feathers! You will not be surprised to find that I love the textures and composition of the twisted tree shot. The wide panorama I commented on elsewhere that I love me a wide panorama. The combinations of mountain and cloud textures are quite striking.

1. **spd_wp_admin** says:

2020-06-18 at 11:23 Edit

Thank you for visiting, commenting, and your kind words. Upon reflection, I agree with your comment on #7, and I go one step further in my critique. Normally I don't give a damn about the rule of thirds, but in this case maybe having the falls line at 1/3 and a greater depth of field could have given me the latitude to bring more of the background into the image and less of the foreground. Cheers