

A WALKING REPORT 12

Posted on 2020-08-08 by spd_wp_admin

Dear Reader (2020-08-08),

Sunday July 24 – Mt. Allan via Centennial Ridge < 16 km – Out and Back – With Michelle

Gillean had warned me, Leigh had warned me, and AllTrails warned me. This trail is not for the faint of leg or knee. Michelle and I meet in the Ribbon Creek parking a lot around 7:30 am and we begin a little later after the ceremony of donning socks and boots. The first 2 km is along a series of old logging roads. We gain a little altitude and wonder about the warning. The well marked trail leaves a logging road, and takes a turn to the steep. Thus, begins a great long huff and puff section which eventually places us on a ridge looking down onto the lifts and ski runs of Nakiska (04 forward to the right).

We continue walking along the ridge to the what I call the rock garden. The wind is no longer benign. It has delivered a pelting drizzle. Lunch becomes soggy. My gloves only partially protect my fingers from the cold. We decide that another 45/60 minutes walk to the summit of Mt. Allan is not a must, and declare a false summit. We meet a dozen or more hikers in foul weather gear on our descent. By the time we reach the treeline, the rain has gone, and the sky has blue again.

Throughout this summer's walks I have found hiking poles to be very useful and helpful. They do though have their limitations. On a particular steep section of the descent, I put too much weight on one of the poles. One pole bends and the other snaps in half. The now broken pole stops my forward fall, and I escape a gravel burn across the face. The broken pole goes partially into an outside pouch of the day pack. Near the trailhead, I adjust my pack only to find that I have lost half a broken pole somewhere in the previous 5k. I try not to leave a trace. It bothers me that I have left a trace and contributed to trail litter.

My camera is weather sealed but it is not immune to the elements, and therefore for some of the walk the camera is in my daypack. Today's collection is therefore composed of images captured with my phone and my camera (Nikon D7100). I am not happy with my rock garden photo (10) and I hope to return before the winter winds.

As always your comments are sought and welcomed. Please come back on Monday for the first of 3 walks along the Icefields Parkway.



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Cheers, Sean

Appendix: Who are these People.

Gillean Daffern is a writer and walker who has written and continues to update the definitive guide to walking in Kananaskis country, the 5 volume Kananaskis Country Trail Guide.

Leigh McAdam is a recent and now valued addition to my digital resource collection. Leigh is a traveler adventurer and blogger.

5 Replies to “A Walking Report 12”

1. **Richard Lang** says:

2020-08-11 at 19:40 Edit

Great light on photo #8. Powerful composition on photo #10. I'm caught by play of clouds and mountains in photo #9. You might explore various cropping of this image in order to express this interplay.

2. **Keith** says:

2020-08-08 at 20:39 Edit

Bummer about the pole adventures. I am pleased to hear that no skin was damaged. I happily enjoyed the blue bells, or whatever they are. The soft light and gentle textures are a lovely capture. Nice balance of depth of field on 2.

4 is nicely composed with lots to look at.

5 is an almost for me, I like the contrast between the flowers and the rock, but it's hard to really appreciate. I might have cropped in somewhat to lose much of the sky and gain the flowers.

6 I like the three layers. There's something to look at in each.

7 Nice light! Great contrast between the clouds and the rocks, with the rock texture really taking first place.

8 and 9 are both Oh My! Love them! The light on the rocks in 9 isn't quite as interesting, but the clouds are more so.

10 I can see where you're disappointed in 10, but that's the sky, I think. Another day, different light, different clouds, could make a world of difference. Or maybe just crop the sky out and go for a 16x9 composition.

1. **spd_wp_admin** says:

2020-08-08 at 21:01 Edit

Thank you Keith for visiting and such a complete critique. 05 I agree with your comments. Upon reflection, it appears I was trying to do too many things. There is too much mountain and rock line, and the flowers aren't large enough. The better image is probably just the bottom left quarter. 10 The problem for me is not only the sky. The whole composition is indecisive and the tension is the wrong place. I need to be closer, further away, different angle, or different perspective. Cheers

3. **Michelle** says:

2020-08-08 at 20:10 Edit

Sean....your photos are truly amazing. Well done!

1. **spd_wp_admin** says:

2020-08-08 at 20:33 Edit

Thank you kindly Michelle for the compliment and the company.

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