

FALL 2021

THE TYEE MOUNTAIN TRAIL BLAZER

A Quarterly Newsletter
From the Tyee Mountain Trail Society

Overview

TYEE MOUNTAIN TRAIL SOCIETY

At the most recent annual meeting of the Tyee Mountain Trail Society (TMTS), there was a general agreement among board members on the need to establish a newsletter to give people more information about the Tyee Mountain trail network, activities of the TMTS including work bees, current and future projects, and in general for people to feel more connected to the society and other trail users. We will post these newsletters on a quarterly basis on our website (tyeemountaintrails.com), email them to members of the society, and post paper copies at some of the trailheads too.



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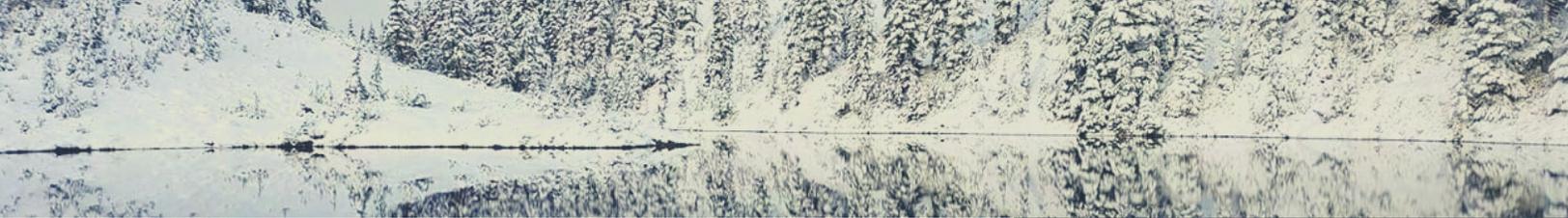
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Memberships

Work is in progress to establish a membership base and a method for people to join, with a \$10 lifetime membership for individuals and \$20 for families. Establishing a membership base will help us to be more connected to people who use the trails regularly and to share news and events. It also helps us as a society to secure grant funding and other sources of support if we have an active membership. Benefits of becoming a member will be to receive the quarterly newsletter, and to have a voice in making decisions regarding these trails. The next (winter) newsletter will include details on how to become members for people who are interested.

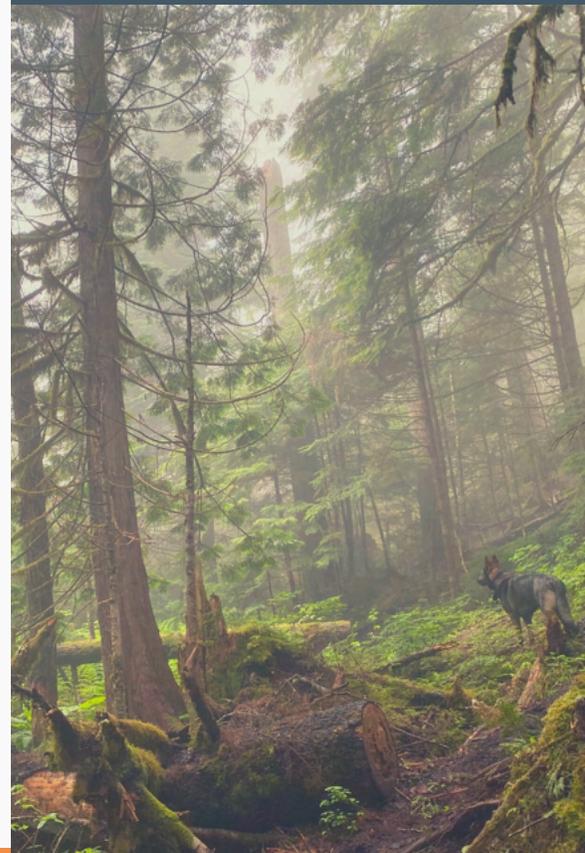


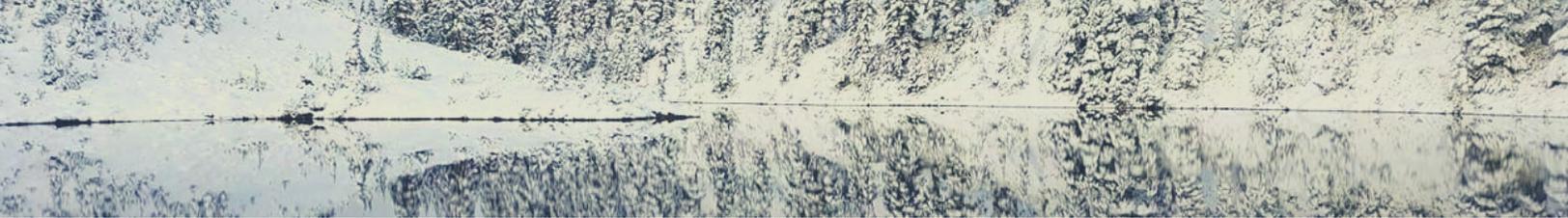
Trail Fees

The current board is in agreement that we should avoid charging fees each time people use the trails, however there are expenses in maintaining a trail system. Most of the trail maintenance & grooming is accomplished with volunteer labour and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources (MoFLNR - Recreation Branch) is able to cover some of our expenses, as there is a rec site established on the crown land portion of the trails and we have an agreement with the Ministry to maintain them. Still, there is a need to maintain and buy equipment, pay for gas, and fund special projects, so we decided to put up a couple of donation boxes. The MoFLNR has given us two such boxes which are being installed at two of the trailheads which can be used by those would like to help contribute to the maintenance & development of the Tye Mountain Trails in this way. It is also possible to make donations on our website.

"The Mountains are Calling and I Must Go"

-JOHN MUIR

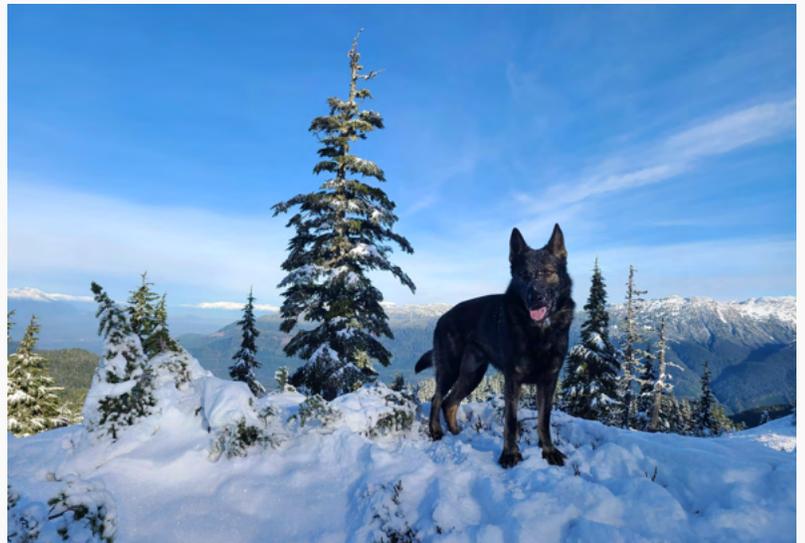
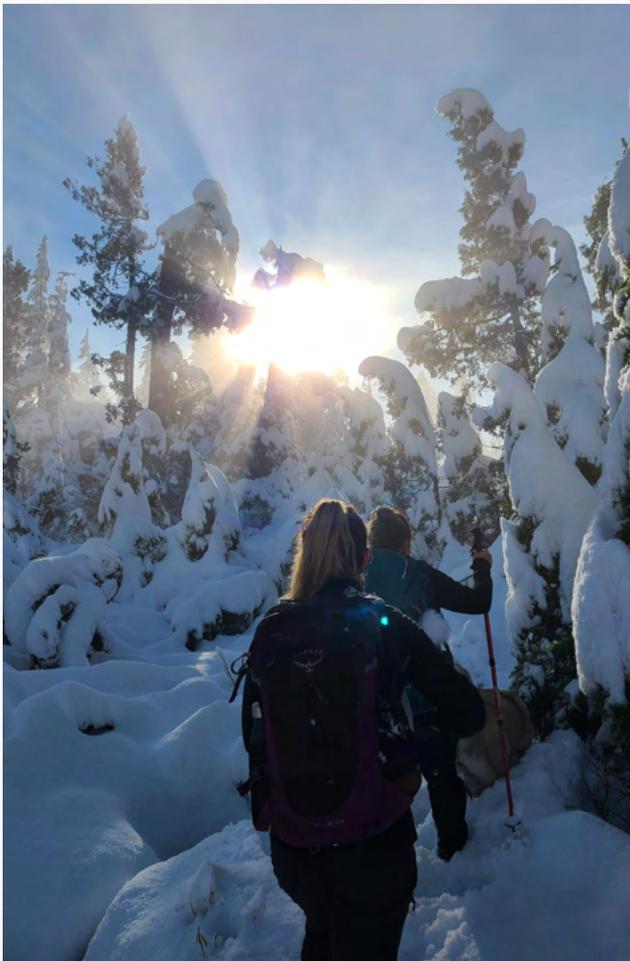




Access Trails

There are two ways to access the Tye Mountain Trails – one entrance is near Banner Mountain Lodge on Babine Lake Road, and the other is via Hislop Road. The present access to the trails from Hislop Road is a narrow easement road through privately owned properties. Since the land owners have maintained this road themselves and generously allowed the trail users access, we have tried to keep the use of this road to a minimum to reduce the impact on the road. An increase in use of the trails has also led to overcrowded parking lots on the Hislop side, on occasion. To alleviate some of these problems we have expanded the parking area at the Sawmill Trail head, and have added more parking space near the Moose/VanHorn Trailhead. We will also encourage people to carpool from the main parking area at the “End of Public Road” sign, whenever possible (junction of Hislop and Van Horn Roads).

In terms of a long term solution to access from Hislop Road, we have obtained tentative approval from all of the land owners for a new non-motorized trail that would begin at the Hislop/Van Horn Road junction and end at the CBC Tower road; however we are still sorting out how to establish this trail through private property. We would greatly appreciate any advice or ideas from anyone who has worked on this kind of project before.



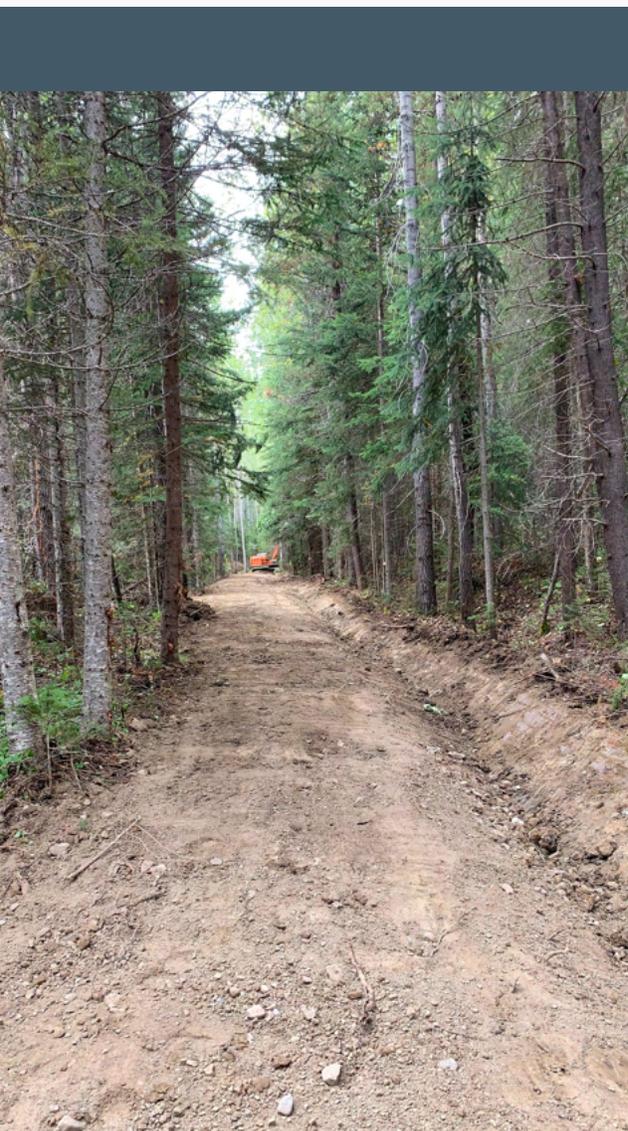
Committees

It takes a village to develop and maintain a trail system of this type, and it is our goal to upgrade the trails for better use in the summer as well. The board of directors have agreed to take on more active roles, and it has been proposed to establish a few committees to help with organizing certain aspects of TMTS work. We will include more information about this initiative in the winter newsletter.



Trapline

There is a trapline which overlaps somewhat with the Tye Mountain Trails, and it was recently sold to a new person. We will be in contact with the new owner soon and will let people know in the winter newsletter where there could be potential activity as far as traps set, etc. We also post this information on our website, and at the beginnings of each trail when traps are set. There haven't been any on the trails for a couple of years, and we're not sure if the new owner plans to use these trails this winter but we'll keep you posted. When the trapper is active, the time frame is usually pretty short, generally a couple of weeks. Trails impacted are Trapline Trail East and West, and rarely also Sawmill Trail. We plan to request that the new trapper refrain from using Sawmill Trail since it is such a heavily used trail.



Other News

A major upgrade has been completed on the Sawmill Trail this summer and it is looking much better! We hired a machine to come and completely rebuild the worst sections, installing culverts and ditching. We are still waiting for the surface to set up well and have temporarily blocked access to motorized vehicles to prevent damage while it's still soft, and will seed with grass once the ground is frozen. This trail will now be much more user-friendly all year round. There is also now a picnic shelter, fire pit and outhouse at the old sawmill site next to McDowell Lake, and we will try to add a small woodshed at this site next year. We were able to raise enough funds to cover this project through a grant from the Credit Union, several corporate and private donations, as well as support from the MoFLNR and the RDBN.

Finally, a new trail (the Hidden Lake Connector) has been built by Stan, from midway up the CBC Tower road to Hidden Lake, and will be extended on to connect with Sawmill trail next summer. The Hidden Lake Connector loop down to the main road will be groomed this season for skiing.

For more information or to add comments to the next newsletter contact:

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Information is also available on our website: tyeemountaintrails.com