

# FOOTPRINTS ON



# THE VI TRAIL



[WWW.VI-TRAIL.CA](http://WWW.VI-TRAIL.CA)

**FALL, 2020**

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### DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS – IT COULDN'T BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT THEM!!

Your Editor asked Elena Elder, Board Member for Volunteers to expound upon the importance of the contribution of our Volunteers to VITA's success. Elena's response included quotes from a recent analysis by Board Member and Trail Builder Extraordinaire Terry Lewis: "VITA is completely volunteer operated. The Board of Directors and the many amazing Volunteers, together carry the vision of completing a long distance trail from Victoria to Cape Scott. This past year alone, close to 1600 hours of Volunteer work have been completed in our trail building and maintenance efforts. 20 km of new trail has been located, cleared and marked. 76km of trail have been maintained, often concurrently including considerable upgrading".

If You would like to join our Volunteers group or check out their Facebook page, please check out Page 4 of this newsletter.

### SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS, HERE IS A GROUP OF TRAIL BUILDING VOLUNTEERS WITH THE UVic OUTDOORS CLUB – THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED WORK!!



**WE CONTINUE OUR FOCUS ON ONE OF  
VITA's BOARD MEMBERS:  
David Webb**



David Webb, self-employed for many years in the Lower Mainland, retired in 2012 and with his wife Sandra (Sandy) moved to French Creek, Vancouver Island in 2016. He wished to pick up as quickly as possible where he had left off in southwestern B.C. as a B.C. Parks Volunteer and was steered by his good brother toward the Vancouver Island Spine Trail, (now the V.I. Trail) David had volunteered with B.C. Parks primarily in Skagit and Manning Provincial Parks clearing tree fall and maintaining park trails for a good number of years. David and his trail partner Don Scott were jointly named as 'B.C. Parks Volunteer of the year' in 2016 for their contribution to the province's parks and protected area system.

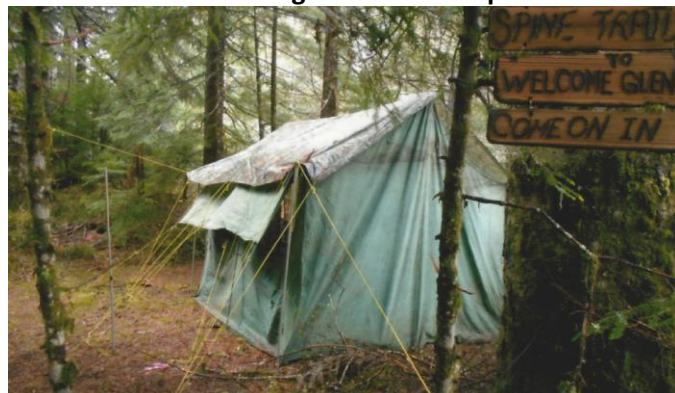
Since early 2017, David has been working as a volunteer for V.I.T.A. under the direction of Terry Lewis, Director of Operations, and alongside several great crew members from Port Alberni, clearing, maintaining and building trail anywhere from the Nitinat River in the south to north of the Suquash River estuary near Port McNeill.

His vision, hopefully within his lifetime, is to ultimately see the Vancouver Island Trail become an extension to the Trans Canada and Pacific Crest Trail systems – a realistic and reachable dream.

**ONE (of Many) DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS  
Glen van Horne**

Back in 2017, after seeing an old green VISTA trail sign along Menzies Main in the Salmon River valley, Glen, who resides in Campbell River, approached VI Trail's Board Member, Terry Lewis, and asked, "Terry, could you 'assign' a section of the trail to me so that I could plan it, clear it and maintain it - more or less make it my trail?" This was the inception of what became "Glen's Trail" that extends for 14 km along Grilse Creek (Salmon River tributary) through the divide to John Fraser Lake (in headwaters of the White River). After 3 years of work, Glen has most of the trail established and is currently engaged in maintenance and some upgrades. Glen mostly works alone, often on multi-day trips working from a base camp.

**Glen's Original "Base Camp"**



This year, Glen enthusiastically started work on the Lupin Trail section (10 km) between Upper Quinsam Lake and Lupin Mtn. After roughing in about half of this trail he sustained an injury preventing any heavy lifting (cutting windfall, deadfall etc.). Even this did not deter him, and he continued to locate and mark the entire route. Other volunteers have subsequently finished roughing in this section which now links up to the pre-existing Rogers Ridge Trail.

*(Editor's note: Big thanks to VI Trail's Terry Lewis for the preceding submission)*



**We Once Again Offer Some Examples of Sights You Will Experience Along the VI Trail - Enjoy!**

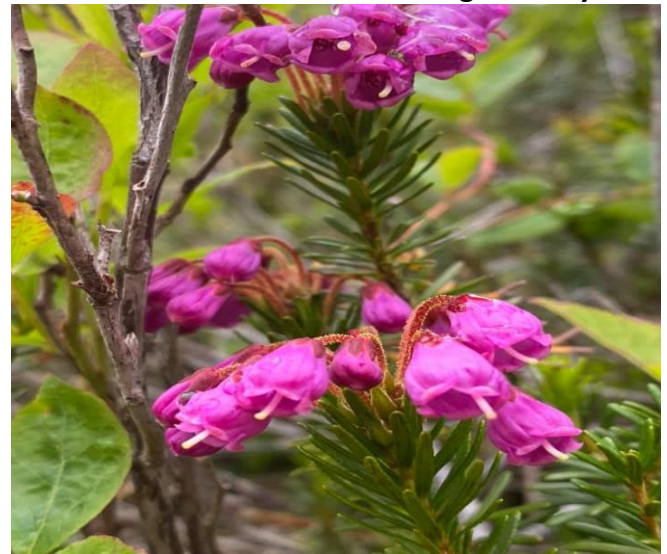
**Twin Lakes below & Tsable Lake in mid-ground**



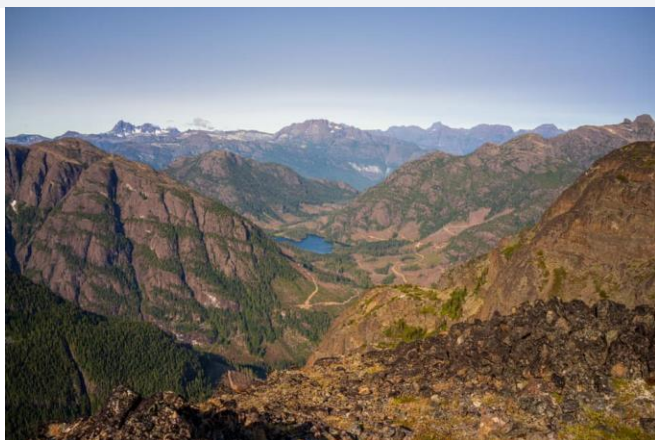
**View to Port Alberni and Alberni Inlet**



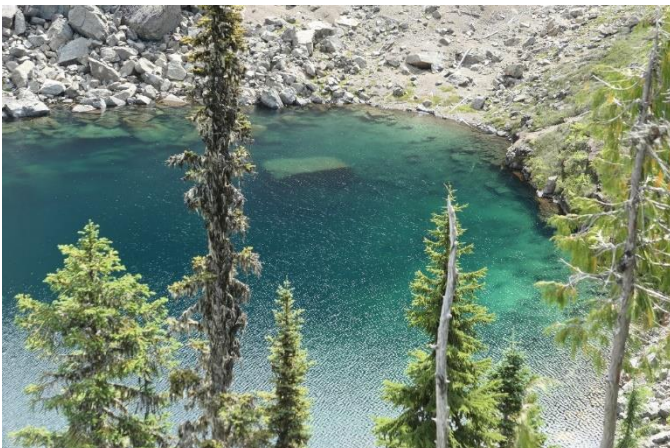
**Pink Mountain Heather Along the Way**



**Looking down on Pearl Lake from Jutland mountain**



**The clear waters of 'Lost Pole Lake'**



**Three-heather Lake on the flank of Mt. Clifton**



## ***As Always - An Important Reminder To "Be Safe"!!:***

*"VITA wishes to remind and warn all those considering visiting the VI Trail that the Trail is a "Work in Progress" and that certain portions have yet to be completed, and in some instances may not even be accessible. Travel on the planned Trail is completely at the risk of the individual doing so. Please realize that some sections of the VI Trail are through unpopulated areas where users must be self-reliant with respect to maps and the use of directional equipment, and where wild animals may pose a risk to some types of activities."*

## ***VITA'S Vision For a Homegrown Adventure:***

*A signature recreation destination in Canada, the Vancouver Island Trail will span more than 770 km from Victoria to Cape Scott. Traversing both ancient and working forests, and wild coasts, while joining island communities, the Trail in its entirety will be a 2-3 month-long journey. Not just for long distance hikers, day hikers will enjoy many access points. By 2021, Vancouver Island will have a unique recreational opportunity and a showcase for its communities, including highlighting First Nation's Art, Culture, Language, and History.*

*We hope you will visit our website at: [www.vi-trail.ca](http://www.vi-trail.ca)*

*Interested in our map of the VI Trail and links to the various sections?: <https://vi-trail.ca/map/>*

*Once again, your feedback and offered input is encouraged and valued –*

*Please feel free to contact the Editor, Scott Henley, at:*

*[IslandHikerGuy@GMail.Com](mailto:IslandHikerGuy@GMail.Com)*

## ***Want to Get Involved?***

***There are two main ways to help VITA complete the VI Trail:***

***If you wish to become a Volunteer:***

***<https://vi-trail.ca/get-involved/volunteer/>***

***If you don't have any spare time, become a "Friend of the VI Trail"***

***And help us Out with a tax deductible donation:***

***<https://vi-trail.ca/get-involved/donate/>***

***As Well – Follow Our VITA Volunteers on Facebook:***

***<https://www.facebook.com/groups/560684427426691/>***