



Sparwood to Fort Steele

2003 Bicycle Camping Tour - 159 km

"Trans Canada Trail"

Day 1 - 69km; Day 2 - 45km; Day 3 - 45km

2003 May 17 - 19 Saturday thru Monday
 Tour Co-Ordinator: P. LaGrandeur Calgary, AB
 (403) 969-7411
 lagrandeurp@techworld.ca



Peter LaGrandeur
bicycle tour co-ordinator

W elcome to our latest

bicycling revisitiation to the Kootenay area of B.C., preceeded in past years by the Kootenay Circuit "paved road" cycle tours in 1997, 1999, and 2001. Also the paved and gravel tours of the Waterton Crowsnest Circuit of 1997, the Elk Pass to Sparwood ride in 1997, and the Purcell Circuit of 1999. Yes, we've been busy!

This segment of the BC Trans Canada Trail from Sparwood to the north end of Moyie Lake currently represents probably the only ready bikeable segment along the Crowsnest Highway in eastern British Columbia until recomencing with the Lost Creek Route at the summit of Kootney Pass. From there, it continues through the junctions of Hwy.'s 3 and 6, just south of Salmo, and then on to Christina Lake, via the Dewdney and Cascade

Trails.

Stay tuned for trips in the immediate future between Kootenay Summit and Christina Lake. Also on the dandy railbed from Nelson to the same junction south of Salmo. Hurrah! Lots of trail riding to come!

This years event will be almost entirely on gravel and dirt surfaces so a mountain or hybrid bike with suitable tires will be required.

This will be a self supported trip with all required gear and clothing carried by participants on their bikes on in trailers. It will be necessary to also carry food for some meals on board with opportunities to stop in at restaurants and groceterias along the way.

Vehicle shuttling will be required.

Be prepared for all four seasons of weather.

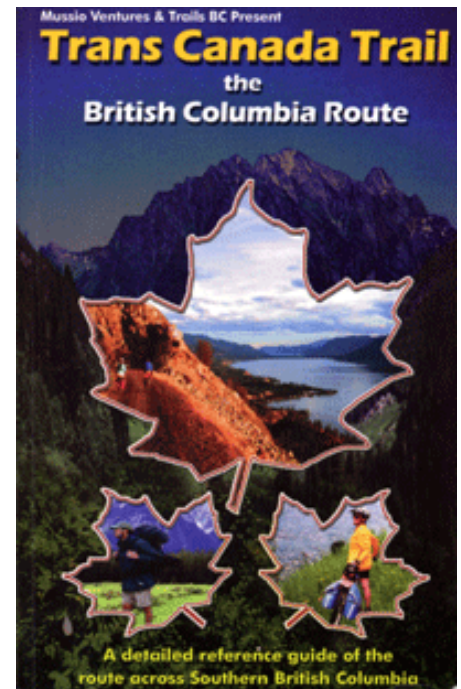
This trip is designed using the new guide book, "**Trans Canada Trail - The British Columbia Route**", a joint effort between the BC Trails group and publisher Mussio Ventures, ISBN 1-894556-15-1. Buy this at your favourite book seller, approx. \$15.

This book should have all the route finding information that most trail users would need, however those interested in supplementing this book with topographic maps may want to have the following:

- 1:50 000
- 82G3 Lake Kooconusa
- 82G5 Moyie Lake
- 82G6 Elko
- 82G10 Sparwood
- 82G11 Fernie
- 82G12 Cranbrook

- 1:250 000
- 82G Fernie

Cranbrook Forest District Map
 call (250) 426-1700



"BC Trails guide book"
 from Mussio Ventures (2001).
 For this trip,
 refer to pages 300-318.



Risk Acknowledgement & Acceptance of Self Responsibility

"Sparwood to Fort Steele" Bicycle Tour 2003

This trip is conducted on the understanding it is a 'Common Adventure' where each participant conducts him/herself independently, makes his/her own judgements about safety and well being, takes full responsibility for his/her own actions, and contributes whatever he/she can towards the success of the trip.

There is no leader or professional guide of any type for this tour. This tour package serves only to provide ideas for initiating and running the trip. The route, itinerary and all other aspects of this trip are only suggested and, as responsible tourists, each participant is expected to research everything prior to the trip to whatever extent he/she feels is necessary to determine that all is safe and suitable. The information presented in this document is not guaranteed to be complete, true, or accurate.

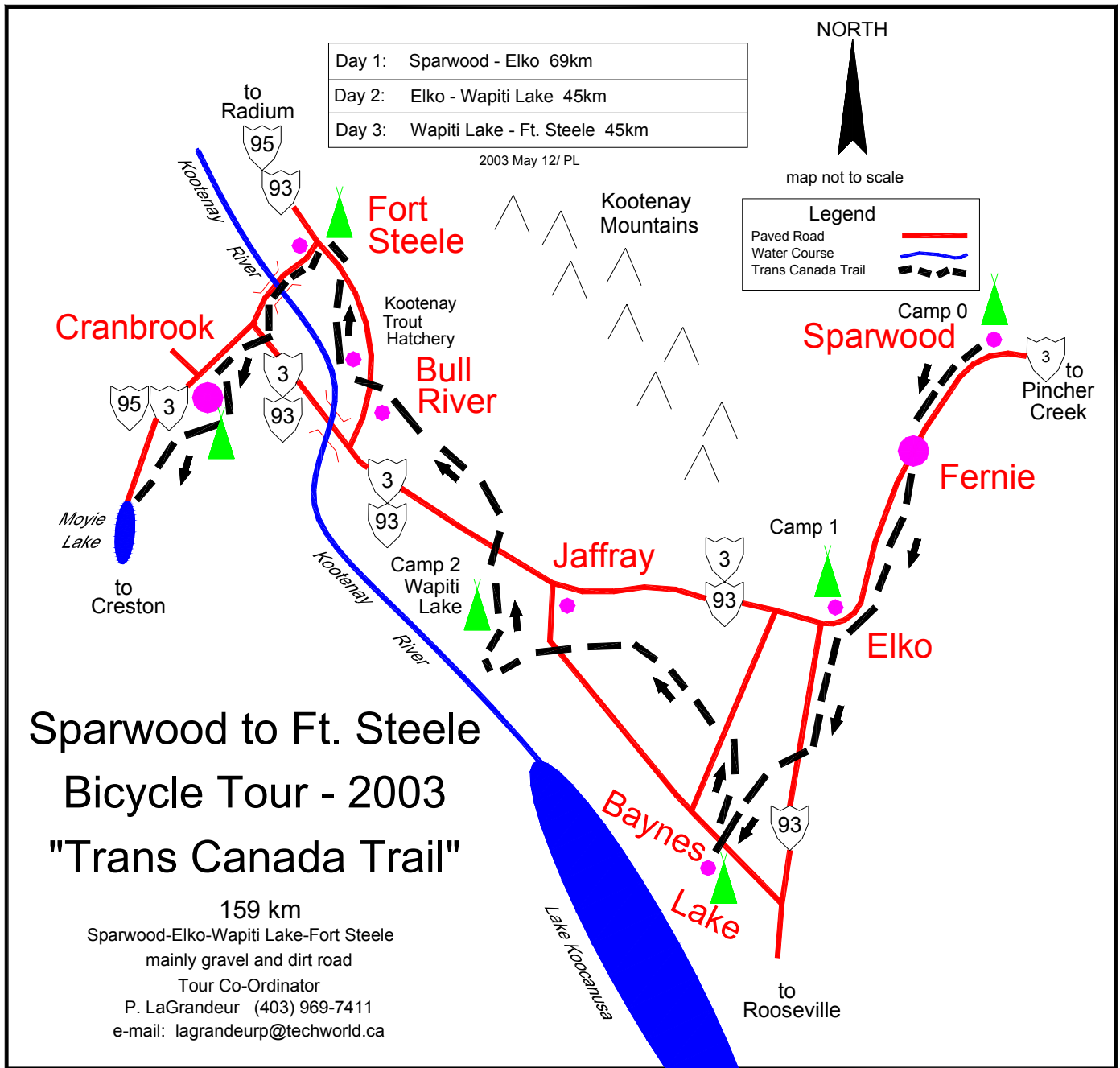
Safety is always each person's OWN responsibility AT ALL TIMES.
No one else is responsible for you.

Each participant is expected to possess any skills, equipment, fitness, common sense, etiquette, knowledge of applicable legislations, etc., to enjoyably and safely be involved in this activity. Each participant is the sole and final judge about his/her capability to safely proceed with this tour.

All participants recognize financial loss, physical injuries and death to be real possibilities facing anyone in the sport of bicycling and related activities and agree to assume all risks and consequences. Participants should arrange whatever property and accident insurance they deem necessary before commencing this trip.

Any person who does not feel confident or self reliant about their abilities or who does not agree with this philosophy should not participate on this tour.

Map



Rail Trails Anyone?

For those who enjoy real rail trails, the paths built on former railroad grades, there are numerous ones on this trip.

1. Beese Road / Lladner Creek Forest Service Road (historic railway)
2. Sheep Mountain Forest Service Road (former Great Northern Railway).
3. Trail paralleling Kikomun-Newgate Road (former Great Northern Railway).
4. Picture Valley Forest Service Road (former Southern Kootenay Railway).
5. Isadore Canyon Trail on the east side of Cranbrook (former CPR).

Accommodation

Day 0 Mountain Shadows Campground
1 km west of big dump truck on Hwy. 3
Sparwood, B.C.
(250) 425-7815 "Doug"
\$15 + GST per tent
prefer arrival by 10PM



Reservations not required. We will be placed in grassy area for tents. Participant will pay own fees on arrival. Showers, flush toilets, firewood all included. Bike trails around town. Restaurant discounts at A&W and Maclasaac's (mall). Free parking included for weekend with this group.

Day 1 Elko Enterprises (gas stn. & campground)
in town on Hwy
(250) 529-7445 "Jenna"
\$14 per tent incl. GST
Sat. 9-7; Sun. 10-6; Mon. 10-6

Reservations not required. We will be placed in grassy area for tents. Participant will pay own fees on arrival. Showers, flush toilets included. Laundromat. Motel available on site.

Day 2 Wapiti Lake
B.C. Forest Recreation Site
~4km NW of Jaffray (ATCF)
info (250) 426-1700 (Neil Shuttleworth)
\$ free

Primitive forest site with fire ring, pit toilet, and table. Scenic wilderness setting. Watch out for bears.

Meals

Those wishing to forage for provisions or dine out along the way, will find opportunities as follows:

Day 0
Restaurants and groceterias in Sparwood.

Day 1
Breakfast: Restaurants in Sparwood.
Lunch: Restaurants and groceterias in Fernie.
Dinner: Eat in camp. Convenience store.



Day 2
Breakfast: Eat in camp.
Lunch: Sweet Road Cafe, Baynes Lk (250)529-7485
Supper: eat in camp

Day 3
Breakfast: eat in camp
Lunch: Bull River Cafe (250) 429-3333

Itinerary

Day 0 Drive to starting point for tour.
Arrive at Mtn. Shadows campground before 10 PM; if late, pay in morning. It is roughly 290 km. to Sparwood from Calgary centre.

Day 1 Sparwood to Elko - 69km "milepost 69"
Shuttle drivers rise early to drive at 6:30AM. Round trip shuttle distance is 250km, if we go on main hwy all the way. Drivers need to phone Ft. Steele Security [(250) 489-9750] to advise of vehicle makes, license no.'s to avoid towing. All riders should plan to be breakfasted and ready to ride by 10AM. Mustering point is in front of Maclsaac's Restaurant. Feel free to buy lunch for the drivers at some point in the trip.

Day 2 Elko to Wapiti Lake - 45km "milepost 114"
Head out by 9:00 AM. The group should stay together today after Baynes Lake to avoid individuals getting lost in woods. Recent bear sightings in North Star Lake area.

Day 3 Wapiti Lake to Ft. Steele - 45km "milepost 159"
Head out by 9:00 AM. The group should stay together today between Baynes Lake Road and Shellbourne Road to avoid individuals getting lost in woods.

If there is extra time at the end of Day 3, consider riding the abandoned rail bed, known as the Isadore Canyon Trail, from the east side of Cranbrook on the south side of Hwy. 3 (just southeast of the overpass), 12 km east to the first crossing of Pritchard Road. Beyond that, the rail bed is private.

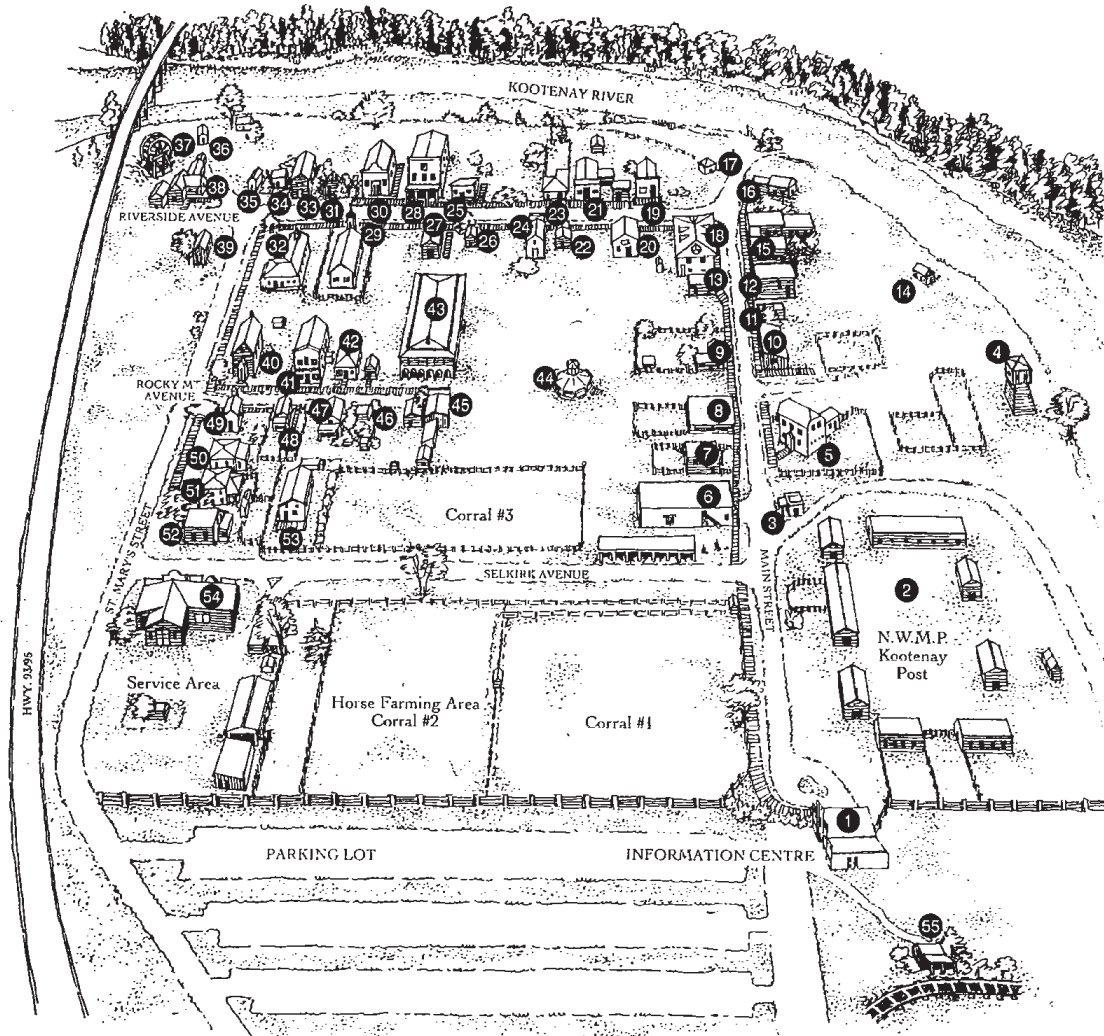
Also consider visiting Fort Steele Heritage Town, where we finish our tour on the Monday afternoon. They have great soup, stew, buns, and pastries, if you get into the grounds by 5PM. The bakery, and most other sights there, stay open until 6PM.

We Travel in Bear Country.
Take appropriate cautions. Don't bring smelly foods. Keep a clean camp. Carry bear repellent, bear bangers, etc., and keep them close at hand.

Tour Highlights

Fort Steele Heritage Town

Fort Steele is open from 09:30 to 17:00 daily. (Once in, the bakery is open until 18:00.) Phone their info recording for details @ (250) 426-7352. Live Visitor Information (Tara) is available at (250) 417-6013, during business hours. The restaurant in the International Hotel will only be open Saturday evening on the May long weekend. Their security is at (250) 489-9750. Admission is \$7.50 adults, \$6.50 seniors, 13-18 \$4.00, \$2.00 6-12. Camping is available at the adjacent Ft. Steele Resort & RV Park (250) 489-4268.



Kootenay Fish Hatchery at Bull River

The hatchery is open seven days a week from 8:00 to 16:00 for free self guided tours. There is also a great lawn there for picnics.

Mileposts

(approx.) distances in kilometres

0	Trail access, N of Sparwood on Hwy. 43, begin Matevic Road
8	turn unto power line right of way
11	begin Lladner Creek Forest Service Road
24	begin Hwy 3
28	begin Dicken Road
33	begin Hwy 3
33.5	begin Burma Road
37	begin Hwy 3
37.3	begin town streets
38	begin Cokato Road
52	Morrissey junction
69	junction to Elko (off route - turn right twice to get to town)
70	pass penstock junction
71	see sawmill on left
75	pass junction on right
76	junction to Hwy. 93
76.2	junction to Fusee trail
83	Baynes Lake jct unto dump road
87.5	junction Kikkomun Newgate Road
95.5	pass by Susanne Lake on right
99	access to North Star Lake camping to right
100.5	enter Jaffray Baines Lake Road
103	leave Jaffray Baines Lake Road unto trail
104	pass by East Kootenay Slough on left
109.5	pass by Colvalli railroad siding on left
114	pass by Wapiti Lake on right
115.5	enter Shellbourne Road
117	access path to Hwy 3
117.1	cross Hwy 3, begin Pickering Hills Road
131	arrive Wardner Fort Steele Rd. @ Bull River
132	access Fenwick Road & fish hatchery (don't take Picture Valley Road)
132.6	fish hatchery
149.5	Wardner Ft. Steele Road
158.5	Hwy. 93/95
159	gate to Fort Steele

161	Fort Steele Egar Hill Road
165.5	trail to Hwy. 3/93
166.3	Hwy 3/93
167.5	connector trail to Isidore Canyon Trail
169	Isidore Canyon Trail
175	Cranbrook horse bypass trail
180	end horse bypass trail, start city streets
181	Hidden Valley Road
190	Peavine Main Road
196	pass junction Cotton Creek Road
200	junction Hwy 3/95

Contact Numbers

as of 2003 May 12

•Police		
	R.C.M.P.	
	Cranbrook	(250) 489-3471
		911
	Fernie	(250) 423-4404
	Sparwood	(250) 425-6233
•Forest Service		
	Cranbrook office	(250) 426-1700
	Neil Shuttleworth, (Recreation Officer)	(250) 426-1717
	Forest Fire Reporting	"0", Zenith 5555
•Kootenay Trout Hatchery		(250) 429-3214
•Tourism British Columbia		(800) 663-6000
•Ambulance/Medical Emergency		
	Cranbrook	911
	Jaffray	(250) 426-8944
	Sparwood	(250) 425-6500
	Fernie	(800) 461-9911
	province wide, BC	(800) 461-9911
•Hospital		
	Pincher Creek, AB	(403) 627-3333
	Fernie, BC	(250) 423-4453
	Cranbrook, BC	(250) 426-5281
•Fire Department		
	Fernie, BC	(250) 423-4321
	Cranbrook	911
•Tow Truck		
	Fernie Fernie Tow & Go	(250) 423-7860
	T.J. Towing	(250) 423-1646
	Cranbrook Vanhorne	(250) 426-4243
•Campgrounds		
	Elko Enterprises (Elko)	(250) 529-7445
	Fort Steel Resort & RV Park	(250) 489-4268
	Mount Baker (Cranbrook)	(250) 426-2162
	Mtn. Shadows (Sparwood)	(250) 425-7815
	PR (Baynes Lake)	(250) 529-7696
•Fort Steele Heritage Town		
	Visitor Information	(250) 417-6013
	Recorded Information	(250) 426-7352

Some Trail Etiquette

1. Always leave gates as you find them i.e. if it was open when you arrived, LEAVE IT OPEN.
2. NEVER intrude on private or leased land beside the trail unless you have a real emergency.