

Footloose on Vancouver Island Berryman Cove

From: Harry McLeod [hamcleod@shaw.ca]

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Hi Bruce,

After a day fishing Pinks in the Campbell River, yesterday I was going to get out of the crowds to spend the day exploring and fishing Dickson and Ash Lakes with the canoe, but got no further than the bridge / gate at the south end of Ash Main Road (east end of Great Central Lake). A security Guard in a truck was at the bridge, blocking it off. He said that the road was closed due to the fire hazard. I had not fished those lakes before and had no plan "B", but decided to get back on Highway 4 and head west. After a rest stop and some looking at the map book, I decided that Kennedy River and nearby Muriel Lake deserved a look see.

The road in (West Main) from highway 4 was not obvious, but the nearby Interpretive center told us to go back east about 1.5 Km and look for a pink tape wrapped around a hydro pole, and the road in would be opposite. It was a rough 8.5 Km road (lots of pothole patches). Saw several large campervans on their way out, which left me wondering where the campground was.

Found our way to West Clayoquot Main beyond the bridge as the road in to Muriel Lake, but



Lovely road into Muriel Lake

walked the last few hundred meters as the shrubbery had closed in on parts of the road, and



would have scratched up the SUV. This is a good solid road but could do with an hour or so of “brushing out” before driving in, unless you are not concerned about the vehicle being scratched. We finally came upon a couple of guys that had a high clearance , beat up truck camper in a small opening (room for maybe 2 trucks) and a very rough 60 foot road down to a flat spot beside the lake. The 20 something guys were not fishing but had paddle boards. They said that they did see fish jumping. The lake looked very picturesque and definitely worth investigating further.

Back to the Kennedy River and a couple of hours of just paddling with one mud sucking boot stomp into the Kennedy River Bog. Later at the vehicle, a young Conservation Officer pulled up and asked if I had been fishing. Told him no, and related the day so far. He remarked that “any forest road that has a gate on it will be closed”, due to the fire hazard. As for camping, he said that there are no regular camping spots along this road or nearby areas. Campers just look wherever they can to park.

As I was also looking for potential IWFF “fish out” spots , he suggested that I take a look at Berryman Cove, another 4 Km west on the Deer Bay Main (more like 8 Km). Found it, and as the CO said, there is usually no-one there, but apparently one guy had his camper there most of the summer. The cove is a flat open area with lots of large old logs lining the roadside banks, and a large old tracked log handling vehicle that looked like it had been sitting idle for some time. There would be room for four or five trailers on the edge of the ocean which is about five feet down.



The parking (camping) area and bay beside it on left; area for 4 or 5 Trailers perhaps.

These next 2 photos are from the notched log in above photo (left) and show the adjacent view from parking area beside Berryman Cove. The next picture shows the wider view of Tofino Inlet, while the latter photo is a blown up view of vertical log structures.







Boat launch and Tofino inlet from parking area at Berryman Cove.

There is a rough but suitable boat launch at Berryman Cove. The view from the boat launch looks 2 Km across scenic Tofino Inlet, to the peninsula and its dozens of near shore Islands. South of the peninsula is Cannery Bay, and the entrance to the Kennedy River. The Bay is also flagged as a go to fishing area.

Food for thought.

If you are planning to go there, take a look in Google Earth for that area first. You will have to take a left turn off the Deer Bay Main (that you took from the bridge) to enter that little peninsula. I went right on by. It only goes maybe a fifth of the way up the peninsula then curves right to the Berryman Cove. From the satellite pictures, it doesn't look like there is a road going further to Berryman Point.

