

TCT Challenge 2005: Central Fraser Valley - Guide



THIS IS NOT A RACE
Take the time to enjoy and above all
KNOW YOUR ABILITY LEVEL

IMPORTANT - Please display your number tag prominently in front of your clothing. Volunteers will check off your number at each staging area (destination).

The Canadian Ski Patrol is available to help you, including administering first-aid.

The Surrey Amateur Radio Club will have radio communication at the staging areas (destination points along the trail).

Be prepared to meet wildlife.

Young children must stay with their parents. **Dogs** must be on a leash to reduce a disastrous encounter with horses and wildlife. Please be in complete control of your dog around horses.

Kilometre Markers (in 3 sets)

The TCT markers are there to help in the following ways:

- These are **reference points only** and do not indicate the distance travelled.
- Starts at 3 km at Vedder Crossing and goes to 0 to the TCT Pavilion near Lickman Parking area.
- Starts at 43.5 km at the TCT Pavilion on the Vedder and finishes at 0 at the TCT Pavilion on the Matsqui Dike system.

From the TCT Pavilion to the Douglas Taylor Park watch for the GVRD km markers going from 6 km to 13 km.

Those finishing at Barrowtown

Please proceed by vehicle to MacDonald Park to check-out, pick-up prizes, and peruse merchandise on sale.

Those finishing at Barrowtown, MacDonald Park, Atkinson Station, and Clayburn Village

We recommend that you go by vehicle to the Pavilion on the Matsqui Trail under the Mission Bridge where the GVRD have a display and activities to go along with this event. It is also an occasion to view this great 13 km trail along the Fraser.

Water, Snacks: at Great Blue Heron Interpretive Centre (6.5 km) and MacDonald Park (18 km)

Draw prizes: at MacDonald Park: Match your number with a prize.

Toilets: Watch for them along the Vedder up to the Great Blue Heron Interpretive Centre; at MacDonald Park; along the Matsqui Trail, and at Douglas Taylor Park.

In General:

You will begin your journey where the Chilliwack River flows into the Vedder River. The Vedder River was dredged and diked to take the flow of the Chilliwack River to supply irrigation for and drain Sumas Prairie on both sides of the Vedder. This wide shallow River is a favourite for fishermen. The views consist of looking up at the mountains from the valley floor, the Vedder, Sumas, and Fraser Rivers, farmland, and heritage sites. The Great Blue Heron and many other bird species are in abundance. Watch for interpretive signs along the way. Of special interests are the interpretive sites located at the Great Blue Heron Interpretive Centre, Barrowtown Pump Station, and Clayburn Village.

Dist travelled	TCT Km Marker	Location/Description
		Vedder Rotary Trail (Chilliwack)
0	3	Vedder Crossing – the Chilliwack River meets the Vedder River. The cable car crossing the river is used by Fisheries and Ocean to measure water levels and water quality.
2	3 - 1	The former Department of National Defence Base is on the right. There is still a building for the military called the ASU (Area Support Unit) on the grounds. Presently, the grounds also house an RCMP training centre, a school, and there may soon be a college for foreign students on the site. A housing development refurbishing the former military houses called Garrison Crossing is under development across from the base.
3	0 and 43.5	The Trans Canada Trail Pavilion marks the start of the trail to Chilliwack Lake and eventually to the Hope Pavilion. It also marks the end of the trail between the Pavilion on the Matsqui Trail and this one.
4.75	41.75	The trail veers off the dike into a forest trail.
5.75	40.75	Dip under the Southern Railway (SRY Rail Link). This local railway mainly transports goods to and from the major rail lines in the Fraser Valley.
6.3	40.1 Check point 1	Follow the wide trail leading to the Great Blue Heron Interpretive Centre. This is the beginning of a magnificent black cottonwood forest that houses a very large colony of great Blue Herons (about 100 nests). This site with all its fish spawning channels used to be a training ground for the military. It has now been converted into an extraordinary preserve mainly for fish and birds. As you near the interpretive centre there is an observation tower that you may wish to climb. Do take a bit of time at the Centre to get a sense of the richness of this preserve. At this destination you pick up water and a small snack.
7.4	40	You are back on the trail on one of four bridges that were built by the military for the trail over the last two years.
9	38.6	Back on the dike besides dredged gravel and sand.
	38	End of black cottonwood forest and a view of the Vedder River through a clearing.
10.3	37	Just before the Keith Wilson Bridge. Go under the bridge to reach the sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. Cross the bridge over the Vedder River to Abbotsford.
		Sumas Vedder Trail (Abbotsford)
11	35.2	Follow the west dike north towards Highway 1 and Sumas Mountain. Imagine that the farm lands that you see on your left were a huge shallow lake (Sumas Lake) between Vedder Mountain behind you and Sumas Mountain ahead of you. This is all reclaimed land due to the Vedder and Sumas Rivers dike system. On both sides of the river the farms are mainly for dairies and vegetable crops.
13.5	33	Under Highway 1 – At a point about 0.6 km later the dike makes a sharp left westward. This is where the Vedder River flows into the Sumas River as the latter flows towards the Fraser River around the east tip of Sumas Mountain.
15.3	31.5 Check point 2	Barrowtown Pump Station Destination. Do take the time to read the interpretive signs at the Pump Station entrance. It gives very interesting information regarding the farm land reclamation that started here in 1870.
		Sumas River Trail (Abbotsford)
19.1	27.5 Check point 3	MacDonald Park has been designated a dark sky preserve. Tucked against Sumas Mountain, the mountain itself acts like a huge amphitheatre, essentially blocking off the light of Abbotsford to the west, Chilliwack to the east and Mission city to the North offering up an excellent east-south and western Exposure! Pick up prizes, get questions answered, check out merchandise, and replenish at this destination.
22	24.5	Get off the dike and cross the bridge towards Sumas Mountain and immediately take the trail (Mackay Creek Trail) going west (left) on the north side of the River between the River and a residence.
23.5	23 Check point 4	Atkinson Station – Note the huge mushroom barns on the other side of the river. This destination is the end of the flat trail. The next 7 km is hilly.
		Trans Sumas Mountain Trail
24	22.5	You have just climbed a road under construction. Someday we hope the trail will cross over to the right on a Terasen's pipeline to the Clayburn Trail. In the meantime it will be necessary to reach Clayburn Trail by road.
25.6	21	Start of Sumas Mountain Road and the start of a 2.5 km uphill grunt to McKee Road. Some of you may have to push your bikes some of the way. We hope that one day the trail will be off road and at a better incline. For those going the whole way the half way point is half way up this hill.

		Clayburn Creek Trail (2.2 km)
28.5	18	Start of Clayburn Trail at the entrance of the Augustin subdivision on Blauson Blvd. This downhill trail used to be the rail grade for the Clayburn brick factory. You will notice that it is quite steep for a rail grade. Enjoy this great forest trail and Clayburn Creek on your left.
		Clayburn Trail (Turn left on Straiton at the bottom of Clayburn Creek Trail)
32	15.5 Check Point 5	Clayburn Park – Site of the old Clayburn Brick Factory. Remnants of its kilns can be found in the forested area. There is a fine coffee shop at this destination. Note that many of the houses were of built with Clayburn brick making for a quaint village.
		Matsqui Trail (13 km)
41.5	6.5	Note: You have a choice to take the dike trail or for large sections take the trail along nearer the river. The river alternatives make for a very pleasant and make for a great change with more tree cover and vegetation around you. Start of the Matsqui Trail following the Fraser River. The farmlands from Clayburn village and along the Matsqui mainly produce berries (raspberries, blueberries, cranberries, and strawberries) As you approach the Mission Bridge, on a clear day, you can see Mt. Baker to the south. Also along the dike across the Fraser River you get views of the Benedictine Monastery bell tower.
48	0 Check Point 6	Trans Canada Trail Pavilion – This destination is near the Mission Bridge and the CP rail bridge crossing the Fraser River. Mission City is across the way. Past the bridge is a GVRD campground very popular with fishermen. Here Greater Vancouver Regional Parks is putting on activities for the TCT Challenge 2005.
55	Check Point 7 last one	Douglas Taylor Park – After going under the CN rail, you will go through the Matsqui Reserve in a densely vegetated enchanted forest on the way to the park. About half way up you cross the Southern Railway – remember it on the Vedder Trail.

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ASSIST WHERE YOU CAN and DON'T LEAVE YOUR TRACE
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Thanks to our numerous sponsors there will be many draw prizes at the MacDonald Park. Check your number against the available prizes. The real prize is completing your goal but this could be a little extra for you.

Event Supporters and Sponsors

- City of Abbotsford
- City of Chilliwack
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- Canada Lands Corporation
- Canadian Ski Patrol
- South Westminster Amateur Radio Group Society
- Mission Amateur Radio Society
- Chilliwack Tourist Information Centre
- Blue Heron Interpretive Centre
- The Runner's Den (Port Moody)
- Queen Street Farms (Chilliwack)
- aka, The Bike Shop (Port Moody); Life Cycles Bike Shop (Abbotsford)
- Trophy Foods
- Pepsi-QTG Quaker Products
- Save-On-Foods
- TD Canada Trust (Coquitlam)
- Vedder Mountain Field Supplies (Chilliwack)
- Caps Bicycles (Sapperton)



