



### SAFETY & TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Do not let your pet harass wildlife or livestock.
- Expect bears in the area and horses on the trail.
- Please respect agricultural operations and private property along the trail.
- This is a multi use trail; please respect other users.



### THANKS TO:

Volunteers from the Comox Valley Land Trust, the Back Country Horsemen of BC, the Dove Creek Community Association and the Comox Valley Naturalists Society for building sections of the trail.

Krista Kaptein for her assistance with the interpretive signs and this brochure.

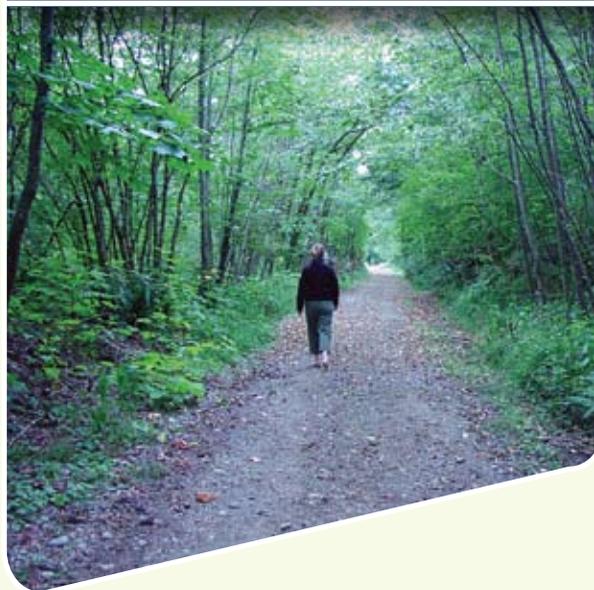
### Comox Valley Regional District

600 Comox Road Courtenay, BC V9N 3P6  
 250-334-6000 or 1-800-331-6007  
 communityservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca  
 www.comoxvalleyrd.ca

July, 2009 • Photography by Chuck Russell



## One Spot Trail



### THE TRAIL

The Comox Valley owes much of its history and development to the logging industry that operated in the area in the early 20th century.

The One Spot Trail is built upon the old Comox logging grade that ran from Headquarters to Royston. Stroll or ride along this historic trail and take a step back in time to learn about the history of logging in the Comox Valley. Observe the present day ecology of the second growth forests and the area's productive agricultural lands.

The One Spot Trail was built primarily for horseback riding. There are a few sections with packed gravel, but much of the trail has a dirt surface. Walking, cycling and horseback riding are all permitted. Please exercise proper trail etiquette. Bikers should call out to hikers and equestrians to warn them of their approach.

### WHERE TO START

To find the beginning of the trail: From Courtenay take Condensory Road out of town. The trail begins on the left just past Cessford Road, and ends eight kilometres later near the Tsolum River.



The "One Spot" locomotive loaded with logs circa 1919.  
 (Vancouver Public Library, 6044 - The Frank Leonard Collection)

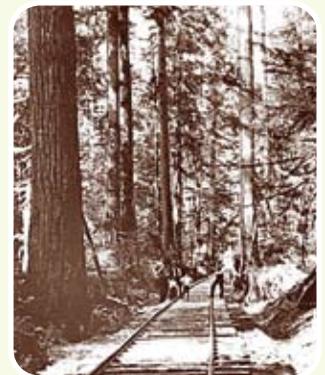
### HISTORY

The One-Spot Trail is located on the former main line railway grade of the Comox Logging and Railway Company. Their first locomotive, the "One-Spot", was a wood burning Baldwin engine, built in 1909.

The steam engine was used to transport timber from the various logging camps located upstream from Courtenay to the log dump at Royston. From here the logs were boomed to Fraser Mills on the Lower Mainland.

The One Spot engine operated in this area for 34 years before it was scrapped in 1943. The track was removed in 1954 after the main logging operations at Headquarters were shut down.

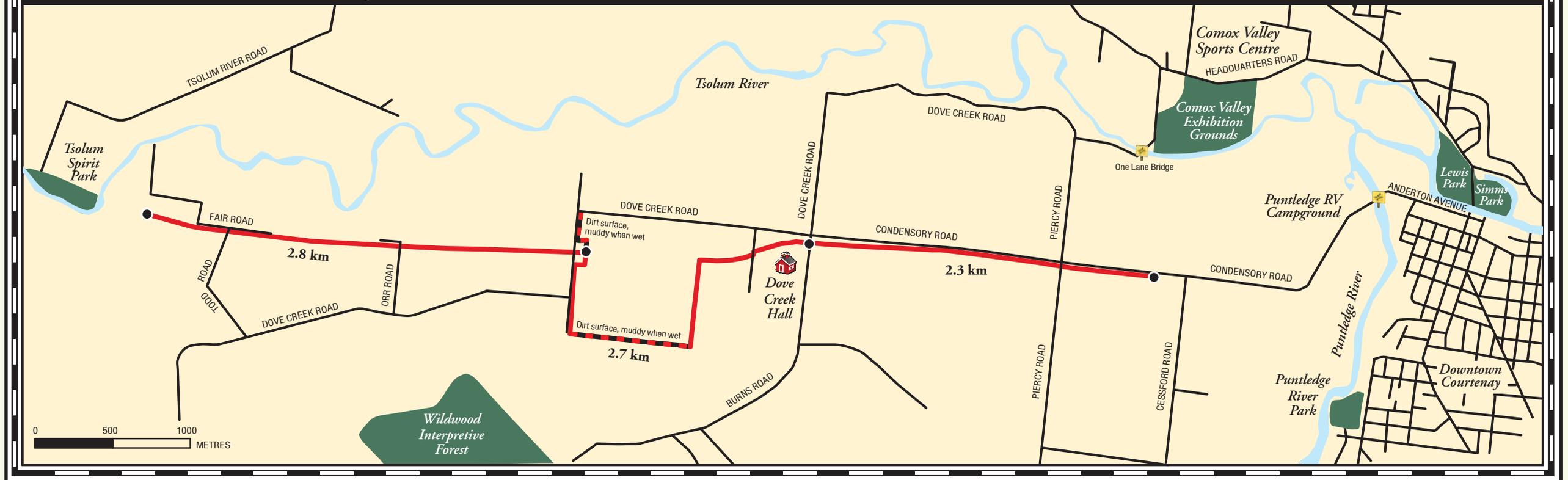
The Comox Logging and Railway Company provided jobs for many and helped develop and sustain the Comox Valley community through war, depression and fire during the early twentieth century.



Group on the Comox Logging track circa 1919.  
 (Vancouver Public Library, 6051 Leonard Frank Collection)

# The One Spot Trail

TAKE A STROLL THROUGH HISTORY



## NATURAL FEATURES

The second growth forest that is here today began after most of the original forest was logged 60 to 80 years ago. A variety of trees including Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, alder and cottonwood create the green canopy that is home to many birds, plants and animals.

Blackberry, elderberry and salmonberry provide food for birds such as winter wrens, varied thrush, chickadees and pileated woodpeckers. Black tailed deer seek shelter in the hardhack thickets and munch on grain in the nearby fields.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Look up at the tops of old snags to see a bald eagle searching for its next snack of rabbit or mouse.
- Check the many creek crossing for signs of aquatic life, including salmon fry and tadpoles.
- Stop and smell the flowers that line the trail!
- Some of Vancouver Island's most productive agriculture land is found in this area. The Comox Valley contains 30 per cent of active farmland found on Vancouver Island.
- Trumpeter swans and Canada geese feed in the adjacent farm fields during the winter months.



- Dairy farms, market gardens and hay fields can be seen from the trail. Fertile fields give rise to hay and corn while horses and cattle graze in pastures.