THE HARKAYEE TREASURE HUNT

Introduction

The Harkayee Treasure Hunt is built around the Legend of Harkayee: a gripping tale you can read either here or, perhaps more helpfully, in the pages of *Treasure Wells Gray* – a commemorative book published by Thompson Rivers University and the Wells Gray World Heritage Committee in support of Wells Gray World Heritage Year.

Actually there are two Harkayee Treasure Hunts: one that focusses on a particular place, the other on a golden skull – well a gold-coloured skull anyhow. Both are located somewhere in the wilds of Wells Gray Park.

We've designed the first of these treasure hunts – the Family Hunt – mostly with kids in mind, though maybe a little bit with mom and dad and auntie and uncle in mind too. The other treasure hunt – the Adventure Hunt – is much more challenging, and will try the wit and spunk and stamina of even the most seasoned geocacher. Both treasure hunts offer a cash prize of \$1,000.00.

Regardless of which treasure hunt you opt for, you'll need to solve ten clues. Each of these clues is linked to a popular Wells Gray hiking trail, and each yields a number from 0 and 9. Arranged in proper sequence, these numbers in turn yield a latitude and longitude: a kind of "X marks the spot".

What happens after you've solved these ten clues depends. If you're a Family Hunter, you've got it easy. Simply: (1) rearrange the ten numbers in proper sequence (hint: check out the treasure map in *Treasure Wells Gray*); (2) discard two of the numbers (hint: read the Legend of Harkayee very carefully); (3) figure out the latitude and longitude embedded in the remaining eight numbers (hint: the introduction to *Treasure Wells Gray* is helpful here); (4) jot down your solution on a valid entry form which – to help us fund this event – must be the entry form page in *Treasure Wells Gray*; and (5) mail your entry form to the address given.

Once we've got your entry, we'll store it – with other correct entries – in a special place for safekeeping. The winner will be announced in early October when renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman draws the winning entry from a hat.

If you're an Adventure Hunter, the way ahead is much more difficult. Having figured out the locality hidden in our ten clues, you'll still need to perform several tasks, none of them easy. We'll describe these tasks in a posting scheduled to appear in time for the Canada Day weekend. See you then!

Ten Trails & Ten Clues

Please note: We're posting this e-version of our ten trails and ten clues in order to jumpstart the Harkayee Treasure Hunt. If you're serious, however, about winning one of the cash prizes, you'll definitely need to purchase a copy of *Treasure Wells Gray* - a commemorative book available at the Wells Gray Info Centre, in Clearwater, from late June through early October. The book will be available in time for the Canada Day weekend.

1. Osprey Lookout

CLUE: The trees growing near the summit of this lookout are draped with a green hair-like lichen you could hardly overlook if you tried. To score this clue: (a) look up this lichen's two-part scientific name; and (b) count the number of syllables from start to finish. How many syllables do you count?

2. Bailey's Chute - West Lakes Loop

CLUE: Three species of fern grow along this trail, each very different from the others, and all easily identified. To score this clue: (a) look up the full scientific names for each of these three ferns; and (b) count the number of "m"s they contain. How many "m"s do you get?

3. Ray Spring - Ray Farm Loop

CLUE: A tallish shrub – taller than a parent unit (1 p.u.) – grows along this trail in much greater abundance than elsewhere in Wells Gray. Recognize it by the unapologetic hairiness of its leaves coupled with their weakly heart-shaped base. To bring this clue to a three-point landing: (a) look up this shrub's two-part scientific name; (b) assign each letter of the second (species) name a number as follows: a = 1, b = 2, c = 3, and so forth; (c) sum these numbers; (d) sum the two digits of the two-digit number that results; (e) throw away the first digit of the resulting two-digit number. The number that remains is the number you want.

4. Pyramid Mountain

CLUE: There's a shrub that grows abundantly on the hot dry slopes of this volcano. Crushing one of its shiny, leathery, evergreen, slightly sticky leaves yields a spicy aroma not altogether pleasant, but then not altogether unpleasant either. To score this clue: (a) look up this shrub's two-part scientific name; (b) count the number of consonants in its second (species) name; and (c) add that number to the number of benches BC Parks has kindly positioned along the Pyramid Mtn trail from bottom to top. The resulting number is the number you're looking for.

5. Helmcken Falls Brink

CLUE: Look carefully, and you'll notice that two kinds of trees, both conifers, really stand out along this trail. One of these – Douglas-fir – has stately, deeply furrowed trunks rising straight and true high into the canopy. The other tree dominates the forests near Helmcken Falls, where it is especially common as a sapling on well decayed "nurse" logs. To solve this clue: (a) look up

this tree's two-part scientific name; (b) count the number of "e"s from start to finish; and (c) multiply the resulting number by the only number larger than 0 that when added to itself gives the same sum as it does when multiplied by itself. What number do you get?

6. Placid Lake

CLUE: The soggy, boggy margin of Placid Lake supports several plants more characteristic of the far Canadian north than of Wells Gray Park. One of these is a knee-high shrub with evergreen leaves much longer than wide and curled under at the margins and woolly-brownish below. To ace this clue: (a) look up this plant's two-part common name; (b) count the number of consonants from start to finish; and (c) subtract from the resulting number the only number larger than 0 that gives more by addition than by multiplication. What number do you get?

7. White Horse Bluff

CLUE: There's a grass that inhabits the dry, open, south-facing slopes of White Horse Bluff in fair abundance, yet is otherwise rare or lacking in most of Wells Gray. Recognize it by the tufted, bunchgrass habit and erect spiky flowering stalks. To solve this clue: (a) look up this plant's two-part common name; (b) count the number of letters from start to finish; (c) add to this number the only number that always gives more by addition than by multiplication; and (d) discard the first digit from the resulting two-digit number. What number's left over?

8. Flatiron Lookout

CLUE: There's a tree now sprouting up in considerable numbers at the Flatiron Lookout. This tree is easily recognized by its long needles and short stature (mostly varying from one kid unit [1 k.u.] tall to slightly more than two parent units [2 p.u.'s]). To solve this clue you'll need to: (a) look up this tree's two-part scientific name; (b) count the number of unique letters from start to finish (i.e., count a letter only once – even if it occurs more than once); (c) discard the first digit from the resulting number. The number that's left is the number you're looking for. What is it?

9. Moul Falls

CLUE: This is an easy one, requiring only that you: (a) count the number of *metal* steps – *not* cement steps or wooden steps – en route to the base of Moul Falls; (b) multiply the two digits of the resulting number; and (c) subtract the smallest number that increases faster when you multiply it with itself than when you add it to itself. What number do you get?

10. First Canyon Creek – Spahats Creek Loop

CLUE: Here you're looking for a common moss with feathery, layered branches and arching stems. To solve this clue: (a) look up its two-part scientific name; (b) count the number of letters from start to finish, taking care to exclude the letter "y"; (c) sum the digits of the resulting two-digit number; and (d) do this as many times as it takes to get a one-digit number. What number do you get?