

Opening of the Tatlayoko Trails

By Dorothy Evans

As you know, or maybe don't know two week ago was the Grand Opening of the Wheelchair Accessible Trails at the Tatlayoko Lake Millsite. What follows is my personal thoughts on the event.

When I first heard about the project I figured what a waste of time and effort. How many wheelchair people would come all the way out to Tatlayoko to go on a spin down some old belting from Gibraltar Mines. Tatlayoko Lake isn't near any super busy highway or any Provincial Parks, what will motivate them to come out and see these trails.

I saw the people responsible for the work and effort that went into laying the belting, I heard about the hours they put in, the problems they faced. They were nuts. That Saturday, the Opening, opened my eyes to many things.

The enthusiasm of Pat Harris, when he arrived and saw the trails, the look on his face when he went down by the Lake and saw how beautiful it all was, (he could get close enough to the Lake to enjoy it). His speech opened my eyes to the small world these disabled people live in, because they are restricted to what is available to them. I'm still thinking on the fact that a lot of work went into this project for just people in wheelchairs, then I look up and there is a mom pushing a baby stroller on the path, two people sitting on one of the beautiful benches placed in a scenic spot along the path, two older ladies are walking in front of three kids on bikes and a couple more on rollerblades. Rollerblades, in Tatlayoko!!!

Holly cow, the Community Association has given everybody a reason to go to Tatlayoko Lake. Now, where do all these people stay when they come out here.

All the local businesses have a chance to increase their customer traffic.

One of the Tatlayoko Community Assoc. said to me, "we are hoping to make Tatlayoko a destination not a pass by."

Now, how do I feel about the whole project? I want to be part of it. I want to help do the bike trail with the jumps and bumps on it for the kids of all ages.

We should be very proud of these people who looked farther than the nose on their faces. I want to personally thank them for all the work and effort they put into this.

Thank-you