

Buckley Bay Fossil Hunt

The sky was overcast as we gathered at the parking lot outside Canadian Tire in Campbell River. Rides were arranged after signing in and we headed down the highway to Buckley Bay. Shane had let us know what we might find at the site and Joe Dowe brought along a sample of a fossil found in the area. We were all looking forward to scouring the steep embankments that were cut by the construction of the interchange from the old Island Highway to the Inland Highway.

With a variety of digging / scraping implements in hand the eager participants strolled down the side of the road and fanned out along the embankments. Some pieces were soon discovered and the news spread pretty quickly.

There were a great many signs of other fossil hunters having been at the site as we checked out the rocks that had been hammered open to see if anything had been missed or not taken for some reason. Joe had found a fossil right near the top of the site and had remained there excavating into the hillside. He came up with a nice ammonite that was embedded in the fragile shale matrix.

Ron McBurney took home a piece of shale that had worm tracks clearly visible. Shane Mawhinney got a nice piece with several small clam fossils. As a matter of fact everyone who came took home a fossil of some kind. It was a nice outing.

After a tailgate lunch those in the mood headed up the highway to the Trent River to take a look at the fossil site there. Water conditions made searching for specimens out of the question but many people walked the trail down to the river to look at the area. Maybe we'll get a dry spell and be able to visit there again, soon.

