



## Coquitlam's Secret Toboggan Run

📅 October 3, 2016 👤 CQ125 💬 No comments



Winter weather varies each year in Coquitlam, but one thing remains constant – kids of all ages love to toboggan. Our family loves the fresh air, snow, exercise, squeals, thrills and spills. To join in the fun yourself, all you need is a slider and a hill.

We have built up a ragtag collection of sliding equipment including a beat-up wooden toboggan, a few bright blue, slightly torn, plastic-sheet sliders, and – the best slider – a steerable snow-trike.

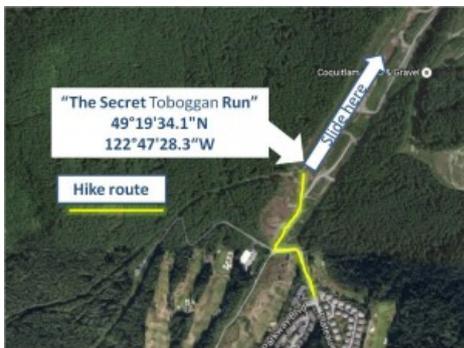


Hills in Coquitlam are everywhere. Of the various tobogganing spots we have tried, we have three favourites.

The closest hill is simply at the side of our house. Our kids and their friends have spent hours sliding down our one-floor-high slope, often well into the dark, assisted by porch and street lights. The boys love piling up snow to build jumps. Skidding down one floor in height may not seem like much, but to a born flatlander like me, even this is a decent-sized hill.

Our second most-used run is a well-known spot, situated along the hydro lines of the Coquitlam Crunch. It runs just north of David and south of Panorama. We dubbed this tobogganing area, naturally: The Hydro Lines. Featuring a wide-open, long and gentle south-facing slope sprinkled with the inevitable jumps, The Hydro Lines offers rides that are thrilling. This hill can get crowded, hard-packed and even icy-fast.

A fresh snowfall is always a happy event. But when the snow starts disappearing, one special place may still have snow remaining – the spot we call The Secret Toboggan Run. Our family called it secret because so few people used it, and we were not going to advertise it. My revealing this now is sure to raise the ire of my grown children.



Finding The Secret Toboggan Run was more or less by accident.

Hiking in early spring, we came upon this north facing slope that still had lots of snow. Getting there can be a bit challenging for the youngest ones, but trekking or sledding in is worth it. You can park your car close to the gate, located where Parkway Boulevard meets Plateau Boulevard, walk up about 50 yards following the service road, then turn right at the power lines and trek another hundred yards or so following the hydro lines to the top of the hill. Be prepared, you may need to build your own run, if you are the first to arrive after a snowfall.

The view on a clear day is spectacular. To the north you look down the valley towards the Coquitlam Lake area. To the east is Burke Mountain clothed in evergreens, rising majestically. The smell of the evergreens is strong. The hushed silence is so peaceful – at least until the fun begins.

- *Story and photos submitted by Cam Anderson*

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