**MARVEL AT THE MARVELOUS MARYSVILLE FALLS**

When I told my friend Donna about the book I was writing on BC’s best waterfalls she invited me to visit one of her favorite places: Marysville Falls in Kimberly.

Named in 1896 after the Kimberley mine in South Africa, this quaint Kootenay Town was the home to the Sullivan Mine - the world's largest lead-zinc mine from 1917 to 2001.

Now it is mainly a tourist destination boasting the Kimberley Alpine Resort, Canada’s largest freestanding cuckoo clock and Kimberley's Underground Mining Railway. Owned and operated by the Sullivan Mine and Railway Historical Society.

▲ My friend Donna Port poses on one of the rock platforms, the perfect place for a portrait.

We parked at the Eco Park and walked across the street to the lovely covered bridge that crosses Mark Creek. Much to my delight we were transported into an unbelievably beautiful setting. The smooth chunky looking red-rock canyon with its multicolored striped walls looked more like a manmade Vegas water feature than a work of Mother Nature. A boardwalk covers much of the short trail that passes a number of tiny waterfalls on its way to a viewpoint overlooking a 30-meter high waterfall. One area along the creek appeared to have a large stone platform carved out wide enough to place a small table and two chairs to create the most romantic dining experience ever!

▲ Marysville falls is the largest waterfall on the creek

After admiring the large waterfall from the viewing platform we continued down the path to take a look at the creek below the falls but we were blocked by a large deer that had no intention of letting us by. After a ten minute staring contest we were finally able to convince the deer to scurry up the hill and let us pass. We took a quick peek at the lower creek before heading back to the car.

It was a shame we didn’t have more time because the Marysville Trail also connects to the easy 12 kilometre Mark Creek Nature Trail which, in turn, connects Marysville with the Bavarian-styled community of Kimberley. This 3-4 hour adventure crosses foot bridges while following the scenic Mark Creek.

***DID YOU KNOW?*** *Kimberly has the largest urban park in Canada. At 1977 acres, the Kimberley Nature Park is the largest incorporated park in Canada and the paved, non-motorized Rail-Trail linking the cities of Kimberley and Cranbrook make Kimberley a unique four-season resort.*

**HOW TO GET THERE** – In Kimberley the Mark Creek trailhead is located near the middle school field. Drive to the south end of the field and turn right on Mckenzie Street. Cross a footbridge and follow the creek to the Marsden Street Bridge. Cross bridge to Lions Way Trail and continue hiking to Marysville falls.

▲ A covered wooden bridge leads to the trailhead of the Marysville Falls hiking trail.