

# THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Rachel Suttie, 28, kisses Fern,  
her 3-week-old baby girl  
Photo: Jenelle Schneider, *The Vancouver Sun*

## **Surprise!**

Level 2  
November 2011

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Rachel Suttie did not know  
she was expecting a baby (was pregnant).

The strange story began in December, 2010.

Rachel became pregnant,  
but six weeks later, she lost the baby.

In January, Rachel visited her family doctor.  
He told her she was healthy,  
and she went home.  
Rachel went back to her job.  
Like her mother and father,  
she helps to load and unload ships.  
She is a longshoreman.

Rachel was sad about her lost baby.  
With her father, she decided to hike  
the West Coast Trail on Vancouver Island.  
The trail is 75 km long. It is a difficult hike.  
Rachel and her father trained hard  
for many weeks.

On August 29, they started to hike the trail.  
Rachel says, "I felt kind of weak."  
From the beginning,  
Rachel had a hard time on the trail.  
Her father sometimes helped her  
with her backpack.

Two days later, Rachel slipped and  
hurt her ankle.

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But they continued on.

At the most difficult part of the trail,

Rachel's stomach started to hurt.

Her pain got worse.

On September 2, early in the morning,  
she could not move. Her father called for  
a rescue.

Rescuers took Rachel to the hospital  
in Victoria.

"You're having a baby," said the rescuer.  
Rachel was shocked.

Back in December, 2010, Rachel was  
pregnant, but not with one baby.

She was pregnant with twins.

Both Rachel and her doctor didn't know it  
at that time!

On September 2, Rachel gave birth  
to a healthy baby girl.

The baby weighed 3 kilograms.

She called the baby *Fern* to remember  
the West Coast Trail.

Rachel is a very happy mother.

Little Fern is a "miracle baby", says Rachel.

## Illustrations:



Illustrations by: Nola Johnston