



F.O.S.S. Establishes “Legacy” Fund for Provincial Parks

Happy new year to all F.O.S.S. volunteers and supporters—may you enjoy beautiful greenspace this year.

With the exception of a small section of Myra Canyon in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and the marine parks in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park, both parks are still officially closed to the public. In partnership with Katim Enterprises (through a federally-funded program), F.O.S.S. volunteers have been working hard to get the parks ready for spring, and pushing to have the parks opened soon.

In order to ensure that these two provincial parks are properly funded for the future, F.O.S.S. members passed a motion at the Nov. 17th/04 AGM to establish the **Myra-Bellevue/Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks Legacy Fund**. F.O.S.S. provided \$10,000 seed money to start the fund, which will be managed by the Central Okanagan Foundation (COF). COF will hold the capital and the investment income will be dispersed annually under the guidelines of the fund. (F.O.S.S. is working with COF to establish the parameters). The size of the fund will grow through other donations and correspondingly, the income will grow to sustain these parks. The COF is a well known charitable organization currently managing \$7.5 million in assets. Anyone can donate to this fund—any amount large or small. Donations can be made to the Central Okanagan Foundation in the name of the **Myra-Bellevue/Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks Legacy Fund**, and tax receipts can be issued. Funds managed by the COF often grow when people include their favourite organization in their will. Please contact COF for details.

I hope all our supporters will give some thought to the idea behind this fund—to sustain these parks IN PERPETUITY.

Although this fund will provide some long term security, F.O.S.S. can only access the income from the Legacy Fund, and this is likely to be quite small until the fund grows. F.O.S.S. will continue to welcome donations given directly to us. This method of support is greatly appreciated on a year-to-year basis. Tax receipts are issued by F.O.S.S. for donations of \$10 or greater.



F.O.S.S. work party, Sept. 25, 2004. Ten volunteers, including Tony Ashton and Cathy Richards, installed posts and trail signs on Fairlane Trail/MBPP

*What a difference
a year makes!*



*These 3 photos were taken
in September, 2004 on
“Swamp Thing” & Lost
Lake Trail, Myra-
Bellevue Provincial Park*



F.O.S.S. “Trail Etiquette” Cartoons

In 2003, when F.O.S.S. directors designed the information panels for the kiosk at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead (Myra-Bellevue Park) they explored the idea of using cartoons to illustrate “trail etiquette”. They took their ideas to cartoonist Monté Barwick who created a series of 7 cartoons, some of which have been showcased in our recent newsletters. Monté did most of his work as an ‘in kind’ donation to F.O.S.S..

This unique panel will be installed at the SRE Trailhead when the park re-opens. If you know of a non-profit group that may be interested in duplicating our “trail etiquette” panel, F.O.S.S. would be happy to discuss sharing the plans. We believe that by illustrating the ‘rules of the trail’ in a humorous manner, we are more likely to get the public’s attention.

Work Continues in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park →

In December, 2004, the Katim crew re-built the two bridges over Dead Horse Creek. Because this area was inaccessible by vehicle, F.O.S.S. hired a helicopter to shuttle construction materials from Lakeshore Road to the bridge site. \$500 of the cost was donated by Jamie Browne and Daphne Richard, through a gift certificate they purchased at a fund raising event. Thanks Daphne & Jamie!

In November, F.O.S.S. hired Apex Sand & Gravel to install a culvert on the “Golden Mile”. The original wooden culvert burned during the 2003 forest fire, resulting in ongoing erosion from water running down the trail.

2004/2005 F.O.S.S. Board of Directors

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Ken Campbell	Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society





*Volunteer
Allan Pritchard
installing the lock
on the security gate at
Bellevue Access, Little
White Forest Service Rd.
MBPP (3 km from end
of the pavement)
- F.O.S.S. purchased
the gate & Katim
installed it*

Thanks Katim! Luncheon Planned

On Jan. 20th F.O.S.S. directors will host the Katim crew for an appreciation luncheon at Ruby's Restaurant. This luncheon will be our way of saying "Thanks" for all the work done during the current Job Creation Partnership Programme, which ends on Jan. 29th, 2005.



New BC Parks' Volunteer Agreement Signed

In early January, F.O.S.S. signed a BC Parks Volunteer Agreement for 2005. This will enable us to continue working on trail improvement projects, mapping, signs and other tasks approved by BC Parks. F.O.S.S. is also partnering with BC Parks and Katim Enterprises to apply to Human Resources Skills Development Canada to fund a 'Phase 2' of the Job Creation Partnership programme that was so successful in 2004.

Angel Spring Trail, →

As there seems to be some confusion about whether the Angel Spring trail is a 'loop trail' (*it isn't!!*), F.O.S.S. will install a sign at Angel Spring, advising that the trail does not extend beyond the spring. This is a temporary sign that will remain up until the interpretive project for Angel Spring is completed, and detailed information is posted.

NOTICE!

Angel Spring Trail
does not extend
beyond this point.

Return to the
parking lot on
Little White
Forest Service Rd.

Friends of the South Slopes

On your directors "wish list" for the future is the development of the trail along KLO Creek from Angel Spring to McCulloch Rd., and continuing on to the Mission Creek Greenway. However, the trail traverses both private and public land, and access issues need to be discussed.



Flamingo Flats, MBPP Dec. 2004

Thanks for the Support!

Recent Donations of \$100 or greater:

Rogers' Family Trust -\$1,000
Terasen Gas (see article)
Venture Gear - \$112.10 (from a BBQ)
.....And many other donations under \$100

In-Kind Donations:

Kelowna Steel Fabricators Ltd —labour to construct a security gate & lock-post
Taylor Professional Driving—dug post holes for security gate at Trailhead
Apex Sand and Gravel—work on MBPP access from Stewart Rd. West
Jamie Browne & Daphne Richard—donation of a \$500 gift certificate from Kokanee Helicopters
Kokanee Helicopters—transport of bridge building materials
Bob Runnalls—plans for proposed Harvard Rd. Right of Way.



Terasen Gas donated a Garmin GPS unit to F.O.S.S., and is also committed to donating \$1,000 in January 2005. The GPS unit is a valuable resource that we are using to map the trails. The cash donation

will be spent on GPS and mapping training, purchasing antennae to enhance the accuracy of the GPS, purchasing software in support of the system, and more trail building tools. We greatly appreciate this corporate support.

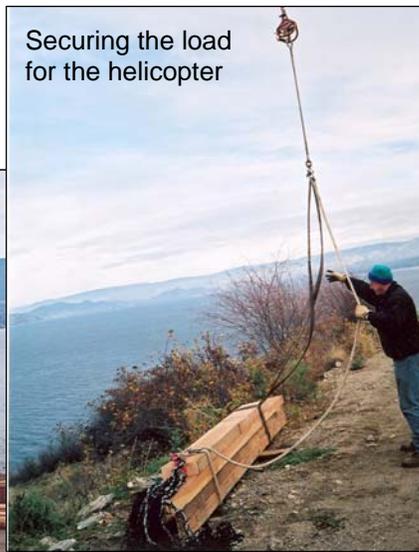


Visit the F.O.S.S.
Website at:

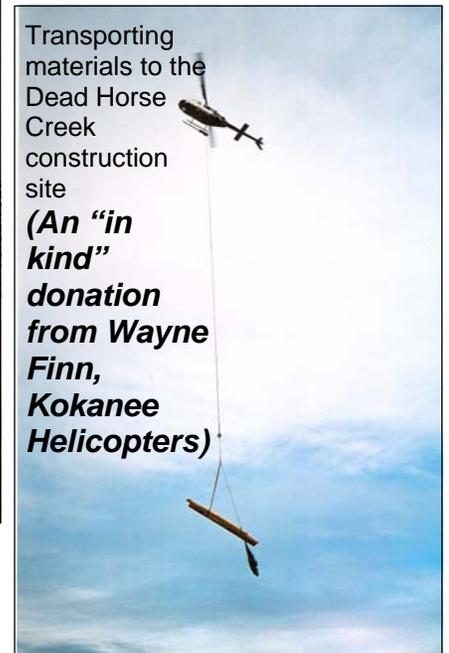
WWW.foss-kelowna.org

Or reach us at: info@foss-kelowna.org

Dec. 1st, 2004—Lakeshore Rd.-unloading the lumber for the bridges on Dead Horse Creek, Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



Securing the load for the helicopter



Transporting materials to the Dead Horse Creek construction site
(An "in kind" donation from Wayne Finn, Kokanee Helicopters)

So Why are the Parks Still Closed????

GOOD QUESTION! and one that your directors have been asking a lot lately.

The position of the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection (BC Parks) is that ***"in the interest of public safety, the park, as well as all trails and facilities, remains closed to all public use until further notice due to the forest fire that occurred in 2003"*** (quote from Myra-Bellevue Park website). In our discussions with the BC Parks staff in Penticton, we understand that this closure will continue until the hazard tree removal is completed, and it is deemed safe for the public to re-enter the parks. **It's a Catch 22** as the funding for this hazard tree mitigation work will come from the Provincial Emergency Program — and to date (January 14) these funds have not been released to BC Parks.

Your F.O.S.S. directors believe this slow response from the Ministry of Public Safety (which is responsible for the PEP) is unacceptable. Therefore, on Nov. 16, 2004 F.O.S.S. directors wrote to the Hon. Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister Responsible for the Provincial Emergency Funds. The letter was copied to Mr. Bugslag, Director PEP, and was also forwarded to Mr. Coleman and Mr. Bugslag by e-mail. In this letter, directors said ***"The Friends of the South Slopes Society (F.O.S.S.) wish to express our extreme frustration and disappointment to you (as the Minister responsible for the Provincial Emergency Funds) regarding the protracted response of your office to provide PEP funding for the implementation of recovery measures in both Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.....The public is losing patience, ignoring the closure, and returning to their beloved trailsThe directors of the Friends of the South Slopes request that you, as the minister responsible for the PEP, get involved and compel your staff to move toward an immediate resolution to the PEP funding issues so that Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park can be re-opened to the public"***.

As we had no response from Mr. Coleman, the letter was re-sent (by mail and e-mail) to him on Dec. 31st, 2004 and a response was requested by Jan. 12, 2005. This time, F.O.S.S. directors copied it (by e-mail) to: Bill Barisoff (Minister of Water Land and Air Protection), Sindi Hawkins (MLA Kelowna-Mission), and Drew Carmichael (Regional Manager/WLAP).

As this flyer goes to print — there has been **NO RESPONSE** from Mr. Coleman, Mr. Barisoff or Ms. Hawkins. Our only response was an e-mail message forwarded to F.O.S.S. by BC Parks on Jan 4th from Jack Seaford, Facilities Analyst/WLAP, who wrote: ***2003 Fire Storm. Okanagan Region - OK Mountain The joint federal provincial engineer has inspected the OK mountain project and is preparing the report. PEP has advised that approval of recovery plans are based on the engineers report. PEP is aware of the pressure to open the park to the public, and has advised that the report will be given a priority review as soon as it is received. I spoke to the engineer in December and he is giving it a high priority for completion.***

When P.E.P. funding is finally released, WLAP will post the hazard tree mitigation contract on *BC Bid*, choose a contractor, and start the project. How long will this process take? And how long until the public is allowed to re-enter Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks? It has been 18 months since our parks were closed — F.O.S.S. Directors find this objectionable. We will continue, on behalf of our members, to keep this issue in the forefront.