



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

WATER!! Both Myra-Bellevue and Ok Mountain Parks are running with water. Hydrologists call the soil "hydrophobic" (literally, fear of water!). This phenomenon occurs after forest fires and the soil doesn't readily absorb water. Of course it's not just the hydrophobic soil that's causing the water problems—the trees aren't doing their bit either with fewer of them alive. There's more water this year, for sure, but the water has been running continuously for some time now. The creeks were running hard in the fall and that's still the case today. For some of us, we have seen creeks that weren't there before, or creeks that normally only run during spring run-off that have been running continuously. Is mother nature trying to jump start the forest after dealing it such a blow two years ago?

FOSS is preparing a report on the effects of the water, particularly with respect to erosion on the main trails. We also plan to implement the recommendations in the report to improve the trails – grading, water bars, culverts etc. Much of this will, of course, depend on money and manpower.



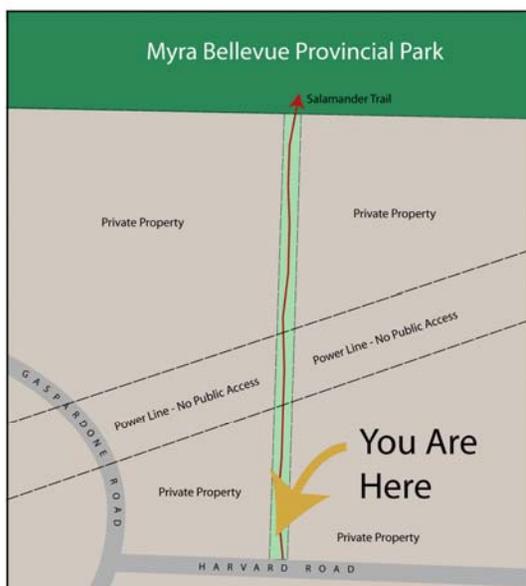
April, 2005 Run-off & Erosion on Lost Lk. trail north of 'Race Classic'.

Meanwhile, the crews working for BC Parks are in both parks cutting down the danger trees. FOSS asks that you **please stay out of the parks while the cutting is being done**. Currently, the only 'open' trails are in Myra-Bellevue—Angel Spring, Myra Bailout (both trails are east of Little White Forest Service Road) and a small section of the Myra Canyon trail. The remaining trails should be open in late Spring.

One of the things that FOSS is always discussing is public access. The discussion generally centers around Myra Bellevue Park because it borders on the City of Kelowna. Maintaining access to the Crawford trail from the city side is something FOSS is monitoring closely. There is development going on all around the park and FOSS takes its role of ensuring access very seriously. Hope you have a great summer in the parks

PETER THOMPSON, PRESIDENT F.O.S.S

HARVARD ROAD ACCESS to Myra Bellevue Provincial Park



Harvard Road Public Right of Way

As more and more private property is developed adjacent to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and other crown land on the South Slopes, FOSS continues to be involved with the City of Kelowna Planning Department and the City's Parks Department to ensure that public access to the South Slopes is maintained.

During the recent development of Okanagan Riviera Estates and Astra Estates (located on Harvard Rd.), a 10 meter wide linear public right-of-way was secured that links Harvard Rd. to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. This public ROW provides access for the residents of these new developments and also for other 'locals' who will lose their traditional trails when the developments are complete.

The City of Kelowna Parks' Department will soon install signs on the Harvard Rd. access. F.O.S.S. will continue to upgrade the trail. This ROW will be open to the public once MBPP is re-opened.

A second public route of access will link the new unnamed road east of Priest Creek with the Luxmoore Rd. section of MBPP. Additionally, a corridor along Priest Creek between Balldock Road and MBPP will be protected.

Sharing the Trails

The Crawford Trails, A Multi-Use Trail Network



When Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks re-open, hikers, runners, horseback riders, and mountain bikers will return to their beloved trails. In Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, the trail network known as the 'Crawford Trails' is a highly used recreational area shared by many different users.

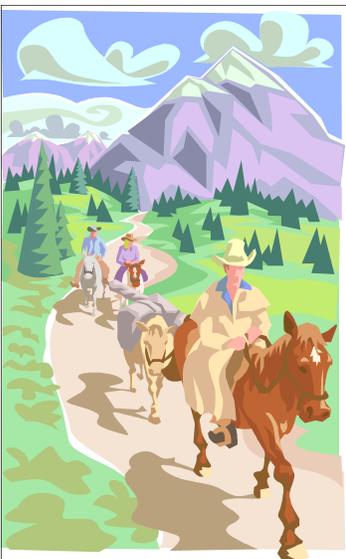


March 25, 2005 Lost Lk. Trail south of Heartbreak Hill

In 2001 it was designated as a 'protected area' (and in 2003 a provincial park) but for decades prior to that the hills have a long history as a place for locals to recreate on the old logging roads and trails that have existed since they were logged in the mid 1900's.

Horseback riders and hikers have known for many years that the area is a wonderful place to ride and walk. In the 1990's, advocates of the evolving sport of mountain biking discovered what equestrians and hikers already knew — the trail system was awesome!

Prior to the 'protected area' status, dirt bikers, quad riders and off-road 4X4 enthusiasts also recreated in the area, and many people cut their winter wood supply.



With the designation of "provincial park", motorized recreation is now prohibited with the exception of snowmobiles which can use the KVR and Little White Mountain when snow depth precludes environmental damage. Cutting firewood or removing vegetation is not permitted.

As the lower trails of Myra-Bellevue become even more popular with local residents and visitors to our valley, it becomes vitally important that we all practice good trail etiquette. We are each responsible for recreating safely and responsibly. We have not experienced the serious conflicts seen on other public lands, and in order to maintain this harmonious existence we need to work together and show respect for the conservation values that are protected in our provincial parks, as we



.....**share the trails.**

What can we do?

- ◆ Practice minimum impact, erosion free activities
- ◆ Avoid soil erosion that happens with skidding feet, hooves and tires
- ◆ Stay on designated trails—don't go 'off-trail' or use game trails
- ◆ Mountain bikers—don't build unauthorized 'stunts' in the parks. All structures not approved through BC Parks will be removed by them
- ◆ Mountain bikers—yield to hikers and horses
- ◆ Hikers—yield to horses
- ◆ Promote the responsible use of the trails
- ◆ Remember that conservation is the #1 priority of BC Parks and that by respecting their regulations we will protect our ability to recreate in the park

Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain parks are part of the provincial system of parks dedicated to "the protection of natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public."



Myra-Bellevue has the unique distinction of being a provincial park that is adjacent to a large urban centre. Easy access, however, puts added pressure on its trails, as so many residents and visitors to the valley want to enjoy its amenities.

Please support FOSS in its efforts to have a sustainable trail network that will be a legacy for future generations

Where the heck did those trail names come from?

Although 'locals' have always had their own names for trails and features in what is now Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, it wasn't until this area became popular with the mountain biking community that many of the trails became 'officially' named. And some strange names there are!

When the Kelowna Mountain Bike Club published its first map of the Crawford trail system in 1998, others acquiesced and learned to refer to our favourite trails by the names chosen by KMBC.

Some of the trails were named after mountain bikers —such as “Natasha”, “Pat’s Log”, “Klassen”. We can only speculate as to how “Earring” got its name!

Lost Lake Trail is a former logging road and it was known as Lost Lake Road until the area became a provincial park. A pink plastic flamingo has resided at Flamingo Flats at least since the mid seventies, as has a teddy bear at Teddy Bear Junction.

Since the 2003 fire, Lost Lake is no longer 'lost', as it is clearly visible from Lost Lake trail.

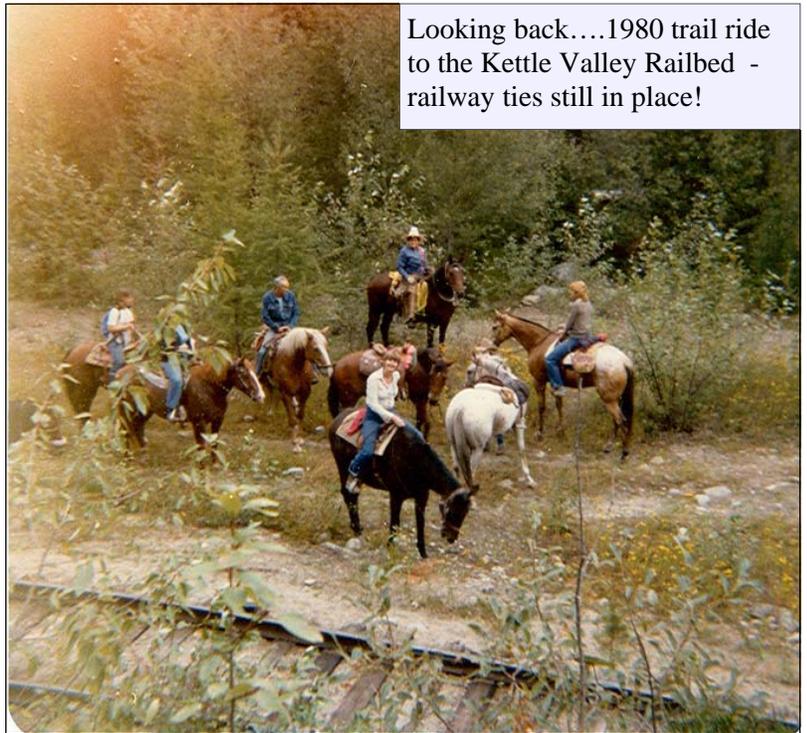
The Crawford hiking trail was named after William Crawford, who pre-empted a 1/2 section of land in the area in 1892 and added more lands over the years. He operated a sawmill and he had the first water rights on Bellevue Creek.

Preservation of the historic Crawford Trail was championed by the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club in 1989. In response to a request from the CONC, Kelowna City Council agreed to “do whatever it can to preserve the Crawford Trail running from Crawford Estates in Okanagan Mission to the summit of Little White Mountain.” The Central Okanagan Regional District also supported in principle the preservation of the trail.

By summertime, FOSS will have installed sign posts and trail signs on most of the trails in the Crawford trail network.



“Bob” the Trailer— Funded by Terasen Gas
This mountain bike trailer will be used to transport trail building equipment to trails not accessible by vehicles.



Looking back...1980 trail ride to the Kettle Valley Railbed - railway ties still in place!



Looking back...1984 Trail ride in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



MISSION CREEK GREENWAY

Kelowna - British Columbia - Canada

Phase 2—Mission Creek Greenway

Opening May 1st

On Sunday, May 1st, 2005. 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm., ceremonies take place at the Hollywood Rd. south access near the East Kelowna Bridge. There will be no public parking, so please park at the EECO Centre on Springfield Rd. Buses will transport you to the Hollywood Road site.. Please watch local media for further information. Brenda Thomson 764-4296 or Rhea Wiseman 765-8212.



Feb. 1, 2005 Peter Thompson, FOSS President, being interviewed by CHBC TV and Castanet.net



Science Opportunities for Kids
“Barefoot Mapping” workshop in Myra-Bellevue Park, October 2004

FOSS Work Party in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

Date: Sunday April 24, 2005

Time: 10 am

Location: Meet at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead parking lot

Who can help? FOSS members (adults only for this project please)

What will we be doing?

- ◆ painting the sign posts throughout the lower trails
- ◆ a general cleanup at the Trailhead, Stewart Rd. West and Harvard Rd., as part of the Regional District's Community Cleanup.

Volunteers.....if you haven't signed a FOSS waiver form and the BC Parks/FOSS Volunteer Agreement, please be at the Trailhead at 9:45 so you can read the insurance information and sign these two documents. If you have a safety vest, please wear it as our volunteers will need to be clearly identified as “authorized” to be in the park. (This part of the park is still closed to the public).

You'll also have a sneak preview of the information panels at the Stewart Rd. information kiosk

Please pre-register so we can organize crews and materials ahead of time.

E-mail: info@foss-kelowna or phone: 764-2303 (Penny)



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