



Western Pine Beetle Infestation on the South Slopes

The Western Pine Beetle was found in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park in February. The Ministry of the Environment (BC Parks) responded quickly and worked with the Ministry of Forests to survey the level of damage. Approximately 1400 trees were identified along the Park's northern boundary. In April, BC Parks contracted to have them cut and burned on site. On March 24th, F.O.S.S. members with e-mail received information about the Western Pine Beetle and a map of the 'attack' areas.



The Western Pine Beetle attacks ponderosa pines, and it is rapidly spreading throughout our region. Mission Creek Regional Park and the Hall Road Neighbourhood are examples of local areas of infestation. Recent surveys by the City of Kelowna have identified numerous other areas as well —on both public and private properties.

If you have pine trees on your property, the city and province suggest that you check for signs of attack. Information is available on-line on the City of Kelowna website: www.city.kelowna.bc.ca **Click on the beetle.** There are links to other sites as well. If you do not have access to the internet, you can get information by calling the City's Pine Beetle Hotline at 469-8457.

The Mountain Pine Beetle, which continues to destroy so much of the pine forests in central BC, is also a threat in our area. Information on the Mountain Pine Beetle is available on the Ministry of Environment website: www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/conservation/pine_beele/pine_beele

It is important to properly manage infested trees. Damage is often undetected until the trees start to die and turn yellow or red. By this time, the beetles may have already moved on to other trees. Therefore it is critical to find the attacked trees and deal with them appropriately.



MBPP Trail Map at Stewart Rd. East Kiosk

In April, F.O.S.S. volunteers installed the map of the Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park trails.

←Checking out the new sign are Dave and Tracey Atherfold.

In June, F.O.S.S. volunteers will start to install 18x24 maps at the major junctions in Myra-Bellevue.



Scorched Sole Ultra Run

On Saturday June 3, 2006, the Kelowna Running Club will host the *Scorched Sole Ultra Run* in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. This out and back race offers either a 25 km course or a 50 km course which includes a summit of Little White Mountain (7,100' in elevation). Both races start and finish at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead. You can get further information and entry forms on-line at www.scorchedsole.com or contact the Race Director, Shirlee Ross at (250) 862-2515 or Media Director Tammy Craig at (250) 808-1971.



Scorched Sole Race Director Shirlee Ross (L) and Trail Runner Margaret Scott (R) on Bellevue Creek Trestle

An undertaking like this takes a huge amount of planning, and needs the support of many volunteers. Please contact Shirlee or Tammy if you can help out with the race.

Rutland Senior Secondary Students to Work on Trails

Fifteen students from the Rutland Sr. Secondary Forestry Program are working in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park this month. Under the supervision of RSS Forestry teacher Wayne Price, the students will widen the trail into Angel Spring, construct water bars, and make other trail improvements. If time permits, they will also work on the Fairlane Trail extension east of Priest Creek. This project is a partnership between BC Parks,

F.O.S.S. and Rutland Senior Secondary School.



F.O.S.S. is also partnering with the RSS Forestry Program for 5 days of work on the Mission Creek Trails, on Crown Land in the Joe Rich/McCulloch area.

← BC Parks' Area Supervisor Mike Ladd and F.O.S.S. President Grant Rice diverting water off the Angel Spring Trail. RSS Forestry students are constructing water bars on this trail to mitigate erosion from spring run-off.

Dirt Bikes & ATVs—If I Can't Ride in Provincial Parks... Where Can I Ride?

It seems like this is a recurring theme in F.O.S.S. newsletters. We remind people that under BC Park regulations, dirt bikes, ATVs and other off-road vehicles are not permitted in Myra-Bellevue or Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks. The only exception is when work is being undertaken by BC Parks' staff, their contractors, or authorized volunteers (who will be clearly identified).

Over the years, F.O.S.S. and BC Parks have spent a considerable amount of money purchasing signs to help educate park users. These are located at recognized entrances to MBPP, along the park boundaries and at the Stewart Rd. East Information kiosk. In addition, numerous articles have been written in FOSS newsletters and local newspapers. F.O.S.S. has attempted to get the message out in a non-confrontational way. The good news is that most people are complying! However, there is still a small minority who aren't. F.O.S.S. is working to promote a positive message—since you can't recreate in Myra-Bellevue or Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Parks.....where can you take your ORV? (Off-Road Vehicle)

- * A large area of Crown Land adjacent to Bear Creek Main FSR was designated a "Resource Management Zone" (RMZ) during the Okanagan Shuswap Land Resource Management Plan approved in 2001. **The Bear Creek Motorized Recreation Area** was established here, and organized groups such as the *Okanagan Trail Riders Club* are working hard to promote responsible off-road recreation.
- * There are numerous logging roads and trails on the **Crown Land** located on the South Slopes outside the boundaries of the 2 Provincial Parks. The **Recreation Sites and Trails Section** of the **Ministry of Tourism, Sports & Arts** is responsible for regulating public use of this land. Director Bill Marshall advised F.O.S.S. that Crown Lands are available for public recreation use and off-road vehicles are allowed unless specifically prohibited. His ministry is currently working on both an ATV and a mountain bike trails strategy.

Tick Season! While you are out enjoying the South Slopes, watch for ticks! In April, three F.O.S.S. members returned from a 2 hour hike with a total of 14 ticks!! The BC Government Pest Management Website advises:

Removal of Attached Ticks Many methods have been developed over the years for removing feeding ticks which connect themselves to their host with small, barbed mouthparts. Ticks do not burrow under the skin. A number of the more drastic techniques such as using a hot cigarette, gasoline, or hot matches to induce the tick to detach itself are unreliable and may cause injury to the person involved. Ticks are most safely and effectively removed by a slow and gentle pull without twisting, using tweezers or fingers. This will normally remove the tick with the mouthparts attached. The wound should be treated with an antiseptic.



Personal Protection The following precautions will decrease the likelihood of tick attachment.

1. Wear high boots or tuck pant cuffs into socks. Tuck shirt into pants. Do not wear short pants. Application of commercial insect repellents containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) to the pants may assist in repelling ticks.
2. If possible, avoid game trails or old roads overgrown or closely lined with vegetation. Tick levels may be high in areas frequented by animals.
3. When resting, sit on a bare rock, a ground sheet, or a vegetation-free area instead of stretching out on vegetation.

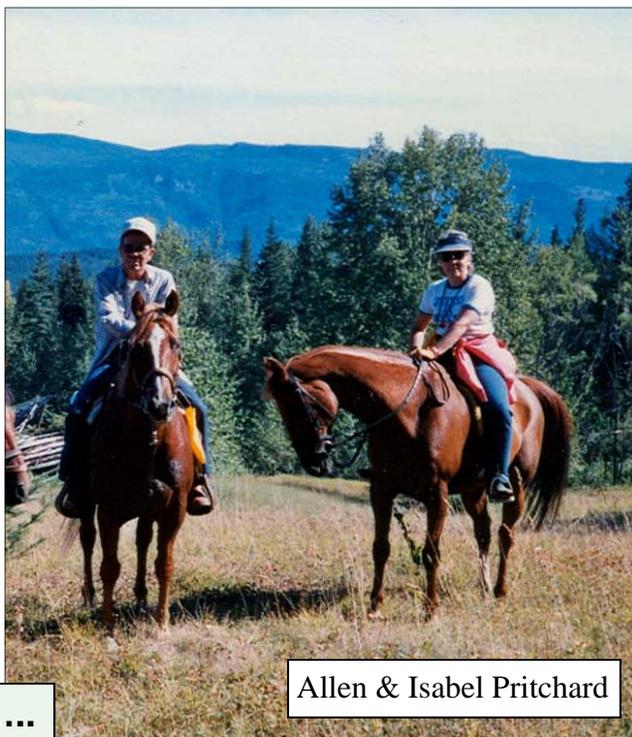
Make daily examinations for ticks, paying particular attention to the pubic region, the base of the skull, and the scalp. Check the backs of everyone in the group and carefully inspect any children. Clothes should be closely examined for ticks, especially near the collar, after hanging them overnight.

In Memory of Allen Pritchard

Allen Pritchard, a charter member of the F.O.S.S. and a regular volunteer in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, passed away on April 4, 2006. He is survived by his wife Isabel (a F.O.S.S. director), his mother, and two sons and their families.

Allen had a life-long love of horses and riding, and spent many happy times riding the trails of the South Slopes. In recent years he began walking the trails as well.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in memory of Allen can make it to the Friends of the South Slopes Society, who will install a bench in Myra-Bellevue PP at a viewpoint chosen by the family .



Allen & Isabel Pritchard



←Repairs.....

April 9, 2006 A F.O.S.S. volunteer replaces a rock at Harvard gate that vandals had dislodged. BC Parks' staff and F.O.S.S. volunteers made a number of fence repairs this spring after vandals took down fencing to allow vehicles to enter Myra-Bellevue.

BC Parks and F.O.S.S. are currently sharing the cost to extend the post and rail fencing further south along the boundary between the Arthon gravel pit and MBPP.

Improvements to Stewart Rd. West Parking Area:

In partnership with the City of Kelowna Parks' Department, F.O.S.S. initiated projects to improve the City's parking lot at the end of Stewart Road West.

A culvert was installed at the entrance to the parking area, and the perimeter was fenced.

The City will open & close the gate on a daily basis. The parking lot will be open from dawn to dusk.

Graffiti Cleanup— April 26, 2006 Volunteers from the Crawford Estates Neighbourhood Association, Friends of the South Slopes and the Telus Community Connections Volunteers pitched in to clean the graffiti off the wall at the end of Stewart Rd. West. This project was done through the City of Kelowna Graffiti Eradication & Prevention Program. You can report graffiti on public or private property to the City of Kelowna Graffiti Hotline: 469-8600 or e-mail a report to graffiti@kelowna.ca. When leaving a message, please provide as much detail as possible.



..On the 'Outhouse Trail', May 2006

How to Contact your F.O.S.S. Directors:

Mailing Address: Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC, V1W 4A6
e-mail: info@foss-kelowna.org **Website:** foss-kelowna.org

