



2008 AGM

Fifty six people attended F.O.S.S.' Annual General Meeting held Jan. 10th, 2008.

Barb Davidson, a Park Planner with the City of Kelowna, spoke on the **Mountain Bike Community Profile**. This is the first phase of a mountain bike strategy for the Central Okanagan that is being developed by the City of Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan and BC Parks. An on-line survey in 2007 resulted in 651 responses. The complete report is available at: www.kelowna.ca/CM/Page1269.aspx

F.O.S.S. President Dan Hobson presented a PowerPoint prepared by **John Hawkings, Provincial Trails Manager for the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts**. The presentation highlighted BC's Recreation Trails Strategy. In collaboration with BC Parks, the Provincial Ministry of Tourism Sports and the Arts is undertaking the BC Recreation Trail Strategy, a coordinated approach to a Provincial Trail System. It will consist of 4 phases. The first phase (Background Report and development of a strategy process) is complete and is available on the Ministry of Tourism Sports and the Arts website. During the first phase of the Strategy, feedback from over 90 trail stakeholder, government and First Nations organizations



City of Kelowna Park Planner Barb Davidson — Presenting the Mountain Bike Community Profile

resulted in an identified list of 10 key issues affecting recreation trails in BC. (see below). F.O.S.S. was one of the respondents to the survey

The second phase is underway—a trail committee and community workshops and open houses. Isabel Pritchard sits as the only equestrian member of the Provincial Trails Committee and represents the Horse Council of BC. Isabel is also a F.O.S.S. director.

The Vision for the Provincial Trails Strategy is **“A world-renowned network of sustainable trails, accessible to all, that foster social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for trail users, communities and the province”** In addition to the PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Hawkings, Dan Hobson expanded on some of the health & wellness, economic, spiritual and other values of our South Slopes trail system.

Top Ten Issues

1. Access
2. Limited funding
3. Insurance/liability
4. Environmental issues
5. Limited resources
6. Trails information
7. Signage
- 8/9. Legislation (tie)
- 8/9. Increasing trail use (tie)
10. Compliance & enforcement

Temporary Closure for Stewart Road East Trailhead

BC Parks' Area Manager Mike Ladd advises that the parking lot will be closed to vehicles during spring breakup until the parking surface dries up.

Blowdowns on the South Slopes

As if the impact of the 2003 Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park forest fire and the resulting issue of windfalls on the trails isn't enough of a problem.....a large wind event on Nov. 12, 2007 resulted in blocked trails and roads in both Okanagan Mtn. and Myra-Bellevue Provincial Parks. Crawford Trail in MBPP was the most seriously impacted by these blowdowns. BC Parks' Area Manager Mike Ladd said that Upper Crawford Trail is "annihilated".



\$20,000 in funding was made available to BC Parks to start clearing the impacted trails. Work began in early February. Crews have cleared Little White Trail and are currently working on Crawford Trail north of the KVR., Funding is not anticipated to be enough to clear Crawford Trail between the KVR and Little White. Mike advises that it may be 1-2 years before there will be funding to clear some trails. Some sections of Crawford Trail are so devastated that a re-routing of the trail may be required.

← Blowdowns by Myra Canyon trestle bypass trail at the junction with Little White Road (Photo Credit: Mike Ladd)

Fuel Reduction Project in Myra-Bellevue

In early January, Ministry of Environment contractors started removing some trees and underbrush along the northern park boundary. This is part of a fuel management strategy to reduce the risk of wildfires. It was one of the recommendations made in the Filion Report after the 2003 Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park forest fire. The work is focusing on removing hazard trees and beetle attack with some pruning and thinning.

The areas where crews are working will be temporarily closed to the public. Signs are posted at the access points.

Thanks for the Refreshments!

Once again, Sharon Adams organized and served the refreshments at F.O.S.S.' AGM, She also prepared a veggie platter.

Home baked goodies and a fruit plate were provided by the Luxmoore Road ladies- Shirley Truitt, Ruth Patrick, Daphne Richard and Anne Mackay.



Daphne & Ruth



Sharon

Crawford Trail Adventure

By Sharon Adams

My daughter and son-in-law were visiting over Christmas and they wanted to go cross country skiing. For quite some time I had wanted to get up higher in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and now I had someone to accompany me. I had seen the blowdown report from B.C. Parks and I interpreted "heavy blowdown on Upper Crawford Trail" to mean the section of the trail above the K.V.R. I suggested that we get a ride up Little White FSR to the Kettle Valley rail bed, ski to Crawford Trail Junction and then ski down to one of the Myra Bellevue park trail heads. I anticipated that the outing might take us three to four hours and I thought we might have to take our skis off occasionally to negotiate steep or difficult areas.

When we were dropped off the sun was trying to shine and we got some lovely views of the valley during our ski along the KVR. Several trees had fallen across the it but they had been bucked and we were able to ski unimpeded. We met one quad between Little White Forest Service Road and the Crawford Trail Junction.

There were several very large trees across the trail very close to the Lost Lake Trail/Crawford Trail junction just below the KVR It was fascinating to see that these were live trees that had been totally uprooted. We encountered several smaller blowdowns as we descended to the junction with Bellevue Access where we



Sharon Adams on a less adventurous trip in January...snow shoeing Bellevue Access Trail

finally took our skis off and carried them.

It was very difficult to see where the trail went from that point because many of the orange trail markers were on trees that had blown down. My son-in-law is very experienced in the backcountry having grown up in Sparwood, and he did a wonderful job of picking out where the trail must be. North of Bellevue Access, Crawford Trail was crisscrossed with both live and burned fallen trees. When we came out on the slope above Crawford Lookout, the devastation was spectacular. Trees were lying down over large areas on both sides of the canyon. In hindsight, we should have turned around at Bellevue Access but I kept expecting the blowdown to lessen as we got below Crawford Lookout.

Our main problem was the time that it took to clamber over fallen trees while carrying our skis and poles. The trail was more obvious where it followed the edge of the canyon but it was also dangerous in several spots because we had to walk very close to the edge in order to cross downed trees (while negotiating large branches which caught at our skis and poles). Crawford Trail winds considerably between Bellevue Lookout and Sandy Knoll and it was here we ran into more difficulty because the snow was deep, the trail was indistinct and we were running out of daylight. I thought that it would be smooth sailing from the Sandy Knoll to the top of the Arthon property, but the blowdown continued all the way to where Crawford Trail exits the park. Our three hour ski in the park became a six hour adventure that we will talk about for years to come. My daughter says she's never going in the forest with me again, and my son-in-law, being the adventurous sort, tells me that he'll just ask more



Anne Mackay enjoying a winter ride on Fairlane Trail

2008 Board of Directors

Acclaimed at Jan 10 AGM

Returning—

Doug Black
Herb Blamire
Nick Fiorante
Penny Gubbels
Dan Hobson
Anne Mackay
Isabel Pritchard
Cathy Richards
Pete Spencer
Dan Wood

reelection, but both will remain involved with F.O.S.S. as volunteers. Sharon sits on the Adopt-A-Trail Committee.

New Board Members

Jason Tomm
Steve Cawley

2007 Directors Sharon Adams & Mark Coffey did not stand for

2008 Officers

(elected at the Feb. 14, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting)

President: Dan Hobson
Vice President: Isabel Pritchard
Treasurer: Steve Cawley
Secretary: Penny Gubbels

Local Businesses Donate Prizes for F.O.S.S. AGM

Thanks for the Support

**Cyclepath
Telus
Kelowna Cycle
Gerick Cycle & Sport
Pete Spencer**

**....Another perfect winter's day on the South Slopes
Lost Lake Trail south east of Outhouse Trail**

Adopt A Trail in 2007

....by Anne Mackay, Chair AAT Committee

258.5 hours were recorded in 2007 by F.O.S.S. Adopt-A-Trail volunteers. Anne reports that this number is likely much lower than actual hours. She reminds the AAT volunteers that every time they are on "their" trail it is recordable as volunteer time, as they are monitoring the condition of the trail and keeping their eyes open for maintenance.

After you've accumulated volunteer hours you can e-mail F.O.S.S.

info@foss-kelowna.org

If you don't have access to e-mail, please report your volunteer hours by phone to Anne at 764-6396



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