



Staffing Changes at BC Parks

BC Parks recently reorganized its work areas resulting in a number of staffing changes in the Southern Interior. Mike Ladd, Area Supervisor with BC Parks for Okanagan East for the past four years, has been appointed as Boundary Area Supervisor.

The Board of directors of the Friends of the South Slopes Society is very appreciative of the positive relationship it has had with Mike over the past four years and we wish him all the best in his new and challenging assignment.

Kevin Wilson was appointed Area Supervisor-Okanagan East, which includes Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. **Other areas under Kevin's Management are a) Provincial Parks:** Browne Lake, Ellison, Fintry, Wrinkly Face, Greystokes and Kekuli and b) **Ecological Reserves:** Big White Mountain, Campbell Brown, Browne Lake, and Lily Pad Lake, as well as Fintry Protected Area and TNT-Shorts Creek. Kevin has worked as a Senior Ranger in the North Okanagan, South Okanagan and in Manning Park.

Erin Gunoff returns this season to her position as Senior Ranger with the same park assignments as Kevin. Ranger Tricia Klein's principal assignment is Myra-Bellevue.

Both Erin and Tricia will be on patrol in MBPP and they look forward to meeting with you in the park.



F.O.S.S. President Dan Hobson (right) thanking BC Parks Area Supervisor Mike Ladd (left)



◀ **April 28, 2008** Newly appointed BC Parks Area Supervisor Kevin Wilson seen clearing windfalls on Big Drops Trail, Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

F.O.S.S. volunteers certified in St. John's Ambulance Emergency First Aid are assisting Park's staff.

Many of the lower trails have been checked out and cleared and more trails will be cleared later this spring and summer.

With the sheer volume of trees falling, it is impossible to keep all trails cleared of windfalls. BC Parks staff will do their best, but please be patient and continue to observe-record-report problems you encounter on the trails.

Phone (250) 490-8200 during regular office hours.

Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan

by Mike Kittmer
Director, Cross Country/All Mountain MTBco

In response to the City of Kelowna Parks Department's work on developing a mountain bike strategy for the Central Okanagan, a new mountain bike club has been formed. For the mountain bike strategy to progress, the mountain biking community must come together and show its support. There was already a small group of semi organized riders performing trail maintenance on some of the Westside trails and in Gillard. This group has been doing a great job bringing riders together and bringing trail building standards up to the International Mountain Bike Association levels. This group and some others held an initial meeting where about fifty mountain bikers showed up and signed on as members. The club is named MTBco (*Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan*).

The club is very new and all involved are busy so things will move along slowly as we set up, get organized and set our direction. Building club membership is the main goal as the City's Parks Department has made it clear that there must be a large, united mountain biking community. The first goal of the new club is to seek insurance, change over all old Kelowna Mountain Bike Club assets, accounts, non profit name, etc. Most of this work is complete now or very close to completion. The club has started a new website called: <http://www.mtbco.ca>.

MTBco has been set up so that all disciplines of mountain biking are represented. There is a trail director for various key areas such as the Westside (Powers Creek, etc), Gillard, and the Postill area. Myself (Mike Kittmer) and Stuart Evans (both City of Kelowna employees) have the positions of 'Cross Country/All Mountain' directors for areas such as McDougall Rim Trail on the Westside, Knox Mountain Park and Myra Bellevue. We will address Issues that may arise in these areas as they relate to mountain biking access, interaction with other users etc. I specifically

asked that this position be created and that I fill it. This is in part due to the fact that many riders in the club are interested more in the downhill areas but also because I already know the groups such as FOSS and FOKM that oversee these areas. I also have more of a personal interest in protecting and developing cross country trail areas and an interest in steering the Parks Department's strategy to focus on these types of areas.

On behalf of my immediate group of riding friends, we would also like to say thank you for everything F.O.S.S. has done to keep Myra Bellevue the gem that it is.



2008 Volunteer Agreement Signed With BC Parks

The F.O.S.S. Board recently signed a volunteer agreement with BC Parks. This agreement is effective from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

General projects include relocating, restoring, improving and/or decommissioning trails that have been impacted by overuse or erosion

- Adopt-a-trail to assist with general care and maintenance of trails

Specific projects include:

- Installation of the Angel Springs interpretive signs**
- *Improvements to the Angel Springs parking lot**
- Construction of the Myra Bailout extension from Hromek to Piper's Trail**
- Vapour Trail improvements**
- *Improvements or relocation of Fireweed trail**
- Other projects that the Board endorses and BC Parks approves**
(*subject to approval by BC Parks)

History of the Friends of the South Slopes Society

The *Friends of the South Slopes Society* incorporated on Feb. 29, 1996. The first AGM was held March 1, 1996 and Bill Redston was elected President.

The two objectives of the first Board were to proceed with an application for a park, and to intervene in an application for gravel extraction/ asphalt re-cycling plant on Crown land near Stewart Rd. East. In November 1997, a few people interested in the orderly management of the Crown Lands of the "South Slopes" met at Mike and Judy Whitaker's home to develop a plan for recreational use and environmental preservation of the South Slopes. This new direction for F.O.S.S. was set at the April 15, 1998 AGM.

Board Members elected at that meeting were:

Mike Whitaker, President
Daphne Richard Vice President
Peter Thompson Treasurer
Penny Gubbels Secretary.
Eric Rayson, Isabel Pritchard, Bill Redston and Ian Pooley were elected as directors

Recently the F.O.S.S. Board met to review its 'Vision' and look at its Mission, Values and Goals. Director Cathy Richards led the Board through a 'brainstorming' session where its Mission Statement was affirmed:

F.O.S.S. works with partners in an environmentally responsible manner to create a legacy of sustainable and accessible trails on the South Slopes for the benefit of our community.

The Kelowna Running Club 3rd Annual Scorched Sole Ultra

Will be run on the trails of lower Myra-Bellevue on Saturday June 7, 2008. Participants can enter either the 25 or 50 km event.

For more information, contact the Race Directors: Shirlee Ross @ (250) 470-9759 or Dan Crockett @ (250) 861-1092 or visit the website: <http://www.scorchedsole.com/>

Following the 2007 Scorched Sole Ultra, the Kelowna Running Club generously donated \$500 to F.O.S.S. for projects in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park



▲ 2007 Scorched Sole Ultra (Photo courtesy of KRC)
More photos available on the KRC website.



Teresa Brinton
Taking the perfect wildflower photo

Words of Wisdom

...from local gardening guru Don Burnett

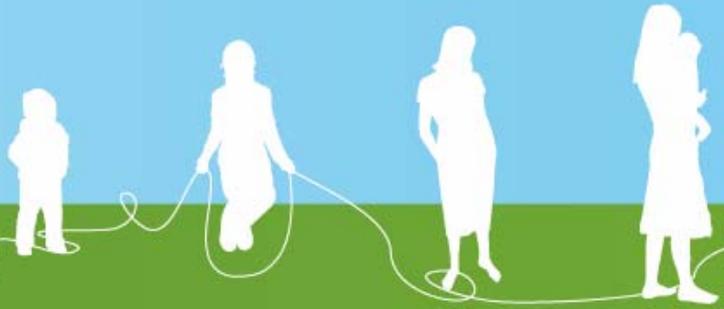
When asked, "When can I plant my annuals?" Don quoted his dad who said -

"When the snow is gone from the north side of the South Slopes"

Don's grandfather had a saying that
"The ground should feel comfortable to the bare bottom before it is safe to plant"

KELOWNA 2030

greening our future



As part of a new public planning program called **Kelowna 2030: Greening Our Future**, the City of Kelowna is looking for input from a wide range of citizens and groups. You have the opportunity to complete a short survey which will provide your input for a revised Official Community Plan. This plan is the City's guide for land use, development, transportation and infrastructure decisions for the next twenty years.

Some of the questions the City is asking its citizens are.....

What will Kelowna be like in 2030? How can we make sure our children will still want to live here when they grow up?

How can we be more sustainable? How can we protect the environment, eliminate gridlock, and enhance the economy, all at the same time?

There will be a number of ways you can contribute to this process. Up to May 25th, you can complete Survey #1 on the City of Kelowna website <http://kelowna2030.ca/> An Open House is scheduled for June 4th at Fire Hall #1 on Enterprise Way (time TBA) or get more information at booths set up at:

- Rutland May Days May 17-18
- Mayor's Environmental Expo May 24
- Family Fun Day May 25
- Fat Cat Festival June 5-7
- Canada Day Festival July 1



Enjoying a spring ride on Salamander Trail, MBPP

This is your chance to let the City know what you want to see in Kelowna's future – more support for hiking or cycling trails, horseback riding areas? Better access to forested trails? Or anything else you are interested in.

It's Tick Season!

Ticks are out (and abundant!) in Myra-Bellevue this spring.

UBC researcher Jack Teng is gathering up-to-date information on the distribution and abundance of ticks in the Okanagan. You can assist by collecting any ticks you find, complete a short survey, and mail the tick(s) in a sealed Ziploc bag to:

Okanagan Citizen-Based Tick Survey
c/o Jack Teng
University of BC
2202 Main Mall, Vancouver BC
V6T 1Z4

The survey is available on-line at:
<http://www.okanaganticksurvey.com>

(Thanks to F.O.S.S. Adopt-a-trail volunteer Brad Wright for providing this information)



Myra Canyon Trestles

Sunday, June 22, 2008

(The following article is courtesy of the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society and is reprinted with their permission from their website at <http://www.myratrestles.com/>)

The Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society: The day that people around the world have waited for is almost here! Myra Canyon – virtually destroyed in the Okanagan Mountain Park fire in 2003 - will officially open on Sunday June 22 with a celebration for everyone. All trestles destroyed by the fires have been rebuilt to historical specifications using British Columbia wood and labour.

A fun-filled day has been planned to show our appreciation for the community and everyone who has been a part of the reconstruction of the trestles in Myra Canyon. The public is invited to come enjoy the stunning sights and sounds of Myra Canyon for a memorable day of walking or cycling throughout the canyon. You will meet historical characters from the past who helped build Myra Canyon, and you will enjoy complementary food, dance to live music, and breathe in the history of this memorable Canadian heritage site located right above Kelowna, British Columbia.

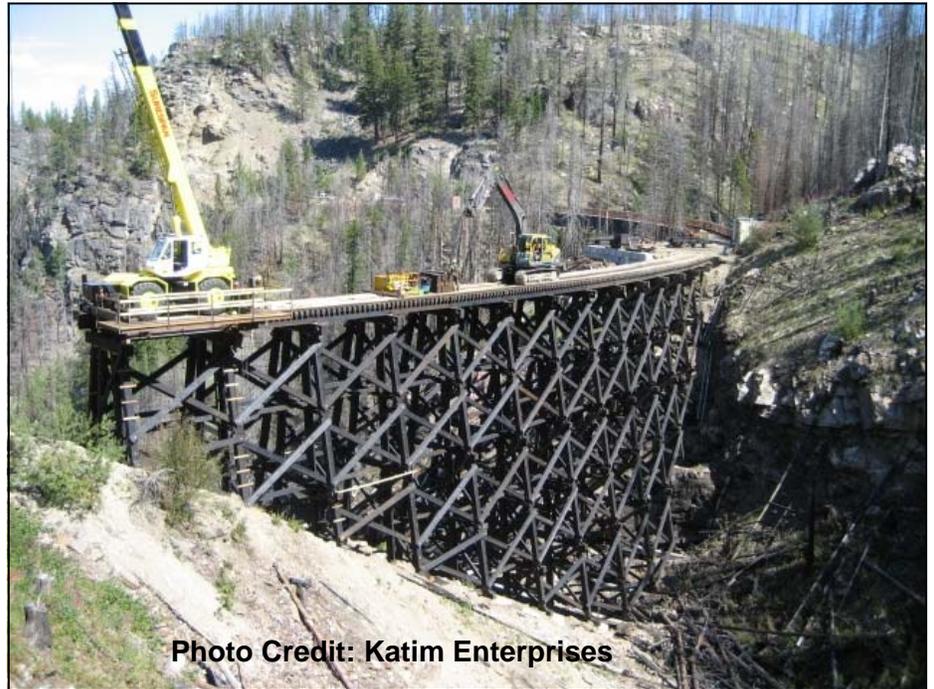


Photo Credit: Katim Enterprises

Getting to Myra Canyon

You have your choice of taking a free bus ride up to Myra Canyon from the main entrance to Okanagan College on KLO Road in Kelowna or you can drive up. The bus schedule is outlined on the following page. If you plan to drive up, take KLO Road to McCulloch Road, follow McCulloch Road past Gallagher's Canyon Golf Course, until you reach Myra Forest Service Road. It is marked with signs. Follow that road 8 ½ kms to the rail bed and the Myra parking area. Avid cyclists may wish to access the festivities from the June Springs entrance on the west side of the Canyon.

Where To Go When You Arrive

At Myra Station, there will be parking for approximately 200 vehicles. Volunteers will show you where to park and you will be able to cycle or walk throughout Myra Canyon. Once you arrive at the parking area, the main activities will take place at a well marked staging area between Trestle 18 and Trestle 17. This is about a 20 minute walk from the main parking area.

Volunteers Needed!

A lot of work goes in to organizing an event like this! Katim Enterprises is coordinating volunteers for traffic control and has asked F.O.S.S. for assistance. There will be two—four hour shifts. The first shift will be from 7:45 am to 11:45 am and the second shift will be from 11:45 am to 3:45 pm. Most positions will be in the parking lot at the Myra trailhead and a couple positions will be at the College Parking lot on KLO Rd. Transportation will be provided to get volunteers up to the Myra parking lot as long as the volunteers can get themselves to the College Parking lot.

Can you help? Please contact: Leigh-Ann Johnson at Katim Enterprises (250)766-1018 by May 31st.

Myra Trestles

Grand Opening - Agenda

8:15 - First Bus Leaves Okanagan College for Myra Canyon Parking available at Okanagan College in the Residence Parking Lot on KLO Road in Kelowna. Complimentary shuttle service to the Myra Canyon parking lot starts at 8:15 AM to 1:45 PM leaving at half hour intervals. Shuttle service from the Myra Canyon parking lot to Okanagan College will run all day at half hour intervals until 4:00 PM. Please note that bicycles are not permitted on these buses. If you plan on bringing a bike, you must drive up.

9:00-11:00—Flapjack Breakfast Sponsored by Sysco Kelowna and hosted by Mission Lions Club at Main Staging Area at Trestle 17 Come and enjoy the views to the west with the morning sun! The first 500 people enjoy a complimentary flapjack breakfast sponsored by Sysco Kelowna. Blithely Reekin' takes the stage at 10:00.

11:00-2:00 - Lunchtime BBQ Sponsored by Sysco Kelowna and hosted by Salvation Army and Mission Lions Club at Main Staging Area at Trestle 17 The first 500 people enjoy a complimentary lunch sponsored by Sysco Kelowna

Live music performed by:

The Kettle Valley Brakemen: 11:00 - 11:45 & 1:00 - 1:45

Blithely Reekin': 10:00 - 10:45 & 12:00 - 12:45

11:30 - Ceremonial Walk Through Myra Canyon to Trestle 11 Starting at Trestle 17 everyone is encouraged to join in the Myra Opening Walk led by a bagpipe procession, honouring Scottish Descent of the McCulloch family. The walk will take about 30 minutes and take you through two tunnels and across 6 historic trestles and finish on Trestle 11 for the last spike!

12:00 - The Driving of the Last Spikes into Trestle 11 Watch the driving of the last spikes driven in by Andrew McCulloch, the engineer who built Myra Canyon and other local dignitaries as they compete to see who is swiftest of hand and strength!

12:30 - Ceremonial Walk Back to Trestle 17 After watching the driving of the last spikes, return to Trestle 17 for a barbeque hotdog lunch, enjoy the music, inspect the trestles, visit historical displays enroute and visit the special presentation tent to see how the trestles were rebuilt.

3:00 - Event Wind-up Amazing and exciting draw prizes await those lucky kids who participate in children's activities

4:00 - Last Bus Leaves Myra Canyon

Help The Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society Plan for this big event by Pre-Registering (no obligation to attend even if you pre-register)

There is a link to a 15-second survey where you can RSVP that you are interested in coming. If you aren't 100% positive about coming, that's okay; it still helps if you give us a heads up that you would like to come. Thanks for your assistance with our planning and please pre-register!

www.myratrestles.com/)



Volunteer Opportunity!



Truck Drivers Needed Sunday, July 6, 2008

For the Trails BC Trans Canada Trail Challenge

Myra Canyon to Penticton on the Kettle Valley Rail Trail F.O.S.S. will assist Trails BC with some of the volunteer help needed to host this event. Cyclists who wish to ride the entire 80 km course have the option of meeting in Penticton and being transported by bus to the start of the TCT Challenge at Myra Canyon Trailhead. Trails BC needs volunteers to pick up rental trucks in Kelowna, drive to Penticton and load the bikes and transport them to the Myra Canyon Trailhead.

Five 22-24 ft. and five 16 ft. rental trucks will be used, each requiring a driver and a swamper. Ten TCT Challenge participants have signed up as swampers, but F.O.S.S. and Trails BC still need volunteer truck drivers. Volunteers will pick up the rental trucks in Kelowna early on July 6th and drive them to Penticton where the bikes will be loaded between 6-7 am and then driven back to the Myra Canyon Trailhead.

Trucks will then be returned to Budget Rent-a-Car. Drivers do not need a special license.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER BY CONTACTING Penny at 764-2303 and she will give your name and contact information to Trevor Lind, the Trails BC organizer/Okanagan.

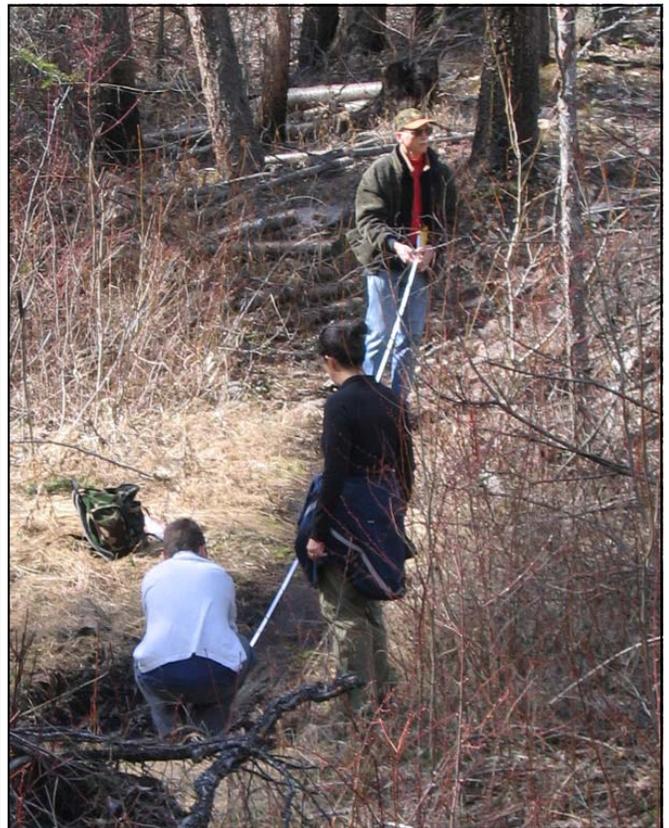
Notice of Temporary Closure of Lower Vapour Trail Between Swamp Thing and Race Classic

Date: Saturday, May 31st—all day

Project: Reconstruction of a boggy/wet section of the trail

*This is a joint project between BC Parks & F.O.S.S. **This volunteer project will include eight Telus employees who are volunteering as part of the Telus National Day of Service***

**PLEASE USE AN ALTERNATE
TRAIL FOR THE DURATION OF
THE PROJECT**



F.O.S.S. volunteers Jane, Cathy and Dan planning the May 31st Vapour Trail Project

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

