

# Friends of the South Slopes

## Winter 2011/2012



*Photo Credit: Rolf van Andrian (Rolf took this photo when he was back country skiing south of the KVR towards Little White Mtn.)*

### *BC Parks Volunteer Strategy Workshop*

On February 20, 2012, FOSS sent three representatives to a workshop in Penticton sponsored by BC Parks. Workshops were held at ten locations throughout the province. The purpose of the workshop was to solicit constructive comments on how BC Parks can improve the volunteer experience and modernize the volunteer program. Attendees included FOSS and representatives from the Okanagan Historical Society, Trans Canada Trail Society, Okanagan Similkameen Parks & Trails, Manning Park volunteers, Princeton Arts Council, equestrians, Friends of Kal Lake Park, Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society, and volunteer wardens from ecological reserves and recreation areas within the region.

Participants broke into small groups and brainstormed ideas on how BC Parks can improve the volunteer experience. The FOSS participants found the workshop to be a worthwhile experience. Participants presented many good ideas to the facilitators on how BC Parks can work more effectively to make volunteering easier. Some of the ideas presented were: streamline the Park Use Permit process so that it is tailored towards

volunteers and not Park Facility Operators, provide liability and accident insurance for volunteers, improve communication, provide a database of volunteer groups so they can network, provide more transparency (Park Use Permits and Facility Operator contracts), and find meaningful ways to recognize the efforts of the volunteers.

Ministry of Environment staff will prepare a draft document that will be circulated later this year.

Did you know that BC Parks has a Facebook page? <http://www.Facebook.com/YourBCParks>



*Blow downs on Fireweed Trail, MBPP  
Photo Credit: Brad Wright*

# 2011 Wrap up!

FOSS held its Annual General Meeting on January 12th, 2012. We had a great turnout—sixty four people attended.

Guest Speaker Wayne Wilson presented a slide show on his six week voyageur canoe trip in 2011. Around 125 paddlers in the Columbia River Canoe Brigade retraced the 1,800 km trip down the Columbia River system to Astoria, Oregon, on the Pacific Ocean. The event was held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of explorer/map maker David Thompson's historic journey.



Refreshments for the AGM were once again ably organized by Sharon Adams and the Luxmoore ladies.

Door prizes were donated by Pete Spencer, Penny Gubbels, Al Bischoff, Teresa MacKenzie and FortisBC—who once again provided a number of prizes for the event. Hats off to FortisBC for their ongoing support.

## Park Use Permit

Projects and activities undertaken by FOSS in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park are approved under a ten year Park Use Permit. Under this permit FOSS is required to submit an Annual Operating Plan. The 2012 AOP is posted to the FOSS website so our members and the general public can see what projects are planned for this year in the two parks.

<http://www.foss-kelowna.org/>

FOSS projects outside of the two provincial parks are developed in partnership with the land managers. For example, this year FOSS is working with the City of Kelowna Parks' Department to complete the re-route of upper Priest Creek Trail in the city's Priest Creek Park.

## Our Volunteers are Super-Stars!

FOSS volunteers gave 1,357.50 hours of their time in 2011. This total includes:

Adopt a Trail	338 hrs.
Other trail maintenance,	
Myra-Bellevue	80.5 hrs.
Okanagan Mtn. Prov. Park	27 hrs.
Projects in Priest Creek Park	103 hrs.
Stewart Rd. East	
Interpretive Trail Committee	293 hrs.
Website updates	
(Thanks, David Brooke)	29 hrs.

***Thank You to everyone who “gave” in 2011—either by volunteering for a project, sitting on the board of directors, donating to FOSS or helping in any way.***

## Your 2012 Board of Directors

Al Bischoff	Isabel Pritchard
Vivien Blair	Pete Spencer
Penny Gubbels	Marty Stephan
Jessica Hobden	Marilyn Westlake
Andrew McIntosh	Brad Wright
Teresa MacKenzie	Moshe Yarosky

## Officers of the Board:

*President:* Al Bischoff  
*Vice-President:* Isabel Pritchard  
*Treasurer:* Pete Spencer  
*Secretary:* Penny Gubbels

**How to reach your board members:**  
**e-mail them at: [info@foss-kelowna.org](mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org)**

## Hunting in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

Six years ago the FOSS Board first raised its concern with BC Parks regarding the safety of allowing hunting in the Crawford Trails area of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The board presented its view that there may be a public safety issue because of the number of trails criss-crossing the park and the high usage of the trails by the public who cycle, hike, run, ride and snowshoe on the trails. The board was very clear in its correspondence with provincial government employees that FOSS is NOT an anti-hunting group and that our concerns were directed specifically to the trails north of the Trans Canada Trail (KVR).

Since 2006, the board has raised this issue on a number of other occasions—in letters dated July 13, 2008 and Sept. 19, 2008 addressed to Ministry of Environment staff, e-mail messages in 2010 to Fish & Wildlife/Ministry of Environment and to BC Parks, a letter dated January 30, 2011 to the Executive Director of BC Parks and most recently a letter dated Oct. 8, 2011 to Tom Bell, Regional Manager, Ministry of Environment, Kootenay-Okanagan Parks and Protected Areas. On Jan. 16, 2012 Mr. Bell responded to FOSS *“...regarding the concerns for public safety due to recreational hunting activity in Myra Bellevue Provincial Park. BC Park staff have been monitoring any known safety issues or complaints arising from recreational hunting in the park this fall...BC Parks received only one recreational hunting complaint this season in Myra Bellevue Provincial Park. This complaint was general in nature and was not a specific safety related incident. To consider banning hunting in all or part of a provincial park we would need detailed incident information which would allow the cause(s) to be investigated and recommendations made...Due to no known incidents or identified safety issues we would not consider recreational hunting as a risk to the public at this time.”*

So, when you are out on the trails, please be mindful that hunting is permitted in the Crawford Trails area of Myra-Bellevue Park.

**Photo Credit:**  
**Marilyn Westlake**



# The Back Page....



## **Photos:**

### ***Clockwise from top***

***Feb. 2012—View from McCulloch Rd. east of Hydraulic Creek. Kelowna lies in the distance, under a blanket of cloud***

***Snowshoeing—Nordic Trails, McCulloch Lake***

***Winter magic along 'Woolley's Revenge' in Myra-Bellevue***

***Young X-Country skiers enjoying the Nordic Trails near McCulloch Lake***

