

Friends of the South Slopes

May 2018



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Hi Everyone! Attention, please! Safety on the South Slopes

This is just a short note about the use of trails on the South Slopes. Trail safety is one of our top priorities - and all trail users bear that responsibility. Courtesy and common sense must always come first.

There have been a few very frightening and/or disturbing incidences reported in the last month. We would like to clarify and remind you of certain protocols and courtesies.

As the Parks, especially Myra Bellevue/Crawford area, become better known and busier, it may be that BC Parks will need to consider stricter guidelines when issuing permits for events held in our local Provincial Parks. In the meantime, while FOSS discusses our concerns with BC Parks, we ask you to please abide by the following:

First: Organizers/users scheduling an event, such as cycling or running races, **must** contact BC Parks for a Parks' Use Permit

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/permits/>

When you are issued a permit, please abide by the conditions and requirements, and post/distribute that information.

As a courtesy, FOSS (info@foss-kelowna.org) will help communicate the details of your event on the web (FOSS'events calendar) and/or Facebook. Please let us know exactly what, when, and the route, well in advance of the event. This is, primarily, an important safety concern, but it is also a common courtesy. For example, Park users, if they are aware of a scheduled event, will be able to avoid certain areas during the day of the competition, should they so choose. A recent occurrence during a cycling race could have led to serious injuries; horseback riders were forced off the trail by racers coming at high speeds, and jumping obstacles. Horses are very



frightened by speed - and especially air-born speed! They don't always hear what's coming until right in front of them as a cyclist appears - at speed! This is a dangerous situation for both parties. The same can be said for families and other Park users during similar events – please be aware and please be considerate. FOSS trusts that organizers will use appropriate flagging and signage (ie, 'race in progress' at all junctions, etc.) to ensure that other Park users are well aware of the event and the trails involved - and also it is understood that organizers will immediately remove all flagging/notices/garbage at the conclusion the event.

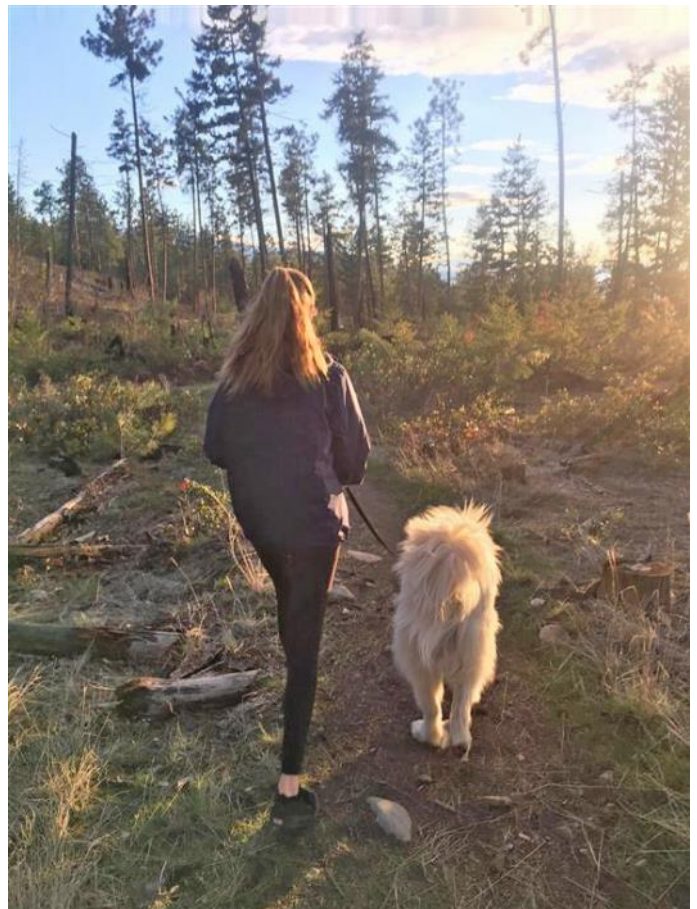
Secondly: To the event participants - the trails in Myra Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks are for ALL users: cyclists, hikers, equestrians, dog-walkers, etc. – at ALL times, even when there is an 'event' taking place. Trail runners do **not** have the right to ban or obstruct cyclists/other users from the trails during a race, as was reported recently. Please check with your event organizers: Did they let BC Parks and the **general** public know about the race schedule and plan? Please be careful and respectful; no one wants to hinder your efforts in the race, but, without proper notification of dates, times and routes, there is a **good** possibility that you may have to 'hold up' during the competition to accommodate other unsuspecting Park users. We have to always keep in mind that we share these trails. We all love the South Slopes and the opportunities they provide; let us not jeopardize what we have, in any way.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Check out FOSS' Calendar of Events on the Home Page of its website: www.foss-kelowna.org



Walkin' the dog—Myra-Bellevue PP

Upcoming events scheduled in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park: Information provided by Ed Atkinson, Area Supervisor, East Okanagan (BC Parks) - as of May 29, 2018

Date	Event	Organizer	Details
June 6	Mountain bike event	Chainline Cycle	6:00 – 7:30 pm. Mostly on lower trails in Myra-Bellevue
Sunday, June 10	Mountain bike event Crawford Kick-Off	MTBco	All day. Poker ride, kid’s skills camp
Sunday, June 10	Memorial Hike – starting at Ball Court	Liz Doersen	Raising funds in support of youth requiring mental health support and counselling.
Wed. June 20	Mountain bike event	Chainline Cycle	6-7:30 pm Mostly on lower trails in Myra-Bellevue
Sunday July 1	Okanagan Trestles Bike Tour	Glenn Bond	Starts at Myra Canyon Trestles and ends in Penticton. +- 600 participants.
Wed. July 4	Mountain bike event	Chainline Cycle	6-7:30 pm.
Sunday, July 22	Mountain bike event	MEC	Mountain bike race
Sunday, August 12	Trail running event	MEC	From Myra-Bellevue Protected Area Forest Service Rd. (KVR)
Sunday, Sept. 30	Cranksgiving mountain bike event	MTBco	Group rides

Wildhorse Traverse—Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park

P.A.C.E. Sports & Fitness (one of FOSS’ amazing Adopt a Trail Sponsors) is hosting a 50 km trail running event on Saturday June 2, 2018. The race starts in Bertram Creek Regional Park and ends in Naramata. More information is available on the P.A.C.E. Website <https://www.pacetrailseries.com/50k.html>

Trail Clearing/Repair

We are all working hard to clear the trails of the many winter-ravaged trees and repair the water-soaked areas – thank you to all of you! To those of you who have signed up (as ‘volunteer’ volunteers!) we will be in touch shortly as we undertake clean-up in certain areas – thank you!

And....

Still a few unpaid memberships for 2018 – thank you for your past support! You can renew your membership on the FOSS website (either electronically or by printing a membership form and mailing it in). Eighteen of our twenty Adopt-a-Trail sponsors have now renewed their commitments for this year; we sincerely appreciate all that you undertake on our behalf!

MEC has announced an ‘adventure travel program’ – MEC MTB Trips in the BC Coastal Mountains! www.mec.ca/travel