



Friends of the South Slopes Society

Mailing Address: Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna, BC V1W 4A6

Winter 2003/ 2004

MYRA BELLEVUE AND OK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARKS REMAIN CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It's been a very busy time for F.O.S.S. since the Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park forest fire.

With BC Parks' permission, FOSS volunteers have gone into Myra Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Parks to survey the damage. Both parks are severely damaged by the fire and many of the trails have downed or burned trees across them, many bridges are burned and the ground under the snow in both of these parks is a deep layer of ash. In Myra Bellevue there are GREEN areas in the Little White Mtn. section and the eastern areas of the park. Surveying is continuing in OK Mountain park to see how extensive the damage is. Some F.O.S.S. members, notably Eric Rayson and Fred Gubbels, started to remove some of the large trees across the trails in both parks. This work will continue (weather permitting).

Two of our directors have left the board and I would like to thank Bill Redston and Cathy Richards for their work over the last few years. I would like to welcome Sharon Adams on to the board. Sharon grew up in the OK Mountain Park area and will provide expertise on that park.

Fundraising for opening up the two parks has taken up quite a bit of time for F.O.S.S. The Central Okanagan Foundation Fire Relief fund the Provincial Gaming Commission and Montana's Restaurant have all provided funds for this cause. As well, F.O.S.S. still has funds from Interior Savings which will be applied to the Angel Spring area.

BC Parks must make the decision when to open up the parks. F.O.S.S. is working with BC Parks to achieve this goal.

Peter Thompson, President of FOSS

Directors Wanted!

There are two positions open on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the South Slopes Society. If you have a keen interest in the promotion of low impact recreation on the South Slopes, please call Peter Thompson at 764-7472



Lost Lake Single Track/Myra-Bellevue Park

Volunteer Agreement Signed

In November, F.O.S.S. signed a 'volunteer agreement' with BC Parks giving us permission to work in the two Provincial Parks while they remain closed to the public. This volunteer agreement authorizes F.O.S.S. to:

- * assess damage to trails, bridges and facilities and apply for reconstruction grants
- * develop lower elevation trails in Myra-Bellevue, along the urban interface on the northern perimeter of the park and re-build/decommission trails as needed

Volunteers have been at work throughout the winter. To date, Lost Lake Single Track (in Myra-Bellevue) and 1/2 of the Boulder Trail and sections of the Wild Horse Canyon Trail and the C.N. Trail (In Okanagan Mountain) have been cleared.

F.O.S.S. VOLUNTEERS WILL BE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE PARKS. THEY WILL BE WEARING SAFETY VESTS, SAFETY HATS AND "AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER" IDENTIFICATION.



Volunteer Eric Rayson in Okanagan Mtn. Park

Recognizing our Supporters

Montana's Cookhouse Kelowna

opened in December 2003 at 1500 Banks Rd. To celebrate, owner Peter Jeffery and operating partner Robert Rand invited members of F.O.S.S., the Central Okanagan Sailing Association and V.I.P. guests to enjoy complimentary bar and house specialties in return for a donation. This event was a huge success, and F.O.S.S. and COSA each received a cheque for \$3,200.00.



Peter Jeffery (L) presenting a cheque to Gillian Thomson (COSA) and Peter Thompson (FOSS)

Thanks to all the individuals who have donated to F.O.S.S., and in particular we wish to thank the **Rogers Family Trust** (Jim & Kathy Rogers) and **Irene and Fred Wood** for their generous support.

Stuart Burns Memorial

Stuart Burns loved to run, hike and cycle on the South Slopes. The Crawford Trails were a favourite mountain biking destination for Stuart and his two sons.

In November, Stuart was tragically killed while on a business trip to Korea. His family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations could be made to FOSS.

FOSS will consult with Stuart's widow Lynda and their three children to choose a suitable memorial.

Your 2004 F.O.S.S. Directors

Peter Thompson	President
Dan Wood	Vice-President
Grant Rice	Treasurer
Penny Gubbels	Secretary
Sharon Adams	Director
Todd Avison	Director
Isabel Pritchard	Director
Daphne Richard	Director
David Urness	Director
Reg Volk	Director



\$22,000 Grant Through the Central Okanagan Foundation

In mid-January, F.O.S.S. received a grant of \$22,000.00 from the **Fire Relief Fund administered by the Central Okanagan Foundation**. This cheque was presented to F.O.S.S. President, Peter Thompson (above right) by COF director Tom Fellhauer (left) during a site visit to Lost Lake in Myra-Bellevue Park where F.O.S.S. volunteers have been clearing trails. COF Executive Director Janice Henry and Grant Coordinator Sandi Oloffs joined F.O.S.S. directors Penny Gubbels and Peter Thompson to see firsthand one of the areas where the grant will be used - to rebuild two bridges over Priest Creek that were destroyed by last summer's wildfire.

The Central Okanagan Foundation is F.O.S.S.'s largest benefactor, with previous grants in 2000 and 2002. The COF was the major contributor to the construction of the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead.

The grant from the Fire Relief Fund will be used to rebuild bridges and culverts destroyed by the fire and to purchase new trail signs, provide safety equipment and training for volunteers, and for other construction materials.



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

What's Ahead for F.O.S.S. in 2004?

- In Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks...

- Volunteers will continue to clear trails so that when BC Parks re-opens the parks, cyclists, hikers, runners and equestrians will stay on the existing trails
- Once the snow is gone, volunteers will further assess trail and facility damage and make plans for reconstruction.
- FOSS will undertake projects to restore habitat and recreational opportunities on the South Slopes
- Signs will be purchased to educate the public about which trails are open and which trails are closed for rehabilitation

- In Myra-Bellevue...

- Improve trails and signage in the areas of the park that were not damaged by the fire but may have been impacted by fire suppression activities. These trails are along the interface with the city, and also east and west of Little White Forest Service Road
- Bring the trails up to BC Parks' standards
- When the park re-opens, encourage visitors to use "green" areas of the park so that areas burned by the fire will have a better opportunity to recover
- Repair fencing at the Trailhead and provide new fencing at the Harvard Rd. entrance to the park

- Promote the public's use of the extensive trail system on the crown land south-east of Myra-Bellevue Park (the Joe Rich, McCulloch Lake areas of the South Slopes)

- Complete projects delayed by the fire:

- Develop the Angel Springs Interpretive Trail. This project will be expanded to include the repositioning of the trail. The original trail was widened and used as a fire guard and was lost when this fire break was decommissioned.
- Parking Lot at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead
 - ...improve the surface of the parking lot - gravel and grade
 - ...complete the kiosk - install the information panels and landscape with native species
 - ...install a bike rack and picnic tables at the Trailhead
 - ...provide ongoing maintenance of Trailhead facilities: security, cleaning and pumping out the pit toilets

- And Beyond 2004

Directors are brainstorming ideas for the future. Some of the ideas under discussion are:

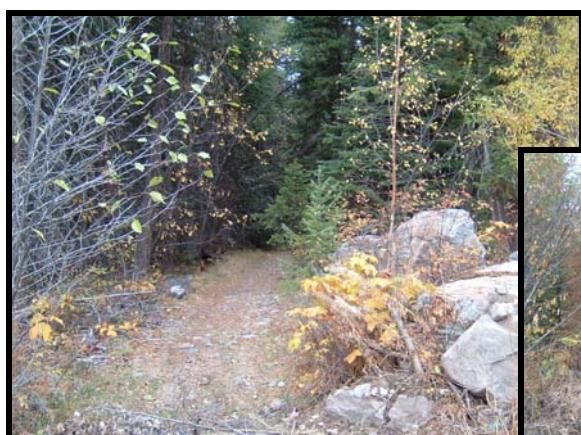
- * establishing an endowment fund (See article in this newsletter)
- * re-planting a corridor of native trees in burned out areas along the major trails in the two provincial parks (subject to BC Parks approval)
- * undertaking a public education project about the Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park forest fire
- * building a trail along KLO Creek connecting the Mission Creek Greenway (Phase 2) with Angel Springs and the KVR



Angel Springs Trail - April, 2003



Angel Springs Trail October, 2003 ►



Good News!
There are still "Green" areas in
Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park
(Photo taken off Bellevue Forest
Service Road, October 2003)

BC Parks' Area Supervisor Retiring

The relationship F.O.S.S. built with the BC Parks staff over the past few years has resulted in improvements to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park that likely would not have happened without this partnership. With cutbacks in both staffing and funding in the BC Parks Okanagan Regional Office, it hasn't been an easy time. However, Area Supervisor Greg Betz always seems to make the time to respond to FOSS's frequent e-mails, letters and phone calls and to help us navigate the bureaucratic waters.

In March, Greg will be retiring. We wish Greg well in his retirement — and remember Greg, we can always use experienced 'volunteers'!

Trail Etiquette "Respect Trail Closures"



FOSS Membership Still only \$10!

If you have already taken out your 2004 membership...Thanks! If you have not renewed your membership, please complete your application soon so you will continue to receive our newsletter.

Applications are also available on our website:

www.foss-kelowna.org

FOSS is a registered charity. For donations of \$10 or greater (not including membership fee) you will be issued a tax receipt.

Canoeing on Haynes Lake (McCulloch Lake chain) October, 2003



Mission Creek Greenway Phase 2

The Friends of Mission Creek have announced that the public campaign for Phase 2 of the Mission Creek Greenway will be launched with a kick-off breakfast on Friday, March 12, 2004 at the Grand Hotel. As well, the highly successful 'Buy-a Metre for \$50.00' is planned. Watch for more information in our local newspapers.



"BRIDGE FOR BRIDGES"

Three pedestrian bridges are needed to complete this 9.2 km. project. Bridge players can help! Host a game for four or eight or more, play in your usual location, and charge \$10.00 per person. Do this sometime in the month of March 2004, (or earlier) and turn the proceeds in by April 2, 2004.

DEAL YOURSELVES IN! Sign your group up by calling: Brenda Thomson 764-4296, Shirley Fitzpatrick 860-1576, Marina Pettman 764-4950, or Joy Lambrick

Message from the The Central Okanagan Foundation

The Central Okanagan Foundation has been operating in the Kelowna area for over 26 years. It manages a pool of endowment funds totaling approximately 6.7 million dollars. The income is used to support a wide range of charities operating in the Kelowna area, including Friends of the South Slopes.

To discuss leaving a gift in a will, or to make a contribution of any size, please contact:

Janice Henry
Executive Director
Central Okanagan Foundation
861-6060

Website: www.centralokanaganfoundation.org/

