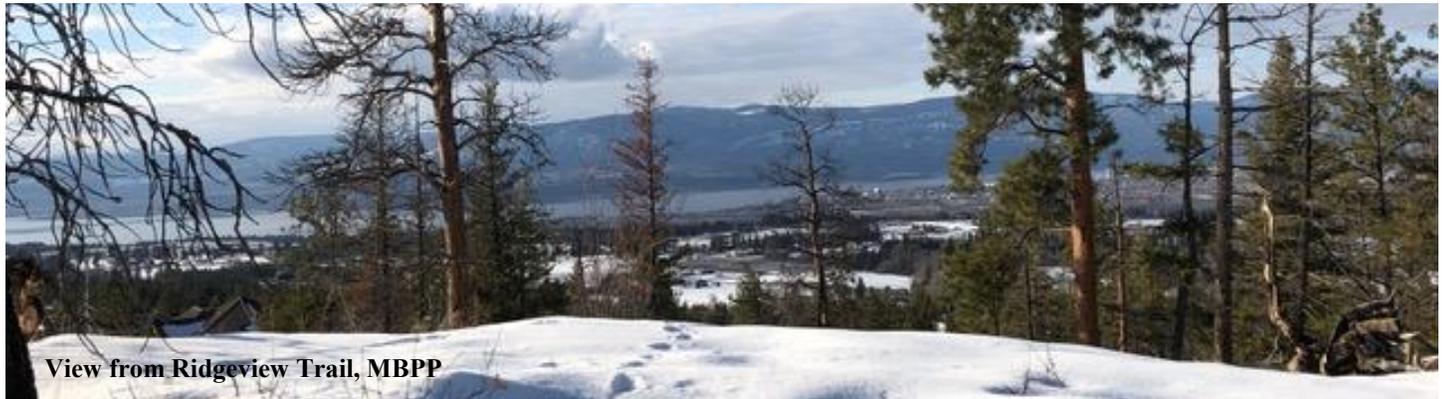


Friends of the South Slopes

March 2020



View from Ridgeview Trail, MBPP

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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Your 2020 Board of Directors (elected at FOSS' Feb. 13, 2020 AGM)

Brad Wright – President
Daphne Richard – Vice-President
Isabel Pritchard – Secretary (temporary!)
Pete Spencer – Treasurer
Teresa MacKenzie
Gord Detta
Jane Blamire
Milt Stevenson
Cam Kourany
Alan Milnes

FOSS welcomes two new board members: Cam Kourany and Alan Milnes, who are active South Slopes' recreational users and who bring many talents to the 'team'!

The Board would also like to recognize outgoing members, Jennifer Molgat and Stan Valnicek, for their many contributions and involvement – **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!**



Technology Nightmare!

FOSS sincerely apologizes for all the issues with online membership sign-up/renewals, etc. Please know that we are close to getting everything resolved! Thank you for your patience and support!

The FOSS AGM was held on February 13th. President, Brad Wright, reviewed activities undertaken during the past year and reported on the creation of a 'trail maintenance coordinator' position and the work already undertaken in this regard. He also emphasized the continuing efforts being made to fulfill our vision of having a continuous trail system from the Mission Creek Greenway/KLO Creek Regional Park all the way to Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park.

Steve Bercek, BC Parks Community Liaison Officer, spoke to his job establishing communications between all stakeholders' interests in the Parks and supporting those volunteers. Geoff Popowich, Senior Park Ranger, BC Parks, East Okanagan, who has 12 years of experience with Parks throughout the Province, explained his commitment to leveraging funds for various programs, and working on further education to inform the public about the parks and BC Parks' values and about future, anticipated wildfire mitigation requirements. Ian Petersen, Stewardship Forester – FLNROD – Myra Project Lead, spoke about the wildfire mitigation being done in Myra-Bellevue Park in February. Work was done to BC Parks standards, leaving more trees per hectare and a variety of trees. Trails will be rehabilitated once the work is completed. Jonathan Finlay, Area Supervisor, BC Parks, East Okanagan, sent his regrets. Geoff, Jonathan and Ian are all new to their positions in our area, and FOSS feels very fortunate to be working with these outstanding individuals. Herb Blamire, Trail Maintenance Coordinator, extended a sincere 'thank you' to FOSS volunteers-extraordinaire, Andrew Stevenson and Eric Chamberland, recognizing all the work they have done in the Parks.

Thank you, Marilyn, for organizing the great goodies once again!!

And a HUGE 'thank you' to our sponsors for generously donating to our annual AGM draw:



**Groundworks Consultants
International**

**Design Travel
(Jane Blamire)**



Recent Meeting at BC Parks, Penticton:

FOSS representatives, Herb Blamire (Trails' Maintenance Contractor), Daphne Richard (V-P FOSS), and Jane Blamire (Board Director), met with new BC Parks' personnel, Jonathan Finlay (Area Supervisor East Okanagan BC Parks), Geoff Popowich (Senior Ranger East Okanagan BC Parks), together with other stakeholders, Renee Unser (CEO P.A.C.E. Sports Fitness) and Hanna MacLennan (P.A.C.E Planner)

OKANAGAN MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK:

The Wild Horse Canyon Trail was first on the agenda. The P.A.C.E. Wild Horse Traverse (Kelowna to Naramata) is slated for May 30th. It was agreed that proper clearing/brushing of the WHC trail will be of top priority, with work underway as soon as logistically possible, and to be completed prior to this sold-out charity event. Any and all clearing will be to MOF standards: A minimum two meter base - which allows for effective use of motorized vehicles to provide efficient trail maintenance, and address other concerns, such as injury extraction. Rene will run the Trail in the next couple of weeks and provide photos to help establish a detailed approach for the work.

Rene spoke of P.A.C.E.'s community involvement/achievements through their "running" events. She has a serious passion for the success of these charity runs that see 60% of all revenues going to mental health initiatives and the remaining 40% to other charities in the area. Last year FOSS received in excess of \$4,000.00 from P.A.C.E. (Thank you VERY much!), and it is anticipates that this could be as much as \$6,000.00 in 2020.

The Park's contractor currently is responsible for cutting and clearing of blow-downs and danger trees – FOSS has done its best to do other maintenance/brushing in the area but there are significant other trail issues in OMPP, such as work on the Boulder Trail and addressing the Goode's Basin Trail washout. We all agreed that OMPP could have significantly increased Park use and be a valuable tourist resource if the trails were better maintained and more effectively advertised. It was acknowledged that as neither Geoff nor Jonathan has yet had an opportunity for 'boots on the ground' in the local Parks, discussion on further proposals/endeavors be tabled, giving them time to acquire more first-hand knowledge.

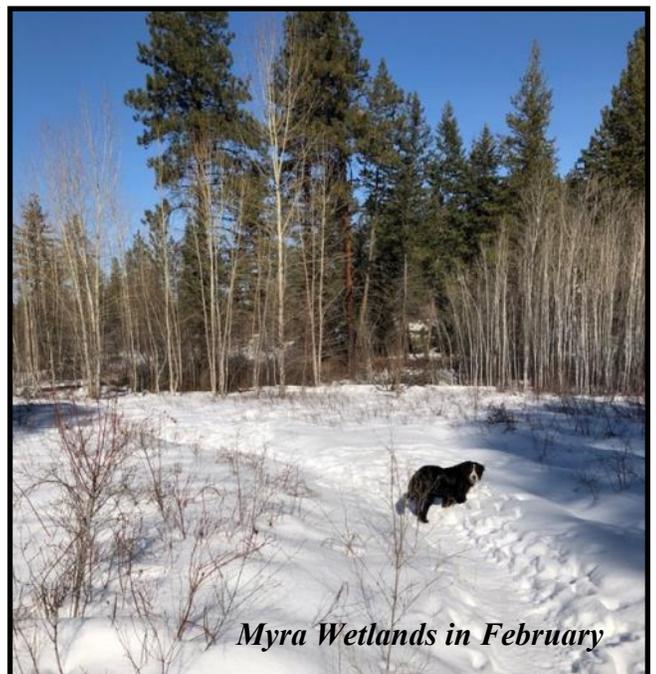
MYRA-BELLEVUE PROVINCIAL PARK:

This season the new Parks' personnel will view/study the Myra Wetlands, and a long term plan will be developed, with work beginning the winter of 2021. FOSS was provided with copies of the 'Chance Find Procedures – FOSS Volunteer Agreement', which is specific to the Myra Bellevue Wetland Restoration project. This document provides guidelines for the appropriate response to the discovery of archaeological artifacts or features. Everyone enthusiastically supported the idea of establishing an interpretive education site in the 'wetlands', especially geared to youth involvement.

Other items discussed included:

- Repair/replacement of post/signs
- Snow-plowing and fence repair at the Stewart Road East Trailhead
- Repairs to bridge over Priest Creek on the Fairlane Loop Trail ETC!!

It was a very productive meeting – thank you, BC Parks



Wildfire Mitigation on the South Slopes

Due to the warmer weather and concern for the soil disturbance limits imposed by BC Parks, the fire mitigation operations in **Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park** have been halted for this season. Hand crews will still be completing some work, cleaning up and chipping and dispersal of ground fuels. The pile of logs (biomass) will be removed as soon as the Ministry can get the chipping contractor into the Park, which due to road restrictions and timing, may not be until May.

Gallagher's Canyon (Utility Property/adjacent Crown Lot): Treatment of this area will not happen until 2021.



The KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area (KMRA)

(‘The Link’ trail system)

(Includes KLO Creek Regional Park, Utility Property above Field Road and the 4 adjacent Crown Lots.)

Update:

FOSS is planning to install a few signs/posts in The Link area in spring/summer to better identify the existing, key connecting trails on public land between KLO Creek Regional Park and Myra-Bellevue.



Also, FOSS has applied for a Section 57 with Recreation Sites and Trails BC: *To maintain and rehabilitate an existing multi-user non-motorized trail system located within two parcels of Crown Land lying between June Springs Rd. and Gallagher's Canyon community in Kelowna BC. FOSS refers to this trail network as the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area (KMRA).*

