



# Friends of the South Slopes Society

Fall 2004

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

## President's Message:

Peter Thompson, President

First, let me express our sympathy to our treasurer, Grant Rice whose wife Devra died recently. Devra was a strong supporter of all things green and was particularly concerned about animal protection. She was also a strong athlete, having just completed her first half 'ironman'. All of us at FOSS extend our deepest sympathy to Grant and the rest of Devra's family.

For FOSS, the time since the fire has been both difficult and rewarding. The difficult part has been waiting for B.C. Parks to give the go ahead to open the Parks. B.C. Parks is very concerned that the burnt trees are dangerous. At FOSS, we don't agree that this is the case but we are bound by B.C. Park's mandate. At one time over the last few months even FOSS volunteers were shut out of the parks. That has been mostly resolved now and a great deal of work is underway.

The rewarding part has come from several avenues – the community, the changes to the Park and Mother Nature herself. After the fire and right up to the early months in 2004, FOSS received more funds than were raised in the past five years. This money will go a long way over the next few years to improve the parks. Since the fire has closed the parks, FOSS has found it easier to repair and rehabilitate damaged trails, something many of us have hoped for for quite a while. And finally, it's wonderful to see Mother Nature rebuilding the parks in her own glorious way, particularly with all the rain we've had. If you look hard and close, you'll see newly emerged seedlings sprouting under many of the trees that burned!!

Numerous projects are currently underway in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park through a Job Creation Program funded by Human Resource Skill Development Canada and partnered by FOSS, BC Parks and Katim Enterprises. The Katim crew will also be working on trails and building bridges in Okanagan Mtn. later in the year. This is an enthusiastic, energetic crew and an amazing amount of work is being done on trail construction and repair, bridge building, installation of trail signs, and facility improvements. Isabel Pritchard (FOSS director responsible for overseeing the Katim crew) and other FOSS volunteers are being kept very busy planning the projects and arranging for materials.



← August 2004  
The Katim work  
crew at work  
rebuilding Lost  
Lake Trail



## 2004 Project Funding

Major funding for building materials and facility repair and enhancement is through a grant from the City of Kelowna Fire Recovery Fund

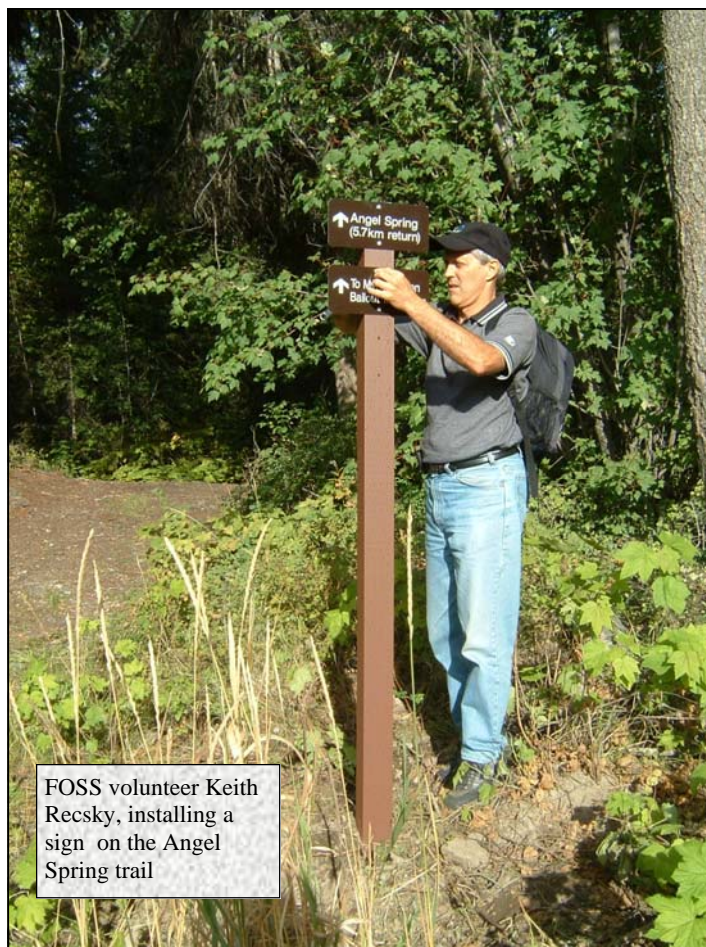


## FOSS Work Party!

9:30 am. Sat. Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at Stewart Rd. E Trailhead

- \* Installing trail signs
- \* General cleanup
- \* Noxious weed removal
- \* Trail repair

*Volunteers: please pre-register by calling Penny @ 764-2303 or e-mail: [info@foss-kelowna.org](mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org)*



FOSS volunteer Keith Recsky, installing a sign on the Angel Spring trail





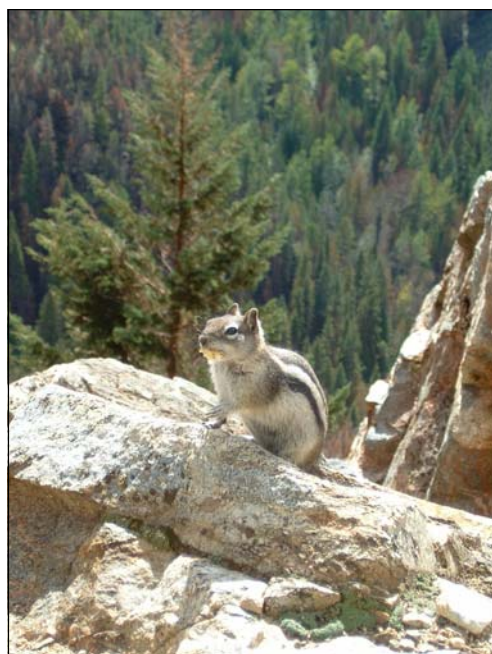
## What's New in Myra-Bellevue Park?

- ◆ A security gate on Lost Lake Trail at Stewart Rd. East Trailhead
- ◆ Fencing, parking and improved access to MBPP at the end of Stewart Rd. West (in partnership with the City of Kelowna)
- ◆ A picnic table at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead
- ◆ Two "horse-friendly" bridges on Hachey Creek
- ◆ Re-alignment of the Crawford Trail at the KVR
- ◆ Re-routing of the south end of Lost Lake Trail
- ◆ Installation of trail signs on Angel Spring Trail
- ◆ Improvements to trails in Upper Bench and rest areas (benches)
- ◆ Start of the Fairlane extension (to Luxmoore Rd)
- ◆ Leveling & gravel surfacing around the kiosk
- ◆ Construction of a new section of the Angel Spring trail to by-pass the fireguard



## Still to Come....

- ◆ Rebuilding of the two bridges that burned on Priest Creek at Lost Lake
- ◆ Installation of signs on other trails in the unburned areas of Myra-Bellevue
- ◆ Erosion control and surface improvements to the trail connecting the SRE Trailhead to Lower and Middle Bench trails
- ◆ Construction of a small parking area at the entrance to Angel Spring trail.
- ◆ Ongoing trail repair and enhancement projects



**Vandalism:** Unfortunately, over the last 6 weeks there has been significant vandalism in lower Myra-Bellevue: a pit toilet was heavily damaged, post & rail fencing pushed over in a number of areas, the metal gate on the power line was destroyed, 'mud bidders' tore up a nearby meadow, and "bush parties" were reported. As well, there was damage to some of the newly built trails from unauthorized vehicles (quads & dirt bikes).

**VANDALISM COSTS FOSS TIME AND MONEY**, and it is very frustrating for all the volunteers who are working hard to improve recreational opportunities in the park when we have to spend our donated funds to repair vandalized facilities. Thank you to those who report incidents of vandalism to the RCMP, BC Parks (250-490-8250) or FOSS ([info@foss-kelowna.org](mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org)). BC Parks staff do follow up if they are provided with license plate numbers, vehicle description, time of day and details of the activity.

← One of the 'locals' on hand for the Aug. 26th announcement of \$13.5 million in federal/provincial funding for the re-building of the 12 trestles destroyed in last summer's forest fire.

Congratulations to the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society for spearheading this massive project, and to Trails BC for undertaking the construction of a by-pass trail south of Myra Canyon.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the South Slopes Society is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th, 2004. Watch for more information in mid October.

Daphne Richard is Chair of the Nominating Committee. Please contact her at 764-7461 if you wish to stand for election as a director of the Friends of the South Slopes Society.



# Snapshots of Myra-Bellevue Summer 2004



June, 2004—Re-growth  
Photo contributed by Jeannette Van Holland



Kafim Crew building new section of Crawford Trail (at KVR)



Spring on south end of Lost Lake Trail



Volunteer spreading gravel at kiosk



New trail in Crawford Estates area,  
connecting Stewart Road West to Myra-  
Bellevue Provincial Park





Vandalized gate—on Fortis power line (within the Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park boundary)



Aug. 2004—Myra Canyon Trestle Viewpoint



Katim installing gate at Lost Lake Trail



← Sign posted at entrance to Angel Spring canyon



Aug. 26 2004—Premier Gordon Campbell - Funding announcement to re-build trestles

Picnic Table at Stewart Rd. East Trailhead →

