

Friends of the South Slopes

Spring 2009



Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna Kelowna BC V1W 4A6 <http://www.foss-kelowna.org> info@foss-kelowna.org

2009 Board of Directors

President – Herb Blamire



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I want to be in a position that I can support and speak for multi use of the blessed South Slopes.

What are your interests?

Travel, working with heavy equipment and riding my ATV

What is your favourite quote or saying?

Lets get "ere" done.

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Lobby for a corridor to an area for motorized sports.

Vice-President – Isabel Pritchard



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I have been enjoying the south slopes since we moved to the neighborhood. It is a fascinating area, ever changing yet always the same. I believe the south slope is Kelowna's jewel. It provides many recreational opportunities as well as the mountain views and an ambience for the city.

What are your interests?

I ride horses, hike, observe the flora and fauna, drive the KVR with visitors, and watch the varying views every day.

What is your favourite quote or saying? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder!

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

That is a tough question! As circumstances change our needs change. I would like the south slopes to be able to provide a sanctuary for the natural Okanagan creatures and people to enjoy. To that end I would hire 2 park wardens for Myra Bellevue to provide education, trail maintenance, and enforcement. This in turn would generate more respect for the non-protected areas as people start to value the environment in which they live.

Secretary – Penny Gubbels



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I have been a board member since 1998. I am a director because I enjoy being in a volunteer group that champions the many recreational opportunities we have on the South Slopes. I like the FOSS philosophy of working collaboratively with other groups and with the public land managers (BC Parks, City of Kelowna, Regional District, Ministry responsible for crown land) to promote responsible recreation, sustainable trails and protect public access to them.

What are your interests?

For recreation, I hike, snow shoe, X Country ski, and mountain bike on the South Slopes.

What is your favourite quote or saying?

Don't tell me what you can't do, tell me what you can.

Treasurer – Steve Cawley



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I am a frequent user of the trails and feel responsible for their condition.

What are your interests?

I use the trails for mountain biking, and hiking with my three dogs and young son.

What is your favourite quote or saying?

Live in the moment.

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Maintain and improve the existing network.

Director – Nick Fiorante



Why are you a director of FOSS?

To protect our access to the great wilderness.

What are your interests?

Mountain biking, dirt biking, snowboarding, cross-country skiing

What is your favourite quote or saying?

"Go Big or Go Home"

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Help motorized sports find an area to ride on the south slopes.

Director – Doug Macdonald



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I became a member of the board to learn more about FOSS.

What are your interests?

Interests are Hiking Biking Ski/Snowshoeing and enjoying the great outdoors.

Director – Pete Spencer



Why are you a director of FOSS?

The western boundary of my property is OMP and I am interested in what happens in that and other parks.

What are your interests?

Camping and protecting the environment.

What is your favourite quote or saying?

"You can't fool Mother Nature"

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Teach people to respect parks and improvements!

Director – Brad Wright



Why are you a director of FOSS?

I have a strong affinity to the south slopes and would like to help preserve the area in a natural, user-friendly state for future generations. FOSS has given me the chance to work with a highly professional group to make a positive impact on the future of our environment while enhancing our out door experience opportunities.

What are your interests?

I have a rural background and love of any activities that take me out doors. My passion is based on experiencing the outdoors while hiking, biking, camping, skiing, canoeing or just getting out to experience the wonders of nature.

What is your favourite quote or saying?

Be the change you want to see.

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Focus on Okanangn Highland trail and bridge

Director – Teresa Brinton



Why are you a director of FOSS?

Everyone needs to take their turn and give back to their community.

What are your interests?

Hiking, snowshoeing, photography, computers

What is your favourite quote or saying?

"If you mess with Mother Nature you create more problems than you solve."

If you could choose one thing that FOSS could do for the south slopes, what would it be?

Work on making the KLO Creek area a park.

Director – How about you???

Three more directors are needed for 2009. No experience necessary!
Only one meeting a month and great conversations guaranteed.

<mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org>

Okanagan Mountain Bike Strategy

The City of Kelowna and the Regional District partnered in the development of the regional mountain bike strategy.

Kelowna & Area Mountain Bike Strategy:

1. Assessed what the area around the City of Kelowna already has in place; and
2. Created a plan that will deliver needed trails and facilities to meet current and anticipated demands for the different kinds of riders in the area.

Public consultation process identified:

Top two issues:

- Development of new trails
- Maintenance & protection of existing trails



Top desired facilities:

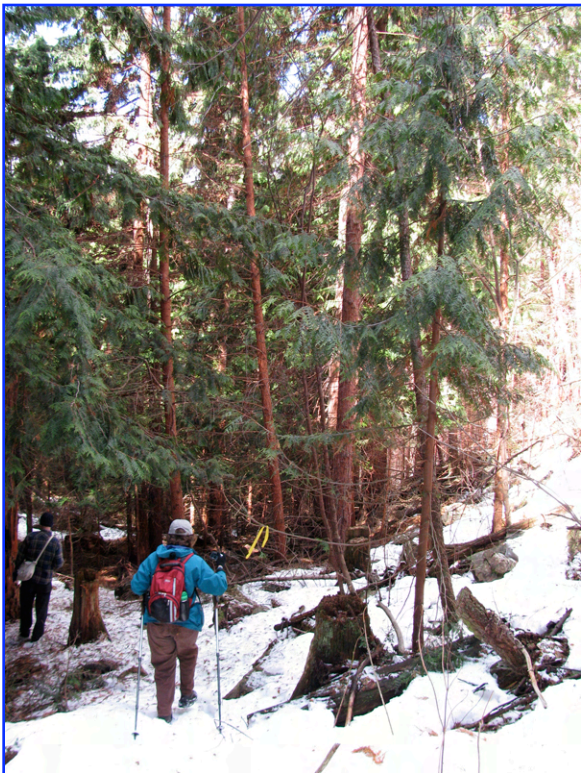
- Single Track/Off Road
- Touring / Pathways
- Downhill / Freeriding
- Skills Training Park

2009 will see the construction of Kelowna's first mountain bike skills park on Hollywood Rd. South, adjacent to the Greenway.

Top Mountain Biking areas:

- Knox Mountain Park
- Myra-Bellevue Prov. Park
- Mission Creek Greenway
- Gillard
- Powers Creek (Westside)

(Information courtesy of City of Kelowna website. Photo courtesy of Mike Kittmer.)



*Exploring the area around Angel Springs
April 2009*

Photo Submissions

Flora, fauna and everything in between! Send photos to tbrinton@shaw.ca Include date taken, location in park, your name and any comments you might like to help set the scene. Photos used in the newsletter will be deemed "winners" and you will receive a free trail map. If we generate enough submissions there may be a few prizes awarded at the AGM. We are always looking for photos to add to the AGM video!

Have you seen the wonderful interpretive signs on the trail to Angel Springs? The trail is about 6.4 km (return) and you are rewarded with a look at the tufa deposits in the area of the springs. The trail still has a fair bit of snow and ice but it won't be long before it is clear!

Tick Season is Here!

Ticks are blood-feeding parasites that are often found in tall grass and shrubs where they will wait to attach to a passing host. Physical contact is the only method of transportation for ticks. Ticks do not jump or fly, although they may drop from their perch and fall onto a host. Some species actively stalk the host by foot.

Changes in temperature and day length are some of the factors signaling a tick to seek a host. Ticks can detect heat emitted or carbon dioxide respired from a nearby host. They will generally drop off the animal when full, but this may take



several days. In some cases, ticks will live for some time on the blood of an animal.

(Wikipedia)

The Rocky Mountain Wood tick is most frequently encountered in our area between March and June.

Ticks connect themselves to their host with small, barbed mouthparts - they do not burrow under the skin.

Ticks are most safely and effectively removed by a slow and gentle pull without twisting, using tweezers or fingers. Clean area with an antiseptic.

Precautions:

- tuck cuffs into socks, shirt into pants
- insect repellent with DEET may help in repelling ticks
- avoid sitting on vegetation
- carefully check clothing and body for "hitch-hikers"

<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/crop/prot/ticksbc.htm>



OKANAGAN CITIZEN-BASED TICK SURVEY

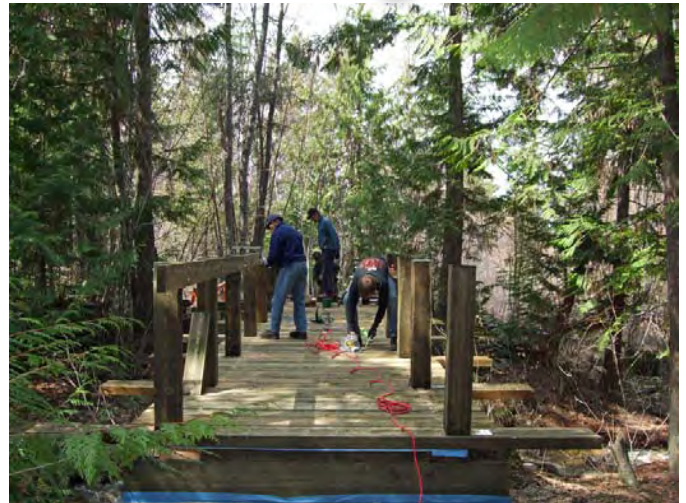
Ticks can transmit dangerous diseases, such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. While these diseases are treatable, if not rapidly diagnosed, they can lead to debilitating long-term complications. For accurate diagnoses, the infection risk to contracting these diseases—that is, the likelihood of being bitten by a tick in an area—must be known. However, up-to-date information on the distribution and abundance of ticks in the Okanagan is not available.

The Okanagan Citizen-Based Tick Survey aims to determine the distribution and abundance of ticks in the Okanagan area. By using the assistance of Okanagan residents, this survey will benefit from local experience and knowledge, and will target areas of relevance to the local community.

For full information and the collection form go to <http://okanaganticksurvey.com/index.htm>

If you have questions, contact Jack Teng: jiayang.teng@gmail.com

Priest Creek Linear Park – Bridge #1



Rod Heater, Nick Fiorante, Fred Gubbels, Alex Harvey, Mike Hill and Bruce Watts (missing Mick Rasmussen)

On April 25th the first of three bridges over Priest Creek was completed. We are very grateful to Nick Fiorante, Herb Blamire and their amazing crew - carpenter Alex Harvey and helpers Rod Heater and Mick Rasmussen. The construction of the supports and decking/railings for these three bridges is a huge commitment for our volunteers. They started last fall, and have spent many weekends on this project. Other FOSS volunteers have assisted in brush clearing and transportation of materials.

The south section of Priest Creek Trail will be opened to the public in mid summer, once the construction of the three bridges is completed. The summer newsletter will highlight this project, which is a partnership between the City of Kelowna and FOSS.



FOSS' MBPP Trail Map is available for purchase at:

- Cyclepath
- Harvest Grocery
- Kelowna Cycle
- Fresh Air Experience
- Venture Gear
- Diamond H. Tack
- Mosaic Books
- Tourism Kelowna
- Outbound Cycle
- AG Superstore
- FarWest Outfitters
- Larry's Cycle
- Outdoor Adventure Gear

Thank you to our donors...

- Rogers' Family Trust \$500
- Terasen Gas \$300
- TELUS \$200 "Dollars for Doers" program. This grant recognized the effort & impact of the TELUS volunteers who worked on the Vapour Trail wetland project in 2008
- In kind, Kelowna Steel Fabricators – The beams for one of three bridges on Priest Creek Trail
- Individual donations of \$100+ Cynthia & Scott Walker, Milt & Jane Stevenson, Andy & Liz Daley, David Petrik

2009 Projects:

- Complete Priest Creek Linear Trail
- Re-route Cpt. Nemo (Stuart Burns Memorial Fund)
- Continue to improve trails in MBPP
- GPS Mission Creek Trails & produce a free downloadable map



Dan Hobson 02/09