

# Friends of the South Slopes

## Fall 2010



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## KLO Canyon Trail

This little gem of a trail (it's only 880m long, or 1.8 km return) is located in the City's KLO Canyon Park. And it's easy to access! Travel past Gallagher's Canyon Golf Course on McCulloch Rd. The road turns to the right and descends steeply before crossing over the KLO Creek Bridge. This section of McCulloch Road is scheduled for an upgrade in 2011. KLO Canyon Park is located on your right just past the bridge. There is a small clearing where you can park. The trail is located to the right of the large boulders that block access to the old quarry.

The trail gently slopes uphill as it follows KLO Creek upstream through a section of the spectacular KLO Canyon. You'll walk under a forest canopy of Western Red Cedar, Birch, Alder, Cottonwoods, and many other species of trees and vegetation. The unsurfaced trail is in good condition and it is a moderate hike. The impressive canyon walls create an amazing landscape. Two newly-decked foot bridges (see article below) cross the creek, and a third small bridge takes you over an old irrigation flume. Just a few meters past this third bridge you are at the park boundary which currently is unmarked. You have reached the end of KLO Canyon Park. The City of Kelowna Parks Department is developing signage for KLO Canyon Park—hopefully it will be erected in the spring of 2011.

## FOSS Volunteers Re-Deck Bridges

On September 11, 2010, volunteers spent the day on a FOSS project to re-deck the three bridges located in KLO Canyon Park. The old decking was rotting and many of the boards were missing.

Working in partnership with the City of Kelowna Parks Department, FOSS planned the project and provided the volunteers. The city is reimbursing FOSS for the lumber, fastenings, and other costs from the city's project budget for KLO Canyon Park.

Twelve of the seventeen project volunteers were employees (or their family members) of Terasen Gas or FortisBC. FOSS wants to give a big **'THANKS'** to them—it was a day of hard physical work. The lumber had to be loaded and unloaded three times to get it to the bridge sites. Herb Blamire's ATV and trailer really saved a lot of time and energy. Volunteers broke into three crews—lumber hauling, demolition and re-decking. We had hoped to re-deck two of the bridges, but at the end of the day all three were done!





....1st Bridge "Before"



**Information  
about FOSS' AGM  
will be sent to  
our members in  
December**

### ***KLO Canyon Trail Bridge Re-Decking Project***

**Thank You** to the following businesses for donating equipment for the project:

- Winn Rentals (generator, power nailer, grinder and other tools)
- Cat Rental (generator)

....1st Bridge "After"  
"After"



## **FOSS Volunteers in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park**

While most of us were relaxing on the BC Day long weekend, four volunteers led by FOSS members Pip Akins and Tyler Bellows headed into Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park to do a full day of trail clearing. OMPP ranger Trevor Lind worked with the crew. They started at the top of the Divide Lake Trail and hiked Baker Lake Trail to the start of Frederick Creek Trail. The volunteers spent most of the day using chain saws and a brush saw, working their way down to Wild Horse Canyon and back to the lake at Goode's Creek where they were picked up by boat.

The FOSS Board is very pleased to have these volunteers working to improve the trails in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. The

Board is supporting them by providing training and certification. Pip & Tyler received Chain Saw Certification training and Level 1 First Aid with Travel Endorsement, and three volunteers were trained in ATV safety.

BC Parks' Ranger Trevor Lind also spent time in OMPP this summer brushing trails and in October FOSS President Herb Blamire and his son cleared Wild Horse Canyon Trail as far as the Buchan Bay Junction. More work parties are planned.



Photo Credit: Pip Akins



## ***Summer 2010—Our Myra-Bellevue Park Volunteers***



A volunteer installs a post & sign at the junction of Jeckle & Hyde. Our volunteer is sporting one of the t-shirts provided to FOSS by BC Parks. We hope BC Parks will provide shirts for our Adopt-a-trail volunteers in 2011.



Volunteers Moshe & Anna install the signs at the junction of the new Captain Nemo 'Easy Out'.

### **Extending the Minimal Risk Corridor**

The FOSS Board of Directors recently approved hiring ArcRidge Forestry for a 2— 2 1/2 day contract to extend the Minimal Risk Corridors in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The contractor will undertake a danger tree assessment and fall burned or hazardous trees that could fall across the following trails: Salamander, Galloping, and Fairlane Trail east of Salamander towards Luxmoore Road. This mitigation work will provide another option besides Pink Highway and Lost Lake Trail for park users to exit the park during wind events. This work will be done in mid-November. Please be aware that the worksite area will be closed to the public when the contractor is on site, and park users will need to use alternate trails.

The board may consider a Minimal Risk Corridor project in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park if funding can be secured. This is under discussion as a possible 2011 project.

Planning for 2011 is currently taking place. Proposed projects and a budget will be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting—date and location to be announced in late November.



# BC Parks celebrates its 100th birthday in 2011

The Province of BC is celebrating BC Parks' centenary by promoting events including contests, conservation projects, recreational opportunities, a conference and other events. (Website is: [www.bcparks100.ca](http://www.bcparks100.ca)). Celebrations are being planned all around the province.

2011 is also the tenth anniversary of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, which received protected area status in 2001 and became a Class A Provincial Park in 2004. To commemorate this anniversary, FOSS is developing the Stewart Road East Interpretive Trail.

## The Stewart Road Interpretive Trail Committee

Over the summer the committee members walked the trails around the Stewart Road East parking lot and started the planning process for the interpretive trail. They met with Kirk Illingworth from BC Parks and they will be drawing up a plan, a budget and a timeline for the project.

## BC Parks' Senior Ranger Wraps Up for the Season

Senior Ranger Erin Gunoff finished her seasonal assignment on Oct. 24th. "Hats off" to Erin for the work she did in Myra-Bellevue. With a total of 14 parks and protected areas in the East Okanagan area, she has limited time in each park and we appreciate any time she spends in MBPP. In late September Erin carried in a post and signs to the junction of Crawford Trail and Okanagan Highlands Trail, and she also erected a sign at the south end of the Okanagan Highlands Trail in MBPP.

In early October Erin cleared Earring Trail, Connector and other trails down to Upper Bench.



Marilyn & Anne riding  
on Lost Lake Trail



## New photos posted on FOSS website -

Our awesome webmaster, David Brooke, has updated the photos on the FOSS website. The 2011 membership form is also posted. Know someone who enjoys the South Slopes??? Please encourage them to become a FOSS member. It's only \$10.



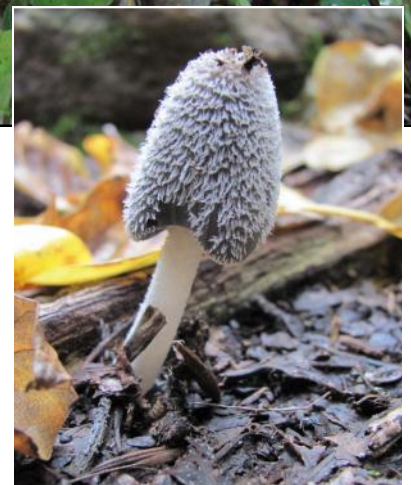
# *The Back Page....*

Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park

**Notice from BC Parks:** As of Oct. 21, 2010 and until further notice the Bellevue Trestle on the Kettle Valley Railbed in Myra Bellevue Park will be closed for reconstruction.

## *2011—FOSS Board of Directors*

There are positions open on the 2011 Board of Directors. Interested??? Please contact Teresa Brinton at 250 861-4077 or email Teresa at: [tbrinton@shaw.ca](mailto:tbrinton@shaw.ca)



Some of the many fungi found in KLO Canyon—Photos by Teresa Brinton, October 2010