

Friends of the South Slopes

Summer 2011



Sage Buttercup, Power Line Trail MBPP

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June 22, 2011—Cyclists manoeuvre around the mud hole on Lost Lake Trail. One dog seems to enjoy it! See a close up of him on page 5!

This is one of the trails impacted by this years spring run-off. Flooding resulted in the temporary closure of the city's Priest Creek Park, the loss of a bridge on Lost Lake Loop Trail in Myra-Bellevue, and other streamside erosion particularly in the Priest Creek corridor.

(This cartoon is reprinted with the permission of the cartoonist, Adrian Raeside)



TELUS Volunteers Help FOSS

On May 28, 2011, fourteen TELUS volunteers rebuilt a section of Upper Priest Creek Trail in Priest Creek Park. The existing trail was steep—with some parts exceeding a 30% grade. The new alignment considerably reduces the grade. The project was managed by two FOSS volunteers. TELUS employee Dan Hobson (former FOSS President) organized the volunteers and the trail building was led by FOSS member (and TELUS employee) Dan Wood. The volunteers also decommissioned the old trail. Dan Wood is an International Mountain Bike Association trained trail builder and he has led other trail improvement projects for FOSS. It was a great day of camaraderie and hard work....there were a few sore muscles the next day as most of the volunteers have desk jobs!

The TELUS Day of Giving is an annual event where employees and their families give back to the communities where they live and work. Events took place in communities throughout the areas where TELUS operates.

This is the third time our South Slopes' parks have benefited from the TELUS volunteers on their Day of Giving. The Captain Nemo trail realignment and a project on Vapour Trail were completed in previous years.

The Priest Creek Trail realignment project was designed by FOSS director Brad Wright with help from FOSS VP Isabel Pritchard. Both have the IMBA trail building training.

Thanks to the Chatham family for permitting our volunteers to access the project through their property.



Central Okanagan Naturalists Club hiking Goode's Basin in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



Photo Credit: Roland Gebauer

Wells Gray Tours Donates to FOSS

We'd like to give a shout out to Wells Gray Tours who recently made a \$500 donation to FOSS. The money was put towards the purchase of a power scythe which volunteers will use to clear back brush on some overgrown single track trails

Thanks, Wells Gray Tours!



Photos from the 3rd annual Kelowna Cycle Kamikaze Super D mountain bike race, June 12, 2011 in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

Photo Credits:
Dirk Handke



Business Card circulated by the Horse Council of BC.



Hello, fellow traveler! I am a horse.

I may have been born on a farm and taught to carry a rider, but I still retain the instincts of my wild ancestors. I fear predators! If I am startled by something I see or hear, I might spin and run. If I am frightened, I might kick or strike.

Please help me not to hurt myself, my rider or you! How?

Please ...

- *Speak to my rider, so I know you're not a threat, and never come close behind me*
- *Stay where I can see you ... don't hide*
- *Slow down or stop if I seem anxious*
- *Keep your dog close by your side*
- *Turn off your motor, or get off your bike*
- *Let me pass you, or pass me slow and wide*



Thank you, and enjoy your day!

Upcoming Events in the Parks

When a event such as a cycling or trail running race is planned in Myra-Bellevue or Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park, the organizers apply to BC Parks for a Park Use Permit. Two events have taken place:
Sunday June 12 - Kelowna Cycle Kamikaze Super D mountain bike race in Myra-Bellevue
Sunday June 26 - The Scorched Sole (6th annual) organized by the Kelowna Running Club in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park. (Thanks to the KRC volunteers who did the trail work this spring to prepare for this race)

Illegal Dumping

(Reprinted from the website for the Waste Management office of the Regional District of Central Okanagan)

Illegal dumping takes many forms, whether it's someone dumping yard waste, vehicles being abandoned, or bush party leftovers.

In every case, something is being placed where it doesn't belong. This can have devastating effects. Not only is illegal dumping unsightly, it can create wildfire and other environmental hazards. Compostables such as yard waste and grass clippings, although natural, create a fire hazard, a serious problem in our tinder-dry climate. Broken glass beverage containers are also a fire concern. Animals that consume any of the plastics or foods can be harmed and oils, chemicals, battery fluids and other hazardous wastes can seep into soil and our watersheds, creating a toxic problem. Costs for clean-up are high.

This is frustrating because:

- It is free for residents to dispose of up to 250 kg of yard waste at the landfills
- It costs only \$1.00 per bag of garbage or only \$6.00 for up to 250 kg (550 lbs) of garbage
- Appliances cost \$6.00 each to drop off for disposal at the landfill.
- The cost to have illegal dump sites cleaned up (including the fuel and the hourly wages to drive the back roads) to you as a taxpayer far exceeds the few dollars for taking the material to the landfill for proper and safe disposal! Not to mention the financial and societal cost to you as a taxpayer and the offender if and when they are caught. Fines for illegal dumping are outlined in the Consolidated Municipal Ticket and Information Bylaw. They range from \$100 under the Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw, up to \$2,000 under the Offence Act.

If you find an illegal dump please contact:

On Crown lands: Waste Reduction Office - (250) 469-6250

On private lands: Bylaw Enforcement (250) 469-6211

On Highway right-of-ways: Ministry of Transportation

Westside (250) 769-1397

Kelowna (250) 766-3970 (for roads not maintained by the City of Kelowna)

On-Line Reporting: www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/waste/waste_other_illdump.aspx



Regulation Signage recently installed on Hromek by the Central Okanagan Regional District



Signage installed by BC Parks

Two areas where illegal dumping is a problem in Myra-Bellevue are the Angel Springs parking lot (on Little White Forest Service Road) and Hromek (Crown non-status road from June Springs Road to Lost Lake Trail south of Outhouse Trail)

PLEASE REPORT ALL ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

The Myra-Bellevue Spa Mud Bath???

This pooch seems to think so.
This photo was snapped by
Teresa MacKenzie in June on
Lost Lake Trail.

There are two mud-soaked
running shoes at this site...what
tale do they tell?



Completion of the Captain Nemo Trail Project

Volunteers installed a bench at the top of Captain Nemo Trail near the Trans Canada Trail. This completed the Captain Nemo project—a realignment of the trail, erosion mitigation work, signage and the bench. The project was funded by donations to the Stuart Burns Memorial Fund. Stuart was an avid mountain biker who passed away in 2003.

On the bench is a plaque in Stuart's memory:

***"It is not the length of life but the
depth of life"***

***"He jumped into life and never
touched bottom"***

FOSS would like to thank the Burns' family
for supporting this project.

Stop by and enjoy this quiet, peaceful,
reflective corner of Myra-Bellevue
Provincial Park.

South Okanagan Tick Study

Dr. Jack Teng led a study in 2008-2009 to
research tick-borne pathogens in the South
Okanagan. Some FOSS members collected
ticks from their hikes in Myra-Bellevue
Provincial Park and sent them to Dr. Teng.
The results of the study are published and
are available on-line at:

<http://www.bcmj.org/articles/prevalence-tick-borne-pathogens-south-okanagan-british-columbia-active-surveillance-ticks-d>



The Back Page....



Bear sighting-Fairlane Loop, MBPP
Photo Credit: Marilyn Westlake



Moose grazing in Long Pond, MBPP
Photo Credit: Penny Gubbels



Lost Lake Trail, MBPP
Photo Credit: Teresa MacKenzie



Cycling in Okanagan Mtn. Park
Photo Credit: Pip Akins