

# Friends of the South Slopes

## Summer 2012



### *Coming This Fall ....Stewart Road East Interpretive Trail, Myra- Bellevue Provincial Park*

After over a year of research and planning by the Interpretive Trail Committee, the project is now in its final stages of development. The seventeen interpretive signs and the kiosk sign are at the sign shop for fabrication.

The Stewart Road East Interpretive Trail will provide a unique educational experience to all visitors to the park but its focus is primarily on educating youth. The interpretive signs will inform visitors about the symbiotic relationship among plants, animals and humans and will feature the ecological, recreational and cultural values of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

The park is seen through the eyes of a young White-Tailed Deer. A kiosk at the beginning of the trail will introduce visitors to the deer's home. Visitors will then walk along the trail where interpretive signs will familiarize them with the relationship between plants and animals in a dry forest.

Isabel Pritchard, Marilyn Westlake, Vivien Blair, Jessica Hobden, Teresa MacKenzie and Marty Stephan are the SREIT committee members.

When the signs are completed the committee will be soliciting help for the installation of the sign posts. There will also be an opportunity for volunteers to help widen and improve the trail where the signs will be erected. FOSS will send an e-mail to its members when this volunteer help is needed. FOSS recently learned that this project will receive a \$3,604 grant from the BC Government Park Enhancement Fund: Connecting With Communities.

Here is a sneak peak at one of the signs for the Stewart Road East Interpretive Trail which will be located near the Trailhead in Myra-Bellevue

## Woodpeckers



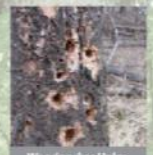
Pileated Woodpecker



Hairy Woodpecker



Downy Woodpecker



Woodpecker Holes

Listen for the sound of woodpeckers drilling to find something to eat. Wherever there are rotting or diseased trees you will find woodpeckers looking for insects. Mountain pine beetles are a good source of food in this area.

All woodpeckers have special adaptations for digging insects out of wood. Their bills are strong for drilling on trees and they have long sticky tongues to extract food from the holes they make. Why don't woodpeckers get headaches? They have a thick spongy skull to prevent brain damage from the rapid and repeated hammering. I wouldn't like to use my head as a hammer!



Woodpecker's Tongue



## ***Flooding, Erosion, Trail Damage.....again!***

This spring and early summer Mother Nature once again wreaked havoc in the parks and on the trails of the South Slopes. In late April, an unusually heavy rainfall and a higher than average snow pack caused streams to rise quickly resulting in streamside erosion, washouts, landslides, sedimentation and damage to trails and bridges.

KLO Creek washed out KLO Creek Trail south of McCulloch Road and triggered a landslide near the first footbridge on the trail. The City's drainage crews are analysing the KLO Creek catchment area and channel to look at future flood protection measures. The trail remains closed.

Rain-swollen Priest Creek washed out the low water crossing at Bellevue Access Trail in Myra-Bellevue and cut a new channel near Lost Lake. The swift moving creek washed out a section of the lower trail in the City of Kelowna's Priest Creek Linear Park. Further heavy rainfalls in June added to the run-off and erosion problems

throughout the South Slopes. Priest Creek trail is closed to the public until the city completes the mitigation work.

In Okanagan Mountain Park a section of the CN Trail was washed out near Wild Horse Canyon Trail. Deeper Creek Bridge was washed out.

The 2003 Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park forest fire burned out much of the forest on the South Slopes. Since then, flooding, sedimentation and stream bank erosion have presented ongoing problems in recreational areas and also to private property.

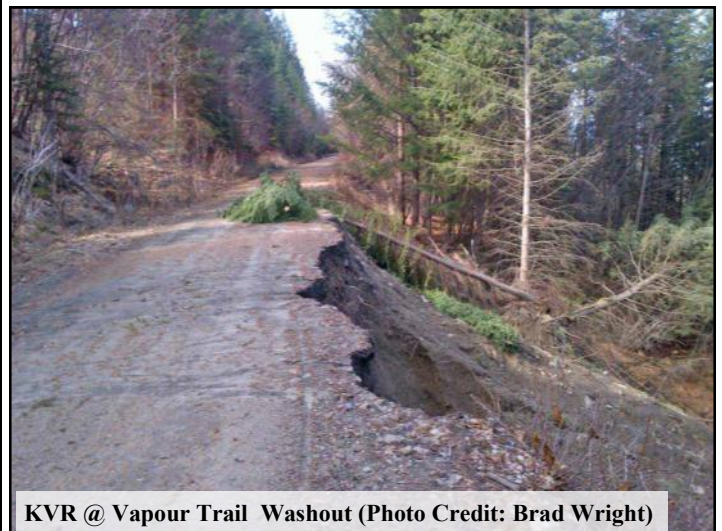
Other trails in Myra-Bellevue sustained damage from spring run-off —notably Race Classic at Lone Pine Junction. A landslide on the KVR at Vapour Trail damaged the Trans Canada Trail. Road access to the Gillard mountain bike trails was cut off for a short time when Gillard FSR was closed because of water damage. Numerous slides on the KVR through Myra Canyon have caused problems for BC Parks staff and the Myra Canyon Restoration Society whose volunteers work so diligently on the Myra Canyon Trail section of the TCT.



**KLO Creek Washout**



**Fairlane Trail @ Priest Cr. (Photo Credit: Andrew McIntosh)**



**KVR @ Vapour Trail Washout (Photo Credit: Brad Wright)**

Photo Credit: Robert Lake/CONC



### ***FOSS Project to Re-Open Goode's Basin Trail, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park***

Thanks to the stellar efforts of the Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club's Hiking Group, FOSS can hire a contractor to clear the windfalls from the Goode's Basin Trail.

In April, CONC members flagged the trail and presented a report to FOSS. They estimated that there are 160 windfalls across the trail. The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club donated \$100 to FOSS and a further \$160 was raised from CONC members at their May meeting. FOSS allocated additional funds and hired R.J.P. Holdings to clear the trail. The contractor starts work July 31st.



***Teddy Bear Junction*** in MBPP has been a feature for many years. Although we all enjoy the 'colony' of stuffed animals, some of them are getting rather shabby looking. We encourage you not to leave stuffies that are filled with Styrofoam or plastics. If you see a stuffy that is in bad shape please help keep the site tidy by taking it home to dispose of in your trash.

Some of the stuffies break down because of the weather, but we've also seen squirrels hauling away the innards of a teddy to build a nest.

***Doggie Walking***—When you walk your dog in MBPP and you put the doo-doo in a plastic bag, PLEASE pack it out and dispose of it at home. Leaving it alongside a trail is not good manners and there is no garbage receptacle at the parking lot. Please don't deposit the bags in the pit toilets as that creates another problem when the toilets are pumped.

We'd like to give a shout-out of gratitude to the dog owners who not only clean up after their own pooches but go the extra mile by picking up baggies left by other dog-walkers. Also, if your dog jumps out of your vehicle at the trailhead and proceeds to poop in the parking lot area— please clean it up! Be a responsible dog owner so we can all continue to enjoy the trails.

***TELUS Day of Giving***—Once again TELUS employees donated their time to a FOSS project. In 2011 the volunteers realigned the upper end of Priest Creek Trail in the City of Kelowna's Priest Creek Park and on May 26th of this year they completed the lower section of the realignment. The project manager was FOSS Director Brad Wright and TELUS employees were led by Dan Hobson, who is also a FOSS member and former FOSS President.



Photo Credits: Brad Wright

## *Vandals Trash & Burn in KLO Creek Park*

Sometime on the May long weekend, vandals burned the first bridge on KLO Creek Trail. This senseless act of vandalism resulted in the closure of the park while the city assesses the damage and develops a mitigation plan. The media reports on this malicious act resulted in offers of help to rebuild the bridge. In 2010, FOSS volunteers re-decked this bridge and the two other bridges in the park.

The rock quarry adjacent to the trail has been the site of bush parties, target shooting (stupidly enough—shooting towards the trail!) and according to Castanet reporter Kelly Hayes there is evidence of copper wire theft. Broken bottles, cans and garbage are scattered around the site. Thank you to the people who have cleaned up some of the mess.



## *Trail Brushing & Clearing*

Who is keeping the Myra-Bellevue Park trails open? Brushing and clearing are done by volunteers, often just ordinary people who are spending their free time to make the park a better place for all of us.

## *Trail Sponsorship Opportunities*

In 2007 FOSS launched its Adopt a Trail Program. For the past six years volunteers have assisted with the general care and maintenance of some of the trails in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park and City of Kelowna Parks on the South Slopes.

Recently FOSS Director Ken Wiklund presented a proposal that was endorsed by FOSS' board of Directors that takes trail 'adoption' to a new level. The **Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program** gives businesses the opportunity to sponsor and care for a trail. Three levels of sponsorship are available—**Silver** - the sponsor will have their name posted on the sign post at the beginning of their trail  
**Gold** - the sponsor's name will be posted on sign post at the beginning and end of their trail and they will also have an ad on FOSS' Myra-Bellevue Trail Map)

**Platinum** - Sponsors are recognized as in 'Gold' level and additionally they will receive an appreciation plaque

Businesses with a connection to trails and recreation (cycling shops, outdoor stores, feed & equestrian businesses etc.) or that have employees using the trails are encouraged to sponsor a trail.

This program is seen as a 'win-win-win' situation by the board - trails get maintained and improved, businesses get recognition for their contribution, and FOSS raises money to undertake trail improvement projects that require a qualified contractor.

For more information on the FOSS Adopt A Trail Sponsorship Program please contact FOSS at: [info@foss-kelowna.org](mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org)

FOSS' standard Adopt a Trail program continues for individuals, families, clubs etc. Thanks to all of you for volunteering your time to this ongoing program.



# The Back Page....

Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park



Lost Lake Trail



Rose Lookout

Lookout Trail  
Dirty Feet Race



Rock Garden



Big Drops Trail