

# Friends of the South Slopes

## Winter 2012/2013



Myra Bailout Trail, MBPP

## A Very Successful AGM

FOSS held its Annual General Meeting on January 10, 2013. Eighty nine people attended. This is the highest attendance we've had at an AGM since the meeting that followed the 2003 Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park forest fire.

Guest speaker Rene Unser inspired us with her personal story of the eight day Gore-Tex Transalpine Trail Race through Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy—a feat that Rene has accomplished twice.

Rene credited her achievements to a dedicated training regime, an amazing running partner and the support of her family. She presented a slide show of photos of the trail race and the difficult but beautiful terrain where she ran.

Rene is counting down the days until she heads to Europe once again to compete in her 3rd Gortex Trans-Alpine Trail Race.

Rene's P.A.C.E. Sports Fitness became an Adopt a Trail Sponsor for Earring Trail.

For more information about Rene and P.A.C.E. Sports Fitness visit:

<http://pacesportsfitness.com/>



Rene Unser at AGM

*(All AGM photos were taken by Erika Wiklund)*

**A motion to increase FOSS' annual membership dues to \$20 was approved at the AGM.**



## 2013 Board of Directors

Al Bischoff stepped down from his position as President to spend more time on his many other volunteer activities. Al held the position of President of FOSS for the past two years. He may not be on this year's board but Al will still stay active and involved with projects and committees.

Moshe Yarosky, a FOSS board member for the past three years, also stepped down to devote more time to his other interests which include travel and hiking. Moshe will continue to help with projects and as a volunteer with FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program. Thanks Al & Moshe.....see you on the trails!

Returning to the board after a one year absence is Marty Stephan. Marty is restarting FOSS' attempt to develop a First Responder's Plan for Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.

New to the board for 2013 is Jay Darbyshire whose youth and enthusiasm will be an asset to the board. Jay is also a director of Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan so he brings a wealth of volunteer experience to the FOSS board.

Jay volunteered for the secretary position and in February he took over the duties from Penny Gubbels. Penny was FOSS' long-time secretary.....sixteen years!

*Above:* Teresa MacKenzie & Vivien Blair call out the lucky numbers for the winners of the door prizes at the AGM.

### ***Door Prizes were donated by:***

FortisBC  
Save-On Foods  
Chainline Cycle  
Sovereign Cycle  
Valeo Health Clinic  
Winn Rentals  
Cyclepath Kelowna  
Rock 'N Road Bike Repair  
Lake Country Cycle  
Orchard Ford  
Wild Mountain/North Face  
Anna Yarosky/Fine Functional Pottery  
Pete Spencer  
Penny Gubbels

***Thank you to all  
our sponsors***

### **2013 Board of Directors**

President—Ken Wiklund  
Vice-President—Andrew  
McIntosh  
Treasurer—Pete Spencer  
Secretary—Jay Darbyshire

Vivien Blair  
Penny Gubbels  
Jessica Hobden  
Teresa MacKenzie  
Isabel Pritchard  
Marty Stephan  
Marilyn Westlake  
Brad Wright

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## FOSS Volunteers

In 2012, FOSS volunteers logged 1206 hours doing trail maintenance, developing the Stewart Rd. East Interpretive Trail, working with Black Mountain Mapping to design a new trail map, planning projects and working with contractors, attending meetings and maintaining the FOSS website (thanks David Brooke!).

## Happy 40th Birthday Okanagan Mountain Prov. Park

OMPP was established on August 23, 1973. The park includes 11,038 hectares of backcountry wilderness and marine foreshore. It is the only large section of undeveloped shoreline left on Okanagan Lake.

2013 also marks the tenth anniversary of the Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park forest fire which started on Aug. 16, 2003 with a lightening strike in the park near Rattlesnake Island. The wildfire ravaged much of the park before it burned south and eastwards through residential neighbourhoods, Crown land, Myra-Bellevue Provincial park and the Myra Canyon trestles.



Near Divide Lake Trail, OMPP

## BC Wildlife Act—Harassing Wildlife

Many of us enjoy walking, running, cycling or riding on the South Slopes with our dogs. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy nature with our family pet. The majority of the dogs we encounter on the trails are friendly, obedient and under their owner's control. However, if your dog chases or harasses wildlife you will be held responsible for their actions. Under the BC Wildlife Act, pet owners can be fined. Conservation Officers also have authority to destroy dogs that are at large and harassing wildlife.



In winter, deer and other wildlife are weaker than a well fed household pet. A five-minute chase can cause a deer to die from shock or exhaustion. Deer may also be frightened into swimming beyond their capability or running over cliffs or into barbed wired fences. In spring, does can abort their fetuses after a chase.

A dog's natural instinct is to chase wildlife. Help protect wildlife and your pet by keeping your dog under control and within sight at all times while you both enjoy the trails on the South Slopes.

### Check Out The FOSS Website [www.foss-kelowna.org](http://www.foss-kelowna.org)

Greg Bauer of *Navigator Multimedia Inc.* designed a new website for FOSS. It has a whole new look, new photo galleries, a link to FOSS' Facebook page and you can now pay your FOSS membership or make a donation on-line through a PayPal account.

Greg Bauer  
Navigator Multimedia Inc.  
web design - programming - hosting  
\*\*New\*\* iPhone App Development  
201-260 Harvey Ave.  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 7S5  
250-862-9868

## Appreciation Plaque Presented to Save-On Foods



(L-R) Ken Wiklund (FOSS President), Ryan Elphick (Area Supervisor, BC Parks), Hon. Steve Thomson (MLA Kelowna-Mission and Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources), Tony Czink (Store Manager, Save-On Foods Westbank, Peter Tallion (Store Manager, Save-On Foods Lakeshore Center, Malcolm Robson (Save-On Foods Orchard Plaza, Duncan Gardiner (Ass't Store Manager, Orchard Plaza).

On Feb. 15, 2013 FOSS presented its first Adopt a Trail Sponsor Appreciation Plaque to staff at **Save-On-Foods**. FOSS President Ken Wiklund, MLA Steve Thomson and BC Parks' Area Supervisor Ryan Elphick were on hand for the presentation.

FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program was introduced in 2012. It is supported by the Ministry of Environment as a pilot project between BC Parks and FOSS. Businesses adopt a trail in either Myra-Bellevue or Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks and they agree to maintain and improve their trail. The sponsors pay an annual fee to FOSS and these funds are used to fund trail improvement projects where a contractor is required, volunteer training or other projects.

All sponsors will have a recognition plaque placed on the sign post of their adopted trail. Gold and platinum sponsors will have their logo on FOSS' Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park Trail map, and Platinum sponsors (like Save-On Foods) receive a recognition plaque.



The Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS) acknowledges



BCParks



for the generous support and services provided in the creation and / or maintenance of sustainable public use hiking, running, mountain biking, and horse riding trails.

Kelowna, British Columbia

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|-------------|--|--|
| <b>2012</b> |  |  |
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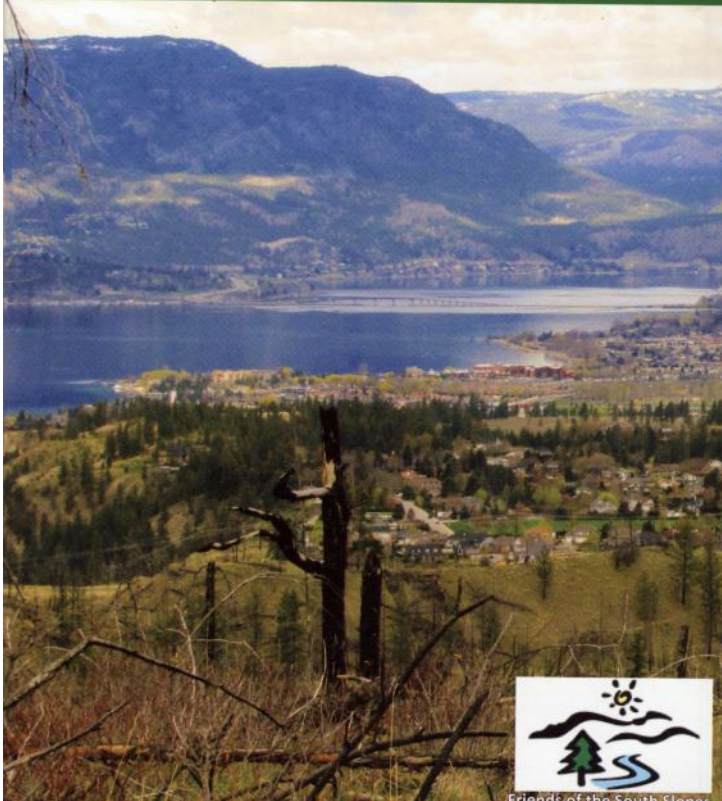
PLATINUM SPONSOR



## MYRA - BELLEVUE PROVINCIAL PARK

### Trail Network Map

Bike - Hike - Horseback



NEW MYRA-BELLEVUE PROVINCIAL PARK TRAIL NETWORK MAP - now available at most local cycling/outdoor/recreation stores, as well as Mosaic books and Tourism Kelowna.

### **Generous Donation to FOSS**

Mapmaker Dennis Doulos recently made a generous personal donation to FOSS. Dennis' company, **Black Mountain Mapping**, developed the new FOSS trail map.



### Deeper Creek Bridge Project, Okanagan Mtn. Park

During the high water events of 2013, the Boulder Trail bridge over Deeper Creek was washed downstream.

In mid February, FOSS initiated a project to remove the bridge from the creek bed and clear the debris field around it. Led by BC Parks' Area Supervisor Ryan Elphick, four FOSS volunteers wrestled the bridge out of the creek using come-alongs and brute force! The next stage of the project will be to dismantle the bridge, move it back in place and re-deck it. Ryan is looking at the option of installing gabion cages to anchor the bridge.



Above (L-R) FOSS volunteers Andrew Stevenson, Andrew McIntosh, Pete Spencer and BC Parks' Area Supervisor Ryan Elphick. (Missing from photo: Brad Wright)

Left: One tough project! A hard day with a successful outcome.  
Photo Credits: Brad Wright



# *The Back Page....*

## *Winter Fun on the South Slopes*



Central Okanagan Naturalists hike (Photo Credits: Sherrell Davidson)



Fairlane Loop Trail, MBPP



Isabel Pritchard on "Tiger" (Photo Credit: Vivien Blair)