

# Friends of the South Slopes

## Fall 2012



Okanagan Highlands Trail east of Little White Mtn.

## 2012—Almost a Wrap!

We hope that you have had an enjoyable year hiking, cycling, running and riding on the trails on the South Slopes.

FOSS has certainly had a busy year! We're currently gathering the reports from our awesome volunteers, but it's safe to say that hundreds of hours have been spent by our volunteers maintaining and improving trails and working on projects.

The Stewart Road East Interpretive Trail Committee logged 227 hours in 2012, developing and implementing that project. The SREIT is 90% completed. The kiosk and the sixteen interpretive signs are installed and all that remains to be done is some directional signage and trail work.

The Goode's Basin Trail Project in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park is complete. FOSS hired R.J.P Holdings Ltd. who did a stellar job clearing the trail. The Central Okanagan Naturalists Club 'adopted' Goode's Basin Trail and it will have the challenging job of keeping the trail brushed. Two projects in Myra-Bellevue were also done by the contractor. In August the crew cleared and brushed lower Myra Bailout Trail. In September they completed the danger tree assessment, mitigation and brushing of Crawford Trail from the north park boundary to the Lookout Trail junction and also Astrid and the west end of Lookout Trail.

In early November the board hired Terry Burke (Okanagan Trail Riders) for an erosion mitigation project on Crawford Trail. Terry operated the SWECO trail dozer.

Thanks to our volunteers, many trails in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks were cleared, brushed and improved over the summer. These volunteers either worked under FOSS' Adopt a Trail program or on other trail maintenance work parties.



One of the interpretive signs near SRE Trailhead



## FOSS Welcomes New BC Parks Area Supervisor

Long-time Ministry of Environment staff member Mike Ladd retired early this summer. In October Mike's replacement, Ryan Elphick, started his new position as Area Supervisor/East Okanagan. Ryan previously worked in the marine parks on the Sunshine Coast. The board of directors look forward to working with Ryan.



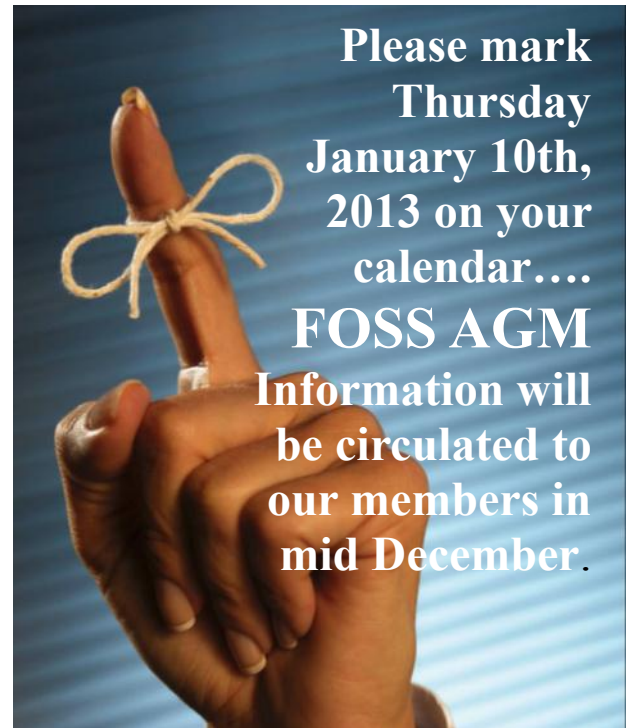
Fall colours on Hillbilly Trail, MBPP



Early snowfall, Oct. 24th  
Hikers on Bellevue Access Trail, MBPP  
(Photo Credit: Peg Emigh)



[www.blackmountainmapping.com](http://www.blackmountainmapping.com)  
(250) 491-1038



Please mark  
Thursday  
January 10th,  
2013 on your  
calendar....  
**FOSS AGM**  
Information will  
be circulated to  
our members in  
mid December.

## Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park Trail Map

Dennis Doulos of Black Mountain Mapping volunteered his time, equipment and expertise to redesign FOSS' map. This new map has additional information on the trails in Myra-Bellevue as well as the trails in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park.

### **NEW DESIGN, NEW FEATURES, GPS CO-ORDINATES**

FOSS' map committee is grateful to Dennis for his patience and guidance. The board also wishes to thank FOSS member Grant Rice, who volunteered many, many hours to this project. The new map will be available at local outdoor/cycling/tack stores in time for your Christmas shopping.



Volunteers from the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club working on their 'adopted' trail, Goode's Basin Trail in OMPP (Photo credit: Jim Hooley)



## Update on Bridge Repairs

MBPP—BC Parks recently hired Katim Enterprises to repair the Fairlane Trail Bridge over Priest Creek and to move the bridge on Lost Lake Loop back in place.

The Deeper Creek Bridge in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park is not being repaired in 2012 as funding isn't available in the BC Parks' budget.

In early November the City of Kelowna notified FOSS that funding has been secured for the materials to repair the KLO Creek bridge that was vandalized in May. FOSS will schedule this project for the spring of 2013, with Brad Wright leading the volunteers.

## FOSS Website "Under Construction"

Nearly ten years ago David Brooke of DWB Communication ([www.dwbcommunications.com/](http://www.dwbcommunications.com/)) volunteered to develop FOSS' website. David has donated his time to maintain the FOSS site ever since. It was designed using the vector based Flash software from Adobe.

Up until the advent of the iPad, Flash sites were favoured by web designers. However, when Apple introduced the iPad and iPhone Apple decided that they wouldn't allow the Flash Player in their mobile iOS operating system. This has created a dilemma as internet users cannot access the FOSS website from their iPhones or iPads. David is currently rebuilding the FOSS site into a "responsive site" that will be able to configure its design to whatever device or operating system a person is using. This requires a lot of time — and FOSS is most appreciative of David's efforts. In the meantime, if you are trying to access the FOSS website using your iPhone or iPad, you will get an "under construction" message.



Above: Oct. 27, 2012 Lost Lake Loop Bridge (Photo Credit: Brad Wright)



Above: Nov. 6, 2012 BC Parks' contractor repairing the bridge on Fairlane Trail

## Priest Creek Trail Re-opened

The trail was closed in June due to flooding and trail damage. City crews repaired the trail and re-opened Priest Creek Park in late September.



# FOSS's Adopt a Trail 'Partnership' Program

We had a great response to this program that was initiated by FOSS Director Ken Wiklund.

**Silver Sponsor**—Ben Smit

**Gold Sponsors**—Rock-n-Road, Lake Country Cycle,

**Platinum Sponsors:** FortisBC, Grant Thornton LLP, Winn Rentals, Chainline Cycle, Cyclepath Cycle & Snow, Sean Kelly Law, Worman Homes, Orchard Ford, Wild Mountain (North Face), Sovereign Cycle, Save On Foods BC, Valeo Health Clinic and Kelowna Cycle.



## FOSS on Facebook

Ken Wiklund developed FOSS' Facebook page. Check it out by entering *FOSS Kelowna* in your Facebook Search. FOSS projects and trail work will be posted on Facebook. Follow FOSS on Facebook and keep up with news on the South Slopes.

### EECO Exhibit Encourages You to 'Explore Your Regional Parks'

What Regional Park has a lake fed by an underground spring inside an extinct volcano? Most of which Regional Park is located along land that was the home of early settler and gold prospector Dan Gallagher? Which Regional Park overlooks a reservoir named after an early pioneering family?\*

The answers to these questions and more can be found at the new 'Explore Your Regional Parks' exhibit at the EECO in Mission Creek Regional Park, Springfield and Durnin Roads.

During your visit, you'll likely discover something new about the 28 Regional Parks spread across the Central Okanagan. Each has its own unique ecosystems, wildlife habitats, history and heritage. Some of our parks are more natural, conservation locales, while others celebrate the history of the area, and others offer fun, recreational opportunities for the whole family.

Communications Officer Bruce Smith says, "That's why we've created this special exhibit, showcasing what each of our parks has to offer. If you're curious about a park you've never visited, stop into the EECO, check out the exhibit, make some interesting discoveries and we'll tell you all about it."

The EECO or Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information about its year round programs and exhibits visit [regionaldistrict.com/parks](http://regionaldistrict.com/parks).



FOSS sign erected at trail improvement projects.  
Above: Crawford Trail



# The Back Page....



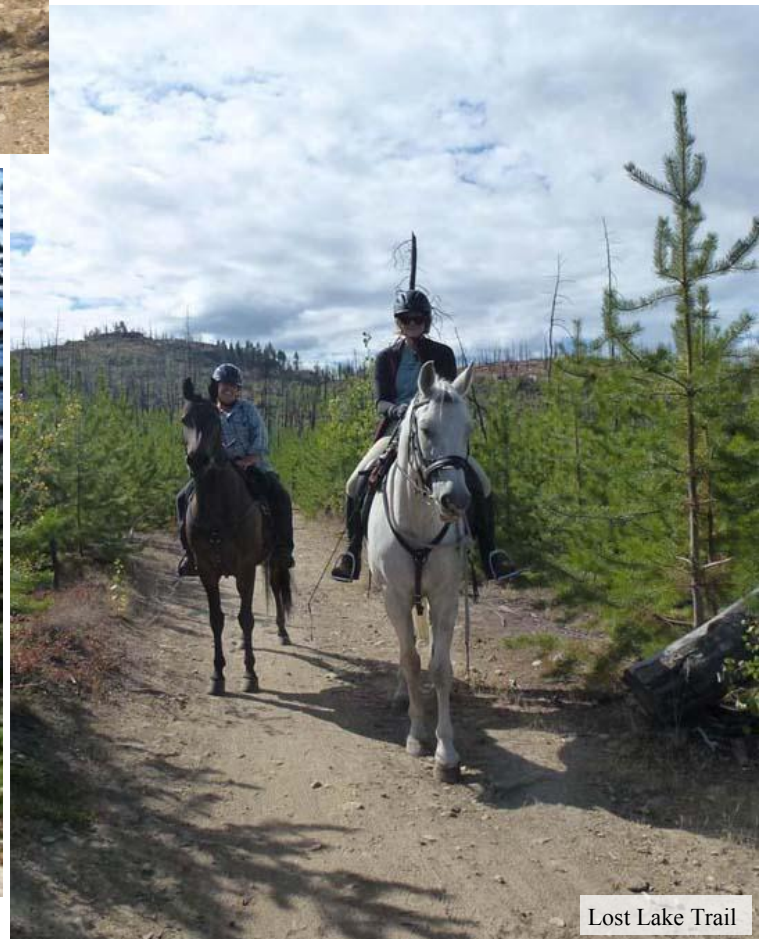
Lost Lake Trail



Hikers from the Water Street Seniors Center  
On Salamander Trail, MBPP



Okanagan Highlands Trail east of Little White Mtn.



Lost Lake Trail

***How many 'visitors' have there been so far in 2012 to the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead in Myra-Bellevue?*** BC Parks report that there have been 10,000 vehicle visits this year or 35,000 visitors. Peak months were July and August with visitor counts of 5,000 each month.