

Friends of the South Slopes

Spring 2013



Photo Credit: Vivien Blair

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

<http://www.foss-kelowna.org>

info@foss-kelowna.org

Growing FOSS' Membership

It must be spring.....the ticks are out, the creeks are running high, some trails are under water, wildlife is abundant and the trails are alive with people. The Stewart Rd. East Trailhead is a busy place, especially late in the day and on weekends.

One of the goals set by your board for 2013 is to increase FOSS' membership. Current membership is around 140 and includes individuals, groups and our Adopt a Trail sponsors. With tens of thousands of recreational devotees using the parks on the South Slopes annually, your FOSS board believes that our membership should be much higher to reflect this. Many outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the trails in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Parks, as well as Priest Cr., Salamander and KLO Creek Trails, may be unaware that the majority of trail improvements and repairs are undertaken by volunteers, and many of these are volunteering through FOSS. We'd like to encourage trail users to support us by taking out a membership.

Thank you to everyone who already assists FOSS through membership and volunteering. Please help 'grow' FOSS membership by encouraging your friends, family, cycling/hiking/running/riding buddies to join. It's easy....they can download a FOSS membership from our website www.foss-kelowna.org or use PayPal by following the instructions on the website.

To help promote FOSS, the board developed a rack card that has been distributed to local outdoor stores and other venues in the valley.



The Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS):

- Promotes active outdoor recreation by maintaining trails in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks (and other areas as well).
- Has members with many different interests including hiking, running, horse riding and mountain biking.

When you join FOSS:

- ✓ 100% of your membership fees go towards new trail construction and trail maintenance.
- ✓ You can participate in trail improvement projects and make a valuable contribution to the community through your efforts.
- ✓ Your membership counts when FOSS works on your behalf to secure access and funding for trails.
- ✓ Your membership is your contribution towards sustainable high quality public use trails.

Discover more about The Friends of the South Slopes Society (FOSS):

- Website: www.foss-kelowna.org
- Facebook: FOSS-Kelowna
- Twitter: FOSS-Kelowna



Completion of the Deeper Creek Bridge Project in Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park

FOSS volunteers Andrew Stevenson, Andrew McIntosh, Pete Spencer and Brad Wright partnered with BC Parks Area Supervisor Ryan Elphick to complete the repair and relocation of the Deeper Creek bridge on Boulder Trail.

BC Parks provided the materials to repair the bridge and construct gabion baskets. Gabions are the stone filled wire baskets that are used to provide supports for the bridge while allowing water to flow through. Materials were transported to the site on a game cart and by bike. The project took place over a period of five days between mid February and early March. The volunteers devoted 90 man hours to the Deeper Creek Bridge Project.

Volunteer Andrew Stevenson helps to maintain Boulder Trail through FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program.

Right: Andrew Stevenson, Andrew McIntosh, Ryan Elphick (BC Parks) and Pete Spencer—transporting materials to the work site (Photo taken by Brad Wright)

Lower left: Deeper Creek Bridge Project Complete!!! (Photo taken by Andrew McIntosh)



This rubber boa snake was photographed this spring by Andrew McIntosh.

Update on Damage to Trestle #3

Trestle 3 in Myra Canyon is closed until further notice because of a rock slide that occurred April 5. The trail is impassable at this point. The remainder of the Myra Canyon Trail remains open to the public. Trestles 18 to 4 can be accessed from the Myra Station parking lot (via Myra Forest Service Road) and Trestles 1 and 2 can be accessed from the Ruth Station parking lot, via Little White FSR.

The following information was provided to FOSS by Ken Campbell, Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society.

The latest information we (MCTRS) have on trestle 3 is that the project will start when snow conditions permit-probably the first week in June. The first priority will be to stabilize the rock face adjacent to the trestle. The extent of that work is not known precisely until the crew is on site. Overall, BC Parks expects that the rebuilding will take most of the summer. In the meantime we are working with them to try to locate a workable bypass trail above and around the trestle. It is rough country but we hope to be able to utilize a former tote road from the original 1914 construction. Timing of that depends on when snow conditions permit.

The photo on the right was taken by Rolf von Andrian on April 7, 2013. Guests at Rolf's Myra Canyon Ranch witnessed the landslide two days earlier, during a hike along the trail. Rolf reported it to BC Parks, MCTRS and FOSS.



Training our Volunteers

This spring, four FOSS members received chain saw skill, maintenance and safety training through Wildfire Consulting Ltd. BC Parks provided FOSS with a grant to cover part of the program costs and the balance was paid by FOSS. Brad Wright, Andrew Stevenson, Malcolm Robson and Ken Wiklund completed the training.

Additionally, three FOSS members were certified in Level 1 (Industry) First Aid.



Photos left & above:
Marilyn Westlake

Earring Trail Project (by Rene Unser)

On January 9th I had the pleasure of being the guest speaker for the F.O.S.S. AGM. My experience was very impactful, as I recall leaving the meeting realizing that I didn't know anything about FOSS and actually felt quite bad that I wasn't more involved in helping this amazing organization.

When I got home, I immediately sent in a request to sponsor a trail in Myra Bellevue this year and within a few weeks I found out that Earring Trail was open. So without hesitation my business, P.A.C.E. Sports Fitness became a sponsor. Now what? Well, I went out in February and ran Earring Trail in the snow. Then again in March, as the snow was melting so I could get a visual for what was needed to clean it up.

I organized a trail maintenance day and promoted it through P.A.C.E. I was amazed with the amount of interest I received. My sponsors also got on board. Western Financial Group provided all the food for the volunteer BBQ. True Outdoors, Kelowna Cycle, Salomon and Flora Health all donated over \$250.00 in prizes. PACE supplied some beer ☺ I feel really honored to be aligned with companies who share the same values as P.A.C.E. and support our trails and community.

The day can be summed up as getting to spend time with a bunch of amazing people and working hard towards a great cause. Earring trail isn't my trail... it belongs to P.A.C.E. and everyone and everything that P.A.C.E. stands for. Every time I am on that trail I run or ride with a new sense of pride and fond memories. I am grateful for the invitation to speak in January and had no idea it would lead me to an even more fulfilling opportunity.

Smiles, Rene Unser
Professional Running Coach
www.pacesportsfitness.com



The Back Page....

Recognizing our Adopt a Trail Sponsors



FOSS Director Jessica Hobden presenting a plaque to Chainline Cycle



MTBco recently sponsored two work parties on Hillbilly, their adopted trail in MBPP. Volunteers spent 79 hours clearing, brushing & improving Hillbilly and other trails in the park.

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(600 followers)

