

# Friends of the South Slopes Summer 2013

Summit of Little White Mtn.  
Photo Credit: Andrew McIntosh



Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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

[info@foss-kelowna.org](mailto:info@foss-kelowna.org)

## **Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park gets some TLC**

Most people who participate in non motorized activities such as mountain biking, hiking or horse back riding are familiar with the trails in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The longer established Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park offers more of a back-country/wilderness experience. There are fewer trails and fewer people using them. This spring and summer, BC Parks and FOSS have been busy improving some of the trails on the eastern side of OMPP. As reported in the spring newsletter, BC Parks & FOSS partnered to repair the Deeper Creek bridge. Subsequent to the completion of that project, FOSS volunteers have spent an additional 99 hours maintaining OMPP trails. Adopt a Trail volunteer Andrew Stevenson cleared and brushed Golden Mile and Boulder Trail. The Central Okanagan Naturalists' Club volunteers snipped and clipped along their adopted trail, Goode's Basin. Photos are posted on FOSS' Facebook page.

Andrew also volunteered for a BC Parks' work party that cleared blow downs from Divide Lake to

Baker Lake and brushed the Mountain Goat Trail.

In late August, FOSS VP Andrew McIntosh and Andrew Stevenson joined Ryan Elphick (BC Parks' Area Supervisor/East Okanagan) on site to strategize a plan to repair the washout on Boulder Trail near the CN Trail Junction and also remove the log jam in the nearby creek.

FOSS is developing an erosion mitigation project for OMPP with funding shared between FOSS, BC Parks and the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society.



View from Buchan Bay Trail, Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



## Ten Years After....

Ten years ago, on August 15 2003, a lightning strike in Okanagan Mt. Provincial Park ignited the forest fire that burned across the South Slopes engulfing homes, businesses, provincial forest and two provincial parks including the Myra Canyon Trestles. It would be nearly six weeks before the fire was out, leaving 26,000 hectares of land scorched.

Post fire recovery efforts required cooperation between all levels of government. Since the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society (MCTRS) formed in 1992, its volunteers worked tirelessly to restore the trestles to make them safe for the public. After the 2003 forest fire destroyed twelve of the trestles, the Myra Canyon Reconstruction Project Management Committee was formed. Comprised of members of MCTRS and BC Parks they oversaw the rebuilding of the twelve wooden trestles.

Through generous community support, fire recovery grants, the leadership of BC Parks and the Province and a federal job retraining initiative program, the trail systems in MBPP and OMPP were rehabilitated and bridges were rebuilt. FOSS volunteers worked closely with BC Parks and the project contractor, Katim Resources, during the post-fire recovery efforts in the Crawford Trail section of MBPP and in OMPP.

From the FOSS archives,  
Fairlane Trail, October 2003



(Left) Teddy Bear Junction, October 2003. FOSS Directors tour lower Myra Bellevue Provincial Park with BC Parks' staff.

(Right) Teddy Bear Junction today....ten years after the Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park forest fire





Back - Kyle, Chris S., Micheal  
Front - Morgan, Nathan, Kirk, Chris D, Greg Bauer - Owner

Navigator Multimedia Inc, designer of FOSS' website, recently donated \$5,400 to FOSS. Not only do we have an awesome website (keep up to date with FOSS through the Facebook link), but their substantial donation offset FOSS' costs for the new website.

**Thanks Navigator!**



“Like” FOSS on Facebook

## *Australian Visitors Love our South Slopes*

The Mallyon Family from Helensvale, Queensland Australia are on a one year teacher exchange in Kelowna. This family of four loves the outdoors and they are welcoming the opportunity to experience Kelowna's four season playground. Arriving in Kelowna in January, they enthusiastically embraced winter by skiing/snowboarding at Big White 30 times! They have probably explored more of Kelowna's South Slopes than most locals...cycling and hiking the trails in Myra-Bellevue, cycling the Myra Canyon trestle trail, visiting the Kelowna Mountain suspension bridges and sampling local wines and produce.



Dad Brendan is teaching at Dr. Knox Middle School and the family is living in South Kelowna just minutes from MBPP. Seth (8) is in grade 3 at South Kelowna Elementary and Caleb (12) attends grade 7 at Dr. Knox Middle School. Mom Nicky is the family travel and adventure planner. She says the South Slopes are “fantastic....right in our backyard”.

Earlier this summer, the Mallyon family was featured on the cover of the Okanagan Mission Review.

← Brendan, Nicky, Seth & Caleb Mallyon beside Hachey Creek in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park while two equestrians ride over Allen's Bridge.

Photo by Gordon Bazzana, reprinted from the Okanagan Mission Review magazine



## Winn Rentals-In Kind Donation

Winn Rentals donated the use of the Bobcat/loader that volunteers utilized to prepare the site for the new Tool Storage Unit at Stewart Rd. East Trailhead.



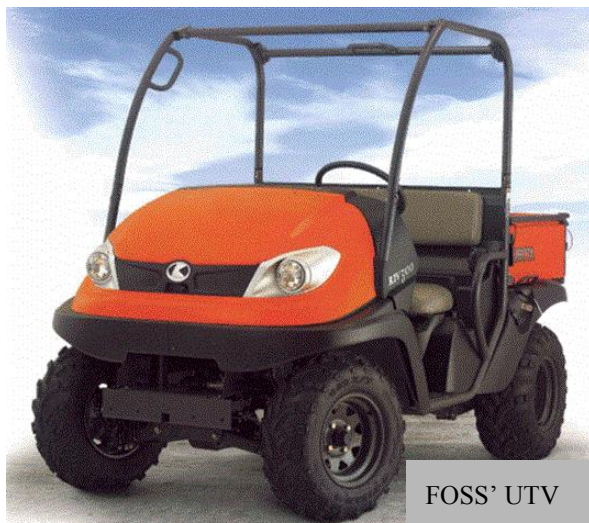
**FOSS VP Andrew McIntosh (L) presents Brad Gretzinger of Winn Rentals with an appreciation plaque for the Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program. As part of the AAT program, Brad installed new signage on Winn Rental's adopted trail, Rocky Screech.**



## FOSS Receives Grant from Central Okanagan Foundation

A recent \$8,000.00 grant from the Central Okanagan Foundation was used to purchase and outfit a tool storage unit located at Stewart Road East Trailhead. This unit centralizes FOSS' tools and supplies, allowing easier accessibility for volunteers who are working on projects on the South Slopes. FOSS President Ken Wiklund planned and implemented the project which has a solar powered access and alarm system with a card reader security access.

The balance of the COF grant was allocated toward the purchase of a UTV—a Kubota RTV500. This fall, Herb Blamire (Global Safety Ltd.) will be providing ATV safety/operation training to six FOSS volunteers. The UTV will enable authorized and trained volunteers to transport equipment, sign posts and volunteers to the site of FOSS projects. Our volunteers will spend more time working and less time getting there!







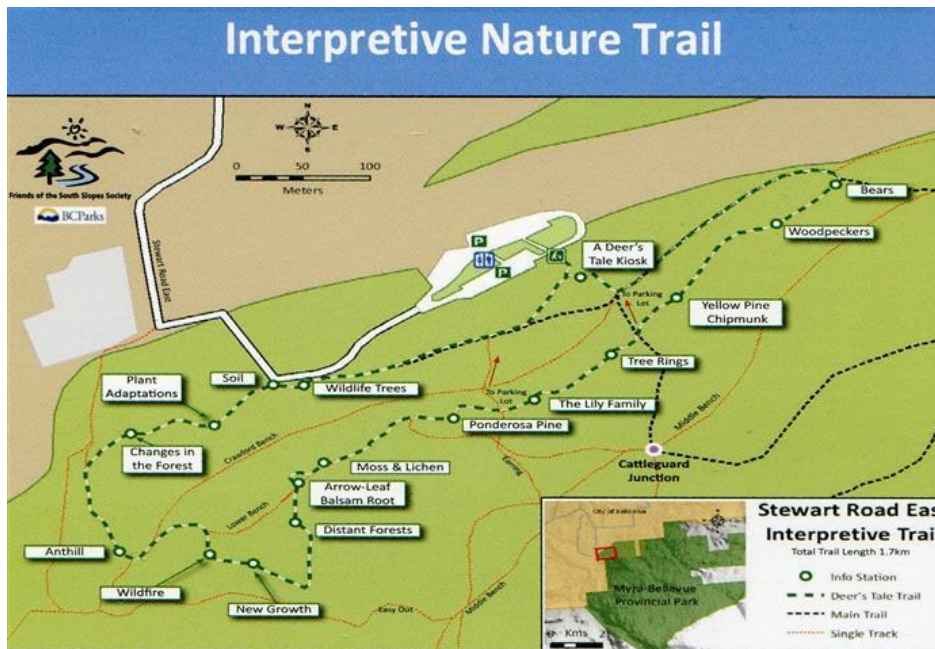
Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson (left) on a walk about of Fairlane Trail and Myra Wetlands property with Isabel Pritchard and Peter Thompson.

**Myra Wetlands**—Have you ever seen the meadow that lies between Fairlane Trail and Lost Lake Trail east of Fairlane Loop Trail and Hachey Creek? We call it Myra Wetland. Most people visiting Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park think this beautiful wetland is part of the park, but in reality it is a 40 acre parcel of privately owned land that is surrounded on three sides by the MBPP. The acreage is presently landlocked and has no driveway access. The owners applied to the Ministry of Environment for a park boundary adjustment to Myra-Bellevue so that they can construct a driveway from Harvard Rd. to their property. Public consultation is part of this process.

FOSS directors believe that this property has important ecological and recreational value and that it would be an asset to have it as part

of MBPP. FOSS is in discussions with the owners, the Province, regional and local governments and other non-profit organizations to explore all avenues available to add the Myra Wetland property to Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

**Come out and walk the Stewart Rd. East Interpretive Trail!** Directional signs, trail improvements and the “Deer’s Tale” kiosk were completed in late spring. Dennis Doulos of Black Mountain Mapping donated his time and expertise to develop the interpretive trail map. *Thanks Dennis!*



**Repair of Trestle #3 underway.** The Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society reports that as of August 15, 2013, a 1.3 km trail is open to bypass trestle #3. It is only suitable for hiking or pushing a bike and is not suitable for bike trailers. Signage is in place. Work has started on repairing the damaged trestle.

**Myra-Bellevue Trail Improvements Update:**  
*Adopt a Trail Business Sponsors:*

- AEM (Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing) - 44 hours spent improving Natasha Trail
- Wild Mountain/North Face—Windfall Trail
- Cyclepath-Vapour Trail

*Adopt a Trail Club Sponsors:*

- CONC (Central Okanagan Naturalists Club) brushed Heckle, Jeckle, Hyde & Klassen

(Many in the AAT program will report their volunteer hours at the end of the year)

*Other trail projects in MB include:*

- Brushing & trail tread improvements to Stewart Rd. East Interpretive Trail
- Erosion mitigation at Lost Lake Trail & Spring By-Pass
- Other snipping, clipping & removal of barb wire



# The Back Page....Our Adopt a Trail Sponsors



← FOSS Director Penny Gubbels presents Judit Horvath of FortisBC with an appreciation plaque at FortisBC's adopted trail—lower Myra Bailout



↑ Penny presents a plaque to Dave Veitch (Left), President of Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing Corporation, and Royal Smith (Right). AEM sponsors Natasha Trail.



← FOSS VP Andrew MacIntosh presents to Cyclepath's Gary Norkum, sponsor of lower Vapour Trail



↑ Corinne Shoranick (Right) of Grant Thornton LLP receives the recognition plaque for sponsorship of Lost Lake Trail between Teddy Bear Jct. and Bellevue Access Trail



→ FOSS director Teresa MacKenzie (Left) presents to Rene Unser, whose company P.A.C.E. Sports Fitness adopted Earring Trail.