

Friends of the South Slopes

Spring 2014



Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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

info@foss-kelowna.org

FOSS' 2014 Board of Directors

On January 9, 2014, the Friends of the South Slopes Society held its Annual General Meeting. There were seventy people in attendance.

Guest speaker Ryan Elphick (BC Parks Area Supervisor/Okanagan East) spoke about BC Parks management strategies and BC Parks' decision making process.

Elected to the FOSS Board of Directors were:

Herb Blamire	Isabel Pritchard
Jay Darbyshire	Pete Spencer
Penny Gubbels	Marilyn Westlake
Jessica Hobden	Ken Wiklund
Malcolm Robson	Brad Wright
Andrew McIntosh	

The twelfth board position was filled at the February 13th board meeting when Gail Forshaw was elected. Officers of the Board are:

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

The board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 7 pm at the EECO Centre.



TIME TO RENEW! Thank you to all our 2013 members who renewed their FOSS membership for 2014. For the rest of you....please renew ASAP. A membership form can be downloaded from our website at : www.foss-kelowna.org and mailed to FOSS or you can pay for your membership on line on the website.

...More from the AGM



- Refreshments were organized by Marilyn Westlake. Anne Mackay, Shirley Truitt and Isabel Pritchard brought goodies. Save-On Foods Orchard Plaza donated a fruit platter.
- Door Prizes were donated by —Fortis BC, Save-On Foods Orchard Plaza, Diamond H. Tack, BC Parks, Scott Walker (Quails' Gate Winery), Winn Rentals, David's Tea, Marilyn Westlake, Marty Stephan, Pete Spencer and Penny Gubbels

FOSS Volunteers Shined in 2013!

FOSS volunteers logged 2,130 hours of service last year.

In the Adopt a Trail Program, Sponsors dedicated 687 hours to improving their trails. Volunteers in the regular Adopt a Trail Program spent 245 hours working on their adopted trails.

489 volunteer hours were recorded outside of the Adopt a Trail Program. Projects included Deeper Creek bridge, re-route of Boulder Trail, the new tool storage unit and erosion mitigation and brushing projects.

The balance of the volunteer hours were recorded for meetings, committees, map sales, planning & purchase of the UTV and storage unit, newsletters, correspondence etc.

Donations in 2013

Major support/donations from:

Central Okanagan Foundation
Navigator Multimedia
Dennis Doulos, Black Mtn. Mapping
Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Land Forests & Natural
Resources

Okanagan Similkameen Parks
Society
Dawn Balic
Rogers Family Trust

*And also a big "thanks" to the following individuals who donated to FOSS in 2013
(Up to Oct. 31, 2013—end of FOSS' fiscal year)*

Milt & Jane Stevenson,
Rob Geisthardt
David Petrik
Gail Hill
Michael Nobes
Jeannette van Holland
Cynthia & Scott Walker
Al Bischoff
Tony Ashton
Dr. Charles & Mary Lund
Sharon & Michael Shepherd
Norm & Judie Akins
Sherrell Davidson

Sheila Fergusson,
Marilyn Klingspon
Daphne Richard
Gord & Maureen Savage
Marty Stephan
Alex & Ruth Recsky
Peggy Barr
Herb Blamire
Dani Halperin (Sarbit)
Lucy Reiss
Cathy Richards
Rolf von Andrian
Roxanne Warner

Rhea & Wes Wiseman
Gillian Barany
Judi & Dan Robson
Doug Black
Randy & Karen Ellis
Nancy Imthorn
Cynthia Lambrecht
Jim McMillan
Eric Peemoeller
Eric & Min Rayson
Rene Unser
Brad Wright

Trail Maintenance By C.O.N.C. Volunteers

Oct. 19, 2013—Volunteers from the Central Okanagan Naturalists Club (C.O.N.C.) did a pre-winter clean up of Goode's Basin Trail in Okanagan Mountain Park. CONC is a strong supporter of FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program. The club has adopted trails in both Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park and Myra-Bellevue.



⇐at the top of Goode's Basin Trail, a well deserved rest!

Photos were taken by Lisa Fairgrieve.

Training our Volunteers

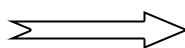
On April 11, BC Parks' Area Supervisor Ryan Elphick facilitated a **hazard tree awareness presentation** that included both a classroom and a field component. The purpose was to help our volunteers to be aware of their surroundings when they are out enjoying the trails or helping with projects in the parks. Eighteen participants took part in the session.



On April 13, seven FOSS volunteers completed a Canada Safety Council certified ATV/UTV safety training program facilitated by Herb Blamire (Global Safety Training). All authorized volunteers who use FOSS' UTV are required to complete this program. FOSS would like to thank Mark Turton for allowing Herb to hold the training session on Mark's Stewart Road West property.



April 13, 2014 Employees from Wave Physiotherapy working on Salamander Trail—their “adopted” trail



Why Aren't There Any Garbage Cans at the Stewart Road East Trailhead?

We asked BC Parks staff that question! The response was:

- BC Parks only provide garbage facilities at camp grounds and day use picnic areas.
- Stewart Road East Trailhead is not a day use picnic area. It is s a trail head and the expectation at trail heads is that the public **“pack out what they pack in”**.
- BC Parks don't provide garbage cans at trail heads. Through experience BC Parks found that having garbage cans at trail heads can be a problem and cause more issues than not having one there.
- They end up being a dumping ground for residential garbage and garbage from people's cars.
- Because there isn't a regular PFO (Park Facility Operator) presence at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead, the garbage cans end up over flowing from the above garbage dumping and being more of a mess.

Examples of other busy trail heads where BC Parks do not provide garbage cans are:

- Skaha Bluffs where there are 70,000 – 80,000 annual visitors
- Myra and Ruth Station Parking lots in Myra-Bellevue Provincial park -(70,000- 80,000 visitors annually)
- Enderby Cliffs- 15,000- 25,000 annual visitors
- Cosens Bay (Kalamalka Park)- 90,000-100,000 annual visitors

BC Parks staff advised FOSS that the public can continue **“packing out what they pack in”**, which is consistent with any other Provincial Park trail head.

Why Is the Stewart Road East Parking Lot Closed Every Year in the Spring?

- With the first signs of snow melt in the spring and when the frost starts coming out of the ground, the parking lot is closed. This gives it a chance to dry up and prevent a mud bowl and ruts. This normally lasts 3-4 weeks. Just a reminder, around April 15th each year, BC Parks contracts the Corps of Commissionaires to open and close the SRE Trailhead security gate daily. These times are posted at the entrance to the Trailhead.



Big White Mtn. as seen from Log Cabin Trail, Nordic Ski area, McCulloch Lk.



Priest Creek Trail
(Photo contributed by Mike Hill)

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FOSS Partners With COSARS for a First Responders Plan

In 2010 the FOSS board first started discussing the development of a First Responder Plan for Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. There were a few false starts but this year FOSS director Herb Blamire formed a committee to take this project forward.

The board met with Phil Cadorette of Central Okanagan Search and Rescue in March. COSARS is keen to work with FOSS on this project. As a first step, the board provided COSARS with contact information for FOSS directors (with local knowledge of trails and park access points) and GPS data for Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. Detailed mapping will be provided to COSARS by the First Responder Committee.

FOSS' objective is to have accurate and up-to-date information available to First Responders (RCMP, Kelowna Fire Department, Central Okanagan Search & Rescue) so that there can be a timely response to any accident or incident in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. A First Responder Plan may include: -

- which trails can be accessed by a vehicle, which are accessible only by quad (or snowmobile in winter) and which must be accessed on foot.
- Location of potential staging areas or where a helicopter can land
- If best access is by going up or down a trail

The current project involves Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park but the long term goal is to have a comprehensive First Responder Plan for the South Slopes from Myra Canyon to Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park.



Trail runners on Fairlane Trail—March 2014



Keep walking! Hazard tree on Boulder Trail in Ok. Mtn. Prov. Park (bear claw marks on the tree trunk too!) Photo credit: Rick Gee CONC



South Slopes as viewed from Mt. Boucherie

The Back Page.. Recognizing our Adopt a Trail Sponsors

FOSS Director Andrew McIntosh presents an appreciation plaque to:

Clockwise from left: Jesse Winkiewicz, Wild Mountain/North Face; Grace Hiom, Dirty Feet Trail Series; Pat Rosen, Kelowna Cycle and Shane Worman, Worman Homes/Commercial



FOSS' Adopt a Trail sponsors and volunteers from the regular Adopt a Trail program have been busy this spring getting their trails in tip-top shape. If you see volunteers out working on the trails—please let them know how much you appreciate the work they are doing. We all benefit from their efforts!

← FOSS Director Brad Wright presents an appreciation plaque to Sean Kelly/Sean Kelly Law