

Friends of the South Slopes

Fall 2015



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FOSS Signs Trail Use Agreement with S.E.K.I.D.

Toby Pike, General Manager of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District (SEKID) and FOSS Director Ken Wiklund shake hands after signing a *Trail Use Agreement* that will see FOSS manage the trails located on the SEKID property which is adjacent to KLO Creek Regional Park. The area is 104 acres and has approximately 5.5 km of existing trails. "This agreement is the first step towards establishing an official trail system that will link Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, KLO Creek Regional Park and the Mission Creek Greenway together" said Wiklund. He added "The total of about 13 km of trails in the area are on SEKID, Crown and private properties so FOSS will develop a plan that maximizes recreational use of the trails while respecting the rights of the private property owners".

As part of its management of the trails, FOSS will install trail signs and add the trails to the FOSS trail map (sold at most Kelowna outdoor/bike stores). This will create a greater awareness and make it easier to navigate the trails. Plans also include a means to incorporate and preserve a now abandoned irrigation flume that was built in 1913. At the turn of the century, this flume was part of a major irrigation project that allowed for the creation of orchards on the

south slopes and is now an important local historical artifact.

Among the next steps for FOSS is to apply to the Province for permission to manage the trails on Crown property. For trails located on private property, FOSS will determine the interest level from the owners and may enter into a Trail Use Agreement for those willing to allow public use. For trails where an agreement is not possible, it is likely that some trails may be abandoned or re-routed as needed to comply with the land owners requests.

(Trail use agreement with SEKID, continued on Pg. 2)



Trail Use Agreement with S.E.K.I.D., continued.....

Adding these routes to the existing South Slopes trail inventory will complement the nearby Myra-Bellevue Provincial trail network and has the potential to provide 10 - 20 km of marked trails. This would increase options for trail users. The improved connection to KLO

Creek Regional Park with its popular Angel Springs Trail will be welcomed by trail users. They will be able to avoid the 10 km road trip back to the Stewart Road East parking lot after descending Angel Springs Trail. Users of the Mission Creek Greenway Park will be able to loop back to Myra-Bellevue Park by using easier trails.



Successful Wind-up to FOSS' 2015 National Trails Coalition Trail Maintenance Project

On October 8th, Katim Enterprises, FOSS' contractor for the trail maintenance project, wrapped up its contract after spending nearly 600 man-hours working on trail improvements to our two provincial parks. After clearing and brushing the north half of Wild Horse Canyon Trail in June, Katim moved over to Myra-Bellevue from July to early October. A map identifying the trails they worked on is on page 3 of this newsletter.

Windfalls were cleared, overgrowth cut back, and drainage and water bars were built where needed. 50% of the project was funded by a National Trails Coalition grant through Canada's Economic Action Plan. The balance was funded by FOSS thanks to great community support and many donations—large and small. Long-time FOSS Director (18 years and counting!) Isabel Pritchard managed the project and spent many, many hours working with Katim's lead-hand Jason LeBlanc. FOSS rented a brush mower from Winn Rentals for the duration of the project and it did an exceptional job on trails where it could be utilized. Winn Rentals is making a substantial donation to FOSS for future trail maintenance projects.



National Trails Coalition Project, continued

Statistics for the project:

Total expenditure for the project: \$47,884 (\$21,000 NTC grant, balance funded by FOSS)
\$37,670 on labour, \$1,237 on materials, \$6,678 on rentals (ATV in Ok. Mtn. Park & Brush Mower in Myra-Bellevue), \$2,389 taxes,

Number of kilometres of trails improved:

9.6 km—Wild Horse Canyon/OMPP

29.4 km—Myra-Bellevue

Now that most of the Myra-Bellevue Trails are brushed back we're hopeful that it will be easier for our Adopt-a-Trail sponsors & volunteers to maintain their trails!

There are so many people, groups & organizations to thank for helping FOSS meet its goal to raise the matching funds for the \$21,000 in federal funding.

As first published in FOSS' summer newsletter, we would again like to thank:

Central Okanagan Foundation	\$10,000
BC Parks, Park Enhancement Fund	\$ 2,500
Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society	\$ 1,000

These recent donations were applied to the NTC Project:



Fitness Instructor
Dawn Balic \$510



Singletrack 6—Stage 4 of a 6 stage mountain biking event was held in Myra-Bellevue Park this past summer. The event organizers, Transrockies Inc., made a \$1,150.00 donation to FOSS.

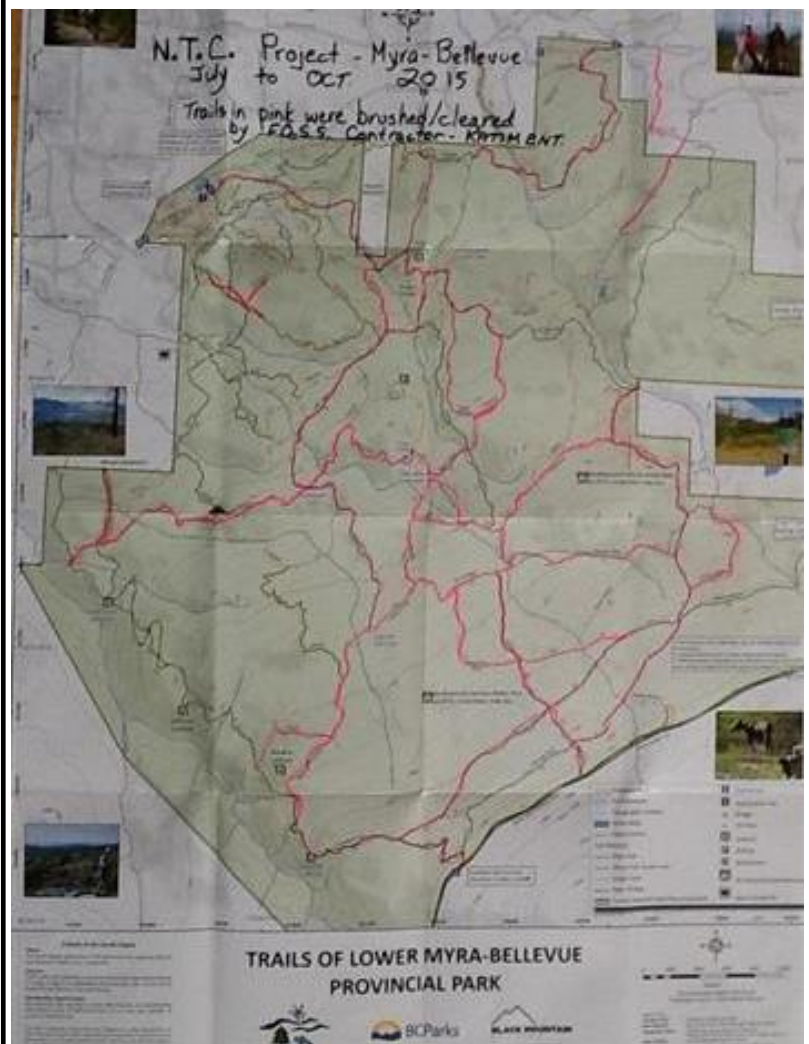
Creative Vessel Ltd.
(David Tilley, P.Eng.) - \$250.00

CanadaHelps.org (unknown donor) \$475.00



Central Okanagan Naturalists Club- \$1,000
CONC is an active participant in FOSS' Adopt a Trail program

The balance of the funding was allocated from FOSS' reserve funds.



Our contractor brushed/cleared/improved the trails coloured in pink.

There were some pretty amazing “Before” and “After” photos taken by Jason LeBlanc of Katim Enterprises, FOSS’ contractor for its National Trails Coalition Project.

Before



After



Message to FOSS from the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

Registration for Off Road Vehicles becomes compulsory on November 1. Please follow the link below for more information as well as details of ORV safety measures which are also coming into effect.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2015FLNR0313-001725>

It is interesting to note that, since voluntary registration of ORVs was introduced, 35,505 ORVs have voluntarily registered under the ORV Act between November 17, 2014 and Sept 30, 2015. ICBC has also confirmed the following participation rates by class of ORV:

- 78% (27,550) all-terrain vehicles;
- 12% (4,357) snowmobiles;
- 7% (2,392) off-road motorcycles; and
- 3% (1,206) side-by-sides.

This says a great deal for the leadership which has been shown by the ORV clubs and organizations which have been participating in the development of the ORV Management Framework.

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"Promoting access to and responsible use of BC's public lands and waters for public outdoor recreation"



Winter Trail Grooming—Pilot Project Approved by FOSS board

FOSS struck a Winter Trails Committee to explore grooming some double track trails in Myra-Bellevue for winter sports. This will benefit the emerging sport of fatbiking (mountain bikes with 5" tires) and will also benefit hikers, trail runners and equestrians. Trails would be 'textured' using a snowmobile and a groomer. FOSS Director Ken Wiklund is the chair of this committee. Grooming is completely dependent on snow depth—without a significant snow pack, trail grooming won't occur.

The Recycling Club at **école de L'Anse-au-sable** recently donated \$74 to FOSS. Under the leadership of teacher Vicky Boivin, students collect recyclables at the school. This is the second year that the club has donated the proceeds from its recycling program to FOSS. FOSS' board recognized their efforts by giving each student a copy of its Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park Trail map.



FOSS Welcomes Big White Ski Resort as a New Adopt a Trail Sponsor for 2016

Their staff adopted the west half of Race Classic, from the Klassen Trail Junction to Crawford Trail.



Kelowna, BC
bigwhite.com

Here are some of our Adopt a Trail Sponsors & volunteers who have held trail maintenance days on their trails this fall....

Cabin Forestry (Boris Trail)

Winn Rentals (Rocky Screech). The Gretzingers & friends also adopted KLO Creek & Angel Springs Trail as part of FOSS' regular Adopt a Trail program

Sovereign Cycle (Reroute of Fairlane Trail south east of Harvard gate)

Valeo Health Clinic (reroute of Fairlane Loop & dismantling of bridge)

Cyclepath (lower Vapour Trail-trail maintenance day scheduled for Nov. 8)

Andrew Stevenson (Boulder Trail in Okanagan Mtn. Park)

The Yarosky Family (Priest Creek Trail)

...many others Adopt a Trail sponsors will be reporting their volunteer hours when they complete their annual report at the end of November.



Oct. 18, 2015— Two of FOSS' Adopt a Trail sponsors teamed up for the Fairlane Trail/ Fairlane Loop reroute project. Fourteen volunteers, led by FOSS Director Andrew McIntosh, worked on the project. Please respect the 'environmental restoration in progress' signs that are posted on the decommissioned sections of the trails.

