

Friends of the South Slopes

Fall 2016



Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park, Central Okanagan Naturalists Club, Oct. 1, 2016

Photo Credit: Robert Lake

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Ushering in 2017 *By Penny Gubbels*

It's the countdown to Canada's 150th birthday. FOSS will be celebrating the year-long event with a **Canada 150 Project** which includes repairing and replacing some bridges in Myra-Bellevue Park and initiating other trail enhancement proposals. This project is 50% funded by a Federal Western Economic Diversification grant. There will be more about this exciting project at FOSS's January 12, 2017 AGM and in future newsletters.

FOSS has come a long way since the April 15, 1998 AGM when it developed into a trail advocacy group. While looking back on the last nineteen years, I compiled a few statistics from the files. All records are from 1998 to 2016 unless otherwise indicated.

Donations & grants received \$328,708
Value of In Kind Contributions \$200,320
Volunteer Hours 14,107 (2004-2015)

Here is a brief synopsis of some of FOSS' accomplishments between 1998 and 2016:

1998-2000—Advocacy for orderly development of recreational opportunities on Kelowna's South Slopes (Regional District of Central Okanagan's South Slopes Parks & Recreation Study)

2000—FOSS led the lobby to successfully oppose a mining claim filed at Angel Springs. The Province denied the claim and the land became part of the newly established Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park in 2001

2001—FOSS and BC Parks partnered for the development of the Stewart Rd. East Parking lot

2003—FOSS built the information kiosk at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead in MBPP, and designed, purchased

and installed the kiosk signage.

2004 to present time—Following the 2003 Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park wildfire, FOSS led the post-fire recovery of trails and facilities chiefly in the Crawford Trails section of MBPP—this is accomplished through fundraising, hiring contractors & thousands of volunteer hours.

2005—Bridges were constructed in MB and Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Parks. All trail signs in MB were purchased by FOSS & installed by volunteers or its contractors.

2007—FOSS initiated its Adopt a Trail program. It was expanded in 2012 to include a trail sponsorship component.

2008—Development of the Angel Springs Interpretive Trail & parking lot.

2009—Priest Creek Trail and 2010 KLO Creek Trail Projects (collaborative projects with the City of Kelowna Parks' Department)

2012—Stewart Rd. East Interpretive Trail completed

2014—FOSS honoured with BC Parks' Volunteer Group of the Year Award

2015—FOSS hired a contractor to brush, clear blowdowns and do erosion mitigation work on 39 km of trails in MBPP & OMPP. This was funded by a National Trails Coalition grant and matching donations and grants (a \$47,884 project).

For 2017, FOSS looks forward to continuing with its efforts so that hikers, cyclists, trail runners, equestrians, dog walkers, and winter trail users can continue enjoy the great outdoors.



Big White Ski Resort supports FOSS through the Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program. Below: Josh Foster (Director of Mountain Sports), Loose Moose (Big White Mascot) and Kris Hawryluik (Patrol Operations Manager) stand beside the sign post on Race Classic Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. Big White Ski Resort is FOSS' newest trail sponsor. In 2016 they adopted Race Classic between Pink Hwy and Crawford Trail.



L'école de l'Anse-au-sable Recycling Club donated \$67 to FOSS—this is the third time that the students have supported FOSS. Thank you to the teacher-sponsor, Vicky McPhee.

The Board of Directors, Friends of the South Slopes Society is comprised of up to 12 elected members. Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting. However, if there are open positions during the year, a new director can be elected at a regular board meeting. Ideally, there is diversity in the strengths, interests and experiences that each person who serves on the board brings to the table. FOSS strives to encourage representation from the groups and individuals that benefit from the trails, including hikers, mountain bikers, trail runners, equestrians etc. as well as people who live in the area and have a general interest in maintaining the trails. The board's primary interests are Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks along with regional and civic parks that provide public access to the South Slopes. Ken Wiklund is the chair of the nomination committee for the 2017 board of directors. If you want to talk to Ken about serving as a FOSS director, you can reach him by email at: kr.wiklund@gmail.com

A Little Bit of South Slopes History....

On January 21, 2016, long time Kelowna resident Brenda Thomson passed away. Brenda was a naturalist and conservationist and she volunteered her time for many local groups including Friends of Mission Creek, Central Okanagan Naturalists Club as well as FOSS, where she sat on the board for two years.

A few years ago, Brenda gave FOSS her "South Slopes" file—it is a collection of correspondence on South Slopes topics dating back to the 1980's. Her records included this information on Little White Mtn. & Bellevue Creek.

Look-out tower was built by the Dominion Forest Services in 1914

Big forest fire July 25, 1931

Bellevue Trestle replaced in 1946

William Crawford pre-empted 1/2 section in 1892. He and his sons acquired adjoining lands over the years and operated a sawmill. Crawford had his first water rights on Bellevue Creek.

Camillo Lanfranco—trapper and hunter, had a cabin in the meadow at the base of Little White. He died in February of 1992 by drowning when his vehicle went through the ice on Pinaus Lake.

Regrettably, the Forest Service look-out tower at the summit of Little White Mtn. was destroyed by vandals. In 2006, FOSS volunteers Dan Hobson, Mark Coffey and Cathy Richards assisted BC Parks staff members Mark Weston and Erin Gunoff to dismantle the tower. Debris was removed by helicopter. Here are two photos of the FOSS volunteers and BC Parks' staff in action.

Photo Credits: Mark Coffey (2006)



← A mountain biker enjoying the downhill challenge of the trail from Angel Springs to KLO Creek Trail

Summer & Fall on the South Slopes

The beauty of the meadows at Little White Mtn. and the spectacular view from the top.

(Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park)



Osprey, perched above the Golden Mile Trail near Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



Photo taken on the 'Get Back' Trail (Crown land on June Springs Rd.)

FOSS Volunteers



FOSS' Post spike pounder repaired & improved by Colin Thomson

Oct. 29, 2016—Brad Wright & Fred Gubbels brushed Woolley's Revenge Also, thank you to Brad Wright for maintaining many of the trails in the Lost Lake area. FortisBC (Brad's employer) 'adopted' lower Myra Bailout Trail but Brad also clears and improves other trails near Lost Lake and recently he shored up the Lost Lake Loop Bridge. Brad calls this his recreation!



Volunteers from Adopt a Trail sponsor Cabin Forestry taking a break after working on Boris Trail this fall

...More FOSS Volunteers



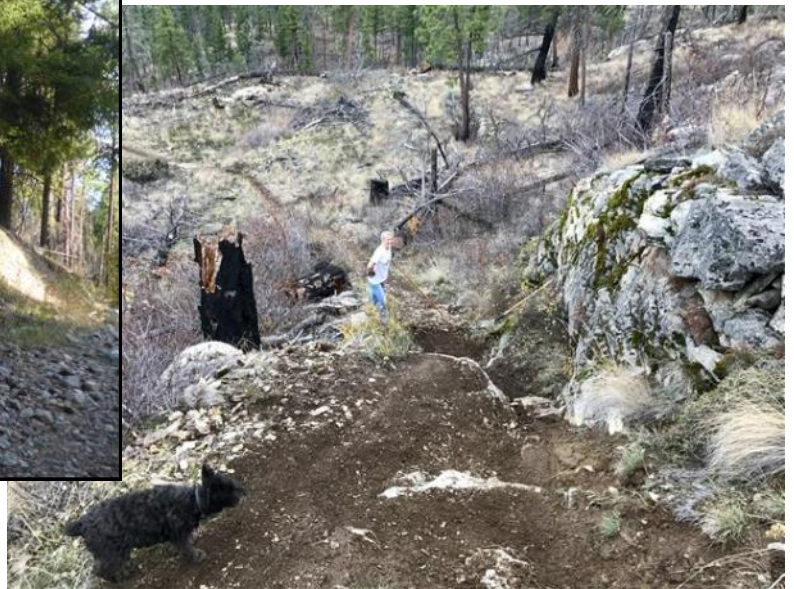
Karen & Norm brushing Angel Springs Trail



Repairs to 'Allen's Bridge' on Fairlane Trail. The bridge is scheduled for replacement during FOSS' 2017 Canada 150 Project.



↑ Signage was installed this summer at each end of Golden Mile Trail between Lakeshore Rd. & Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park (access to Wild Horse Canyon)



Winn Rentals volunteers held trail maintenance days on Rocky Screech & Rock Garden, Nov. 4 & 5, 2016. Winn Rentals is a trail adopter through FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program.

Central Okanagan Outdoors Club— 'Adopter' through FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program

By J.P. SQUIRE

One year ago, when I first proposed participation in the Adopt-A-Trail program organized by Friends of the South Slopes, I wasn't sure what the response would be from members of the Central Okanagan Outdoors Club. However, members were enthusiastic about adopting Upper Lookout Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and more than a dozen participated in a reconnoitre on a hot July 22.

In spite of damp weather on Saturday, Nov. 5, seven key members of the C.O.O.C. met Ken Wiklund from FOSS at the Stewart Road East trailhead at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6 (after the daylight savings time change at 2 a.m.). He took shovels, Mattock picks, McLeod tools, pruners and his chainsaw in FOSS's UTV to Upper Lookout Trail where he provided instruction on erosion-control methods. Then everyone worked on two muddy sections and a muddy hill on Lookout Trail between Obelisk Junction and a small wooden bridge.

Every spring, there are large puddles on the two muddy sections, he explained, so material was excavated from the side of the trail tread on each section and a new raised surface was created with a drainage pit to the side. Digging out that material was challenging because of roots and rocks but many hands make light work. The McLeod tools were used to rake the new trail tread and pack it down so it's not disturbed by mountain bike tires or horse hoofs.

During an education session for me and COOC member Kathy van Leur on May 26, Ken demonstrated an erosion control technique called turnpike on the Lookout Trail's muddy hill. After removing most of a corduroy surface (horizontal wooden posts laid side-by-side), the three of us dug a ditch or trench on one side to stop water from emerging partway down the hill and running down the middle of the trail. When we re-checked that work on Sunday, water was now emerging higher up the hill so the ditch on one side was extended further up and a new trench was excavated on the other side all the way down to the wooden bridge. The rest of those muddy logs in the corduroy bridge were removed as well.

As we moved down Upper Lookout and Pink Highway trails, COOC members used pruners to lop off fresh shoots in the trail tread. And Ken - who worked as hard or harder than many of us - used his chainsaw to cut back large logs coming up to the trail edge. Tired but pleased after four hours of volunteer labour, COOC members are looking forward to checking out the results next spring, *hoping for no water, no problem.*



Please Be Mindful — Hunting is allowed in local Provincial Parks

As a follow up to information posted in FOSS' summer newsletter, this is another reminder to trail users in Myra-Bellevue that hunting is permitted in all areas of the Park, including the lower Crawford trails.

The information posted on the BC Parks' website for Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park advises that: "Myra-Bellevue is open to hunting. Check the British Columbia hunting and trapping synopsis for further details. Note: there is a large population base using the Crawford Trails network, and hunters are urged to be cautious when hunting in this location."

In response to a inquiry from a local resident about hunters in Myra-Bellevue, MLA Steve Thomson told him *"This park has always been open to hunting as this is a recognized recreational activity in that area. This is referenced in the Management Direction Statement* (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/mgmtplns/myra_bellevue/myra_bellevue_mds_sept_2005.pdf?v=1476721956322) and on the park website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/myra/>)"

If you want further information on hunting regulations for Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks, they fall under Resource Management Region 8

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/sports-recreation-arts-and-culture/outdoor-recreation/fishing-and-hunting/hunting/regulations/2016-2018/hunting-trapping-synopsis-2016-2018-region8.pdf>

BC Parks Regulatory sign posted at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead.



....and while we are 'reminding',

If you are one of the many people who love to hike or cycle the Angel Springs trail north of Angel Springs (downhill section to KLO Creek and in to KLO Creek Regional Park) it's a good idea to check the water level and flow rate of KLO Creek first! You can check it where McCulloch Rd. crosses the creek—or just know that the trail shouldn't be used during spring freshet. Conditions can change quickly—heavy rain on the South Slopes means high water can occur at any time of the year. There are four water crossings on KLO Creek Trail as there are no bridges in the Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park segment of the Angel Springs/KLO Creek Trail. This fall, the creek is running at spring-runoff levels because of the all the rain.

Oct 27, 2016—KLO Creek Trail—High Water! One of the four water crossings

