

Friends of the South Slopes

August 2018



Priest Cr. Bridge (Fairlane Trail)

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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INVITING **YOU** TO A CELEBRATION!!

FOSS asks for your participation in formally acknowledging the BC Parks acquisition of the 'Myra Wetlands' ('Thunder Meadow'), which happened earlier this summer. At long last the Wetlands will be part of our Myra Bellevue Provincial Park – protecting a unique ecosystem and providing important trail access. Let's celebrate this together – ALL of us: BC Parks personnel, FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program sponsors, volunteers, FOSS members (old and new) and friends!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us, please!

Date: Saturday, September 15th

Where: Stewart Road East Trailhead, Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm

9:00am - 'Celebration' begins (tents will be set up; FOSS Board members & volunteers will be there to greet you. FOSS info/memorabilia/memberships/maps will be available)

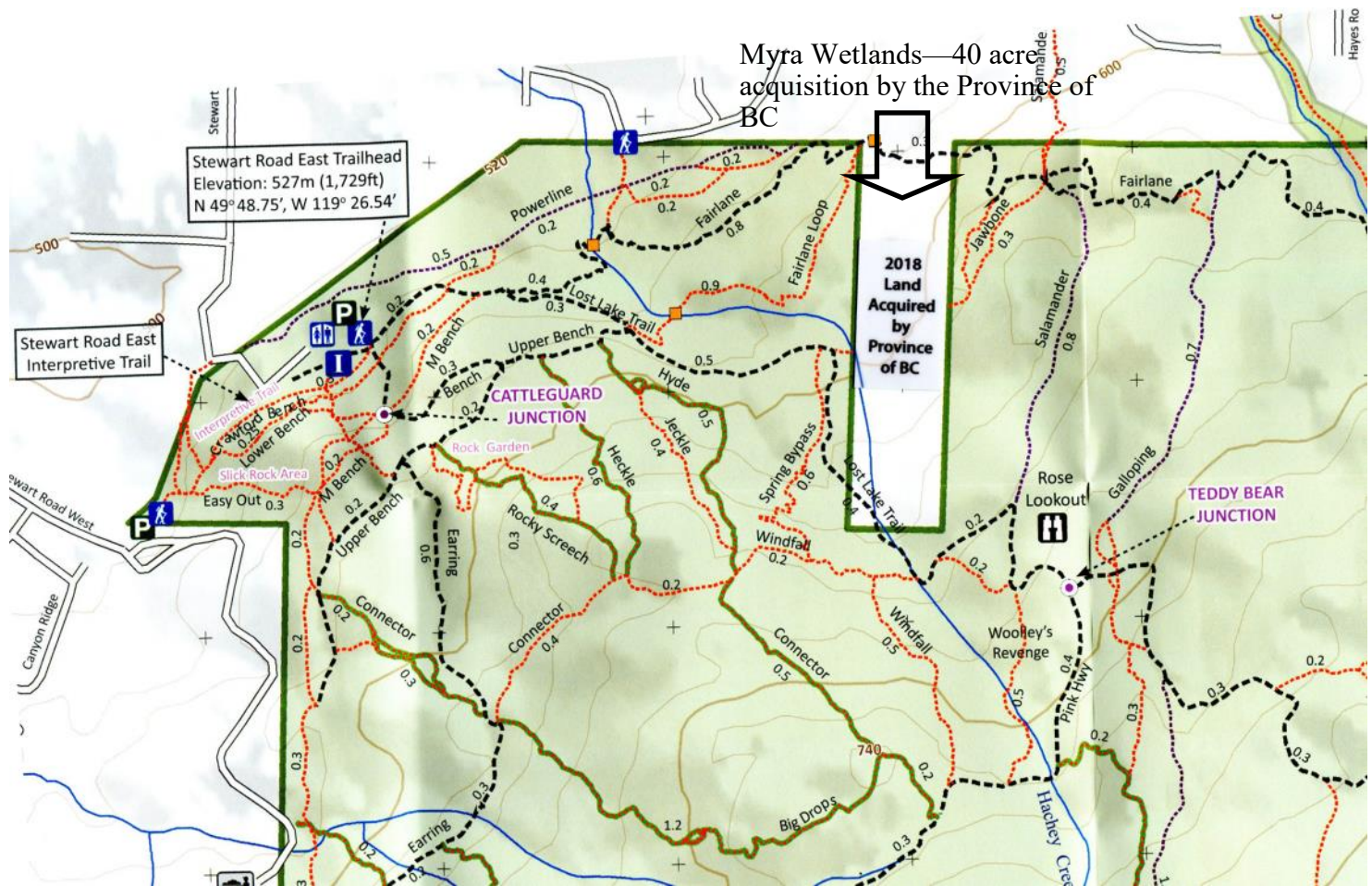
9:15—10:30 a.m. - a guided hike to the Myra Wetlands. Meet under the FOSS banner at 9:00 a.m. Please wear appropriate footwear (no flipflops!) and on-leash dogs only.

11:00am - formal acknowledgement and sincere 'thank you' to our BC Parks and other government dignitaries; A special thank you, too, to FOSS' Adopt a Trail sponsors and our many volunteers;

10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m: BBQ—provided by the South East Kelowna Volunteer Fire Dept. Funds raised will go towards the families they sponsor at Christmas. Please bring a lawn chair if required.



Myra Wetlands



Acquisition of the Myra Wetlands property by the Province means that there will no longer be a private inholding along the north boundary of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. It will soon be part of MBPPP! This is something to celebrate. Over the years, this land has been referenced as 'The Meadow', 'The 07*BC Property', and more recently— 'Myra Wetlands' - a name given to it by FOSS to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and the recreational and ecological values of this forty acre property. Acquisition by the province protects the connectivity of Fairlane Trail, Jawbone and Lost Lake Trail—all of which traverse the land.

Myra Wetland is formed where Hachey Creek swings west into the small valley nestled between Lost Lake Trail and Fairlane Loop Trail. This wetland is the source for Peterson Brook, flowing north under the Fairlane Trail Bridge.



MLA Steven Thomson (left), and FOSS members Isabel Pritchard and Peter Thompson during a 2013 walk-about to the Myra Wetlands. FOSS started discussions with BC Parks in 2006 on acquiring the property Our wish was granted in May, 2018.

Celebrating Year Seven of FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program

Let's give a shout-out to the twelve businesses that have been part of FOSS' Adopt-a-Trail Sponsorship Program since its inception in 2012!

Platinum Level Sponsors:



Silver Level Sponsors:

Ben Smit



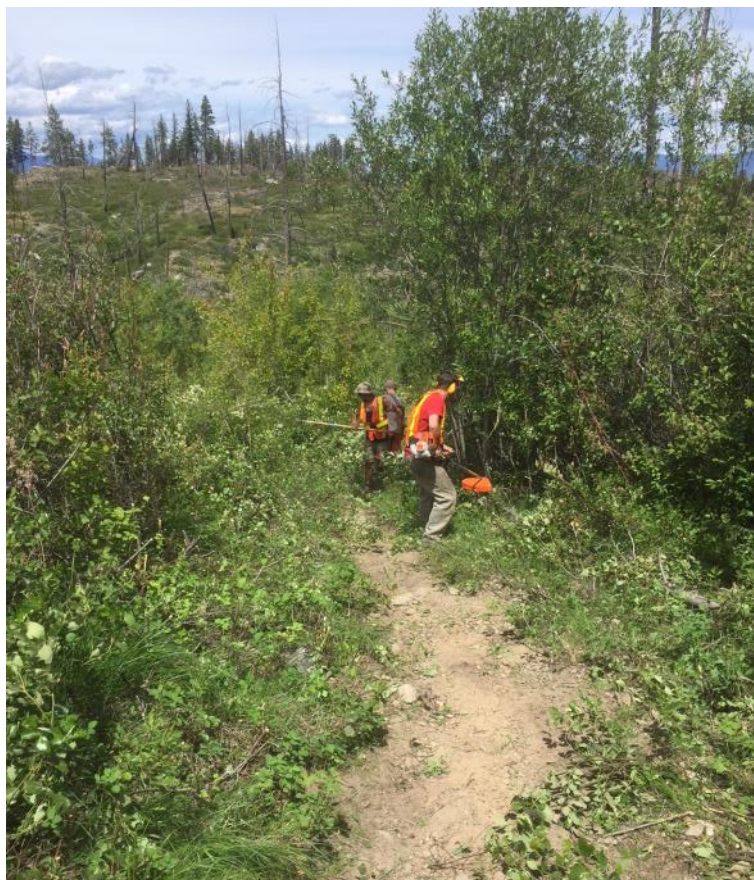
And also a thank you to our other eight current trail sponsors....

In 2019, Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing Corp (AEM), Dirty Feet Trail Races, P.A.C.E. Sports & Fitness and Wave Physiotherapy will reach the milestone of seven years as trail sponsors.

Cabin Forestry Ltd. joined FOSS' Adopt a Trail sponsorship program in 2015, Big White Resort in 2016 and M.E.C. in 2017.

Examples of the 'power' of our VOLUNTEERS:

In June, Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan (MTBco) and FOSS members/volunteers did a great job of clearing MTBco's adopted trail, Hillybilly, in Myra Bellevue Provincial Park!



So much trail work is necessary this year! Thank you very much to all of you out there lending a hand!

Early Bird Special!!!

Available **ONLY** on site at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead (Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park) on Saturday Sept. 15, 2018 between 9 am and 2 pm at the FOSS tent!

Renew your 2019 membership early and receive a complimentary Myra-Bellevue Trail Map (retail value over \$10).

New members signing up in person also receive this special offer.

FOSS memberships can be paid with cash or by cheque only for this occasion. Donations are gratefully accepted too!! Tax receipts can be written for donations of \$10 or greater.

BEAR ALERT!! It's that time of the year—lots of bear scat and sightings in Myra-Bellevue Park.



FOSS volunteers clear upper Lost Lake Trail