

Friends of the South Slopes

December 2020



Lost Lake Trail (north of Race Classic)

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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

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Seasons Greetings!

*Happy Holidays to all our
FOSS members &
supporters.....we hope you
are out enjoying the
wonder that is winter on
the trails on the South
Slopes.*



FOSS' Annual General Meeting

In a normal year, FOSS' Board of Directors would be inviting you to attend its Annual General Meeting in January, and we would be telling you about our exciting guest speaker and all the awesome door prizes that we would be giving away.

NOT THIS YEAR! We are in the midst of challenging times. Your Board of Directors is drawing up plans for a 'virtual' AGM. If you are a current FOSS member (membership paid for 2020) you will be getting more information on this in a few weeks time.

Trail Maintenance Report

With BC Parks approval/go ahead, the work on the Priest Creek crossing on the Bellevue Access trail off the Little White Forest Service Road was completed – a very special thanks to FOSS' Trail Maintenance Coordinator, Herb Blamire, and Board members: Milt Stevenson and Alan Milnes – huge job, well done!

As soon as the ground was sufficiently frozen, cleanup of the old debris in the Myra Wetlands was also completed by Herb and FOSS President, Brad Wright. It is anticipated that an old trail situated on a rise adjacent to the Wetland can be 'reinstated', which will provide access, while at the same time protecting this sensitive, unique area.

Funds have been set aside for the work required on the access off Lakeshore Road to the Golden Mile in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park, and

will be undertaken once FOSS receives Parks' approval and a weather window.

FOSS has been in discussion with City of Kelowna staff regarding a couple of the bridges that are currently 'grounded' in Priest Creek Park above Baldock Road. These were built and installed by FOSS some years ago, and it is hoped that they can be safely removed (by helicopter or skidder) and used to replace aging bridges in Myra- Bellevue.

The FOSS Committee for the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area (KMRA) continues to meet/ collaborate with Ministry and City representatives regarding the wildfire mitigation for this area, planned for this winter/spring (more information on this on page 3).



Cleanup in the Myra Wetlands

Update on the Province's Wildfire Mitigation Projects on the South Slopes

Thank you to Jonathan Murkin, ([Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District](#)) for keeping FOSS apprised of the progress on these projects.

Jonathan reported that: Work started in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and they are focusing their efforts on the area around the Angel Springs parking lot. For safety, the parking lot will have limited or no public access during operations for December and January. Once that area is complete, they will be moving further up the road in the park so the parking lot can be accessible again. Currently, they don't have a timeframe for work starting in Unit 3 (What FOSS references as the KMRA trails) or Unit 9 (further to the east), but Jonathan suspects they'll be starting sometime in January.



Is it a dog or is it a log???



The spectacular view of Black Mountain from the overlook at the top of the west bank of KLO Creek Regional Park.

Winter's Magic on the South Slopes

**Lost Lake Overlook
MBPP**



Lost Lake Loop Trail (MBPP)

Wild Horse Canyon connector to Boulder Trail (Okan. Mtn. Park)



2021 FOSS Memberships-

Many of our members renew their FOSS memberships when they attend the AGM. With no in-person meeting in January, we are asking all current FOSS members to renew their memberships on-line. Simply go to the FOSS website: www.foss-kelowna.org and click on the membership tab. Many of you also donate to FOSS each year (thank you!) — memberships & donations support FOSS in its efforts to improve and maintain trails in Myra-Bellevue, Okanagan Mtn and other trails systems on the South Slopes where FOSS has trail maintenance agreements. To make a donation, please click on the “Make a Donation” tab on FOSS’ website ...you will receive an electronically generated tax receipt. We are most appreciative of your continuous support.

Of course, you can also mail in your 2021 FOSS membership & donation. For donations of \$10.00 or greater, FOSS will issue you a tax receipt.

New Members Always Welcome! Dr. Bonnie Henry is encouraging us all to get outside, and trails are seeing more use than ever. Many people are ‘discovering’ Myra-Bellevue for the first time as they explore Covid-19 protocol-friendly outdoor activities.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ASK YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, COLLEAGUES, COHORTS, OR PEOPLE YOU RUN, CYCLE, RIDE OR HIKE WITH TO **JOIN FOSS** AND SUPPORT ITS TRAIL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2021.

Friends of the South Slopes Society *2021 Membership*

Annual Membership (\$20.00) _____

*Donation: _____

*You will be issued a tax receipt for donations of \$10 or greater

Please make your cheque payable to:

Friends of the South Slopes Society

And mail to FOSS at: Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna, BC V1W 4A6

Membership Information:

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____ (Please leave blank if you do not wish to receive information electronically)

I wish to receive my FOSS newsletter electronically in pdf format: Yes _____ No _____

Affiliation: Club/Organization (if applicable) _____