

Friends of the South Slopes

January 2021



Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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

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2021 Board of Directors

The last year has been unprecedented as we all cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and we explore new ways to navigate our way of living. FOSS' Annual General Meeting was no exception. In the past, it was a time to meet up, socialize, listen to a speaker, review accomplishments from the previous year, plan for the next year and perhaps win a door prize!

Jan. 27, 2021 FOSS' AGM was held on ZOOM, with proxy voting via email. Thank you to everyone who participated by voting or by joining us on ZOOM.

All motions were passed and your 2021 Board of Directors was elected by acclamation.

Brad Wright (returning)
Daphne Richard (returning)
Pete Spencer (returning)
Gord Detta (returning)
Jane Blamire (returning)
Teresa MacKenzie (returning)
Alan Milnes (returning)
Milt Stevenson (returning)
Cam Kourany (returning)
Sandy Hilton (NEW! Welcome Sandy!)



Winter view from Piper's Trail

President's Message

(Brad Wright)

The mild spring contributed to thick vegetative regrowth on the South Slope trails and workload for our volunteers while the park closures due to Public Health Officer orders intensified the problems and work programs. COVID-19 dominated the work program issues in 2020.

Herb Blamire, FOSS' Trail Maintenance Coordinator, along with FOSS volunteers (including volunteers in the adopt-a-trail program) managed to execute a large volume of work in the parks against all odds. COVID-19 protocols were developed and executed to comply with WorkSafeBC expectations.

Our partners at BC Parks, Jonathan Finlay, Area Supervisor East Okanagan, and Geoff Popowich, East Okanagan Senior Park Ranger, enabled and sponsored the complicated COVID-19 protocols to salvage a successful work program.

Generous benefactors have donated excellent equipment and funding including: New UTV, storage container, brush mower, 2 chain saws, equipment loans and contributed many volunteer hours. Multiple brushing projects were successfully executed with the new equipment resulting in greater production despite the shorter season due to COVID-19 complications.

The financial picture for 2020 is represented in the Treasurer's report and indicates we are operating according to plan with sufficient funds to continue our successful operations.

2021 Project List

- Volunteer and Adopt a Trail maintenance support
- Get Back Trail - plan and lobby for lands to facilitate trails from KLO Creek to Myra Bellevue Park to Okanagan Mountain Park.
- Okanagan Mountain Park access improvements and brushing
- Bridge maintenance: Priest Creek bridge at Fairlane Trail, Hachey Creek bridge at Fairlane Loop Trail, others as required
- Signpost review and repair rotting posts
- Myra Wetland Trail closure and establishment of a by pass trail to facilitate natural rehabilitation of the Wetland
- Trail brushing and upgrades as approved by Parks

On behalf of our board of directors, I wish to sincerely thank our volunteers, sponsors, members, and supporters for making 2020 a successful year on the South Slopes. We look forward to your support, help and suggestions to make 2021 an even bigger success.



Icicles north of the entrance to the Golden Mile Trail, Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park

A look back....more 'history' on the trails on the South Slopes

(by Isabel Pritchard)

The South Slopes, and notably the area where Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park is located, has changed considerably since the first settlers came to the valley, when the area to the south of the Father Pandosy Mission was described as a "vast grassy pine forest". It has been logged, burned and often abused by those of us who love it.

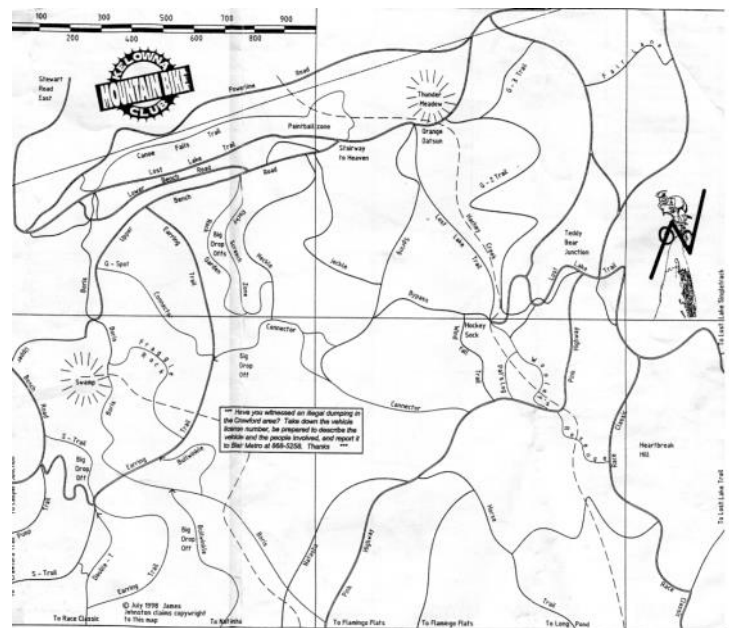
To begin with, the lower slopes were logged and of course as time progressed into the 70's and 80's the logging extended up to the KVR and southward. As the logging progressed many of the trails we know were created as logging roads, by the need to get into each section of good timber and to haul it to mills. An example of this is what we refer to as Hromek Rd. Some, such as Hillbilly, were originally made by the cattle that ranged the area.

There was a ranch (Crawford) which owned land to the east of Bellevue Creek, where Crawford Estates is now located, and their cattle grazed on the South Slopes. There were grazing rights here up until the 'Crawford Trails' became a Provincial Park. Remnants of old cattle guards and fencing are still visible at the junction of Lost Lake Trail & Fairlane Trail, and of course at Cattleguard Junction, south of the Trailhead. All this activity created the network of trails and roadways that people started to discover in the late 60's 70's, 80's and into the 90's. It became a popular recreation area where people drove, dirt biked, rode horses, and hiked. In the late 80's mountain biking started to gain in popularity and it became a popular place to cycle. Multi-use was the by-word for sure. FOSS was formed in 1996 to promote the idea of park status. Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park was created in 2000, and officially proclaimed in 2001.

The main trails were long standing, and informally named and known to most locals--Lost Lake, Crawford Trail (used for the telegraph line from the fire tower at the summit of Little White Mtn., down to the ranch). Lookout, Little White FSR, Hromek, and Bellevue Access were trails developed from old logging roads Other trails were known by different names by different groups. Horse riders made an attempt to color code some of the main trails but about the only name that stuck from that attempt was Pink Hwy.

Equestrians also named Galloping Trail and Lookout. Salamander Trail got its name when FOSS Director Brenda Thomson, who was also a member of the Central Okanagan Naturalist's Club, overturned a rock on the trail during a trail maintenance project and out scurried a salamander. The mountain biking community developed the first trail map in the late 1990's and named some of the trails like Blancher's Silver for a race winner, Race Classic because it was used for a mtn. bike race, Swamp Thing for an obvious reason, Vapour Trail as a downhill descent from the KVR. Astrid, Scarlets Loop, and Piper's --- a mountain biker named them after his children. Earring because of a lost one, Outhouse because it started near one! Fairlane for the car hauled up there, Ridgeview for the view, Moose for the moose who inhabited the Lost Lake area for awhile. Grassy and Fireweed also as described. Mal's Content and Doc

1998 Crawford Trails Map (Kelowna Mtn. Bike Club)



1983 Trail Ride on the Crawford Trails



Savage, names for volunteers. Heckle, Jeckle and Hyde — tricky! Named by the mountain biking community. I think that is most of the ones I know about.

So when FOSS developed its trail map after the OMPP forest fire, we applied names from the first mountain bike map and varied sources to name all the most used trails and have them recognized by BC Parks as legal. There are a lot of trails in a small area and part of the value of a park is to have a few wild areas for the wildlife. So no new trails can be developed without BC Parks' approval.

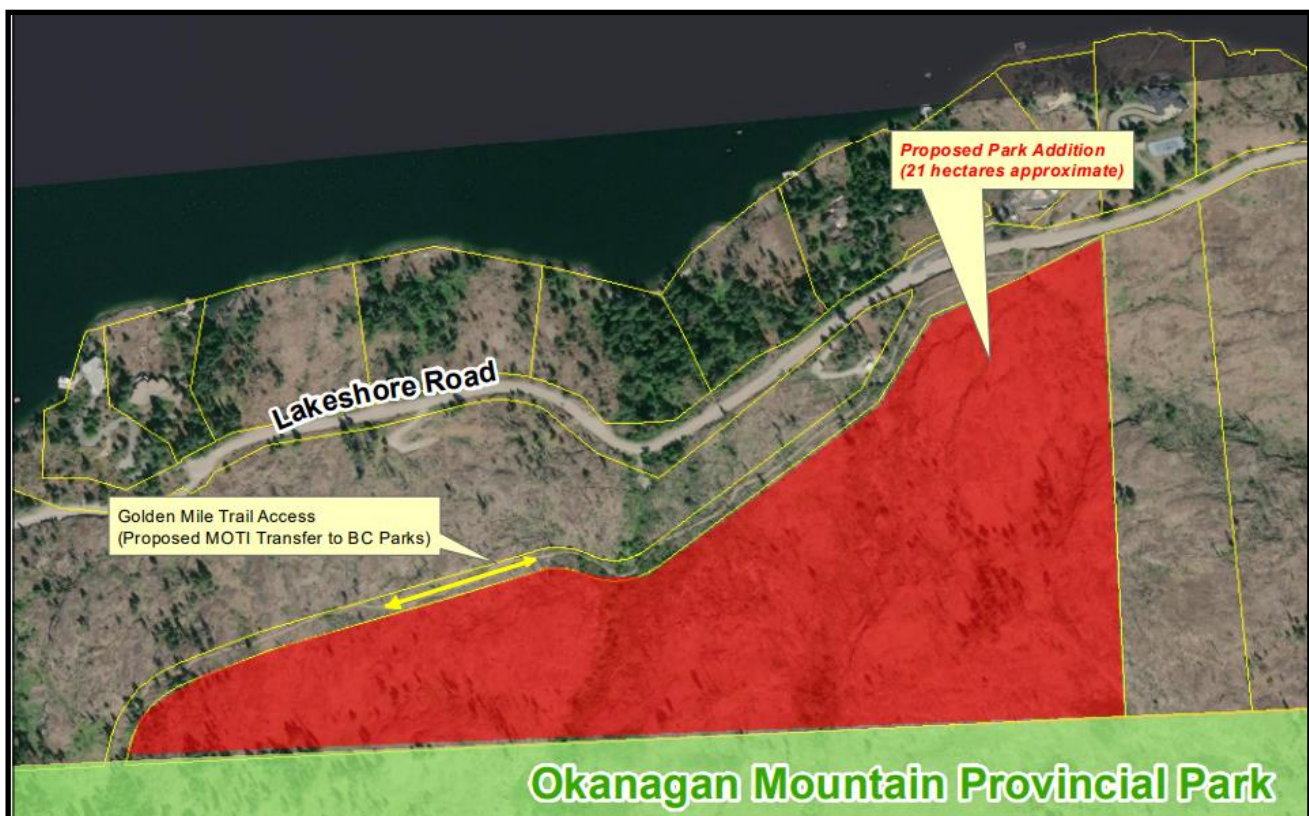
Sharing the trails!



BC PARKS ISSUES PRESS RELEASE—ADDITION TO OMPP

On Jan. 13, 2021, BC Parks announced a number of expansions/acquisitions to its parks/protected areas. This press release included a 21.2 hectares addition to Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park. FOSS applauds this acquisition, which is identified in red on this map. It means there will be no development between the current boundary of OMPP and the 'Golden Mile' Ministry of Transportation ROW. The land was donated to BC Parks as part of a rezoning/subdivision plan for the adjoining property. In subsequent talks with BC Parks staff, we were advised that staff are in negotiations to transfer the MOT Golden Mile ROW to BC Parks jurisdiction. FOSS has lobbied for this for more than 15 years—we are very thankful to BC Parks staff for the news that it is to be a reality.

FOSS values the Golden Mile access trail both for its significant recreational importance (option to access Wild Horse Canyon Trail without starting at the parking lot at the north end of Boulder Trail) but, very importantly, to allow essential access to the Park for much needed trail maintenance and search & rescue operations.



Feb. 26, 2021 marks 25 years since FOSS registered as a Society under the BC Society Act (Feb. 26, 1996).

FOSS held its first AGM March 1, 1996. Elected to the board were Keith Canning, Tony Edwards, James Gardner, Stan Klassen, Sheena McDonald Menzies and Valerie Wakefield.

The original 'Purpose of the Society' was to "support environmentally sensitive recreation and to co-operate with municipal government and other public bodies in the furtherance of the objects of the Society and the benefits to the community". FOSS' objectives for its first year were to: proceed with an application for a park and to oppose an application to BC Lands for an asphalt recycling plant to be located where the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead parking lot is now located. (The land was 'Crown', not provincial park, in 1996. Provincial Park status was not achieved until 2001.) When the intervention succeeded, and the application for the asphalt recycling plant was denied, FOSS became inactive until October 1997. At that time, a small group of people who were interested in developing a 'recreation use plan' for the South Slopes got together and got FOSS back on track.

The new version of FOSS held its first AGM on April 15, 1998. Elected to that board were: Mike Whitaker, Daphne Richard, Penny Gubbels, Peter Thompson, Eric Rayson, Isabel Pritchard, Bill Redston and Ian Pooley. In 2002, FOSS registered as a charity for income tax purposes, allowing it to issue tax receipts for donations. Its Constitution was amended to meet Canada Revenue Agency criteria and to better reflect FOSS' 'purpose', such as constructing facilities and maintaining trails, installing signage, providing information to the public (maps, brochures, interpretative trail sign, kiosks).

Three directors from the 1998 board are still actively involved in FOSS! Isabel Pritchard, Daphne Richard & Penny Gubbels.

2021 marks the 14th year **Daphne Richard** has been a FOSS Director. She took some time off from the board as she concentrated on her Endurance Riding career, but returned to the board in 2017.

Penny Gubbels was a board member from 1998-2016 (19 years), and remains as an active volunteer, managing FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program, publishing the newsletter and sitting on the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area Trails Committee.

Isabel Pritchard is FOSS' longest serving board member, from 1998—2020. We are all grateful for Isabel's long service. After 23 consecutive years as a Director, Isabel is retiring but we know that we can count on her to stay involved as a FOSS volunteer - especially with 'history', as she is a wealth of information about everything South Slopes. Isabel has lived in South Kelowna since 1972.

Along with Isabel's long service with FOSS, she also sat as a delegate from Back Country Horsemen of BC on the Province's Land and Resource Management Plan for the Okanagan-Shuswap. This plan was initiated in 1995 and completed in 2000. The Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP provides direction for the management of the Crown land and resources within the Plan area. Thirty public and government participants, representing a wide range of values, such as water,



timber, wildlife, fisheries, mining, recreation, tourism, conservation and agriculture, met over a 5 year period to develop and approve the Management Plan.

One of the many recommendations that came out of the OSLRMP was the establishment of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

THANK YOU, ISABEL, FOR YOUR LONG AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH SLOPES SOCIETY AND TO RECREATION VALUES ON KELOWNA'S SOUTH SLOPES.

November, 1990, Isabel (3rd from left) on a ride to Kelowna Lookout.



The establishment of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park! (Isabel on the left)



2009—Working on upper Lost Lake Trail

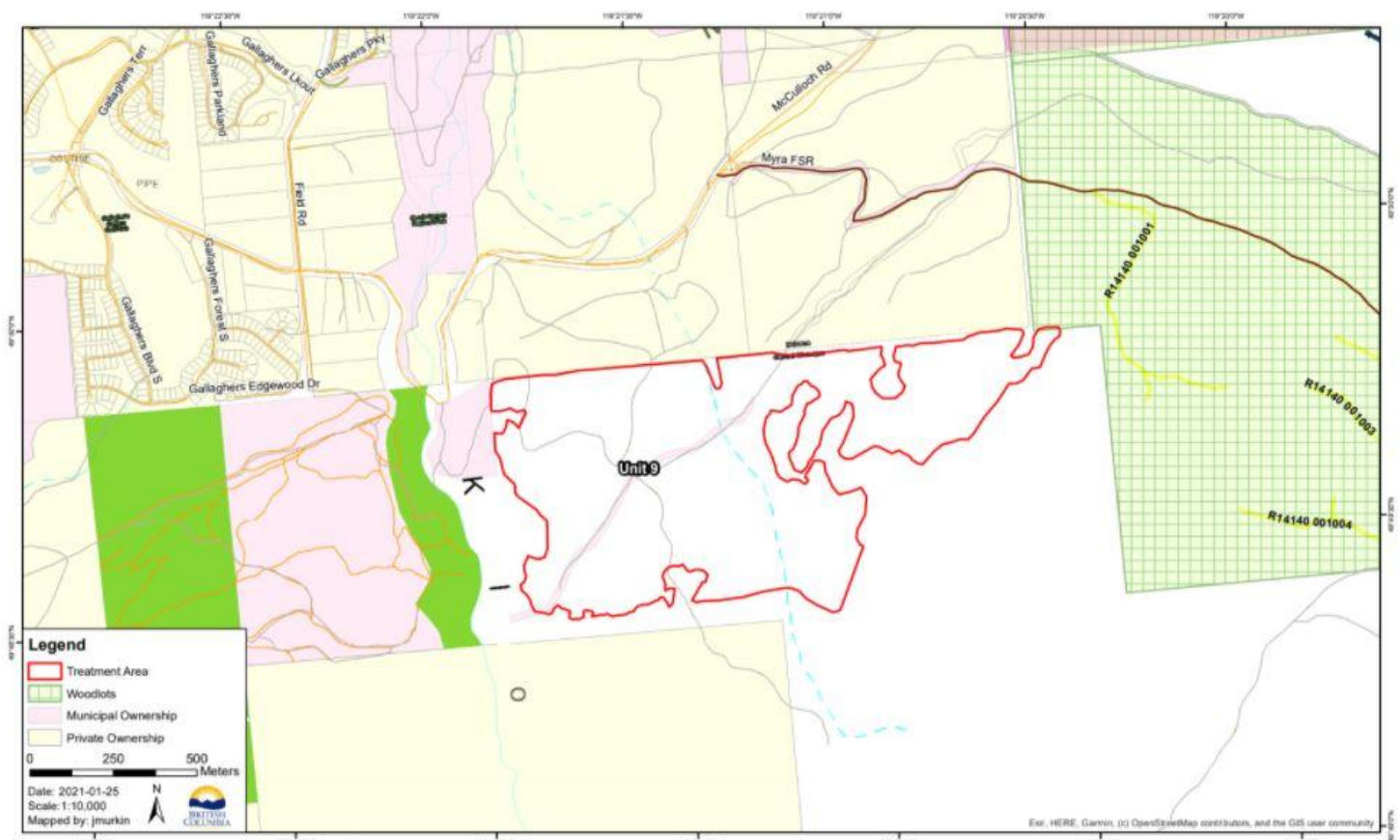


2006—Isabel's 'passion' ... riding the trails on the South Slopes.

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

Jonathan Murkin, (RFT, Land and Resource Coordinator, MFLNROR, Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District) reports that work will continue in Unit 9 (Crown Land east and above of KLO Creek Regional Park) until the end of March. He advised FOSS that the wildfire mitigation work has been progressing well and the hand treatment crews will be **starting in the next week to treat areas that aren't accessible by the** mechanical equipment. In the mechanical areas they have been able to utilize all the residual fibre; the hand crews will be working in a few smaller areas where it will be necessary to burn the residual fibre to remove it—that will be the smoke you see in that area for the next little while. The BC Wildfire Service and the Regional District are aware of the project.

SE Kelowna Unit 9



Our dedicated volunteers are continuing to clear windfalls in both MBPP & OMPP

← Jan. 18, 2021, Andrew S. clearing Boulder Trail before the snow flew.

FOSS' Myra 'boys' have also been clearing many windfalls following the wind storm earlier in January.

Haven't renewed your 2021 FOSS membership yet? Now's the time — please renew/join and support FOSS.

Online www.foss-kelowna.org or via mail.

Donations to FOSS can be made on FOSS' website through CanadaHelps—a tax receipt is automatically sent to you. For donations of \$10 or greater, made by cheque/by mail, a tax receipt will be mailed to you.

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) _____