

Friends of the South Slopes

October 2021



Fall colours at Lost Lake

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6

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

info@foss-kelowna.org

PRIEST CREEK BRIDGE RELOCATION ***WE DID IT!!!!!!!***

FOSS' Trail Maintenance boss, Milt Stevenson, reports that the incredible work done by the 'team' resulted in *Fly Day* on October 14th with Wildcat Helicopters. Big thanks to Ian Wilson (VP Operations at Wildcat) and the skill of pilot Wade. There were 16 FOSS volunteers out for Fly Day, and many hours of preparation were done in advance. The day was a total success.

Special thanks to Herb, for his vision and dedication to the project. FOSS could not have done it without the commitment of Alan, Eric and Brad. Funding came from a grant from the BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund. **THANKS!**



Volunteers remove the Priest Creek Fairlane Trail Bridge)

*Alan Milnes & Milt Stevenson
on the newly installed Priest
Creek Bridge (Fairlane Trail)*

(Read more on Milt's October Trail Report on page 2, and see more photos on page 3)



FOSS TRAIL MAINTENANCE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2021

(Milt Stevenson)

LOST LAKE TRAIL UPGRADE

We have completed regrading and widening of Lost Lake Trail from Hromek Road to Stewart Road East. There is a small section above the top of Hromek that was virtually a creek bed that was also done. A grant from the Central Okanagan Foundation funded this project.

The reconstruction of Priest Creek Bridge on Fairlane Trail was completed in 24 hours, which is very impressive. We are waiting for new planking for the Fairlane Loop bridge, which should be available in the next 2 weeks.



NORTH END OF OKANAGAN MTN. PROVINCIAL PARK TO THE START OF WILDHORSE CANYON.

In late September, Herb spent a day repairing the entrance to the Golden Mile Trail off of Lakeshore Road. Starting on October 25th, we will do 5 days of trail work. We will push as far south on Wild Horse Canyon Trail as we can.

ORIENTATION OF NEW TRAIL CREW MEMBERS

There has been strong interest in volunteering for Trail Maintenance. Alan and Milt oriented 8 new crew members on October 16th. This brings us to 27 trained volunteers, plus the leadership group of 5 for a total of 32.

ADOPT A TRAIL.

On Sept. 25th, we had a successful trail maintenance day with one of our new Adopt a Trail Sponsors, the Kelowna General Hospital ER group, logging 36 volunteer hours on Bullwinkle Trail.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Excluding work done by board members/ leadership, which is recorded separately, trail maintenance volunteers logged an incredible 260 volunteer hours in the past month.



Fairlane Bridge Project — a Timeline in Photos

Volunteers de-constructing the two bridges in the City's Priest Creek Linear Park—in preparation for transport to their new locations in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.



Constructing bridge supports on Fairlane Trail



Safety Meeting on "Fly Day", Thursday Oct. 14



Helicopter landing at Lost Lake Trail @ Galloping to attach the longline. Volunteers were on site to temporarily close the trail during the heli landing and take off



Thursday afternoon—Oct. 14—volunteers were already at work reconstructing the Priest Creek Bridge on Fairlane Trail. By Friday afternoon—it was completed and open! The trail was only closed down for a total of 12 days for removal of the old bridge & the construction of the new bridge.



BC Parks Clean Up Dump Site

An illegal dump site in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park near the Priest Creek culvert on Hromek Rd. has been cleaned up by a contractor hired by BC Parks.

The mess of vehicles, a trailer and an old Sea Can, has been an eyesore all summer.

***Thank You
BC Parks!***



Three Cheers for our friends at The Okanagan Forest Task Force!

The **Okanagan Forest Task Force** was formed in August, 2016 by a group of outdoor enthusiasts who were concerned over the growing epidemic of illegal dumping in our forests, recreational areas and along natural waterways.

Their first clean-up occurred on September 10, 2016 at a popular shooting range along Postill Lake Rd in Kelowna, BC. That first effort resulted in the removal of more than 3 metric tonnes of garbage by a group of 15 volunteers.

Since that first official clean-up effort the OFTF has removed tens of thousands of pounds of garbage and scrap metal that has been illegally dumped in the forests around Kelowna. Unfortunately, that is only the tip of the iceberg in cleaning up a problem that has become a concern of disturbing proportions in natural areas around British Columbia.

Kane Blake, co-founder of the Okanagan Forest Task Force, announced they have launched a new website where you can report illegal dumping and drop GPS coordinates as well as photos and videos of the dumpsite. <https://okanaganforesttaskforce.com/>

The Okanagan Forest Task Force was recently given a special recognition award by the BC Conservation Officer Service for its efforts to remove more than 360,000 pounds of garbage since its inception.

“The award is presented to a conservation officer, a civilian or an organization that have performed an important service to the Conservation Officer Service,” said Tobe Sprado, Okanagan Region Inspector for the BC COS.



FOSS Board Member Passes...

FOSS' Board of Directors is deeply saddened to share with our members that our long-time board member, Pete Spencer, tragically lost his life in a house fire on Oct. 11th. Pete joined the FOSS Board in 2010 and was our Treasurer for nearly twelve years. Pete was exceptional in that position.

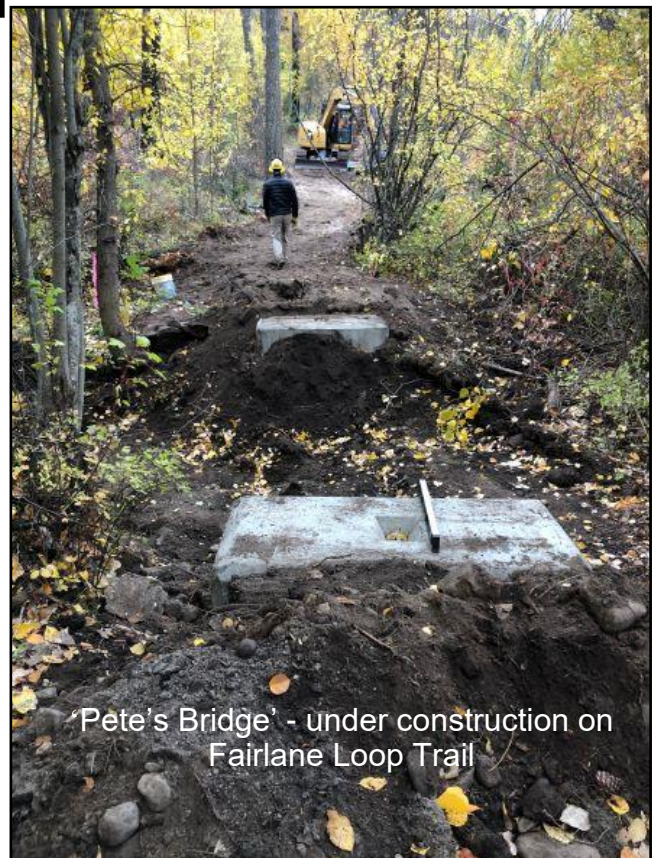
Pete was well known and respected in our region's agricultural community, as he was a Planning Advisor for the BC Environmental Farm Plan Program. We send our sincere condolences to Pete's

family, friends and colleagues—he will be missed by all of us.

The Board will recognize Pete's contributions to FOSS and to the South Slopes with a memorial plaque on the Fairlane Loop Trail Bridge when it is completed. It will be known as 'Pete's Bridge'.



Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park



'Pete's Bridge' - under construction on Fairlane Loop Trail

Moose Alert!!! Recently a mountain biker who was riding after dark was charged by a Moose in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The encounter ended safely but it was yet another reminder that we share the Park with the wildlife that make it their home. Moose Safety (courtesy of wildsafebc.com) Never approach a moose. Give the animals a wide berth and ensure they always have an escape route. Moose cows are very protective of their young and may attack if they perceive a threat. If you come across a cow and calf, calmly leave the area immediately. Moose will perceive dogs as a threat and may seriously injure or kill a dog. Never let a dog loose in your yard to chase a moose as it may be injured or cause stress to the animal.

Contributing Photographers for this newsletter: Alan Milnes, Milt Stevenson, Eric Chamberland, Andrew Stevenson, Daphne Richard, & Teresa MacKenzie.

FOSS Welcomes Two New Adopt a Trail Sponsors



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(Kim Inglis Adopted Middle Bench Trail)

A special *'thank you'!*

FOSS is most grateful to the land managers we have had the privilege and honour to work with over the years — BC Parks, Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resources, City of Kelowna and the Regional District of Central Okanagan — all of you sharing our vision of the South Slopes Greenbelt, and working tirelessly to that end.

On this occasion FOSS would like to recognize the Parks Department staff from the RDCO who updated us as to their recent projects and accomplishments — outstanding contributions to realizing our mutual goal of ultimate trail connectivity — extending from Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park all the way to the Mission Creek Greenway! We are so supportive; we are so appreciative.

Thank you, RDCO!

Trail Maintenance in the KLO Creek Myra Recreation Area (KMRA)

FOSS has requested a renewal of the Trail Use/Maintenance Agreement, previously held with SEKID, for the Utility Property above Field Road, which is now owned by the City. We were most appreciative of the City honouring the original agreement until its termination date, October 2020, allowing us to keep the myriad of trails open for the many people who daily recreate in this area; it is heavily used by the local residents and is also a crucial link in the overall connectivity of the South Slopes 'Green Belt' — connecting KLO Creek Regional Park with Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park via the Get Back Trail.

The Utility Property, together with the adjacent Crown Lots to the west, are part of a wildfire mitigation project initiated by the BC Cattlemen's Association and FLNRORD, which involves targeted grazing in this area. To alleviate potential problems when the cattle are there each spring, FOSS' Trail Maintenance Chair, Milt Stevenson, and Rob Dinwoodie, the Range Officer, have identified the location for a perimeter trail on the *outside* of the fencing, gates and cattleguards, which will allow hikers, bikers and equestrians to avoid entering the area should they so choose; when the cattle are not there the gates will remain open. To provide this option, it will be necessary to partially reroute the Get Back Trail. Fencing will begin in November and once FOSS has permission, we can organize and undertake the necessary trail work.