

# Friends of the South Slopes

June 2022



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## ***Wildhorse Canyon Trail Project***

Thanks to the incredible efforts of many, many volunteers over a period of ten days in mid-May, Wildhorse Canyon Trail in Okanagan Mtn Provincial Park was cleared, brushed and improved from Golden Mile Trail in the north to 1.4 km south of Goode's Creek.

The section of trail south of the Buchan Bay/Wildhorse Canyon junction was done by volunteers Wes Burton and Scott Walker from Back Country Horsemen of BC, who joined FOSS for this epic project. Wes and Scott also brought supplies up from Buchan Bay on packhorses, to the project headquarters in the flats above Buchan Bay. Scott provided the two tents that were set up above Buchan Bay...one was his and one belonged to Back Country Horsemen of BC.

From May 10-13, a group of ten volunteers travelled south from the Golden Mile entrance on Lakeshore Rd. into the Wildhorse Canyon entrance, clearing and brushing as they went. On May 13, the UTVs and equipment were repositioned to Buchan Flats, just above Buchan Bay where camp was setup for the remainder of the project. From May 13-19, other volunteers rotated in for two day shifts throughout the project, with between 7—9 volunteers being on site each day.

The volunteers were transported to Buchan Bay and back in Sean Clerke's Thunderjet boat, departing from Dave Rolleston's dock. It was a 'team' effort with multiple components. FOSS is extremely grateful for all the help. Milt Stevenson, Alan Milnes, Scott Walker and Wes Burton were on site for the entire multi-day project. Sean Spellicy and Don Spring drove the UTVs and trailers to the staging area from Lakeshore Rd. The volunteers were well fed by the Wilfords, Mackles, Stevensons, Milnes, Pennys and Places. There were multiple talented chefs from the trail crews.

On May 12, Milt and Alan trucked three pickup loads of equipment to Valhalla Helicopters in





West Kelowna, who flew it to and from the staging area above Buchan Bay. A huge thank you to Phil Milroy, CEO Westcorp who covered the cost for the helicopter, and to Jason Chow, Operations Manager at Valhalla who made it all happen. Pilot Greg Verdel and ground crew Myles and Andrew completed the Valhalla team.

FOSS volunteers recorded 960 hours on this project—not including the many hours spent earlier by Milt and Alan on planning and logistics and liaison with BC Parks. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who participated in this monumental and historic project!

Rene Unser (P.A.C.E. Sport Fitness) who is a FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsor and a long time supporter of improvements to the Wildhorse Canyon Trail, raised and donated over \$20,000 to FOSS over the past few years/funds that helped FOSS to purchase tools and equipment, fuel and other expenses in support of upgrades to this trail.

On June 4th, P.A.C.E. held its annual 'Wild Horse Traverse' — a gruelling 52 km trail run crossing through Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park, along the KVR and finishing in Naramata. Some of the participants posted their 'thanks' to FOSS for the work done on the Wildhorse Canyon Trail.

Here are some photos from the project...





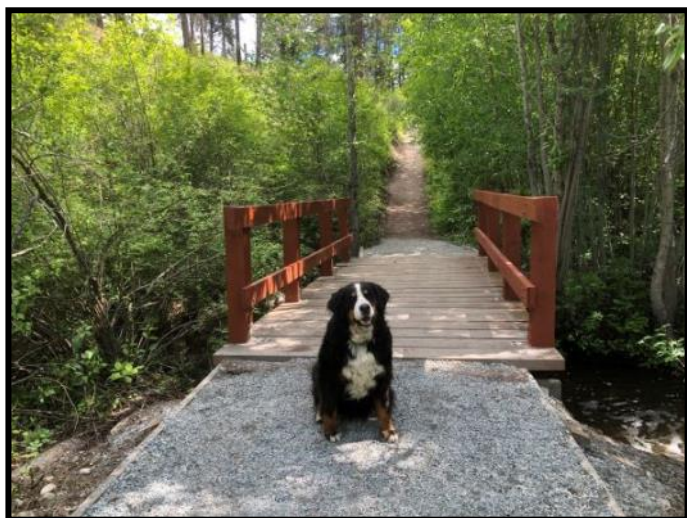
## Pete's Bridge Completed!

A project that is near and dear to the hearts of the FOSS Directors is Pete's Bridge, on Fairlane Loop Trail (over Hachey Creek). The bridge that was constructed following the 2003 Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park wildfire was rotting and needed to be replaced. FOSS salvaged materials for the reconstruction from defunct bridges (which FOSS had built in 2008) in Priest Creek Linear Park. The flooding in 2017 resulted in Priest Creek changing course thereby bypassing the bridges. The FOSS Trail Maintenance Crew completed bridge installation last fall and finished the project this spring by building new approaches. We are grateful to Arthon Quarry and Josh Zwaagstra, the Pit Boss, for donating the crush and to Al Hadden Trucking who donated his time to deliver the crush to the park. There was enough material left over to improve the approaches to Allan's Bridge on Hachey Creek and Fred's Bridge on Priest Creek. We are so thankful for the community support we receive for our projects!

Pete Spencer was an integral part of the FOSS board from 2010 until his tragic passing on Oct. 11, 2021. FOSS is grateful to The BC Cattlemen's Association, Delta Irrigation, North Okanagan Livestock Association, Crystal Lake Ranch and other members of the BC agricultural community for their donations to FOSS in Pete's memory. A recognition plaque will be erected on the bridge. In addition, a new memorial bench, built by FOSS' Trail Maintenance boss Milt Stevenson and director Alan Milnes has been situated just above the new bridge on a knoll overlooking a peaceful meadow with views of Okanagan Lake. The bench was built from fir stringers salvaged from the old Priest Creek Bridge on Fairlane Trail and with steel legs donated by Kelowna Steel Fabricators,

Friends of Pete's are invited to join FOSS and Pete's family for a dedication of the bridge and the bench at 10 am. Saturday July 16th. The bridge is located on Fairlane Loop Trail. The trail is about a ten minute walk up Lost Lake Trail from the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead

*Construction of the approaches starts in May*  
(Photo Credits: Eric Chamberland)



Pete's Bridge, Fairlane Loop Trail  
(Photo Credit: Penny Gubbels)



Milt enjoying the view from the bench  
(Photo Credit: Alan Milnes)

## Recognizing our 2022 Adopt a Trail Sponsors



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***Please support our  
Adopt a Trail Sponsors!***

*..and also thank you to the participants in FOSS'  
'regular' Adopt a Trail Program: Clubs (MTBco &  
Central Okanagan Naturalists) and individuals.*

Lewisia Rediviva (Bitterroot) Lebanon Creek,  
May 2022 (Photo Credit: Alan Milnes)



We acknowledge that our community is located on the traditional,  
ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx/Okanagan people