

Friends of the South Slopes

August 2022



Looking across Pooley Creek
from the KVR

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Dedication of Pete's Bridge

Friends, family and FOSS Members gathered on July 16th to honour Pete Spencer in a dedication ceremony at the Hachey Creek Bridge & bench. This is a peaceful, contemplative place on Fairlane Loop Trail, off Lost Lake Trail.



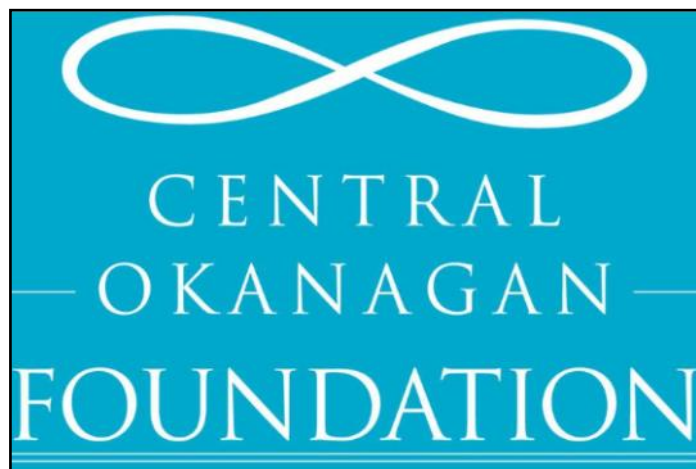
Milt Stevenson, (FOSS Director & Trail Maintenance Manager who oversaw the bridge replacement & bench installation projects) says a few words to those gathered to remember Pete.



Central Okanagan Foundation Grant

—Thank You!

In 2021, FOSS received a **Central Okanagan Foundation** grant of \$10,000, to upgrade Lost Lake Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. This trail is the major artery in the Park, having an estimated 80,000 'visits' each year. It is the main route for cyclists, hikers, horse back riders and winter recreationalists to access the myriad of single and double track trails in MBPP. The popularity of Lost Lake Trail had resulted in significant degradation, a combination of vegetation overgrowth and erosion from runoff and usage.



WORK ACHIEVED: In 2021 work by volunteers and a contractor began. The majority of the work was done by trail maintenance volunteers. This involved FOSS clearing trees, then brushing back the overgrown trail. This was followed by work with a medium excavator to widen the trail, repair erosion and provide water courses to shed water from the trail. This initial work occurred over a period of 10 days on the lower 4 km of the trail. Work was suspended at this point because of FOSS' commitments to 2 other large projects. Work was restarted early in 2022. This involved



further work on water courses and cleanup from the previous work. In the summer of 2022 the upper 3 km of the trail was cleared, brushed and water courses were managed, completing the Lost Lake Trail upgrade. The Central Okanagan Foundation grant paid for equipment rental and contracts. FOSS supported this with 504 hours of volunteer work. Ongoing maintenance will be required to keep the trail in good shape, which FOSS will provide.

LEGACY The upgrade of Lost Lake Trail has provided a safe trail for multiple user groups in the Central Okanagan and visitors to the region to enjoy. This would not have been possible without the support of the **Central Okanagan Foundation. Thank You!**

Again, thank you P.A.C.E.!

FOSS would like to thank Rene Unser, P.A.C.E. (Positive Attitude Changes Everything) founder and endurance coach, for another significant donation to FOSS of over \$8,000 to be put toward work in Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park (OMPP).

P.A.C.E.'s very successful charity event, the 2022 Wild Horse Traverse, saw over two hundred runners make their way from Bertram Park in Kelowna through some very challenging terrain to Naramata. Part of the route was run through OMPP on the Wildhorse Canyon Trail. This trail was originally established by local First Nations people in the mid 1850s and was used by Father Pandosy and his party in 1859 to reach L'Anse au Sable, where Kelowna is today. In 1936, as a result of frustration with the across the lake ferry service, volunteers started to build a sixteen mile (27 km) long road along the east side of Okanagan Lake. Unfortunately, work was abandoned in 1939 with the advent of World War II.

FOSS has focused an impressive amount of volunteer hours on Wildhorse Canyon Trail for the last year and a half with the help of the over \$28,000 donated by P.A.C.E. to date. The trail has historical as well as recreational significance so work will continue on the trail and surrounding trails in OMPP in the future thanks to P.A.C.E.



Photo Credits: Steven Wells



Thank you to Kelowna Cycle who recently renewed their Adopt a Trail Sponsorship for 2022. Our other twenty trail sponsors were acknowledged in the June newsletter.

Repairing/Replacing Signage

The volunteers from FOSS' Trail Maintenance Crew are working at repairing/replacing/adding signage in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. On August 3rd the crew inspected trails that intersect with the KVR: Myra Bailout, Captain Nemo, Vapour and Lost Lake Trail. Vapour and Lost Lake Trail got new posts & signage.

Vapour Trail is 'adopted' by Shred Shed (upper) and Cyclepath (lower) and volunteers from these two FOSS Adopt a Trail sponsors have done significant work on this popular trail this year.



The Economic Value of Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC's August Newsletter has an interesting article about a study that measured the economic value of outdoor recreation in BC. The ORC article says "Did you know that the first-ever comprehensive study on the economic benefits of outdoor recreation in Canada shows that outdoor recreation is an economic force that provides more than \$98 billion dollars of value to Canadians (and \$15.8 billion to British Columbians)?"

You can read more about the study at this link: [LloydSmith_RecCJE.pdf \(ploydsmith.github.io\)](https://ploydsmith.github.io/RecCJE.pdf)

We at FOSS have long appreciated how important the great outdoors are for our physical and mental health— but this study reminds us of the incredible value of outdoor recreation to our economy.

The ORC also reminds us that effective August 5th, a campfire ban is in effect

Campfires are not allowed throughout the southern part of BC, including the Coastal, Kamloops and Southeast Fire Centers. This prohibition covers all Crown and private lands within the three fire centers unless specified otherwise (e.g., in a local government bylaw).

2022 Keremeos Creek
Wildfire (Photo Credit: BC
Wildfire Service/Twitter)



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