

Friends of the South Slopes

March, 2024



January, 2024 Myra Bailout Trail, north of the KVR (Photo credit: Daphne Richard)

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

FOSS Volunteer Appreciation Night at Barn Owl Brewery

On January 15, 2024, FOSS hosted an evening of pizza & beverages to thank the Trail Maintenance Volunteers for the incredible job they did in 2023. This crew of 56 skilled volunteers dedicated over 3,000 hours to projects in Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.



**Save
the
Date**

*FOSS' Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 17, 2024. FOSS members will receive an 'official' announcement later in March. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2024, please do it on-line prior to the AGM.
www.foss-kelowna.org 'Become a Member'*

FOSS—Partnership Agreement with BC Parks

Since the Province of BC established Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park in 2001, FOSS has been involved in the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Park. Early on it was through a Park Use Permit. However, in 2013 FOSS signed a ten year 'Partnership Agreement' with the Province to manage and maintain trails and make improvements to the park, for the "purpose of recreation and/or conservation activities". This has been a wildly successful partnership, win-win for everyone!

BC Parks and FOSS are currently collaborating on updating this Partnership Agreement.

Thank you to our donors!

Sending out 'thanks' to Ben & Joe Vos, owners of [Myra Canyon Bike Rental](#), who recently made a generous donation to FOSS, in appreciation for FOSS' collaboration to maintain the Myra Canyon section of the Kettle Valley Rail Trail. FOSS' Trail Boss, Milt Stevenson (middle) happily accepts the cheque.

(Photo Credit: Alan Milnes)



A big THANK YOU to Arthon Industries Ltd., the operators of the Crawford aggregate quarry located west of the lower Crawford trail system in Myra- Bellevue Provincial Park. The company recently made a generous \$5,000 donation to FOSS. They are good friends of FOSS, as they also have donated aggregate for many of our trail improvement projects, including materials for the approaches when bridges were repaired or replaced.



Becoming a FOSS Member and Donating to FOSS

Joining FOSS is easy and is done on-line on FOSS' website www.foss-kelowna.org. Click 'Become a Member' and you will be taken to a page with the option 'buy membership'. If you are renewing your FOSS membership, choose 'already a member: login'.

Membership options include (1) \$20 Annual Membership (2) \$50 Annual Membership + \$30 contribution or (3) \$100 Annual Membership + \$80 contribution.

If you wish to become a FOSS member (or renew your membership) and you wish to receive a tax receipt for your donation, please choose Option 1—\$20.00 Annual Membership and then return to FOSS' home page and choose the 'Donate' button and you will be taken to CanadaHelps, where a tax receipt will be issued electronically. Tax receipts are not issued for membership fees.



\$20.00

Annual Membership

JOIN

ANNUAL OPTIONAL REBILLING

Thank you for your support!

\$50.00

Annual Membership + \$30 contribution

JOIN

ANNUAL OPTIONAL REBILLING

Please note no tax receipt will be issued. To make a donation and receive a tax receipt please click on "Donate" on the FOSS site.

\$100.00

Annual Membership + \$80 contribution

JOIN

ANNUAL OPTIONAL REBILLING

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FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program—2023

FOSS initiated its Adopt a Trail Program in 2007, expanding the program in 2012 to have a 'sponsorship component'. Over 8,000 hours of trail maintenance have been completed by our Adopt a Trail volunteers since 2013.

In 2023, our 23 trail sponsors logged 234.5 hours of volunteer time, and the 7 Adopt a Trail Community adopters donated 108 hours to the program.

March 4, 2024—Notice from BC Wildfire Service

The BC Wildfire Service, working together with BC Parks and the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District, is planning to burn 200 piles of wood debris in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

Burning could begin in early March, with smoke and/or flames possibly visible from Kelowna and surrounding areas.

Staff from the BC Wildfire Service will carefully prepare, control and monitor these fires. Burning will only proceed if conditions are suitable and allow smoke to dissipate.

This fuel management project is in support of the City of Kelowna's Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

<https://ow.ly/gVrG50QLcGI>

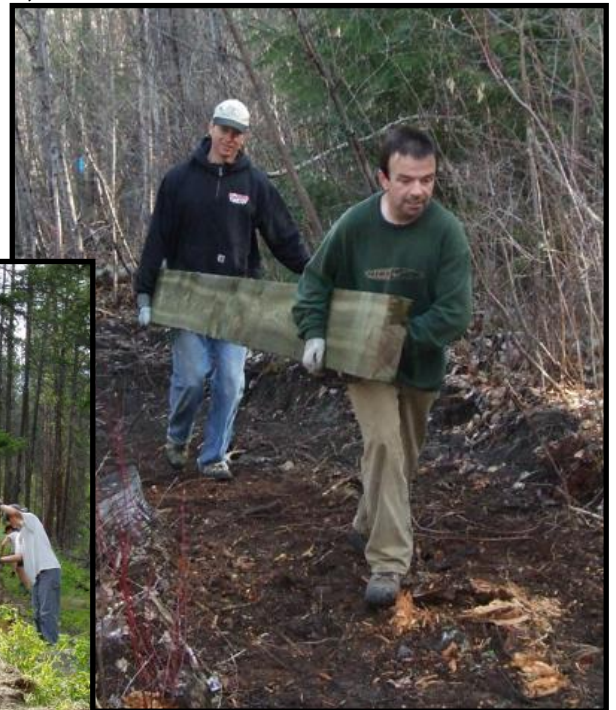
Remembering Nick Fiorante Member of FOSS' Board of Directors 2005-2009

On Feb. 18, 2024, Nick passed away unexpectedly while mountain biking at Kal Lake Provincial Park. During Nick's five year tenure on the FOSS Board, he led many projects in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. As well, he brought his expertise to the Priest Creek Trail & Bridges Project. Nick and his fellow director Herb Blamire could be counted on to plan, organize and implement any project—especially if the project involved tools or machinery.

As an avid outdoorsman and passionate mountain biker, Nick could often be found riding the South Slope trails. We send our condolences to Nick's wife, Jill.



Nick volunteering on the Priest Creek Linear Trail Project 2006-2009



June 2006, Cathy Richards (left), Nick Fiorante and Penny Gubbels (right) - FOSS delegates to the IMBA (International Mountain Bike Association) Summit in Whistler, BC

2024 Winter on the South Slopes



January, 2024—Trail maintenance on upper Myra Bailout Trail
Photo Credits: Alan Milnes



February, 2024—Hikers on Moose Trail & a rider on Galloping Trail (Myra-Bellevue)
Photo Credits: Daphne Richard

