

Friends of the South Slopes

May, 2024



*May 2, 2024 Arrowleaf Balsamroot
Upper Bench Trail
Photo Credit: Teresa MacKenzie*

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

FOSS Wraps Up a Successful AGM

FOSS held its Annual General Meeting on April 17, 2024. It was a great success! FOSS Board Chair Cam Kourany welcomed the 68 people who attended and he summarized the past year. Cam introduced the Directors in attendance, Steve Hall (Secretary) and the Committee Chairs who presented their annual reports: Trail Management (Milt Stevenson), Strategic Relations (Rick Ellery), Promotion and Communications (Paula Levens), Adopt a Trail (Alan Milnes), Governance (Sharon Shepherd), Financials (Sandy Hilton) and Memberships (Logan Pay).

Elected to the Board were Cam Kourany, Steve Hall, Sandy Hilton, Sharon Shepherd, Milt Stevenson, Alan Milnes, Paula Levens, Logan Pay, Rick Ellery, Hugh Culver and Amanda White.

Retiring Director Brad Wright was thanked for his fifteen years of dedicated service as a board member of the Friends of the South Slopes Society. Brad will continue to volunteer as a valued member of FOSS' Trail Maintenance Crew.



Photo Credit: Logan Pay

Pack it in, Pack it Out

We are sharing this signage regarding the length of time it takes for garbage to decompose. Please remember when you are in the backcountry—take out what you take in. BC Parks does **not** provide garbage containers at the Trailheads and when you learn how long it takes trash to biodegrade - it's thought provoking.

Dog Owner Responsibility: PLEASE, DON'T leave your doggie-doo bags along the trail! They aren't going to biodegrade any time soon and they are disgusting. Either 'pack them out' or use the 'stick & flick' method to move the poop well off the trail. Definitely 'pack it out' if your dog poops in any trailhead or common area.

BC Parks regulations for Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park are that *"Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Owners are responsible for their behaviour and must dispose of their excrement."* Additionally, *"Dogs must be on a leash at all times within the Myra Canyon area of the park."* So please comply with these BC Parks regulations when you and your pooch are on the KVR Trail between Myra Canyon Trailhead and the Ruth Station Trailhead.



FOSS' Inaugural 'Members of Distinction' Award

Daphne Richard, Isabel Pritchard and Penny Gubbels received the inaugural 'Members of Distinction' Award, presented to them at the AGM by FOSS Director Sharon Shepherd. FOSS President Cam Kourany accepted the award on behalf of Daphne Richard, who was unable to attend. Daphne, Isabel and Penny were founding members of FOSS when it was reborn in 1998 with a focus on recreation and environmental preservation on public lands on Kelowna's South Slopes. Isabel served on the board for 23 years, Daphne for 15 and Penny for 19 years. Daphne and Penny continue to work on a number of FOSS committees.

Left to right: FOSS Director Sharon Shepherd, FOSS President Cam Kourany (standing in for honouree Daphne Richard), Isabel Pritchard & Penny Gubbels



FOSS' Milt Stevenson— Kelowna's 2024 Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to our very own Milt Stevenson, who was recognized at the Kelowna's Civic & Community Awards on April 24 with 'Citizen of the Year' honours. Dr. Milt won the award for his volunteer work with the Friends of the South Slopes Society and for his efforts in championing the Rutland Community Clinic, which is a new model of a community health clinic to serve underserved populations like Indigenous and immigrant populations.



We at FOSS know very well the contributions Milt has made to FOSS! He is our Trail Maintenance Crew Manager - organizing work parties and training for the 50+ authorized volunteers in the program. Well done Milt!! And thank you!

COSAR—Community Heroes!

Our thanks go out to Karen Gretzinger from Central Okanagan Search & Rescue who was the Guest Speaker at FOSS' AGM. Karen enlightened us on the incredible work done by COSAR volunteers – 50 strong, who are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. COSAR averages over 100 callouts annually. COSAR was established in 1954 and is the oldest SAR team in the province. Their commitment is extraordinary! We are appreciative of their service. COSAR services are accessed through calling 911.

Website: cosar.ca

COSAR Adopts a Trail in Myra-Bellevue in Memory of a Beloved K-9 Team Member!

Central Okanagan Search & Rescue is 'adopting' Earring Trail through FOSS' Adopt a Trail Sponsorship Program. The trail is adopted in memory of **Chase**, COSAR's first K-9 team member who joined search & rescue 5 years ago. Tragically, Chase died in an accident in March.

Earring trail was a memorable trail for Chase as his handler regularly walked him there.



**"Rest easy, your
watch is over"**

**(Photo & quote
shared from COSAR
Facebook page)**



Sagebrush Buttercup
Photo Credit: Alan Milnes

Photo Credits: Teresa MacKenzie



The Gallagher's Canyon Community

is seeking volunteers to help with a wildfire mitigation project adjacent to their properties. This Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) initiative will take place on Saturday, May 25 from 10 am to 12 pm. An RDCO project manager will be on-site to instruct the volunteers. The focus will largely be pine needle and small branch removal. The RDCO will provide the necessary equipment and trailers for disposal of leaf litter.

The Gallagher's Canyon community is a wildland-urban interface community adjoining Scenic Canyon Regional Park, City of Kelowna forested land parcels and Crown land. Wildfire mitigation projects are vital for safeguarding the community against wildfire threats.

Volunteers must register online at <https://rdco.perfectmind.com/243>.

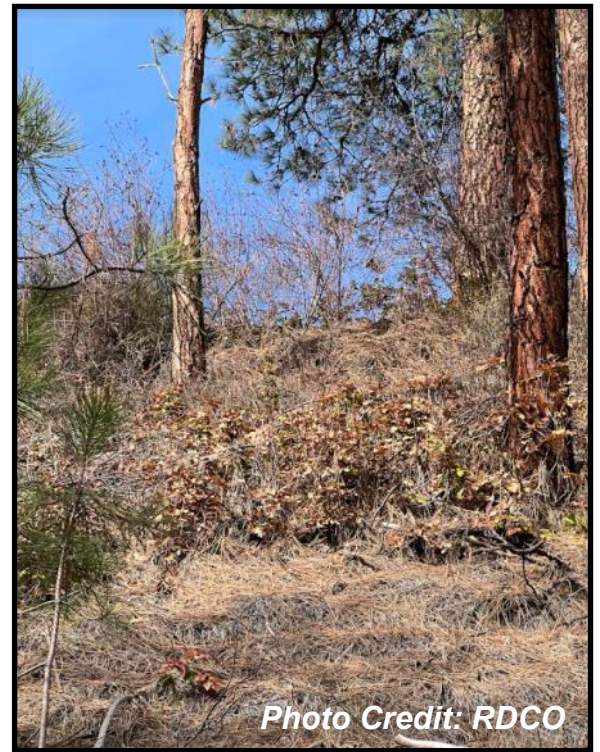


Photo Credit: RDCO



Scenic Canyon Regional Park Fire Mitigation (Gallagher's Canyon)

Saturday, May 25th, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join the RDCO volunteer team in fire mitigation efforts around homes bordering Scenic Canyon Regional Park, vital for safeguarding our community against potential wildfire threats. For any questions or concerns, please email parks.volunteers@rdco.com.

 Regional District of Central Okanagan



Register online at rdco.com

FOSS NEWS UPDATES: FOSS recently renewed a ten year

Partnership Agreement with BC Parks – this relates to FOSS' volunteer work in Myra-Bellevue & Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks.

FOSS' Promotions and Communications Committee is planning an event to celebrate BC Trails Day on Saturday, June 1st. Information will soon be circulated! Watch for it via email and FOSS' Social Media (Facebook & Instagram)

***Thank you to the businesses that generously contributed door prizes
for the FREE DRAW at FOSS' April 17 AGM!***



Topographic Bookmarks (donated by
Wayne Wilson)