

Friends of the South Slopes

July, 2024



View from CN Trail, OMPP
Photo Credit: Rick Ellery

Box 28011 RPO East Kelowna, Kelowna BC V1W 4A6 <http://www.foss-kelowna.org> info@foss-kelowna.org

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

Summer Solstice Hike

FOSS & Friends celebrated Summer Solstice on June 21st with a hike in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. Hikers enjoyed a fantastic evening with a beautiful sunset and stunning views from the lookout where Earring Trail, Connector & Big Drops meet. Some deer, an owl and a bat were spotted too! FOSS Board Member Logan shared his homemade chocolate chip cookies!



Project Complete!

Over the past winter and spring, BC Parks' contractor, Cabin Operations Ltd., completed the re-decking of the 18 trestles on the KVR Rail Trail in Myra Canyon. The planks now cover the entire deck of each trestle.

Two new pit toilets were also installed at the Myra Canyon Trailhead.

← (Photo Credit: Myra Canyon Bike Rentals and Tours)



FOSS Celebrated BC Trails Day June 1, 2024

In celebration of BC Trails Day, FOSS was at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead to greet people out cycling, hiking and riding in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. It was a wonderful opportunity for FOSS to have conversations with park users, introducing them to what FOSS does and answering their questions. There was a sign-up to receive FOSS' newsletter—with 68 people added to the list! There were free snacks (thank you to FOSS Board Member, Paula Levens!). Paula arranged a free draw for an Arc'teryx Aerios 18 backpack, donated by Kelowna's new Arc'teryx Store, now open at 313 Bernard Ave. The lucky winner of the backpack was Dawson Drader.

(A shout-out to FOSS' Communications & Marketing team, Hugh, Paula, Logan & Amanda for hosting the BC Trails Day event and the June 21 Summer Solstice hike)



May-June Trail Maintenance Report (Milt Stevenson, FOSS Volunteer Trail Maintenance Manager)

FOSS' Trail Maintenance Volunteers have been very active through May and June. They logged 500 volunteer hours in May, and they are on track for 600 hours in June.

The crews have been focused in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. They buffed up Race Classic from start to finish, aided by volunteers from Big White Resort, who sponsor the trail. The work involved lots of raking plus groundwork to improve drainage.

Fairlane Trail, Pipers and Myra Bailout have been re-brushed. Pipers Trail from Lost Lake to Myra Bailout had extensive groundwork done to mitigate the chronic runoff issues.

The trail maintenance volunteers have turned their attention to the two major 'climb' trails: Lost Lake Trail had two weeks of work done to upgrade the drainage and rake rocks off the trail. In June, similar work was done on Pink Highway.

Going in to summer, FOSS will shift its equipment to the KVR to do rail trail bed maintenance and work on upper Myra Bailout Trail.



*Indian Paintbrush on
Fairlane Trail, MBPP
(Photo Credit: Rick Ellery)*

Showcasing FOSS' Adopt A Trail (AAT) Sponsors!

We asked our twenty-three awesome trail sponsors to tell us a little bit about themselves and why they support the AAT Program. We'll showcase them over the next few newsletters.

Sponsor:	Shred Shed (Bill Knight)	AEM Anodyne Electronics Manufacturing Corp (Monty McEwan)	Big White Resort (Drew Gobeil)	Chevy's Source for Sports (Greg & Beate Entushevski)
Tell us about your business. What do you do?	I fix bicycles	AEM is an avionics design, manufacturing, and maintenance organization who provides avionics and structural health solutions for fixed and rotary wing aircraft. https://www.aem-corp.com	World class skiing and snowboarding and bike park	We are a local retail store specializing in hockey, baseball, softball & slow pitch products. We also do a fair amount of team and corporate wear.
What Prompted you to become a FOSS AAT Sponsor?	I ride mountain bikes a lot so it seemed appropriate to support the trails I ride.	Several of us at AEM use the trail network for mountain biking and running.	We wanted to be involved in and support the bike community of the Okanagan	Our whole family are regular visitors to this Kelowna Gem (Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park), mountain biking, hiking—we love it up there. We just wanted to give back and support the great work that goes on up there.
What trail do you sponsor and why?	Upper Vapour. It was in a state of disrepair, within the first year I was able to bring it back to perfect riding shape.	Natasha. It's a great trail with good flow and provides easy access as it is not too hard to get to and the views are great	Race Classic because it's a classic, fun Okanagan black diamond trail	Galloping Trail
What do you do to maintain your trail? Does FOSS assist you?	Eric has been a great help with this trail allowing me access to brushing tools.	We supply our own equipment and walk the trails pruning and raking as required.	Rake & buff the trail, address drainage issues when necessary and help wherever we can.	We frequently ride our trail and see if anything is needed in the form of maintenance for safety reasons. If so, I contact my hockey wingers—Alan Milnes & Milt Stevenson,
How Do you benefit from your sponsorship?	An important part of sponsoring this trail is it allows me to take care of it and keep it running.	It's rewarding too when you see people riding the trail giving thanks when doing trail maintenance.	We like to be involved in the bike/ski community and to also help build ridership at Big White Resort	There is no real benefit to sponsoring other than maybe bringing awareness to other business owners and families to get involved.

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Anything else you want to add?	Thanks for allowing me to take care of this wonderful trail!		We love bike trails and riding bikes	After we attended our 1st FOSS AGM, we were blown away at the history and the amount of dedicated volunteer help that goes into keeping these parks so well maintained—it was a real education.
AAT Sponsor since:	2021	2013 (1st year of the program!)	2016	2023

Big White Resort volunteers Rob, Drew & LC, with the assistance of FOSS' Trail Maintenance crew, worked on Race Classic, Big White's adopted trail



Come & Sit Awhile!

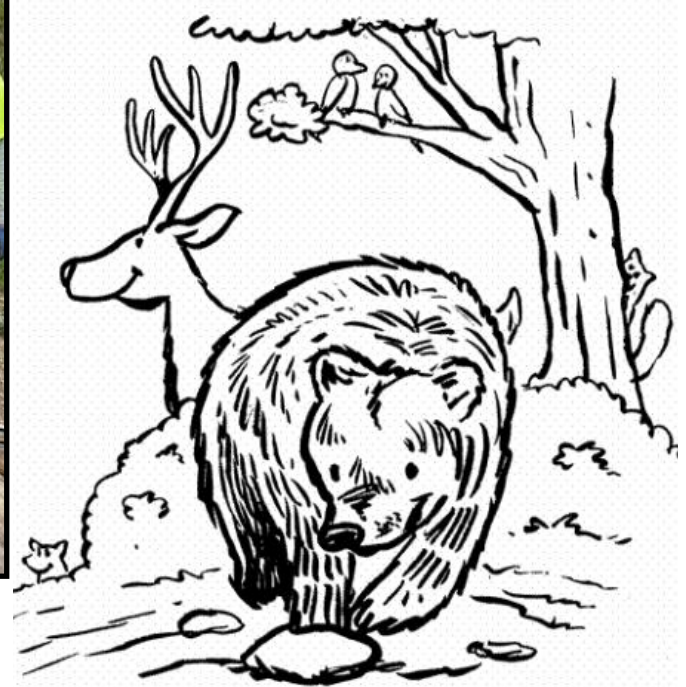
Just in time to celebrate BC Trails Day on June 1st, FOSS volunteers Milt & Terry installed a bench at Rose Lookout, on Lost Lake Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. A FOSS 'Vollie' crew admired the installation, on their way back from a trail maintenance project on Race Classic Trail.



Photo Credit: Randy Ellis



Photo Credit: Hugh Culver



FOSS' Trail Etiquette cartoons were drawn by Monte Barwick and donated to FOSS in 2004

BEARS! There's been a bumper crop of bear sightings this year in Myra-Bellevue & other parts of the South Slopes. Everything you need to know about recreating in bear country can be found at Wildsafe BC [Home – WildsafeBC](https://www.wildsafebc.ca/)

Tribute Paid to Pete Spencer

On May 8, Pete Spencer was honoured with a posthumous Honorary Agrologist Award at the BC Institute of Agrologist's' AGM. This tribute was paid to Pete for his long service to BC's agriculture industry through his work in the BC Environmental Farm Plan Program.

Pete was a FOSS Director from 2007 to 2021, and FOSS Treasurer 2010-2021. He tragically passed away in 2021.

Pete is remembered by FOSS with 'Pete's Bridge' over Hachey Creek on Fairlane Loop Trail and the nearby bench, in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park.

