

Friends of the South Slopes

September, 2024



*View from Camp Huissi Trail
Photo Credit: Teresa MacKenzie*

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

Camp Huissi Trail Opens!

Following the dissolution of the Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society (MCTRS) in 2022, FOSS added the Myra Canyon section of the KVR Rail Trail to its volunteer maintenance role in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. BC Parks continues to have responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the trestles. One of the final projects of the MCTRS was opening the Morrissey Camp historic site to the public in August, 2022. Back in 2007/08, MCTRS had partnered with UBC Okanagan to sponsor archeological digs at the site, which is one of 7 KVR construction camps (1912-1914) in the Myra Canyon area.

During the spring and early summer of 2024, FOSS volunteers brushed and cleared access to a second historic KVR work camp, Huissi Camp. FOSS' Board of Directors is delighted to announce that the Camp Huissi KVR Work Camp Trail is now open to the public! Temporary signs have been installed at each end of the trail. If you start on the KVR at the 2nd Ruth Station parking lot east of Little White Forest Service Road, the Huissi Camp Trail is on the south side of the KVR, just past trestle #4. The trail rejoins the KVR near Trestle #5. The trail is approximately 1.3 km long with about 50 meters of elevation gain. Where the trail



FOSS trail maintenance volunteers Rick, Alan and Brad installed temporary signs on the Huissi Camp Trail

(Photo Credit: Milt Stevenson)

levels out, there is a flat, grassy area where the camp's tent platforms were located.

As well as building the trail to Huissi Camp, FOSS' trail maintenance volunteers also installed trail etiquette signs on all 18 trestles. These highly visible signs are designed to enhance safety, especially when there is oncoming traffic.

One of FOSS' corporate supporters, Arthon Quarry, donated chipper crush gravel which our volunteers spread at the toe-ends of some of the trestles, making for a smooth transition from the trestle decks to the KVR trail.

A view from the Huissi Camp Trail



Cyclists on the KVR take a break to hike the new Huissi Camp Trail



FOSS volunteer Rick Ellery was part of the crew installing the 'Trail courtesy' signs on the 18 trestles

Adopt a Trail's Newest Sponsor

As we reported in the May 2024 newsletter, Central Okanagan Search & Rescue (COSAR) adopted Earring Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park in memory of their much loved K-9 member, Chase.

On July 25th COSAR honoured Chase's memory with a BBQ at the Stewart Road East Trailhead. After a walk to Earring Trail, FOSS Director Alan Milnes presented Chase's handler, Terry Downs, with the Adopt a Trail appreciation plaque. Over 100 people attended the BBQ, including Search & Rescue teams from Penticton, Shuswap, Kamloops and Nanaimo, as well as community members and Stober Foundation representatives. FOSS was represented by Alan Milnes, Penny Gubbels, Rick Ellery and Mike and Sharon Shepherd. Terry told us that Earring Trail was a special place for her and Chase. As well, it is the location for many of COSAR's training exercises and it was a natural choice when COSAR wanted to adopt a trail in memory of Chase.

We at FOSS are delighted to welcome COSAR into our Adopt-a-Trail (AAT) family and look forward to a long relationship. Thank-you COSAR for joining us and thank-you for all the wonderful work your members do as VOLUNTEERS to keep Okanagan residents safe.




Photo Credit:
COSAR

**Alan Milnes
presenting
the AAT
Sponsorship
plaque to
Terry Downs,
COSAR**



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 showcased four sponsors in our July newsletter, this month we're highlighting two more:

Sponsor:	Sean Kelly Law	Cyclepath
Tell us about your business. What do you do?	We provide litigation and dispute resolution advice and services to clients of all types in disputes over land, business, insurance & governance.	Cyclepath opened in 1995, providing a full service shop—bike sales (electric, mountain, gravel, road, commute & more!), clothing, cycling gear, parts and service.
What Prompted you to become a FOSS AAT Sponsor?	I love spending time on trails and wanted to give back to the trails for all the good things they do for us.	We became a FOSS Adopt a Trail Sponsor to give back to the community and support the organization that keeps our trails in top shape. FOSS does an incredible job maintaining the trails, their efforts keep Vapour Trail accessible and allow it to stay a local favourite that perfectly embodies the spirit of Kelowna mountain biking.
What trail do you sponsor and why?	We sponsor the western section of Fairlane because it is a great trail and one that a lot of people enjoy.	Vapour Trail, the section north of Doc Savage Trail. It's an iconic downhill cycling trail.
What do you do to maintain your trail? Does FOSS assist you?	Fairlane is a well established trail that usually only requires removing small natural hazards like branches or fallen trees which protrude out into the trail or baby head rocks that have found themselves on the trail. FOSS provides assistance with the “big things”, and replaced the bridge which forms part of my sponsored trail and in the event that a tree were to fall across the trail that would require a chainsaw to remove, I would seek out assistance from FOSS.	 <p>Cyclepath donated the bike work stand located at the Stewart Rd. East Trailhead</p>
How Do you benefit from your sponsorship?	I get to spend more time out on the trail, have met some great people and received some exposure for my little law firm.	Our sponsorship is a win-win: we get to contribute to the trails we love and build stronger connections with the local biking community.
Anything else you want to add?	If you see my huskies helping me maintain the trail feel free to say hi. They love meeting new friends human, canine or equine.	We're grateful to FOSS for their tireless work and encourage everyone to get out and experience the thrill of the Vapour Trail!
AAT Sponsor since:	Joined in 2013— Sean Kelly Law is a 'founding' sponsor of the program	Joined in 2013— Cyclepath is a 'founding' sponsor of the program

Our Adopt a Trail Sponsors

....Enjoying 'their' trail!

Cyclepath mountain bikers enjoying a spectacular sunset on Vapour Trail



Photo Credit: Sean Donovan

Trail Maintenance Update

(Milt Stevenson, FOSS Trail Maintenance Manager)

KVR: In addition to the extensive work done by FOSS' trail maintenance crew to open up the trail to Camp Huissi, FOSS also replaced the weathered planks on multiple benches along the KVR with beautifully finished planks.

Myra Bailout Trail: over 9 days, the trail from the KVR to Angel Springs parking lot was brushed and erosion mitigation work (including 2 culverts) was completed where runoff threatened the integrity of the trail. Volunteers also cleared the first section of Angel Springs Trail. Thank you to **Rolf & Katrine von Andrian** at Myra Canyon Lodge, who kindly let FOSS store its equipment for the project on their property.

Larch Trail (MBPP) This lovely trail on the east side of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park connects Myra Bailout Trail to Hromek Rd., where it connects to Lost Lake Trail. Larch Trail is spectacular in the fall when the Larch's needle-like foliage changes colour from vivid green to gold. In the spring this deciduous species showcases its beautiful soft and feathery new green foliage.

In August, FOSS volunteers Heather Williston and Alan Milnes removed a number of obstacles and brushed both sides of Larch Trail.

Chevy's Source for Sports—Greg & Beate cycling Galloping Trail



Renewing Your FOSS Membership

Did you know that FOSS membership is 'annual' from the date you buy your membership? This makes it easier than ever for you to keep your membership active! When you take out a FOSS membership, you'll be given the option to sign up for automatic renewal. Otherwise, you'll receive an email notice when it's time to renew. For membership information, visit our website: www.foos-kelowna.org



Heather Williston operating the 22 hp brusher mower on Larch Trail. (Photo Credit: Alan Milnes)

FOSS' BULLETIN BOARD

A 'heads up' on upcoming events in Myra-Bellevue & Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Parks—so you can plan your activities around events on the trails — or you can volunteer to help with the event if volunteers are needed!

9th Annual Kettle Mettle Gravel Fondo

Dates: Sept. 13 & 14, 2024

Location: The Kettle Valley Rail Trail. The Medio Fondo starts at Chute Lake, the Full Fondo and Full Fondo Plus start in Penticton.



Although the one-day 138+ km 'Full Fondo Plus' distance is still the marquee event, they are also offering a 50km Medio and 100km Full Fondo distances. In addition to the one-day event, they are excited to be bringing back the two-day stage race.

Registration is now open:
www.kettlemettle.ca

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! An event of this magnitude needs volunteers! If you are able to assist, please contact Suzi Stanton, the volunteer coordinator: sbstanton17@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERING? PLEASE LET SUZI KNOW YOU HEARD ABOUT IT THROUGH FOSS! Event organizers have said that if FOSS provides volunteers, they will make a donation to FOSS! **Win Win!**



Is hosting its annual mountain biking festival in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park, Oct. 5-6, 2024. This is a weekend of celebration, community building and serious stoke. It includes a Funduro on Saturday when MTBCO will also celebrate 'Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day'. FOSS WILL BE ON SITE WITH DRAW PRIZES AND YUMMY TREATS FOR THE FUNDURO!

Sunday, Oct. 6 MTBCO will host a professionally timed Enduro race. Registration opens Friday, Sept. 6, 2024 at 12:00 pm. More information is available at: www.mtbcoco.ca

SUPPORT THIS EVENT! MTBCO is looking for VOLUNTEERS and SPONSORS. Please contact them if you are interested in being a sponsor (many different options) or if you can volunteer. Contact MTBCO through its contact form on the website: <https://mtbcoco.ca/events/cranksgiving>

