

Friends of the South Slopes

November 2024



*Fall colours in Myra Wetlands
Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park*

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

Bench Honours FOSS 'Members of Distinction'

The bench at Rose Lookout in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park is dedicated to FOSS 'Members of Distinction'. On Sept. 27th, 2024 the first recipients of this award were recognized with a plaque dedication. FOSS President Cam Kourany spoke about the long service and contributions of Isabel Pritchard, Daphne Richard and Penny Gubbels. These three ladies have been active with FOSS since its inception in 1998, serving as board members (Isabel-23 years, Daphne-15 years and Penny-19 years) and they currently serve as committee members and valued 'historians'. Celebrating with the ladies at Rose Lookout were FOSS Directors Alan Milnes, Cam Kourany, Milt

Stevenson and Steve Hall (who took the group photo), as well as FOSS members Jane Stevenson and Teresa MacKenzie.

*Back Row: Alan, Cam, Teresa, Jane, Milt
Sitting: Isabel, Penny, Daphne (Steve behind the camera)*



*Hikers enjoying the view from the new bench
at Rose Lookout*

Thank You J.P. Squire!

FOSS is extremely grateful to journalist J.P. Squire. He is an enthusiastic FOSS supporter—and regularly showcases FOSS' projects in his weekly *Making Tracks* column on Castanet.net

Search for his column on Sept. 15, 2024 for lots of information on Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park and some user-recommended trails. The link is: <https://www.castanet.net/news/Making-Tracks/506535/KVR-tufa-springs-Bellevue-Canyon-trails-and-much-more-in-Myra-Bellevue-Provincial-Park>

His Oct. 13, 2024 column highlights the 'Members of Distinction':

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Making-Tracks/511389/FOSS-seniors-played-key-role-in-Myra-Bellevue-Provincial-Park-creation>

FOSS Donates to COSAR

To support and recognize the Central Okanagan Search and Rescue team as they celebrated their 70th anniversary on October 5, FOSS presented them with a \$2,000 donation. FOSS assists the work of COSAR by improving access to Myra-Bellevue and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Parks, including the KVR Trestles. FOSS volunteers maintain the trails—that supports COSAR when they are called out.

COSAR formed in 1954, and is BC's oldest all-volunteer search and rescue organization.



L-R: Alan Milnes & Milt Stevenson (FOSS), Brad Trites & Ken Mitchell (COSAR) and Hugh Culver, Rick Ellery & Steve Hall (FOSS)

BC Parks' Trail Audit

Recently, BC Parks contracted with Cabin Operations to undertake a comprehensive trail audit in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. Cabin's draft report has been reviewed by stakeholders like FOSS & MTBCO. BC Parks will assess this feedback before finalizing their report. The audit presents a fantastic foundation for FOSS' future planning work, including wayfinding and signage programs.

MTBCO (Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan) News (Paula Levens)

Congratulations to MTBCO for hosting another successful **Cranksgiving** weekend in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park!

Cranksgiving 2024 was a thrilling weekend filled with racing, family fun, and community spirit. Saturday brought young riders and families together for a taste of the Enduro experience, complete with pizzas for the kids and delicious cupcakes arranged by FOSS. On Sunday, the officially timed Enduro race kept the adrenaline high, and racers and volunteers enjoyed burgers fresh off the grill.

MTBCO thanks all the riders, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who made this event possible. In between cupcakes, FOSS volunteers signed up new members and raffled off an Atom Hoody, donated by Arc'teryx Kelowna. Congrats to Rox Pollock winner of the Atom Hoody and a big thank-you to Arc'teryx Kelowna for their ongoing support FOSS.

Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan and West Kelowna Trail Crew Society Are Joining Forces

Mountain Bikers of the Central Okanagan (MTBCO) and the West Kelowna Trail Crew Society are joining forces to create a stronger, united mountain biking community across the region. Both organizations' members voted unanimously in favour of this exciting step forward. This merger will enhance resources, expand membership perks, accelerate progress on trails, events, and advocacy initiatives while also strengthening partnerships with organizations like FOSS to continue ensuring safe trail sharing for all park users.



A cyclists' view over Bellevue Canyon



FOSS Trail Maintenance Updates:

Cleaning Up KLO Creek!

In September, FOSS volunteer Rick Ellery coordinated a project to move an old truck engine and transmission out of KLO Creek to higher ground, . The truck wreck has been in the creek for more than a decade, and was adjacent to the section of KLO Creek Trail in Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park. The truck body remains near the creek — anyone have a '212' helicopter we can borrow???

Thank you to Rick, Alan, Hugh and Mark for their muscle power.



Fall Trail Improvements:

KVR Trail: Work continued on the Camp Huissi Trail. The northern descent trail was widened and a switchback was constructed to lower the grade. Windfalls were removed and stairs were installed to improve footing. Gravel crush was applied to the surface and it was locked with a light application of Portland cement. To finish the work, interpretive signs will be installed in the spring. A huge thanks to Maury Williams (former director, Myra Canyon Trestle Restoration Society, pictured on the right) for his expertise that allowed FOSS to renew this trail.

Camp Morrissey was re-brushed and windfalls were removed, along with windfalls on the KVR Trail. Re-brushing of the rail trail from Ruth Station to Myra was completed.

Lower Trails in Myra-Bellevue: The mid section of Myra Bailout Trail was re-brushed from the Angel Springs parking lot to Hromek Rd. This completes the rehabilitation of Myra Bailout Trail from the KVR to Fairlane Trail. The FOSS Trail Crew also re-brushed Larch Trail and upper Lost Lake Trail from Bellevue Access south to Crawford Trail. Crews worked on Bellevue Access Trail, Blancher's Silver, Hillbilly (below Race Classic) and the Earring Connector. More groundwork was done for erosion mitigation on the steep slope on Lower Earring, and also on Fairlane Trail from Salamander east to Myra Bailout. Additionally, Fairlane Trail was brushed and improved from Myra Bailout to Luxmoore Trail. FOSS volunteers built up the approaches to Allan's Bridge & the Peterson Brook bridge on Fairlane Trail, adding crush. A bench was installed at Crawford Lookout, joining benches already installed at Rose Lookout, Connector Lookout and Piper's Lookout (overlooking Lost Lake).

Crews brushed, removed windfalls and did erosion mitigation work on Grassy, Lost Lake/Spring By-Pass and Lookout Trail. It's been a busy fall! Trail maintenance crews logged 623 volunteer hours since the last FOSS newsletter. (Reported by Milt Stevenson, Trail Maintenance Manager)



(Below) FOSS volunteer Willie Cheyne clearing upper Myra Bailout Trail



Thanks, FortisBC!

Fortis BC is one of FOSS' initial trail sponsors through FOSS' Adopt a Trail Program. They have been supporting this program since 2013. This past summer, 17 FortisBC volunteers joined forces with 6 volunteers from FOSS' Trail Maintenance Program, and tackled three projects in MBPP Bellevue Provincial Park.

- Spread gravel at the Harvard Rd. entrance to MBP
- Repainted the kiosk at Stewart Rd. East, & clean-up
- Trail work– on the east end of Upper Bench Trail

