

Our mission is: To engage the community through education and awareness to conserve a truly unique naturalized urban park.

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK!

The Friends of Fish Creek would like to thank our supportive members, generous donors, hard-working volunteers, long-time supporters and dedicated community partners for helping make 2014 another amazing year. We are truly grateful for your support and involvement and we look forward to seeing you in the park in the New Year. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and all the best in 2015! -Nic DeGama-Blanchet, Executive Director



The Friends office is closed from December 23 to January 1, reopening January 2.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN FISH CREEK?
THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK NEED YOU!**

Fish Creek COMMUNITY FAIR 2 / 28 / 2015

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park
(13931 Woodpath Rd. SW - Access via 130 Ave. SW and 37 St. SW)



If you regularly visit Fish Creek Provincial Park, a natural urban oasis we are fortunate to have within our own backyard, then you are part of the Fish Creek Community! No matter your age, skill level or physical ability, the Friends of Fish Creek have volunteer opportunities for you to get involved. You can help us to engage the community, raise awareness and maximize peoples' enjoyment of this area.



Come to the Fish Creek CommUnity Fair to learn about amazing programs, courses, events and opportunities taking place in 2015. The ground may still be covered in snow, but Spring starts now in Fish Creek! For more info, please visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/fccuf

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Fish Creek Speaker Series

The Friends of Fish Creek Speaker Series program has been combined with Alberta Parks' Parks and Protected Areas Slideshow series. Presentations will take place on Thursday nights at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre at Shannon Terrace in Fish Creek Provincial Park (13931 Woodpath Rd. SW, access via 130 Ave. SW and 37 St. SW). Friends members will receive free admission and the fee is \$5 each for non-members. Below is a list of upcoming presentations.



**Geology - The Foundation For Alberta Parks
Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015 - 7:00pm - 8:00pm**



Presented by Dr. Mark Fenton, Alberta Geological Survey
Alberta's parks are the result of geology and geologic processes and therefore contain many geological wonders. This talk will focus on a few of these including answers to the following: "The where and why of hot pots" "Rock and spontaneous combustion" "Why the big stink at Harper Creek?" and more! **For more information or to register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/geology**

Mysterious depressions in limestone near Vermilion Chutes, photo courtesy of Dr. Mark Fenton, AB Geological Survey

**Fire Management in Kananaskis Country
Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015: - 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Presented by Scott Jevons, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Specialist and Fire Ecologist with Alberta Parks in Kananaskis Country

Effective control of wildfires over the last century has led to the near-elimination of fires that once shaped the vegetation of Alberta. Loss of fire from the landscape is causing dramatic changes to our forests and grasslands, affecting species diversity, how ecosystems function, and the resilience of ecosystems to natural disturbances and changing climate. Come and take a historical walk through time to view landscape change in Kananaskis Country, and learn how Alberta Parks is dealing with these complex challenges.

For more information or to register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/fire

Stay tuned to www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series and www.fish-creek.org for more information.



Have Your Voice Heard ! Attend the AGM !

Thursday, January 29, 2015 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, Fish Creek Provincial Park



It is because of our members, volunteers and donors that the Friends have accomplished so much. Come and have your voice heard and meet our board and staff at the Annual General Meeting. Please contact the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society if you would like to attend. Refreshments will be served. **Only members who have paid their 2014–2015 Membership dues are eligible to vote.**

Quiz Question

Which 2 species of deer can be seen year-round in Fish Creek Provincial Park?

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO FISH CREEK



As a community-based non-profit organization, the Friends of Fish Creek depend on members like you as the basis for our Society. Membership dues help us to deliver carefully targeted programs, courses, events and activities throughout the year that enhance peoples' enjoyment of the park and deliver a message of environmental conservation.

Many people join the Friends not only to support the park itself, but also for benefits like discounts on courses, admission to Fish Creek Speaker Series presentations, discounts at local businesses, and a subscription to this newsletter, the best way to stay up to date on happenings in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Programs like Minibus Tours, Wellness clinics, Speaker Series, the Birding Courses, Trail Care, Weed Whackers and Public Awareness receive little or no external funding and are made possible by dedicated and

skilled volunteers.

Membership fees are essential in helping us to deliver quality programs for you and to fulfill our mission: *to engage the community through education and awareness to conserve a truly unique naturalized urban park*. For many of you, this natural retreat is an extension of your own backyard, and your support is critical to ensure that we can continue to work with our volunteers to preserve the park for future generations to enjoy. We thank you for renewing your membership for the 2014-15 year or for joining us as a new member and we look forward to seeing you in the park.

To renew your membership or become a member, you can mail in or drop off the form below to our office at the Bow Valley Ranch in Fish Creek (south end of Bow Bottom Tr.) or visit friendsoffishcreek.org/friends-of-fish-creek-membership-signup

The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society

P.O. Box 2780 Calgary, AB T2P 2M7

403-238-3841

info@friendsoffishcreek.org

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

Name: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____

Address: _____ City and Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Work place (optional): _____

Membership Renewal New Member

I would like to make a donation

Park Protector Monthly Donor Plan: Monthly Contribution \$10.00 \$30.00 \$50.00

Membership: Individual \$35.00 Family \$45.00

Senior (+60 years of age) Individual \$25.00 Family \$30.00

Donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other: \$ _____



Please Fill out: Membership \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

To pay with a Credit Card, please use PayPal at www.friendsoffishcreek.org or donate on CanadaHelps.org

(Charitable Registration #891199747 RR0001)

NEWSLETTER: email send paper copy

Signature of donor or recipient: _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more or if requested.

WINTER BIRDING COURSE

12 WEEK WINTER BIRDING COURSE STARTS MONDAY, JANUARY, 5, 2015



Learn about the variety of bird species in Fish Creek Provincial Park and other natural areas in Calgary through the Friends of Fish Creek Winter Birding Course. Birds are now easier to see as the trees have shed their leaves, there are fewer species present and they often occur in large flocks. As a fundraiser for the Friends of Fish Creek, these outings will be conducted by lifelong birder and naturalist Gus Yaki and other experienced birding instructors.

Fee for 12 outings:

Friends of Fish Creek Members - \$60.00, Non-Members - \$100.00

Youth 16 years of age or younger with registered adult - \$5.00

Registration Required. For course times and to register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/birding-course call 403-238-3841 or email info@friendsoffishcreek.org

Great gray owl photo courtesy of Anne Elliott

Fish Creek Stream Bank Restoration

In October, the Friends of Fish Creek completed all three stages in our 2014 riparian restoration project with the help of volunteers! The goal of this project was to restore a heavily damaged section of stream bank by planting willows, poplars and dogwoods, and installing large woody debris and signage to deter future off-trail use. This project represents the true meaning of a group effort, and we could not have accomplished this without the guidance, direction, time, funds and hands-on effort put in by all involved. Special thanks to Fish Creek Provincial Park Staff, the Venturers, Trout Ultd Canada, Cows and Fish, Agroforestry Woodlot Extension Society and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development.



Post installation along Fish Creek, Oct. 9

Estate Planning - Leave a Lasting Legacy!

Legacy (Planned Giving) gifts allow you to make a future donation to the Friends of Fish Creek without affecting your current financial circumstances. Regardless of the size of your planned gift you can be sure that your gift will continue to make a lasting and vital impact on the park that you care for. Giving options may even substantially reduce your taxes. Your legacy will help ensure that the important programs operated or sponsored by the Friends of Fish Creek can continue to be maintained and expand. For more information contact the Friends of Fish Creek or visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/ffc-donate

Nature Calgary Outings



These free Birding seminars will take you to various natural areas in and around Calgary where you can explore the bird species found in these diverse environments, increase your bird knowledge and have fun. Willing to share your knowledge with others? Call the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society - 403-243-2248 to specify a date and location. For a complete list of upcoming outings, visit naturecalgary.com

Fish Creek Christmas Bird Count, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, All day.

For more info or to register contact Jim Washbrook 403-613-9216 or jim.washbrook@prairiesky.ab.ca

Lifetime Membership

Rick and Elaine Barnes

Dedicated to Preserving Fish Creek for Present and Future Generations

We are pleased to announce new members emeritus, Rick and Elaine Barnes, in recognition of an incredibly generous donation. Rick and Elaine Barnes are our newest Lifetime Members and their donation will go a long way in helping the Friends to continue engaging the public in a variety of ways throughout the year for the long term sustainability of this park.

Originally from Walkerton, Ontario Elaine moved to Calgary in 1980 and married Rick in 1989. After 1 year in Winnipeg, they returned to Calgary and chose to live near Fish Creek Provincial Park. "We now live in Deer River Estates backing on to this magnificent park where we have the opportunity to view the wildlife from our windows," Elaine said, "Having grown up on a farm I was so impressed that this open space existed in the midst of a growing city and that it would never be developed. My initial impression was how lucky I am to have such easy access to this space. Rick and I still feel that every day when we enter the park. There is rarely a day that I am not in the park walking, running or cycling. Prior to my retirement earlier this year I was in the park at 5:30 am most days. This was a time to not only exercise but to think about the day ahead. I would frequently see a deer, coyote, owl or some other wildlife that would remind me of how lucky I am to have access to the park. I am happy to say I can now enjoy the park in the daylight at a civilized hour. Friends and family who visit us from other areas of Canada are amazed at this wonderful resource in our backyard."

Since they first began visiting the park, Elaine and Rick have noticed significant changes within Fish Creek Provincial Park. "The floods of 2005 and 2013, as well as the engineered wetlands, have certainly changed the area. The once quiet stream that runs off the Bow around Popular Island has significant water flow and is deeper in many areas," she informed, "I would say the use of the park has also gone up significantly. This is not based on any numbers I have but just on the numbers of people we see in the park."

They originally heard about the Friends of Fish Creek 12 years ago when Elaine came across a memorial bench. "I thought it was such a wonderful idea to honour someone and decided at that point we would donate a bench so we could use it, and have it in a spot



Bald eagle near Mallard Point, photo courtesy of Rick Barnes

where other park users would stop and have an opportunity to reflect and enjoy the area. It has been my greatest pleasure to see someone taking a time out on our bench," Elaine stated, "Once we became members of the Friends of Fish Creek, we realized that this organization was educating people on wildlife and other ecological areas of importance to our future. We became regular donors because this work needs to continue for future generations to enjoy the park."

Elaine would like to share one message with the readers of this newsletter, "Fish Creek Provincial Park is an incredible resource that we need to continue to take care of. The funding of organizations like the Friends of Fish Creek, who support the park and educate park users, is vital for the continued evolution and long-term sustainability of Fish Creek Provincial Park."

Our sincerest thanks go out to Elaine and Rick Barnes and we will continue to strive to engage the community for the benefit of this park we all cherish. For more information on how you can become a Lifetime Member of the Friends of Fish Creek, please contact Nic DeGama-Blanchet, Executive Director, at nic@friendsoffishcreek.org

Thank You Sponsors! Without your support our Programs and Events would not be possible!

Bobcat Level:



TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



Birch Level:

FLC Seniors Outdoor Club

Quiz Answer

The mule deer and the white-tailed deer can be seen in the park throughout the year and they often appear in groups of 3 - 7 individuals. During the winter months you may see them walking through the snow and nibbling on exposed vegetation. Deer flourish in Fish Creek Provincial Park because there are very few natural predators and abundant food sources. Deer can be seen at almost anytime of the day and are often spotted next to roadways in the park. Although young deer may appear friendly and even harmless, like other wildlife, they will flee or defend themselves if they feel threatened. Always respect the deer by not trying to feed them and by keeping your dog on a leash at all times in the park. Keep in mind that these captivating animals are accustomed to people and are not averse to being photographed from a distance.

2014 Executive

Chairman	Tom Jackman
Vice-Chairman	Emmett Hogan
Treasurer	Phil Greer
Secretary	Stewart Scott
Director at Large	Bob Morrin
Director at Large	Richard Link
Director at Large	Ainsley Grant
Park Liaison	Roland Kirzinger

Staff

- Nic DeGama-Blanchet, Executive Director
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Thank You Donors!

The Friends would like to acknowledge the support from the individuals and organizations below who have made a financial contribution to the Friends of Fish Creek this year. We are truly grateful for your support.

- Deer Level \$5,000 - 14,999:** Rick & Elaine Barnes
First Calgary, Scotiabank
- Beaver Level \$1,000 - \$4,999:** Damen Moore
Stewart & Janice Scott
- Spruce Level \$750-\$999:** Tim Hopwood
- Aspen Level \$500 - \$749:** Noela & David Moffit, Jeff Tonge

Birch Level \$100 - \$499:

David & Norma Anderson, Tracy Anderson, Jeff Biggs, Nic DeGama-Blanchet, Geraldine I. Fish, Darlene Halwas, James Hatcher, William & Helen Hiebert, Michelle Kromplak & Michael Sine, Chris Lalonde, Patricia Lee, Brigitte Lemay, Judy MacLachlan, Doug McIntosh, Murielle & Chester Nagy, Lynda & Gordon Needham, Marie Nelson, Katie Pearson, Aileen Pelzer & Gus Yaki, Douglas and Margo Phillips, Ian & Patricia Pietersma, Dave Reid, Douglas Sharp, Gene & Anne Swain, David Vallance, Aaron West, Edward & Christina Wheeler

