

# SHARING OUR VISION OF A SUSTAINABLE FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK



FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ANNUAL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2013 - SEPTEMBER 2014

# FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK SOCIETY

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

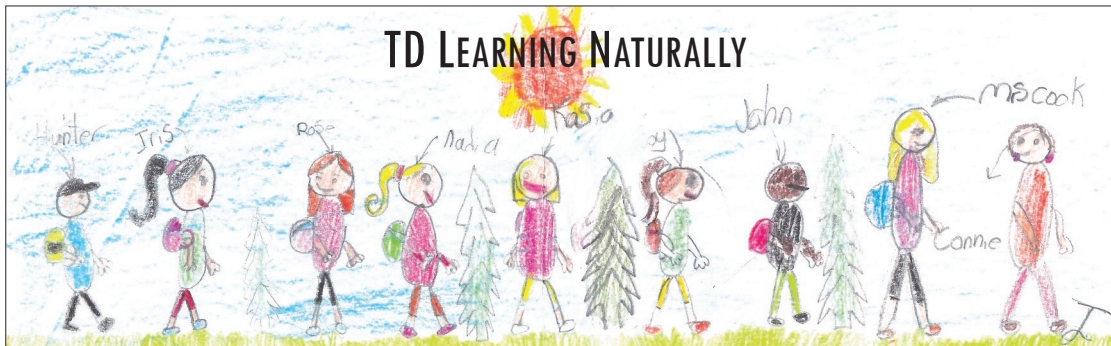
*Our vision is a sustainable Fish Creek Provincial Park  
that improves the quality of life for present and future generations.*



Friends of Fish Creek - Contact Us

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[twitter.com/fish\\_creek](https://twitter.com/fish_creek), [facebook.com/friendsoffishcreek](https://facebook.com/friendsoffishcreek), Charitable Registration #891199747RR0001



Joy, Rosscarrock School

Between September 2013 and June 2014, 4,389 students between grades K—6 from 31 schools in economically disadvantaged areas of Calgary participated in the TD Learning Naturally Program in Fish Creek Provincial Park. There was a total of 92 program days over the 2013-14 school year and student numbers were up by 711 from the 2012/13 school year. Connie Embreus has been leading this program since 2010 and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has been the title sponsor. Thank you to the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for continuing to provide partial funding for this program for the next 4 years.

This program provides children with an unforgettable learning opportunity. Program themes include Animals & Winter, Enchanted Spring, Fabulous Fall, Fish Creek Family, Hidden Worlds, Insect Intrigue, Orienteering, Plant Communities, Signs of Fall, Spring Fever, Thriving Together, Tree Tales, Wetlands, Wild Life Cycles, Winter Detectives Winter Wonder and Independent programs.

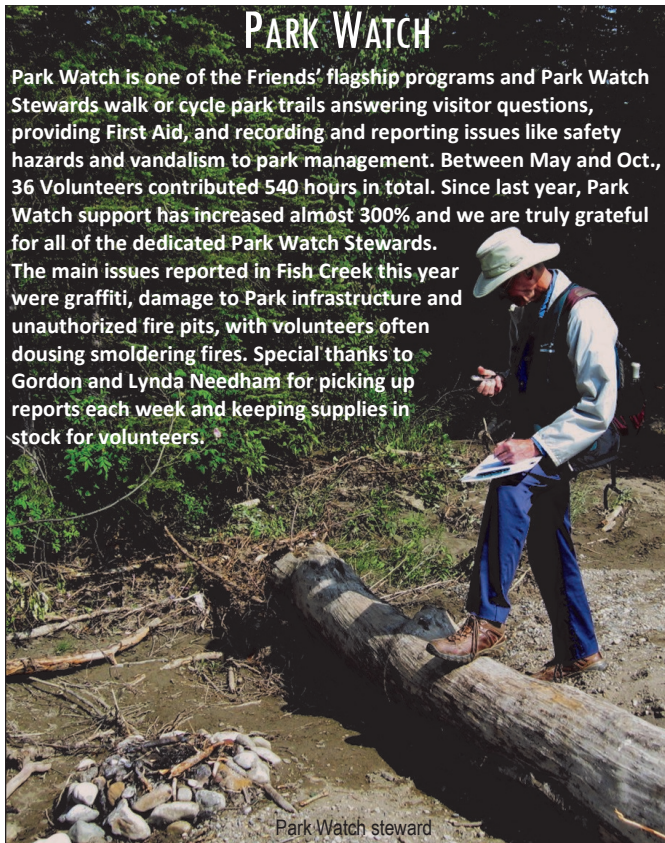
For the upcoming 2014/15 school year, 47 program days have been scheduled for the fall. Additional funding is being sought to carry the Learning Naturally Program into the spring of 2015 where potentially 50 more program days can be scheduled.

**The TD Learning Naturally program needs your support! To donate or for more information visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/td-learning-naturally-program](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/td-learning-naturally-program)**



## PARK WATCH

Park Watch is one of the Friends' flagship programs and Park Watch Stewards walk or cycle park trails answering visitor questions, providing First Aid, and recording and reporting issues like safety hazards and vandalism to park management. Between May and Oct., 36 Volunteers contributed 540 hours in total. Since last year, Park Watch support has increased almost 300% and we are truly grateful for all of the dedicated Park Watch Stewards. The main issues reported in Fish Creek this year were graffiti, damage to Park infrastructure and unauthorized fire pits, with volunteers often dousing smoldering fires. Special thanks to Gordon and Lynda Needham for picking up reports each week and keeping supplies in stock for volunteers.



Park Watch steward

## TRAIL CARE

Through the Trail Care program volunteers work to maintain the single track trail network in the park. On June 7, volunteers helped maintain 126' of trail near Shannon Terrace. On Aug. 23, the Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance organized a trail day and BBQ near Votier's Flats. 23 volunteers rerouted 20' of trail, reclaimed 140' and developed 108' of new trail. Special thanks to AB Parks staff Arthur Hughes and Kaylyn Airey, and to the CMBA for their continued support and involvement in trail maintenance and development. Thank you also to Joe Gerritsen for taking a sign inventory and repairing signs throughout the park. Stay tuned to the Friends of Fish Creek website for info on the development of the CMBA Fish Creek Mountain Bike Skills Park, currently under construction near Burnsmead.

## WEED WHACKERS

From May to August this year, the Friends' Weed Whacker volunteers were busy tackling various invasive species that have established themselves in the park over time, including spotted knapweed, common tansy, scentless chamomile, common burdock, black henbane and more. In total, 128 volunteers – including corporate participants from Telus and RBC, and community groups like Prospect Human Services and Youth Central – logged 282 hours, 95 bags and 800 kgs of invasive plant material from throughout the park. Thank you to all Weed Whacker volunteers for helping maintain biodiversity in Fish Creek Provincial Park!

(Black henbane and thistle removal at Lafarge Meadows, June 11)



## SPEAKER SERIES

Over 760 people enjoyed educational Speaker Series presentations at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre between Jan. and Sep. 2014. Special thanks to all voluntary presenters and assistants.

**Jan. 15, The Winter Sun: Extending the Growing Season** - John Daly, President and Co-Founder of Daly Harvest

**Feb. 12 and Feb. 27, The Ecology and Health of Urban Coyotes** - Alessandro Massolo, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary

**Mar. 27, Alberta's Carnivores Caught on Film** - Mike Jokinen, Biologist with the Alberta Conservation Association

**Apr. 24, Lost in the Woods** - Holly Lehbauer and Katie Pearson, Foothills Search and Rescue

**May 21, Gardening in Calgary: Choosing Alberta's Native Plants for Your Garden** - Pat and Dr. Al Fedkenheuer, ALCLA Native Plant Restoration Inc.

**June 19, Fish Creek Provincial Park: Its History and Changes** - Wayne Meikle, Founding Member of the Friends of Fish Creek and Retired Fish Creek Provincial Park Planner

**Sep. 9, Human Relationships with the Natural World: The Bison Spirit Land and Fish Creek Provincial Park** - Line Laplante, International Indigenous Studies Instructor, University of Calgary

# MINIBUS TOURS

The open-air electric minibus is a great way to see the park and helps more people to enjoy Fish Creek Provincial Park in a variety of ways. For individuals with reduced mobility, the minibus provides them with an opportunity they otherwise would not have. This vehicle is instrumental in helping the Friends to exemplify our mission of engaging more community members in the park. Approximately 120 people enjoyed a spin on the minibus this year and we are sincerely grateful to all tour guides and volunteer drivers. Below is a list of tours between June and October 2014.



July 8, Aug. 9 and 12, Sep. 6 and 20, and Oct. 2 and 4, Bob Bakker instructed the extremely popular **Minibus Photography Course** outings. Close to 50 individuals learned about the basics of photography and had the opportunity to photograph some of the most breathtaking areas of Fish Creek.

Drew McKibbin led **Blast from the Past**, a tour of Archaeological sites in the park for 6 participants on Oct. 4.

Rob McWilliam, retired Geology professor, led **Fish Creek Rocks - Geology Tours** on July 21, Aug. 27, and Sep. 17, and a total of 17 people came on these tours. He also led a private tour for a corporate group of 25 employees.

Twenty individuals enjoyed learning about the **Park's History, Natural Features and Wetlands** with Wayne Meikle, retired park planner and founding member of the Friends of Fish Creek, on July 4, Aug. 15 and 27, and Oct. 8.

Katie Pearson, Friends Project and Programs Director, led a **Flood Update Education** tour for 3 people on June 19 (pictured above).



# WELLNESS PROGRAMS

In 2014 the Friends continued to offer Yoga, Meditation and Running programs and we are thankful to the skilled individuals who instructed these sessions between June and October.

Twelve Yoga sessions were held at the Bow Valley Ranch and we would like to thank Naomi Parker of Elemental Wellness and Gwen Woolverton Draude of Birds of a Feather for hosting these sessions. There were 92 participants in total for the Yoga program.



Hetty Laidlaw of Healing the Heart hosted 6 Guided Meditation sessions on Tuesday nights and there were 88 participants for this program.

John Hrytsak and Perry Watson of Running Room hosted Running and Walking Clinics and 5 people took part in these sessions. Our wellness programs have increased in scope and frequency this year, and have helped community members to enjoy Fish Creek Provincial Park in new and meaningful ways.

(Left: Meditation Instructor Hetty Laidlaw, top: Gwen Woolverton Draude and Yoga participants, Aug. 27 at the Bow Valley Ranch)



# CREEKFEST



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Creekfest was held on July 19 at the Bow Valley Ranch in Fish Creek. This free one-day

celebration of water attracted approximately 2,400 community members, including many children and families. Creekfest is an important component of the Friends' Watershed Public Awareness Campaign, designed to inform and inspire community members to take actions to protect and preserve our water. We would like to thank all participating organizations and presenters, the 43 volunteers who contributed over 240 hours to helping this event run smoothly, and everyone who attended Creekfest.

We would like to acknowledge the support and involvement of the following organizations and

individuals for helping make Creekfest 2014 a fun and successful event: Alberta Parks and Fish Creek Provincial Park Staff, AB Conservation Association, AB Institute for Wildlife Conservation, AB Lake Management Society, AB Native Plant Council, AB Real Estate Foundation, Bill Skinner and the Bow Waters Canoe Club, Blue Rambler, Bow Habitat Station, Bow Valley Rancho Restaurant, The Calgary Foundation, Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance, Calgary Public Library, Calgary River Valleys, Carolyn Campbell and the AB Wilderness Association, Carnivals for Kids at Heart, The City of Calgary, Cows and Fish, Evergreen Theatre, Rosemary Gell and Golden Muse Productions, Great Events Catering, Green Calgary, Dr. Hamid Habibi, Land Stewardship Centre, Peter Puffin's

Whale Tales, Prospect Human Services,

Pumphouse Theatre, The Rancho at Fish Creek Restoration Society, St. Mary's University and MaryAnn McLean, artists Sylvia Prochownik and Sheila Schaetzle, Trout Ultd. Canada, Twisted Ink Design and Youth Central.  
(Left: Peter Puffin's Whale Tales, top: tropical obstacle course)



## BIRDING COURSE

Over 300 individuals took part in the Autumn 2013, Winter 2014 and Spring 2014 courses, many of whom returned each season. In an effort to encourage more young people to register, the Friends worked with the Birding Course instructors to implement the youth rate of only \$5, and 15 young people have now taken part in the course. Lead volunteer, dedicated naturalist Gus Yaki, has contributed over 1600 volunteer hours to this program, and has recruited volunteer instructors and assistants in order to run the course 6 days a week. We are truly grateful for his tireless efforts. Special thanks to Wayne Walker, who has volunteered over 550 hours to this program last year.

Thank you to all voluntary instructors and assistants: Dan Arndt, Lorrie Anderson, Yousif Attia, Kingsley Blades, Rob Brown, Trevor Churchill, Bernie Diebolt, Ganesh Dolumeerawatta, Dan Edwards, Kris Fernet, Dick and Lenora Flynn, Janet Gill, Carole Hachey, Barrie Hertz, Peter Hoyer, Gary Kurtz, Bob Wood ducks, photo by Anne Elliott

Lefebvre, Joanne Nemeth, Rose Painter, Ralph Parks, Erin Petho, David Pugh, Phil Quinn, Phyllis Roberts, Jennifer Solem, Phil Smith, Stephen and Dorothy Spring, Jim St. Laurent, John Stegeman, Diane Stinson, Marian Swastchina, Darlene Skymkiw, Tony Timmons, Dave Vernon, Joan Walker and Rob Worona.



## YOUTH NATURALIST PROGRAM



5th Calgary Girl Guides at Shannon Terrace, June 2

The Youth Naturalist program helps foster a sense of wonder and appreciation for the natural world within Fish Creek. 120 school-aged children took part in this program between March and October. Special thanks to the Cohen Foundation for their support. Thank you to the volunteers who hosted these programs: Amy Dmytar, Deb Fettig, Rebecca Gillhespy, Natalia Iourieva, Dave Reid and Kathy Seaman.

# FISH CREEK STREAMBANK RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2013, The Friends worked with Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish) to complete a Riparian Health Inventory of both banks of Fish Creek between Bridge 11 and the confluence with the Bow River. This report indicated the area was highly impacted by off-trail use, resulting in low plant diversity, significant soil compaction and streambank erosion. This led us to develop a riparian restoration project with community partners who helped guide us in learning how this type of project is executed.

Special thanks to the Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society, Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Alberta Parks, Cows and Fish, Land Stewardship Centre, Trout Unlimited, and The Venturers Society, without whom we could not have accomplished this great feat!

In October of this year, three separate restoration events were executed; the first required volunteers to dig post holes and erect posts for the signage

necessary to deter human use in the area; the second consisted of volunteers harvesting willow, dogwood and poplar cuttings from other areas of Fish Creek; and the third was the final restoration event during which poplar seedlings and willow cuttings were planted, woody debris was moved to discourage off-trail use and signage was installed.

In total, this project required the hands-on involvement of 53 volunteers (over 300 hours) who transplanted approximately 400 cuttings and 30 native poplar seedlings. It was a huge endeavor, but well worth it, as it provided the Friends with the opportunity to work with these community partners in support of our mandate, to educate and provide hands-on stewardship activities for park users.

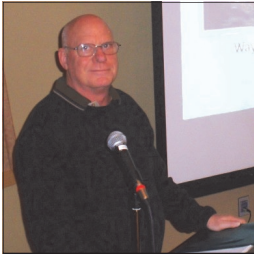


Streambank Restoration, Oct. 28

## WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

Sustain Environmental Solutions is currently analyzing our seven-year water quality monitoring data set and will produce a report early in the new year. Stay tuned for an upcoming Fish Creek Speaker Series presentation exploring the state of water quality in Fish Creek!

## WAYNE MEIKLE - SHARING PARK HISTORY



In 2014, founding member of the Friends of Fish Creek and retired park planner, Wayne Meikle, generously shared his knowledge of the park's rich history and helped us to uphold our mission of engaging the community through education and awareness to conserve Fish Creek Provincial Park. In addition to leading Minibus Tours and a Speaker Series presentation, Wayne gave the following presentations and continues to assist the Friends throughout the year.

**April 25,** "Fish Creek Provincial Park: Its History and Changes," slideshow presentation at the Calgary Retired Teachers' Conference, from which he generously donated his honorarium for this talk to the Friends of Fish Creek. (pictured here)

**May 4,** "Fish Creek Stories" guided walk in Fish Creek Provincial Park, as part of the Jane's Walk program. 29 people came out on this snowy morning, and this walk was one of the most well-attended of all the Calgary Jane's Walks.

On **July 31,** approximately 40 people came out to learn about the history of the Bow Valley Ranch as part of Chinook Country Historical Society's annual Historic Calgary Week.

## FISH CREEK COMMUNITY FAIR

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Friends hosted the first annual Fish Creek CommUnity Fair to showcase volunteer opportunities for the Spring, Summer and Fall. This event was well-attended and helped recruit volunteers for a variety of programs and events, such as Park Watch, Minibus tours, Wellness programs and Creekfest. We would like to thank everyone who attended and the volunteers who helped to make this one-of-a-kind event a success.





# A TASTE OF AUTUMN



On the evening of Tuesday, Sep. 30, 2014 the Friends of Fish Creek hosted A Taste of Autumn – Wine & Beer Tasting and Silent Auction fundraiser at the new Meadow Muse Pavilion in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Close to 60 people came out to bid on silent auction items and enjoyed a heartfelt presentation by founding member of the Friends of Fish Creek and retired park planner Wayne Meikle. Silent auction items and draw prizes were contributed by Friends members, volunteers and community partners including Wendy Kelman - Realtor at Maxwell City Central, Bob Morrin, Dave Rodney MLA, Naomi Parker, Sylvia Prochownik,

Sheila Schaetzle, Phil Smith, The Venturers Society, The Winkin Owl Pub and Gwen Woolverton Draude.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of local organizations Last Best Brewing Company, Wild Rose Brewery and Spirit Hills Honey Winery for providing tasting stations. Special thanks to McLeod Law LLP for supporting A Taste of Autumn, and Great Events Catering and the Bow Valley Rancho Restaurant for making this event possible.

We appreciate the support from everyone who purchased tickets: Bernie Amell, Robert Bakker, Kari Fairman, Phil and Ellen Greer, Bob Harris, David Hastings, Bradley Hay, James Himer, Lavina Hoffman, Rob Hoffman, Emmett Hogan and Megan Scott-Hogan, Anthony Jewels, Deanna Jewells, Wendy Kelman, Roland Kirzinger, Richard and Carla Link, Bob Morrin, Ann Murphy, Francetta Reilly, Cathy Ross, Stewart and Janice Scott, Richard Slopek, Jennifer Solem, Dianne Varga, Debra Wood-Zybutz and Rob Worona.

Thank you also to all Taste of Autumn volunteers for helping the event run smoothly: Mary Boyes, Jim Chobotuk, Karen Chow, Jodi Garvin, Libby Roth, Doreen Smale, Ginette Soos, Tony and Lesley Turner, and Jasmin Zenchyson-Smith.

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tom Jackman, Chairman, Board of Directors, Friends of Fish Creek



On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society we want to recognize our

volunteers and staff for a solid year in 2014. Our core programs were delivered with quality and efficiency while considerable progress was made in expanding our program offerings under the social enterprise model. More productive use of staff time was realized through improved methods including web-based processes for event registration.

Board operations were relatively smooth for the year with a focus on several governance issues and exploring new fund development methods. The long-standing board members welcome a new member, Henry Villaneuva, who brings additional skills and a fresh perspective. I appreciate the hard-work and dedication

from all the board members that provide an essential function to the organization.

We have observed and support increased volunteer engagement in our organization especially at positions with a high degree of responsibility such as coordinating an event or managing a program. This trend enables the



Volunteers at the Fish Creek Community Fair, Feb. 22, 2014

Friends to undertake more activities within its limited staff resources as well as provide a more fulfilling experience for the volunteers. We have opportunities for volunteers at all levels from Directors to labourers, and those with special skills and abilities are encouraged to speak to a staff member on all the opportunities to 'give back' to the park.

The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society is in a good position to continue to make progress towards our Vision through 2015.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

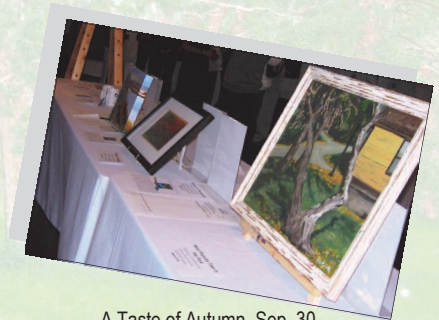
Nic DeGama-Blanchet, Executive Director, Friends of Fish Creek

Our team worked hard this year on developing new programs and building upon the successes of last year. We have continued the trend of trying new ways of doing things to align them with our mission and vision and to better support our work. None of this innovation could be completed without the invaluable work of our amazing volunteers. An excellent example of this was our A Taste of Autumn event; it had taken until mid-summer before we could confirm that the new pavilion in the park would be ready and available and once this was confirmed we had to pull together a completely new version of our annual fundraiser in very short order. Our team quickly made a plan, put it into action, engaged our volunteers and three weeks later delivered a highly successful event that has set the benchmark for future annual fundraisers; a very well- deserved 'well done' to all involved.

Whilst our team and volunteers are the engine that delivers our programs and events, our donors and members are the ones who provide the fuel to keep the engine running. Once again we have broken previous records in personal donations and membership numbers. On behalf of the board and

our hardworking team I would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to those of you who made personal donations this year and to all our members both long term and new, without your support we would not be able to continue to achieve great service to this wonderful park.

As I write this Katie and Shana are putting together plans for an even more successful 2015 and Chris is setting up the marketing and communications to support and publicise our work. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2014 and I look forward to seeing the Friends go from strength to strength in 2015.



A Taste of Autumn, Sep. 30

# REPORT FROM FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

Roland Kirzinger, Visitor Services

## **Park Liaison Report – Sep. 30, 2013 – Oct. 1, 2014**

The past year was once again full a change and challenge. Flood recovery work continued through the entire year, staff changes saw new people joining the Park staff, tragedy struck Sikome Aquatic Facility in August and a damaging snowstorm in September caused a great deal of damage across the park. As always staff, partners like the Friends and the community pulled together to see us work through any and all challenges.

### **General Operations**

- Ranche Restaurant operations taken over by Great Events Catering, set-up a meeting with their events coordinator and FFCPPS Executive Director to discuss events and opportunities.
- Jennell Rempel went on maternity leave for the year starting Feb. 7, 2014, Roland Kirzinger once again put into the “Acting” Visitor Services (VS) Coordinator role and Park Liaison to the Friends.



Grade 5 students at engineered wetland in west end of the park, Spring 2014

- VS Staff worked on final drafts of interpretive signage for Lafarge Canada for Lafarge Meadows. Signage was installed in September.
- Saw a change over in the Program and Facility Assistant position working out of the Learning Centre and Bow Valley Ranch VC.
- Jim Stomp retired as Area

Manager and our new Area Manager

Travis Sjovold came onboard in June.

- VS staff participating in provincial curriculum renewal workshops and meetings.
- Flood recovery work continued from spring to freeze-up. Bridge #14 and the boat launch areas opened. Areas including Mallard Point, Bankside, Hull's Wood, Lafarge Meadows, Bridge #9 and Bebo-Shannon pathway still require work in 2015.
- Fatal drowning at Sikome Aquatic Facility occurred in August. Many staff involved in search and recovery operations. A safety review was undertaken by emergency and safety specialists with Kananaskis Emergency Services.

(cont'd on next page)



# REPORT FROM FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

(Cont'd from previous page)

- The snow storm of September 8 – 10 led to the park being completely closed due to fallen trees and debris. This event led to several weeks of clean-up. All education programs were cancelled for the period Sep. 10 – 19 including Learning Naturally.



- The Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre facility (left) hosted a variety of groups including the Provincial VS Coordinating Committee for 2

days of meetings in September, a First Nations Archaeological Training Course for 4 days in September and the entire Rockyview School Division Staff for training for three days in November 2013 to name a few.

## Programs and Events

- Education programs saw a significant increase in “Wetlands” related program requests as other agencies

lost their infrastructure for these programs due to the flooding in June 2013.

- VS Staff took over coordination of the Art in the Park exhibitions at the Learning Centre as the regular coordinator will be in Scotland for the next 2 years going to school.
- The Park and the Friends made a decision to amalgamate our two “Speaker Series” programs into one series; both agencies will work to coordinate presenters for the new combined series. The Friends will collect and keep all revenues collected.
- Park staff worked with the Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation to host the first “Parks Day” event at Glenbow Ranch on July 19.
- Star Night events continue to prove popular with 600 – 700 people attending these spring and fall events.

## A few Statistics for the period

- Park led Public programs (Tuesday Tours Presentation Series, Star Night) – 1383
- BVR Visitor Centre August 2014 – 998 drop-in visitors
- Total numbers for all Fish Creek education programs – 15,928 teachers, students, volunteers.

## 2014 Outstanding Volunteers

**Inspiration Award**  
**Volunteer of the Year**  
**Honorable Mention**  
**Board Member**  
**Wellness**  
**Honorable Mention**

Bill Hiebert  
 Lynda Needham  
 Gordon Needham  
 Phil Greer  
 Hetty Laidlaw  
 Naomi Parker and  
 Gwen Woolverton Draude  
 Wayne Walker  
 Joe Gerritsen  
 Jodi Garvin and  
 Jasmin Zenchyson-Smith  
 Bev Lane  
 Helen Newel  
 Bob Bakker  
 Valerie Bell and Jason Bell  
 David Arnott  
 Joyce Ritsco  
 Lindsay Watkinson and the  
 Cougars Venturers team

**Birding**  
**Trail Care**  
**Creekfest Planning Team**

**Creekfest**  
**Minibus Driver**  
**Minibus Tour Guide**  
**Park Watch**  
**Speaker Series**  
**Weed Whackers**  
**Restoration**

**Youth Naturalist Programs**  
**Behind The Scenes (IT) Award**  
**Educator of the Year**  
**Community Engagement**

Kathy Seaman  
 Benjamin Baragar  
 Wayne Meikle  
 Gus Yaki

## Thank You Venturers!

● Mike Depper ● Lindsay Watkinson ● Ed Quiring  
 ● Michele Jean ● Chris ● Conrad ● Dennis ● Fred  
 ● Jonathan ● John ● Linda ● Mitch ● Tim ● Travis ● Trevor

## Thank You Fish Creek Provincial Park Staff

● Travis Sjøvold ● Irene Till ● Jaci Blackwood  
 ● Rob Hummel ● Troy Christianson ● Arthur Hughes  
 ● Marie Plavetic ● Melanie Pachkowski ● Jennell Rempel  
 ● Roland Kirzinger ● Julia Millen ● Shalane Friesen  
 ● Melanie Jacques ● Connie Embreus ● Bryce Heyman  
 ● Rudy Szymanek (seasonal) ● John Mattix (seasonal)

## 2013 - 14 Friends of Fish Creek Board of Directors

<b>Chairman</b>	Tom Jackman
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Emmett Hogan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Phil Greer
<b>Secretary</b>	Stewart Scott
<b>Director at Large</b>	Bob Morrin
<b>Director at Large</b>	Richard Link
<b>Director at Large</b>	Ainsley Grant
<b>Director at Large</b>	Carole Steeves
<b>Director at Large</b>	Paulo DaCosta
<b>Park Liaison</b>	Roland Kirzinger

## 2014 Friends of Fish Creek Staff

<b>Executive Director</b>	Nic DeGama-Blanchet <a href="mailto:nic@friendsoffishcreek.org">nic@friendsoffishcreek.org</a>
<b>Project and Programs Director</b>	Katie Pearson <a href="mailto:katie@friendsoffishcreek.org">katie@friendsoffishcreek.org</a>
<b>Programs Assistant</b>	Shana Barbour-Welsh <a href="mailto:programs@friendsoffishcreek.org">programs@friendsoffishcreek.org</a>
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	Chris Lalonde <a href="mailto:chris@friendsoffishcreek.org">chris@friendsoffishcreek.org</a>
<b>Bookkeeping Services</b>	Gloria Simmone, AGS Bookkeeping

# THANK YOU 2014 VOLUNTEERS!

Aleya Adams, Omar Ahmed, Vern Almquist, Stephanie Arlt, Daniel Arndt, Dave Arnott, Yousif Attia, Diana Badenduck, Bob Bakker, Ben Baragar, Heather & Liam Barker, Neil Barker, Don Barrington, Jennifer Beauchamp, Jo-Anne Bechtel, Ron Behm, Jason & Valerie Bell, Annette Bicknell, Travis Biswanger, Kingsley Blades, Katherine Boggs, Deanna Boocock, Mary Boyes, Robert & Teresa Brown, Ray & Carol Brydon, Terry & Tessa Bunce, Brad Calder, Linda Campbell, Gail Chapman, Jason Cheever, Jim Chobotuk, Karen Chow, Karen Chrapko, Trevor Churchill, Kathy Cottrell, Don Cowie, Joyce Crew, Emily Cribb, Ana Cristina, Blair Cunningham, Rebecca Curwen, Glenn & Brayden Darichuk, Neaera Deptuch, Bernie Diebolt, Rianne Diepstraten, Alex Dippel, Amy Dmytar, Ganesh Doluweerawatta, Deanna Downton-Jullyan, Holly Dumbarton, Kevin Duncan, Barb Eagles, Dan Edwards, Anne Elliot, Judy Elliott, Joy Ely, Brian & Sheryl Farewell, Kris Fernet, Deb Fettig, Kyla Flanagan, Dick & Lenora Flynn, Leon Fisher, Byron Frederick, Ronald Friend, Janice & Justin Fulawka, David & Pat Fulton, Doreen Fulton, Peter Gammell, Jodi Garvin, Nicole Gaskell, JP Gaston, Chris Gavin, Rosemary Gell, Joe Gerritsen, Janet Gill, Rebecca Gillhespy, Dennis Goo, Ainsley Grant, Phil Greer, David & Sandie Guthrie, Carole Hachey, Eric & Gayleen Hamilton, JoAnne & Zachary Harrison, Joanne Hatch, Barry Hertz, Bill Hiebert, Deanna Hintze, Emmett Hogan & Megan Scott-Hogan, Blake Holmes, Brent Holmes, Kim Hooper, Peter Hoyer, Natalia Iourieva, Noriko Ishikura, Tom Jackman, Sonya Jakubec, Pat Jarabek, Carl & Elizabeth Johnson, Danyelle & Catarzyna Kaluski, Andrew Kanas, Jason Kang, Fran, Shannon & Catharine Kavanagh, Blair Kirkpatrick, Bill & Gail Klasky, Yvonne Klaver, Ryan Kornblum,

Michael Kors, Gary Kurtz, Hetty Laidlaw, Olivia Laing, Bev Lane, Jolene Laverty, Bob Lechner, Bob Lefebvre, Richard Link, Judy Long, Stu Lundteigen, Brian MacConnell, Lloyd Manz, Ashleigh Martin, Ken Martinsen, Stacey Martinson, Drew McKibben, Rob McWilliam, Wayne Meikle, Bob Meyers, Krista Meneghetti, Aidan Darby Miller, David Mills, Bob Morrin, Richard & Diana Mowry, Margaret Murphy, Derek Murray, Lyn Murray, Masao Nagao, Chester & Murielle Nagy, Gordon & Lynda Needham, JoAnne Nemeth, Larry & Helen Newel, Shelly Ohama, Rose Painter, Naomi Parker, Ralph & JoAnne Parks, Erin Petho, Susan Pilley, Martin Plojhar, Jane Pollock, Jack Pound, Neil Puffer, David Pugh, Nancy & Don Quan, Phil Quinn, Ken Rathje, Rose, Karen & Wil Ratliffe, Dave Reid, Rhia Reikie, Brian Richardson, Mike Risely, Joyce Ritsco, Phyllis Roberts, Cathy Ross, Libby Roth, Jennifer Rowsell, Neil Rubeniuk, Geoff Ruffle, Jim St. Laurent, Liza Schach, Greg Schatz, Stewart Scott, Paul & Kathy Seaman, Ila Rae Sharpe, Darlene Shymkiw, Bill Skinner, Doreen Smale, Jennifer Solem, Ginette Soos, Phil Smith, Richard Smith, Peter & Barbara Spear, Stephen & Dorothy Spring, Carole Steeves, John Stegeman, George Stewart, Don Stiles, Diane Stinson, Marian Swatschina, Diane Swinton, Tony Timmons, Brooke Toft, Jesse Trerice, Paul Turbitt, Tony & Lesley Turner, Dave Uboff, Dave Vernon, Henry Villanueva, Wayne & Joan Walker, Pei-Ling Wang, CJ Wessely, Larry & Mary White, Esther Wiebe, Shelley Wiens, Daniel Williams, Stephanie Winton, Gwen Woolverton Draude, Rob Worona, Donna Wynnychuk, Gus Yaki & Aileen Pelzer, Tammy Yee, Calvin Yip, Don Yuen, Syl & Mary Zacher, Emmy Zapata, Jasmin Zenchyson-Smith, Leonard Zybutz & Debra Wood-Zybutz

# 2014 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, Encana Corporation, 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 & Margo Phillips, Ian & Patricia Pietersma, Dave Reid, Douglas Sharp, Gene & Anne Swain, David Vallance, Aaron West, Edward & Christina Wheeler

## **Special Recognition**

Olivier Aubin, Rob Blyth, Beverley Branham, Gail Bridge, Pat & Ken Brown, Petra Buziak, Marjorie Cameron, Gail Chapman, Sheila Clark, Michelle Cloutier, Lorna Coglon, Jack Connor, Jacqueline Deegan, Bill Dittmer, Richard Dobson, Deanna Downton-Jullyan, Linda & Steve Egilsson, Shelley Fisher, Bea Flood, Byron Frederick, Joanne Hatch, Eileen Herring, Wim Jalink & Marijke Jalink-Wijbrans, Ernie Klippenstine, Bev Lane, Cindy Mason, Eleanor May, Tony & Evangeline Merzib, Masao Nagao, Dana Neumann, Larry & Helen Newel, Lynda & Arnold Nugent, Ron Ostrander & Elena Schacherl, Ron & Rochelle Platt, Jill Pollock-Ceh, Manoj Raythatha, Linda Saunders, Ron & Judy Shandro, Darlene Shymkiw, Graham Smith, Don Stiles, Carol Stokes, Ingrid Stolzenberg, Bernard Tremblay, David & Esther Wiebe, Sigrid Wili & John Miles, Terry Wilson, Syl & Mary Zacher, Ruth Zinck



# 2014 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Friends of Fish Creek would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their support over the past year. We appreciate your support and involvement.

## **Alberta Parks and Fish Creek Provincial Park Staff**

AB Conservation Association, AB Council for Environmental Education, AB Environment & Sustainable Resource Development, AB Institute for Wildlife Conservation, AB Invasive Species Council, AB Native Plant Council, AB Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish), AB Wilderness Association, AM 660, AM 770, Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society, Beddington Pentecostal Church, Birds of a Feather, Blue Rambler, Bow Habitat Station, Bow River Basin Council, Bow Valley Rancho Restaurant, Bow Waters Canoe Club, Braeside Community Association, Calgary's Child, Calgary Chinook Country Historical Society, The Calgary Foundation, The Calgary Herald, Calgary Horticultural Society, Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance, Calgary Public Library, Calgary River Valleys, Calgary Stampede, Calgary Zoo, Canada Helps, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Carnivals for Kids at Heart, CBC, CTV Calgary, Cenovus Energy, Centennial High School, The City of Calgary, CJSW, Community Natural Foods, Country Pleasures Fly Fishing, Daly Harvest, Deer Park United Church, Deer Run Community Association, Councillor Peter Demong, Ducks Unlimited, Elemental Wellness, Evergreen

Community Association, Evergreen Theatre, FFWD Weekly, Friends of Kananaskis Country, Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park Foundation, Global Calgary, Golden Muse Productions, Great Events Catering, Green Calgary, Healing the Heart, Jane's Walk, Lafarge Canada, Lake Bonavista Community Association, Last Best Brewing Company, Little Rock Document Services, MidSun Community Association, Mount Royal University, Nature Calgary, Peter Puffin's Whale Tales, Sylvia Prochownik, Propellus (formerly Volunteer Calgary), Prospect Human Services, Pumphouse Theatre, The Rancho at Fish Creek Restoration Society, RBC, Dave Rodney MLA, The Rotary Club of Calgary, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada-Calgary Centre, Running Room, Sheila Shaetzle, Source2Source, South Fish Creek Recreation Centre, Spirit Hills Honey Winery, Spruce Meadows, St. Mary's University, Sustain Environmental Solutions Inc, TD Canada Trust-Deer Valley, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Telus, Trout Ultd Canada, University of Calgary, The Venturers Society of Calgary, Volunteer AB, Wild Rose Brewery, Winkin Owl Pub, Woodcreek Seniors Group, Youth Central

Thank you to all local businesses, community centres and constituency offices for displaying our posters, and to all local media outlets and community newsletters for helping raise awareness within the community about our programs and events!

# TREASURER REPORT

## Phil Greer, Treasurer, Board of Directors, Friends of Fish Creek

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014, the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Society reported a net loss (excess of expenses over revenues) of \$43,149 compared to net income of \$56,235 in 2013.

Our revenues for financial reporting purposes were \$246,334 in 2014 compared to \$347,669 in 2013. This reduction is primarily due to a \$56,976 reduction in grants. Grant revenue is difficult to predict year over year and in 2014 we did not receive any major funding for our Learning Naturally education program. We have now secured funding for this program from TD Friends of the Environment Foundation for four years valued at \$40,000 per year.

We incurred expenses for financial reporting purposes in 2014 of \$289,483, which is slightly less than the \$291,434 in expenses incurred in 2013. The most significant individual cash expense is salaries.

Our total cash position including term deposits was \$177,080 at September 30, 2014, compared to \$187,654 at September 30, 2013. This cash balance provides us with a strong opening cash balance to fund our operations in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Because of our weaker financial results in 2014 the Board of Directors authorized the transfer of \$20,000 from the Society's restricted "rainy day reserve" to fund ongoing operations, which compares to the \$30,000 transferred into the Fund last

year. The Fund now totals \$47,500.

To fund our future operations, we continue to apply for grants and sponsorships but Casinos continue to be a significant source of our funding. In September 2013, we held a Casino which provided us with better than expected cash proceeds of \$62,000 which we received in November 2013. Use of these funds is restricted per our gaming license but a significant portion can be used for our staff's salaries and benefits. Our next Casino is scheduled for June 2015. We also continue to see growth in our revenues from our programs and donations.

The Board and Management are continually seeking funding opportunities, particularly sources of unrestricted funds. These initiatives include targeting large Calgary based corporations, foundations, and known supporters of Fish Creek Provincial Park. We are also focusing on our planned giving program to facilitate donations through wills and estates as well as recurring donations through automatic bank withdrawals.

The Board has approved a Budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year that allows the Society to operate a full complement of programs and maintain its current staffing levels.

We have again engaged independent auditors to report on our 2014 financial statements and copies of our audited financial statements are available by contacting the Society's office.

(cont'd on next page)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

(Cont'd from previous page)

## Summarized Financial Information (unaudited)

<b>Revenues and expenses</b>	<b>Year ended September 30</b>	
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Total revenues	\$ 246,334	\$ 347,669
Member and education program expenses	210,599	212,181
Administrative expenses	78,884	79,253
Total expenses	289,483	291,434
Excess of expenses over revenues	\$ (43,149)	\$ 56,235
<b>Financial Position</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
Unrestricted cash	\$ 19,291	\$ 29,938
Restricted Cash	123,698	108,636
Restricted Term Deposits	34,091	49,080
Total other assets	10,509	28,037
	\$ 187,589	\$ 215,691
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Deferred contributions	\$ 107,533	\$ 87,682
Other liabilities	23,451	28,255
	130,984	115,937
<b>Net assets</b>		
Internally restricted	50,256	70,034
Unrestricted	6,349	29,720
	56,605	99,754
	\$ 187,589	\$ 215,691

# THANK YOU 2013 - 2014 SUPPORTERS

Bobcat Level \$25,000 - \$49,999



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation



Owl Level  
\$15,000 - \$24,999



Deer Level \$5,000 - \$14,999



Nickle  
Family  
Foundation

Beaver Level \$1,000 - \$4,999



Harry & Martha  
Cohen  
Foundation



Aspen Level \$500 - \$749

Birch Level \$100 - \$499



Alberta Environment  
and Sustainable  
Resource Development



Elemental Wellness



Skyline Seniors  
Outdoor Club



Cenovus  
Employee  
Foundation

FLC  
Seniors  
Outdoor  
Club