

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

Save the date - on Saturday, July 20 the Friends of Fish Creek will present the 9th annual

CREEKFEST

Your Local PARKS DAY EVENT! *Free Fun for the Whole Family!*

Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park. See page 5 for more info

THE GREAT CANADIAN GIVING CHALLENGE

During the month of June donate to the Friends of Fish Creek for a chance to win 2 tickets to the Shaw Charity Classic Golf Tournament!

In partnership with Canada Helps and the Giv3 Foundation, the Friends of Fish Creek invite you to be part of the Great Canadian Giving Challenge! Every dollar donated through CanadaHelps during the month of June will enter the Friends in a draw to win the grand prize of \$10,000. In addition to helping support the Friends of Fish Creek and our conservation efforts in Fish Creek, by donating during the Great Canadian Giving Challenge in June, your name will be entered into a draw to win 2 tickets to the Shaw Charity Classic Golf Tournament, August 30 - September 1 at Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club. To donate or for more information visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/give



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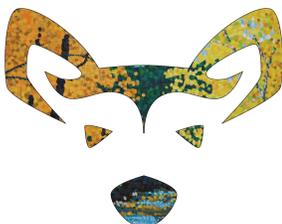
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FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES

Starting in January 2019, the Fish Creek Speaker Series admission fee has increased from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Friends of Fish Creek members will continue to receive free admission. Youth 16 years of age or younger can attend free of charge, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. These fascinating and informative presentations take place from January - June and September - November 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.) Registration is required. Refreshments are available on a first come, first served basis.

Please park near washroom facility.

Badgers in your Backyard – A Glimpse into the Ecology of an Important Grassland Predator

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

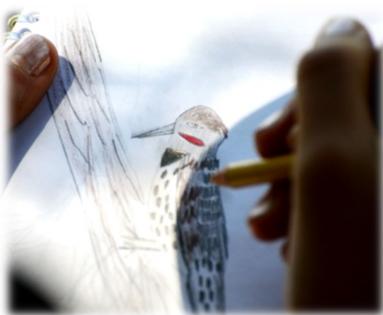
Presented by Nicole Heim, M.Sc, Local Wildlife Ecologist

Join us for this fascinating presentation about badgers, to learn how these unique carnivores can help us maintain and restore healthy grassland ecosystems. Wildlife ecologist Nicole Heim will also highlight research opportunities and dispel a few common myths about these unique animals.

For more info on upcoming presentations stay tuned to www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series



LEARNING NATURALLY KIDS BIRDING CAMP



Tuesday, July 2 to Friday, July 5 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Only \$100.00 per student

Perfect for youth between 9 – 14 years of age who have shown interest in birds and birding. Youth can practice identifying local birds by size and shape, colour pattern, behaviour and habitat.

By participating in the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp program, you are not only providing an amazing learning opportunity for your child, but are also helping Calgary kids to make meaningful and life changing connections with nature. Registration fees for the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp will be matched up to 50% by Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK), and used to support Learning Naturally educational programs in Fish Creek!

For more information and to register visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/birdcamp

Photos courtesy of Rachel Mackay



QUIZ QUESTION

The Friends held our first wine tasting and silent auction fundraiser at Willow Park Wines & Spirits in 2010. What was the name of this event? *The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.*

WELCOME TO THE TEAM EMMA!

This summer, the Friends of Fish Creek are inviting a seasonal staff member to join the team!

This year’s Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator, Emma Dunlop, was born and raised in High River, 45 minutes outside of Calgary, and grew up romping through the wild spaces of Southern Alberta. The National and Provincial Parks were her playground, Fish Creek Provincial Park among them.

In 2015, Emma left the prairie and its -30°C winters behind, hopping the border into beautiful British Columbia to pursue her post secondary education. She is currently in her 3rd year at Quest University Canada, pursuing studies in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Recently, she has tuned her academic studies to focus on mutualistic ecological relationships, those special and surprisingly ubiquitous interactions between members of two different species that benefit both participants. Emma hopes to carry this forward into developing better protection for ecosystems, and looks forward to seeing how these same principals might be parlayed into building healthier relationships between humans and their environment, during her time with

the Friends over the summer.

In Rocky Mountain wildflower meadows and her university’s apiary, Emma developed a deep curiosity about the secret lives of bees; she is always happy for a chat about our favorite buzzing pollinator! This love sits comfortably next to her passion for long backpacking trips, well-written Sci-Fi, and very dark chocolate.



Emma is thrilled to be working with the Friends this summer, and looks forward to meeting the rest of the fabulous and dedicated community that surrounds the organization. She is enthusiastic about working with our volunteers, thanks you in advance for your patience as she gets up to speed with the stellar work you are doing, and hopes she can bring a positive contribution by fostering biophilia and facilitating stewardship.

SPONSOR A PROGRAM OR EVENT IN 2019

CREEKFEST

THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PRESENTS

A TASTE OF AUTUMN

WINE & BEER TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER



To run a successful organization or business of any kind, sustainable and diversified funding is essential. Support for programs or special events is always needed as many grants and sponsorships do not cover events. While they are enjoyable, meaningful and appreciated by the community, large-scale events like Creekefest, on July 20, and A Taste of Autumn (September 20) require a significant amount of staff

time and resources to plan and deliver. The long-term growth and development of our organization would be more adequately supported if we had dedicated and stable event sponsorship. Opportunities range from Title Sponsor and Stage Sponsor to simply contributing to general program or event expenses. We would be pleased to provide recognition for your support in a variety of ways. For more information please contact Nic Blanchet, Friends of Fish Creek Executive Director, at nic@friendsoffishcreek.org or 587-317-7104

BOW VALLEY RANCH HISTORY

HISTORIC ROUND TABLE RETURNED TO COOKHOUSE

In the February/March issue of this newsletter the Friends ran an article about the round table that used to be in the Cookhouse. Nic Blanchet, Friends of Fish Creek Executive Director had heard about this table from several different people over the past few years and wrote the article as a way to start the discussion and begin the search for this table. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Larry Wasyliw, Founder of the Ranche at Fish Creek Restoration Society, for helping to locate and retrieve the round table that sat in the Cookhouse for decades.

Sometime between 1886 and 1910 Billy Bannister, ranch foreman hired by William Roper Hull and kept on by Patrick Burns, and Charlie Yuen, head Cook and Hospitality manager for both Hull and Burns, constructed this table in order to seat those working on the ranch. In an interview from 1997 with the Calgary Herald, Maude Bannister, daughter of Billy, described the table and its unique rotating centre piece, or lazy Susan, constructed from a wagon wheel and similar to those found in Chinese restaurants. This priceless, one of a kind antique is approx. 120 years old and is an important part of the history of the Bow Valley Ranch.

Lee Edgar, whose family lived in the Jobber's House from 1949-51 told us about the cowboys and ranch hands huddled around this table during meal times, including the times they ate breakfast at 4:00 am before rounding up and inoculating cattle in the sprawling Burns feedlot. Looking at the table now and turning the wheel in the centre, its easy to imagine young dusty ranch hands quickly eating before going back out to herd cattle and work throughout the area.

Linda McKeivitt dropped by the Cookhouse a few years ago, spoke about living with her sisters in the house that is now Annie's, and described this large round table in the Cookhouse. Linda informed us the

southern-most house, which is no longer there, was called the Bunkhouse. The building currently labelled the Bunkhouse was called



The 120 year old round table has been returned to the Cookhouse. Pictured here with Chris Lalonde, Ward Sanderson, Nic Blanchet and Larry Wasyliw.

the Jobber's House. Bud and Lee Edgar referred to the Jobber's House at the Head Herdsman's House. The Cookhouse and the Jobber's House are historically significant buildings from the ranching era before Fish Creek was a park.

An important symbol of the Patrick Burns era - cattle man, Senator and one of the city's Big 4 - the round table ended up in the Ranch House, before it became the Bow Valley Ranche Restaurant, and Larry was able to locate the table in the private residence of Rob Peters, just south west of the city. During the Ranch House renovation in the early 1990s the table was moved for safekeeping to Mr. Peters' residence.

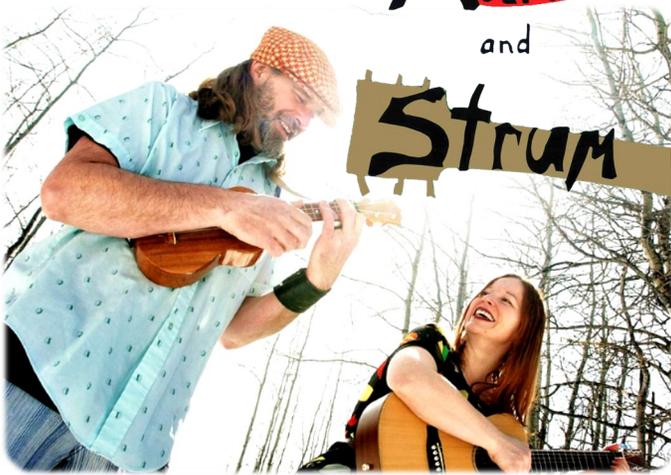
On May 16, Nic Blanchet, Larry and volunteer Ward Sanderson went to pick it up and bring it back to the Cookhouse. Locating and retrieving this artifact was a real team effort. The enchanting Cookhouse table has now been returned to its rightful home, marking a truly momentous day for the Friends and the Fish Creek Community.

Thank you to Rob Peters and to Larry Wasyliw for helping us to retrieve this important part of history.



CREEKFEST

Your Local PARKS DAY EVENT!



Free Fun for the Whole Family!

**Saturday, July 20, 11 am - 4 pm
Bow Valley Ranch,
Fish Creek Provincial Park**

- Bud Edgar – Joker and Trick Roper
- Michela Sheedy – Local Musician and Performer
- Sheila Edgar – Ventriloquist and Trick Roper
- Michelle and Peter – the Juggling Clowns
- Guided walks in Fish Creek Provincial Park about Beavers and ReWilding Through Restoration
- Children’s Area with inflatable slide sponsored by Servus Credit Union

Featured performer - awarding-winning and nationally recognized local family performers Rattle and Strum!

Creekfest – Your Local Parks Day Event is a component of the Friends’ Watershed Awareness Campaign that focuses on Fish Creek and protected natural areas in this province. At Creekfest kids and families can learn about environmental stewardship, conservation and biodiversity through educational games and activities, enjoy amazing performances and much more!

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information about supporting Creekfest please contact Nic Blanchet, Friends of Fish Creek Executive Director, nic@friendsoffishcreek.org or 587-317-7104

For more info visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekfest
Like Creekfest at www.facebook.com/CREEKFESTinFishCreek

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donation from The Calgary Foundation and the Pumphouse Theatre that has helped make the use of “The Calgary Foundation Centennial Stage” possible. The Creekfest stage will be powered by the Sun courtesy of SkyFire Energy’s solar trailer.



CAPTURE NATURE

FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PHOTO CONTEST RUNS MAY 1 TO JULY 31

Let the beauty of Fish Creek Provincial Park inspire your photographic creativity in this friendly competition to capture the best park photo of the year! In its 5th year, the Friends' *Capture Nature* Photo Contest provides a great reason to visit the park on a regular basis in search of the perfect photo.

This year's challenging and inspiring themes:

- Symmetry
- Lunch!
- Movement

All photos must be taken in Fish Creek Provincial Park and can be submitted at any point during the contest, but the earlier the better! The public will be able to vote for their favourite photos through our [on-line gallery \(capturenaturefriendsoffishcr.shootproof.com\)](http://capturenaturefriendsoffishcr.shootproof.com) so early submissions will have more time to collect votes! Some of our favorite photo submissions will be chosen as silent auction items at our Taste of Autumn fundraiser and also as part of our new Fish Creek Community Showcase from October to December! Prizes are courtesy of our contest sponsors, MEC and RMB Photography (as well as a few thrown in by the Friends!) Are you up for the challenge? \$25 registration fee for adults, free for youth 17 years of age or under!

[Visit the Friends' website \(friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature\)](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature)

for more contest info, to find out prize details and to register!

Photo courtesy of Stephen Shikaze, graphic courtesy pixabay.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Interested in volunteering in Fish Creek, but still looking for the right fit?

Upcoming Volunteer opportunities include:

- Creekfest - Your Local Parks Day Event! Sat, July 20 at the Bow Valley Ranch - Pre-event and event help needed! See page 5 for more information.
- Weed Whackers - remove invasive plant species from Fish Creek Provincial Park.
- ReWilding Through Restoration - planting native vegetation in riparian areas to help bring Fish Creek back to a more natural and wild state.

For information on these and other volunteer opportunities, visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/volunteering



THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PRESENTS

A TASTE OF AUTUMN



WINE & BEER TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Friday, September 20, 2019 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club

12501 14th Street SW

Overlooking the beautiful

Votier's Flats area of Fish Creek Provincial Park



Featuring Keynote Speaker
Don Hladiuk - Astronomer
and Starman on
CBC Radio Eyeopener

Celebrate the changing of the seasons and show your support for Fish Creek Provincial Park at A Taste of Autumn - Wine & Beer Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Bid on amazing silent auction items contributed by members of the Fish Creek Community, sample delicious food and beverages, enter your name for door prizes, enjoy special presentations and more! Sponsorship opportunities are available. To support this event contact nic@friendsoffishcreek.org

Get your tickets by 3:00 pm on July 20 to be entered in a draw for a private minibus tour of Fish Creek. For tickets and more information visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/autumn19

Photos courtesy of Steve Bulman and Don Hladiuk



EXPLORE FISH CREEK!

WALKING AND MINIBUS TOURS

For several years, the Friends have offered educational park tours, which have become a very popular way for the public to engage with and learn important and sometimes little known facts about Fish Creek Provincial Park. Last year we made great strides towards expanding and ensuring the longevity of this program by developing written content for both old and new tours. Establishing a formal volunteer Tour Guide and Tour Assistant training program allowed us to train more volunteers in tour delivery. The goal was to reach more people through our tour programming, creating the kinds of connections that help people understand the issues and stewardship needs of the park.



This year we continue to pursue this goal as we grow the program and share what we know about the cultural, natural, and historical resources that the park has to offer. Through both public and private tours, members of the public have the opportunity to participate in guided walks or hop on our minibus, the latter of which ensures that those with limited mobility also have the opportunity to enjoy the vast area of the park. Here is a quick look at what we have to offer this year, as we bring back some old favorites and introduce some new opportunities!



ReWilding for Restoration

Flooding events and the negative impact of park visitors venturing off designated pathways have serious implications for the health of the

Fish Creek watershed. This tour takes you to the Friends' riparian restoration sites to see the important work being done by volunteers that combats these issues and contributes to increased ecosystem health.

Leave it To Beaver

Ecosystem engineer most excellent, or tree feller most voracious, the activities of the North American beaver have given it a polarized and controversial reputation.

On this tour you will learn about Canada's famous (or infamous) national animal, its role in ecosystems, and the possibilities for peaceful coexistence on site in the habitat of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

A Park is Born

Fish Creek Provincial Park did not always stand as it does today. From the movement of glaciers, through the ranching of cattle, and because of the care and dedication of Calgarians of the past, this beloved park was born. Come learn the story of the past on the landscape of the present, and develop your sense of place on an engaging tour through the ecosystems and historic sites of Fish Creek.

Ghosts of Fish Creek

Our most popular tour of last year, this one sells out early! Enjoy a short walk around the Bow Valley Ranch and learn about the area's haunted history!

For more information about the other tours we offer, and specific tour dates and times, stay tuned to www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs

SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS PRESENTED BY ALTALINK (BFK)



HELP CALGARY KIDS CONNECT WITH NATURE IN FISH CREEK!

Are you looking for a way to make your donation dollars go even further?

Interested in supporting Calgary's children by fostering a lifelong love of nature?

The Friends of Fish Creek are pleased to announce that we were selected as one of more than 120 local charities to participate in the Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink program! This matching donation program will run until the closing of the Shaw Charity Classic Golf Tournament on September 1, 2019. Through Birdies for Kids, the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation will match every dollar contributed up to 50%, and all funds raised through our BFK partnership will support outdoor learning experiences for children here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Birdies for Kids and community members like you share our vision of a *sustainable Fish Creek Provincial Park that improves the quality of life for current and future generations*. All contributions to Birdies for Kids will support the Learning Naturally

program in Fish Creek.

TD Learning Naturally program

The TD Learning Naturally program provides a curriculum linked field trip to Fish Creek Provincial Park at no cost for children between grades K – 6 from Calgary schools who otherwise may not have this opportunity. For many of the students, their TD Learning Naturally trip provides them with not only their first visit to Fish Creek Provincial Park but also their first significant encounter with nature. By experiencing nature first hand, surrounded by it, absorbing it through all their senses, they receive an experience that will last a lifetime, and that they can share with their family and community for many years. Over 3000 students between grades K – 6 visit Fish Creek Provincial Park each school year, and are accompanied by over 400 teachers and parent volunteers. It costs approximately \$10 to provide 1 day of education for a child.

Cont'd on next page

BFK cont'd from previous page

Through this year's Birdies for Kids program our goal is to provide 2000 students between grades K – 6 with an unforgettable and life-changing field trip here in Fish Creek, by raising \$20,000 in support of the TD Learning Naturally Program. In addition to donating to TD Learning Naturally through BFK, there are other ways you can support this essential program.

Learning Naturally Youth Nature Program

Many children between the ages of 5 and 15 years of age from groups like Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, day camps, and churches take part in the Youth Nature program to learn about nature and conservation here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Groups of between 5 – 25 children enjoy interactive and educational programs at various locations throughout the park in order to foster an understanding and appreciation for local ecology.

The different program topics include Amazing Adaptations - where kids discover the ways animals adapt to their environment to find food, escape predators, and survive winter. Through Notice Nature participants get to know some of the park's trees and plants and take part in a wetland exploration to discover our underwater species. Children participating in Soil Secrets learn about the secret life of soil by digging in, getting dirty, and learning about rainfall. The Fish Creek Stewardship Adventure helps teach participants about issues threatening the park's ecosystems and involves them in a conservation project to improve the ecosystems.

Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp

This weeklong day-camp style program takes place in early July and provides the perfect opportunity for kids between the ages of 7 – 14 to learn about and identify birds found in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Hundreds of bird species pass through the park or reside here

year-round, and students in the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp benefit from both in class instruction and an outdoor opportunity to view and learn about birds in their natural habitat. This hands-on program is run in partnership with volunteers from Nature Calgary. The Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp is helping to shift kids' focus from plastic toys and digital screens, to a world of birds and nature.

Registration fees for the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp and the Learning Naturally Youth Nature Program will be matched by up to 50% through Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink. All parents/registrants in these programs will be made aware that their fees will be deposited into Birdies for Kids, and help provide long term funding for childrens' educational programs in Fish Creek Provincial Park. Kids Bird Camp and Youth Nature Program fees will help us to reach our goal of raising \$20,000 to support fostering a love of nature and conservation in the next generation of children. Donations made directly through the Shaw Charity Classic website (<https://shawcharityclassic.com/donate/friendsoffishcreek>) to TD Learning Naturally will receive a tax receipt from the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation. Revenue from these programs may be made available to help subsidize future Learning Naturally programs.

TD Learning Naturally is an essential program that benefits thousands of children each year, and we are continually fundraising to ensure the future of this program. Please contribute in support of children and nature, and the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation will match your donation up to 50%. Please speak to your employer about donating through Birdies for Kids, or if you are business owner, consider making a tax-deductible donation through your community-focused business. All donations must be submitted before the closing of the Shaw Charity Classic on September 1. For more information on how you can support TD Learning Naturally please contact the Friends of Fish Creek.

GROWING OUR WELLNESS PROGRAM IN 2019

The Friends' Wellness Program is intended to provide unique opportunities for park users to get outside, enjoy some nature and sunshine, and support their mental, physical, spiritual health in the process. Since 2013, we have offered a variety of different activities to try, but never as many in one season as this year! Thanks to the generous support and partnership from returning and new instructors, we have the most exciting and diverse season of offerings than ever before!



We are thrilled to welcome back our dedicated instructors, Naomi Parker, Gwen Draude, Diane Smith and Divya Singh, and to welcome new instructors, Corrina Anne-Poss, Susanne Heaton, Carina Huggins, Lisa Smithwick and Diana Young to this incredible team!

Our Wellness Program begins with our Kick-Off Week, starting on Tuesday, June 17! A portion of the proceeds from this week's sessions will be donated by the Friends to the Red Cross, as we have done for the past two years. Here is a quick look at what we have to offer!

- **Raja Yoga** – Tuesday evenings from June 18 to August 27, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- **Good Morning Yoga** – June 18 to August 27, 9:00 - 10:30 am
- **Blending Yoga and Qi Gong** – June 19 to August 28, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- **Nature Babes** – Thursday mornings from July 4 to 25, 9:00 - 10:00 am
- **Success Without Stress/Meditation** – Thursday evenings from August 1 to 29, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- **Postural Pilates** – Thursdays, June 20 to July 11, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

New this year - Saturday Wellness Workshops!

- **Dealing With Grief Through Nature and Spring Forest Qi Gong** - June 22, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
- **Get Fit and Keep Fit with Bungy Pumps!** - June 29 and August 10, 9:00 - 10:30am
- **Canine Meditation** - July 6, 9:00 - 10:00 am
- **Rainbow Wellness Workshop** - July 13, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

All sessions take place at the Bow Valley Ranch. Wellness passes are available again this year, allowing you to enjoy 6 sessions for the price of 5 (please note that this pass **cannot** be used for the Saturday Wellness Workshops).

For more information and to sign up for classes, please visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/wellness-clinics

Photo courtesy of Alexander Slobodian

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 www.naturecalgary.com

June 25, 6:30 pm - Birding at Burnsmead, Fish Creek Provincial Park. Take Bow Bottom Trail turning left, south of 146 AVE SE. Leader Anne Belton. 403-201-1570 or 587-233-7339

NEW FOR 2019 - COOKHOUSE ART EXHIBITS

FISH CREEK COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

FEATURED ARTIST: ROBIN READ

Robin Read has been inspired by the beauty and ruggedness of the Canadian Rockies and rolling prairies of Alberta for many years, and this has provided him with the opportunity to combine his love of the outdoors with his passion for photography. Robin shoots all of his work with a film camera in black and white, and develops his own work using traditional



processes in his home dark-room. His prints are processed to current archival standards. He has been a strong supporter of the



Friends for many years through donating his beautiful framed photographs to our fall fundraiser, A Taste of Autumn. We are thrilled to exhibit Robin's work so that others can share in its beauty, and as a way of thanking him for all he has done for us over the years.

You can visit the Cookhouse until June 28, from Monday to Friday between 9:00 am - 4:00 pm to view Robin's

exhibit. Please note that the office is sometimes closed for meetings during these hours, or our staff may be off-site; if you are planning a special trip to see the exhibit, please be sure to call us first.

Join us for our next Fish Creek Community Showcase Meet the Artist Event on Thursday, July 11 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Cookhouse for an opportunity to meet local artist, Jim Pescott, artwork pictured on the left. Tea and treats will be available for your enjoyment. To register, visit <https://jimpescott.eventbrite.ca>

FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ONLINE STORE

- Original framed photos by Robin Read
- Keating Family Portraits - Certificate for Portrait Capture Session and 12" painted portrait with local artist Keating, \$3000.00 Value for only \$1020.00 (Keating pictured here, photo courtesy of Ward Sanderson)
- Friends Travel Mugs - 14 oz, Stainless Steel with foam insulation and swivel lid, \$20.00
- Golf Package from Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club, \$1000 Value for only \$720.00
- Autumn Colour – Fish Creek Provincial Park, 25th Anniversary Signature Artwork by Jim Pescott, Limited Edition Prints, \$275.00
- Friends of Fish Creek Bike Bells, 1 for \$6 or 2 for \$10.00
- Uncharted: An Inspirational Novel (and Uncovered, A Guide to Wildflowers), by local author Graeme Connell, \$25.00
- T-Shirts - Available in Natural or Irish Green, \$20.00 each



For more information drop by our office or visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/store



CALGARY CAPTURED

A SNAPSHOT OF AN URBAN WILDLIFE MONITORING PROGRAM



Citizens engaged in urban wildlife monitoring

The intent of the program is to help us better understand species occurrence, movement and human-wildlife coexistence in the City of Calgary.

The Calgary Captured program is in the third season of image classification. The program has just over 3,000 registered citizen scientists who reliably classify a whole lot of data! To date, our amazing citizen scientists have collectively classified images over 950,000 times! While we are still in the early stages of data collection and analysis, we are able share some of our preliminary findings with you.

Over 34,000 new images were uploaded to zooniverse.org/projects/calgary-captured/calgary-captured for classification in early April this year, and over 75,000 classifications have been made so far. The current season of images covers the date range from February 2018 – April 2018. Each image posted on Zooniverse needs to be classified/viewed a total of eight times before it is retired. This provides a level of agreement to verify the species in the image, and ensures the data is scientifically robust.

Calgary Captured is a multi-year wildlife monitoring and citizen science based program that utilizes trail cameras located throughout our urban parks capturing thousands of images each

Who are we seeing in our parks?

To date we have observed a wide range of species in our parks, with the greatest species diversity occurring in Fish Creek Provincial Park and Glenmore/Weaselhead Park. Of the medium to large mammal species that Calgary Captured is targeting we have seen a total of 13 different species: black bear, cougar, deer, coyote, moose, raccoon, bobcat, beaver, skunk, red fox, porcupine, weasel, and marten. A few of which have only been spotted in Fish Creek Provincial Park (weasel, raccoon, beaver). In addition to the target species, we also see a number of non-target species as well including a wide variety of birds, squirrels, hares, insects and even some domestic cats and dogs!

Overall, the least detected species are cougar, bear, beaver, skunk, porcupine, red fox and weasel. While deer are our most frequently detected species city wide, with coyote coming in a distant second. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that our dedicated zooniverse volunteers recognize and have even named some of these camera loving deer! Bucky, Lord of Hightower and Chilldeer are a few examples. This familiarity is a great example of the type of connection to Calgary’s nature and wildlife folks can develop by participating in the Calgary Captured program! Log on to zooniverse.org/projects/calgary-captured/calgary-captured to participate!

- *The Calgary Captured Team*
Photos: Vanessa Carney, pixabay.com

Thank You Supporters!

<p>Bobcat Level:</p> 	<p>Birch Level:</p> 
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2019 EXECUTIVE

Chair	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair	David Mitchell
Treasurer	Phil Greer
Governance Chair	Henry Villanueva
Director at Large	Stewart Scott
Director at Large	Robert Bell
Director at Large	Kari Horn
Director at Large	Naomi Parker
Park Liaison	Julia Millen

QUIZ ANSWER - APR / MAY ISSUE

Which carnivorous mammal is related to the otter and weasel, and lives in the prairies and throughout the US and Mexico?
 The American badger, a fossorial (burrowing) carnivore is the largest member of the Mustelidae family. This stalky animal is an expert at digging and tunnelling, has small ears, a pointy snout and long claws. Badgers measure between 76 to 89 cm in length, and weigh between 5.4 kg - 9.1 kg. Habitat includes grassland areas, agricultural areas, and forested areas. Badgers live underground and dig elaborate networks of tunnels and dens up to 10 metres deep. The Badger prefers to eat small rodents but will also feed on small birds, eggs, reptiles, and amphibians. The American badger is considered an endangered species due to reduced breeding area caused by habitat fragmentation. Learn more about badgers on June 19 at the Fish Creek Speaker Series “Badgers in your Backyard – A Glimpse into the Ecology of an Important Grassland Predator,” presented by Nicole Heim, M.Sc, Local Wildlife Ecologist.
naturecanada.ca/discover-nature/endangered-species/american-badger

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 The Friends of Fish Creek, PO Box 2780 Stn M Calgary, AB T2P 2M7
 403-238-3841 info@friendsoffishcreek.org www.friendsoffishcreek.org

For info about the Park Protector program visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup

Name: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Address: _____

City and Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Work place (optional): _____

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will

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 online: www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership or donate on CanadaHelps.org
 (Charitable Registration #891199747 RR0001)

Signature of donor or member: _____

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to become members. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more or if requested.