

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

[www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

PO Box 2780 Stn M Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M7 403-238-3841

Volume 24, Issue 4  
Aug / Sep 2019

## AUTUMN BIRDING COURSE

12 week course runs  
September 2 – November 24

Autumn is one of the best times of year for birding as hundreds of bird species pass through or reside in Fish Creek during the autumn months. As the deciduous trees begin to lose their leaves, smaller migratory birds are much easier to see. Explore the world of birds in Fish Creek and observe birds in their natural habitat while meeting others who enjoy learning about nature. This course is perfect for families who would like to get together and experience nature here in Fish Creek. Experienced birder David Mitchell and over 30 volunteers lead these outdoor courses. Each session lasts approximately 2.5 hours and participants can sign up for 1 or 2 outings per week.



Belted Kingfisher, Bottom left: Red-Necked Grebe, Photos courtesy of Duane Starr

Start times Monday - Thursday: 9:15 am. Saturdays: 9:00 am, Sundays: 9:00 am and 1:15 pm



Fee: Once a week outing, Friends of Fish Creek Members: \$60.00, Non-members: \$100.00 Twice a week outings, Friends Members: \$100.00, Non-members: \$150.00  
Youth 16 years of age or younger with registered adult: \$5.00  
Registration Required. For more information or to register visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/birding-course](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/birding-course)



### Also in this Issue:

Page 2: Fish Creek Speaker Series  
Quiz Question

Page 3: A Taste of Autumn

Page 4: Walking and Minibus Tours

Page 5: Creekfest - Your Local Parks Day Event

Page 7: The Owl Family

Page 8: Sponsor a Friends' program or event

Page 9: Calgary Captured

Page 10: Online Store

Fish Creek Community Showcase

Nature Calgary Outings

Page 11: Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink

Page 13: Membership Renewal

Page 14: Supporters, Quiz Answer,  
2019 Executive, Calgary Healthy Rivers Story Map

## 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.**

### Welcome to Night - An Introduction to the Wonders of Nighttime and the Night Sky

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Presented by Doug Saul - Educator, Writer and Outdoor Guide**

Explore how night happens, the wonders to be discovered at night and an introduction to the night sky. Topics include biological life at night, night on other planets, wonders of the night sky and ways to explore and protect the natural night here on Earth. The presentation includes music, questions and curiosity. Doug Saul is also the author of children's book, *Wild Alley Night*.



### Rock Dams - The Effects of Recreational Rock Dams on Water Quality and Stream Measurements in Fish Creek



Thursday, October 24, 2019 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Presented by Jenny Atamanik -**

**Master of Science Student at Royal Roads University**

Fish Creek has a large number of park visitors and some visitors enjoy constructing rock dams (recreational rock dams) across the creek. These rock dams are arranged in order to provide a walkway to cross the creek or to create a swimming hole, and can be seen throughout Fish Creek Provincial Park. Jenny Atamanik has been studying the effects of these dams throughout the summer months and will share her findings at this presentation.

### Exploring the Ice Age across Alberta

Thursday, November 21, 2019 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Presented by Dr. Chris Jass - Curator of Quaternary Palaeontology at the Royal Alberta Museum**

For more info on upcoming presentations stay tuned to  
[www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/speaker-series)



## QUIZ QUESTION

Can you name the head Cook and Hospitality manager who worked for both William Roper Hull and Patrick Burns in the early 1900s? *The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.*





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

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 much more!



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

*Sponsorship opportunities  
are available. To support  
this event contact  
nic@friendsoffishcreek.org*

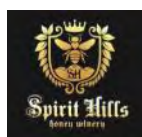


**firstcalgary**  
FINANCIAL

For tickets and for more information, please visit

[www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/autumn19](http://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!



**Archaeology in the Park - Finding the Pioneers,**  
**August 27**  
*Calgary's Euro-Canadian history dates back 142 years to where Fish Creek flows*

*into the Bow River, and archaeological evidence discovered in the park offers a unique glimpse of life on the western prairie for pioneers and cowboys. Climb aboard the minibus to learn about archaeology in the park on a scenic tour exploring the creation of our community.*

**Alien Invasion - Free Walking Tours,**  
**August 29, September 16 and 23**

*They come from afar, infiltrating our landscapes and squeezing out the local inhabitants. Many of us are*

*complicit in facilitating their spread, but few understand the impact that a seemingly harmless garden sprout can have on our beloved local ecosystems. Come learn about the importance of native plants, how their existence is threatened by the continued spread of invasive plants, and what we can do about it.*

**Introduction to Photography**  
**Minibus Tour, September 14**

*Come capture the beauty of Fish Creek under an experienced guiding hand. This introductory level photography class is for people who need help or ideas with photographic composition and camera operation. Any camera will do, DSLR, Film, mirrorless, point and shoot or camera phone.*

**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](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs)



# *CREEKFEST*

## *Your Local Parks Day Event*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Creekfest Water Celebration took place on July 20 at the Bow Valley Ranch in Fish Creek. Creekfest – Your Local Parks Day Event is an important component of our Watershed Stewardship Public Awareness campaign, designed to strengthen our message of environmental conservation and highlight this province's beautiful protected areas.

New this year at Creekfest we were pleased to welcome local entertainers Comedy Cowgirl Sheila Edgar – Ventriloquist and Trick Roper to the Creekfest stage, and her husband Bud Edgar – Joker and Trick Roper, who also acted as MC for the day. Bud was lively and engaging during his trick roping performance and was humorous while introducing performers throughout the day. Local Singer Songwriter and rising star on the country music scene Michela Sheedy performed, and finished her set with a powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's hit "I want to dance with somebody."

Michelle and Peter – the Juggling Clowns returned to Creekfest for the second year in a row, bringing with them bean bags, devil sticks, and diablo sticks and sharing the basics of juggling with kids and families. An unforeseen circumstance resulted in the scheduling of a new featured performer, and it was Microscope Mark from Mad Science of Southern Alberta who stepped in to give an entertaining and interactive demonstration about the reactions between ice, water and fire.

The Friends would like to thank Richard Gotfried MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek for once again attending Creekfest as he has for the past several years, and we are especially grateful to his office for lending us canopy tents. These were very useful for providing shelter from the intermittent showers throughout the day. Special thanks to newly elected MLAs Whitney Issik of Calgary-Glenmore, and Minister Rebecca Schulz of Calgary-Shaw, for speaking and meeting with community members at the festival. Once again, our neighbours



Microscope Mark from Mad Science and MC Bud Edgar, Joker and Trick Roper, at Creekfest on July 20.

Great Events Catering generously provided lunch and snacks for the volunteers, performers and exhibitors, and we are truly grateful for their contribution. We also sincerely appreciate the in-kind support from Booster Juice and Starbucks in Deer Valley, who provided smoothies and coffee for the volunteers.

Several local organizations stepped in this year to help offset the environmental demands of hosting this type of large-scale outdoor festival, and we are grateful for their involvement. BluPlanet Recycling provided waste bins for the event, and Bullfrog Power will measure the electricity usage and replace it with green energy on the grid. SkyFire Solar Energy brought their trailer, which converted solar energy into electricity to power the sound equipment at the stage and several exhibitors' displays. We would like to thank Cardel Homes for sponsoring Creekfest for the second year by generously funding the stage performers. MI DJ & Sound provided music and technical services during the day and the Pumphouse Theatre lent us the Calgary Foundation Centennial Stage, as they have for many years.

*Cont'd on next page*

## CREEKFEST Cont'd from previous page

Thank you to Servus Credit Union for sponsoring Creekfest – Your Local Parks Day event by funding the Children's Area and having an exhibit at the event to meet with community members.



Dozens of people participated in the guided walks, which included Beavers – led by Emma Dunlop, Friends Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator, and ReWilding through Restoration - led by Friends of Fish Creek Tour Guides Val Sharteau and Tobin Benedict. Local artists and long-time Friends supporters Jim Pescott and Sylvia Prochownik came out once again to Creekfest. Jim demonstrated and discussed his art, and Sylvia painted rain barrels with children.

Although it was a little rainy and cloudy, over 1000 community members came out and enjoyed visiting the exhibits from local community-focused organizations in both the non-profit and private sectors. This year we had more than 30 exhibitors and we would like to express our thanks to the AB Community Bat Program, AB Hunter Education, AB Institute for Wildlife Conservation, AB Native Plant Council, AB Environment and Parks/Bow Habitat Station, AB Environment and Parks - Ecology, AB Parks - Tree Mapping, AB Environment and Parks - Wildsmart, Anytime Fitness, The Barrelman, Bateman Foundation, Calgary Public Library, Calgary River Forum Society, Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, City of Calgary Water Resources, CPAWS SAB (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Southern AB - pictured here), Friends of Confederation

Creek Association, Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation, Green Calgary, Juice Plus Canada, Miistakis Institute, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Riverwatch, Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation, Royal Roads University, SOGO Adventure Running, The Nature Conservancy of Canada,

Trout Unlimited Canada, Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society and the Wildlife Preservation Canada.

Creekfest – Your Local Parks Day Event would not have been possible without financial and in-kind contributions from a variety of organizations. In addition to those previously mentioned, we would like to thank AB EcoTrust, AB Environment and Parks Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, Bow River Basin Council, Land Stewardship Centre Canada and the United Nations Association in Canada. Thank you also to Fish Creek Provincial Park staff, Pixel XPress, Carnivals for Kids at Heart, Family Squeezed and Family Cheesed.

Special thanks to the more than 50 volunteers who helped throughout the day, as well as during the days leading up to and following Creekfest. The volunteers' hard work was truly instrumental in executing the event and helping it run smoothly. ***Thank you to everyone who attended and please mark down July 18, 2020 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Creekfest in Fish Creek!***



# THE OWL FAMILY AT THE BOW VALLEY RANCH

*Special thanks to Wayne and Joan Walker,  
Friends of Fish Creek Volunteers and Bird Camp Instructors*



Every couple of years Great Horned Owls nest in the mature trees at the Bow Valley Ranch, where their owlets will hatch, fascinating avid birders and many park visitors. A Great Horned Owl pair will normally remain together during the year, providing continuous opportunities for curious visitors to observe and learn about their behaviours. Throughout the spring and summer, many people drop into the office inquiring about the owls' whereabouts as particular families have lived in the area for many years. Owls are an intriguing bird species due to their size and unique appearance. They are nocturnal and well camouflaged, making them difficult to locate during the day. At sunrise and sunset, these owls often communicate with each other by hooting. Fortunately, this allows us to more readily locate them. Owls have a reputation as being one of the most intelligent birds, adding to their mystique and charm.

In mid February during the quiet of winter, Alberta's Provincial Bird, the hearty Great Horned Owl pair began nesting in the Calgary area. The female, who is a third larger than the male, selects a suitable site. The nest can be a tree cavity, a broken snag, or an

abandoned raven/crow/etc. nest. The female lays 1 to 4 pale white eggs asynchronously - eggs are laid with a minimum of two days between each, and incubation begins when the first egg is laid. Incubation is approximately 35 days for each egg. During this time period the female will leave the nest twice each day for about 5 minutes to defecate and allow for the release of carbon dioxide from the egg.

Around the third to fourth week of March, as spring is arriving and the park is getting busier with visitors, the eggs begin to hatch. Since the hatching of the eggs depends on the order in which they were laid, there could be up to a week or more between the oldest and the youngest; thus, the owlets are different in both age and size. The newborns arrive helpless, with closed eyes, pink skin, and white down on their upper-parts.

In order to provide constant warmth and protection, the female must remain on the nest until the youngest is about 35 days old.



Owlet getting ready to take flight.  
Top left: mother and baby in the nest.  
Photos courtesy of Phil Smith

The male's participation in the success of the new owl family is essential. Key roles include supplying food and protection for his mate and the owlets. Perched in a position where the nest is constantly visible, he is vigilant and will attack and remove any threat. His talons are a formidable weapon.

*Cont'd on next page*



## SPONSOR A FRIENDS PROGRAM OR EVENT

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 Creekfest and A Taste of Autumn 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. Support categories include sponsor, partner, general supporter, or in-kind sponsor. The Friends 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](mailto:nic@friendsoffishcreek.org) or 587-317-7104**

THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PRESENTS

**A TASTE OF AUTUMN**

WINE & BEER TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER



### FISH CREEK WILDLIFE COMMUNITY Cont'd from previous page

Food supply is a critical component for family survival. For the first 35 to 42 days, he must feed himself and the female. For an additional 44 to 50 days he must feed himself, the female and his growing family. After approximately 50 days, the female will also begin to hunt to accommodate the growing owlets increased food requirements. The main food supply is voles, mice, pocket gophers and Richardson's ground squirrels. If food is in short supply, the larger owlet has been known to eat the younger one, although thankfully this was not the case this year.

Five to 6 weeks after hatching, the young begin the process of leaving the nest, a highly anticipated event called *branching*. The owlets begin by walking along a tree branch and flapping their wings. In these early attempts to fly, they will occasionally fall to the ground, alarming many spectators. But the talented owlets simply use their sharp talons to climb up an adjacent tree, followed closely by the anxious parents, only to attempt to fly once again. They quickly get the hang of it and each time they leave the branch they fly a little further than the time before. Soon they are flying and landing with ease. Until early to mid October, the parents will remain in close proximity to the owlets teaching them hunting and survival skills. Then, as golden leaves quietly blanket the ground, the now

independent owls disperse to make a home of their own.

Children and families participating in the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp enjoyed watching the owls during the first week of July. These birds were seen branching in at least 10 different trees around the Bow Valley Ranch, and even as far as the south side of the creek near Bridge 10. During this time juveniles would frequently rub each other's heads together, and were seen resting on the tops of buildings like the Rancho House, Cookhouse and Visitor Centre. As late as August 6, the owl family was seen in the Bow Valley Ranch parking area. As a crescent moon shone through the trees, one of the owlets successfully swooped to catch his prey, proudly enjoying his dinner while perched on the roof of the Red Barn. Over the years there have been a number of successful owlets raised in the park. To our knowledge the largest family had four healthy owlets.

If you come across owls in Fish Creek or another park, please observe them quietly from a respectful distance and do not linger excessively or feed these skilled birds of prey. You can learn more about Great Horned Owls and many other bird species who live in, or pass through, Fish Creek Provincial Park by enrolling in the Autumn Birding Course, starting September 2, 2019.





## CALGARY CAPTURED

### A SNAPSHOT OF AN URBAN WILDLIFE MONITORING PROGRAM



#### Citizens engaged in urban wildlife monitoring

month. 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](https://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. 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](https://zooniverse.org/projects/calgary-captured/calgary-captured) to participate!

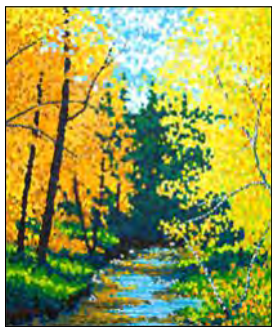
- **The Calgary Captured Team**

Photos: Vanessa Carney, pixabay.com

## FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ONLINE STORE

- Friends Travel Mugs - 14 oz, Stainless Steel with foam insulation and swivel lid, \$20.00 (*pictured here*)
- Friends of Fish Creek Bike Bells, 1 for \$6 or 2 for \$10.00
- Original paintings and prints by Jim Pescott (see below for more info) and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Signature Artwork, Limited Edition Prints, \$275.00
- Keating Family Portraits - Certificate for Portrait Capture Session and 12" painted portrait with local artist Keating, \$3000.00 Value for only \$1020.00
- Golf Package from Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club, \$1000 Value for only \$720.00

For more information drop by our office or visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/store](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/store)



## FISH CREEK COMMUNITY SHOWCASE FEATURED ARTIST: JIM PESCOTT

Jim Pescott has been painting landscapes with his unique pointillism style for decades and has been a supporter of the

Friends of Fish Creek for almost as long. Jim creates his beautiful and vibrant images through the use of many tiny, colourful dots instead of brush strokes. He has exhibited his paintings of Alberta landscapes in Canada, France, Italy, Brazil, the United States and Monaco. His unique painting style is meditative and explores how everything on our Earth is connected.

Jim has received awards from Academie Arts-Sciences-Lettres, exhibits at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris, and was recognized as a Master Pointillist by ArtTour

International Magazine. He is a long time supporter of the Friends of Fish Creek and is known for his unbridled generosity in helping the Friends expand our reach in the community.

*"Landscapes touch everyone and in this Nature really is everything: all the animals, the landforms and especially the trees. For me, trees have been friends since I was first able to wander through the woods to meet them. Trees seem an endless harmony to enjoy, explore and understand,"* Jim said.

Drop by the Cookhouse to see original art of Jim Pescott, on display until the end of September or look at Jim's painting at [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/jimpescott](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/jimpescott).

## 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](http://www.naturecalgary.com)

**September 1, 7:30 am - 11:00 am. Monthly Elbow River Birding Survey.** Meet at Stanley Park, 42 Ave SW, just W of Macleod Tr. Walk to Glenmore Reservoir. Call leader Gus Yaki, 403-243- 2248, to ensure vehicle space for return. Registration required.



## 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, the Friends developed other ways to 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 took place in early July and provided 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 benefitted 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 were 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.

## MEMBERSHIP

## RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

Annual Society fees are due by September 30 of this year, and we are currently renewing memberships for the 2019-2020 season.

Membership benefits include admission to the fascinating Fish Creek Speaker Series presentations, a valuable discount on the popular Birding Courses (*course participants pictured here*), a discount at local businesses like the Wild Bird Store and Kensington Art Supply, the newsletter *Voice of the Friends* and regular updates on Friends of Fish Creek programs, courses, events and activities in and around the park.



Protector program a regular contribution will be withdrawn monthly from a bank account or credit card of your choosing. Your donation will support the Friends of Fish Creek and our conservation efforts here in Fish Creek Provincial Park, and you will receive an annual tax receipt.

As an alternative to annual membership renewals, you may be interested in the Park Protector monthly donor program, which might suit your busy lifestyle a little better than standard membership. Through the Park

Park Protectors also receive monthly updates on how their donation is making a difference in the park, as well as invitations to special events. For more information about becoming a Park Protector, please contact the Friends of Fish Creek or visit

[friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup)

Renew your commitment to Fish Creek through the website at [friendsoffishcreek.org/membership](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/membership), at the Cookhouse, by mailing the form below, or by calling in with a credit card number at 403-238-3841 ext.1.

## Membership Form -

The Friends of Fish Creek, PO Box 2780 Stn M Calgary, AB T2P 2M7  
403-238-3841 [info@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:info@friendsoffishcreek.org) [www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

For info about the Park Protector program visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup](http://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](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership) or donate on [CanadaHelps.org](http://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.

Thank You Supporters!

**Bobcat Level:**

**Aspen Level:**



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation

**staples**

### QUIZ ANSWER - JUNE / JULY ISSUE

**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?**

This fundraiser was entitled *Experience that Homegrown Feeling* and it took place on the evening of Friday, Feb 26. Guests enjoyed a variety of Canadian wines from the Niagara and Okanagan regions and bid on silent auction items. The following year, the Friends renamed the fundraiser *A Taste of Spring* and hosted it each March at Willow Park from 2011 to 2013. In 2014, the fundraiser was renamed *A Taste of Autumn* and moved into September, a change that helped schedule the fundraiser around program season. From 2014 to 2017 *A Taste of Autumn* was hosted at the Meadow Muse Pavilion at the Bow Valley Ranch. Starting in 2018, Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club generously provided the venue for this important fundraiser. Make sure to pick up your tickets for *A Taste of Autumn*, coming up on Friday, Sep 20 at Canyon Meadows. For info: [friendsoffishcreek.org/event/autumn19](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/event/autumn19)

### 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

### STAFF

Nic Blanchet, Executive Director  
[nic@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:nic@friendsoffishcreek.org)

Katie Bakken, Program Coordinator  
[katie@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:katie@friendsoffishcreek.org)

Shana Barbour, Program Coordinator  
[shana@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:shana@friendsoffishcreek.org)

Chris Lalonde, Communications Coordinator  
[chris@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:chris@friendsoffishcreek.org)

## CALGARY'S HEALTHY RIVERS STORY MAP

Sarah Marshall, Public Program Coordinator, Watershed Planning, The City of Calgary

Perhaps you've experienced the beauty of Calgary's river areas from your bicycle, while exploring our city's long network of river pathways. Or maybe it was by boat, while fishing the Bow River. Whatever your own experience, chances are you are part of the 83 per cent of Calgarians who say our rivers and riparian areas are important.

As Calgarians, we are fortunate such activities can be a part of our daily routines and that we have access to nature right in our city. Riparian areas occupy the spaces where land and water interact. They border rivers, creeks and wetlands and extend across the floodplain, down into the groundwater and upwards to include plants and trees. From supporting clean drinking water and flood resiliency to contributing to

biodiversity, they are a defining aspect of our daily lives and a unique characteristic of Calgary.

To help raise awareness of Calgary's riparian areas, we've developed the Healthy Rivers Story Map. This interactive website allows you to connect with and learn about Calgary's watersheds, rivers and riparian areas, and explore actions you can take to protect the health of our rivers. Scroll through the page to explore Calgary's history of living with our rivers; type in your address to find out which of Calgary's sub-watersheds you reside in; and learn about various restoration and bioengineering projects. Whether you're looking to get involved or you just want to learn more about what makes Calgary's rivers so special, the Healthy Rivers Story Map is a great place to start - [calgary.ca/riparian](http://calgary.ca/riparian)