

**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)

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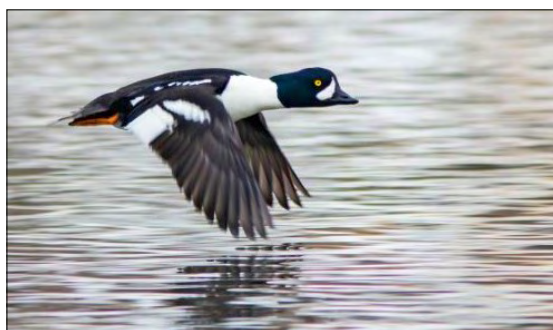
## WINTER BIRDING COURSE

12 WEEK COURSE RUNS JANUARY 6 - MARCH 29, 2020

Winter is one of the best seasons for getting outside to learn about birds and other wildlife. Brave the cooler weather and explore the world of birds in Fish Creek Provincial Park, where you can see and hear waterfowl like geese and ducks, birds of prey like owls and eagles, swallows, gray jays, finches, chickadees, woodpeckers and many others. The 12 week Winter Birding Course is perfect for anyone who wants to see, and learn about, birds in their natural habitat, and provides an amazing opportunity for families 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.



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)

Barrows Goldeneye, Bill Bain. Snowy Owl, David Mitchell

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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 in the public parking lot to the north of the Learning Centre.**

### **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 during the summer and will share her findings.

### **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**

Alberta is rich in fossils, and over the past 10 years, Dr. Chris Jass has visited sites around the province exploring the Ice Age fossil record found in caves, gravel pits, lakes, and river drainages. Fossil remains recovered from those field projects reveal tantalizing hints of landscapes occupied by both extinct and extant (living) animals, highlighting the link between the ancient and modern biota. In his presentation, Dr. Jass will take you to different palaeontological sites around the province, highlight what those sites tell us about the Ice Age history of Alberta, and discuss how that information is relevant to our world today.

***No presentation in December—Happy Holidays!***

### **William Watson Lodge – Providing 40 Years of Inclusion and Accessibility in Alberta Parks**

Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Presented by Jill Jamieson, William Watson Lodge Team Lead Kananaskis Region, Alberta Parks**

For more information visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/event/wwl>

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



### QUIZ QUESTION

This finch-like bird is mostly grey, brown and white but has vibrant yellow plumage at the base of the tail and on the wings. Can you identify this bird? *The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.*

## A TASTE OF AUTUMN

## COMMUNITY GETS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE FISH CREEK



Friends of Fish Creek volunteer selling prize draw tickets at A Taste of Autumn. Right, the prize draw table.

The Friends of Fish Creek were pleased to welcome one hundred members of the Fish Creek Community to *A Taste of Autumn Wine & Beer Tasting and Silent Auction Fundraiser* on Friday, September 20. For the second year in a row *A Taste of Autumn* took place at the beautiful and picturesque Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club overlooking Votier's

Flats. The Friends raised over \$8,500 towards our conservation efforts in Fish Creek Provincial Park through ticket sales, the auction and event sponsorship.

We would like to thank Community Action Team (CAT) volunteers Bob Bowman, Ron Deshayes, Ian Richardson and Angel Spasoff for their assistance with this event. The CAT volunteers helped with locating silent auction items and connecting with local businesses about supporting the Friends, selling tickets, raising awareness about this event, and scheduling wine, beer and spirit producers to attend and set up tasting stations. This event would not have been as successful without the support and involvement of the Community Action Team.

At *A Taste of Autumn* Friends of Fish Creek Executive

Director Nic Blanchet acted as MC and kept the evening's activities and presentations on schedule.

We were pleased to welcome Julia Millen, Community & Partner Relations for Alberta Parks, and Andrew Schoepf, Kananaskis East Area Manager with Alberta Parks to this event. Andrew addressed the audience and discussed how the Friends of Fish Creek benefit the park and succeed at engaging community members.

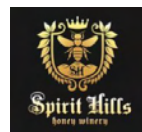
Keynote Speaker, Don Hladiuk, Astronomy Enthusiast and Starman on the CBC Radio Eyeopener, presented *We Are Stardust* and during this fascinating slideshow he discussed dynamic cosmic phenomena taking place in our galaxy.

Six local producers provided samples and discussed their beverages with guests at *A Taste of Autumn*, and we would like to thank Burwood Distillery, Eau Claire Distillery, Zero Issue Brewing, Spirit Hills Honey Winery, Sunny Cider, and Field Stone Fruit Wines for their participation.

This year there were fewer than 50 items up for auction, compared to 70 items last year, which worked out well because despite having less items, the revenue from the auction was almost the same as in 2018. The Prize Draw was also a fun activity that people enjoyed. For a \$20 ticket, participants received a mystery item, ranging in value from \$10 to more than \$300.



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## VOICE OF THE FRIENDS 2020

Starting in December, the *Voice of the Friends* newsletter will be published seasonally beginning with the Winter 2020 issue. While the *Voice* will remain a valuable tool for raising awareness and providing information, future issues will focus on articles and program updates. Our website, social media posts and e-blasts to the community will continue to be used to provide timely information about our programs, courses, events, and activities. For questions or comments about this transition, please contact [chris@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:chris@friendsoffishcreek.org)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Are you Proficient with Computers, Outdoorsy and Friendly?

We are looking to hire a Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator to spearhead the digitizing of stewardship and monitoring efforts in Fish Creek Provincial Park. The successful candidate will work co-operatively with Friends' staff in the development of this app, train staff and volunteers in its use, and take a lead role in the planning, coordination and leading of stewardship fieldwork prioritized using data collected in the app. If this sounds like a dream job to you, apply at <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/job>

## A TASTE OF AUTUMN cont'd from previous page

All of the auction and prize draw items were generously donated by local businesses and individuals. Thank you to Anytime Fitness, Avenida Pet Clinic, Katie Bakken, Calaway Park, Calgary Cycle, Calgary Flames, Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corp, Calgary Stampeders, Calgary Women Fly Fishers Club, Canyon Meadows Cinemas, Capture Nature participants, Deer Valley Co-op, Deerfoot Carpet, Eau Claire Distillery, Filos, Fish Tales Fly Shop, Friends of Fish Creek Minibus Drivers, Bonnie Fulford, Doreen Fulton, Highwood Golf and Country Club, Richard Gotfried MLA, Great Events Catering, Holistic Institute of Health and Fertility, Whitney Issik MLA, Kensington Art Supply, Premier Jason Kenny, Korth Group, McKenzie Meadows Golf, Method Fitness, Mikko Photography, Bob Morrin, Pensak Houghton Dentistry, Jim Pescott, Pumphouse Theatre Society, RMB Photography, Robin Read, Deana and Ward Sanderson, Kathy Seaman, Soffrito, Jennifer Solem, Peter Spear, Strides Running Store, Sunny

Cider, Time is Money Executive Concierge, The Venturer's Society, Wild Bird Store, Yoga Dot Calm and Zero Issue Brewing.

Special thanks to Dave Arnott for helping to organize *A Taste of Autumn* and to MI DJ & Sound for providing sound and technical services throughout the evening. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club for generously providing us with the venue. Thank you also to First Calgary Financial for sponsoring this event with a contribution of \$2000.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped in a variety of positions to ensure that *A Taste of Autumn* ran smoothly, to everyone who sold tickets and thank you to those who attended. We are looking forward to seeing you at next year's *A Taste of Autumn*!



## A MATRIX OF SUPPORTERS SPELLS STEWARDSHIP SUCCESS!

With the support of the United Nations Association in Canada's Green Spaces program, Alberta EcoTrust, Miistakis Institute, the Calgary Foundation and many other partners and sponsors - the Friends were

able to expand our team to include a Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator and a Stewardship Intern this past summer. The Friends of Fish Creek wish to acknowledge the financial assistance of Land Stewardship Centre's Watershed Stewardship Grant Program, funded by Alberta Environment and Parks, for making the ReWilding, stewardship and outreach programs possible.

Emma Dunlop and Karen Ratliffe joined the team as Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator and Stewardship Intern, respectively. Their involvement, and the support of a group of funders, sponsors and partners, allowed us to expand our capacity to facilitate stewardship in the park.

### Riparian Health Assessments

With our partners at Cows & Fish, four teams of Riparian Monitoring Stewards headed into the park to assess the health of riparian areas and evaluate their suitability for future restoration work. Our Stewardship Intern, Karen, digitized the data reporting aspect of this project, making it easier and more efficient for us to review and organize data for evaluation. This data has informed our fall ReWilding project!



### ReWilding

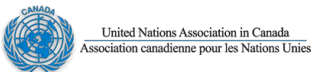
With Emma and Karen's involvement, we were able to host three additional riparian restoration fieldwork days in the spring! CBe-Learn students joined us for a spring planting project,

enhancing a past restoration site with new native tree and shrub plantings to visually close off a desired pathway. Employees from two corporate groups, Work Nicer (*pictured here*) and PrairieSky, worked to establish a new restoration project at a site chosen based on data submitted by our 2018 Riparian Monitoring Stewards. PrairieSky Royalty has also stepped up as our 2019 ReWilding Sponsor, supporting the purchase of plants and supplies needed for this year's fall ReWilding project!

### Watering

This year, we have developed a successful system for watering our restoration sites! With the support of AEP staff, vehicles and equipment, and the recent acquisition of a water pump from ATCO, we now have a team of volunteers watering our restoration sites. This success, though, is still dependent on AEP staff and vehicle availability, which is not always guaranteed. Now our next challenge is to secure our very own Friends of Fish Creek heavy-duty truck capable of transporting a full water tank, people and equipment necessary to continue the regular watering of our ReWilding sites.

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## SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN FISH CREEK THIS GIVING TUESDAY

As we look forward to kicking off the holiday shopping season by enjoying Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales, the Friends of Fish Creek invite you to celebrate Giving Tuesday! Giving Tuesday will take place on December 3 and it is a global movement to encourage a spirit of philanthropy and of giving back within our community. This year the Friends are focusing our Giving Tuesday efforts on raising funds for a reliable truck.

Stewardship of Fish Creek Provincial Park is fundamental to the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society. Getting a truck would significantly improve our ability to meet our Stewardship goals. Many Watershed Stewardship programs including Riparian Stewardship, Tree Wrapping, Park Clean Ups, as well as other tasks throughout the year, require the use of a vehicle.

We invite you to donate on or before Giving Tuesday to help the Friends of Fish Creek purchase a truck, that is needed for us to complete important conservation work in Fish Creek Provincial Park. For more information or to donate contact the Friends of Fish Creek or visit

<https://givingtuesday.ca/partners/friends-of-fish-creek1> or <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/event/gt>



### SUMMER UPDATE cont'd from previous page

#### Calgary Captured

Through a partnership with Miistakis Institute and funding from the Calgary Foundation, our Stewardship Intern, Karen, did a fantastic job of training and coordinating volunteer Camera Crew teams to change out the camera cards and batteries on wildlife cameras throughout Fish Creek. This contribution greatly increased the efficiency of the Calgary Captured initiative getting photos into the right hands in a timely manner. Calgary Captured is funded by the Calgary Foundation and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

#### Weed Whackers

Due to increased staff capacity and our ongoing partnership with ATCO, we were able to organize 25% more weed pulls this year than last year. The outings took place primarily on the ATCO Heritage Grassland as well as throughout the park to deal with other invasive

species such as yellow clematis and dame's rocket.

#### Tree Mapping & (un)Wrapping

With the support of the Land Stewardship Centre and AEP, we surpassed our goal of mapping the location and status of wrapped trees across 25% of the park's land base by mapping double that this year! Eleven teams of volunteers adopted grid squares and used the Beaver App developed by AEP to enter data about the status of wrapped trees, which was then used to inform our Tree Wrapping fieldwork. Last year we did not have the capacity to host Tree Wrapping outings, and this year we organized ten outings, focusing on trees at risk of girdling from old wire.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all of the volunteers, funders, and sponsors who helped make this happen, especially to Emma and Karen for spending your summer with the Friends of Fish Creek!



# CAPTURE NATURE

## FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Fish Creek Provincial Park provides countless opportunities for nature appreciation and photography and the Friends annual Photography contest is the perfect activity for those who would like to share their photos with other members of the Fish Creek Community. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Capture Nature contest ran from May 1 - July 31 and during that time, 25 photographers submitted over 70 photos in the categories of Symmetry, Movement and Lunch! This year, community members were also able to vote for their favourite submission. Below are the winning photos. Special thanks to MEC and RMB Photography for providing contest prizes.



**Fish Creek Community Showcase -  
November - December**

Join us on Friday, November 1 at the Cookhouse from 6:30 - 8:00 pm for the opening of the Capture Nature Exhibit, featuring some of the most stunning photographs from the past 5 years. To register for this free event and for more information visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/fccs>

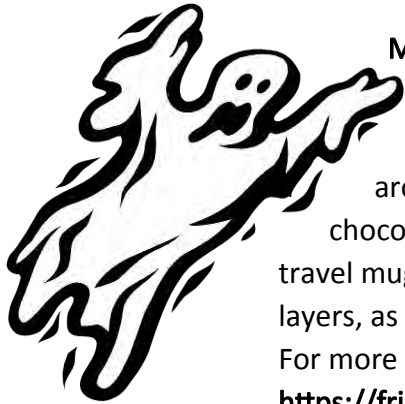


**Winning Photos, clockwise from top left:**

- Pelican, Emily Hengen (Youth category, Juror vote, "Movement" theme)
- Osprey, Lorie Inglis (Adult category, Public vote, "Lunch!" theme)
- Beaver, Stephen Shikaze, (Adult, Juror, "Lunch!" theme)
- Merganser, Solene McCracken (Youth, Public, "Movement" theme)



## GHOSTS OF FISH CREEK WALKING TOUR



Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday October 28, 29, and 30  
Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park

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! Hot chocolate will be served to keep you warm and toasty (please remember to bring a travel mug). And don't forget to wear your scariest Hallowe'en costume (possibly with layers, as this is an outdoor program) and good walking shoes. **Registration Required.**

For more info or to register visit

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/event/ghosts-of-fish-creek-walking-tour>

## FINAL 2013 FLOOD DEBRIS CLEAN-UP IN THE PARK

*Julia Millen, Community & Partner Relations  
Acting Team Lead, Alberta Parks, Kananaskis Region*

The big flood of 2013 that ripped through southern Alberta brought with it much change and disruption, and an aftermath that is still being felt, even in Fish Creek Provincial Park. The flood waters have long since drained away, and the pathways and day use areas are repaired, but scattered throughout the park along the creek and river, there still remain pieces (and piles) of non-natural flood debris (plastics, building materials, creosote railway ties, telephone poles, and more) that the powerful flood waters carried downstream and deposited in the park. After all this time, they are gradually disappearing under vegetation growth, but they are still there!

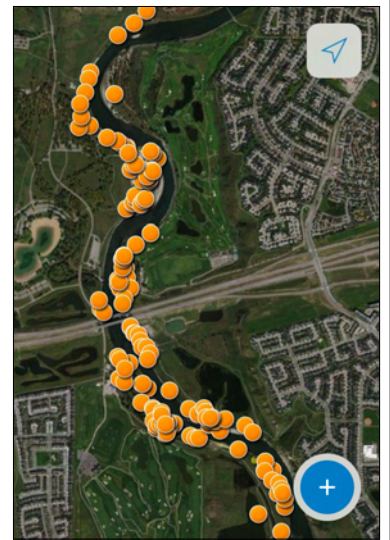
Back in 2017 a number of volunteers worked with me to map as much of the debris as possible, using a mobile mapping app (*pictured here*). At the same time, these hardy volunteers, many of them Friends of Fish Creek volunteers, helped to collect 10 metric tonnes of non-natural debris by hand. The debris was removed from the park, along with another 18 metric tonnes, mapped by volunteers and removed from Poplar Island by a contractor in November of 2017.

What an accomplishment!

Despite this mammoth effort, there are still pieces of non-natural flood debris on both east and west banks of the Bow River that are either too big, too logistically complex, or too hazardous for volunteers to remove. This October, contractors will be working to remove the last of the debris. You may see them working along the pathways and river with their

equipment, using the data collected by volunteers to find and remove the remaining debris. Advisories will be posted on the AlbertaParks.ca website, and signs will alert park visitors to the work being done.

At the end of the project, you will see me (and anyone who'd like to join me) celebrating the conclusion of this multi-year project, and all of the work contributed by dedicated volunteers.





## SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS PRESENTED BY ALTALINK (BFK)

NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND LEARNING NATURALLY EXPANSION  
LEADS TO A MORE SUCCESSFUL BFK CAMPAIGN

The 2019 Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK) campaign began in April and ran until the closing of the Shaw Charity Classic, a PGA TOUR Champions golf tournament, that takes place at Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club at the beginning of September.

This was the fourth year that the Friends were fortunate enough to participate in BFK and we are pleased to say that this year we led one of our most successful campaigns to date. The Friends raised \$4,111 for Learning Naturally, which when matched 50% by BFK will amount to \$6,167. Through this amazing program we can now provide over 616 children with an unforgettable day of outdoor education in Fish Creek!



There were four principle methods by which community members could contribute to the BFK matching program this year, including donating to TD Learning Naturally, enrolling their children in the Learning Naturally Bird Camp, taking part in the Learning Naturally Youth Nature program, and participating in the NSTEP Race for Calgary Kids.

This year the Friends teamed up with NSTEP (Nutrition Students Teachers Exercising with Parents) for the Step

Up 4 Calgary Kids Race, which took place on June 1 at Hull's Wood in Fish Creek. Monies brought in through registration fees, sponsorships and donations were leveraged through BFK, after race expenses were deducted. The race was also sponsored by CIBC and Running Room, and supported by many community focused groups and individuals.

We found the race to be a wonderful event that supports healthy lifestyles by encouraging kids and families to exercise and spend time in nature. We have begun collaborating with NSTEP for next year's race, and would like to thank Deb Hymers and all of the NSTEPPERS for their hard work and for inviting the Friends of Fish Creek to participate in this fun and worthwhile event.

Registration fees for the Learning Naturally Kids Bird Camp (*pictured here*) 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.

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. Community members were also able to donate directly to TD Learning Naturally through our website.

Thank you to everyone who donated and to the Patron Group, Shaw Communications, AltaLink and the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation.



## ESTATE PLANNING

### LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY IN YOUR WILL TO BENEFIT FUTURE GENERATIONS!

Remembering family in your will is most likely an important part of your final wishes. Considering the Friends of Fish Creek in your legal will or through other philanthropic means is one of the best ways to ensure that future generations will enjoy this breathtaking natural area as much as you and your family do.

For over 25 years the Friends have collaborated with park management, volunteers, community organizations and members to raise awareness about environmental stewardship in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

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

You can leave the Friends of Fish Creek a gift (bequest) in your will either as a specific amount or as a portion of your assets. If you are considering leaving a charitable gift for the Friends of Fish Creek in your will, it is best to designate a lump-sum or fixed amount of shares, rather than a percentage of assets. This will simplify the process of fund allocation for both the Friends and the executor of your estate.

Did you know that in recent years, tax legislation has been amended to eliminate capital gains tax on donations of stock to registered charities? You, as a



donor, will not pay any tax on the gain and a tax receipt will be provided for the full value of the donation. With the elimination of capital gains tax on this type of donation, the incentive to donate listed securities becomes significant.

Life insurance also allows you to make a major donation at a modest cost. A policy, which names the Friends of Fish Creek as both beneficiary and owner may be purchased or amended. You then receive a tax receipt for the cash surrender value of the policy, accumulated dividends and interest. Further payments will also entitle you to a tax receipt.

Having a trustee manage your estate after death may also be a viable option. In your will, you can bequeath funds to charities of your choice or arrange to have donations made regularly from your estate. Your estate will benefit from tax advantages on the portion left to charity. A tax receipt will be issued for the present value of the assets placed in trust.

A planned gift in your will is a wonderful way to help protect and preserve this park so that future generations can enjoy it as much as you and your family do. By including the Friends of Fish Creek in your final wishes, you can leave a lasting legacy for this park, this city, your grandchildren's children and beyond.

For more information, contact your financial planner or the Friends of Fish Creek at 403-238-3841 ext. 4 or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/estate-2/>

**Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society**  
**Charitable Registration #891199747 RR0001**

## 'WE'RE SEEING URBAN EVOLUTION': CALGARY WILDLIFE CAMS CREATING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

*Shawn Logan, Calgary Herald, July 28, 2019*

Reprinted with permission (photos courtesy of the Miistakis Institute)

Lord Hightower and Mr. Big probably have no idea they've become international celebrities. Both known for their impressive racks of antlers and for being reliably photogenic, the pair are among a handful of Calgary's resident wildlife who've become frequent subjects of the Captured Calgary project, which uses remote cameras in city parks while enlisting help from nature enthusiasts to help identify animals who wander within range.

Since its launch in the spring of 2017, the project's 62 cameras spread over 15 Calgary parks (as well as Fish Creek Provincial Park) have snapped nearly 230,000 images, yielding some 1.3 million classifications from a worldwide corps of volunteers who painstakingly dig through thousands of pictures, helping identify any wildlife who trip the shutter.

Chris Manderson, the city's urban conservation lead, said the project got a quiet start but has picked up steam thanks to a global army of keyboard-wielding sleuths who have a keen eye for Calgary's wild denizens.

"We were kind of blown away, particularly over the first three months," he said, "We were getting, at one point, 50,000 images a day being reviewed. If you look at the site now, we're still getting a few thousand a day reviewed."

Images snapped by the network of cameras hidden in Calgary's urban wilderness are recovered with the help of project partners the Calgary-based Miistakis Institute, which then filters through the images to ensure the privacy of humans who sometimes wander into areas that are primarily the domain of wildlife.

The thousands of images cleared to be posted to [zooniverse.org](http://zooniverse.org) are then available for any member of the public to scour through,

enabling them to identify the types and numbers of any animals spotted, as well as if there are any young.

Since its launch, some 3,149 "citizen scientists" have contributed to the project, with nearly two-thirds of those from Calgary. But it's not just local wildlife lovers helping the cause, with eyeballs from around the world taking peeks, including some from Russia, Finland and even Mongolia. Outside of Calgary, the most page views on the site are registered from Canberra, Australia.

Given the community that's evolved around the cameras, some of the subjects who feature prominently have earned their own nicknames, including Lord Hightower and Mr. Big. Among those gaining similar notoriety are Bucky, The Nuzzlers, Mr. Magnificent and Chill Deer.

Some images that could still be considered wild, if unexpected, have also been snapped by the tree cams.

"We have people with no clothes on going swimming for example," Manderson said, noting any photos that capture humans, whether they're aware of the camera or not, are destroyed.



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## CALGARY CAPTURED cont'd from previous page



### Citizens engaged in urban wildlife monitoring

The task of filtering through the images is performed by the Miistakis Institute, but the return on investment is more than worth it, says Nicole Kahal, project co-ordinator for the non-profit.

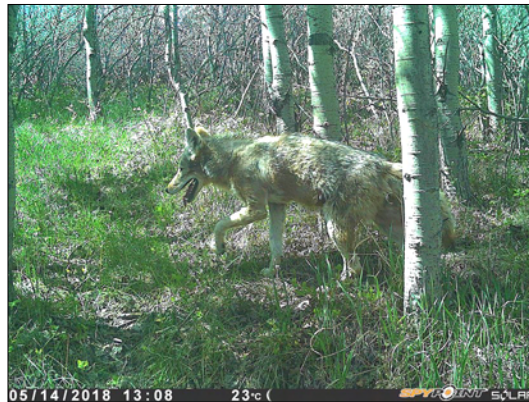
"People are taking notice and getting a better understanding of wildlife in the city," Kahal said. "I think most Calgarians do enjoy seeing wildlife. But it's also easy to forget that we are sharing space with wildlife."

In addition to capturing the occasional candid human moment, the cameras also allow viewers the chance to see rare behaviour in its animal subjects. Cameras have captured deer rutting and playing, pheasants courting, magpies picking parasites off deer, and animals answering their most pressing calls of nature.

Some rare sightings have also been captured thanks to the cameras, including a northern flying squirrel, long tail weasel, and more raccoons than most Calgarians would imagine. Manderson said his department is working with the city's advanced analytics group that's hoping to build and test artificial intelligence that will be able to filter out images with humans, potentially reducing volunteer hours by 70 per cent or more.

The program — which recently received a \$250,000 grant from the Calgary Foundation, which will fully fund it over the next three years — has the potential to

"Two people dressed up as German soldiers and posed in front of (the camera). In one case, someone held up a postcard of a grizzly bear for the camera."



expand its mandate as well, Manderson said, noting he hopes it will help get a better read on how wildlife interacts with the urban environment, where they move and behaviours they display.

"We're looking at how we manage and maintain healthy natural environments in the city," he said, adding this year the city will move some of the cameras to different

parks to broaden their knowledge of local wildlife. "We can use this to understand where they go, how they use the urban landscape and what they are eating. If new communities are seeing patterns, it might give us the opportunity to design them to minimize roadkill."

The camera data is further bolstered by public reporting of wildlife

through the city's 311 call centre, Manderson said, which has helped city ecologists understand how to better coexist with nature.

"We're seeing urban evolution right now. There are more species than ever and cities are becoming hotbeds of evolutionary changes," Manderson said.

"Coyotes have figured out how to live in cities. There's evidence that the brains of chickadees in the city are bigger than their rural counterparts. We know wildlife is adapting to cities."

### Calgary's 10 most reported animals on 311, 2005-2019:

- Coyote: 12,224
- Deer: 4,192
- Bobcat/lynx: 2,654
- Moose: 1,324
- Skunk: 921
- Duck: 428
- Cougar: 419
- Rabbit: 417
- Porcupine: 385
- Fox: 293

### Five animal oddities reported to 311, 2005-2019:

- Raccoon: 107
- Rat: 9
- Peacock: 9
- Wolverine: 3
- Alligator: 1

## MEMBERSHIP

## RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

Annual Society fees are now due and we are currently renewing memberships for the 2019-20 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.

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 Protector program a regular contribution will be



automatically and effortlessly withdrawn monthly from an account 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.

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:**



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation

**Beaver  
Level:**



### QUIZ ANSWER - AUG / SEP ISSUE

**Can you name the head Cook and Hospitality manager who worked for both William Roper Hull and Patrick Burns in the early 1900s ?**

Charlie Yuen, born Yuen Chow, worked as head Cook and Hospitality manager for both Hull and Burns in the Ranch House at the Bow Valley Ranch long before Fish Creek became a park. He knew Annie Bannister, for whom Annie's Café and Bakery was named, and built the round Cookhouse table with Billy Bannister sometime between 1886 and 1910. There have been several reported sightings of his ghost roaming the ranch house, and some people even claimed to see him washing dishes in the Cookhouse. Charlie loved Fish Creek and it is said that his spirit does not want to leave. Learn more about Charlie and other local spirits at the upcoming Ghosts of Fish Creek walking tours. See page 8 for more info.

### 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

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

## FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ONLINE STORE

- Friends Travel Mugs - 14 oz, Stainless Steel with foam insulation and swivel lid, \$20.00 (*pictured here*)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Signature Artwork, Limited Edition Print by Jim Pescott , \$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
- Friends of Fish Creek T-Shirts, \$20.00 each

**And much more!**

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



### 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)*

**November 6, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Bird Study Group** with presenter Myrna Pearman, Cardel Theatre, 180 Quarry Park Blvd SE. Myrna will discuss the Ellis Bird Farm, Purple Martins and Mountain Bluebirds and how climate change is affecting birds.