

The Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society Annual Report

November 2018 - December 2019 Measuring the Real Impact of Our Volunteer Programs



THANK YOU 2019 VOLUNTEERS - Volunteers in bold received special recognition at our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Victoria Agar, Ayman Al Jbawi, Lorrie & John Anderson, Jim & Lee Anderson, Jim & Lee Anderson, Jim & Lee Anderson, Jim & Lee Anderson, Jim & Internet Appreciation Dinner - Victoria Agar, Ayman Al Jbawi, Lorrie & John Anderson, Jim & Lee Anderson, Jim Jo-Anne Bechtel, Robert Bell, Valerie & Jason Bell, Tobin Benedict, Angela Bentley, Monique Bhullar, Gabor Biro & Annette Ng, Deborah Bouchard, Fred Bowen, Rob Bowman - Community Action Team Friendmaking and Fundraising, John Bradley, Phil Brayton, Lina Brooks, Robert & Teresa Brown, Ron Burr, Joe & Toni Cavar, Agnes Chrzanowska & Anna Kucharski, Trevor Churchill, Mary Cook, Kathy Cottrell, Kathy Cottrell, Kathy Cox, Sandy Davis, Sergio De Paoli, Alex Deaconu, Andrea Dechene, Rob Dempsey, Ron Deshayes - Community Action Team Friendmaking and Fundraising, Jesse Dias, Bernie Diebolt, Marie Donohue, Wendy Duha, Josh Evans, Brian & Sheryl Farewell, Jackie Figiel, Wlad Franco-Valias, Donna Franke, Doreen Fulton, Joe Gerritsen, Josh Gibbs, Janet Gill, Margo Glover, Gail Goldsmith, Stephen Grannary, Phil Greer, Kassie Harder, Joanne Hatch, Dick Heenan, Leonor Henriquez Leon, Denise Hiebert, Trish Hiley, Don & Marianne Hladiuk, Chantae Ho, Kari Horn, Peter Hoyer, Kathryn Hull, Lynne Hulse, Mike, Jason Kang,

2018 - 2019 IMPACT REPORT

As a non-profit organization, the Friends of Fish Creek are often asked to explain the impact of our work. In 2019, the Friends took part in Project Impact, a regional study to learn a different and more meaningful approach to evaluation than simply measuring numerical data. We chose to dive into an aspect of our programming that is integral to our work – our volunteers – to learn more about how they are personally impacted by their involvement with the Friends. In addition to select statistical data, this 2018-19 Annual Report features just some of the statements provided by active volunteers through the Project Impact survey, which we feel help to demonstrate the Friends' impact within the community and on peoples' lives.

Graphics courtesy of pixabay.com, cover photo - Eden Maracle, photo - Sheila Watson

Nic Blanchet, Friends of Fish Creek Executive Director, was posed these three questions about the impact of his work with the Friends of Fish Creek -

What has been the most significant discovery you have made this past year about the Friends community of volunteers, members and donors?

After thoroughly working through the Project Impact material and results I discovered that the Friends are not an 'Environmental' organization as I thought, they are in fact a 'people' organization that works to the benefit of the environment in the park.

What skills have you developed since starting the position of ED and how has developing these skills affected other areas of your life?

I realized early on that my role was that of coach and innovator. I applied what I had learned from previous experience and noticed that my preferred style of leadership more closely resembled coaching than directing. With this in mind I have been working on developing my coaching skills, these skills have also proven useful in supporting my children in their chosen endeavours.

How do you personally identify with the park landscape?

I have an ambivalent relationship with the park landscape; whilst I appreciate what an incredible resource it represents to the community I am also keenly aware of how much environmental management work is required to optimize this resource and sustain it.

-Nic Blanchet, Friends of Fish Creek Executive Director

Since 2006, I have enjoyed working with the other volunteer board members and four different Executive Directors, to build the Friends of Fish Creek into a sustainable organization offering fantastic programs and volunteer opportunities for our community. Every year when I attend the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, I am reinvigorated by the energy and commitment of our volunteers that allows the Friends to deliver on our mission.

With my volunteering on the Board and volunteering for other programs and activities, I have found the I more fully appreciate what our park provides our community. My time in the park, both as a volunteer and a user, has positively impacted my overall wellness.

-Bob Morrin, Friends of Fish Creek Board Chair

The Friends of Fish Creek understand community vision (why) and community action (what). They recognize the role that community vision plays in motivating diverse people to get involved. The Friends inspire others to contribute their talents, knowledge, resources, passion and time to build and achieve that community vision (and associated action) in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

It is easy to measure tangible things (volunteer hours, numbers of willows planted, or meters of streambank rehabilitated), but the metrics of community and belonging are felt and harder to quantify. It is the intangibles (only seen and experienced over time) that are the backbone of strong relationships and communities.

"The most important contribution that any of us can make now is not to solve any particular problem... What we must do now is increase the proportion of humans who know that they can cause change." - Bill Drayton, Ashoka (2006)

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

Vision - A sustainable Fish Creek Provincial Park that improves the quality of life for present and future generations.

Mission - To engage the community through activities and awareness to conserve a truly unique naturalized urban park

STATS NOVEMBER 2018 - DECEMBER 2019

Friends volunteers contributed over 11.512 volunteer hours between November 2018 and December 2019.

253 individual volunteers helped in Friends programs, courses and events, with over 600 volunteer occurrences.

The Friends staff, volunteers and community members led **381** program sessions.

7660 members of the public were engaged through Friends programs.

The Friends engaged **14** Community and Corporate groups during the 2018-19 program season.

We led **381** Program Days between November 2018 and December 2019.

40 Sponsors and 24 Community Partners helped support our programs and events.

Riparian Restoration and Watershed Stewardship

950 meters of streambank assessed **200** willow stakes planted **940 kg** of invasive plants removed from the park 430 trees wrapped **105** bags of litter removed from the park

From October 2018 - November 2019, 110 TD Learning Naturally program days took place. 4707 students between grades K—6 and 940 teachers and parent volunteers were able to come to Fish Creek Provincial Park for an environmental education field trip.



Thank you for inviting me to Fish Creek Provincial Park. I really want to come again. I like going there because we got to learn about things about bugs. - Jennifer, grade 3

Thank you for letting us go for free. My favourite part of the field trip was seeing the woodpeckers home. It made feel so relaxed to go to Fish Creek Provincial Park.

David Meisner, JJ & Julienne Mission, Bruce & Diana Mitchell, David Mitchell, Bob Morrin, Joyce Motyka, Stephen Mulholland, Colleen Nagel, Darcy Nakamura, Larry & Helen Newel, Wendy Nickson, Emma Norris, Radomir Obad, Ron Ostrander, Naomi Parker, Brian Pegg & Ellen Story-Pegg, Hannah Penner, Jim Pescott & Susan Ward, Stephen Phelps, Madalena Pinto, Slavica Pribilovic, Sylvia Prochownik, Neil Puffer & Joyce Crew, Ryan Quan, Traelyn Rachar - New and Noteworthy, Bryan & Kim Radies, Linda Rae, Rose, Will, Michael & Karen Ratliffe, Robin Read, Dave Reid & Diane Lyders, Elinor Reid, Sharon & Ian Richardson - Community Action Team Friendmaking and Fundraising, Lynda Rive, Rick Robb, Gabrielle Roberge, Lewis Robertson, Erin Rosenthal, Ward Sanderson - Behind the Scenes, Liza Schach, Julia Schneider, Travis Schwab, Stewart Scott, Paul & Kathy Seaman - Volunteer of the Year, Heather Setka, Valerie Shartau, Jason Shaver, Lisa Shin, Bryan Simpson, Stuart Simpson, Bill Skinner, Kathy Slepokura, Doreen Smale, Marina Spahlinger & Morgan Mackie, Stewart Scott, Paul & Kathy Seaman - Volunteer of the Year, Heather Setka, Valerie Shartau, Jason Shaver, Lisa Shin, Bryan Simpson, Stuart Simpson, Stuart Simpson, Bill Skinner, Kathy Slepokura, Doreen Smale, Matthew Smith, Rebecca Smith, Crawford Smyth, Jennifer Solem - Community Champion, Liz Soria, Marina Spahlinger & Morgan Mackie,

WHAT'S THE IMPACT? **PROJECT IMPACT SURVEY RESPONSES FROM ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS**

I was responsible before, but since knowing about Friends' volunteers who support the park I have become more aware and appreciative of all the hard work many people put into keeping the park beautiful.

Before (volunteering) I was focused on enjoying my time in the park. Although there is much I still need to understand, now I am much more aware of advocating, 🧲 promoting stewardship, preservation for years to come and responsible use of the facilities.

The excitement of people appreciating, learning and becoming more involved in their understanding of nature and our need to care for our planet. I am learning so much every day and volunteering keeps me seeking new knowledge. It also provides meaningful ways to engage and be active outside all year. The health benefits physically and emotionally are wonderful. Meeting new friends is always important. I always feel welcome and valued. I also enjoy being a role model for my grandchildren.

A sense of community has been elevated since my joining the Friends. I feel very good about my contribution and am very satisfied in making a little bit of a difference.

> New acquaintances made through volunteering, have now become dedicated friends with new *learning, planning outdoor events together and helping* in new volunteer events that I might not have considered or known about previously. I have even joined a book club on nature related reading material and taken up new hobbies like birding, botany and hiking.

> > I thoroughly enjoy the involvement with other volunteers and Friends staff, but most importantly I get great satisfaction knowing that I am helping to preserve this great park so that others can enjoy it now and into the future.

I feel like I belong here.

I don't have a chance to volunteer often, but when I do, I really love it! Thank you for the opportunity!

Friends does so many things to make this huge park a safe and happy place to be. The list is long as there are several things that happen during the summer that the public is invited to. We report any findings to the office and they immediately look into them, making sure all is good.

and love to all the staff and volunteers

So rewarding to be a part of this community - so much gratitude Provincial Park. Every time I am there and see people enjoying the space I feel better about the future!

Our close work with Friends' staff also makes us feel valued and part of the park. We are connected, a community of park mentors.

> With the help of the Friends, I felt significant benefits from my involvement with the park and its community.

Not surprisingly, many of the volunteers have similar interests beyond those that draw us to volunteer



When volunteering, I do focus on the positives. I feel it is my responsibility to learn more about threats to our park and the world in general. However, being in the park so often has raised my awareness immensely. By learning about the different initiatives, I am becoming a better steward for the park and nature in general.

What has kept me coming back has simply been my love of the park and my desire to keep the park a beautiful place to come.

> One of the biggest influences on my life has come from participating in the Friends bird watching group for the past few years. I have met several people within this group that I also have become involved with others outside of the Friends of Fish Creek.



THE FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK -**CONNECTING PEOPLE AND THE PARK SINCE 1992**



CONTACT US

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Our office is in the Cookhouse, Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park, 15975 Bow Bottom Tr. SE www.friendsoffishcreek.org, info@friendsoffishcreek.org, twitter.com/fish creek facebook.com/friendsoffishcreek instagram.com/fish.creek, Charitable Registration #891199747RR0001

2018 - 2019 EXECUTIVE

Chair	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair	David Mitchell
Treasurer	Phil Greer
Secretary	Lori Mainland
Founding Director	Wayne Meikle
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

Nic Blanchet Executive Director Katie Bakken Program Coordinator Shana Barbour Program Coordinator Chris Lalonde Communications Coordinator

FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK STAFF

Emma Dunlop, Stewardship & Outreach Coordinator Julien Cossette, Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator

FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK CONTRACTORS

Kaylee Hope

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Matthew Beaulieu, Darrell Beaumont, Trevor Boardman, Claire Bohme, Jonathan Bricker, Zack Brown, Ethan Collister, Mike Depper, Len Esau, Larry Hank, Linda Harvey, Rob Herbert, Mark Hergott, Ron Horetcha, Mark le, Michele Jean, Tim Krijnen, Fred Lorenz, Jeff Martin, Mitch McCarthy, Jamie Pie, Ed Quiring, Rachel Ryan, Nic Scarangella, Travis Schwab, Lynndsay Smeltzer, Spencer Stevens, Conrad Tiedemann, Lindsay Watkinson, Kelsey Wood

FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK STAFF

Murray Ingstrup, Andrew Schoepf, Irene Till, Meagan Montgomery, Julia Millen, Stephanie Findlay, Roland Kirzinger, Claire Petursson, Troy Christianson, Ryan Hannusch, Taylor Coveart, Travis Beran, Brian Ferguson, Joan Friedel, Rob Hummel, Jeremy Bakken, Jody Bares, Blake Weis, Rudy Szymanek, Lisa Grant, Dan Skahan, Noah Sherloc, and the Sikome Visitor Services, Safety Ambassador staff and Groundskeepers

THANK YOU DONORS

The following individuals and companies donated between November 2018 and December 2019, and the list includes in-kind support. Thank you to all donors who wish to remain anonymous.

> Deer Level \$5,000 - \$24,999 Janette Laird. Melissa Tharp

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

Rick & Elaine Barnes, Terry D Carlyle, Tim Hopwood, Peter Hover, Doug Maxwell, Pat Miller, David & Sue Mitchell, Scott Sarjeant, Jennifer Solem EON Foundation, HSBC, Rotary Club of Calgary, Stantec Consulting, Starbucks Canada Charitable Fund - held at Vancouver Foundation, Westbrick Energy Ltd

> Spruce Level - \$750 - \$999 Robert Bell, Stephen Phelps, Wayne & Joan Walker, Leao Vermeylen

Aspen Level \$500 - \$749

Tracy Anderson & Alan Harvie, Bruce Mitchell, Cathy Reid, Blake Reid, Valerie Vine, Rob Worona, Robert Myers, Rizza Casas, Dale Draper, Tavia Hartley, Elizabeth Morrison, Stella Peszneker, Robin Read, Stewart Scott, Velma Smith, Anna Vaidva Southern Alberta Turfgrass Association

Birch Level \$100 - \$499

Catherine Agar, Barbara Ali, Robert Greenlaw, Phil Greer, Neil Andrew, Christina Arnold, Jason Ashwin, Katie Bakken, Robert Bakker, Dominika Barefoot. Jeannine Bednar-Giyose, Dianne Berkeley, June Bittner, Sherry Boath, Bob Bowman, Philip Bracegirdle, Gail Bridge, Robert Brown, Joy Brown, Robert Burns, Catherine Cadman, Roberta Cadman, Paul Cahill, Helen Cain. Shirley Cameron, Anne Carey, Val Carter, Jason & Amanda Celik. Lincoln Chow, Karen Chow, Trevor Churchill, Ann Clipstone, Lorna Coglon, Kim Cole, Theresa Constantin, Beverley & James Cowley, Carole Cressman, Sharron Cross, Ben Czelenski, Donna David, Rita Davidson, Glenn Davies, Sandra Patricia Lee & Jim Zaback, Michelle Davis, William & Elizabeth Dittmer. Karen Donelly, Jim Donohue, Stephen Dougherty, Deanna Downtown, David Eisenbart, Jane Ellis & Ann Clipstone, Terrie Faber, Bryan Fairbanks, Margaret Farris, Trudy Feldmeyer, Vlad Franco-Valias, Paula Fulton, Patricia Jean Mitchell, Doris Mitchell, Bob Fulton, Kathleen Gardiner, Marissa Morrin, Steve Morris, Calvin & German, Bill Gibb, Lori Gibbs, Colin Goldie, Cathie Grannary, Shirley Gray, Rosemary Gray, Tanis

Mary Lou Alexander, Norma Anderson, Daniel Andrews, Susanne Arnold, Arthur & Caroline Krentz, Christine Beauchamp, Darcy Peter Healy, Richard Heenan, Beiver, Mariette Saulnier Belliveau. Wavne & Janet Berg, Annette & Gabor Biro, Hilary Blackbeard, Nic Blanchet, Maureen Bracken, Jay Bradley, Wayne Branham, Duncan Brown. Pamela Brown. Lvnn Brown, Michelle Bulechowsky, Marg Burgart, Olga Bymak, Lorraine Campbell, Allen Case, Leanne Champion, Ron & Gail Chapman, Debbie Cole-Gauer & Chris Gauer, Lynda Corkum, Dianne Mar, Julia Marko Dunn, Ann & Cully, Melody Czarnota, Anona Dowling, Melissa Duong, Linda & Steve Egilsson, Mary Enright, Kris Fernet, Jodi Flodstedlt, Bea Flood, Bonnie Fulford, Grant Gale, Joe Gerritsen, Ginny Goodman,

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Special Recognition

Darlene Grannary, Michael & Carole Halpen, Rob Hardie & Virgina Row-Hardie, Pam Hawkes, Eileen Herring, Denise Hiebert, Terra Hocken, Lavina Hoffman & Kari Fairman, Matthew Hopley, Kathryn Howe, Paul Howe, Sarah Hughes, Rick Ippolito, Murray Karn, Jill Kennedy, Lori Lambert, Sandra Langford, Jocelyn LeBlanc, Carolyn Lefebvre. Dianne Leonhardt. Richard & Carla Link, Perry Longinotti, Corkum Lynda, Samson Mah, Charlie Manucot, Douglas Richard Martin, Patricia & David Dyer Matheson, Anne Marie Maver, Laurie McCormack, Munro McKenzie, Carol Moore, Sean Murphy, Clare Myers, Allan Navlor, Dorraine Neal, Lively

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> Deerfoot Carpet, Discotecha Inc, Ecole Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix, Fish Creek School, Kaotica Corp, Evergreen Community Association, Stantec

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Society

FRIENDS SEASONAL STAFF

Bookkeeping Services Bob Andrew TD Learning Naturally

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS Alberta Environment and Parks Fish Creek Provincial Park Staff The Venturers Society of Calgary Cows and Fish (Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

1st Calgary Sparks, 76th Girl Guides Lake Bonavista, AB Community Bat Program, AB Hunter Education, AB Institute for Wildlife Conservation, AB Native Bee Council, AB Native Plant Council, AGLC, Anytime Fitness, Avenida Pet Clinic. The Barrelman. Bateman Foundation, Benevity Community Impact Fund, Between Friends, Booster Juice, Bow Habitat Station, Calgary Public Library, Calgary River Forum Society, Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, Calaway Park, Calgary Cycle, Calgary Drop In Centre, Calgary Flames. Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corp, Calgary Stampeders, Calgary Women Fly Fishers Club, CanadaHelps, Canmore Nordic Centre, Canyon Meadows Cinemas, cath-earth-sis Services. CBeLearn. CNIB. CPAWS. Deer Run Community Association. Donate a Car Canada. Dr. Southern Alberta. McKenzie Mead-George Stanley School, Bud and Sheila Edgar, Evergreen Theatre,

Filos, First Alliance Church, Fish Creek University - Institute for Exchange, Fish Creek Nissan, Fish Tales Fly Shop, Foothills School Division. Friends of Confederation Creek Association. Doreen Fulton. Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation. Richard Gotfried MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek, Green Calgary, Helis, Highwood Golf and Country Club, Holistic Institute of Health and Fertility, Kensington Art Supply, Premier Jason Kenney, Korth Group, Whitney Issik MLA of Calgary Glenmore, Juice Plus Canada, Julie Marwood Interiors. The Manor Village at Varsity, Marshall Springs School, McLeod Law, MEC Calgary South, Miistakis Institute, Nature Calgary, Nature Conservancy of Canada, NSTEP, Northstar Residents Association, Parkland Beavers, Prairie Calgary, Vermillion Energy Inc, Dog. Red Bison. Mad Science of ows Golf, Michelle and Peter – the Juggling Clowns, Mount Royal

Environmental Sustainability, New Brighton Residents Association, Pensak Houghton Dentistry, Sylivia Prochownik . Pumphouse Theatre. Riel Institute, Robin Read. Riverwatch, Rocky Mountain Eagle Research Foundation, Royal Alberta Museum, Royal Astronomical Society, Royal Roads University, SAIT, Doug Saul, Minister Rebecca Schulz of Calgary Shaw, Shawnee/Evergreen Community Association, Michela Sheedy, Sheep River Library, SOGO Adventure Running, Soffritto, Peter Spear, Starbucks in Deer Valley, Strides Running Store, Time is Money Executive Concierge, Trout Unlimited Canada, Trout Unlimited-Bow River, United Active Living, University of Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society, the Wild Bird Store. Wildlife Preservation Canada, Work Nicer, Yoga Dot Calm, Youth Central

15 months

Ended

December

2019

\$ 526,259

422.435

120.843

543,278

\$ (17,019)

December

31, 2019

\$ 3,506

\$ 134,795

36.913

26,103

35,422

205,391

1.740

(5,814)

(4,074)

\$ 201,317 \$ 360,698

Year ended

September

30

2018

280.454

86.967

367,421

Sentember

30, 2018

62.716

179 877

35.794

82,311

72.087

347.753

9.520

3,425

12,945

Ś

\$ 201,317 \$ 360,698

\$ 169,969 \$ 275,666

\$ 367,426

Thank You to all Wellness Instructors: Gwen Draude, Diana Young - Bungy Pump, Susanne Heaton - Motivated by Nature, Corrina Anne-Poss, Carina Huggins, Divya Singh, Diane Smith - Energy Balancing

TREASURER'S REPORT

Phil Greer, Treasurer

Friends of Fish Creek Board of Directors

Revenues and expense

Member and education

Administration Expenses

(expenses over revenues)

Excess of revenues over expenses

program expenses

Total revenues

Total Expenses

Financial Position

Unrestricted cash

Total other assets

Restricted term deposits

Deferred contributions

Other Liabilities

Internally restricted

Restricted cash

Assets

Liabilities

Net assets

Unrestricted

Summarized Financial Information (unaudited)

At the 2018 Annual General Meeting the		
membership approved a change in our year-		
end from September 30 to December 31. For		
the fifteen months October 1 to December 31,		
2019, the Society reported a net loss (excess		
of expenses over revenues) of \$17,019		
compared to net income of \$5 for the twelve		
nonths ended September 30, 2018.		

Our revenues for financial reporting purposes were \$526,259 in 2019 compared to \$367,426 in 2018. This improvement is primarily from increased grant and casino funding.

We incurred expenses for financial reporting purposes in 2019 of \$543,278, an increase of \$175,857 over 2018 expenses, reflecting the additional three months of expenses, particularly salaries and additional program and project expenses. The most significant individual cash expense continues to be salaries and benefits which amounted to \$292,000 in 2019.

Our total cash position at December 31, 2019 was \$138.302 compared to \$242.593 at September 30, 2018. This reduction is primarily due to the change in year-end as October to December is traditionally the slowest revenue generating period of the year. We have set a budget for 2020 that ensures our operating expenses are aligned with our expected

funding while maintaining a strong cash position throughout the year.

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

November 2018 - December 2019, Includes In-Kind support

Eagle Level \$50000 +

Hberta



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