

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

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

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The Friends of Fish Creek are pleased to celebrate our 30th Anniversary this year! Since 1992, we have worked with volunteers, community members, Park Management and a wide variety of partners and supporters to help protect and preserve this cherished natural urban park. We invite you to help us commemorate this important milestone as we celebrate our thirtieth year of bringing the park and community together. *See Page 3 for more information about how you can get involved!*

DEDICATE A BRICK TODAY!

Registration for Bricks in Phase 2 of Fish Creek Community Terrace will Close June 1.

Every brick tells a story, and we invite you to share your story with park visitors and support Fish Creek by dedicating a brick along the Fish Creek Community Terrace. We are planning to lay the next segment of bricks along the terrace this summer and registration for a 2022 install will close June 1.

Bricks can feature 2 lines of text with 16 characters per line, and simple shapes like hearts and circles can be included. Bricks are only \$250, and you will receive a tax receipt for your contribution. If you have a local business, consider having a brick inscribed for your company. For more information, please contact the Friends of Fish Creek at **403-238-3841 ext. 1** or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/brick>



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ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

STOP INTO THE BOW VALLEY RANCH VISITOR CENTRE

CHRIS LALONDE, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

If you have been down to the Bow Valley Ranch in the past ten months or so you may have noticed that the Visitor Information Centre is now open six days a week. This facility was originally opened in 1975 and is the focal point of the historical Bow Valley Ranch area of Fish Creek. The exhibit area features cultural artifacts and a wealth of information about the history of the city and the park. During most of the pandemic the building was closed to the public and prior to that, it was only open at certain times due to staffing issues with Alberta Environment and Parks. Since the beginning of the Friends' Enhanced Partnership Project with Parks in 2020, we have trained over thirty volunteers in the new role of Fish Creek Ambassador to work in the centre.

The centre is currently open 10 am - 4 pm, Monday - Saturday with Fish Creek Ambassadors on site five days a week. It is especially beneficial to the park, the Friends and the Fish Creek community to have the centre open not only on weekdays but also on Saturdays, when the park is most busy. The Friends are very grateful for the volunteer Fish Creek Ambassadors who have been helping out since last year, many of whom attend one or more shifts per week.

The Ambassadors are very knowledgeable about the park and are continuously increasing their understanding of both the historical and contemporary issues surrounding this cherished public green space. Since last June, the Ambassadors have had meaningful interactions with over 3,700 community members and in turn helped to enhance the visitor experience.



Fish Creek Ambassadors Don and Marianne at the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre.

The Ambassadors provide information and resources to park visitors and facilitate communications with the Friends, Park Management or other local organizations as required. These volunteers also collect data on the number of visitors each day and the reason for their visit, and record important reports about park maintenance and infrastructure issues that are sent to the park regularly by Friends staff.

We invite you to stop into the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre to pick up a park map or outreach material, learn about some of the unique history of this area and chat with some of our friendly and knowledgeable Fish Creek Ambassadors. This summer, the Fish Creek Ambassador program may undergo some changes in order to improve and enhance our service to the Fish Creek community.

If you have not yet visited the Visitor Centre, or have not been here recently, please drop by this spring!

QUIZ QUESTION

This bird can fly but prefers to scurry around near roads and in tall grasses, looks like a chicken but with a red and blue head and long tail, and can be seen around the Bow Valley Ranch and Sikome. Which bird is it?

The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY THROUGH OUR DEDICATION TREE PROJECT!

SHANA BARBOUR, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK STEWARDSHIP & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MANAGER

The Friends' origins as a grassroots organization stretch back to 1992 when a group of concerned citizens began working with Park Management to address some of the concerns in the park brought on by the growing city of Calgary. Working with Alberta Environment and Parks over the past thirty years, we have organized many different programs and stewardship opportunities to help us achieve our shared goal of supporting the balance between recreation and conservation here in Fish Creek, one of Canada's largest urban Provincial Parks. To celebrate this milestone, we are excited to announce a rare opportunity to contribute to our work, and have a long-lasting legacy in Fish Creek.

Balsam poplars (*populus balsamifera*) constitute the majority of Fish Creek's forest, especially at the east end of the park, and throughout the riparian areas (ie those areas directly adjacent to the creek). Fish Creek's poplar forest is generally a same-aged cohort of trees that is nearing end of life and is not adequately regenerating in some areas of the park.

These trees are a keystone species, meaning that they

play a critical role in maintaining the overall health of the watershed. A healthy cohort of mixed-age balsam poplars supports healthy bird and fish populations in the park. Their long, dense branches overhang the creek, creating cool water temperatures needed by some fish species for spawning. Their strong, extensive root systems lend structure and provide bank stability along the creek, helping to hold banks in place and reduce erosion so that clear waters prevail - another important condition for healthy fish populations. These trees also enhance biodiversity here in Fish Creek Provincial Park by providing shelter and habitat for many of the hundreds of bird species that either reside in, or pass through, Fish Creek.

The lack of natural poplar regeneration in the park is mainly due to invasive smooth brome grass that shades tiny poplar seedlings, preventing them from being exposed to the sunny conditions they need to survive. In addition to that, frequent, large flooding events that create sandy deposits that poplars need to establish, generally do not happen because of the way water is managed in an urban setting. *-Cont'd on next page*

Dedicate a tree along the new 30th Anniversary Poplar Grove!
www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/thirty

1992 - 2022 CONT'D

Since 2017, we have been planting poplars and other trees to help ensure the park's poplar forest remains vital, healthy and strong, for generations to come.

This September, 35 native balsam poplars will be planted along the Stream Changes accessible trail near the Bow Valley Ranch, establishing the Friends' 30th Anniversary Poplar Grove. Our 30th Anniversary Poplar Grove project represents so much of what we do; through raising awareness, engaging volunteers and executing well-run, efficient stewardship programs, we help to connect people to nature – and to each other – for the benefit of the park. This legacy project will help us take what we have learned through years of collaboration and dedicate a tiny corner of the park to our community.

Thirty trees within the grove will be available to donors, for a donation of \$475 per tree, and five will be planted by the Friends in honour of the volunteer, partner and community support that has made our work possible since 1992. The Grove will be monitored and maintained until fall, 2025, by trained Friends' volunteers, so that any damage to individual trees or to the site in general can be addressed. After that time, nature will take its course, and we trust that the Grove will thrive on its

own and continue to represent the love that so many have for Fish Creek.

Each 30th Anniversary donation will include:

- An invitation to take part in the tree planting day on September 17 with Friends of Fish Creek staff
- The opportunity to purchase a limited edition art print of the 30th Anniversary Poplar Grove, created by local artist, Cori Imbery
- A tax receipt for \$475

Donors will not own a specific tree, and no memorialization/decoration of the trees or grove will be permitted. All donations made to this project directly support our ongoing education and conservation initiatives, and will go a long way to supporting the continuation of our work into the future.

We invite you to be part of this unique opportunity to leave a lasting legacy and support healthy poplars for the next thirty to one hundred years. To find out more, or to donate and reserve one of the 30 trees we have available visit www.friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/thirty

Photo, Stan Kwasniowski



The Friends are pleased to partner with Tru Earth, a Canadian company based in Port Moody BC that focuses on creating eco-friendly household goods. Tru Earth's products are designed to function the same - or better - than traditional products, but without all the plastic and other chemicals that are harmful for the planet. Tru Earth creates eco-friendly laundry strips that pack ultra-concentrated, hypoallergenic, cleaning power into a tiny, pre-measured

strip of liquidless laundry detergent. A large focus of Tru Earth is their critical cause; Tru Earth seeks to make true, lasting change to help save the planet. This is supported by their donation and fundraising efforts to support underfunded and marginalized communities through matching each subscription purchase with a donation in-kind. The Friends of Fish Creek will receive at least 20% of each sale made on the Tru Earth website through our customized link below. Our organization will earn at least 20% profit on every sale made through our fundraiser, allowing you to purchase any time you need. Check out Tru Earth and make a purchase to support the Friends of Fish Creek today. Visit the Friends' Tru Earth page at <https://bit.ly/37kyppt>

Celebrating Over Ten Years! 2011 - 2022

CREEKFEST

Get to Know Watersheds!

Saturday, July 16 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Bow Valley Ranch, Fish Creek Provincial Park

Free and Fun for the Whole Family!



Get to Know Water and Healthy Watersheds

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of *Creekfest* with us as we combine this free summer time festival with our new *Get to Know Nature* program. This family-friendly event is open to the public and is an important component of the Friends' Watershed Stewardship program, designed to raise awareness about nature and how to protect it. The Friends have once again reimagined *Creekfest* in order to meet the needs of the community and more effectively deliver our message of conservation and environmental stewardship.

Discover what makes a healthy watershed, celebrate this province's beautiful protected natural areas, meet with local community organizations, and learn about the Friends' ongoing stewardship programs.

At *Get to Know Water & Watersheds*, you can:

- listen to a story and explore nature
- learn about the birds and other wildlife
- discover what makes a watershed healthy, how you can protect our local waterways, and much more!

For more info about *Get to Know Water & Watersheds* stay tuned to www.friendsoffishcreek.org/event/creekfest

This year's Creekfest event is part of our *Get to Know Nature* series of monthly events, where visitors can learn about a wide assortment of nature-related topics, from plants to pollinators, from birds to beavers, and much more. To learn about monthly *Get to Know Nature* events visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/know>



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Cohen
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ALBERTA
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FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER



Alberta

Alberta Parks

THAT'S A WRAP!

PROTECTING FISH CREEK'S TREES AND SENSITIVE AREAS

This spring, the Friends of Fish Creek invite you to support our conservation efforts in Fish Creek Provincial Park by helping us to purchase stucco wire through our new fundraising initiative - That's a Wrap! With your support we can reach our goal of raising \$5,000, enough for 67 rolls of wire. This flexible and durable wire mesh is used to wrap the base of trees and fence off sensitive areas along the creek. With 67 rolls we can protect 400 trees and over 250 linear metres of streambank here in Fish Creek.



Restoration volunteers cutting stucco wire for tree wrapping.

Wrapping trees is a safe and effective way to discourage the park's beavers from chewing trees and inhabiting areas that have designated pathways, culverts, and engineered storm

ponds. Friends' volunteers will focus on wrapping trees in areas that contain infrastructure that can be damaged by beaver activity, while leaving trees unwrapped in other areas to support healthy beaver populations

In addition to tree-wrapping, our ongoing Restoration program protects sensitive and over-used riparian areas in the park. Park visitors enjoy walking along the creek that flows through the park, but many of the riparian areas near the creek suffer from signs of over-use, such as soil compaction and erosion. Since 2014, the Friends have reclaimed many of these creekside areas and, with the help of volunteers and community partners, planted willow, poplar and other native plantings to support natural regeneration. Signage is also posted along these restoration sites so that park users are aware of the need to protect these areas.

We would like to thank everyone who donated and helped us raise over \$700 since the campaign started in March. If you have not yet donated towards That's a Wrap! and would like to help us reach our goal of \$5000 in support this important program please visit <https://bit.ly/3NwLVa7>

BITTER SISTERS BREWING CO.

PROUD SUPPORTER OF FISH CREEK

The Friends are excited to partner with local brew masters Jill and Tracy, proprietors of one of Calgary's newest restaurants and breweries – Bitter Sisters. During the month of May, stop by for a pint of Tarty Cousin Sue from the Donation Libation tap and help support the Friends of Fish Creek. Twenty-five cents from the sale of every Tarty Cousin Sue – a refreshing cranberry raspberry wheat ale – will go to the Friends of Fish Creek. Of course, the Bitter Sisters also have many

other brews to try and an extensive menu of all your pub favourites. Drop by Bitter Sisters, at 510 Heritage Drive and support Fish Creek by enjoying a Tarty Cousin Sue this month.

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org>



2022 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

EMMA STROUD, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Do you have free time and want to take part in volunteering opportunities in Fish Creek Provincial Park? The 2022 volunteering season is just around the corner, and we are looking for people to assist with various programs. Not only are there opportunities available for our longstanding programs, such as Park Watch, Weed Whackers, and Riparian Monitoring and ReWilding, we have a few new opportunities this year!

Create an account on our online volunteer system, [MyImpactPage](#) and select your “program interests” so we can communicate when opportunities and training sessions are open for sign-up.

Get to Know Nature events (T, PIC/VSC)

This year, we will be hosting FREE monthly opportunities for families to connect with each other and nature while having fun outdoors. If you love chatting with the public and helping to set up and take down events, please check off the “Nature Programming for Youth and Families” Program Interest in your MyImpactPage account.



Tour Guides & Assistants (T, E&W)

We are also planning to reinvigorate our tours program, and will need volunteers, both as Tour Guides and

Tour Assistants to get this program off the ground. If you enjoy public speaking, long walks in the park and sharing historical or ecological information to the public, this role may be right for you!

Weed Watchers (T, F)

Program Codes

T – training/orientation provided

F – flexible, once trained you can tailor shifts to fit your schedule

S – sign up for pre-scheduled shifts that work for you

E&W – mostly evening and weekend shifts

PIC/VSC – Police Information Check / Vulnerable Sector Check required

Invasive weeds are pervasive throughout Fish Creek Provincial Park, and we need help to locate and remove them! After a successful first year of the program in 2021, we are excited to team up with the Alberta Invasive Species Council and other partners to train volunteers on invasive plant ID and removal/disposal. Pair up with a teammate and take action by using our app to mark the location of invasives and removing the problematic plants.

Weed-Whipping/Mowing Crew (T, F)

Mowing and weed-whipping is a veritable strategy for tackling dense patches of invasive weeds like Canada thistle, which are difficult to control by hand. Weed-whipping and mowing volunteers will be trained on native and invasive plant ID and best practices when working in native grasslands to minimize disturbance. To prevent birds from using mowed areas for nesting, mowing/weed-whipping will be performed on a weekly basis from June to September.

ReWilding Site Monitors (T, F, S)

Take part in monitoring our restoration sites using the ArcGIS digital app. Since 2014, the Friends have restored nearly 750 m of riparian habitat on the banks of Fish Creek. Maintenance tasks in restoration sites could include adding additional tree cages, pruning, staking, flagging, weeding, repairing fences, and so much more!

Cont'd on next page

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CONT'D

Stewardship Truck Crew (T, F) - With the addition of our stewardship truck, we will need helping hands to ensure our ReWilding sites are maintained, whether it be watering or fence maintenance. Make connections by working in a small team and by providing direct assistance for the health and sustainability of our ReWilding sites.

For more information and links to apply to volunteer, visit our [Volunteering Basic webpage](#). We look forward to working with you to bring the Friends' 2022 programs to life in Fish Creek!

CAPTURE NATURE PHOTO CONTEST

Contest Runs May 2 - July 27, and

All Photos Must be Taken in Fish Creek Provincial Park

In its 8th year, the Capture Nature Photo Contest will once again give visitors to Fish Creek Provincial Park a fun and creative way to engage with nature! This year's contest runs from May 2 to July 27, and prizes will be awarded for the winning Adult and Youth photos as judged by our volunteer Jurors, and also by public vote through our on-line gallery. Whether you are an avid or professional photographer or are just enjoy walking through the park with camera in hand, Capture Nature is a great opportunity to explore the beauty of Fish Creek as you try to capture the winning image!

We have four new and somewhat challenging themes this year:

- Peek-a-boo!
- Seasonal Highlights
- Repetition
- Shadow & Light



You may already have a perfect photo that fits one of these themes, or are inspired to get out and do some exploring; either way is fine, as long as your photos are taken in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Thank you to our 2022 contest sponsors and donors: The Apothecary in Inglewood, The Bow Valley Ranch Restaurant, Vistek, RMB Photography, Elements Outfitters and SportChek.

Check out our website for registration details. <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/capturenature/>

Photo credit: Emma Norris, Parkland Mink (Capture Nature 2021 submission)



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SINCE 1897



GET INVOLVED THIS SUMMER!

GROUP STEWARDSHIP EXPERIENCES

SHANA BARBOUR, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK STEWARDSHIP & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MANAGER

One of the most happy and satisfying ways for us to pursue our mission of engaging the public is through active, hands-on, environmental stewardship. Not only does stewardship help us take care of our beloved park, but it gives people the opportunity to learn about local ecology, park-related issues, and feel good about giving back to a place that gives so much to so many. In addition to the more than 200 individual volunteers we work with each year, we also have the great fortune to engage with various community and corporate groups through our Group Stewardship Experience program.

Our Group Stewardship Experience program has a strong social enterprise aspect, meaning that it provides critical funding through program fees for those groups who have the resources to pay for a private experience. Simply put, these fees allow us to execute more stewardship work, as they help to pay for the staff time needed to coordinate and facilitate the outings, as well as the supplies and equipment needed for the work. And while this model definitely benefits us in many ways, it also supports the many corporate groups who take part in these opportunities each year, through helping them to meet their internal environmental/social



responsibility targets, for which they often have funds set aside to achieve. For those groups that may not be able to pay for a private experience, we also have “mini-experiences” available, where they can join in on an already scheduled public outing, or take part in a park clean up, which is completely self-directed and free (but donations are appreciated!)

If you are part of a group that is looking for an environmental stewardship opportunity, please check out our website to find out more, and to submit your booking request. Tree wrapping, restoration, poplar planting, weed pulls and clean ups are all available this year, however, these opportunities vary by season, and are booking up quickly!

For more information, you can also contact Shana Barbour at shana@friendsoffishcreek.org



WILD Outside youth group. Top right – Rotary Club, Calgary West.

WHAT CAN BEAVERS TEACH US?

MAKING THE OUTDOORS A MEANINGFUL EXTENSION OF OUR LIFE

HIMANSHU SANGALE, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER

My name is Himanshu and I have been a volunteer with the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society for over a year now. I'm a primarily a Beaver Coexistence program volunteer with the Friends, but I also volunteer in areas such as Park Watch, Pop-Up Outreach,



I think of *habitat*, I picture the association of life to a patch of the outdoors, a home of sorts, yet I'm excited and inspired when I think about how life can adapt to new habitats. It's an uplifting, and actionable thought, making the outdoors an extension of our homes and lives. For me, it's

Riparian Health/Weeding, and others. My journey through volunteering has served as an outlet for personal growth in numerous ways. Before my involvement with the Friends, I distinctly remember that I was, and still am, someone that was fascinated by the outdoors. I find myself very fortunate that somehow I had grasped the importance of stewardship and environmental conservation from a very early age, and was inspired enough to commit my time to action.

The message that I want to deliver is of the concept of habitat, a term that is both precise and versatile. When

something that should drive stewardship.

Through the Friends, and Cows and Fish (Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society), I've had the opportunity to culminate my learnings, passion, and experience in a video story format.

Visit the Friends YouTube Channel to enjoy my new video story "What Can Beavers Teach Us?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FccbCcf1gCk>

Photo, Tony LePrieur

SKIPTHEDEPOT - ALBERTA'S NEWEST WAY TO TURN *RETURNABLES* INTO CASH

Do you have bottles and cans, old clothes or even unused electronics in your home or garage? SkipTheDepot is an Alberta-based organization that will pick up your bottles and cans and enable you to donate the proceeds to the Friends of Fish Creek. Now there is no need to go to the depot or wait for a neighbourhood bottle-drive to redeem your empty beverage containers. The Friends are pleased to partner with SkipTheDepot to provide a new opportunity to support Fish Creek, or simply add a little cash to your own pocket. You can even start your spring cleaning early by letting SkipTheDepot know about old clothing and electronics. For more information or to schedule a pick-up please visit <https://app.skipthedepot.com/ffcpps>

HERON SANCTUARY

GREAT BLUE HERON NESTING SITE RECLAMATION PROJECT

EMMA STROUD, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR
AND DOUG VAN STAALDUINE, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER



The Great Blue Heron Sanctuary (GBHS) site was established in 1976 in Fish Creek Provincial Park. The GBHS was designed to preserve and protect blue herons which nested in a rookery under the

Parkland slopes between the Bow Valley Ranch and Glennfield day use areas. At the time of the sanctuary's construction, there were several dozen active nests in the area, with indications the site had been used for over 40 years. Herons are a very sensitive and secretive species, requiring private places to nest. The sanctuary was designed to provide this through a 915 m outer fence and an inner 365 m fence, constructed with 2.5 m treated lumber posts and 15x15 cm mesh opening page wire, around the balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*) trees where they nested. At one time the GBHS site also had a viewing platform on the other side of Fish Creek well away from the Sanctuary, equipped with an old-style viewing binoculars and information about the purpose of the sanctuary site.

Balsam poplar trees in the sanctuary site were affixed with numbered metal tags for research purposes and to track the ongoing nesting of birds. The number of herons using the site gradually declined between 1974 and 1986, returning in 1987 and 1988 without using the nesting site. A combination of factors is theorized to have contributed to the abandonment of the colony including increased use of Fish Creek and the Bow River, construction and occupation of new communities, and potentially the age or status of decaying trees making it

a less desirable nesting site. Incidental exclusion of beavers caused by fencing of the site has also contributed to delayed poplar regeneration, with most of the site dominated by decadent trees and agricultural grasses.

The GBHS was damaged in the 2008 and 2013 floods, with large sections of the fencing being pulled down and buried under sediment, vegetation, and flood debris. One of the park's wooden bridges was even deposited in the GBHS, along with a significant amount of related debris.



The commencement of the Heron Colony site fence removal in 2021. Great Blue Herons had not been using the preservation site in Fish Creek since 1988. Top Left, Great Blue Heron in Fish Creek, courtesy of Anne Elliott.

In the fall of 2021, Emma Stroud, Friends of Fish Creek Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator, interviewed Doug Van Staalduine, a Parkland resident who led the site reclamation.

Due to its natural seclusion and distance from day use area parking lots, the GBHS is one of the wildest areas of the park, with deer, moose, coyotes, porcupine and even vagrant cougars travelling through the landscape.

-Cont'd on next page

HERON SANCTUARY CONT'D

For years, Doug Van Staaldune has felt like this is his personal sanctuary to go and wander, sort of like being in the mountains. Being down at the GBHS jumpstarts his day. Doug is also a hobbyist wildlife photographer, and the effects of the 2008 and 2013 floods meant that the area was derelict and dangerous due to tripping hazards and sharp objects like nails and barbed wire, as well as being visually unappealing. The fencing influenced where he was able to travel, and also caused a corral-type trap that coyotes used to hunt deer. Doug also noted that the fence posts were pressure treated, drawing concerns about chemicals leaching into the environment or incidentally ingested by beavers using damaged posts to construct their dams.

With the free time afforded by the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, Doug had been wandering around in the park quite a bit and began thinking about a proposal to remove the derelict infrastructure that protected this now abandoned blue heron nesting site. Using our ArcGIS mapping platform, Doug mapped 420 posts and approximately one kilometre of fencing, and created a proposal for volunteers to complete this work in three

phases over three years, with a workforce of about ten volunteers. Serendipitously, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) contracted a trail inventory as part of a new Master Trails plan for Fish Creek Provincial Park in 2020, which also highlighted the declining ecological health of the Blue Heron Sanctuary site. With mounting concerns and geo-mapped fence post data, AEP and the Friends were able to work together to highlight areas within the sanctuary needing removal. AEP contracted a demolition and cleanup crew in August, 2021, and within a few days most of the fencing was removed and disposed of.

Doug continued travelling through the site and mapping remaining fence/wire that was missed by the contractor, and coordinated with AEP to have crews return for additional material. The timing of this collaboration was perfect and leveraged our ability to train volunteers to collect data that can be used to efficiently communicate and coordinate conservation work between the Friends and AEP. We are so thankful to have volunteers like Doug keeping an eye out in the park we all love!

FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK ONLINE STORE



Check out unique Friends of Fish Creek products online! All funds raised through the online store help the Friends enhance our message of conservation and environmental stewardship focused on this cherished urban park. Support your park in style or pick up a gift for a friend! We have books, hats, clothing and much more online.

Enamel Mug - Perfect for field work, camping or while watching your favourite shows, \$20.00 or 2 for \$30.00

For more info on these and other amazing items visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/store>

FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES

Fish Creek Speaker Series events are now Captioned for greater accessibility! Contact katie@friendsoffishcreek.org for info. This is a pilot until June 2022 – we want to hear from you regarding whether or not this service is helpful for you. A survey link will be included in the summer issue of the *Voice of the Friends* newsletter.

COMMUNITY PITCH NIGHT

SUBMIT OR VOTE ON IDEAS FOR PARK IMPROVEMENT

KATIE BAKKEN, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

Pictured here is a small team of volunteers who came together because a long-standing community member and volunteer, Joe Gerritsen, proposed the rejuvenation of the signage along the Single Track Trail. Not only did Joe propose the idea, he backed the idea up with his time, energy and dedication. Joe mapped the locations of the signs that needed replacement or removal and led a crew of volunteers, including our new Stewardship Truck, in the field to bring the project to fruition. Over several outings, the team successfully finished the work, a project that never would have been completed if it hadn't been brought forward by a community member.



Inspired by Joe's and other community members' willingness to step forward over the years, our June Fish Creek Speaker Series event will consist of a Special Projects Pitch Night. We are inviting all community members to submit their ideas for park and/or program improvement via an online form until May 16, 2022.

Ideas must aim to benefit the human and/or natural communities that recreate or live in the park, and fill a current need or resolve an issue. Proposals must centre on one of the following:

- improvement of current Friends of Fish Creek programming,
- restoration or reclamation of a natural area in the park, or
- repair, improvement or enhancement of existing park infrastructure.

To submit your special project idea, visit:

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/special-projects>

Ideas will then be reviewed and a select few will be chosen for further exploration. Those who submitted the short-listed ideas will then be invited to give a short presentation at the June 16 Fish Creek Speaker Series event, where audience members will have an opportunity to learn about each proposal, ask questions, and share feedback on the various projects.

To register to attend the June 16 Pitch Night, stay tuned to our website Events Calendar!

We look forward to receiving submissions and learning about your ideas!

The Fine Print: Proposal submission does not guarantee a project will be chosen for further exploration, and being chosen for further exploration does not guarantee realization. Individuals submitting proposals must be willing and able to give a 10-minute presentation at the Fish Creek Speaker Series online event, scheduled for June 16, 2022. Individuals submitting proposals must be willing to become a Friends of Fish Creek volunteer for the purposes of project realization, including completing a Friends of Fish Creek Volunteer Agreement, reading the most current Friends of Fish Creek Volunteer Handbook and creating/using a *MyImpactPage* account in order to coordinate involvement and log volunteer hours for project completion.

QUIZ ANSWER - WINTER ISSUE

In what year did the Provincial Government purchase the Bow Valley Ranch area from Patrick Burns?

Answer: 1973. Richard Burns, a relative of Patrick Burns, lived in the Rancho House until 1970, after which the house was leased to Robert Peters from 1970 – 1973. In 1973, the Provincial Government purchased the land from Macleod Trail to the Bow River which would soon become part of Fish Creek Provincial Park in 1975.
<https://www.bowvalleyranche.com/history>

We are looking forward to welcoming Interns again this year, through the CWF's Canadian Conservation Corps program.

STAFF

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Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator	Dylan Barnes dylan@friendsoffishcreek.org

2022 EXECUTIVE

Chair	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair	David Mitchell
Treasurer	Phil Greer
Governance Chair	Henry Villanueva
Secretary	Kari Horn
Director at Large	Christina Steed
Director at Large	Neil Groeneveld
Director at Large	Michael McCreadie
Park Liaison	Andrew Schoepf

Membership Form -

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

email: _____ Address and postal code: _____

☐ 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: \$ _____

To pay online: www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership or donate on CanadaHelps.org

Please Fill out: Membership \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total \$ _____

(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.