

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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Volume 28, Issue 3  
Summer 2023

The September  
Fish Creek Speaker Series

## BATS OF ALBERTA

Presented by  
Susan Holroyd MSc,  
Calgary Regional  
Coordinator, Alberta  
Community Bat Program



Thursday, September 14, 2023 , 7:00 - 8:00pm - Online and in person  
Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace, 13931 Woodpath Rd. SE

The Alberta Community Bat Program's mission is to raise awareness of bat conservation issues, help local residents manage bats in buildings, and to collect data needed to monitor and better understand bats in the province. Susan Holroyd of the Alberta Community Bat Program will discuss this province's bat species, the threats bats face, the ecological services they provide and how Albertans can help with bat conservation. At this presentation you can also learn about what to do if you find a bat, how to construct a bat house and have your questions answered about these fascinating flying mammals.

Free for Friends Members and \$10.00 for Non-Members. Free for Youth 16 Years of Age and Younger with Registered Adult. Registration is required. To register visit [friendsoffishcreek.org/event/fishcreekbats](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/event/fishcreekbats)

Photo courtesy of Cory Olson



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SPRING FUNDRAISER

# WESTJET GIFT OF FLIGHT

Congratulations to Melinda May McLaughlin - winner of the WestJet Gift of Flight prize package in the Friends' spring fundraiser. We would like to thank everybody who purchased tickets - with your help we raised \$17,960! Thank you to everyone who helped raise awareness about this raffle within the community through word of mouth, emails and social media. We could not have done it without all of your support! All funds raised through this campaign will be used right here in Fish Creek Provincial Park and help ensure the long term sustainability of this cherished natural area. Special thanks to our friends at WestJet for donating this amazing prize. Thank you to Community Action Team volunteer Ron Deshayes for securing this prize, and to John Dunfield for his assistance with delivering posters.



# WELCOME TO THE TEAM MONICA!

The Friends are pleased to introduce our newest staff member, Monica Myers. Monica started in the new position of Program Support Coordinator in early May and has been working closely with staff behind the scenes to strengthen our operations and highlight all the wonderful contributions of our volunteers and members. Monica also facilitates Corporate Stewardship Days, Fish Creek Speaker Series, Park Tours, and Wellness programs to engage the community in Fish Creek Provincial Park.



Monica brings with her over 10 years of experience as a researcher, working in Nature Reserves and National Parks internationally to monitor the behavioural ecology, social dynamics, and population recovery of critical species. She has also worked with public and not-for-profit organizations in the fields of sustainable ecotourism and labour market intelligence.

“I began volunteering in August of last year to meet new people in Calgary and give back to the city I call home. I never thought that this decision would lead to employment with the Friends and give me a chance to work in the Canadian conservation sector. I am passionate about nature, curious about ecosystem dynamics, and love to engage with people to learn about their lived experiences. I wish to extend my appreciation to the Friends for being so accepting and providing me with an opportunity of a lifetime!”

Monica and all of the Friends of Fish Creek are focused on providing opportunities to build awareness through nature-based activities and to promote well-being for park users, all while conserving a truly unique naturalized urban park. If you see Monica in the office, Visitor Centre, at events or out in the park, please stop and introduce yourself.

QUIZ QUESTION

What is the date of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and in what year was this day first commemorated?  
*The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.*

## THANK YOU PHIL GREER



On the evening of May 24, the Friends of Fish Creek hosted the 2022 Annual General Meeting and at the heart of the meeting was a farewell to Phil Greer. The longest serving Board member, Phil was the Treasurer since 2006 and maintained all financial records over the years. His enthusiasm and dedication to this role helped ensure the Friends of Fish Creek's financial stability for more than 17 years. Phil worked closely with the Executive Director and Bookkeeper, as well as with the auditors and Revenue Canada. He also took an active and engaged interest in the activities of the staff relating to donations, courses, memberships, fundraising, grants and conservation. In addition to volunteering as Treasurer, Phil helped out at various events over the years and will continue to volunteer as a Fish Creek Ambassador. The Friends would not have been able to accomplish so much over the years without his hard work, and his contributions have helped ensure that Fish Creek remains a healthy and beautiful public greenspace that we can enjoy for many years to come. If you see Phil at the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre or out in the park, make sure to stop and say hi.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to former Board members Henry Villanueva who acted as Governance Chair, helped with fundraising and community engagement events, and provided legal advice to the Friends since 2014. Thank you to retiring Board member Mike McCreadie who helped out over the past two years and will continue to volunteer as a Park Watch steward. The Friends would also like to welcome Ted Sutton and Eric Voss to the Board of Directors.

### CANADIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

## SUMMER INTERNS - ALEX AND CALLUM

EMMA STROUD, TEAM LEAD - ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION



From May - August the Friends were thrilled to work with two Canada Conservation Corps (CCC) interns - Alex Kelly (*left*) and Callum de Gouw (*right*). The interns have helped with projects like grassland and riparian restoration, the plant nursery, poplar planting, vegetation management, beaver co-existence, community events and many others. Callum is from Leduc, Alberta, and is passionate about cooking, solo-camping and has lots of knowledge about plants and their uses. Callum is excited to experience more fieldwork, learn different styles of wilderness survival and learn more about native plants. Alex



joins us from Oshawa, Ontario, and is passionate about working outdoors and in conservation. Alex has extensive landscaping experience, and managed a heritage garden and greenhouse back in Ontario. Alex joined the Conservation Corps because of her desire to be involved in active conservation and to inspire youth in her own community. We are very grateful to Alex and Callum for all their hard work and it has been our pleasure so far working with them this summer. Special thanks to the CCC program for their continued support.

## THANK YOU HENINGER TOYOTA

**HENINGER**

The Friends would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Heninger Toyota, and General Manger Mitch Massey for their most generous donation of \$500. This contribution will help the Friends continue our stewardship and outreach activities here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. We would also like to thank Bob

Bowman for reaching out to Mitch and developing a new partnership with Heninger Toyota. It is through amazing partnerships and the hard work of our volunteers that we are able to accomplish so much here in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Bob Bowman worked for many years on the Community Action Team and we are currently looking for volunteers who would like to join this small but dedicated group. Community Action volunteers meet regularly with staff, develop partnerships and explore funding opportunities with local businesses and organizations. If you have experience in sales or customer service, are motivated and self-directed, and are looking for a unique and rewarding volunteer opportunity, the Community Action Team may be for you. For more information about this role, please contact Chris Lalonde, Communications Manager, at [chris@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:chris@friendsoffishcreek.org).

## DEDICATE A BENCH IN FISH CREEK AND LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY!

You may have seen Friends of Fish Creek Dedication Benches through out Fish Creek Provincial Park. There are approx. 105 bench locations and each year several benches become available. Donors can dedicate a bench for ten years for a fee of \$5,250 as a tax-deductible donation, and have a personalized plaque affixed to the bench. At the end of the ten year term the donor will have the opportunity to renew the contract or cancel it.

These beautiful and sturdy dedication benches provide the perfect opportunity for you to show your support for Fish Creek Provincial Park while providing a comfortable place for park visitors to rest and appreciate nature. If you are interested in a bench please complete [the online Dedication Bench Form](#). This will ensure that you are added to the waitlist for a bench so we can contact you in the future when a bench becomes available. After completing the form, you will be taken to a payment page, and the bench deposit fee is \$500.



In 2024, there will most likely be some benches available in the west end of the park - Bebo Grove, Shannon Terrace, and Marshall Springs areas. So if you live in Canyon Meadows, Woodbine, Shawnessy or Evergreen and have been thinking about dedicating a bench, this may be the perfect opportunity for you.

Special thanks to Alberta Forestry and Parks and the Venturers Society of Calgary for supporting the Friends in the delivery of this very special program in Fish Creek. For more information please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/dedication-bench>

BOW VALLEY RANCH

# GRASSLAND UPDATE

EMMA STROUD, TEAM LEAD - ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

Between April and June, the Friends were hard at work preparing for seeding and planting native seeds and plugs in the grasslands around the Bow Valley Ranch. Expanding on the 0.5 hectare ATCO Heritage Grassland site, which was created in 2016, a 6 ha area around the site is now being managed to prevent the encroachment of smooth brome and other invasive species. The field



Native grasslands plugs including wild bergamot and Foothills rough fescue.

has been repeatedly mowed, raked and seeded with a native seed mix, to increase biodiversity, habitat, and ecosystem function. [Eastern Slopes Rangeland Seeds](#) provided us with a custom seed mix designated for restoring native Foothills fescue plant communities. The native seed mix was applied over 6 ha, and contains

grass species like western porcupine grass, green needle grass, Lewis flax, and northern wheatgrass. Live seed plugs complement this seed mix, giving seedlings a head start to compete against tall invasive grasses. The Friends planted 1800 live plugs in plant beds created last year by solarising with greenhouse plastic. Over four days, 15 volunteers

contributed 165 hours to planting, watering and creating rock gardens to establish these native plugs. Daily watering by volunteers and a rain-barrel irrigation system was needed due to the hot, dry weather we have had this year. Thank you everyone who has contributed to this project so far!

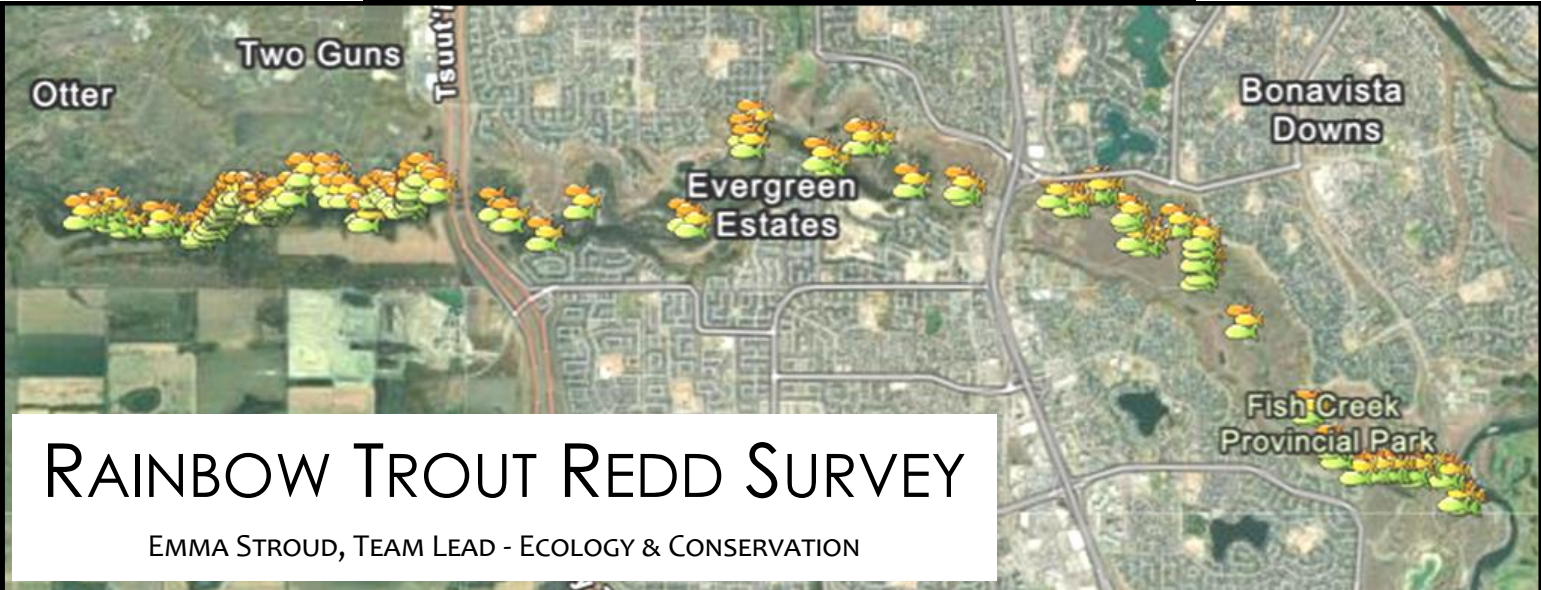
## *WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THOSE BAGS?*

You would not be the first to ask what is inside hundreds of garbage bags piled up in the Bow Valley Ranch grasslands. A 6 ha area of grass was mowed and raked in April and May in preparation for grassland seeding and planting. As the material collected contained invasive grass and weed seeds, it was bagged up in situ. To date, over 300 bags of grass litter have been collected and piled in "the pit," an area that was dug out and used to dispose of wooden farm material like sheds and fence posts in the early 1990s. Over the decades, the land has settled over top of this material, creating a large depression which remains difficult to manage for invasive species. Bags of grass litter are being stored in the pit until we have ensured all invasive seeds are rendered unviable through heat and suffocation. Soon, the bags will be opened and the hay inside will be used as compost to fill in the pit and set the stage for grassland restoration on top.

Thank you to the following groups for supporting our grassland project through financial and in kind contributions - [Alberta Ecotrust](#), the [University of Calgary's Student Union "Committee of 10,000"](#), [RBC Tech for Nature](#), [Alberta Parks](#), the [Alberta Invasive Species Council](#), and [Tannas Conservation Services Ltd.](#)



PARK MONITORING UPDATE



# RAINBOW TROUT REDD SURVEY

EMMA STROUD, TEAM LEAD - ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

Map showing the density of rainbow trout redds on Tsuut'ina Nation (map left), compared to the density in Fish Creek (map right).

On May 6, 2023, the Friends completed a second rainbow trout redd survey, accompanied by an inventory of beaver dams and rock dams along the way. This year, we extended an invite to our friends at Tsuut'ina Nation and the Upper Fish Creek Watershed Association, to collect more data within the watershed. Preliminary data shows a negative relationship between instances of rock dams and trout redds, and a positive relationship between beaver dams and trout redds; while beaver dams provide fish habitat and conditions suitable to spawning, rock dams act as a barrier to fish passage.

The density of trout redds upstream of Fish Creek on Tsuut'ina Land was much higher than within the

park, and there were much fewer rock dams. Did you know that Fish Creek is called "Wolf Creek" on the Nation? We logged 402 rainbow trout redds throughout the watershed this year, 25 rock dams, and 37 beaver dams. We are looking forward to completing another survey in November, when native brown trout begin their spawning. This year's endeavor was supported by [Fish Tales Fly Shop](#), who collected donations from ticket sales to their Fly Fishing Film Festival in May. Many thanks as well to all participants and volunteers who came out to help, with representatives from [Cows & Fish](#), Trout Unlimited Canada and Trout Unlimited: Bow River Chapter, the University of Calgary, St. Mary's University, and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT).



This October, the Friends of Fish Creek invite you to take part in our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual I ❤️ Fish Creek online fundraiser! By participating in I ❤️ Fish Creek, you will be helping to support the long term sustainability of Fish Creek Provincial Park. Bid on amazing silent auction items donated by local

businesses and organizations, and purchase your 50/50 raffle tickets for a chance to win up to \$10,000! By supporting the Friends through this fundraiser you can be sure that your contribution will be used effectively and efficiently right here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. For more information stay tuned to

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org>

## POPLAR PLANTING IN FISH CREEK

DYLAN BARNES, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

There are a lot of volunteer opportunities in Fish Creek Provincial Park that require the work and dedication of the community. Weeding, watering, monitoring, and planting are all important tasks that lend themselves towards the improvement of the park, but we seldom discuss what leads us to the work that we are doing in the first place. The *why* behind the *what* is an important part of our stewardship work and bears explaining.

The reason for tree planting is plain to see once pointed out to most people. If you take a walk through many sections of the poplar forest in Fish Creek, you are able to experience the majesty of the old trees. Gracing the pathways with their size and endurance. As your gaze wanders through the trees, it might occur to you that there are not very many young or middle-aged trees. While present in the forests, they make up a much smaller percentage of the overall canopy than would be expected in a healthy riparian (creekside) forest.

According to the Cows and Fish riparian health assessment scoring criteria, a thriving tree community should have a population of young trees that makes up 15% or more of the total canopy (about one in six trees). While the park is beautiful as it is, we want it to continue to be beautiful and will need to improve the current situation as the older trees die off.

Aesthetics are not the only reason for our tree planting efforts. Many birds rely on the existence of the poplar



forest for shelter and food. Pileated woodpeckers are one of the many bird species that



Northern Flicker at Hull's Wood, photo courtesy of Aiden Ducharme. Bottom left, Poplar Planting with volunteers on May 25 at Hull's Wood.

live in the park. These birds require a large range of old trees for habitat and a food source. As the poplar forests around Fish Creek change, so will the available habitat for birds. Owls and countless other species rely on these trees for nesting and shelter.

Other wildlife call the forest their home in the park. While the deer and coyotes are some of the more common examples, there exists a wide variety of species including weasels, beaver, mink, bobcat, and many others who use Fish Creek as a corridor through the city on their way to the Bow River. Less forest cover would mean added stress on these animals as they navigate the park.

Another benefit of a healthy riparian space is the added capacity to cope with storm water. Many storm water outflows that take in water from the surrounding communities eventually lead to the creek. Ponds and channels around the creek guide the water through the ground and vegetation leading to higher absorption of water and pollutants. The more plants there are in this system, the more effectively Fish Creek can clean the water heading towards the Bow River.

*-Cont'd on next page*

CONSERVATION UPDATE CONT'D

It stands to reason then that maintenance of the forest surrounding the creek is an important part of maintaining the water quality downstream of the City of Calgary.

When it comes to maintaining a healthy park there are a multitude of upsides. In addition to creating a more enjoyable park space, it provides much needed habitat for creatures large and small and improves the ecosystem inside and downstream of the City of Calgary limits. These factors combine to provide the motivation for us to act. Working with the generous donations made to us by members of our community as

well as sponsors and partners, we are working with our dedicated volunteer community to meet the challenge of poplar regeneration.

Every effort, from the planting of trees, to the pulling of weeds that halt the growth of new trees and shrubs, starts with our community. If you are interested in being a part of the effort to maintain Fish Creek, consider signing up to receive notifications about volunteer opportunities throughout the year and meet people who are also passionate about our valuable park spaces.

Please see Page 9 for information about getting involved through volunteering.



# PARK PROTECTORS NEEDED

*Become a Fish Creek Provincial Park Protector Today!*

Fish Creek Provincial Park is a cherished natural green space we are fortunate to have in the city. All of the Friends' programs and activities are designed to help preserve biodiversity and ensure a sustainable park environment so that future generations can enjoy this area as much as we do. We rely on a variety of funding sources like grants, memberships, program fees, sponsorships, fundraising efforts, as well as corporate donations and personal donations from community members like you to support our conservation, stewardship, and engagement activities here in this park. We are inviting community members to become Park Protectors and help support the Friends and the park. Through the Park Protector program, a monthly donation will be effortlessly withdrawn from a credit card of your choosing and you will receive a valuable tax receipt for your contribution. The Park Protector monthly donor program is the most convenient way to support Fish Creek Provincial Park everyday. Choose to donate \$10, \$30 or even \$50 each month, and rest assured that your hard-earned donation will be used effectively and efficiently right here in Fish Creek. We would like to thank all current Park Protectors for your support. Each month, generous Park Protectors contribute approximately \$850 in total donations. For more information on becoming a Park Protector please visit [friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup](http://friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup)

Photo: White-tailed deer, Ken Wright



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

# FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Below is a detailed list of upcoming volunteer programs. Please note that some of these positions are subject to police and vulnerable sector checks when working independently.

**Beaver Coexistence**

April - October

**Commitment:** Ongoing during active months

The Beaver Coexistence project aims to assist Alberta Parks in managing beaver activity and tree damage in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

A volunteer’s role in the project will involve monitoring beaver activity levels, identifying individual trees that require protection, and documenting the presence of dams. You will work with a partner to survey the park, record observations, and report any issues using the ArcGIS Field Maps app.

Additionally, you may have the opportunity to participate in maintenance tasks such as constructing levelers, building tree cages, inspecting beaver ponds, and traversing rough, off-trail terrain. These activities will require physical abilities, such as wading in water and navigating slippery and uneven ground.

**Riparian Health Assessments**

June - September

**Commitment:** Ongoing during active months

Volunteers will receive training from the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish) to evaluate the health of the riparian areas along Fish Creek and aid in planning our future restoration projects. In the training, you will learn how to identify common native and invasive plant species and use the scoring criteria provided to conduct assessments with a team along the creek over the program activity period.



Rotary Club volunteers helping with Restoration.

**Willow Harvest and Staking**

October

**Commitment:** As little as one day

Volunteers will help us gather live willow cuttings to create stakes that will then be planted in the park in our restoration sites. A single harvest event is followed by as many separate staking events as needed to finish the restoration sites. Once planted these stakes lay dormant until the following spring before sprouting into new willow plants.

**Watering Crew**

May - September

**Commitment:** Ongoing during active months

The watering crew contributes to the success of our restoration and poplar plantings by spreading water on our planted trees and riparian plants both inside and outside of restoration sites. Your team will take water from rain barrels located near where watering is needed and water our plantings to help them survive the summer. There will also be an opportunity for members of the watering crew to join our Truck Crew volunteers, who regularly fill up the on-site water storage tanks.

*-Cont'd on next page*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CONT'D**

**Mapping, Monitoring, and Maintenance**

April - October

**Commitment:** Ongoing during active months

Volunteering will consist of three key components. Updating data and associating it with geographical locations informs future efforts towards restoration while telling us about how we did in the past. A volunteer team will ideally take part in all three activities as the need arises.

**Mapping:**

Teams will work to input numbered trees, fences, and new restoration sites as data on ArcGIS Field Maps. This data informs future efforts towards restoration while telling us about how we did in the past.

**Monitoring:**

Photos will be taken at restoration sites and entered into ArcGIS Field Maps. Sites will be inspected for damaged fences, water boxes and overall maintenance needs. Observations of invasive species and plant condition can also be entered into ArcGIS Field Maps.

**Maintenance:**

Maintenance may include pruning the native species we have planted or replacing them with new plants if some have not survived at certain events.

Fences will be mended when needed, and Waterboxx parts replaced as needed.

**Riparian Restoration**

September - October

**Commitment:** As little as one day

Volunteers taking part in riparian restoration will be engaged in various manual labor activities in the park to help us construct restoration sites. A volunteer can sign up for part one or part two depending on preference. Part one includes constructing the fence that surrounds the restoration site, and part two includes the planting of vegetation in the newly fenced area including watering the newly planted vegetation.

**Community Engagement Volunteers:**

**Fish Creek Ambassador, Pathway Ambassador and/or Community Event volunteer**

**Commitment:** Varies

Community Engagement volunteers work in the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, out in the park and at community events. They provide information about Fish Creek Provincial Park and the Friends programs, and gather information and data about how people use the park. Please note that this can be an indoor or outdoor volunteer role.

*Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Friends of Fish Creek. If you are an existing volunteer please sign into MyImpactPage to see upcoming volunteer opportunities. If you have not yet volunteered with the Friends, please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/volunteering-basics>*



The Friends are pleased to partner with Tru Earth, a Canadian company 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.

Order your Tru Earth household products today and the Friends of Fish Creek will earn at least 20% of every sale made through this exciting ongoing fundraiser. Check out Tru Earth and make a purchase to support the Friends of Fish Creek today. Visit the Friends' Tru Earth page at <http://tru-earth.sjv.io/FriendsOfFishCreek>

## NOTICING NATURE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

JENNIFER SOLEM, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER

Noticing Nature in the Neighbourhood has its roots in the long connection between the late Gus Yaki and Calgary Board of Education elementary school teacher, Ms. Cynthia Su, whereby Gus would do neighbourhood or school ground nature walk-and-talks outdoors with classes at her schools. For a few years I was one of Gus' volunteers who would assist with these outings.

After Gus' passing in 2020, Ms. Su approached me to help continue his legacy of nature education. As it happened, at that time Katie Bakken, the Friends of Fish Creek Community Engagement Facilitator, was seeking to increase the Friends' connections with communities beyond the park's immediate surrounding neighbourhoods.

Ms. Su had taken a position teaching Grade 2 at Chris Akkerman School in NE Calgary. We saw an opportunity to do some outreach promoting the Friends' new Notice Nature Days to encourage a year-round connection with the park. Once COVID settled enough that volunteers were allowed back in the schools, in Spring 2022 a team consisting of myself, Angela Krauss van Son, and Adam Cline, did two Notice Nature events for the four Grade 2 classes at Chris Akkerman School - a May playground walk and a June neighbourhood walk. We brought in themes, items, and posters for upcoming Notice Nature Days and encouraged kids to come explore Fish Creek Provincial Park. Ms. Su was our school contact and made all necessary arrangements regarding permissions



Pollinator pollen transfer game (I made the flowers, bought the puppets and "pollen" pompoms).

and supervision. Katie's departure from the Friends staff in December last year meant that Get to Know Nature Days would not continue in Fish Creek in 2023, however the Friends saw the value of continuing the connections being made through the school program and allowed us to continue the outreach as general park promotion.

Themes and topics included tracks, scat,

white-tailed jackrabbits, birds, woodpeckers, pollinators, nests, insect life cycles, bees, ants, flies, deciduous and coniferous trees, lichen, butterflies, milkweed, migration and overwintering, the effects of sun and shadow on spring bloom time, safe litter disposal...and whatever else presented itself. We brought in some artifacts in addition to what was found in nature.

Activities included nature sketching, tracking, spring and winter themed "Can You Find..." guide sheets, City Nature Challenge promotion and the use of iNaturalist to identify and record observations.

### Spring 2023 Activities

- there were four Notice Nature in the Neighbourhood events this spring with Chris Akkerman School's four Grade 2 classes. Each class had approximately 25 kids each, so we reached close to 120 people, including teachers and volunteers.

*-Cont'd on next page*

EDUCATION OUTREACH CONT'D

- on March 22 and April 26 we led schoolyard walks, and on May 31 and June 21 we walked to a nearby neighbourhood pocket park to observe and sketch nature items.
- at the June program each child was given a Fish Creek pocket map (via teachers) and encouraged to come visit the park this summer for even more nature to notice.

Angela and I thoroughly enjoy these events and hope they continue. Other Friends volunteers with a passion for connecting kids with nature would be welcome. Ms. Su has indicated she will likely be changing teaching

positions for 2023-24 but she would like to continue with these events at her new school (also in NE Calgary).

Thank you to the Friends of Fish Creek for providing staff oversight and support so this public engagement program could continue in 2023. Thank you to Angela Krauss van Son, my brilliant partner in this adventure. Thank you to Ms. Cynthia Su for her commitment to connecting kids with nature, and to her fellow staff and parent volunteers who gave of their time to make this program happen. Thank you to the late Gus Yaki, our mentor in nature education. His boots are impossible to fill but they are so very fun and fulfilling to walk in.

## AUTOMOBILE IDLING

ANITA ALEXANDER, FISH CREEK COMMUNITY MEMBER

My name is Anita Alexander, and since retiring as a Calgary Board of Education teacher, I can usually be found in the great outdoors or knee deep in environmental protection action. I was a big fan of the late Gus Yaki, and I enjoyed his annual Nature Walk, his 29-person Bioblitz, and the Friends of Fish Creek Birding courses.

The environmental impact of vehicle idling is something I find deeply concerning. Mostly in the winter, but also in the summer, I notice a lot of my neighbours idling their vehicles, and I wanted to share some information about this troubling occurrence. So, what is the harm of vehicle idling? Well, possibly a little more than meets the eye, or the nose.

Eighteen years ago Natural Resources Canada and the Toronto Clean Air Council published a document for use by municipalities, citing that idling control bylaws were one means of tackling the problem of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions within their towns and cities.

Vancouver has a three minute limit on vehicle idling,

Toronto has a one minute limit, and Canmore has a five minute limit. I learned that in 2017 Calgary was looking at some bylaws, which are already in place in many other jurisdictions.

Calgary has declared a climate emergency, yet we are still without any restrictions on vehicle idling.

I am convinced that many of the folks on my street, who idle their cars for great lengths of time, are simply unaware of the damage being done. Education is important to having people idle less, and anything we can do to reduce our emissions is a win for our earth.

Image courtesy of Pixabay



SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS PRESENTED BY ALTALINK



Friends of Fish Creek  


Provincial Park Society



**MAKE YOUR  
 DONATION  
 GO FURTHER.**

## Support Outdoor Education in Fish Creek and Your Donation Will Be Matched Up to 50 %

The Friends of Fish Creek are honoured that our Learning Naturally program has once again been chosen as one of over 270 local charities to participate in the Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink program! Birdies for Kids, now in its eighth year, has a profound benefit for charitable organizations that support children's programming. This essential fundraiser runs until August 31 in conjunction with the Shaw Charity Classic Golf Tournament.

Through Learning Naturally, over 2,100 students between grades K-6 from economically-disadvantaged Calgary schools are provided a field trip to Fish Creek Provincial Park. Many of these students are new to Canada, and this unforgettable experience acts as not only their first visit to Fish Creek, but also their first real visit to a natural setting in this country. The lessons imparted on them during their Learning Naturally field trip help to support a lifelong concern for conservation and environmental stewardship.

This essential program does not receive regular funding and its continuation is in jeopardy. It costs only \$10 to support one Learning Naturally field trip for one student, and through Birdies for Kids, your donation will be matched up to 50%!

Please consider making a donation to Learning Naturally through Birdies for Kids, and speak to your employer or co-workers about this amazing opportunity to support outdoor education in Fish Creek.

We would like to thank the Greenfield Foundation for once again supporting Learning Naturally this year with a very generous donation.

Thank you to the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation, the Patron Group, Shaw Communications, and Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink for hosting this amazing program.

Donate today at <https://bit.ly/3IUUYAw>

QUIZ ANSWER - SPRING ISSUE

How many species of bees live in Alberta?

**Answer:** There are 357 bee species in Alberta. Bumble bees and honeybees, who live together in a hive and have a queen, are classified as social bees, but most native bees are classified as solitary, in that they live alone, and do not have a queen or a hive. Honeybees were brought over from Europe like many other species of wildlife and vegetation. Calgary has received certification for being a bee-friendly city for the concerted efforts to provide habitat and nutrition for bees and pollinating species along the city’s roadways and greenspaces.

<https://www.albertanativebeecouncil.ca>

STAFF		2023 EXECUTIVE	
Executive Director -	Nic Blanchet	Chair -	Bob Morrin
Communications Manager -	Chris Lalonde	Vice-Chair -	David Mitchell
Team Lead - Ecology & Conservation -	Emma Stroud	Treasurer -	Vacant
Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator -	Dylan Barnes	Governance Chair -	Vacant
Visitor Services Coordinator -	Kumiko Kamiike	Secretary -	Kari Horn
Program Support Coordinator -	Monica Myers	Director at Large -	Christina Steed
Canadian Conservation Corps Summer Interns		Director at Large -	Neil Groeneveld
Alex Kelly and Callum deGouw		Director at Large -	Ted Sutton
Staff contact information available at		Director at Large -	Eric Voss
<a href="https://friendsoffishcreek.org/contact-2">https://friendsoffishcreek.org/contact-2</a>		Park Liaison -	Nancy Ouimet
		Learn more about our Board of Directors at	
		<a href="https://friendsoffishcreek.org/board">https://friendsoffishcreek.org/board</a>	

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 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](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership) or donate on [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org)

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