

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

www.friendsoffishcreek.org

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

Volume 28, Issue 4
Autumn 2023

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



As you pass through the different areas of Fish Creek Provincial Park you have most likely seen and perhaps sat upon one of these beautiful benches. Dedication benches provide a comfortable place for park visitors to rest and appreciate nature, and feature a bronze plaque with a unique and personal message. There are approximately 105 benches in the park, and each year several benches are made available to a new donor.

Coming up in 2024, we will have some beautiful benches in the west and central regions of the park, so if you have been thinking about dedicating a bench, this may be the perfect opportunity for you. Benches are available for a ten year term and all donors will receive a valuable tax receipt. Dedicating a bench here in Fish Creek Provincial Park is also the perfect way to leave a lasting legacy for future generations of your family.

The dedication bench program provides essential funding for the Friends and helps ensure that we can continue and expand upon our stewardship and engagement activities in the park. We would like to thank Alberta Forestry and Parks and the Venturers Society of Calgary for supporting the Friends in the delivery of this very special program. For more information or to dedicate a bench, please give us a call at 403-238-3841 ext. 1 or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/dedication-bench>



Also in this Issue:

Page 2: Welcome Ross
Year-end Donation
Page 3: CCC Autumn Interns
Page 4: I ♥ Fish Creek
Quiz Question
Page 5: Restoration Update
Page 6: Tree Island
Tru Earth
Page 7: Grassland Update

Page 8: Fish Creek Community Terrace
Page 9: Poplar Rescue
Page 10: Membership and Park Protector
Page 11: Capture Nature Photo Contest
Page 12: Field of Fame at the Bow Valley Ranch
Page 13: Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink
Page 14: Quiz Answer
2023 Executive
Membership Renewal

WELCOME TO THE TEAM ROSS



The Friends are pleased to welcome Ross Anderson as the newest member of the team! Ross came on board near the end of October in the new role of Field Assistant and has been helping with Watershed Stewardship and Grassland Restoration activities. Ross recently graduated from St. Mary's University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and has worked at the Deer Run Community Centre in the maintenance and event planning departments. He is experienced in data collection and analysis, and outdoor fieldwork - including invasive species surveys, mapping, wildlife identification, and water quality testing. "I have enjoyed the dynamic structure of my role with the Friends so far," he said "Each day has been different and I have gained new learning experiences. I also enjoy working outside, and am looking forward to new experiences and learning more about the park." In only a short time, Ross has been involved with documenting brown trout redds and beaver dams along the creek, wrapping trees to protect them from beavers, processing and planting native grassland seed, working with arcGIS data and transplanting poplar trees for grassland restoration. If you see Ross out in the park or in the office, please stop and say hi.

WHAT DOES FISH CREEK MEAN TO YOU?

As we approach the end of the year, you may be thinking about allocating funds to some of your favourite charities. There are so many amazing charitable organizations that it can be challenging to decide who to support with your hard-earned donation dollars. The past few years have certainly been challenging as costs continue to rise and just making ends meet can be overwhelming for some. No matter the economical factors impacting our lives, Fish Creek Provincial Park provides a natural escape from the stresses of daily life.



Fish Creek Provincial Park is a relatively small area compared to other parks in Kananaskis but receives a significant number of visitors, many of whom visit almost every day. It is wonderful that so many community members visit Fish Creek and benefit from all that this breathtaking park has to offer, however, the increase in use puts a strain on the park's sensitive ecosystems and limited resources. Most of the provincial funds designated for Fish Creek are used for routine maintenance, washroom facilities, pathways and infrastructure, with very little allocated for park ecology and conservation programs.

The Friends invite you to consider making a year-end donation to support our work, as even a modest contribution would go a long way in benefitting Fish Creek Provincial Park. You can rest assured that your hard-earned donation dollars will be used effectively right here in this park that gives so much to the community. To donate please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/ffc-donate> or contact the Friends at 403-238-3841.

Photo, Ken Pride

CANADIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

MEET JO AND SIDRIC!

Participants in the Canadian Conservation Corps internship program provide assistance and expertise so that we can accomplish more of our goals and expand on projects. We are once again very pleased to be working with CCC interns during the busy autumn season. For the past month, the Friends staff have enjoyed working with Jo Brockie and Sidric Jasmin, who have made significant contributions to the organization in just a small amount of time.

Sidric and Jo have helped with restoration projects like willow staking, tree wrapping, working in the nursery and planting vegetation in the park. They also assisted with the October fundraiser and created content for our social media channels, enabling us to do more in the park and increasing our reach within the community.

Jo has also participated in the Park Watch and Pathway Ambassador programs, the Gratitude Park Tour, the Ghost Tours, and developed educational programming. She is originally from Brampton, Ontario and holds a BA in International Development, specialization in Gender and Development, and a Certificate in Civic Engagement and Global Citizenship.

“What I have enjoyed the most about working with the Friends of Fish Creek is the opportunity to make a real difference in preserving this beautiful natural space while also engaging with a passionate and dedicated community of individuals who share a common goal of environmental stewardship,” Jo said, “It has been a rewarding journey that has deepened my commitment to conservation.”

Sidric Jasmin was born and raised in the big city of Montreal and is fluent in both French and English. He graduated two years ago with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration at the HEC University in Montreal (Hautes Etudes Commercial). Thus far Sidric



CCC program participants Jo Brockie and Sidric Jasmin

has contributed to office tasks like Excel database management, Better Impact management, writing, designing event banners, and revamping education guides, with plans to help out with additional web-based communications.

“What I’ve cherished the most about working with Friends of Fish Creek is that I can use my existing skillset and interests to contribute to conservation in my own way,” Sidric said, “I’ve been inspired by the versatility of my skillset and how it can be harnessed to make a meaningful impact. Furthermore, I’ve loved the opportunity to learn more about the intricacies of conservation, whether out in the field or through my contributions behind the scenes.”

The restoration, stewardship, and community engagement projects and programs here in Fish Creek have provided Sidric and Jo with new experiences in a new part of the country and helped to foster their passion for supporting wildlife and the conservation of the natural world. The Friends appreciate all of the contributions Jo and Sidric have made so far, and look forward to working with them until their internship wraps up in December.

I FISH CREEK

The Friends would like to thank everyone who took part in the 4th Annual I ♥ Fish Creek fundraiser in October. Your support and involvement has provided essential funding for our various programs here in Fish Creek Provincial Park.



retrieving auction items, making essential connections with community-focused businesses, and helping to organize this important fundraiser. Thank you Canadian Conservation Corps. Interns Sidric and Jo for helping raise awareness about this fundraiser.

Community members could support the Friends and the park by bidding on silent auction items donated by local businesses and organizations, purchasing a 50/50 raffle ticket, making a donation, or simply sharing their favourite Fish Creek experience.

Our goal was to raise \$20,000 this year and we brought in a total of \$13,935 during the month of October. We did not reach our goal but raised a little more than last year - \$12,540 - and are very grateful to everyone who participated. The silent auction raised approximately \$4,620, the 50/50 raffle brought in \$4,225, and we received \$4,291 in personal donations.

Congratulations to Aline Bruneau for winning the 50/50 draw for the grand prize of \$5,365! Since we started running online 50/50 draws this one was the most successful.

Special thanks to Community Action Team volunteers Angel Spasoff, Ron Deshayes, and Christina Arnold for

We would also like to thank the following organizations and community members for donating auction items: Active Sports Therapy, Avenida Pet Clinic, Burwood Distillery, Calgary Co-op, Calgary Cycle, Calgary Outdoor Yoga, Capital Chevrolet Buick GMC, City & Country Urban Winery, Eau Claire Distillery, Fish Tales Fly Shop, Friday Sock Company, Friends of Fish Creek Birding Course Instructors, Highwood Golf, Holistic Institute of Health & Fertility, Home Depot, IHOP, Kensington Art Supply, McKenzie Meadows Golf Club, Milestones, Kathleen Moors, Bob Morrin, Pensak Houghton Dentistry, Rocky Mountain Soap Company, Saje Natural Wellness, Soffritto, Wild Rose Brewery, and SunnyCider.

The Friends are able to accomplish so much here in Fish Creek thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and our partnerships within the surrounding communities. Thank you to everyone who to part in this unique fundraiser in support of Fish Creek Provincial Park.

Photo, Abby Keeler

QUIZ QUESTION

What is a redd survey and how does it relate to the health of a watershed?

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

RESTORATION IN FISH CREEK

DYLAN BARNES, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Through the fall, with a lot of help from our volunteers, the Friends staff work to install restoration sites along the creek. These sites are fenced, mapped, planted, mulched, watered, and cared for through the season until wintertime. You might find that these sites have an impact on where you can visit the creek, seeing as how they limit access with the fences, but the impact that the sites can have from an ecological perspective far outweighs the inconvenience of more difficult creek access.

Erosion control first comes to mind when talking about Fish Creek Provincial Park. Many of our trails in the park follow the flow of the creek and subsequently could be damaged by an eroding bank. This has the knock-on effect of creating the need for new trails in the area to compensate for unsafe conditions on trails close to the creek. These new trails could cause more damage to the vegetation in the area though compacting the earth and trampling new growth. These trails in turn could lead to more erosion as less plants are then present to hold the bank in place when the creek comes to wash out the next bit of land. By installing restoration sites in strategic spots, plants can be allowed to flourish down close to the water, helping hold the bank in during both regular spring flooding and larger flood events. In a few years, the bank is stable enough that park visitors will be able to appreciate the site without the need for the fence.

Flooding is something that is also helped by denser vegetation next to the creek. Any time the creek rises above its normal bounds, plants around the edge of the water system help to slow the flow of the water and increase the amount of water that the land can absorb.



This means less intense flooding downstream of the creek any time there's a major event, and more benefit derived from regular high flow in the spring. To get these benefits requires revegetation of areas that previously had very few plants to take advantage of flood phenomena. Our goal with the sites is to add plants back to places experiencing the deleterious effects of low vegetation. By building restoration sites, we can make sure water going through the park does so as slowly as possible so that the park can benefit as much as possible from the presence of water.

More plants along the creek can also help prevent drought. Vegetation that shades the creek helps slow the evaporation of water from the creek during the hot, dry days of summer. While this effect takes some time to be effective, it goes to prove how planning as long as possible into the future can have an impact on the creek's water. This effect is less direct but can still have an impact on the way that water moves through the landscape. Another way that having more plants along the creek helps is by providing food for beavers.

Beavers have a tremendous impact on the creek's water supply. They can double the holding capacity of a body of water simply by building dams and digging out channels.

-Cont'd on next page

CONSERVATION UPDATE CONT'D



Beaver dam along the creek in the central area of Fish Creek.

By making sure that Fish Creek continues to be a home for beavers fifty or more years in the future, we can ensure that the creek is as drought proof as it can be by increasing the amount of water in the creek.

Providing more shade over the water and food for beavers at the same time sounds like a contradiction. However, by encouraging beaver activity away from areas that have human infrastructure, and by

encouraging human visitors to respect the vegetation near the edge of the creek, both can be accomplished. This serves to illustrate just how important it is to protect trees and plants next to the creek pathways. Since those are the areas where we need the most shade, it's important to be as careful as possible in these areas. Staying on the designated pathways and respecting restoration sites are the easiest ways to make sure that Fish Creek Provincial Park stays as wonderful in the future as it is now. Being a part of this strategy is important to ensure that the investments we make now have the highest impact possible. The other part of the strategy is completed through many of our project partners including the City of Calgary, the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program, and Alberta Forestry and Parks. With the help of our partners and volunteers, we install restoration sites to make sure that we are doing our part as a community organization to protect the park.



We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Tree Island Steel for once again supporting the restoration program here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. For the third year in a row Tree Island provided us with stucco wire at an amazing discount. We purchased 150 roles at a 70% discount from the retail cost—a savings of almost \$10,000! We will use this wire for tree-wrapping, fencing off restoration sites, and wrapping newly planted poplars. Thank you to Tree Island and special thanks to lead volunteer Ron Deshayes for securing this contribution. The Friends are truly grateful for the ongoing partnership with this community-minded local business.



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/FriendsOffFishCreek> or friendsoffishcreek.org/store

GRASSLAND UPDATE

EMMA STROUD, TEAM LEAD - ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

SOIL SOLARISATION PROGRESS

In 2022, we created two solarisation patches west of the ATCO Heritage Grassland at the Bow Valley Ranch. Solarisation kills invasive smooth brome by forcing the seed bank to germinate, and then suffocating seedlings under greenhouse plastic. This spring, the plastic was removed, and all dead thatch underneath was raked up to prepare a clean soil substrate perfect for sowing native seed. In May of 2023, these patches of bare soil were seeded with a native grass seed mix containing Canada wild rye, green needle grass, June grass, Western porcupine grass, Northern wheat grass, Sandberg bluegrass and Idaho fescue. We then planted 900 Foothills rough fescue seedling plugs, and 900 mixed grassland forb plugs like



prairie coneflower, wild bergamot, harebells, stiff golden-rod, prairie fleabane, yarrow, blanket flower and more. During the summer months, seedlings were



WILD Outside youth creating solarisation patches in 2022. Photo, Kate Hanna. Bottom, Fully planted solarisation patch at the end of the growing season, August 2023.

nurtured by diligent volunteers who came out to water, weed and build irrigation systems for the plots. By August, much of the grass seed had germinated, matured, and began producing its own seed. Similarly, while many of the forbs focus on developing strong root systems this year, the yarrow, coneflower, fleabane and harebells gave us delightful blooms and have now also turned to seed.

COWS AND FISH HELPING TO EXPAND ATCO GRASSLAND

In 2021, Cows and Fish (The Alberta Riparian Management Society) performed a Rangeland Health Assessment on the ATCO Heritage Grassland. The grassland was given a score of 63%, assessed as “healthy, with problems,” with main concerns coming from invasive species like smooth brome, Canada thistle, yellow toadflax and other noxious weeds. The assessment recommended managing smooth brome surrounding the 0.5-hectare plot, to ensure native grasses were not outcompeted by the strong agronomic grass remaining from when the Bow Valley Ranch was an active ranch.

-Cont'd on next page

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



GRASSLAND UPDATE CONT'D

Following this advice, we expanded the site to 6-hectares, mowed, raked and re-seeded with the custom seed mix prepared by Eastern Slopes Rangeland Seeds (Tannas Conservation Services Ltd.). Cows and Fish returned in 2023 to help with the restoration process and document our management of the site. We will perform another Rangeland Health Assessment next year, to evaluate our interim success of the expanded grassland restoration project.

NATIVE SEED SALVAGE WITH GENESIS LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Genesis Land Development Corp. granted the Alberta Native Plant Council the opportunity to hold a native plant seed harvest at their Logan Landing development, immediately south of the community of Seton in Calgary. Friends of Fish Creek volunteers harvested around 5 kg of native grass and forb seeds including dotted blazing star, stiff goldenrod, stiff sunflower, prairie and fringed sage, smooth blue aster, blue grama

grass, needle and thread grass, Foothills fescue, and more. This seed salvage offered an incredible opportunity to extend our restoration



Emma and Will collecting native seed on a hillside on the property. Photo, Emma Norris.

season this year and spread more seed over our grassland sites in October. Silky lupine and purple prairie clover were two of my personal favorite seeds collected, as they both are important legumes, making nitrogen available to be taken up by other plants. We are looking forward to future access to harvest seed at this site to enhance our capacity to restore native grasslands in Fish Creek. Thank you Genesis for this great opportunity!

PHASE 3 OF THE FISH CREEK COMMUNITY TERRACE

Thank you to everyone who dedicated a brick in Phase 3 of the Fish Creek Community Terrace. This unique fundraising activity provides essential support for us to continue delivering programs and events here in Fish Creek Provincial Park. We would like to thank volunteers David and Bruce for installing the next batch of 37 bricks in August. If you have been to the Bow Valley Ranch recently, you may have seen the Fish Creek Community Terrace, which consists of personalized bricks installed just in front of the Cookhouse. Every brick tells a story and we are



very grateful that so many community members are sharing their story right here in Fish Creek through this program. The Friends are now offering bricks for Phase 4 of the Fish Creek Community Terrace to be installed in 2024. As we approach the holiday season, we invite you to consider dedicating a brick as a gift for anyone on your list who enjoys visiting Fish Creek and would like to see it preserved. For more information, please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/brick>

POPLAR RESCUE WITH VOLUNTEERS

DYLAN BARNES, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

For the past three years, the Friends of Fish Creek have run a volunteering event to rescue stranded balsam poplars out of our managed grassland spaces near the Bow Valley Ranch, and bring them to our native plant garden. After a brief stay to ensure their health, the trees are then planted into our project areas in the park. This helps preserve the park's ecology by transplanting trees out of an area where they would otherwise need to be destroyed. We save not only the expense of a new tree, but also the energy that the tree put into growing in the first place. Through events like these, we hope to encourage community members to respect the natural spaces around them as well as inspire them to take part in keeping Fish Creek Provincial Park a beautiful place.



experience! We had a great time in nature. It was such a meaningful experience for our kids to explore nature in a way they don't usually get to. Getting to experience taking a part of caring of the park by digging the soil, taking those poplar seedlings and transferring to their nursery, and to know that the park we enjoy is kept well thanks to your care and efforts was such an invaluable experience!

The interaction with the staff and volunteers of Friends of Fish Creek was a blessing as well. My daughter and I enjoyed the conversation with them, and

learned that poplars need to be planted near water, new baby trees come out from a root of its parent tree, how many years a poplar usually lives, and more. My daughter told me that she was especially amazed to know that a root can grow even when it's cut really short, and the tree will continue living and growing.

*Thank you Friends of Fish Creek for letting us join the "save the poplar" project! Please let us know if you have any more experimental projects you guys want to try out with kids! Kindest regards,
- Miyako*



On August 8, several volunteers and their families helped out with a Poplar Rescue project. Below are some messages we received from them shortly after the event.

I just wanted to thank you all again for such an amazing



- Cont'd on next page

POPLAR RESCUE WITH VOLUNTEERS *CONT'D*

My 3-year-old daughters and I recently joined a dozen other volunteers at Fish Creek Provincial Park. We collected poplar saplings that were growing up from the root systems of larger trees and moved them to a nursery; the saplings would be nurtured there in the nursery, and when they'd grown up a little more, they would be transplanted to other areas that needed the trees. I really appreciated the fact that we weren't just removing "nuisance" growths to be composted. We were helping Fish Creek by helping move young trees to where they were needed and where they could eventually thrive.

The organizers were great – super nice, and really helpful. The girls and I had a great experience.

After the event, I felt that we had become a real part of the Fish Creek Provincial Park community. We went to the Visitor Centre and learned more about the history of the park. I think my daughters felt the same way – they had a great time with the other kids who were there too – and I really appreciate that the organization gave us the opportunity to take part in this activity.

I hope more of these kinds of events will be held, and that others will be able to join too. This was a great experience, and I strongly recommend joining in next time!

- Natsuki

MEMBERSHIP AND THE PARK PROTECTOR PROGRAM

Now is the best time of year to renew your Friends of Fish Creek membership or to become a member. We are now providing memberships, which will be good until December 31, 2024. Membership fees are \$35 - individual, \$45 - family, \$25 - senior individual, or \$30 - senior family. Your membership contribution will go a long way in helping us to create a community of informed park users and in turn benefit the park landscape. Friends members receive benefits like admission to our Fish Creek Speaker Series programs, a

discount on the popular Birding Courses, a discount at select local businesses, and the ability to vote at our Annual General Meeting. To renew your commitment to Fish Creek Provincial Park please mail in the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/membership>

As an alternative to annual membership renewals, you may be interested in our Park Protector program. Subscribe as a Park Protector and a monthly donation will be effortlessly withdrawn from a credit card of your choosing. A Park Protector subscription is the most convenient way to support Fish Creek everyday. Choose to donate \$10, \$30 or even \$50 each month, and help contribute to the long term sustainability of Fish Creek Provincial Park. We would like to thank all current Park Protectors for your support. For more information on becoming a Park Protector please contact the Friends of Fish Creek or visit friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup

Photo, Bridge 10 by Alan Lam



CAPTURE NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

From May 1 - July 31, we hosted our ninth Annual Capture Nature Photography Contest. This year's categories were Winter Wonderland, The Elements, and As Above So Below. We received 54 photo submissions relating to these categories and enjoyed seeing how these themes were interpreted through photography. We enjoy looking through photos of this beautiful park and appreciate all participants. Winning photos were divided into Adult and Youth classifications, and Public and Juror vote categories.



This year's winners, top to bottom:
As Above So Below, Tony LePrieur, Votier's Flats beavers, Adult Public Vote. The Elements, Kamran Shukoor, Bebo Grove rainy forest, Youth Public Vote. The Elements, Cathy Brodner, Bankside landscape, Adult Juror Vote

As expected it was very challenging to choose the winning photos with so many amazing submissions. Please take a look at all of this year's photos online at <https://capturenature1.shootproof.com/gallery/11604120>

Thank you to the 2023 Capture Nature sponsors for donating prize packages: The Apothecary in Inglewood, RMB Photography, and London Drugs. Special thanks to the Capture Nature volunteers who coordinated the program and who once again led another spirited round of voting.



THE
APOTHECARY
— IN INGLEWOOD —

R M B
PHOTOGRAPHY

LONDON
DRUGS

ALBERTA CHAMPIONS SOCIETY IN FISH CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK

PAT CHRISTIE, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR OF ALBERTA CHAMPIONS SOCIETY

Alberta Champions Society is pleased to present our newest “Field of Fame Seven” located in the Bow Valley Ranch area of Fish Creek Provincial Park. Alberta Champions Society was created to commemorate, recognize and honour those deserving Albertans who have made a significant lifetime contribution to our city and province. This is achieved by placing six monuments in a grouping, called a “Field of Fame” to provide special recognition of the very special individuals chosen. Alberta Champions has located “Fields of Fame” at seven strategic locations around Calgary in the past few years.

Alberta Champions recently unveiled the monuments for our newest champions at Field of Fame Seven in Fish Creek Provincial Park which include:

Gus Yaki who was a passionate naturalist and birder who is particularly remembered in Fish Creek Provincial Park for the birding classes he created. In 2017, at age 84 he led a walk across Southern Alberta from Saskatchewan to Waterton Park to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, in support of bird study and habitat conservation.

Virnetta Anderson who was the first Black member of Calgary City Council and a leader in many community organizations.

Narcisse Blood who was a Blackfoot Traditional Spiritual Elder who was passionate about preserving and sharing traditional Blackfoot spiritual ways and cultural heritage.

Michael Green who was Co-Artistic Director and founding member of One Yellow Rabbit Performance Theatre. Michael was the significant force behind the establishment of the Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society



and Executive Producer/Creator of the Making Treaty 7 Production in 2012, assisted by Narcisse Blood.

Narcisse Blood and Michael Green died together while on a humanitarian mission of cultural healing in February 2015. They are recognized on the same monument as a symbol of reconciliation.

Roderick (Roddy) Mah who played a vital role in preserving Chinatown in Calgary as well as developing China-Canada business connections.

Chuck Mawer who was a decorated naval officer in WWII and later built the hugely successful firm of Mawer Investment Management.

Peter Prince who arrived in Calgary in 1886, built the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Mill along with many other businesses and created Prince's Island on the Bow River.

Come down to the park and take a look at Field of Fame Seven and learn more about these outstanding Albertans. Read more about this program at www.albertachampions.org

SHAW BIRDIES FOR KIDS PRESENTED BY ALTALINK



*Friends' Shaw Birdies for Kids
presented by AltaLink
Campaign Most Successful to Date!*



Thank you to everyone who donated towards Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink this year. With your support, this year's campaign was the most successful to date. We had set our fundraising goal at \$25,000 and surpassed that to raise \$34,946 after the matching contribution by the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation. This funding will support an unforgettable day of learning for approximately an additional 3,494 Calgary students. If it were not for the Friends' and Alberta Forestry and Parks' Learning Naturally program, countless students would not be afforded a life-changing experience here in the natural splendour of Fish Creek.

Special thanks to the Greenfield Foundation, the Scott Sarjeant family, Elaine Barnes, Patricia Gail Jardine, and Tom Bamford with Platinum Racing for their most generous contributions which really elevated this fundraiser. In addition to these donors, twenty community members also donated in support of Learning Naturally.

Learning Naturally is run mainly out of the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre at Shannon Terrace in the far west end of Fish Creek and is available to select Calgary schools. Children between grades K - 6 enjoy

learning about nature and conservation through curriculum-focused programs like Winter Wonder, Animals and Winter, Fish Creek Families, Wildlife Cycles, Fish Creek: Land, Histories & Stories and Orienteering.

Many of the Learning Naturally students are from families that are new to Canada and their field trip acts as not only their first visit to Fish Creek but their first visit to nature in this country. We are very proud of the Learning Naturally program and the difference it makes in the lives of thousands of children each year. It is through exceptional partnerships like the one we have with Birdies for Kids, that this program is able to continue.

This essential program does not receive regular funding and while we are very grateful for all the contributions to Learning Naturally, its continuation is in jeopardy. The Friends are seeking long term funding for this educational program.

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.

Photo courtesy of the Shaw Charity Classic Foundation

QUIZ ANSWER - SUMMER ISSUE

What is the date of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and in what year was this day first commemorated?

Answer: September 30 is the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and it was established in 2021. The day is designed to honour the memory of Indigenous children who suffered and perished in Canadian residential schools, and to celebrate Indigenous people who survived residential schools. Truth and Reconciliation Day is a somber occasion that spurs discussion about this country's past. It provides a common ground for Canadians of all backgrounds to come together, remember the past, address past injustices, and hopefully move forward together. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/first-national-truth-reconciliation-day-1.6188540>

STAFF

Executive Director -	Nic Blanchet
Communications Manager -	Chris Lalonde
Team Lead - Ecology & Conservation -	Emma Stroud
Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator -	Dylan Barnes
Visitor Services Coordinator -	Kumiko Kamiike
Program Support Coordinator -	Monica Myers
Field Assistant -	Ross Anderson

Canadian Conservation Corps Autumn Interns

Sidric Jasmine and Jo Brockie

Staff contact information available at
<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/contact-2>

2023 EXECUTIVE

Chair -	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair -	David Mitchell
Treasurer -	Vacant
Governance Chair -	Vacant
Secretary -	Kari Horn
Director at Large -	Christina Steed
Director at Large -	Neil Groeneveld
Director at Large -	Ted Sutton
Director at Large -	Eric Voss
Park Liaison -	Nancy Ouimet

Learn more about our Board of Directors at
<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/board>

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.