



# Newsletter

## SUMMER 2013

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## Park In Path Of Jail Access Road

Joe Fries – Western News Staff – February 6, 2013

**C**reating additional access to the new jail near Oliver will likely involve cutting a road through Inkaneep Provincial Park.

B.C. Parks is considering an application from another government agency to remove 0.28 hectares from the park in order to provide a secondary access to the jail, which is slated for construction at the Senkulmen Business Park just north of Oliver.

“The intention is to portray that as a back-door exit,” said Stacy McGhee, a senior manager for Shared Service B.C., which is shepherding the application through the regulatory process.

McGhee explained the plan last week during a presentation to the board of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, from which he was seeking an endorsement.

The new road would intersect Tuc-El-Nuit Drive directly across from Campsite Road, and would cut through the narrowest point of the eastern portion of the two-piece park. A 0.85-hectare chunk of Crown land at the northern edge of that portion would then be added, resulting in a net gain of park space.

The RDOS advisory planning commission for the area looked at the application in December and agreed to support it as long as no signage is erected that would tend to steer motorists to the new route. The commission was concerned its presence would increase traffic on Tuc-El-Nuit Drive and discourage

use of the upgraded business park entrance on Highway 97.

“The other issue is, if at all possible, to conserve highly valuable conservation and environmentally sensitive areas, you don’t divide them with roads,” said Allan Patton, the RDOS director for the area.

“Sure it’s squeezed and small, but there’s going to be a road there with ditches and all this kind of stuff. It totally takes away the integrity of that property.”

McGhee noted that three alternate routes were explored, but the proposed option is the cheapest and the shortest, at about 500 metres in length, so it will have the least impact on the environmentally sensitive area around the jail.

West Bench RDOS Director Micharl Brydon reminded his colleagues that area of concern is in fact adjacent to a business park.

“It’s an environmentally sensitive area there, but let’s face it, it’s right beside a wine factory and pretty soon, right beside a prison,” Brydon said. “This isn’t pristine.”

The board agreed to support the application; Directors Patton and Brad Hope were opposed.

McGhee said the plan still needs approval from the Transportation Ministry. Construction on the jail is expected to begin in 2014.

### EDITORIAL

**O**n a recent trip up the Summerland-Princeton road I was struck with the number of people in the back-country enjoying the outdoors. There were trucks and campers loaded with boats, ATVs, horses, fence posts and bicycles. I was also struck with the realization of what we could be doing to the outdoors if we were not judiciously careful in our interactions with it.

There is little doubt that there is ‘plenty’ of room for all in the ‘vast’ tracks of land in the Okanagan Similkameen region but these terms have to be placed into context in order to appreciate what it means to interact with the land. Initially lets appreciate that there is virtually no pristine, first growth wilderness remaining in the region. In virtually all areas people have explored, exploited and used the land. Flora and fauna have been impacted, altered and restricted as a result of the use. Roads, trails and vehicle ruts have intersected and sectioned wildlife territories and impacted traditional feeding, rutting and migration ranges.

Also important to consider are the concepts of watersheds and carbon sinks. As trails and roads are established the micro climates around them are altered, vegetation changes and water retention diminishes. We have surely all witnessed the rushing streams cascading down former dry road or trail beds during a summer storm. We need to ask where is that water going and is it being routed away from where it naturally was destined to end up?

Surely the carbon dioxide count goes up with the number of vehicles on the roads and trails. Even hikers and bicyclists generally use gasoline-powered vehicles to reach their staging area. Add in motorcycles, ATVs and boat motors it is obvious that the CO<sub>2</sub>

*continued on next page...*

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...EDITORIAL continued from front

counts are up. Does the vegetation of the Okanagan Similkameen have the ability to sequester and clean up our air?

The wildlife that inhabits this region needs large tracts of undisturbed land to roam, feed, reproduce and exist. We probably get a very good idea of what can occur otherwise from stories on the evening newscasts. Bears, cougars, coyotes and other wildlife have all been 'putdown' this spring because they ranged into contact with humans. Deer culls have been big news as well. The human territories appeal to this wildlife because natural ranges are being diminished. Wildlife requires a great deal of land and if we value wildlife, as is surely the case, then we have to ensure that the land is available.

However, do not get the impression that this is a call for people to stay out of our backcountry and outdoors. Rather this is a reminder to consider what we have, value it for more than dollar value and maintain it for everyone. There are enough roads and trails that everyone can enjoy an activity, if it is done responsibly. Different endeavours can use different areas and the access to them. For example there is no need to do damage to a good hiking trail if a horse trail is located adjacent to it and there is little to be gained by having a four-wheeler dig ruts in a trail where horses are used. We can exist together but there must be some consideration for limiting our footprints, protecting our treasures and respecting both the environment and other peoples' endeavours.

*We are reproducing at presentation delivered by local biologist Lisa Scott to the*

## OSOYOOS LAKE WATER QUALITY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*4Th June 2013 at the Osoyoos United Church*

### MILFOIL

Guest Speaker: Lisa Scott, registered biologist, invasive species specialist, and Co-ordinator of the Okanagan & Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS):

<http://www.oasiss.ca/index.html> 'Zebra Mussels and other aquatic invasive species.'

**L**ike their terrestrial counterparts, aquatic invasive species (plants and animals) have been entering Canadian waters for centuries but never as rapidly as today. Fisheries and Oceans Canada states that aquatic invasive species have already been responsible for significant devastation of some native fish species and fisheries in Canada. Annually, the problem is responsible for billions of dollars in lost revenue and control measures.

Water-based recreational activities such as angling, boating and diving can spread aquatic invasive species to new locations. Plants, animals, and microscopic creatures can cling to clothing, equipment and boats. If not cleaned, these species can be introduced into new bodies of water.

Last summer a snakehead fish ("Frankenfish") was discovered in Burnaby Lake, BC. It drew worldwide media attention and made us realise how potentially destructive invasive species can be. We must be vigilant and not allow these or any other invasive species to get into our lakes and rivers. In the Okanagan Valley, there has been little attention on invasive aquatic species, with the exception of **Eurasian Water Milfoil**. Invasive plants like milfoil, and also freshwater algae known as **Didymo or Rock Snot**, can form thick mats on the surface of the water, which can impede light penetration to underwater plants and animals, hinder boat traffic, clog intake pipes of boats, foul fishing lines and nets and cause a danger to swimmers. Once established, these species are extremely difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate. Economically,

the impacts of aquatic invasive plants can be devastating. Many of these species can cause increased boat repair and maintenance costs when they become tangled in motors. Real estate values can become depressed on waterbodies with aquatic plant infestations like milfoil. Water intake structures on dams can be damaged from mats of invasive plant materials. Management strategies to address infestations are extremely costly.

Unfortunately, the concerns do not end with plants. In fact, aquatic invasive animals pose a far greater threat to our waterways. Of immediate concern are two freshwater mussel species, **Zebra and Quagga Mussels**; there are no known occurrences of these mussels in British Columbia. These invertebrates

rapidly colonize hard surfaces and can subsequently clog water-intake structures, impact recreation, alter food webs and affect water quality. Invasive mussels can affect entire ecosystems. Recent research has determined there is a high risk of invasive mussels not only surviving in some parts of Okanagan Lake, but there is a high potential for massive infestations.

When it comes to aquatic invasive species, the ecological balance of our lakes and rivers is at risk, and so is our drinking water. Prevention of harmful new invasions is the first priority, as it is the most cost-effective way to deal with the problem. Once species are established, the task becomes far more complex and costly.

**Please Note:** In 2013, OASISS will be working cooperatively with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) to launch a valley wide campaign to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Watch for summer students Elissa (South Okanagan), Jackson (Central Okanagan) and Heather (North Okanagan) at boat launches, campsites, festivals, fairs and at marinas. Thanks to the OBWB and the Canada Summer Jobs program for helping to protect our waters!

# Trans Canada Trail Launches New Website

by *Trans Canada Trail*

In early 2012, the Trans Canada Trail team was proud to unveil its new website, which not only showcases the beauty of the Trail, but offers state-of-the-art functionalities courtesy of its mapping partner, ESRI.

The most important development is that visitors to [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca) can now set up a free account, which gives them access to hidden goodies such as maps, events listing and pictures.

## LOOKING FOR A MAP?

Click on the 'Explore the Trail' tab and you're on the Trans Canada Trail's official, interactive map. Using the Search tab in the map allows you to find your next destination. Once you've zoomed into that destination, a list of local sections of the Trail will appear – if you've logged into your Trail account, you'll not only get a description of the selected trail segments (gravel versus paved, for instance), you'll also have access to three different types of files describing the Trail. The first type is

'kml,' which you can open in Google Earth. The second type is 'gpx,' which gives you geocaching types some GPS data for your searches. The third type is a simple 'pdf' document of the trail segment, which will be useful to most people out there.

## SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Being a member of the Trail's online community also allows you to share your events, photos and stories on the map. Make sure you're still logged in and, once you're on the map, select the Share tab. You'll only be able to share if you've zoomed into a location sufficiently. By selecting 'Place a Pin' from the Share tab, you can place a pin on the map and choose information to share with fellow community members. If you want to see others' stories, pictures and events, check off the Stories, Photos, Activities or Events boxes (Note: if nothing shows up, that means that nothing is currently active on that Trail segment. Be brave and be the first to submit a photo!)

## WALK, CYCLE OR CANOE ACROSS CANADA

The new interactive map also allows you to track your mileage! The My Trail tab in the map allows you to input the number of steps or kilometers you have walked, run, cycled or even canoed, daily. As you input your information, you can see your progress across Canada starting in the west in Victoria. Challenge yourself – how long do you think it will take you to get across the Rockies? Challenge your friends and coworkers – who will make it to the Maritimes first?

## AND SO MUCH MORE!

Keep an eye on the site and the map, because more exciting changes are afoot, particularly in regards to the 'My Trails' tab. You'll be able to create entire challenges and invite friends, family and even strangers from across the country and even the world to "walk" across Canada, or whatever distance is enticing to you. By signing up to the Trans Canada Trail's newsletter, you'll find out first! You can sign up by submitting your email address at the bottom of any page on [www.tctrail.ca](http://www.tctrail.ca).

## SAVE OUR SPECIES

### Protecting endangered species is common 'cents'

For months, Canadians have listened to elected officials in Ottawa tell them that protecting the environment is bad for the economy. Luckily, most don't believe the hype.

According to a national poll (commissioned in part by Ecojustice), nearly all Canadians

think it's important to protect endangered plants and animals. And the majority of those asked (85%) say diverse and abundant populations of wildlife play a crucial role in supporting the country's economy and health.

The message from Canadians is clear: it's about interdependence, supporting the delicate relationship between economic growth and preserving the ecosystems that sustain this growth, our lives and those of other species. Healthy and intact ecosystems supply our drinking water, enrich our soil and regulate the climate, providing the clean air, water and land we all need to survive.

That's why Canada's national endangered species law is so important. The Species at Risk Act (SARA) doesn't just protect endangered wildlife, it also protects the ecosystems that they – and we – depend on. More than 500

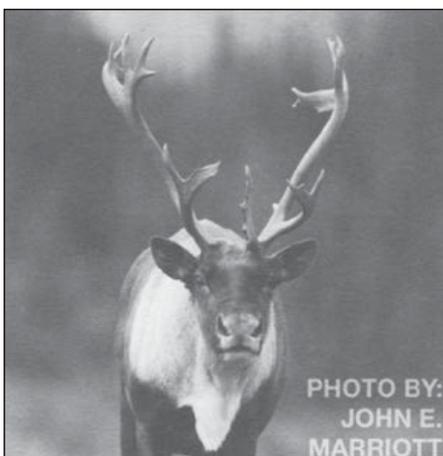
species are currently listed under the Act.

But now the federal government is talking about watering-sown SARA make it more "efficient." Given the drastic cuts made to key environmental laws last year – also under the guise of greater efficiency – we have reason for deep concern.

Now is no time to weaken SARA and prioritize industrial development over protecting the environment. Making sure we take care of endangered species and the ecosystems we all rely on isn't just good for business. It's common sense.

KIMBERLY SHEARON,  
*Communication Coordinator*

*Winter 2013 / Issue 69*



# 10 Principles for Strong Environmental Laws

*Values West Coast will use your donation to fight for*

Canadians want strong environmental laws, and we deserve an environmental assessment process that delivers on core Canadian values to the environment, democracy, and responsible development. Here is a blueprint of what strong environmental assessment legislation must include, at a minimum, to protect those values and ensure wise decisions making process. Strong environmental assessment (EA) laws should be based on and measured against the following key principles:

- 1. Adopt sustainability as the core objective.** EA legislation should be directed, at its core, to achieving specific and measurable sustainability goals and leaving a positive environmental and socio-economic legacy.
- 2. Strengthen public participation.** An effective and inclusive EA should have early and ongoing processes to meaningfully engage the public in assessments of proposed projects or policies, including demonstrated participation opportunities from the initial identification of the proposal through to monitoring, full transparency and sharing of information not only by government but also by proponents. Meaningful engagement with the public also requires that funding is provided through an independent body for multi-faceted assistance to participants and on an early and ongoing basis.
- 3. Meaningfully involve Aboriginal governments as decision makers.** An EA process should respect and accommodate Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including Aboriginal title, with Aboriginal rights-holders having a meaningful role in government-to-government decision making on resource development in their territories and all aspects of environmental planning and assessment.
- 4. Establish legal framework for strategic environmental assessments.** Strategic EA should systematically integrate environmental considerations into government planning and decision making processes relating to proposed policies, plans and programs and there should be public records to demonstrate how this integration has been carried out and implemented.
- 5. Establish legal framework for regional environmental assessments.** Regional environmental assessments undertaken ahead of industrial development, or a major expansion of development, should be carried out to help define the terms and requirements of subsequent project assessments as well as providing baseline data and analysis for subsequent assessments.
- 6. Require comprehensive, regional cumulative effects assessments.** Create and implement a mechanism so that comprehensive, regional cumulative effects assessments are conducted based on the need to manage for sustainability and the outcomes legally integrated into decision making.
- 7. Employ multi-jurisdictional assessment and avoid substitution.** Effective EA should require that all provinces and territories negotiate, in serious consultation with Aboriginal governments, and execute harmonization agreements with the federal government that: allow for predictable sharing of EA responsibilities; follow the highest standards and best practices; and allow for efficient administration of the process among all affected levels of government and departments.
- 8. Ensure transparency and access to information.** For any EA process to be credible and transparent, all project information, including that not required by the assessor but produced by the proponent, should be readily accessible online.
- 9. Make EA procedures more fair, predictable, and accessible.** Each type of EA should have predictable processes, actors, and procedures; but predictability of process must not be conflated with predictability of outcome. Even where simplified, each step in an EA should demonstrate how all information required to make the best decision, including that provided by Aboriginal groups and the public, is being fully considered. An efficient EA regime should provide for clear rights of appeal for affected parties and for those with public interest standing.
- 10. Apply design principles throughout the EA process to ensure that focus and efficiency do not come at the expense of democratic and constitutional rights.** A successful EA regime must be applied broadly and consistently, while ensuring particular reviews are focused and efficient. Any policy or proposed project that could inhibit progress toward sustainability goals or cause significant adverse environmental impacts must undergo an EA.

*This checklist for strong environmental assessment laws was jointly developed by West Coast Environmental Law, Green Action Centre, and Mining Watch Canada. 200-2006 West 10th Avenue Vancouver, BC V6H 1J6 604-684-7378 admin@wcel.org www.wcel.org*



Bill Johnston and family on Dewdney Trail in Snass Creek Valley, north of Rhododendron Flats on Highway 3, 1981. The OSPS Trails Committee prepared cedar posts to hold various directional signs on historic trails in the Cascades. Note: the width of the tread of the trail is approximately two feet, the standard for the 400-mile trail (644 kilometres) from Hope to Wildhorse Creek in the East Kootenays.

*Left photo - Bill Johnston & family*

*Bottom photo - Claire Johnston*

*Photographer - Pat Johnston*

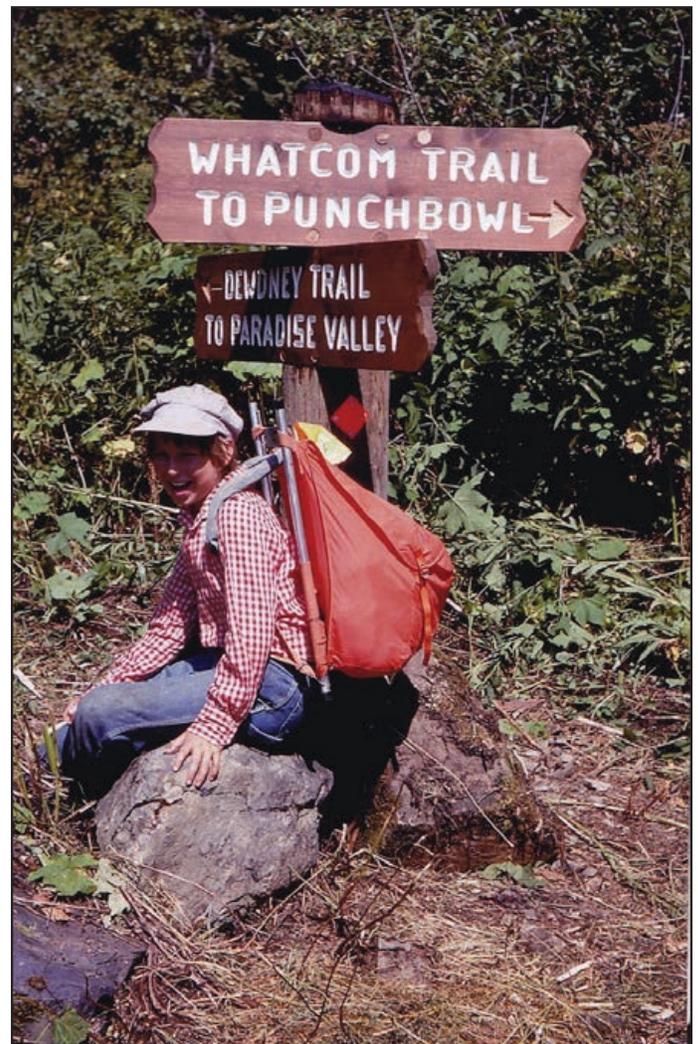
The signs were placed on the Dewdney Trail 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) above Highway 3 on the trip the Johnston family took to Dewdney Pass, 10 km (six miles) above the highway at Snass Creek, 1981. Dewdney Pass is at the Cascade Divide, separating the Skagit River drainage from the Tulameen River headwaters. The Tulameen/Similkameen/Okanagan River drainage is part of the Columbia River system.

## The Story

Over thirty years ago OSPS was involved in assisting with the reestablishment and maintenance of historic trails in the Cascade Mountain range. The story of OSPS Trail Committees role in this ongoing project will be told in the upcoming edition of the Okanagan Historical Society's Journal.

Bill Johnston, a long time director of the OSPS, has been involved with this project from the early 1980's and has been instrumental in maintaining a link with the various committees that have been involved. His memories and notes have been tapped for this story of historical significance.

In 2013 the OSPS continued its support for the Cascade Trails by supplying resources for maintenance and necessary archaeological work. The OSPS can surely take pride in the role that has been played in ensuring that the trails are available for study and pleasure. We thank our predecessors for their foresight and dedication.



## Summer of 2007

### Editorial Note

On July 3, the executive of the OSPS supported Summerland Trans Canada Trail Society met with government representative from the Ministry of Tourism, the Arts and Sports to discuss the future status of the Trans Canada Trail, especially in regard to motorized use. The society has received numerous complaints about ugly encounters between non-motorized and motorized users. The government people assured the Society that they would do their best to prevent such encounters in the future. Watch for our next newsletter for more information on this issue. Meanwhile, whether you are motorized or not, please let us know what you think about this issue.

JUERGEN HANSEN  
*Life Member, OSPS*

### TILMA means trouble

Dear Editor,

On April 28, 2006, the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta entered into an agreement, a free trade agreement if you will. On April 1 of this year the Trade, Investment, and Labour mobility agreement (TILMA) took effect. It will have a devastating effect on local democracy, public health and the environment. The agreement allows corporations and individuals to sue provincial governments for any measure they feel may hinder their bottom line, even measures designed to protect the environment or public health care will be at risk to corporate lawsuits as high as \$5 million. Not only was TILMA not

debated in the legislature in BC or Alberta but municipal and local governments weren't even consulted before it was signed.

For more info on TILMA please go to [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org) or e-mail me at [venalee@nethop.net](mailto:venalee@nethop.net)

Thank you.

GEORGE VENABLES, CAWSTON  
*Penticton Herald May 22, 2007*

## Summer 2006

### South Okanagan National Park

#### PROPOSED PARK WOULD PRESERVE FLORA AND FAUNA

I am strongly in favour of the proposed federal national park for the following reasons. This park, established over the long term, is the best way to preserve and manage the unique flora and fauna of the South Okanagan-Similkameen.

A federal park will ensure a legacy for future generations with consistent and high quality management, conservation and adequate financial support. It will also create an exceptional opportunity to generate local and tourist activity that will bring millions of annual revenue to the area.

Several aspects of this proposal are critical. The proposed trans-boundary linkage with the State of Washington and the inclusion

of the Vaseux Lake complex with that of the White Snowy-Kipoola-Kobau complex is vital to maintain ecological integrity and wildlife corridors. This is a true Canadian treasure and heritage and we are morally obligated to protect the area and its species for future generations.

The establishment of a national park is a significant opportunity to engage the First Nations culturally, financially and in management. First Nations tourism and eco-tourism are a winning team. It is important that the public be aware that \$50 million has been set aside to acquire grazing rights on crown land from willing sellers for conservation financing options for First Nations and to purchase land from willing sellers at fair market value.

If we do not support this proposal now, we will have missed what is likely the last opportunity to protect viable areas of unique wildlands and its inhabitants. For more information visit the National Park Reserve Feasibility

Study office at 102 Industrial Place, Penticton or visit [www.pc.gc.ca/sols](http://www.pc.gc.ca/sols)

OSPS MEMBER, LAURIE ROCKWELL  
*Summerland Review, June 8, 2006*

### Proposed National Park

Senator Ross Fitzpatrick said through the course of its development, the park would produce 832 full-time equivalent jobs, which would translate into 161 full-time jobs in terms of daily park operations and could see as many as 300,000 visitors each year by 2015. Fitzpatrick said in terms of a national park it isn't large, but "it's very environmentally sensible ... it's the crucible of one of the most beautiful parts of Canada."

SCOTT TRUDEAU  
*Penticton Herald, June 19, 2006*

# OSPS ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS IN 2012-13

## APRIL 2012

A cheque for \$3,438 was donated for work on the Cascade Trail

Delivered a letter of OSPS support for the national park proposal to the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen.

Some directors attended a CPAWs meeting regarding the national park proposal and reported speaker Chloe O'Loughlin was excellent. She made a persuasive presentation re economic value of a national park to various business and professional people as well as to ranchers and others affected.

## MAY

OSPS contributed \$300 to sponsor the lunch in Penticton April 4 at which guest speaker Chloe O'Loughlin spoke on behalf of CPAWS regarding the national park proposal.

OSPS contributed \$1,000 to support the 2012 Meadowlark Nature Festival.

Director Johnston attended an ORC workshop on liability and risk management

## JUNE

Darkened Website, in conjunction with other organizations, on June 4 to protest federal governments use of the omnibus method to bundle proposed legislation

OSPS contributed \$800 toward a completed plaque that was mounted on a rock at the bird sanctuary in Summerland which once belonged to Doreen and Irvine Adams. Some directors attended the unveiling ceremony.

Directors attended the BC Nature AGM (at which a resolution was passed to support the proposed national park) and attended the ORC AGM

That OSPS give input to the provincial government that recognizes the contributions of the Village of Princeton, Rev. John Goodfellow, Harley Hatfield (and later in his work with Okanagan Historical Society), and the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society for the work done in founding Manning Park. A plaque is being made to recognize the founder.

## OCTOBER

OSPS donated \$10,000 donated to the Nature Conservancy of Canada for the South Okanagan Project

Havier Walker donated materials for the OSPS historical files.

## NOVEMBER

Director Johnson attended regional district meeting in Naramata regarding trails, forestry and watershed: OSPS sent letter to the chair

(J.Hawkins) voicing opposition to motorized vehicles being on T.C. Trail in this region (Adra Tunnel and Naramata Creek Park).

New OSPS logo selected and put to printing.

Noted 40th anniversary of the study 'Is Everything Alright Up There', written by John Woodworth and published by OSPS.

## JANUARY 2013

Director Meheriuk served as the OSPS liaison with the SOSNPN on its telephone conferences and in meetings.

The OSPS donated \$1,000 to the 2013 Meadowlark Festival.

## FEBRUARY

Directors attended RDOS meetings re biodiversity. Comments re wildlife corridor and habitat in OK Falls, Oliver and Penticton.

OSPS Board wrote in reply to letter of application re wind energy above Naramata (pointing out many errors in the application and also lack of reliable wind in area in question).

## MARCH

OSPS supported the Cascades trail development (\$3 000+) for the coming year.

OSPS donated \$5,000 to Nature Conservancy of Canada to assist with wildlife throughways.

*This letter was recently sent to the Summerland Council by Sheila White, an O.S.P.S. director and a resident of Summerland. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of the Okanagan Similkameen communities were to receive and act on a similar letter. Something for you to think about (and do).*

## Portion of letter drafted by Sheila White to Summerland Council

### MAY 2013

Summerland is an attractive small town that has a lot to offer tourists. But there could be another draw, which has not yet been fully considered.

There are some old trails and pathways around, but there is potential to add to the

list with a variety of offerings:

1. Peach Orchard – old, shady, easy hike up to the highway
2. Giant's Head – a long or short challenge depending on the starting point. Fantastic view.
3. Conkle Mountain – a good walk with nature viewings.
4. Garnett Valley – the Heritage Trail past the reservoir. An interpretive sign has been placed here.
5. Rattlesnake Mountain – good views and should have a dedicated trail if a subdivision goes ahead.
6. Lakeshore – partly done in Lower Town, should connect Crescent Beach to Trout Creek.

7. Trans Canada Trail – a wonderful non-motorized trail leading south to Penticton and east to Osprey Lake and on. Needs to have municipal assistance in firm designation. Volunteers have raised much money and spent hundreds of hours to produce this trail, including building fences and trestles where necessary. Horses and motorized traffic can easily use the nearby road. Municipal assistance need to support this long section (70 km) of Trans Canada Trail.

8. The walkways either side of the highway bordering Trout Creek. Different values east or west but both have great off-leash walks.

The OSPS has been assisting with trails: KVR, HBC Brigade, Oliver-Osoyoos and Trans Canada Trail for many years. It would be good to see Summerland realize its potential by encouraging walking and cycling tourism as well as opportunities for ourselves.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society • Box 787, Summerland, B.C. VOH 1Z0

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Organization (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ (Income Tax Deductible)  I wish to receive the OSPS newsletter by email



## *Why become, or continue to be, a member of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society?*

**T**he Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society is a regional organization concerned with lands that are, should become, may become or impact, parks. The organization provides stewardship and/or advocacy for flora, fauna, environments and people within these lands. The O.S.P.S. has a long and proud history of involvement in identifying, sustaining and enhancing endangered ecosystems, wildlife corridors, historic trails and environmentally sensitive species. The society often partners with other groups to advocate for 'taking the long term view' towards preserving our past, present and future.

There is a place in the O.S.P.S. for individuals, families and / or groups interested in ecological sustainability, development of plans to enhance appropriate human interaction with nature or simply the enjoyment of the out of doors. If you have an affinity for outdoor activities on a local level or wish to be involved with conservation on a regional, provincial or national level the O.S.P.S. may be the organization for you.

Included in the membership of an O.S.P.S. member are three or four seasonal newsletters, an invitation to the AGM (usually with an informative special guest speaker), the

right to attend monthly directors' meetings and a voice to the very dedicated and active board of directors. Members may be elected (or appointed when necessary) to the board of directors.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a partial list of some of the activities undertaken by the society over the past year. We ask for you support, whether new or continued, to remain an important and vital advocacy, conservation and protection group in the Okanagan Similkameen region. Parks are for everyone and everyone should be for parks, renew or take out membership in the O.S.P.S. today.