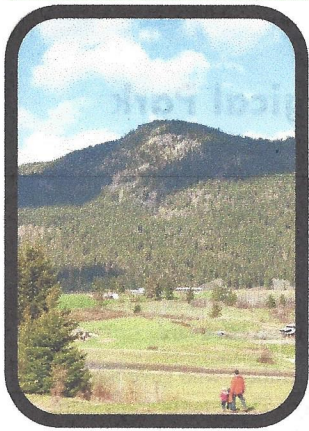


Armstrong Spallumcheen

Trails Society



A Year in Review

As things moved ahead quite well in 2017 for our fledgling organization it was felt that a newsletter would be appropriate. This is what we did or tried to do or planned. We have a good feeling for the coming year/s. Always positive and moving ahead to make our area interesting for all enthusiasts of the outdoors.



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Work at Thomas Hayes

The first work party of 2017 was held on Earth Day, Saturday, Apr 22nd to plan and prepare for Family Day at Thomas Hayes. Trails were cleaned up, signposts were relocated to more strategic locations and tightened up, small location signs were installed, wire fencing was restrung, the outhouse cleaned and stocked and general plans were made to welcome the public.



Three new sections of trail were flagged at work party held at the Park on Oct 20th. These 3 new sections rerouted the steep section of Chipmunk Cut-off as well as 2 smaller, steep areas along the upper section of Coyote Loop where seasonal runoff channels from the field above were crossed. On Nov 17th, starting in the middle of the slope of Chipmunk Cut-off, approximately 50 m of trail was relocated. A couple of other work parties were held and finally on Dec 1 this approximately 120 m relocation was completed, connected to the main trail and debris was placed to hide the old route location.

For the other 2, smaller trail relocations, it was decided that we needed culverts for the seasonal runoff channels. Two 1.2 m length culverts were donated and on Dec 3rd a work party finished these trails and installed the culverts. One area, approximately 15 m long, bypasses the stairs just past the junction with Chipmunk Cut-off. This area was always very slippery during rainy and icy times. The other area, approximately 25 m long, was further south on Coyote Loop. We stayed high, closer to the field, and bypassed another very steep section and installed the second culvert in the runoff channel. The old routes were hidden with vegetative debris. These trail relocations will make it easier for hikers and snow-shoers.

Did you know?

That over the last year, ASTS volunteers have spent 700 hours working on various trails projects

Family Day at Thomas Hayes Ecological Park



The Armstrong Spallumcheen Trails Society put on their first event of the year on Sunday, Apr 30th. We welcomed the public to Thomas Hayes Ecological Park and also celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Township of Spallumcheen. This event was well attended by approximately 100 people and they are now more aware of this beautiful and ecologically sensitive area that we have right in our backyard.

Greeting them at the parking lot were ASTS members who gave a run-down of activities occurring throughout the day. Three tents/areas were set up at this location to provide some history, both First Nations use of the area and Thomas Hayes family history, Alan Brookes Nature Centre had an educational display and Dave Derbowka of Passive Remediation Systems had a bio-char cooker on site. In addition, two Spallumcheen Councillors and the Mayor of Armstrong attended the event proving that both communities value our efforts towards trails and environmental

concerns. Rancho Vignola kindly donated trail mix to the first 75 attendees and H2O4U supplied water for all.

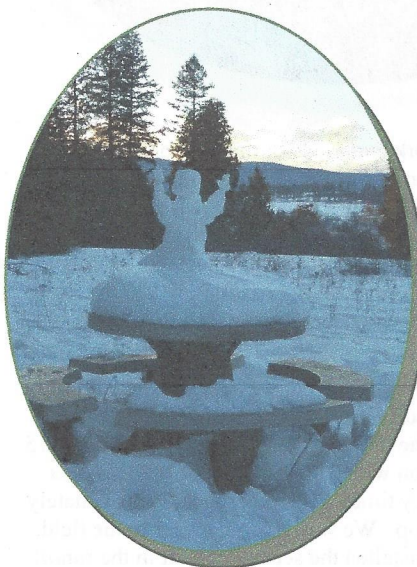
Thomas Hayes Events of 2017

- ◆ Work Party – Apr 22nd
- ◆ Family Day – Sunday, Apr 30th
- ◆ Installation of trail blazers
- ◆ Survey of Thomas Hayes
- ◆ 3 trail relocations flagging and construction
- ◆ Compost burning complaint
- ◆ Potential future work – bridge, new sign, kiosk, fence, new trail to view overlooking Otter Lake

Okanagan Indian Band elder, Adam Gregoire, talked about growing up in the area around Otter Lake. The granddaughter of Thomas Hayes, Joan Gates, and his great grandchildren Roger and Brian Gates and Sandra McFee relived some memories of bygone days growing up on the Thomas Hayes farm – his farm is now the Ecological Park. Aaron Deans of the Alan Brookes Nature Centre set up flora and fauna displays and talked about wildlife and birds found in the area. Dave Derbowka talked about biochar, a valuable soil amendment. His cooker converts agricultural waste into a soil enhancer that can hold carbon, boost food security, increase soil biodiversity and discourage deforestation. His base of operations is just south and east of Thomas Hayes Park on municipal land.

From the parking lot children and adults enjoyed themselves on the guided nature walks along the trails in the park. Hosts Norbert Martins, a trained nature guide from the Okanagan Naturalist Club, and Marge Sidney, a Biologist with the BC Ministry of Environment talked about the flora and fauna in the area and pointed out things along the way that might be missed on a casual hike. Once at the picnic table two interesting sessions were available, dissecting owl pellets and orienteering. Corinna Hoodicoff, a biologist, showed youngsters how to dissect owl pellets to see what they were eating and Derek Gytenbeck and his father Glenn taught participants how to use a compass and then set up a task of finding a backpack hidden in the woods. Both sessions were enthusiastically attended and were big hits to young and old alike.

All in all this was a successful day and we look forward to future events at the Park. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to those who volunteered and participated in the event and to the Chamber of Commerce for providing the tents for shelter.



Survey of Thomas Hayes

A few years ago the City of Armstrong and the Township of Spallumcheen received a Licence of Occupation (LoO) from Ministry of Environment on Crown Land for the purpose of building a boardwalk and bird viewing platform in the cattails along the west side of Thomas Hayes Ecological Park. This hadn't really been acted upon and the LoO expires in a few years so we thought that we should investigate the possibilities. Meetings were held

separately with Melinda Stickney, CAO with the City of Armstrong and Cindy Graves, the Deputy Corporate Officer with the Township of Spallumcheen on Mar 10th to let these jurisdictions know that we were interested in following up on this matter.

On Aug 4th, a work party located the North pin for the start of the boardwalk and cut a path approximately 70 m long through the riparian brush into the cattails. We also located the pin along the South boundary.

Later this fall, Ken Chapman took 2 members of the Vernon Naturalist Club into the area to see if it was worthy of such a project. It was reported back that this area wasn't really appropriate as a bird viewing area as we were too far from Otter Lake and Deep Creek and the cattails were way too tall so walking along a boardwalk would be like walking through a tunnel.

It was decided at a Board Mtg held on Oct 17th that we would not pursue the project.

Did you know?
That we are always looking for volunteers?
Tells us your skills or what you'd like to do!



Compost Burning Complaint



A work party at Thomas Hayes on Oct 10th discovered that a large pile of compost measuring approx. 250 cu. yds. had been pushed into the Park and across Coyote Loop from the adjacent field. Upon returning on Oct 17th it was discovered that the pile had started smoking through internal combustion. Our group spread the pile out to hopefully cool it down and the compost that was covering the trail was cleared. The work party on

Oct 20th discovered the pile was actively burning and contacted the Armstrong Spallumcheen Fire Department, who attended the scene. Subsequently a letter was written to both the Township and the City stating that this matter was of a serious nature and had it not been spotted in time it would have ignited a fire in the Park. This pile of compost was then dealt with and moved back onto the adjacent field. Since that time upland grass seed has been spread in this area and raked into the ground to hide it from birds and small rodents. In the spring tree seedlings will be obtained to plant in this area as the vegetation was damaged.

Potential Future Work for Thomas Hayes

- ◇ Bridge construction at the first wet area leaving the parking lot. Measurements have already been taken.
- ◇ New sign/kiosk planned for the parking lot area
- ◇ Rebuild the fence at the parking lot
- ◇ Plant the area damaged by the burning compost
- ◇ If there is interest, flag a route at the north end of the Park to a viewpoint overlooking Otter L. This new trail could provide an exciting addition to the Park and could potentially join up with Coyote Loop at both ends.

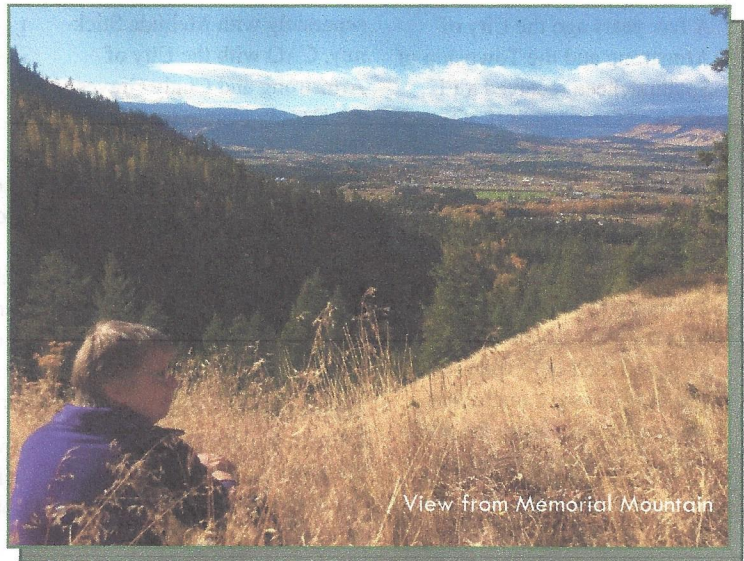


Branding is always a good thing and we are no exception. Thus we included PVSS high school in this endeavor and a completion was conducted and a logo was chosen. Some modification will be done on our choice but safe to say that 2018 will bear fruit in this regard.

Stay tuned!

Memorial Mountain

On Oct 21st a group of ASTS members, led by Shelagh Bigsby, went on a reconnaissance hike of Memorial Mt in preparation for our guided hike on Oct 29th. Most members had never been on this mountain before so Shelagh showed us some of what the mountain had to offer. The group used the opportunity to plan for our special celebration and found a route with which to take participants to a viewpoint overlooking Armstrong.



View from Memorial Mountain

Memorial Mt Hike

As this year was the 125th Anniversary of the Municipality of Spallumcheen the ASTS helped to celebrate this milestone on Sunday, October 29th. A local mountain, Memorial Mt, was given some degree of notoriety as it was introduced to the public. Not many people are aware that an old trail does exist part way up the mountain starting at the end of Upper McLeod Road on the north side of Fortune Creek and takes approximately 1-1/2 hrs. to complete the round trip. In the future we hope to construct a trail to the top of the mountain.

Memorial Mountain was named in 1998 as a result of the efforts of 3 WWII veterans, Vern Flatekval, Matt Hassen and Vic Polickek. They wanted to commemorate all of the soldiers from Armstrong/Spallumcheen who lost their lives in WW II. It was appropriate that this event was held just prior to Remembrance Day. A stone cross by the cenotaph in Memorial Park points to the mountain.

About 40 participants, enjoyed the ASTS's 3rd hike. This guided hike went to the viewpoint, we planted the Canadian flag and sang our National Anthem. Legion President, Ken

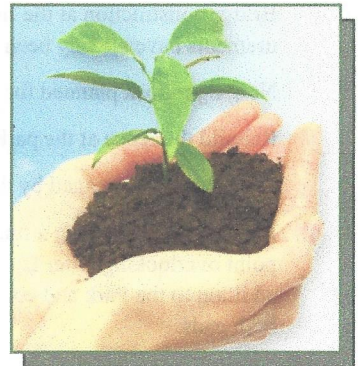
Brandel, and Councillors Fraser and Van Tienhoven, representing the Township of Spallumcheen, also took part. Ambitious participants enjoyed an extended hike further up the mountain returning to the parking area a different way. After the hike everyone was invited to the Legion to enjoy refreshments.

Our sincere thanks to the Township of Spallumcheen, the Armstrong Legion Branch # 35, and those who participated in the event. Federal funding support was generously provided by the Government of Canada under Canadian Heritage and through the Building Communities and Arts and Heritage.

Green Fair

Dave Derbowka and Armstrong Spallumcheen Environmental Trust hosted the 12th annual Green Fair in Askews parking lot on Sat, Apr 15th. The ASTS participated and had a display that showcased information on our Society, the local

trails and signed up new members. This is a good event for us as we are able to spread the word about our Society. We were fortunate in that ASET donated all of the participant fees to our Society.



Our dear friend Case Out passed away this year. A very sad thing. He was a very enthusiastic and energetic member of our society and was closely involved with the Vernon Outdoors Club as well. One could always depend on him and we enjoyed his friendship, participation and good humour. He is thoroughly missed. The world was a better place with him in it.

SUPPORT TRAILS BY BECOMING A MEMBER

Membership applications are available at Chocoliro's and Monashee Outdoors

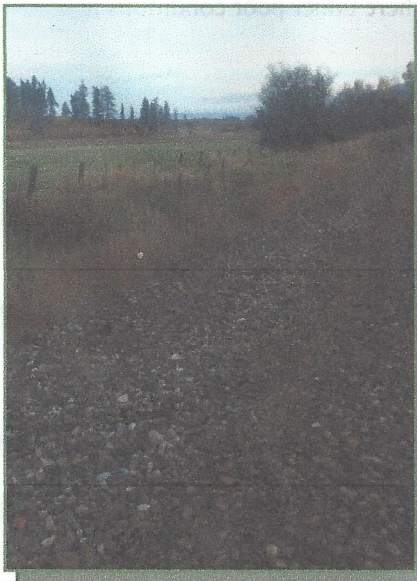
Bridge on Okanagan Street

On Dec 11th ASTS members used 4 lengths of chain to anchor the 4 corners of the bridge to the abutments by bolting them in place. This bridge floated downstream last spring during the flood. It was relocated back its proper

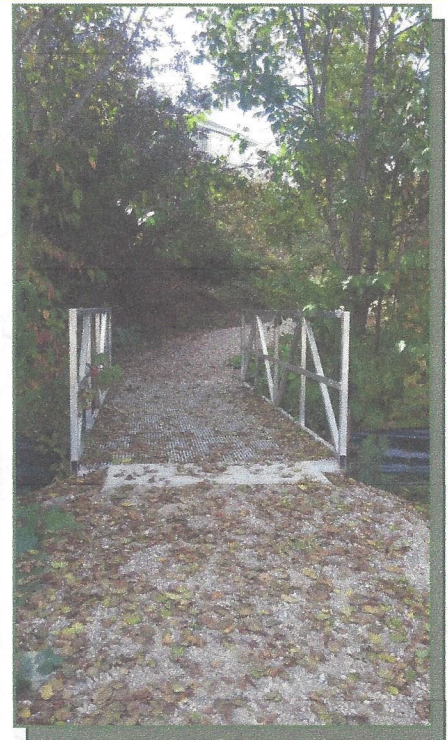
place by the adjacent land owner, Mr. Place, using a crane from Shepherds Hardware. By securing it in place we hope that this will prevent future movement. The work party also cut many branches that were impeding this trail and now people are able to enjoy this walk again. As they were working there a number of residents passed by and thanked them for opening up this trail as they missed it. The Public Works Department has been notified to remove the no-post guardrail blocking the trail from the cross walk.



OK Street Bridge



Did you know?
A new neighborhood path has been build at the end of Bradley and Game Court. Thank you Patrick Place for your commitment to our community!



Trail at Game Court and Bradley

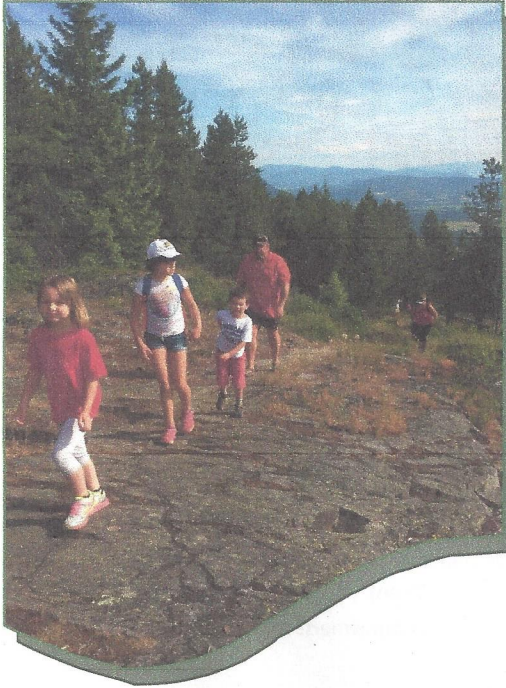
The Shuswap-to-Armstrong Rail-Trail UPDATE: GOOD NEWS! Public assent was achieved to purchase sections of the abandoned Canadian Pacific Rail corridor between Sicamous and Armstrong. The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) and the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) have both successfully concluded an Alternative Approval Process (AAP), providing them with the necessary public assent to borrow for the purchase of sections of the CP Rail Corridor property between Sicamous and Armstrong, excluding a number of sections owned by the Splatins

Stay tuned!

Rose Swanson Mountain, Canada Day Hike

We're on the Web:

www.astrailssociety.com



In 1967 Gordon Sidney built the first trail to the top of Miller's Bluff (Mount Swanson) and celebrated the Centennial by leading a group of hikers to the top. Fifty years later, to celebrate the 150th Birthday of Canada, the ASTS hosted a hike to Rose Swanson Mountain. Thirty hikers, ages 5 to 94, made the same hike and were led by his daughter and ASTS member, Marge Sidney. A bus

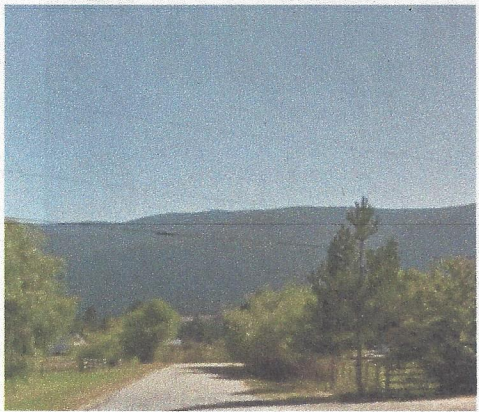
was arranged by the Chamber of Commerce with all participants meeting in Memorial Park and picked up at 8:30 am. Special guests from Rathfriland, our Sister City in Northern Ireland, also attended. A brief history of the original trail and the story behind the naming of the mountain was given. A Canadian flag was carried up, signed at the top, planted and our National Anthem sung. This trip was a special way of celebrating our history as well as introducing some new hikers to the mountain and our local trails.

Rose Swanson Work Parties

Throughout the year the usual trail clearing took place and in the fall, on various hikes, 640 trail blazers were installed to improve trail location, especially as in some areas where under poor conditions it was difficult to determine the way.

Did you know?

That we installed 200 blazers at Thomas Hayes Ecological Park and 640 trail blazers on Rose Swanson Mountain



Phase II East Rosedale Trail

A work party will be planned for 2018 to locate and flag the survey pins and property lines along the right of way from E. Rosedale Rd to Powerhouse Rd as the Township of Spallumcheen has given permission to do this. Eventually it is hoped that a trail will be constructed.