

# 2018...A YEAR IN REVIEW

## NEWSLETTER

January 2019

### Thomas Hayes Events

The ASTS teamed up with the Allan Brooks Nature Centre and the N.O. Naturalists Club on Apr 28th to conduct a ½ day BioBlitz of the Park. A BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying with flora and fauna experts in an attempt to record a lot of living species within a designated area. Approximately 30 people attended this event and we were divided up into teams with specific topics to research in the field depending on one's area of expertise or interest. We only finished part of the Park so hope to have another survey day at some point in the future (maybe 2019). The data collected so far is being kept at the Nature Centre. The eventual outcome of

this data will be to help with interpretative signs and point out interesting things to see in the Park as well as print a pamphlet.

Thanks to a few work bees

(donated by Dave Derbowka) were planted.

The grass came up nicely but the success of the seedlings was limited.

The large plywood sign and



throughout the year quite a bit was accomplished in 2018. The majority of the work was done by Glenn and Ken with others helping out when they could. The following is a summary of those projects:

The heavy snowpack melt eroded the two culverts installed in 2017 so repairs were made to those two areas of Coyote Loop along the east side of the Park.

Thanks goes out to Glen, Marge and Peter.

The area damaged by the compost fire along the east side of the park was seeded with native grass seed and then 20 Douglas fir seedlings

two large 6" X 6" posts were removed from the Park entrance as it was dilapidated. The posts were salvaged for future projects. A new kiosk design and a proposed sign layout is currently being worked on. Hopefully the kiosk can be constructed in the spring of 2019. The old fence was torn down at the parking lot and 18 m of new rail fence was installed.

A 7 m X 1.2 m footbridge was built over the pond along the Right of Way access not far from the parking lot. This bridge is a huge addition to the trail as it prevents a long detour over private property and keeps people's feet dry.



The surplus material was crafted into a bench that now graces the entrance to the forested area at the edge of the cultivated field.

Horses and riders sometime enter the Park and this fall, after a rainy spell, some damage was done to the new Chipmunk Cutoff. Repairs have been made.

The potential new trail that would join Coyote Loop near the entrance to the forested area at the NE corner of the Park on top, to the end of White Tail Wander in the bottom area, has been scouted. This route is already being taken by some hikers who were probably initially following a game trail. It seems to be a natural route except for a short, very steep, slippery section in the middle. If this trail is approved it would be nice to reroute the steep section to a more manageable slope and perhaps include a viewpoint of Otter Lake. Surveying would have to be done of the N property boundary to ensure that the viewpoint is not in trespass.

General cleanup is always ongoing, if required, as members hike in the Park.

#### Board of Directors:

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Peter Rotzetter

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#### Directors:

Ken Chapman

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Suzie Sims

Terry Fletcher

Ron Neden



## New Logo for the Trails Society

With the help of a couple of our Directors (Petra and Glenn), Cameron Krebbers of PVSS created a beautiful logo for our Trails Society early in the year. We now have a brand and visual identification. Business cards and T-shirts have been printed. Our grey Trails Society T-shirts, with the green and black logo, are now available for sale at \$20 each and come in sizes from Small to X-Large. We had 80 made, 12 were sold and 2 were given as gifts in 2018.



**Please support us by purchasing a T-Shirt!**



## Green Fair

The Armstrong Spallumcheen Environmental Trust and Dave Derbowka hosted the 13th annual Green Fair in Askew's parking lot on Sat, Apr 21st.

The ASTS participated and had a display set up. This event is always great for promoting ourselves and the local trails. We were able to sign up new members, sell T-shirts and take a spin on the new electric bikes

## Phase II Rosedale to Powerhouse Update

On April 27th property lines between E. Rosedale and Whittaker Roads were located and flagged by Ken and Glenn. The whole route was hiked and most of the legal pins were located, especially at either end. Ken and Peter met with the Public Works foreman for the Township to apprise him of our activities and intentions. The route is part of the Transportation Plan for the Township although no plans are in the works at this time to upgrade the corridor. We outlined our intentions to work with the Township at every opportunity in this regard.

## Community Excellence Awards

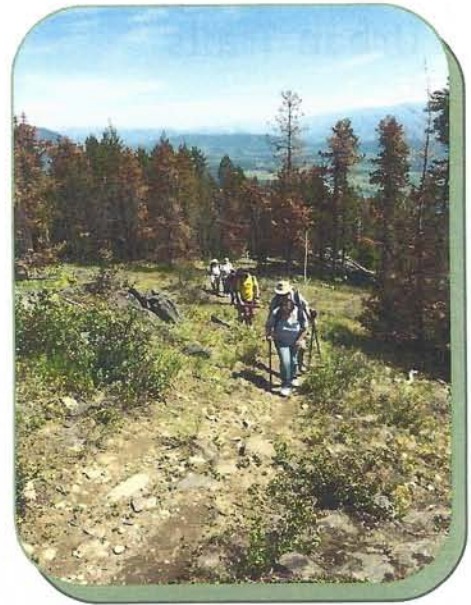
The Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce hosted their Community Excellence Awards on Sat, Apr 28th. The dressup theme was M\*A\*S\*H\* 4077th and Peter and Marge represented the ASTS for the fun evening. Awards in 10 categories were given out to businesses, organizations and individuals nominated by their peers and the community. Much to our surprise the ASTS won the "Organization of the Year" and was presented with a trophy and a delicious nut and chocolate gift basket (which was enjoyed at later Board Meetings).



## Rose Swanson Mountain

General trail maintenance is always being done on Rose Swanson on a regular basis by ASTS and once a year by the Vernon Outdoors Club but this year we had help from a member of the public – some of it is most welcome but another part of it isn't. Someone is taking it upon themselves to trail clear and cut the trees that fall over the trail, something which we greatly appreciate, BUT, someone is also removing our trail blazers and installing their own. Last year we installed 640 reflective orange trail blazers on all of the trails on Rose Swanson. These markers are highly visible in all weather conditions, are used in conjunction with route posts and other signage and are standard within the trail community. Our orange blazers have now been removed from all of the trails and replaced with other colours that indicate the old trail colour name. These new blazers are not nearly as visible, are not placed perpendicular to the trail and

are not as frequent in their positioning. This practice has created a safety issue as someone new to the mountain could get lost (especially in the winter if no one has been on the trail). We would like to find out who this person is and combine forces to explain the proper protocol and work together. We will need to figure out a solution to this dilemma and correct the safety issue it causes.



## Countdown to Canada Day Hike



2018 was the second year that we had a guided hike on Rose Swanson Mt. The first time was on July 1st, 2017 for the Canada 150 celebrations. While we accomplished what we hoped to do we felt that this hike plus all of the festivities in Memorial Park made the day just too rushed. In 2018 the Chamber of Commerce suggested spreading out Canada Day celebrations to the week prior so our guided hike was held on Sunday, June 24th. It really helped having our table at the Farmers

Market on June 23rd as we were able to promote the hike. The weather was sunny and warm and Peter manned the tent and display we had in the Rose Swanson parking lot. Marge led approx. 30 hikers on a nice, slow hike to Miller's Bluff where we planted the Canadian flag, enjoyed the view, took photos, sang our National Anthem and had lunch. The age of hikers ranged from 4 to 95 and for some it was their first time on the mountain. Some carried further on to explore other trails while the rest of us came back down. Fortunately

this day was before the fires so the air was clear with great visibility. A great time was had by all.

## Armstrong Farmers Market

All non-profit organizations are allowed three free days every season to promote themselves and the ASTS took full advantage of that. We were there with a display on June 23rd, July 14th and Aug 18th. We had local trail maps and pamphlets to hand out and as well we sold memberships and T-shirts. This is a great way to be visible to the community as the Farmers Market is well attended by both local and out-of-towners. It was great talking to people and promoting ourselves and what we are trying to accomplish.



## Urban Trails

Suzie walked and documented all of the local trails in town taking many photos of the infrastructure and existing and missing signage. We need to ensure that all of the trails on an old City map are approved so that they can be included in the Armstrong Spallumcheen Info and Trails Map.



The Trails Society Tree at the Festival of Trees

*Did you know that our members volunteered over 600 hours in 2018!*

## Parks and Recreation Proposed Trails Master Plan

Petra and Corinna worked on a presentation on behalf of the ASTS that will eventually provide input to both Councils. This presentation was forwarded to the Parks and Recs Committee and has not been officially presented in person. The Master Plan is a long range

planning document that will provide visionary direction for managing and developing trails, recreation, facilities, programs, infrastructure, resources and investment in our area over the next 10 years.



## Okanagan Rail Trail Sicamous to Armstrong Update

At the November 27<sup>th</sup> AGM Phil McIntyre-Paul spoke and outlined the history of the Shuswap Trail Alliance and their involvement with the intended Rail Trail in the North Okanagan. Much, if not all, of the work thus far has been behind the scenes. He indicated that there should be some news announcements to the public in 2019 when more of the legal entities have been worked out. Two local girls (Anna Mel-

vin and Ava Wagner) have been so enthusiastic about the rail trail that they took it upon themselves to raise funds for this huge project. This is a first. This new generation is showing us older folks the way. A presentation was made by the girls to Phil McIntyre-Paul at the AGM and ASTS presented them with a T-shirt each for their efforts.

