

FRIENDS OF PARKS & TRAILS

www.friendsoftrails.org

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New trailhead kiosk near Brilliant Suspension Bridge



Katimavik volunteers Marjolaine and Olivier paint quotes on the top back boards of our new benches.

Friends of Parks and Trails Spring General Meeting

Tues., June 15th, 7:00pm, *ROBSON COMMUNITY HALL*****

Guest presentation: A Walk or Two in Scotland's Highlands



New Trail: Blagodatnoe Village Loop

A short section of new trail has been completed on the USCC lands south of the Poupore Gate. This short loop provides walkers and bikers with a new stretch of riverfront trail should they be completing the Columbia Trail, or a nice loop for those parking at the gate and just out for a few hours at the north end.

From the parking area at the gate proceed down the main road and then stay right at the first road fork. From the picnic ground you may either proceed towards the Champion Creek Cemetery and then along the new river view trail to where it summits above Champion Creek, or you can proceed up an old road and then return via the new trail (the latter is suggested for cyclists as this provides a nice downhill on the new single track).



CFPT thanks the USCC for making this new trail possible. A vanload of Katimavik volunteers also outdid themselves during our volunteer day back in March. A few additional direction signs will be placed in the coming months. The trail features a new bench with a fantastic view (see page 3) ...we hope to see you sitting on it soon!

It really is this much fun to belong to Castlegar Friends of Parks and Trails!



Please renew your membership

Please visit our (new) website and print a form, and mail it in. Your membership provides important and valued support to CFPT, please keep it current and encourage your friends and families to support our Society.

www.friendsoftrails.org

Select e-newsletter to receive a full colour copy of the newsletter to your inbox (and to save our Society mailing and printing costs.)

(Thanks to Russ Babcock for sending on this great photo of fun on the Columbia Trail.)



New bench on the Blagodatnoe Village Loop Trail. Five new benches have been placed along the Columbia Trail thanks to the support of Columbia Basin Trust. Each top back board was inscribed with a quotation. “Toil and Peaceful Life” adorns the back of this bench.

Skattebo Reach Trail – May 2, 2010

Rita Wege

We started at the Brilliant Sub-station end of the Skattebo Reach trail. Although the old trailhead from the Brilliant 'Park and Ride' is open again we decided to by-pass this section. We wanted an easy short walk and the start of this trail was perfect. Skattebo Reach Trail goes about 8km to the south end of Glade. We hike 2km or so to the Little McPhee Falls.



Right at the start of the trail we were pleased to see a pair of Brown Creepers. These are interesting birds. They feed on tree trunks by starting at the base of the tree and moving upwards and then flying to the base of the next tree and repeating this process. Creepers feed on insects and spiders gleaned from bark. They are patterned brown on their back and have whitish under parts. Their song is a high thin series of accelerating and cascading notes. Their nests are unique in that they are built under loose bark on standing trees.

We thoroughly enjoyed the openness of this part of the trail, especially at this time of year when the spring flowers are in bloom. It's a great place to observe butterflies. Our first Rufous Hummingbird of the season was seen that morning.

Upon reaching Little McPhee Falls we spotted a pair of Dippers. They likely nest somewhere among the moss and ferns of the cliff face. They also create an interesting nest. It is made of moss and shaped like a hut or oven with an arched opening near the bottom. They also like to build underneath bridges of fast flowing

streams. Dark gray and plump overall with long legs and short tail they fly up and down rivers. They can dive underwater as they search for aquatic larvae. They also have a habit of bobbing their body up and down. They have a beautiful song which is a series of high, whistled or trilled phrases, each repeated two to four times in steady rhythm.

Come out and enjoy the trails. The Brilliant Sub-station trail head is the starting point for many trails including Dove Hill, Brilliant Overlook and Doukhobor Waterline.

General Meeting, June 15th, 7pm, ROBSON COMM. HALL

President's Report

Wow! What a week it has been for Castlegar.... The Brilliant Suspension Bridge is now open, Sculpture Walk 2010 has begun, and SHSS graduation ceremonies....

Thanks to more generous donations of energy from Canadian Youth CFPT also has some accomplishments to be proud of. Below are the Katimavik Youth volunteers that helped to complete the new Blagodatnoe Village Loop trail.



Our cover features “Marj” and “Oli” , two of our three current volunteers working on the new benches for our trails, benches they then carried into and installed (with the help of our contractor Mark Scott) along the Blagodatnoe and Columbia Trails.



Mark, Marj, Oli and third volunteer Alex have also been erecting the kiosks built by Fraser Hayes over the winter. Pictured at left is a local family reviewing the air photo-based trail maps which will soon adorn kiosks at: Poupore Gate, Brilliant Substation (Kootenay River Trails parking area), Waldie Island, Brilliant Park and Ride, Mel Deanna, Dove Hill, and Skattebo Canyon

trailheads. There have been a few “hiccups” getting the maps finalized but all should be up in time for the summer hiking season.

Our application to construct a new trail from the Brilliant Park and Ride to the College Trail Network is in a 60 day review process with the Integrated Land Management Bureau. Our tourist map product is now in final layout and I hope to be providing a product to local businesses interested in the tourist traffic to support before month end.

Castlegar Friends of Parks and Trails

Executive:

President/newsletter editor –Lawrence Redfern 250-365–5350 [lsredfern at shaw dot ca](mailto:lsredfern@shaw.ca)

Vice-President – Sheena Stienstra

Past President – John Mansbridge

Secretary – Erica Scott

Trails Maintenance Coordinator – Peter Wood

Membership Coordinator – Rick Johnson

Treasurer – Rita Wege

Director at Large – Alex Donaldson

Our website is taken care of by Dave Sharp.

Please contact Lawrence with any comments, questions, suggestions, etc.

The purpose of Castlegar Friends of Parks and Trails Society is:

1) To build and maintain local trails. All of these trails will be open to the general public at no charge. Subject to environmental sensitivity, the Society will build multi-use trails.

2) To develop community support for outdoor recreation, appreciation for the natural environment and education. This purpose will be met through publishing of brochures, trail maps and a regular newsletter, affiliation with local heritage and recreation groups, provision of guides and interpreters to local schools, contributions to local media and participation in community events.

3) To raise funds from local governments, business and individuals in support of the activities of the Society

Mission statement:

Castlegar Friends of Parks and Trails Society (2001) is established to encourage the creation, maintenance and use of environmentally-friendly, multi-use public trails through public education and direct trail development and maintenance activities.

Editor's Note

I am seeking to pass on the pleasures of newsletter editor to a new person. The newsletter is produced 4 times a year; one each season. Sometimes there is an abundance of copy submitted...sometimes not. Done all at once it probably takes at least half a day to complete one newsletter. Compiled over the months between newsletters it amounts to a couple of hours to stuff the envelopes. As emailed copies become more common the physical mailing component of the job will diminish.

If you would like to contribute to CFPT maybe this is the opportunity you have been waiting for? I would be pleased to talk with any potential candidates. 250-365-5350
Lawrence Redfern, editor

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