



## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I hope everyone made it through winter unscathed and I think you will all agree, it was one of the worst in several years! And just when it seemed it would never end, we went through a very abbreviated spring and now seem to be into summer! And with that, we all start to think of getting out into the West Country and do some camping and enjoying the beautiful country we have been blessed to have on our western horizon.

The usual spring activities are under way with our annual spring cleanups and work bees at the various campgrounds. The only major project that is on the books for the summer is work on relocating some areas in the Bighorn Campground and details on that are still

to be worked out. As for any other major projects, we are still on hold awaiting a decision from the government as to what the status of the Bighorn Back-country will become. Once that is finalized and if we still have jurisdiction over our present areas, we can then embark on various projects to improve our present campsites and trails. We will keep you posted!

Hope to see you at some of our upcoming events, be it a cleanup, work-bee or our Annual Trail Ride & Poker Rally! I wish you all a great summer out West!

## **AGM UPDATE**



The Annual General Meeting was held February 17, 2018 at the Innisfail Legion and was attended by 45 Members. President Larry Frischke highlighted the past year's activities and accomplishments. The Association's financial statements were reviewed followed by presentations from Bill Hunt, Resource Conservation Manager, Parks Canada and Rick Smith, Ya Ha Tinda Ranch Manager. The new directorship was elected and we welcome aboard 5 new directors, those being Lorn Anderson, Bev Schrader, Stuart Graham, Buddy Gustafson and Chelsea Jensen. Stepping down as directors are Jeff Blish, Tyler Hirsche, Mandy and Bill Dunn and Sue Comfort. A big Thank You for all they have contributed over the last few years and Good Luck in thier future endeavors. Larry Frischke remained as President, Linus Clark will continue as Vice-President, Laurel Reid as Secretary, and Arlene Stevenson as Treasurer . Sue Comfort will continue to look after memberships. Directors are listed in the contact list below. Please feel free to contact anyone of the directors with comments, concerns or new ideas. We look forward to more member input.

The Banquet portion of the evening was again attended by a full house. After speeches and presentations the Tracy Millar Band again entertained and was enjoyed by all. We

were back on track with our fund raising portion of the evening and the raffles consisted of a Booze raffle, Generator Draw, Jewellery and Quilt draw, quilt donated by Barb Few. We again had our Silent Auction and this year we added the Live Auction with donations of a Quilt from Robbie Olson, Saddle from Duane Papke, bundle of posts from West Fraser, bundle of landscape ties from Peter Mason, Brisco Preservers and 8 hours of welding from Jomac Fabrication and Welding. We would like to thank everyone for their donations and time in helping make this annual event a great success.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

CAMPGROUND CLEANUPS - Dates and contacts as follows:

Seven Mile/Cutoff - May 12-13, 2018

Bighorn/Eagle Creek - May 26-27, 2018

Hummingbird - June 9, 2018

HORSE BACK POKER RALLY - August 18, 2018

For more information on cleanups or the Poker Rally please contact one of the Directors

## **EDUCATION**

The Education portion of this newsletter is new this year. We will be focusing on providing our membership as well as the general public with educational material so they are better informed about how we operate, why we do what we do and how we can all work together to keep the campgrounds up and running for all to enjoy. The first on our agenda for Education is the History of the Friends of the Eastern Slopes.

In February 1994, Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association was incorporated as a Non-Profit Society. The purpose of the Association was to act as stewards of the Big Horn Campground located on the Parks Canada Ya Ha Tinda Ranch. Parks Canada was unable to continue management of the campground and was looking at closing it to the public. The Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association worked with Parks Canada to form a Memorandum of Understanding between FOESA and Parks Canada.

The Objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to enable collaborative activities between the FOESA and the Parks Canada Agency.

The FOESA provides a vital connection to the natural world for an increasingly urbanized population. With expertise they bring the reality of animals and their environment to people in a way that raises awareness and motivates positive action to ensure the future of the world's wildlife.

Together the resources of the FOESA and Parks Canada will provide a greater capacity for public education, recovery and protection of species at risk and their habitats, and research through collaborative work.

FOESA is responsible for building and/or general maintenance of Big Horn Campground; which includes washrooms, roads, stalls, high lines and gravel berm. FOESA and Parks Canada work jointly to develop and publicly communicate the rules, regulations and visitor use information for the Big Horn Campground and the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch.

In 2002 Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Red Deer-North Saskatchewan Region entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to the Development and Operation of Forest Recreation areas in the Bighorn Back-country. In this Memorandum of Understanding, FOESA expanded its involvement to include other recreational sites such as Eagle Creek, Panther River, Cutoff Creek and Hummingbird Public Land Recreation Areas.

In 2014 the FOESA entered into another Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development to add the Seven Mile Flats Provincial Recreation Area to their responsibilities for a total of 6 campgrounds now under stewardship by the FOESA.

## **PROJECTS**



The major project for 2018 will be continuation of the Bighorn Campground changes. The new road is complete with the exception of some cleanup and seeding to be done this spring. We are still in negotiations with Parks Canada as to the expansion of the Bighorn Campground. We will be providing updates to the membership as they are received.

# MEMBERSHIPS

Cost of membership is **\$30 / family**. Donations above and beyond this are welcomed but not required. Membership forms can be filled out and returned with a cheque or money order.

Membership forms can be found on our website at [www.foesa.org](http://www.foesa.org). Please make cheques payable to Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association and mail to:

Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association  
Box 6093

Innisfail, AB

T4G 1S7A membership card will be returned to you by mail

## FOESA DIRECTORS LIST - 2018

Name	Position	Phone Number (cell)	Phone Number (Home)	Email
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