

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM FRIEND OF THE EASTERN SLOPES

2020 IN THE EASTERN SLOPES

2020 has proven to be an unprecedented year for recreation in the Eastern Slopes. We have seen many required changes which have not only affected us at home but also in our beloved back country. With Covid requirements for the opening of Bighorn Campground as well as the number of people visiting the Eastern Slopes it has presented challenges that we have not had in previous years.

CAMPGROUND HOSTS

We had a number of people volunteer for the Campground Host position which was supposed to be only at the Bighorn Campground. With the Bighorn Campground not opening until July 1, we started our hosts out at Eagle Creek Campground. They were very busy selling memberships and giving campers direction all summer. When it was time to open the Bighorn Campground it was obvious to us that there was going to be a larger number of people visiting all of the campgrounds along the Eastern Slopes this year and we made the choice to place a campground host at both Eagle Creek and Bighorn Campground.

It was especially challenging for our Host and campers at the Bighorn Campground due to the ever changing Covid guidelines imposed, but we want to thank everyone for their understanding and patience during this time. We are hoping that things will be back to normal next year so we can all enjoy the Eastern Slopes as our grandparents have. Free to wonder and leave no trace.

We want to send a special Thank You to our campground hosts for their time and effort into selling memberships and providing guidance to both old and new campers who visited these two campgrounds this summer.

Thanks again for your dedication and service to all.

We hope to expand this program to Hummingbird and will be looking for more volunteers for this position. If you think you might be interested, please visit our website for requirements.

FOESA CAMPGROUNDS ARE MULTIUSE

During this busy time we have had many people questioning the useage of the campgrounds. We had several emails from equine campers advising that when they arrived at Hummingbird and CutOff Creek campgrounds that they were unable to secure a campsite with a highline as they were occupied by regular campers.

Although FOESA campgrounds are set up for equine use they are open to the general public on a first come first serve basis for all camping whether it be Equine, OHV or regular camping, with the exception of Panther and Big Horn campgrounds which do not allow OHV.

Having campground hosts at Eagle Creek and Bighorn encouraging campers and tenters without horses to find a spot without high lines was successful and we will review our campground host situation for next year to see if it will be something we continue with as well as maybe expand to other campgrounds.

Eagle Creek expansion has now been completed and will help with this situation

HORSE RALLY

Unfortunately Due to Covid regulations we had to cancel our Horse Rally this

summer. It is a major fundraiser for FOESA and we all missed the enjoyment of getting together for this event.

FOESA IS GROWING AND LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

FOESA has seen significant growth in 2020. Our membership increased from 550 members to 1165 as of November 2020. For this reason we are **LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.**

Below are just a few specific examples of volunteers we are looking for.

- Computer tech people who can help with updating and maintaining our website, creating online forms, using Mailchimp etc.
- Lawyers
- People with accounting background
- Contractors with equipment for special projects throughout the year.

There is always a need for volunteers with special skill sets as well as people to assist with work bees and our fundraisers. If you have a special skill set or are just wanting to help out in any way you can, please contact us at laurel@foesa.org and let us know.

AGM/BANQUET 2021/NEW DIRECTORS

FOESA AGM/Banquet is pending at this time. We are unable to say with confidence that we will be able to hold this event in February.

We will however still require new directors to replace directors who have or will be stepping down next year.

As a Director, your role is to attend meetings and work together with the rest of the board to facilitate care and maintenance of the campgrounds we are stewards of.

Meetings are held monthly but we usually take the summer off to enjoy our time outdoors. Meetings are usually held in Sundre or Innisfail at this time.

Directors are expected to take on a committee or two as outlined in FOESA Orientation Manual.

Functions are all on an availability basis. We hold cleanups in the spring for all the campgrounds starting in May. As well we hold our AGM/Banquet in February and Horse Rally in August.

As any Association there are other jobs that need to be done and these jobs are discussed at the meetings where we look for a director to volunteer to take charge. The more we can split up the work load between directors the happier everyone is.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DIRECTOR, please contact Dale Marshall at dalemarshall50@gmail.com. Please provide your name, contact information as well as a note to let him know why you are interested in becoming a director.

MEMBERSHIPS

As we look towards 2021 and the uncertainty of our AGM/Banquet where most people who attend purchase their new memberships, we want to let you know that we are working on bringing you online membership registration. We feel with the growing popularity of e-transfers that it is necessary for us to take this step for the convenience for all members. We will provide you with more information on this in the New Year.

WEBSITE

KEEP IN TOUCH

Our Website is up and running with a new look, very interactive and functional. Our website contains information about the Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association, Director's list, Upcoming Events, Links to other informative websites and membership information and forms. You can access our website on the link below. <http://foesa.org>

Stay Connected: **JOIN US ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS ON THE EASTERN SLOPES**

[visit our website](#)
