



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2017 FOESA Year has started off very well and with the recent favorable weather we have already seen a lot of campers / riders enjoying our campgrounds in the West Country! We have a great team of Directors to lead the organization this year and it is already showing in the success we have had to date!

In regards to our past events of the year, the Annual AGM & Banquet went over very well with the banquet being sold out for the second year in a row! The Mane Event booth was again a very worthwhile venue with great exposure of FOESA to the equine community! The Clean Ups / Work Bees went off very well so our campgrounds are all ready for another season of camping. I want to take this time to say a special Thank You to all the Directors and Members who organized and/or worked at these events! Without the generous giving of your time and equipment, our organization could not exist!! Thanks Again!!

We have our summer events to look forward to now!

The first, very unique event will be the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch 100th Anniversary Celebration Open House on July 15th! FOESA will be in attendance there with a booth that will detail our involvement in the history of the Ya Ha Tinda and we will also be operating a concession for the event. I encourage you to consider participating in this historic event! Bring your own lawn chair and come and enjoy birthday cake and coffee.

The next event will be our Annual Trail Ride & Poker Rally on August 19. It will be based, as always, out of the Bighorn Campground and we look forward to exceeding the record number of riders we had participate last year. As this is one of our major fund raisers, I encourage you to get this marked on your calendar and be sure to get your pledge sheets filled so we can set a record on funds raised with this event!

As far as major projects for the year, the number one project is the expansion of the Bighorn Campground to the northeast. This is still on hold until we get certain approvals from Parks Canada and will hopefully proceed later this summer/fall. Another major project that is still on hold is restoring the James Lake Trail and it is on indefinite hold due to the uncertainty of the provincial government's designation for that area.

That should pretty much summarize the year's activities for FOESA! Once again I would like to thank all those that contribute to the success of FOESA and wish you all a very enjoyable summer! I look forward to visiting with you out in our Wonderful West Country!

Larry Frischke

UPCOMING EVENTS

YA HA TINDA RANCH 100TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE - JULY 15

Ya Ha Tinda Ranch is celebrating 100 years of being an active working ranch. Horses are wintered and trained here to be used as working horses for patrolling and protecting Canada's Western National Parks.

On July 15 Ya Ha Tinda Ranch will hold a Birthday Open House Day. FOESA will have a booth set up with brochures, maps and merchandise. We will also have a concession available for lunch.

For a schedule of events for the day, please visit our website

[Visit our website](#)

HORSE POKER RALLY - AUGUST 19, 2017

Start gathering your pledges for this great family event. Held at the Bighorn Campground on the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch, this is one of our major fund raisers. Registration will be held from 9:30 to 12 noon and following the ride will be dinner, door prizes and buckles will be awarded to the best poker hand, and the highest pledge amounts (must exceed \$400.00 to be eligible).

Volunteers are very important to help run this great family event. If you would like to volunteer or for more information, please contact Larry Frischke at 403-829-4395.

Pledges forms are available at the end of this newsletter or on our website under memberships.

[Poker Rally Pledge Form](#)

[visit our website](#)

PAST EVENTS 2017

AGM AND BANQUET - FEBRUARY 25, 2017

The Annual General Meeting was held February 25, 2017 at the Innisfail Legion and attended by approximately 25 members. President Larry Frischke highlighted the past year's activities and accomplishments. The associations financial statements were reviewed followed by a presentation from Rick Smith regarding the proposed changes to the Big Horn Campground. The new directorship was elected and we welcome on board 6 new directors. Those being Nick Smith, Duane Papke, Arlene Stevenson, Laurel Reid, Ralph Jensen, Keven Graham. Thank-you for stepping forward and volunteering your time and knowledge of the west country. Stepping down as directors are Tyler Holinski and Danny McGonigill as they are perusing other ventures in life. Also stepping away was Mitch Phillips. A big Thank You to all that they have contributed over the last few years and Good Luck in your future endeavours. Larry Frischke remained as President, Linus Clark stepped into the position of Vice President, Arlene Stevenson assumed the Treasurer, and Laurel Reid will take over the duties as Secretary. Suzanne Comfort will continue to look after the memberships. All 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. The awards presentation was followed by a slide presentation by Ken Groat on trail maintenance done by the Rocky Mountain Wilderness Society. The Tracy Millar Band again entertained the crowd and kept people dancing until well after midnight. The fund raising portion of the evening was not quite as successful as in the past as the silent auction had fewer items this year. The raffles consisted of a Quilt donated by Barb Few, and purchased items consisting of an outfitters tent, a wood burning stove, diamond jewellery, and a booze package. All in all the evening was a great success

FOESA DIRECTORS LIST - 2017

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CAMPGROUND CLEANUPS

Campground clean-ups and work bees were held at Bighorn, Eagle Creek, Seven Mile Flats and Hummingbird Campgrounds. Bighorn and Eagle Creek saw approximately 20 people clean up highlines, mangers, garbage and fire pits. The center road that washed out at the Bighorn was repaired and one manger was washed down and sterilized. Toilets were filled with water and chemical in preparation for the season.

Cutoff Creek Campground cleanup saw Duane Papke and Nick Smith spend a day with the skid steers and filled in the ruts. Some of the highlines need to have some fill put in but we need to remove some trees so that there is room to work with the skid steer. There was no hay to clean up as the wildies looked after that for us. The campground should be good for a couple of years.

Hummingbird Campground cleanup day was cancelled due to inclement weather, however ATRA did a cleanup there on June 18 to 23. FOESA directors will be coordinating a weekend to go up and finish the welding on the highlines.

THE MANE EVENT

Once again FOESA attended Mane Event in Red Deer. This was very successful venue netting over \$2500.00 in memberships and donations. We will be attending again next year.

Thank-you to the directors and members who volunteered their time to run the booth and get the Friends of the Eastern Slopes name out there.

2017 PROJECTS

The major project for 2017 will be the expansion of the Bighorn Campground to the north east along the base of the north face of the valley. At present we are still in negotiations with Parks Canada as to the logistics of this project and are also awaiting certain approvals. At present, it appears that construction will take place in late August, September, October. FOESA will be informing the membership as to when construction may begin and we are appealing to the membership to come give a hand as there will be a great need for man and equipment hours for this project!

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. Please make cheques payable to Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association and mail to:

Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association
Box 6093
Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1S7

A membership card will be returned to you by mail as well as a receipt if requested in writing on the form.

Membership applications can be found on our website below.

We strongly encourage you to include an email address as they are used to email the quarterly newsletter and notify people about events. The cost to mail newsletters is over \$5 per letter and totaled over \$5000.00 last year. It costs FOESA merely cents to send an email.

WEBSITE

Our Website is up and running with a new look, very interactive and functional

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



www.foesa.org
