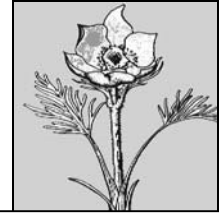


Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 55

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Fall 2016

President's Message

by Anne Burke

Please plan to join us for the annual general meeting on Wednesday Nov. 16, 2016 at Triwood Community Centre in the Lounge at 7 p.m. The Guest Speaker John McFaul will give his presentation on The Flora of Nose Hill & the City's 10-year strategic BiodiverCity Plan. He is a member of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee appointed by City Council, so bring your questions about what the Committee has been doing.

As you are aware, Nose Hill Park is a natural environment park that lies in the NW part of Calgary and is surrounded by 12 residential communities. We are often asked about its history and documents which are posted on our website at www.fonhs.org.

"News from the Friends of Nose Hill Society" is a monthly column I write which is published in most of the newsletters for communities which are near the Park. This year is North Haven's 50th anniversary. One of the seniors interviewed for a video said he lead the committee of surrounding communities that lobbied the city for park status. As a result of the video, we were asked for any information about Nose Hill, when it became a park.

As always, this has been a busy year for the Society. Madeleine Oldershaw is our Treasurer. Thanks to our editor Robert van Everdingen, we produced two newsletters

(spring/fall and fall/winter). Dorothy Haeberle is a Brentwood resident and volunteer. Eve Roberston is our Secretary, and she organized The May Flower Count for Nose Hill on Sunday, May 29, 2016 for the Alberta annual plant count (May 23-29). Polly Knowlton Cockett led an "Urban Prairie Nature Walk" in June, a Jane's Walk-style interpretive tour, for Whispering Woods and Nose Hill. She also serves on the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee. Jason Frederickson designed a template for a new web site. We would like your input to complete it. To address the interest in Nose Hill Park, we have decided to increase the number of directors (unassigned) to six, with your approval of the Special Resolution (see: agenda for AGM.).

On our Facebook page, we have 62 Friends and 915 photos. Tara Little is our site moderator and a contributor who regularly updates the group photo. She also organizes ad hoc clean-ups of the Park. (Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation helps our wildlife with rescues and to get rid of litter such as strings, netting, hooks, cups, etc. wrapped around them). Her art show raised funds for wildlife rescue, with prints of her photographs, "lots of beautiful pictures of Nose Hill Park. A true love for me."

There were concerns about pesticide spraying on Nose Hill. A pilot program using goats to remove invasive plants

(weeds) in Confluence Park was considered successful, but livestock is not allowed on Nose Hill.

For a view of (and from) the medicine wheel (posted March 2016), there was also an article "bench with a view" at Nose Hill, as "the spot to sit and contemplate the meaning of life". (See: "Prime Bench Spots of Calgary According to Mary Haasdyk", *Swerve*, July 8, 2016).

For your reading pleasure, here are just some of the posts we received.

On 19 March: "In my 20 years living here, I don't think I've ever seen a crocus blooming outside in the winter. A picture [of one] was taken near the top of the hill above Charleswood Drive."

A CBC video admiring the appearance of crocuses at Nose Hill Park: "This is what it means to First Nations people."

On Earth Day 22 April, 2016: "An offering to Medicine Wheel. Thank you also to those who fought over the years, keeping it undeveloped. A blessing."

On May 8: " In my 20 years of living here I don't think I've ever seen the gravel pit in May as dry as it is this year. not a speck of water. The pool of water doesn't usually disappear until July."

"While geocaching on Nose Hill one afternoon, on the way down to the parking lot, an immature Cooper's Hawk set down on the pathway, keeping a keen eye. As it got closer, it would fly further down the path a-ways. Eventually, a jogger sped past me and scared off the hawk."

"From the air, one appreciates the fact that NHP is one of the largest urban parks in Canada. Here it is with its entire 11 square kilometres."

"Of flora and fauna, wildlife close to the winter club, some lovely deer with four kits playing, white-tailed deer at dusk."

"Silvery Blue Butterfly on May 6 These guys aren't too shy, with a little patience it's easy to get a close up of one."

"Another stone circle is at Nose Hill Park well designed but not the traditional medicine wheel we know and love."

"After countless walks on NH this was my first time seeing this moth which I think is a Columbian Emerald or a Single Line Emerald. It even stayed still long enough to snap a picture, but just."

A Quarry in Nose Hill Park?

Calgary has been called "Sandstone City" because it is a key component of many heritage buildings, including the City Hall building which is described as "crumbling". Rather than importing the material, City Council approved a notice of motion to reintroduce mining.

Chris Manderson, (Urban Conservation Lead Calgary Parks) explained:

"My apologies for the delay in replying to your phone message. I don't think that Nose Hill is a part of the Notice of Motion that Councillor Carra brought to Council. I believe that the J.A. Lewis Quarry was erroneously reported in the media to be in Nose Hill, when it's actually in the West Nose Creek Valley, somewhat upstream of the Country Hills Golf Course."

chris.manderson@calgary.ca

Announcement:

New contact for City Parks - Nose Hill

George Stalker, Urban Conservation Park Ecologist, Habitat Management, The City of Calgary, Parks

e: george.stalker@calgary.ca | **p:** 403.650.2689 | **f:** 403.221.3982 | Mail Code #82 | Parks North Office, 905 30th Ave NW | Calgary, AB T2K 0A2, CANADA
www.calgary.ca/biodiversity

George Stalker, Parks Ecologist with Calgary Parks, has been involved with various Park Services in several locations for over 20 years. George currently finds himself with Calgary Parks Operations, in Calgary Parks Urban Conservation – Habitat Management Unit for three years where his responsibilities include Nose Hill Park.

George possesses a Forest Technology Diploma from NAIT, a Recreation Management Diploma from Mount Royal College, and an Environmental Management Degree from Royal Roads University. This combination of technical and theoretical academic training allows George a broad base from which to consider and perform his work.

During his career George has been recognized for his natural conservation work including two Alberta Provincial Emerald Awards and several City of Calgary STARS Awards. His related work includes positions as a Playground Leader, a Wildfire Fighter, a Provincial Park Ranger, a National Park Consultant, an Environmental Planner, and a Natural Areas Project Co-ordinator.

George is interested in the history and intent of Nose Hill Park, he is looking forward to interacting with FONHS in order to increase his overall understanding,

including the historical context, of this unique Parks asset.

More News & Views

There was a complaint about drones over Nose Hill Park. The federal government has certain rules, based on size and weight, while Transport Canada manages their use. The National Parks Act restricts drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) in national parks. There are also Privacy Concerns. Go to: <https://www.priv.gc.ca/en/report-a-concern>. According to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada:

- the UAV shall not be operated over or within a built-up area of a city or town;
- the UAV shall not be operated within a certain distance of any built-up area of a city or town; or
- the UAV shall not be operated near noise sensitive areas, such as churches, hospitals, **parks**, and schools.

DOGS

City Hall exhibited "Calgary Goes to the Dogs: A History of Dogs and Dog Licenses" at the Calgary Municipal Building Atrium. (For more information, phone 403-268-8180). In 1885 there were 100 dog tags; now there are 100,000. There were no leashes, fence backyards, or bylaws; today we have the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw. There are estimated to be 150 public off-leash areas (1250 hectares). This accounts for 20% of park spaces in Calgary. ("Chronicling Our Canine History, Fetch! City Digs Up History of Hounds", *Calgary Herald*, Sept. 16, 2015, A-6).

BIRDS

Spreading urbanization in eastern and central North America is blamed for the dramatic decline over the last 40 years in the number of nesting birds. The study, which analyzes counts from North American Breeding Bird Surveys, leads researchers to conclude that habitat loss

through land development in North America is the culprit harming breeding birds.

Reference Ivan Valiela and Paulina Martinetto. 2007. [Changes in Bird Abundance in Eastern North America: Urban Sprawl and Global Footprint?](#) Bioscience. 57(4): 360-371.

Friends of Nose Hill Society**Membership Year:****\$10.00**

Name _____ **RENEWAL 9** **NEW 9**

Address _____

Phone Number _____ **E-mail address** _____

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:

Friends of Nose Hill, Suite 171, 130-5403 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary, AB T3B 4Z1

**Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nose Hill Society,
16 November, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the Pub/Lounge
at the Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Dr. NW**

Agenda

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, November 18, 2015.
- 2) Annual Report by the President
- 3) Approval of the audited Financial Statements
- 4) Appointment of the auditors for the coming year
- 5) Election of Officers

Elections will be held for the following positions, for two-year terms: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and three directors. Nominations for these positions should be received by the Secretary of the Society before the start of the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary and one Director will continue serving the second year of their terms in the coming year.

6) Other Business

A Special Resolution to change the bylaws and increase the number of directors (unassigned) to 6. As always, we need your input! We want to hear from you. Come out and share your views.

7) Adjournment

Guest Presentation by John McFaul: A slide show of The Flora of Nose Hill and an introduction to the City's BiodiverCity plan and what the advisory committee has been doing.

John McFaul was appointed by City Council as a member of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee and is a professional naturalist, who has been leading nature walks and hikes for 30 years. A native Calgarian, he received a B. Sc. degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Calgary. From 1986-2003 he worked for City of Calgary Parks as a naturalist for the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. John is a program director and an Honourary Member of the Calgary Field Naturalists' Society and a long-time member of the Friends of Nose Hill Society. He received the prestigious Loran L. Goulden Award from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. John is an accredited Professional Interpreter with the Interpretive Guides Association. He is dedicated to the natural wonders of Calgary's Nature Parks as well as Kananaskis Country and the mountain national parks.

Executive & Board 2016

President

Anne Burke (403)-239-1285

Vice-President

Vacant

Secretary

Eve Robertson

Treasurer

Madeleine Oldershaw

Directors

Elected

Polly Knowlton Cockett
Robert van Everdingen

Acting

Jason Frederickson
Dorothy Haeberle
Tara Little

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The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Please include your name and phone number with submissions.

The views expressed are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the FONHS



The Friends on Facebook

The Friends of Nose Hill have a Facebook Group. If you are a Facebook member, check out the group: “Friends of Nose Hill Society”. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.

Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: ervan@ucalgary.ca

New members can join the Friends of Nose Hill by mailing \$10.00 to:

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130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary AB T3B 4Z1