



Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 52

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2015

President's Message

by Anne Burke

There was a full house at our November AGM to hear a talk by U. of C. Professor Shelley Alexander on coyotes in the city. Thank you for your support. The Board is carrying on and Polly Knowlton Cockett, an Emerald Award winner, has joined our ranks.

The Facebook Group has grown to 37 members. You are welcome to post photos and news about Nose Hill. The web site at www.fonhs.org has been updated with news, views, and important links, such as City reports, like-minded organizations, and relevant documents.

Our outreach continues in northwest community newsletters, online and by Canada Post. If you would like your newsletter to add our (more or less) monthly "News from the Friends of Nose Hill", simply ask them, since most editors are happy to receive input.

We participated in "Mapping What Matters", a province-wide survey for ENGO Leaders (Alberta Ecotrust Foundation).

The Paskapoo Slopes Preservationist Society contacted us about the proposed commercial development for the East Paskapoo Slopes. The Society's web site is www.savetheslopes.org. The group held a fundraiser and also organized a Flash Mob "Let's Keep Paskapoo Wild" to bring attention to the issue.

As an invited stakeholder group, we gave input on the BiodiverCity Strategic 10-year Plan and the 30-year Imagine Parks plan for

City parks. Both were recommended for approval in principle by a Council Committee on Community and Protective Services. The next step was a full meeting of Council. In addition, the Terms of Reference and framework for a new Biodiversity Advisory Committee will involve broad representation from across Calgary. A proposed plan is due by November 2015.

There are already changes to the frameworks for the Habitat Restoration Project and Biophysical Assessment. The Council Committee on Planning and Urban Development will consider proposals prior to approval.

The Oral History Project is continuing with stories contributed by Calgarians about changes they observed in City Parks. There were two focus-group sessions held last spring and fall, as well as personal documentation of those who submitted their response by email.

Over the course of this year, a literature review will be performed, another focus-group session with non-experts held, and a paper developed based on the project's findings. The paper will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals for publishing. The City reports that the Oral History Project will continue in various forms, so that citizens have ongoing opportunities to showcase our connections to Calgary's nature.

There is a disturbing trend to remove books, periodicals, and other reading materials, such as historical papers and documents from our

local libraries. This is our Local History for future generations of Calgarians. Please remind your local library that History matters!

Margaret and Harvey Buckmaster contributed documents about the early history of how Nose Hill was conceived, to add to our web site timeline. Margaret and Grace Stonewall, representing The Calgary Local Council of Women presented a Brief to Calgary City Council in June 1972, during the Nose Hill Hearings. Harvey represented the National Provincial Parks Association, later the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Grace was the presenter at meetings held in each community hall in the NW sector of the City affected by the creation of the park.

Here is an extract: "*Nose Hill is to Calgary what Citadel Hill is to Halifax; Battlefield's Park to Quebec City; Mount Royal is to Montreal; Stanley Park to Vancouver; and Beacon Hill Park to Victoria.*"

The Buckmasters wrote, "*We have read the history timeline that you have published on your website which is an important and valuable document to help preserve the park's history. We felt that it could profit from the*

information that we have supplied as the conceivers of this wonderful park."

FUTURE EVENTS

Nose Hill Park P.U.P.P.Y. clean-ups will be on Sat. May 9, and Sat. Aug. 8, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet at the Edgemont entrance to the off-leash area. The event includes an interpretive program, with supplies provided by the City's Animal and Bylaw Services, 3-1-1.

International Migratory Bird Day will be on Sunday May 10 this year.

During the week of May 25 to 31 the Executive is planning a walk to record the Plants in Bloom on Nose Hill. You don't have to be an expert to do this. Just note the flowers that you know. Those you don't know can be ignored or perhaps identified using a field guide. One which received a good review from *Nature Calgary* is "*Plants of Alberta*", by Richard Dickinson (Lone Pine Publishing). Please submit Count results by June 30, 2015. Our Botanist contact is Suzanne Visser at svisser@ucalgary.ca

Anne Burke

Friends of Nose Hill Society Membership Year: 2015

\$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

Winter on the Hill



Paintings by Frances Chapman
(acrylic on canvas)

My Walk on the Hill

by Patricia Fedkenheuer

On Sunday, March 15, I took my camera to our Hill to see if I could find the first Crocus of spring. Even after a challenging walk, I was not able to find any in bloom. This afternoon, March 30, I walked out through the same area. The sun was shining, a light wind was cooling in the 17-degree temperature, and the crocuses were out with their golden centers and hairy mauve blooms. There are not many yet, but they are there to greet us and let us know that spring is definitely here.



My walk saw catkins on the Trembling Aspens, greening leaves of Prairie Smoke, silvery-green of the Pussy Toes and early greening of Fringed Sage, Northern Bedstraw, and Alumroot.



Fringed Sage



Prairie Smoke



Pussy Toes

As with my first trek on the hill, it was unpleasant to see and step around all of the dog droppings. This is a "sacred area" for Calgarians. Can we, as custodians of this Hill, do a better job? I think we can. This is a natural area within a large city population; we all must be diligent in keeping this area clean. It is a regenerating space for a walk, a run or a bike ride, with or without your dog. Let's all do our part to keep this Hill a healthy Hill. If you have your dog with you, please clean up after the "deposit" and take the bag with you out of the park. If you have not picked up before, start today. Diseases can be spread via feces to other dogs as well as to the coyotes. Bring extra bags to pick up what was left earlier. Help keep our Hill clean.

The Prairie Princess

from the Editor

Recently I had the privilege to get a look at a delightful unpublished story entitled “The Prairie Princess” by Karen Gummo, a Calgary storyteller and visual artist. It is about a little girl who is fascinated by the ladybirds on Nose Hill.



During a hike on the hill with her family she loses something she treasures, and she has a real adventure trying to find it back.



I hope Karen Gummo will soon be able to find a publisher for her beautifully illustrated story of the Prairie Princess, because many children might like to read it.

Executive & Board 2015

President

Anne Burke (403)-239-1285

Vice-President

Vacant

Secretary

Eve Robertson

Treasurer

Madeleine Oldershaw

Directors

Patricia Fedkenheuer
Polly Knowlton Cockett
Robert van Everdingen

Nose Hill News and Views

is published by

The Friends of Nose Hill Society
Suite 171, 130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta T3B 4Z1

Website: fonhs.org

Editor: Robert van Everdingen

Design & Layout: Robert van Everdingen

Printing: Brentwood Printing Inc.

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:

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