



Friends of the Oxbows

NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 10 Summer 2014

The Friends of the Oxbows (FOTO) vision is for the Penticton oxbows to be returned to a more natural state, in order to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Our supporters, YOU, now number well over one hundred.

Since our first meetings, in the fall of 2008, we have formed a Steering Committee consisting of Chair, Ted Makar, Secretary, Bob Anderson, Biologists Ray Halladay and Rick McKelvey, Historian Randy Manuel and Agrologist Allan Garland.

We have published a Strategic Plan and a Prospectus, which you can see on our website at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/pentictonoxbows/>

* We are grateful for the interest of our members. Our number has now increased to over 120. We appreciate the support you have given the Friends of the Oxbows Steering Committee.

* We have made a presentation to the City of Penticton Climate Change Advisory Committee relating to installing baffles along Brandon Avenue to eliminate the silt contamination. We have also proposed a walking trail along the Warren Avenue Oxbow. Our recommendation proposal has been forwarded to City Council.

* We have made a presentation to the Penticton City Council's Committee of the Whole. It was well received with a decision, by City Council, to form a partnership with Friends of the Oxbows to preserve the Penticton Oxbows.

* Our fourth Meadowlark Festival Tour, conducted by Rick McKelvey, was sold out at 20. This was twice as many as the 2013 tour. Reactions from the participants were very positive.

* On April 28th the Steering Committee Chair and Secretary met with representatives of the Penticton Indian Band to discuss collaboration and partnerships in regard to the Penticton Oxbows. This meeting gave us an opportunity to share our progress and discuss our future objectives.

* A work party of five FOTO members, under the supervision of Allan Garland, met June 18th and was successful in removing Downy Brome grass along the planted area of the Ellis Creek mouth.

* Our founding Chairman, Ted Makar, has resigned. Long time Steering Committee Member, Biologist Ray Halladay, was nominated to replace Ted and Ray has accepted the nomination. This change will take place in July 2014.

* Join us at our "SHOW AND TELL". Turn over for more information.

We are grateful for your support and would appreciate any suggestions you might have on how to implement our vision for the oxbows. Our contact information follows. We would appreciate knowing about your experiences, recently and historically, relating to the oxbows.

Contact us directly, or visit our website to learn more about us. See you on the Oxbows in 2014!

We invite you to visit the:

Friends of the Oxbows website at:

<http://members.shaw.ca/pentictonoxbows/>

Chair - Ted Makar

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Secretary - Bob Anderson

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WELCOME

You are invited to a “show and tell” gathering at the west end of Brandon Avenue on Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th between 10:00 am and 11:30 am, weather permitting. If it’s raining, this event will be postponed until the following weekend, July 4th and July 5th, at the same times. This will give you an opportunity to view one of the oxbows that FOTO is working to return to a more natural state as well as express your views on how such restorations can be implemented.

Some of the wildlife you can observe along the oxbows

