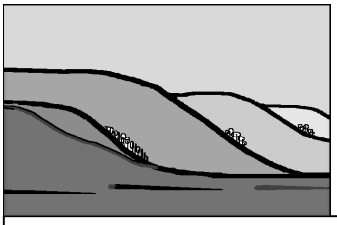

Nose Hill

News and Views

fonhs.org

Number 57 **The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter** **Fall 2017**

President's Message

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed. Nov. 15, at Triwood Community Centre Pub/Lounge at 7 p.m. Please plan to join us. It is time to renew your membership for the coming year. Thank you to the Board members who met monthly. Two newsletters were published in fall/winter 2016 and spring/summer 2017. Our outreach program continues, with a monthly "News from FONHS" column in many NW community newsletters.

The inaugural photo contest was launched. The winners will be announced at our Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all those who submitted photos and to the volunteers who judged the contest.

The Society was contacted by the City as an expert stakeholder in developing a field guide of wild edible plants of the Calgary area. The lead on this project is Jenna Cross, Parks Ecologist for City Parks, in Urban Conservation. You can contact her at: Jenna.Cross@calgary.ca
T: 403-537-7542 | C: 403-371-7360

The redesign of our website includes a link to our Facebook account. The work was done in house and at no cost to the Society. A sample of the site in Sept. shows there were 70 visitors, of which 64 are new, with 119-page views. An average visitor spent nearly 6 minutes on the site (a 56% increase from the previous week).

Our Facebook Group has 87 members, with 1570 photos. This is a good way to share news and views, events, pictures of damage to the park, as well as photos of wildlife and habitat. There is a link on our Facebook to "Rediscover Nose Hill", an article by Tyler Dixon, April 24, 2017, for www.Calgary Guardian.com. Tyler is also a volunteer with the GOT (Get Out To) Parks initiative, which aims at reconnecting Canada's youth with our national, provincial, and territorial parks. In part, he says:

It is believed that elevated landscapes allow for closer contact with the spiritual realm as spirits travel faster in high, windy places. In this way Nose Hill was a popular location for campsites, burials, and ceremonies. Crumbling foundations and a gravel pit that is slowly being reclaimed by nature are virtually all that remain from Nose Hill's farming, ranching, and industrial era.

According to "Urban Oasis", by Barb Livingstone, Calgary's urban parks offer nearby residents a slice of the great outdoors in the heart of the city, and member Marvin Quashnick said of Nose Hill "I don't have to drive to the mountains, I literally can step out my back door. It is so big you can lose yourself safely.". wwwcrebnow.com/urban-oasis

I was interviewed by Red Point Media for the "My North Is Parkland" article which featured full colour images of Nose Hill Park (*Live Up* spring/summer 2017).

There were many events on Nose Hill. We sponsored evening Guided Botany Walks on May 17 and June 26, ably led by a member John McFaul. The May walk introduced the public to the annual Alberta May Flower Count.

On May 5, Dr. Shelley Alexander led a Jane's Walk on "Walking with Coyotes" to teach about coyotes living and denning on Nose Hill and the nearby urban area.

On June 18, author Lori Beattie led the Walk 150 on Nose Hill to Calgary's highest point, where they enjoyed spectacular views followed by dips into aspen-filled coulees.

There was a City P.U.P.P.Y. event on July 15 at the Edgemont entrance to the off-leash area.

There was an Ice Age Tour of Nose Hill August 5 which explored 6 million years of Calgary's history in this park. The group learned about Calgary's famous sandstone; heard the Blackfoot story Napi and the Big Rock; imagined great sheets of glacial ice once covering this area; examined wildlife fossils; and understood how human activities impacted nature. This tour was hosted by Cory Gross of the Alberta Palaeontology Society.
When Nose Hill was officially recognized as a city park in 1980, the city population was 568,000 (Source: *Population estimates for Calgary, Canada, 1950-2015*). The population of the City of Calgary, according to its 2017 municipal census, is currently over 1.2 million, and the grasslands Park is surrounded by developments (twelve communities), and three major roadways.

There continue to be many concerns about ongoing implementation of the controversial Nose Hill Park Trail and Pathway Plan, as well as vandalism and damage to the natural environment.

Announcement

The new contact for City Parks is Sheldon David, Parks Superintendent Zone 3, City of Calgary. Phone 403-221-7803 (office), 403-312-7620 (cell).
sheldon.david@calgary.ca

He wrote, “I am the new Superintendent for Nose Hill Park. It has been years since I have been involved with this park, but in the past, I have spent years working on the hill while I was working in the Natural Areas division in Parks.”

Photo Credit: Andrea S.H. Hunt

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Nose Hill Society

15 November, 2017, 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 held on Wednesday November 16, 2016..
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: Vice President, Secretary, 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 President, Treasurer, and **three** Directors will continue serving the second year of their terms in the coming year.
6) Other Business: The future directions of The Friends of Nose Hill
7) Adjournment

Guest Speaker

We will have a special guest speaker, Jenna McFarland, Animal Care Operations Manager from The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. Join us for a fun and informative presentation about the wildlife in Nose Hill Park.

Did you know that over 400 species of wildlife live within the City of Calgary? Do you have questions about the wildlife we share our city with? Bring them to the AGM.

Photo Credit: Andrea S. H. Hunt

Jenna McFarland is the Animal Care Operations Manager at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society. Jenna joined the wildlife team in early 2012 and brings with her over 10 years of international zoo and aquarium experience. She holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees, specializing in zoology and marine science, and is a registered Veterinary Technologist. Jenna brings to Calgary Wildlife an unparalleled enthusiasm for animal care and a passion for the coexistence of wildlife and humans in urban environments. Jenna is an avid traveler and takes any opportunity to get out of town; when she is at home she is a dedicated aquarist and enjoys tending to her fish collection.

Photo Credits: Andrea S. H. Hunt

The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society (CWRS) is a registered not-for-profit organisation that was established in 1993 to provide professional care and facilities for wildlife rehabilitation. CWRS rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wild animals in the City of Calgary and surrounding areas. It is an accredited (ABVMA) veterinary hospital, open 365 days a year, and is the only wildlife rehabilitation centre in Calgary. The professional staff and volunteers are dedicated to providing medical and rehabilitative care for all injured and orphaned wildlife, with the goal of returning them to their natural habitat. CWRS also provides valuable outreach and educational services to the community. For more information, visit www.calgarywildlife.org.

Comments and Questions from users of Nose Hill Park

We hope to have answers to these questions soon now that the new contact at Parks has been appointed.

Hi, I expect that maybe others have seen orchids on the hill but it was a pleasant surprise for us this morning. Yellow coral roots have become established in the SE corner of the plateau under the aspen.

Thanks for the great job you do on Nose Hill. Just a couple of observations. What has happened with the $200,000 program to restore some of the dirt trails to their natural state. I notice many of the trails intended to be closed are open again after much effort to restore them. Also, having walked and biked throughout mostly the west end of the park, it is clear to even the casual observer that there remain many large patches of thistle looking quite happy and healthy. Why so little progress in eliminating these weeds over all these years when their location is so obvious. I would have thought the main patches would have been mapped many times by now and a strategy to eradicate them implemented by now. Thanks again.

We regularly use the trails in Nose Hill Park. I've complained to the city about the state of some of the trails but have had no response and no attempt at all to repair them.

I'm specifically referring to a pathway that leads north/south from MacEwan Park View down a hill, around the pond and through some tree areas. It meets up with the main path from Edgemont.

I'm attaching a few pictures I took last night hoping that you will understand our concerns better. The pictures really don't even do justice to the conditions. I've also attached a google image of where I'm talking about, because I wonder if people just don't know where my descriptions are talking about.

This path has been in bad shape since the heavy rain in the spring of 2016. I put in a request with the city this spring 2017 in the hopes they would fix it this summer. I've seen older people walking along there and it is just really poor conditions and unsafe. Some of the ruts are so deep it's almost impossible to pass someone or walk 2 wide. Some of the areas have the fabric under the gravel sticking out and causing tripping hazards. One long section of the path has so much tall grass and thistle that it is only about 8" wide at best.

What can we do to get them to have some consideration for this pathway?? Looking forward to answers. We'd love to be more help if we can.

Just returned from a walk on Nose Hill and spotted some vandalism on the stainless steel artwork on the North end of the walkway over John Laurie Blvd. It is a “tag” in white paint presumably someone’s initials or symbol. I reported this to the city but thought you might like to know.

My husband and I regularly walk on Nose Hill, usually 3-5 times a week and we usually walk over the Whispering Grasses pedestrian bridge. I noticed Entrance Keepers on the FONHS website—can you tell me more about this? We are interested in perhaps becoming Entrance Keepers.

I hope all is in order but I was alarmed to see a back hoe parked above Charleswood & John Laurie, south of the gulley from Brisebois Drive. I hope there is no plan to pave or gravel that path along the ridge crest. We have so many paved and manicured paths already on the Hill.

Answer: From the Zone 3 Parks Superintendent to the Ward 4 Councillor: “*The backhoe is being used to construct the formal gravel trail. It will be designated trail replacing a worn desire line trail. …The construction of the stairway and designated trails has gone as planned this year and they look great.*”

Executive & Board 2017

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Vacant

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Treasurer
Madeleine Oldershaw

Directors
Elected
Polly Knowlton Cockett
Robert van Everdingen
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Nose Hill News and Views

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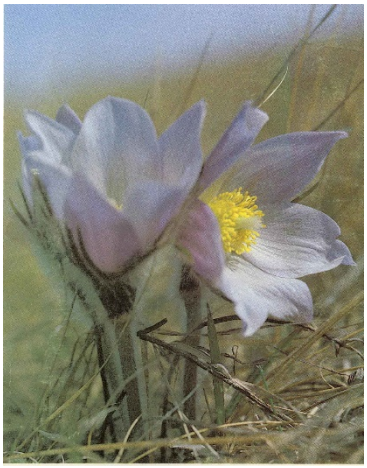
The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

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". It has 87 members and 1570 photos so far. 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 $20.00 to:

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

Photo by Polly Knowlton Cockett

Participants in the Botanical Walk on Nose Hill

Friends of Nose Hill Society

Membership Year: 2017 **Fee: $20.00**

Name_____ **RENEWAL ☐ NEW ☐**

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