

# FRIENDS OF STRATHCONA PARK



March 2025 Newsletter



## Bedwell Valley Trail Work Party - Summer 2024

The Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP) have been working since the 1990s to restore and maintain the Bedwell Trail, a unique coast-to-coast route through Strathcona Park. Our latest trail work took place from August 15–21, with volunteers tackling overgrown sections, installing markers, and assessing creek crossings for future improvements.

We would like to acknowledge our intrepid work party volunteers Petra Strougal, Ian Holm, Dave Osmond, Susan Holvenstot, Sean Anderson and Tim Hanson. for their hard work and dedication. Our sincere gratitude to you all for laying down the groundwork for this important initiative.

Despite long days and challenging weather, significant progress was made. However, the work remains ongoing. High-priority projects include replacing the K2 Creek crossing with a sturdy bridge, further trail clearing, and possible rerouting of eroded sections. We are seeking an engineer to collaborate with BC Parks on designing the new bridge—if you or someone you know can help, please reach out!

continued on the next page...

[www.friendsofstrathconapark.org](http://www.friendsofstrathconapark.org)

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

## Call for New Directors

FOSP is looking for new members to join our team!

Our directors primarily live in the Comox Valley, with members in Campbell River and Victoria. We meet as needed, with some joining online. We work closely with BC Parks and seeking someone with an interest in attending the [Strathcona Park Public Advisory Committee](#) meetings a few times a year, as a member of the public.

Our main focus right now is the Bedwell Valley Trail Project, and we would love for you to be part of it! Current directors are happy to mentor new members.

To ensure FOSP continues to thrive for years to come, we're excited to welcome new, passionate members—especially younger volunteers! If you love the park, now is the perfect time to get involved and make a lasting impact!

## In Remembrance

We are saddened to share the passing of two cherished members of FOSP, Pat Halliday and Myrna Boulding.

Pat Halliday, a longtime advocate for both people and nature, passed away in September 2024. Her diverse career as a nanny, nurse, mother, Comox Town Residents Association president, Forest Land Commissioner, and passionate environmentalist reflected her deep commitment to her community and the natural world. Pat and her husband, Bill, were dedicated FOSP members, actively involved in the organization's early days when Strathcona Park faced significant threats. Her legacy of environmental protection and advocacy will not be forgotten.

On December 12, 2024, Myrna Boulding passed away at the age of 89. Alongside her late husband, Jim Boulding, Myrna co-founded Strathcona Park Lodge, British Columbia's first outdoor education center. Jim's efforts to protect the park from government-backed logging and mining in the mid-1980s led to the formation of FOSP, and while Myrna couldn't be directly involved due to her business, she remained a steadfast supporter. Her generosity and commitment to conservation continue through her children, who actively uphold her legacy.

Both Pat and Myrna played important roles in protecting Strathcona Park, and their passion for environmental stewardship will be deeply missed.

## 2024 Bedwell Trail Work Party continuation

We are also looking for a lasting name for this trail—suggestions so far include “Centennial Trail,” “Bedwell Valley Trail,” and “Ocean to Alpine Trail.” Have an idea? Let us know!

As we transition into a more active role in trail restoration, we need your support. If you’re passionate about preserving and improving park trails, consider joining our efforts. Contact John Milne at [jmilne64@shaw.ca](mailto:jmilne64@shaw.ca) or visit our [website](#) to get involved.

To read more about the details of the work party, please visit the [blog section](#) on the FOSP website.

### Exciting Trail Restoration Plans: Your Help Needed!

Great news! After productive discussions with BC Parks, plans are moving forward to enhance access to some of our park’s most beautiful remote areas. The first step will be building a bridge over K2 Creek, with potential brush clearing along the route to Bedwell Lake. Looking ahead, we hope to tackle the section towards the landslide, You Creek, and Sundew Lake in the summer of 2026.

This marks an exciting shift—from working to protect the park from industrial use (as Ruth Masters famously said, from becoming a “Goodie Bag”) to actively partnering with BC Parks to restore and maintain these incredible trails. By doing so, we continue to safeguard the park while making its beauty more accessible.

Building a wilderness bridge or reconstructing a trail is not just meaningful—it is an unforgettable adventure! If you love this park and want to make a lasting impact, now is the time to get involved. We need at least 10 dedicated people to help drive this transition forward. Whether you are handy with tools or just eager to lend a hand, your support is invaluable.

Be bold, step up, and rally your friends—together, we can make a real difference! Reach out and become a FOSP volunteer today.



Photo Credit: Ian Holm and Petra Strougall

# WAYS TO BE INVOLVED!

## Become a Volunteer

We could use all the volunteers we can get to continue the important work of preserving our beloved Strathcona Provincial Park. Please consider volunteering for the following:

- Trail Building
- Outdoor civic action
- Research (internet, library)
- Legal assistance

You do not have to become a member to volunteer. Please contact us by email at [friendsofstrathcona@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstrathcona@gmail.com) to let us know how you would like to be involved.

## Become a Member

The Friends of Strathcona is a not-for-profit organization. We rely on the generosity of our members to help us achieve our mission. 'To preserve and protect...' does not come easily. Our hard working volunteers are not paid for their time, but there are expenses that do need funding:

- Expenses for public meetings
- Legal expenses for court challenges
- Field expenses for outdoor civic action

You can help us financially by becoming a member for \$10. Your membership also lends us moral support. If you feel especially generous, you may also consider making a tax-deductible donation to FOSP through [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org).

To become a member, you may [sign up online](#) or print and mail the form below.

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### FOSP MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amount (\$10.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership Amount (\$250) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Cheque Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# SHARE THE BEAUTY OF STRATHCONA PROVINCIAL PARK

Photo Credit: Joanna Verano



## 📷 Share Your Stunning Shots of Strathcona Provincial Park! 🌿🏔️

Do you love capturing the beauty of Strathcona Provincial Park through the seasons? We're looking for breathtaking landscape photos to feature in our online gallery, Friends of Strathcona Park (FOSP) newsletter, and even as a Facebook cover image!

### 🌟 Why submit?

- ✓ Have your photography showcased to fellow nature lovers
- ✓ Get full photo credit (with your written permission)
- ✓ Help highlight the park's incredible scenery taken

### 📷 Photo Guidelines:

- Landscape-oriented images only
- Must feature scenery within Strathcona Provincial Park
- Include the photo title, location within the park, and date

✉️ Submit your photos to: [friendsofstrathcona@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstrathcona@gmail.com)

Thank you for helping us celebrate the beauty of Strathcona! We can't wait to see your photos! 🌿🌟

**FRIENDS OF  
STRATHCONA  
PARK**



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