

CHAIR'S REPORT

In the 4 years since I joined the Board, I have watched as we have transformed and stabilized the Society. We have “established our groove,” in part in the last few years due to the wonderful work of Nancy Ouimet, who over her tenure has risen to take more and more responsibility and greater management of the Society.

This past year, our ongoing successes gave the Board cause to re-consider the entire management framework of the Society. In 2011, the Board moved to what is referred to as an “Administrative Board” model of governance, where Board members take responsibility and authority for the majority of the actions of the Society. Based on our successes since then, in the 2016-17 Fiscal Year the Board questioned whether that still remained an appropriate model.

Starting in mid-2016 and continuing through to early 2017, several of the Board’s various subcommittees looked at our structures and processes, and concluded the time was right for a change of Society governance. Initially independently, and subsequently with the support from a Facilitator generously funded for us by the Calgary Foundation, the recommendation was made to switch to a “Policy Board with Subcommittee” model of governance, coincident with the end of our 2016-17 Fiscal Year. What this does is move the Board away from hands-on management, though retaining some specific subcommittees for specific issues.

One of the results of this transition was to offer Nancy the role of Executive Director of the Society, a role that not only is she highly qualified for, but that she accepted with her typical enthusiasm and energy. As Executive Director, she takes a greater responsibility for the day-to-day operations of our Society.

As we move into 2017-18, we can look back at our Business Plans from previous years and be proud of what we accomplished. Moving forward, the Board will increasingly step back from that day-to-day operation and seek to focus instead on Policies and Procedures that continue to assist our new Executive Director in doing her job, facilitate our members and volunteers to have fantastic experiences with us, tightly align ourselves with Alberta Parks, and deliver awesome value to the donors who make our operations possible.

On behalf of the Board, I say “Thank You” to Nancy, our donors, our volunteers, our Partners at Alberta Parks and elsewhere. We look forward to what lies ahead.

- Derek Ryder, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Friends of Kananaskis Country (“The Friends”) are about working together to build trail culture - we develop opportunities and programs for individuals to experience Kananaskis Country through engagement and sharing. In partnership with Alberta Parks we engage in the stewardship of Kananaskis for current and future generations.

We set our focus in 2016-2017 towards building a stronger Trail Stewardship program. As you will see within this report, The Friends made strides towards reaching this goal by offering numerous volunteer opportunities. We launched the Canmore Trail Alliance, and identified new initiatives that diversify how volunteers can engage and help steward Kananaskis Country.

Community engagement is a priority for the organization. We take pride in offering unique volunteer opportunities and are always astounded by your time, commitment, and passion for giving back to Kananaskis.

Together, we have helped build, maintain, and monitor Kananaskis trails...not to mention enjoy them. A resounding thank you goes out to everyone who is a ‘Friend of the Friends’. We have built a big family of volunteers and supporters – and you all make working for this organization a pleasure.

- Nancy Ouimet, Executive Director



OUR GOALS

Working collaboratively with our partners, we develop programs and activities that:

- Enhance volunteer management and community engagement
- Deliver excellence in Trail Stewardship
- Develop education initiatives related to Trail Stewardship
- Maintain a focus on governance and fiscal management
- Improve our fundraising capacity and advance our financial position

2016-2017 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Chester Sawmill Winter Trail Enhancement Plan was submitted and approved in majority;
- Launched the Canmore Trail Alliance aimed at engaging trail users in planning, design, construction and maintenance of trails in the Canmore area;
- Hosted our second annual Trails Fest event – celebrating Kananaskis trails, people and culture;
- Kananaskis Country Speaker Series offered three highly engaging presentations at the University of Calgary;
- Published The Great Kananaskis Flood book as a fundraising project;
- Developed three new volunteer initiatives that diversify how volunteers can engage and help steward Kananaskis;
- Our 2016 Trail Care season successfully hosted 45 Trail Care days undertaken. We engaged 187 individuals who filled 379 volunteer slots contributing over 1,705 hours to help build and maintain Kananaskis trails.
- Trail Care projects undertaken in 13 locations:

Canmore Nordic Centre	Prairie Creek Trail
South Canmore Habitat Patch	Powderface Trail
Big Elbow Loop	Dead Man's Flats Clean Up
Black Prince Cirque Loop	High Rockies Trail
Mount Shark	Highway 40 Clean Up
PLPP Paved Bike Path	
Tom Snow Trail	
Chester-Sawmill	



VISION

A Kananaskis Country of exquisite natural and cultural landscapes enjoyed by present and future generations.

MISSION

To cooperate with the Alberta Government and community to engage in the sound stewardship of Kananaskis Country through participation and education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Derek Ryder, Chair
 Kevin Smith, Vice-Chair
 Loralie Johnson, Treasurer
 Kayla Simpson, Secretary
 Ed Engstrom
 Fred Folliott
 Jamie McPhail
 Dave Nielsen
 Antoine Paradis
 David Schultz
 Manika Suri

STAFF

Nancy Ouimet, Executive Director
 Lawrence Nyman, Contract Bookkeeper

ALBERTA PARK LIAISONS

Jody Cairns, Trails Coordinator, Peter Loughed Provincial Park
 Jennell Rempel, Community and Partner Relations Team Lead

ADVISORY COUNCIL

James Early
 Gilleen Daffern
 Don Cockerton
 Alf Skrastins

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2016 was The Friends of Kananaskis Country 20th Anniversary. Twenty years ago, The Friends was formed as a cooperating association with the Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) to enable public participation within Kananaskis. At it's core, The Friends has a successful track record of doing exactly that – offering public participation.

It's our pleasure to share some of our highlights which are a blend of our efforts to enhance Kananaskis trails and experience, build trail stewardship and public participation, and the ways we bridge community engagement with Alberta Parks' need for additional volunteer resources.

Trail Care: With your help, we assisted Alberta Parks in rebuilding the 2013 flood damaged trails. It's been an incredible amount of work, and although several of your favourite trails were washed away, the new trails are built in a sustainable approach above valley bottoms and creeks offering a variety of different beautiful vistas.

Chester Sawmill Winter Trail Enhancement Plan: All the trails proposed in the plan were approved by Alberta Parks. 12.5km of new trails will be included into this trail system by winter 2017.

Canmore Trail Alliance: We hosted 30 trail events, engaged 88 volunteers with 162 turnouts and over 645 volunteer hours. Trail night was every Thursday from 6-9pm with occasional weekend sessions.

Speaker Series: A mix of adventure, Alberta Parks operations, and science. These highly engaging presenters made this series fun and interesting: Alpinist Barry Blanchard, Conservation Officer Donna Schley, and Trout Unlimited Lesley Peterson.

New Initiatives: We developed three new initiatives to offer our members; Trail Inventory, Visitation Monitoring, and Trail Monitoring. All three projects assist AEP with data collection that supports trail and recreation management.

Great Kananaskis Flood Book: Written by Gilleen Daffern and Chair Derek Ryder - released in July 2016. The book captures the essence of the 2013 flood event sharing stories about people involved.



SUPPORTERS

Calgary Foundation • FortisAlberta • TransAlta • Banff Canmore Community Foundation • Patagonia Elements Inc. Calgary & Banff stores • Town of Canmore • Husky Energy • Rotary Club of Canmore • Kananaskis Lakes Association • Rundle Mountain Cycling Club • Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre • Spectra Energy • Kananaskis Lakes Association, Rundle Mountain Cycling Club, Canmore Museum and Geoscience Centre, Spectra Energy, Stantec Consulting • Kananaskis Improvement District • McElhanney • Mountain Equipment Co-op • Trail Sports • Valhalla Pure Outfitters • Stream Films • Calgary Ski Club • Calgary Weekend Hikers • Alberta Apparel • Canmore and Area Mountain Bike Association • An Edible Life • Canmore Cycling Association • MnM Outdoor Club • Holiday Films Inc. • Rebound Cycle • Active Edge Chiropractic.

A few companies have employee donation matching programs; two in particular we want to recognize are the programs of Cenovus Energy and EnCana.

We also had numerous organizations provide us with donations of products or services to give away in recognition to our hardworking volunteers. These supporters included Alpine Helicopters • An Edible Life • Arborist Supply Company • Boston Pizza • Canmore Cave Tours • Canmore Nordic Centre • Crush and Cork • Delta Lodge at Kananaskis • Map Town • Mount Engadine Lodge • Mountain Equipment Co-op • Switching Gear • Tim Horton • University of Calgary Outdoor Centre • Village Brewery • Wild Smart.

There's a long list of individuals who provided donations - your ongoing support is valued and appreciated - thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, colleagues, volunteers, and members who helped us offer our programs and see value in The Friends of Kananaskis Country's mandate.

Alberta Environment and Parks: A big thank you to the Kananaskis Operations, Trails and Ecology team: Mark Storie, Michael Roycroft, Debbie Mucha, Don Carruthers-Den Hoed, Jeff Eamon, James Cieslak, Kyle Jacobson, Duane Fazor, Chris Anderson, Alex Fleming, Dan Tatton, Matthew Chilakos, Melanie Percy, John Paczkowski, Scott Jevons, and Daniella Rubeling. We have had the privilege to have Jeff Eamon, Jennell Remple and Jody Cairns from Parks serve on our Board contributing insight, wisdom and assistance.

Town of Canmore: Thanks to the Town of Canmore planning team Alaric Fish, Megan Dunn and Lori Rissling Wynn for their support in building community engagement in the Canmore area.

Canmore Trail Alliance: A big shout out goes to folks who help us launch the CTA; Jeff Eamon, Megan Dunn, Chris Anderson, Ken Davies, Wanda Bogdane & Andrew Dickison (CAMBA), and Jefferey Lockyer.

Trail Crew Leaders: They plan their weeks around our trail care projects, and work with Parks staff to merrily lead you on our many projects. These superstars include: Cristina Azpiazu, Colin Graver, Crawford Smyth, Darin Langhorst, Darren Fantin, Dave Hanes, Derek Ryder, Don Cockerton, Ghulam Jamro, James Clark, Jeff Gruttz, Karen Irvine, Kevin Smith, Kris Thesen, Lloyd Jensen, Terry Mullane, Tim Giese, Tim Pennie and Trevor Willson - and Canmore Trail Alliance Crew Leaders: Jay Balabas, Johnny Cyr, Andrew Dickison, Bruce Gleig, Grant Hvizdos, Torben Jensen, Jacob Johnson, Paul Kerfoot, Darin Langhorst, Grant Parkin, and Greg Thompson.

Volunteers: We have the folks who do the work, swinging the pulaskis and driving in the shovels. Thank You to the over 175 volunteers who came out to handle a pulaski or macleod and do trail work in 2016.

Members: Without you, the members of The Friends, none of our projects get done. There are over 1,600 members at last count. Thanks for being a Friend, Volunteer and Supporter.

GIVING BACK

"I have been volunteering with the Friends for many years now and in the recent past I have volunteered as a Crew Leader. During this time I have learned so much about building lasting trails from Jeff Eamon, Nick Dotchin, Don Cockerton and Matt Hadley. As a Crew Leader, I get to pass on this knowledge to others, which is why I keep coming back. I also genuinely enjoy the outings...I call it hiking with benefits"

- Crawford Smyth

VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE

Friends of Kananaskis Country offer a few ways to express your gratitude for Kananaskis Country – VOLUNTEER and/or DONATE!

We are always grateful for your volunteering and/or fiscal contributions that help us maintain our programs and operations, and contribute to the stewardship of Kananaskis Country.

Visit our website at www.kananaskis.org to make a donation and learn more about how to volunteer.

CONTACT US

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www.kananaskis.org





TREASURE'S REPORT

The Friends of Kananaskis Country' cash position decreased by 14% to \$203,046 from \$237,418 at our fiscal year-end. Gross Revenue decreased by 32% to \$123,188 from \$179,319. Total Costs of our programs decreased 31%, to \$129,397 from \$189,709, mainly due to the CNC Warming Hut.

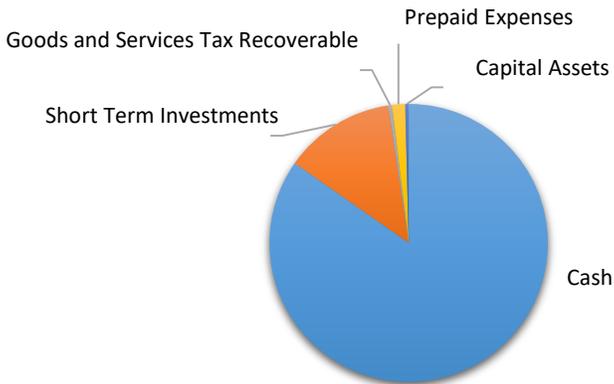
The Friends planned to set an endowment fund with royalties received from the Flood book donation, however the monies were not received during the fiscal year. The Friends still plan to set up an endowment fund dependent on the value of monies received. We also placed a portion of our cash balance into a GIC and Savings and earned interest of \$1,621.

During the year a number of interpretive trails were finished and there will be more trails completed in the 2017-2018 year; there is a balance of \$66,054 of restricted funds to be spent on interpretive trails. The Friends has \$92,937 of restricted funding to be spent on the trail care program, some of which is for specific projects or areas in the program.

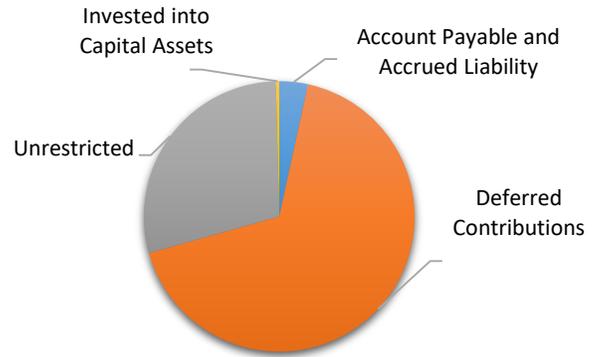
FINANCIAL REPORT

For the complete financial report, see our website www.kananaskis.org

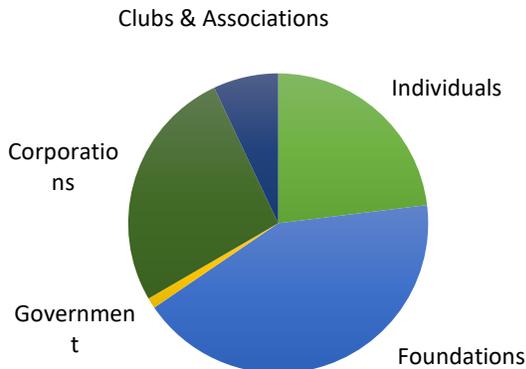
TOTAL ASSETS \$239,649



TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS \$239,649



REVENUE \$124,739



EXPENSES \$129,397

