



# FRIENDS OF KANANASKIS COUNTRY COOPERATING ASSOCIATION 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

2020 and COVID-19 challenged everyone, and FKC was no exception. We were doing our 2020 – 2021 planning and budgeting just as the pandemic hit. We quickly made some assumptions about how the year would play out, and we got most everything wrong.

We assumed working in the field would be difficult, and people would be reluctant to volunteer with a pandemic raging. We set low expectations on how much work we would get done. The opposite was true. We accomplished substantially more field work than planned. We figured out the protocols that could make it happen safely. Not only did everyone want to come out and volunteer, but many “discovered” what we already knew: K-Country is a wonderful place to recreate. We assumed money would be tight. We thought COVID-19 would suppress donations, and that we would need to take action. Nancy volunteered to reduce her hours to help meet our constrained budget.

However, we had a banner year financially, including the most successful “Trail Love-Give Back” fundraiser ever. Nancy continued her heroic pace of workload, doing a lot without compensation. Tim also stepped up and added more of his time to the summer’s campaign. As our Financial Statements show, our non-Profit was profitable, and managing the drawdown that cash is our next step.

Having millions of additional people flock to K-Country created issues, some of which we are well positioned to help with. We consciously focused on our Education mandate, especially leveraging social media and our website. We started to respond to the garbage left behind by poorly educated visitors, and plan to do more of that. And we engaged with senior levels of Alberta’s elected government representatives and Alberta Environment and Parks to propose other ways we could assist.

We also saw advancement of two key goals for 2020. We completed negotiations to renew our Cooperating Agreement with Parks, signing a new version that runs until 2030. We actively worked to take our Canmore Trail Alliance initiative to the next step, spinning it off from FKC to its own separate entity.

The fiscal year welcomed Kevin Jones to our Board, plus the Board actively searched to fill empty seats.

On behalf of the Board, we say a big “Thank You” to Nancy and Tim, and to our donors, volunteers, partners at Alberta Environment and Parks. We look forward to another busy summer of fun for our volunteers in Kananaskis Country, one of the best natural environments in the world.

- Derek Ryder & Ed Engstrom, Co-Chairs

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Friends of Kananaskis Country had an exceptional year in spite of uncertainty and apprehension. Our team, Board, volunteers, and supporters rose to the occasion to ensure FKC stayed organized and resilient. The strength of the organization persevered.

We are always amazed at the dedication of time and effort contributed to improving Kananaskis Country. As you’ll read in the *Key Highlights* and the *Accomplishments* sections below, we made strides to strengthen our operations, programs and community engagement. Our Trail Stewardship program, which includes the Canmore Trail Alliance, continues to be a primary focus, delivering a safe, fun and meaningful way for people to give back to the Kananaskis Country trails they love. We were pleased to host 95 volunteer events in 17 locations, that engaged 327 volunteers who contributed 3,043 hours to help build and maintain Kananaskis trails.

The new Light Work section of the Trail Care program was popular, offering 12 less physically-demanding volunteer opportunities than our traditional trail building and maintenance work.

Although we had to cancel most of the Kananaskis Speaker & Discovery Series, Co-Chair Derek Ryder bolstered our education program by adding a wealth of informative Kananaskis Country content to our website. I invite you to visit our [website](#) to learn more about your cherished Kananaskis.

The success of the “Trail Love – Give Back” fundraiser deserves notable mention, raising \$31,193 to support our programs, thank you!

As we approach our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are inspired to build on our successes, learn from our challenges and do more to ensure Kananaskis Country is safe, accessible and preserved.

To our members, volunteers and supporters, we are grateful to have your support and ongoing stewardship to ensure present and future generations have the opportunity to experience Kananaskis Country’s incredible natural heritage and exceptional recreational opportunities.

- Nancy Ouimet, Executive Director

## 2020-2021 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Trail Love – Give Back campaign raised \$31,193;
- Hosted two Winter Kananaskis Speaker & Discover Series events;
- Updated our Health & Safety manual and trail day procedures to incorporate COVID-19 protocols and mitigation measures, offering safe volunteer opportunities;
- Continued with our second year of the FKC-led trail assessment and maintenance program in the Kananaskis Public Land Use Zone;
- 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Canmore Trail Alliance – Trail Committee meeting monthly to advance trail care in the Canmore area;
- Completed two approved Alberta Parks trail projects:
  - Built last 700 m of the 1.9 km Razor’s Edge Connector Trail
  - Completed final 2.4 km of the new 10km Chester-Sawmill Winter Trails
- Canmore Trail Alliance hosted 56 Trail Care events, engaged 208 volunteers, contributing 1,476 hours;
- Hosted a total of 95 Trail Care events that engaged 327 individuals who filled 669 volunteer slots and contributed 3,043 hours to help build and maintain Kananaskis trails:
  - 1 Day + 63 Volunteers + 347 Hours = Highway 40 Clean Up
  - 6 Days + 34 Volunteers + 319 Hours = Chester Sawmill Winter Trails Project
  - 9 Days + 52 Volunteers + 489 Hours = Razor’s Edge Project
  - 12 Days + 39 Volunteers + 442 Hours = Light Work Trail Projects
  - 7 Days + 26 Volunteers + 246 Hours = Kananaskis PLUZ Trail Maintenance
  - 25 Days + 17 Volunteers + 265 Hours = Canmore Nordic Centre Provincial Park (CNC) Trail & Warming Hut Maintenance
  - 24 Days + 144 Volunteers + 771 Hours = CNC Iliad Trail
  - 7 Days + 28 Volunteers + 301 Hours = CNC Ski Trail Brushing
  - 2 Days + 14 Volunteers + 35 Hours = Montane Traverse Trail
  - 2 Days + 3 Volunteers + 17 Hours = Trail Assessment & Inventory Projects



## VISION

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

## MISSION

*Building a community of volunteers and partners to maintain the ecological integrity and recreational use of Kananaskis Country by engaging in trail care, stewardship, education, and research.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ed Engstrom, Co-Chair  
 Derek Ryder, Co-Chair & Secretary  
 David Schultz, Treasurer  
 Pete Irwin  
 Kevin Jones  
 Darin Langhorst  
 Dave Nielsen  
 Kevin Smith  
 Manika Suri

## STAFF

Nancy Ouimet, Executive Director  
 Tim Johnson, Program Coordinator  
 Michael Sovereign, Contract Bookkeeper

## ALBERTA PARK LIAISONS

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

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Don Cockerton   | Alf Skrastins |
| Gillean Daffern | Jamie McPhail |
| Kayla Simpson   | Tony Daffern  |

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It is our great pleasure to share the unparalleled success and some key accomplishments of our 2020-21 year. Despite the concerns of COVID-19, we were fortunate to see unprecedented levels of volunteer engagement in support of Kananaskis Country.

**Trail Care:** Significant uncertainty under the spectre of COVID-19 led to a scaled-back workplan, yet as the summer months progressed, the 2020 trail care season ranked as among the best ever with a record number of volunteer hours dedicated to Kananaskis trails. Buoyed by the popularity of our new 'Light Duty' trail care offerings, volunteers supported Alberta Parks with work on the High Rockies, Upper Lake and Mt Everest Interpretive trails, brushing and corridor work in the Sibbald PLUZ and Peter Lougheed, and the exciting completion of our multi-year FKC-led Chester-Sawmill winter trail project with the final sections of new trail completed.

**Canmore Trail Alliance:** After four seasons of work, we're excited to have completed the Razor's Edge Connector Trail project in partnership with the Canmore & Area Mountain Bike Association. Over 11 sessions, we completed the final 300m of new trail linking Razor's Edge with the Quaiite Valley Trail. CTA volunteers also devoted over 1,000 hours at the Canmore Nordic Centre, including building the new 'Iliad' trail, maintenance work on key trails like EKG & The Odyssey, finishing work on the Nationals Mountain Bike course, and maintenance of the Chandra Crawford Warming Hut.

**Trail Love – Give Back:** The fourth year of our *Trail Love – Give Back Fundraiser* was an unbelievable success! Our 2020 goal was set at \$10,000, an ambitious target in uncertain times to ensure our programs continue to foster a powerful, public connection with Kananaskis Country through trail stewardship education and outreach. Thanks to an outpouring of support and generosity, we more than tripled our goal and raised **\$31,193!** We extend our utmost gratitude to all who contributed.

**Kananaskis Public Land Use Zone Trail Project:** 2020 was our second year of a partnership with Public Lands to undertake trail assessment and maintenance work on trails in the Kananaskis PLUZ. We continued use of our in-house GIS-based app to assess trails and had 5 trail care days on the Prairie Creek trail and in West Bragg Creek in partnership with Bragg Creek Trails.



## SUPPORTERS

**Foundations & Clubs:** Calgary Foundation • The Auxilium Foundation • Alberta Government – Community Initiatives Program • Banff Canmore Community Foundation • DWCR Family Fund at Calgary Foundation • The Bergen Foundation • The Dr. Janice L. Pasioka Foundation • Arc'teryx Calgary • Ski Uphill • Edmonton Community Foundation • Lumina Consulting Ltd • Bow Valley Canyon Tour • Husky Energy • Pillar Capital Corp • Rundle Mountain Cycling Club • Spin Sisters • Second Sixties Outdoor Club • Calgary Weekend Hikers Club • Seniors' Outdoor Club of Calgary • West Winds Senior Hiking & Outdoor Club • along with several other great supporters.

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

**Employee Matching Programs:** Suncor Energy, RBC, Cenovus Energy, EnCana, ATCO.

**Apparel Sponsor:** Columbia Sportswear has generously provided us with discounted techwear that is outfitting our staff, Board, and volunteer crew leaders. Discount cards were also provided to recognize our hard working volunteers.

**Tool Sponsor:** Cascadia Trailbuilder Supply provide FKC with a 10 % discount as part of their Aid for Advocacy program.

**To all our supporters – thank you for supporting the Friends of Kananaskis Country and contributing to the wonder of Kananaskis Country.**

## 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 Vision and Mission.

**Alberta Environment and Parks:** A big thank you to the Kananaskis Operations, Trails and Ecology team: Michael Roycroft, Debbie Mucha, Andrew Schoepf, Duane Fazor, Jeff Eamon, James Cieslak, Kyle Jacobson, Chris Anderson, Maria Lynn, John Paczkowski, Scott Jevons, Jeff Wright and Brad Jones. We have had the privilege to have Jody Cairns and Jennell Rempel from Parks serve on our Board contributing insight, wisdom and assistance.

**Kananaskis Trail Building Coalition:** Thanks to the Coalition partnership for our ongoing partnership to collaborate and maximize resources for the greater benefit of each group and Kananaskis. Partners include: Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association, Canmore Area Mountain Biking Association, Moose Mountain Bike Trail Society, Great Divide Trail Association, Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance, and the 300 Group.

**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: Andrew Faltus, Brad Small, Colin Graver, Crawford Smyth, Derek Ryder, Don Cockerton, Ghulam Jamro, Ian Harker, Jeff Gruttz, Karl Bauer, John Kerkhoven, Nancy Ouimet, Pete Irwin, Tim Giese, Tim Johnson – and Canmore Trail Alliance Crew Leaders: Andrew Dickison, Brett Romanow, Bruce Gleig, Dwayne Brown, Eric Trouillot, Grant Fox, Greg Thompson, Ken Davies, Stephen Hanus, Torben Jensen, Trevor Dingman.

**Volunteers:** Then we have the folks who do the work. THANK YOU to the 327 volunteers who came out to handle a pulaski or macleod, helped clean Highway 40 and invested 3,043 hours on 95 trail days Kananaskis & the Canmore area!

**Members:** Without you, the members of the Friends of Kananaskis Country, none of our projects get done. Thanks for being a Friend, Volunteer and Supporter.

## GIVING BACK

*"One of the things that brings me great joy is being outside in the wilderness and listening to the sounds and taking in the space. I believe that working on trails, whether it be a maintenance project or maybe building something new, helps other folks to enjoy the same. For me and fellow volunteers, the FKC Trail Program creates a real sense of stewardship and provides a meaningful way to give something back to spaces we treasure here in the Bow Valley and in Kananaskis Country." - Greg Thompson*

## VOLUNTEER AND/OR DONATE

Friends of Kananaskis Country offer 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](http://www.kananaskis.org) to make a donation and learn more about how to volunteer.

## CONTACT US

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





TREASURER'S REPORT

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, the Friends of Kananaskis Country's cash position increased by 30% to \$233,586 at our fiscal year end from \$179,240 at the beginning of the fiscal year. Total Revenue increased by 17% to \$143,626 from \$122,453. Total Expenses decreased by 9% to \$105,585 from \$115,580 the previous year. The excess of revenue over expenses increased by \$55,291 to \$62,164 from \$6,873.

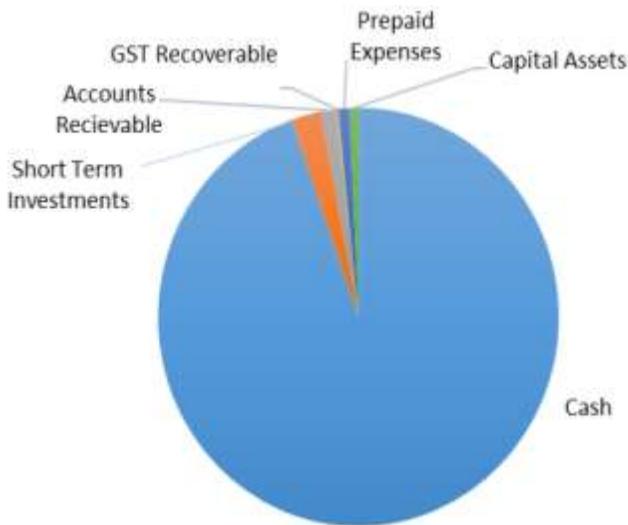
During the year, FKC also held a portion of our cash balance into a GIC and Savings and earned interest of \$1,190.

Work continued on trail projects and educational initiatives during this past year. Donations continued to be generously received. Previous years' donations for multiyear projects continued to be utilized to fund designated projects. The balance of Deferred Contributions decreased by \$29,734 to \$95,217 from \$124,951 at the end of the previous fiscal year.

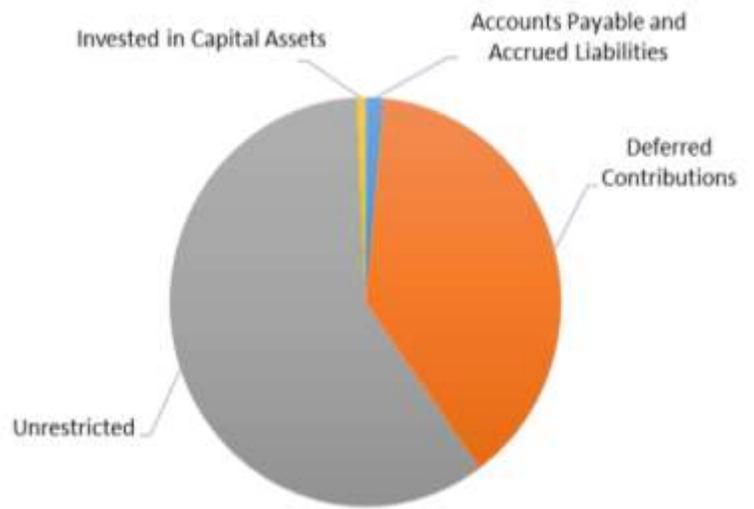
The financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021 are available on our website [www.kananaskis.org](http://www.kananaskis.org).

FINANCIAL REPORT

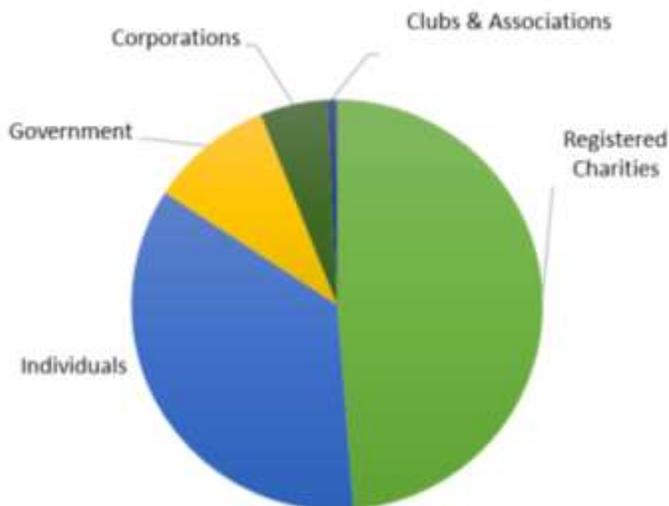
TOTAL ASSETS \$246,940



TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS \$246,940



REVENUE \$143,626



EXPENSES \$105,585

