

# Friends of Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'nten Regional Park

December 2016

HIKING TO THE TOP ON A SUNNY DAY



Techniques for getting over a fallen tree: step over, jump head first or just walk around it.

## MEET THE BOARD



From Left: Don Wilson, Christine Dendy, James Chester, Pat Lavender, Lou Wierenga, Ian Pooley, Doreen Wierenga, Glen Wood Missing: Carol Millar

### **Pat Lavender** (secretary)

I live in the Black Mountain area and enjoy hiking and walking my dog in the park. I was concerned about further loss of natural habitats so joined the Friends of Black Mountain group.

### **James Chester** (RDCO liason)

I am the Community Relations Liaison for Regional Parks. I work closely with 19 non-profit groups throughout the Central Okanagan who all work to improve Regional Parks for the residents of the Central Okanagan. I have been working with the Friends of Black Mountain for 2 years. I enjoy hiking in all of the Regional Parks, but especially Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'nten Regional Park, Johns Family Nature Conservancy Regional Park and Scenic Canyon Regional Park.

**Glen Wood** (vice chair)

I moved from Vancouver to under the shadow of Black Mountain in 1954 and spent many happy hours playing and exploring the grasslands and forest in what now is the park. I learned to ski at the ski bowl, which is right on the park boundary. I particularly enjoyed visiting the man in the lookout, who seemed to like visitors and spent time explaining how his fire finder worked. I am pleased to be part of the FOBM in our role to help develop this park to a point where it is no longer a secret to the general public and to provide some photographs for our website.

**Don Wilson** (director)

I was invited by Glen Wood to join this group....I accepted partly because I grew up in Kelowna and, as a very young boy...about 4-5 years of age... first learned to ski with my mom and dad at the Old Ski Bowl which is partly in the park. I last skied there as a 14year old....which was shortly before Big White became a reality. I can still recall going up on Swainson's Road in my parent's car on a very foggy day to the parking area...my memory is so vivid, I think because it was a *real white out*...I had never experienced that before.

**Ian Pooley** (chair)

I founded Friends of Black Mountain in 2015 because there was a need for a volunteer group to get involved in advocating and assisting with the new Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'nten Regional Park. To me, Black Mountain is one of the Central Okanagan's iconic landmarks; as well, it represents a last chance to conserve a significant block of Okanagan grassland, part of our Okanagan heritage that is under attack from the pressures of urban expansion.

**Carol Millar** (director)

When Ian Pooley announced the formation of Friends of Black Mountain at a naturalist meeting, I jumped at the chance to join and hike on this beautiful mountain. I love hiking in the park. There are so many eco-systems to discover and every trail has a panoramic view of the area. Communication is key, I feel, to educate others about this new park's diversity and importance. With this in mind, I am committed to, and in fact enjoy, editing and contributing to the website and newsletters.

**Christine Dendy** (treasurer)

I have spent 60 years looking at Black Mountain and the unique grassland shoulders – constantly eroded by roads and houses. This park is another step to conserving what we cherish about the Okanagan and making it accessible to the public. People can make a difference, as seen by the creation of our wonderful Mission Creek Greenway. Get involved!

**Lou Wierenga** (director)

When we have taken our visitors up the mountain for a drive or walk they have all thought it was beautiful, in fact one family from Europe when we took them to the top said 'If this was in the Netherlands it would be a National Park' but of course everyone knows how flat that country is! Over the years on our many visits up there we have enjoyed the varied scenery along with the flowers, many animals and birds. I think with its becoming a park, a lot more people will enjoy this as they use the trails!

**Doreen Wierenga** (director)

When we arrived in Kelowna in 1969, one of our first exploratory trips was up Black Knight Mountain, we fell in love with the area and hiked up there many times. I soon started a scrapbook of the Mountain which has grown over the years. I led a few hikes up there with the naturalist's and was lucky enough to take over a Bluebird trail at the base of the mountain in the early 90's which took me out to my favourite terrain lots. I couldn't be happier that we have this his new regional park- finally. It naturally followed that we would support friends of Black Mountain!



**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

*From all of us to all of you*