



# Friends of Churn Creek Protected Area

Newsletter # 4

Winter 2013

**Hi Friends, lots has been happening with the Friends of Churn Creek Protected Area Society. A significant petroglyph rock has been repatriated to the region and placed at the mouth of Churn Creek, a wheelchair accessible interpretive trail is in final planning stages and interpretive signing for the new kiosk has been completed and installed. Read on...**



**Attendees at the 2010 AGM and hike to Churn Creek Protected Area**

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## Wheel Chair Accessible Interpretive Trail

Planning is well under way and funding approved to build a 500 meter wheel chair accessible interpretive trail near the mouth of Churn Creek adjacent to the existing information kiosk and petroglyph rock. A project outline and trail design have been completed and submitted to the Cariboo Regional District which has approved up to \$36,000 in funding from the Northern Development Initiatives Trust. The total project will cost \$42,000 and include a 500 meter loop trail, interpretive trail signing, picnic table, perimeter fencing and a wheel chair accessible toilet. The project committee consisting of Jim Young, Ordell Steen, Phyllis Webstad, Peter Opie and Glen Davidson are busy writing proposals to raise the remaining \$6000. Construction of the trail is anticipated to start in June 2013.







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## Petroglyph Rock Comes Home

Article from Globe and Mail June 15, 2012

A petroglyph rock that has been in Vancouver since 1926 was returned home to the Stswe cem'c Xgat'tem First Nations on June 13. The boulder, measuring approximately three by five feet and weighing about six tons, was found on the east bank of the Fraser River near Crow's Bar back in 1926 by prospector H.S. Brown. Brown brought the petroglyph to the attention of Park Board chair W.C. Shelly who arranged for its move to Stanley Park in Vancouver. It took a team of 10

horses a month to drag the boulder from the sandbar along the Fraser up the 3,000 foot ascent to the railhead near Clinton. After years of being in Stanley Park in an unsheltered area where it was subject to vandalism, the Park Board and the Museum agreed to donate and move the rock to Museum of Vancouver. After consultation with its people about where the petroglyph should rest after its return, the Stswe cem'c Xgat'tem First Nation has decided to place the petroglyph in Churn Creek Protected Area upon its return on June 13, 2012.



Welcome home ceremony at Churn Creek June 13, 2012



An 8 horse hitch used to drag a stone bolt with petroglyph from Fraser River to railhead north of Clinton

## Onion Lakes Burn Monitoring

BC Parks carried out a large grasslands burn last April in the Onion Lakes area of Churn Creek PA. Kristi Iverson and Ordell Steen had set up pre-burn vegetation monitoring plots in 2010. These were re-measured, along with additional plots es-

tablished in 2012 in order to measure burn effects and determine if burn objectives were met. A report of first year vegetation effects was submitted to BC Parks and is available at [www.friendsofchurn.ca](http://www.friendsofchurn.ca)



Spring burn at Onion Lakes



Kristi measuring post-burn vegetation plots near Onion Lakes



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## Who's Who on the 2012/13 Board of Directors

**President** - Ordell Steen: Ordell retired as research ecologist with the BC Ministry of Forest Research Section in 2003 and later as a consulting plant ecologist. He helped prepare the management plan for Churn Creek P.A. and is especially interested in promoting greater public understanding of grassland ecosystems and local history

**Vice President** - Peter Opie: Peter is a consulting forester, although he is mostly retired these days. He has a strong interest in management of dry forests and grasslands.

**Treasurer** - Glen Davidson: Glen retired as section head with BC Parks, Cariboo Region in 2006, where he was responsible for Churn Creek P.A. and other parks. He is especially interested in control of grassland invasive plants and enhancing visitor use facilities in the P.A.

**Secretary** - Kristi Iverson: Kristi is a consulting plant ecologist who has completed many vegetation monitoring and mapping projects and fire management studies in the Cariboo-Chilcotin and the Okanagan.

**Director** - Rider Cheyne: Rider has worked for the forest industry in the Williams Lake area and is currently a consulting forester who is especially interested in management and ecological restoration of dryland forests.

**Director** - Rob Higgins: Rob is a biology professor at Thompson Rivers University in Williams Lake and especially interested in studying and telling others about ants and other insects.

**Director** - Mike Kennedy: Mike is a retired geographer with a strong interest in geomorphology, natural history interpretation and the history of gold-rush era in the mid Fraser Valley region

**Director** - Fred McMechan: Fred is a retired school teacher with a strong commitment to natural history education and conservation in the Cariboo Chilcotin

**Director** - Phyllis Webstad: Phyllis is a member and former employee of the Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem Band. She works hard to promote awareness of First Nations' values in the region and being a bridge between First Nations' people and others.

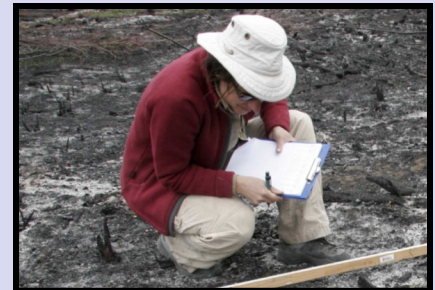
**Director** - Jim Young: Jim retired in 2011 from the BC Ministry of Environment and was a planner for BC Parks. He has a strong interest in local history and conservation biology.



Ordell



Phyllis



Kristi

## Upcoming Events

**AGM** Date: April 27th, 2013 in Dog Creek Community gymnasium. 10:30—12:00: AGM. 12:00 lunch available. 1:00—5:00: hike in Churn Creek P.A.

**Work Bees** will start in June to complete the wheel chair accessible interpretive trail - contact Jim Young for details at: [jkyoung4@telus.net](mailto:jkyoung4@telus.net)

**Hiking trips** - the first scheduled hike of 2013 in the Churn Creek P.A. will be on May 11th to Wycott Flats north of Churn Creek. Additional hikes will be posted on our website - contact Glen Davidson for details at [gcdavidson@shaw.ca](mailto:gcdavidson@shaw.ca)