



In this issue:

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	
AGM in April	1
<i>Activities Update</i>	
2018 Hikes	1
2019 Hikes	2
<i>Membership and Donations</i>	
	2
<i>Feature Article - Ten Years in Review</i>	
	2

Contact us:
PO Box 4144
Williams Lake, BC
V2G 2V2
Website:
www.friendsofchurn.ca

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Tenth year Anniversary Edition 2009-2019

Upcoming Events

AGM

The 2019 AGM will be on **Friday, April 26th** at **Scout Island Nature Centre** in Williams Lake. A **potluck dinner** will start at 6:00 pm, followed by a brief AGM, including a discussion about our recent activities within the Protected Area, and a slide show about repatriation of the petroglyph rock from Vancouver to the mouth of Churn Creek. Please contact Peter Opie (peter&skye@telus.net) for more information or if you would like to become a director.

Activities Update

2018 Hikes in Churn Creek P.A.

High Lake Benchmark Grassland. On June 24th, a small group hiked to High Lake from the gate at the entrance to the protected area near the end of the Perlite Road. High Lake is a benchmark (ecological reference area) grassland within CCPA and the site of our recent grassland restoration efforts. It provides great views of the southern part of the Protected Area. The trail passed through an impressive open stand of old growth Douglas-fir and past several small wetlands. After viewing the restoration treatments, we had lunch on the ridge above High Lake which offered outstanding views both up and down the Fraser River Valley.



High Lake area and Fraser Valley

Activities Update continued

Sheep Flats/Goose Lks. On September 23rd, we planned to hike to Sheep Flats on the north side of Churn Creek. However recent rains made the vehicle trail through the grasslands above the Flats very slick. To avoid damaging the grasslands, we parked the vehicle at the north end of Goose Lakes, leaving insufficient time to reach Sheep Flats. However, we explored the very pleasant and rich landscapes of the Goose Lakes area. This area has a great diversity of ecosystems including various grasslands, aspen stands, wetlands, and open old-growth Douglas-fir forests with many fire scars. We identified many birds and enjoyed great views of the upper Churn Creek Valley from our lunch spot at Cougar Point.



Churn Creek canyon from Cougar Pt

Planned Hikes for 2019.

Currently two hikes are being planned, the first to Clyde Mountain to explore its high elevation grasslands and old growth forests and great views. The second is to the wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands of the Dry Lake area. When the dates of these hikes are confirmed, all members will be notified by email and through our face book page. Stay tuned.

Membership and Donations

It is time again to renew your membership with the Friends of Churn Creek. Individual (\$20) and family (\$30) memberships are both available using forms which can be downloaded from our website (www.friendsofchurn.ca). Please consider encouraging a friend to join because without a strong membership base, FCCPAS cannot continue to conduct valuable projects within Churn Creek Protected Area. FCCPAS is a registered charity and receipts for income tax purposes will be provided for any \$20 or greater donation other than membership fees. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

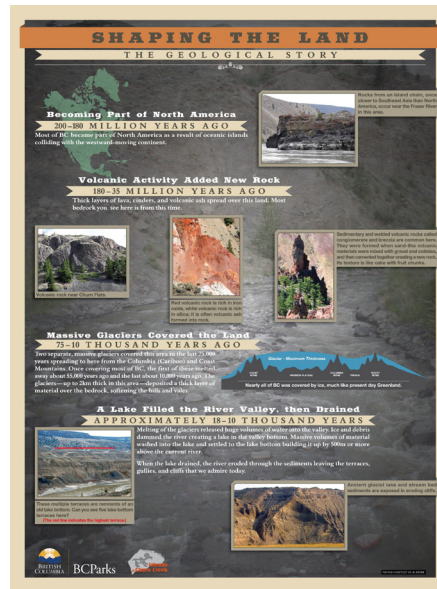
Feature Article

Ten Years in Review - Friends of Churn Creek Projects

As Friends of Churn Creek (FCC) celebrate their 10th anniversary, it seems appropriate to review project accomplishments in Churn Creek Protected Area (CCPA). Through our Partnership Agreement with BC Parks and guidance from Parks staff and others, we have completed several projects to aid in the implement of the management plan for Churn Creek Protected Area.

Enhancing Public Awareness of Natural and Cultural Values

Park Information Kiosk and Interpretive Trail: Friends of Churn Creek (FCC) secured funding for and helped to construct an information kiosk, with a design reminiscent of a pit house. An adjacent fully accessible interpretive trail was also constructed. Twelve information panels were prepared by FCC and mounted in the kiosk. Six interpretive panels were prepared and placed along the interpretive trail.



Natural History Hikes: Each year, FCC has organized and led two or more hiking trips in CCPA to enhance public awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of CCPA ecosystems - plants, wildlife, geology....



Ecosystem Monitoring and Research

Nearly 50 **photo points** established throughout CCPA were rephotographed by FCC to visually document changes in grasslands; photos were provided to BC Parks.

The effects of **BC Parks prescribed burns** on grassland vegetation were monitored in permanent plots established by FCC. Reports and data were provided to BC Parks.

FCC has made presentations to Botany BC and university classes on grasslands of Churn Creek P.A.



Ecosystem Monitoring and Research (continued)

Monitoring Grasslands and Wetlands: 57 permanent plots were established by FCC volunteers to evaluate current ecological conditions and trends of grasslands throughout Churn Creek P.A. In addition, FCC volunteers have assisted others contracted by BC Parks to monitor grassland plots. More recently, a project was initiated to inventory and assess ecological condition of all wetlands in CCPA. Data and reports have been submitted to BC Parks and to Min of Environment.



Ecosystem Restoration Projects

Tree Encroachment Clearing: FCC volunteers secured funding and volunteered hundreds of hours to restore open grasslands in CCPA by removing tree encroachment, which is resulting in widespread loss of grasslands. The principal focus has been on restoration of ecological reference area grasslands near High Lake, where nearly 130 ha of high elevation grassland was restored. Other areas recently included for treatments are on Airport Flats and Sheep Flats, adding another 300 ha of restored grassland. At High Lake, treatments included cutting, bucking, piling, and burning of young trees. **Thank you** to all of our funding partners.



Pre-treatment High Lake area



Post-treatment High Lake area



Some Other Projects

Invasive Weed Removal: FCC volunteers conduct on-going removal of invasive plant species from CCPA during travels and projects.

One less Hound's-tongue



Historic buildings: FCC photographed all standing historic structures in CCPA for BC Parks.

