



#### Springtime on the Trail

As the sunflowers reappear on the hillsides to mark the coming of spring, the Okanagan Rail Trail continues to improve with several projects underway to make it even better. With travel and social activities curtailed over the past years, the rail trail has become even more important to many for physical activity and their mental well-being.

The Kiosk, Shade Sails, and Plaza are now completed at Km 0 and the final stages of approvals for the content of the interpretive signage which will tell the indigenous story of this area are underway. This project has been a cooperative effort between OKIB, Vernon Museum and Archives, RDNO, and has been coordinated by dedicated FORT volunteers.

Now that a blueprint for the kiosk format and signage has been established, it will be easier as funds are raised to create future kiosks and gateways along the trail.

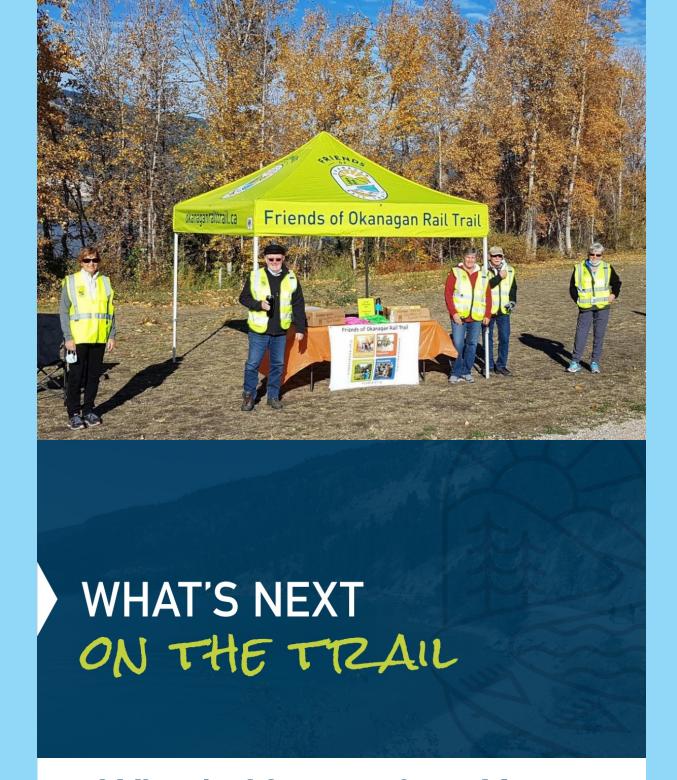


### FORT Day On The Trail

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 27th

Be on the lookout for FORT's bright yellow tents and flags. Trail Ambassadors and Trail Stewards will be out on the trail from 10am until 2pm to share stories, swag, and information with trail users. Stations will be set up in each jurisdiction so be sure to drop by to say hello!

Join us on the Trail!



# What's Happening Along the Corridor

The four owner jurisdictions of the Okanagan Rail Trail are the City of Kelowna, the Okanagan Indian Band, the District of Lake Country, and the Regional District of North Okanagan. Each jurisdiction has been working to improve the trail.

**In Kelowna**, a new access point has been created off Enterprise Way at Houghton Road with a bridge across Mill Creek and lighting has been added along the stretch from Dillworth Drive to the north end of Enterprise Way. City of Kelowna also plans

to raise a section of the trail next to the Mill Creek diversion channel entrance to mitigate flooding concerns this summer. This will require some detouring around this section of the trail.

**The Addition to Reserve** by the federal government is still pending, but the City of Kelowna has called for tenders for the construction of the ORT from Old Vernon Road north of Kelowna airport to 500 metres north of Beaver Lake Road in Lake Country, this is the final section to complete the trail!

**Lake Country** has upgraded the gravel parking lot along the isthmus on Oyama Road opposite Trask Road.

**Coldstream** has completed Coldstream Station on Kalamalka Road. Complete with washrooms and safe off-road parking, it makes a great place to start your adventure on the trail from the North end.



### The Big Picture

You may have heard about the dream of a trail that extends all the way from Sicamous to Osoyoos. The 51 kilometres of the Okanagan Rail Trail from Coldstream to Kelowna would be a part of this.

Trail groups to the north (Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail) and to the south (Trail of the Okanagans) are working toward this legacy and are making strides in the development of other pieces of this plan. These initiatives to help restore the trails are being moved forward by not-for-profit groups realizing the goal of connecting the past, present, and future.

## THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED FORT VOLUNTEETZS



# Become a Friend or Volunteer

Do you enjoy being active, meeting new people, learning about native plants, or using social media? Join our team of volunteers, learn new skills, and become a Friend of Okanagan Rail Trail  $\ \square$ 

Email volunteer@okanaganrailtrail.ca if you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Okanagan Rail Trail

Become a Volunteer



#### **Your Support Matters**

Thank you to our generous supporters and to those of you who make regular donations to the Okanagan Rail Trail. All funds donated go directly toward capital projects to improve the trail.

"Create a Kiosk" will be our next fundraising focus as we develop other major access points along the trail which will require wayfinding and information for trail users in the year ahead.

**Donate Today** 













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