



# Springing into a new season on the Okanagan Rail Trail

The Arrowleaf Balsamroot is especially colourful in the Okanagan this year, combined with the white blooms of Saskatoon bushes along the trail, it's a cheerful welcome back after winter.

The Okanagan Rail Trail has become a very popular amenity in the valley with many different users on many modes of transportation. Young children are learning to balance as they embark on their first bike rides, tourists find an exciting new way to check out the scenery and get from one community to the next, runners and cyclists get in their workouts, and some people even use the trail to commute to school and work.

[Where Will the Okanagan Rail Trail Take You Next?](#)

---





# What's New on the Rail Trail



## Trail Paving & Road Upgrades in Lake Country

This spring, roadwork projects in Lake Country have brought changes to the Rail Trail. The section between Woodsdale Road and the Quail Trail, Lodge Road area has been freshly paved, making it smoother and more accessible for all users. Lodge Road improvements (between Sherman Road and Woodsdale Road) include better drainage, road renewal, new curbs and a sidewalk on one side, upgraded transit stops, and safer intersections. These changes support active transportation and help extend the trail's seasonal use.



## Projects for 2025: Wayfinding Signage Continues

Our Fund Development Committee continues to pursue grants to support the [Find Your Way Campaign](#) and has already secured funding from GVPRD Trails and Natural Spaces and the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. These grants will help build two Tier 3 Kiosks in RDNO (Regional District of North Okanagan), one at Kekuli Bay Provincial Park and the other at Westkal at Km 1 near Kickwillie Loop Road.

[Donate to Trail Improvements](#)





# FORT Day on the Trail

To celebrate volunteer week, FORT Volunteers were out in the three communities along the trail Saturday, April 26th, interacting with trail users and listening to their ideas and appreciation of the different areas. Trail etiquette and being respectful of the other community members who are using the trail were important topics. A big thank you to all who shared their trail stories.

Don't forget to tag us in your adventures along the [Okanagan Rail Trail!](#)

Become A Friend of Okanagan Rail Trail

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



DUANE THOMSON, VOLUNTEER, OYAMA, B.C. "THE RAIL TRAIL BRINGS ME JOY. I HOPE IT STAYS A TRAIL FOR GENERATIONS TO COME."

## Volunteer Appreciation

FORT volunteers are always working to make the trail the best it can be and we would like to introduce Duane Thomson who has seen many changes along the Okanagan Rail Trail over the years.

Say hello to Duane, Trail Ambassador, lifelong Oyama resident, and longtime supporter of the Okanagan Rail Trail. Duane's connection to the corridor runs deep. As a kid, he swam near the old station house and helped load fruit onto trains. He still remembers the sound of the last steam engine in 1961.



Since 2013, Duane has worked to protect and preserve the trail. Today, he and his wife continue to give back as active volunteers.

His favourite spot? The Oyama isthmus—full of memories, views, and community.  
“The ORT brings me joy. I hope it stays a trail for generations to come.”

---



# Save the Date

Join us on the trail, **June 9th, for the Plein Air Event** sponsored by the Arts Council of the North Okanagan, where local artists will be on the trail to paint for the day. Start your journey at Km 0 and head to Lake Country to watch as they create their works. At the end of the day, join them as they take their creations to be judged at the Civic Memorial Park in Vernon.

FORT will join Ribbons of Green to set up our booths at the **Sunshine Festival on June 21st** in downtown Vernon. Let's hope for sun and not rain this year!!

Follow Along on Instagram to Stay Up to Date!

---



# Become a Friend

Email [volunteer@okanaganrailtrail.ca](mailto:volunteer@okanaganrailtrail.ca) if you are interested in becoming a Friend

of Okanagan Rail Trail. Volunteers work on the trail as Trail Ambassadors or Trail Stewards, and behind the scenes with fundraising, trail improvement projects, communications, and more.

---

# Your Support Matters

Thanks to all of you who so generously support the trail. All donated funds go directly toward capital projects to improve the trail. If you are interested in making a donation to show your appreciation for the trail, please click below.

[Donate Today :\)](#)

---



Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail | c/o 160 Whitetail Ridge | Vernon, BC V1H 2L7 CA

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!