

## Padre's Walk

On October 4h our Society named a new trail in the Oyster River Nature Park. The trail was named the Padre's Walk in honour of Rev. Amos William Mayse (1882-1948), father of the late Arthur Mayse, columnist and author. Present for the brief ceremony were the children of Arthur, Susan Mayse Hume and Ron Mayse and their children Heledd, and Shawn and Christopher. Along with Steven Hume, Mary Ashley, members of the John Howard Society, were members of the Oyster River Enhancement Society. The new trail was readied by ORES park committee. The elegant sign naming the trail was carved from yellow cedar by Jo Bye, our hatchery manager.

The new trail begins at the confluence of the John Ferguson and MacIvor's trails, close to the lower stretch of the Oyster know as "Cutthroat Heaven", where Amos Mayse often fished.

The life of Amos Mayse is portrayed by Arthur Mayse in his book, "My Father, My Friend" which describes their long and loving acquaintance with the Oyster River watershed. The proceeds of this book, as Susan Mayse writes on her page of acknowledgments, "will go toward the important work of the Oyster River Enhancement Society, a non-profit organization created to protect and enhance the river's streambed, fish populations and nearby parklands".

This is no ordinary book. It is an account of a father and son's love affair with the Oyster River commencing in 1928 and ending with Amos's death in 1948. This was before the massive clearcuts in the watershed which reduced the river to a ghost of its former self, a time when one could beach cutthroat trout "as long as a man's arm".

The lifeforms of the Oyster River watershed owe much to men like the Padre. He had the realization that the natural world is not simply a collection of objects to be exploited but a community of subjects to be communed with. He knew when a thing was right. As Aldo Leopold, the father of North American Ecology, states, "...a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the whole biotic community. It is wrong when it tends other-wise." Amos William Mayse assisted in preserving the integrity, beauty, and stability of the Oyster River bioregion, simply by his presence, by his communion with the river. He assisted in bringing the human community into a greater presence with the natural world in a mutually enhancing manner. We are grateful for his guidance.

Charles Brandt