

## REGIONAL DISTRICT CENTRAL OKANAGAN (\$25,000)

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### SEISMIC REFLECTION OF BURIED VALLEY AQUIFERS CONTACT PERSON: RON FRALICK, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES RDCO

The Regional District Central Okanagan is ranked as the third largest urban area in the Province, with more than 160,000 people calling the Central Okanagan home. RDCO places a priority on maintaining the balance between growth and development, while protecting the natural environment and the unique Okanagan lifestyle. It is made up of two unincorporated electoral areas and the four member municipalities of Kelowna, Westside, Peachland and Lake Country.



The seismic reflection project involves state of the art research and application of new methodologies for aquifer definition. Results will greatly improve the ability to provide long term management of key aquifers in the Kelowna region, while also developing new methodologies that can be extrapolated to other similar aquifers within the Okanagan Basin. This work originates directly from the strong inter-government and university research partnership established through the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin (GAOB) project. The seismic collection and processing was conducted by the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC), through a significant cash and in-kind contribution, and is supported by the B.C. Ministry of Environment, in addition to key researchers at UBC-Okanagan and Simon Fraser University. The well developed partnerships ensure maximum benefit of the research as well as wide distribution and uptake of the results.

The WCQI Grant funds were used to support the transport of a research team from the Near-Surface Geophysics section of the GSC, including specialized vehicles for data collection, from Ottawa to Kelowna as well as their costs while on site.

The team spent a few weeks in the area collecting seismic data, and are currently completing the data processing. The seismic results will provide a 3-D image of buried aquifers.

These results will be used in conjunction with surficial geological mapping to develop a 3-D stratigraphic model of the region. This model will be used by university partners to develop a hydrogeological model of the key aquifers. This end product will enable water managers to assess groundwater vulnerability and aid in resource management.

During the project media attention was garnered due to the unique look of the “mini-vibe” machine and its trailing sensors that completed the data collection. For more information on newspaper articles please contact Bruce Smith at the Regional District Central Okanagan, or the Okanagan Basin Water Board.



## Bylaw officers add highways to their beat

By Daily Courier Staff

Tardy snow-shovellers, messy trucks and inattentive gardeners along highways 97 and 33 could soon be paid a visit by city bylaw officers.

Council agreed Monday with a staff suggestion aimed at seeing the municipality take over responsibility for enforcing various bylaws on the two highways through Kelowna.

That responsibility currently rests with the Ministry of Transportation, but given the "size and complexity" of the provincial road network, provincial officials don't always have the time to enforce local bylaws, council heard.

A "common-sense arrangement" has now been worked out between local and provincial officials that will see some bylaw enforcement along the highway corridors turned over to the municipality, said Ron Dickinson, manager of inspection services.

Some of the violations city bylaw staff will be on the prowl for include: sidewalks that aren't shovelled promptly after a snowstorm, truckers with unsecured loads and hedges along property lines that block driver visibility.

"I think this is a good idea if we can harmonize our approach to enforcement, absolutely," said Coun. Robert Hobson.

Kevin Falcon, the minister of transportation, must still approve the plan, so it's not known when city officers will take over bylaw enforcement.

## 911 operator receiving special award

By Daily Courier Staff

A Kelowna-based 911 operator will receive a Stork Award today for helping a couple deliver their baby.

Nickie LaSaga provided over-the-phone instructions to Janine Dendy and Walter Hayton when their baby was born a month prematurely. Dendy's labour had progressed quickly on Aug. 6, and by the time Hayton called 911, the baby's head was already visible.

"Use both hands to unwrap the cord from around his neck," LaSaga told them, according to a news release sent out by the B.C. Ambulance Service.

"Now, place the baby on the mother's chest and tie the cord with a shoelace or a piece of string," she said. "Gently wipe out the baby's mouth and nose and briskly rub his back until he takes a breath."

Hayton says he appreciated the assistance provided by LaSaga.

"We live in quite a remote area, so I'm glad there was someone on the phone to help me."

Mother and baby are doing fine.

The Stork Award, created to recognize outstanding work by B.C. Ambulance dispatchers, will be presented to LaSaga at the ambulance station in Golden.

The Kelowna 911 service answers calls from all over the Southern Interior.

## Get a UBCO library card

The public can now get a UBCO Okanagan library card.

You won't find Danielle Steele and John Grisham novels there, but you will find a scholarly collection of 185,000 books on everything from health studies, politics and literature to sustainability, globalization and history.



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

A so-called Mini Vibe vehicle pulls a land stream of geophones along a road near Kelowna's airport on Tuesday. The operation is aimed at detecting underground water available for future development.

# Scientists look for where the water is

**Survey of Kelowna, Lake Country aimed at finding out amount of water available underground for future development**

By DON PLANT  
The Daily Courier

Scientists have driven a unique machine from Ottawa to search for underground water in one of the driest communities in the country.

The mapping study, commissioned by the Central Okanagan regional district, will help experts decide how much water can be pumped to the surface without depleting the underground supply. The goal is to understand what sustainable amounts are available to support future development, said project leader Stephen Grasby.

"Every year, a natural amount of water goes into the broad water system, and every year, people pump water out," he said. "If you take out more than what goes in, eventually you'll drain it."

Pressure to use water from Okanagan Lake and upper-elevation reservoirs is mounting as the Valley's building boom continues. Underground water supplies may be the last resource before severe water restrictions are imposed.

"We're not encouraging extra development based on the study. We're encouraging management in a sustainable way," said Genevieve Dunbar of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, which contributed \$30,000 toward the \$190,000 study.

"You need to know what you have available to know how to plan for it."

The \$250,000 machine is prowling along streets in Kelowna and Lake Country until Tuesday. The vehicle, dubbed Mini Vibe, lowers a metal plate onto the ground that sends sound waves hundreds of metres into the earth. The vibrations "detect" underground features, which sensors dragged behind the machine record in three dimensions when the waves bounce back.

Although the sensors can't distinguish pockets of water, they identify gravel and other sediments that likely hold water. Grasby, who heads a team of scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada, says the Okanagan is part of a national program that's examining important aquifers in the country.

"The Okanagan was chosen as one of the key regions of Canada because of the rapid development and being short of water. Demand for groundwater will be greater (here) than elsewhere," he said. Water purveyors already notice limits on obtaining permits to extract surface water in the Valley.

The mapping study will single out aquifers that hold water as well as formations called aquitards that prevent water from flowing to an aquifer. A natural water barrier is a "preferable place" for industrial development, said Grasby, because underground water is protected from chemical spills or other pollutants.

The scientists plan to complete their study and hand it to the regional district in March.

"There's only one water resource. We all share that — especially with changes that may be coming with climate and differences in the snowpack," said regional district spokesman Bruce Smith.

"Water is key to keeping us alive."

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Genevieve Dunbar,  
Okanagan Basin Water Board

## Bunnies being felled by air gun

By DON PLANT  
The Daily Courier

A contractor hired to trim Kelowna's feral-rabbit population has spent at least two nights shooting the animals with an air rifle.

Ian Wilson, the city's urban forest supervisor, confirmed Wednesday a retired RCMP officer has used a night-vision scope and a human spotter to fire pellets at the rabbits as recently as last week.

"There's been some initial work done with an air rifle at night," Wilson said Wednesday. "We haven't revealed when or where things have happened because of threats made against (the contractor) and employees and their safety."

Animal-rights activists are upset that EBE Environmental Consulting, the Delta firm hired by the city to remove the feral rabbits, has apparently decided to forego more humane options, such as live trapping and lethal injection. They're worried that lactating mothers have been killed, leaving their babies to starve.

"It's a cruel act,"

said Sinikka Crosland of The Responsible Animal Care Society. "I've got people on the phone crying, they're so upset. They're saying

**I've got people on the phone crying, they're so upset.**

TRAC's Sinikka Crosland

"We'll go out and do some surveillance."

A message left on EBB's voicemail wasn't returned Wednesday afternoon. Crosland is also trying to reach the company without success. Supporters to her they're upset baby rabbits and "their favourit rabbits they've been feeding" have disappeared, she said.

The contractor told Wilson on Wednesday that plans to live-trap the rabbits and "won't do shootin' for a while," Wilson said.

Trapping the animals is difficult this time of year because there's abundant food and it's hard to attract them with bait, Wilson said. Now the contractor switching tactics.

"There will be live trapping. There are no plans to the immediate future for shooting. Some of the animals will be provided to the local SPCA for adoption he said.

When the shooting resumes, Wilson said he's confident it will be safe. The former officer has worked with the Canadian Wildlife Service, is well-trained and uses one or two spotters to ensure no people are at risk, he said.

Health officials in Victoria hired someone to shoot hundreds of rabbits that invaded the grounds Victoria General Hospital in 1999.

"It is very humane, a very quick way of putting down an animal," Wilson said. "This is not a BB gun (the air rifle) could be used to put down a coyote. TRACS volunteers have live-trapped about 320 rabbits in recent months and sent most of them to foster homes. About 20 are living in a pen in Joe Rich."

Despite the effort, the city continues to hear complaints about rabbits chewing up lawns and digging into flower beds in Glenmore, McKinley Landhi near the airport and South Kelowna.

Wilson estimates up to 1,000 rabbits are living on site. At least one orchardist planted new trees this year, but the rabbits are destroying them, he said. An Australian study found rabbits contribute global warming because they browse on native seedlings, preventing woodlands from regenerating naturally.

"We want to, as humanely as possible, get this back under control," Wilson said.

### CAMPAIGN PROFILE

# NDP candidate up for the challenge

By CHUCK POULSEN  
The Daily Courier

Tish Lakes' parents were conservatives, which gave the NDP candidate in Kelowna-Lake Country plenty of opportunity to argue politics.

"My parents were conservative from the old days — more like Diefenbaker conservatives," says Lakes. "I'm running because I enjoy talking, I guess. I grew up in a family where we used to have big political arguments at the dinner table."

"My dad was a lawyer. He liked going back and forth with us so that was great. He'd challenge us."



with that.

I just like being outside when I can. I have golfed in the past, but I'm scared to go back. I could do better for exercise, for sure."

Her top issue is housing.

"It's a passion for me that we take a really serious look at what's needed for people," she said. "If's OK

