

NEWS

OK BASIN WATER BOARD

# Invasive mussels plan proposed

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is recommending to the province it develop a "Made in B.C." business plan to help prevent the spread of invasive zebra and quagga mussels into British Columbia waters.

The suggestion is a potential sticker program for watercraft owners tied to inspection or licencing similar to successful programs in the U.S.

The water board continues to urge the federal government to pass pending legislation allowing Canada Border Services agents to inspect boats coming in from the U.S.

For more about the mussels visit [www.Dont-MoveAMussel.ca](http://www.Dont-MoveAMussel.ca).

of BC to help address the shortage of certified installers in the valley.

Subsidies will be available to those conducting agricultural, commercial and residential installations.

**OFF-ROAD CONCERNS**

The water board plans to forward a letter to the province commending proposed legislation to have off-road vehicles (e.g. dirt bikes and quads) licenced when used on public land and fines increased from \$500 to a maximum \$5,000.

The board believes the legislation will be significant in helping protect water quality.

**ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS**

Tricia Brett, water quality and environmental technologist, presented her research on Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) in Okanagan wastewater to the water

board last week.

Current wastewater treatment methods are unable to fully remove estrogen compounds.

In controlled testing, the EDCs were shown to cause feminization in male fish, when released from wastewater facilities into a local reservoir.

The board will be including this information in a recommendation to the federal government to allow Okanagan Falls to divert wastewater from its new treatment plant into a wetland before being released into the Okanagan River channel.

This type of additional filtering is considered best practice to address EDCs.

**FILM SCREENING**

The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program has several events planned to celebrate UN World Water Day/Canada Water Week.

Monday, March 17,

the board will present a special screening of the award-winning Watermark film.

Tickets must be purchased in advance at <http://tinyurl.com/lj3569d>.

On Thursday, March 20, the popular and free public forum will be MC'd by well-known Kelowna broadcaster Phil Johnson.

There will also be a presentation of a Water Leadership Award to journalist Judie Steeves, a former Capital News reporter who recently retired. Tickets are required to the March 20 event, find them at <http://tinyurl.com/m4w5513>.

And go to [www.Ok-WaterWise.ca](http://www.Ok-WaterWise.ca) for more on our contest for kids. Prizes include a boat cruise.

For more information, about Okanagan Basin Water Board issues, visit the website [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca).

**FUNDS APPROVED**

The water board approved funding to subsidize training for Okanagan irrigation installers this fall through the Irrigation Industry Association

## Wine tour fundraiser for kidney foundation

Distinctly Kelowna Tours will host its third annual Charity Wine Tour on Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 5 p.m.

The net proceeds will go to the B.C. branch of the Kidney Foundation of

Canada.

Participants will sample award-winning wines at four wineries—Cedar-Creek Estate Winery, Summerhill Pyramid Winery, Tantalus Vineyards and St. Hubertus

Estate Winery—and delicious cheese at Carmelis Goat Cheese Artisan.

The chosen charity has a special significance for Distinctly Kelowna Tours owner Debbie Dupasquier, as she donated

a kidney to her mother in 2012.

The cost for the tour is \$94 plus GST per person.

For more information check out the website [www.info@distinctlykelownatours.ca](http://www.info@distinctlykelownatours.ca).



WADE PATERSON/CAPITAL NEWS

**ALL ABOUT KIDS...** Lorraine Pond (right) and Robyn Hardy, of Bobs and LoLo, perform at the second annual Pregnant and Fabulous Family Fair, held Saturday at New Life Church. The event featured local products and services for families prenatal to preschool.



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