OK BASIN WATER BOARD

Invasive mussels plan proposed

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is recom-mending to the province it develop a "Made in B.C." business plan to help pre-vent the spread of invasive zebra and quagga mus-sels into British Columbia

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.

FUNDS APPROVED

The water board ap-proved funding to subsidize training for Okanagan irrigation installers this fall through the Irrigation Industry Association of BC to help address the shortage of certified in-stallers 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 commending province 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 in-cluding 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 re-leased into the Okanagan River channel.

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

FILM SCREENING

The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise pro-gram has several events planned to celebrate UN World Water Day/Canada

Monday, March 17,

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

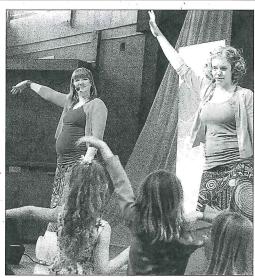
Tickets must be purchased in advance at http://tinyurl.com/ lj3569d.

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

There will also be a esentation of a Water Leadership Award to jour-nalist 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 for more on our contest for kids. Prizes include a boat cruise.

For more information about Okanagan Basin Water Board issues, visit



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.

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

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

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

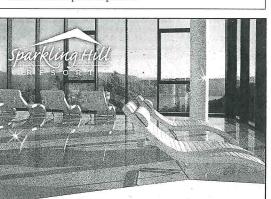
The chosen charity has a special significance for Distinctly Kelowna Tours owner Debbie Dupasquier, as she donated

a kidney to her mother in

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

For more information check out the websitewww.info@distinctlyke lownatours.ca.





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