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# Coldstream residents invited to open house on creek issues

By [Brent Mutis - Vernon Morning Star](#)

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Homeowners living along Coldstream, Craster and Brewer Creeks will be given a head's up about what's going to be happening near their properties as part of stream rehabilitation.

The District of Coldstream is crafting a letter to be sent to creekside property owners inviting them to a May 3 open house where they will be able to view Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) images.

District staff and representatives from Ecoscape Environmental Consultants, the private firm that did the mapping, will be on hand to answer questions. The goal is to have homeowners gain the ability to identify potential problems on their own.

"They'll be able to learn about the process in terms of what's happening on the creek," said Coldstream chief administrative officer Michael Stamhuis. "They'll be able to see what the detriment to the creek has been."

Coldstream Creek was labelled one of the dirtiest in the Okanagan in a 2009 Ministry of Environment report. It is just a small portion of land beside Coldstream Creek that is actually in question.

"It's only a certain sector," said Coldstream director of engineering Alanna Dean. "We had to pick certain areas where we could negotiate with owners. For the most part, the District of Coldstream doesn't have authority to go on private property."

Actions taken by property owners to tame the vegetation near the creek may have more deleterious effects than they realize.

“The impacts on the creek are sometimes a little more subtle than people might realize,” said Stamhuis. “They might clear all vegetation and put in a lawn and put fertilizer down but with runoff, now you’ve got more algae growth and milfoil stimulated in the lake.


“It’s not as good for the rearing of fish.”

Council applied to the Okanagan Basin Water Board in February for \$17,000 to begin creek rehabilitation. Owners identified by Coldstream who have creekside property should receive an invitation to the open house sometime in April.

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