

Teaching more than just a trade

By DON PLANT

Students of today

Kinsmen pour into Kelowna

By BYRON ROBAR

Special to The Daily Courier

The Kinsmen Club of Kelowna has been serving this area since the club was chartered in 1944. Over the past 67 years, the Kinsmen club has poured several million dollars into the community by way of donations to organizations that assist those living in the community as well as giving to needy individuals that had few places to turn.

Two of the largest projects the club has partaken in have been Kinsmen Park and the Kinsmen ballfields complex in the Mission.

In July, the Portraits of Honor tour rolled into Kelowna and was sponsored by our club. The tour consisted of a transport truck hauling a large trailer that carried a 10-by-40 mural with portraits of all 157 members of the Canadian military killed in Afghanistan. The display was visited by local citizens who either wanted to pay tribute to the fallen, were related to some of them or knew them personally.

The tour is travelling across Canada in an effort to raise money for families of those killed. While in Kelowna, we were able to raise \$5,500 for the project. This is a nationwide project by Kinsmen with the hope of raising \$1.2 million.

In the past two years, we have had the privilege of raising funds and purchasing two breathing vests to assist cystic fibrosis sufferers. The vests cost around \$13,000 each.

With the help of other clubs in the Okanagan and clubs around the province, we supplied these vests to two young ladies in dire need of assistance.

They have both reported to us that these vest have so greatly helped in their quality of life that one of them actually participated in a half marathon walk, which would never have been possible without it.

Cystic fibrosis is an ongoing national project of Kin Canada of which we are part of. Kin across Canada have contributed millions of dollars to CF research over the years.

Upcoming for the club will be the annual Gentlemen's dinner in mid-November to assist the Boys and Girls Club.

This is one of the projects that Kinsmen assist with that does not bring funds to our club, but helps another organization.

We not only raise funds for our projects and to assist the community, but are willing to supply help to other organizations so they can too function and assist the community.

We are always looking for new members who would like to give something back to the community and help others as fortunate than themselves.

For information on the club, how to join or find out what we have done, go to www.kelownakinsmen.com

Byron Robar is president of the Kinsmen Club of Kelowna.

OSOYOOS LAKE

Canada could lose control of flow

Special to The Daily Courier

The Okanagan Basin Water Board wants the International Joint Commission to block a U.S. proposal to gain more control of water flows out of Osoyoos Lake.

The level of the lake, which spans the Canada-U.S. border, is regulated by the Zosel Dam near Oroville, Wash. The current 25-year operating agreement with the U.S. governing the lake level expires in 2013.

Osoyoos Mayor Stu Wells, chairman of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), said the agreement currently only covers the lake level. However, now there are proposals from Washington State that the dam's operating orders also apply to the amount of water flowing downstream out of the lake.

Wells said the OBWB is submitting a consultant's report to the International Joint Commission (IJC) addressing issues on both sides of the border regarding flooding, drought and water flows for fish, while pro-

tecting Canada's right to manage flows in the Canadian portion of the Okanagan Basin.

The OBWB report by Summit Environmental Consultants makes the following recommendations:

- The renewed agreement should continue to be limited to only governing the levels of Osoyoos Lake.

- The IJC should encourage continued cooperation between B.C. and Washington State to manage the lake to achieve downstream flows for fish and other uses through a non-binding cooperation agreement such as what currently exists.

- The OBWB opposes the inclusion of lake outflows or lake inflows within the operating orders. Constraining flows in Canada would restrict the ability of Canadian water managers to achieve multiple objectives within Canada.

- The lake level management regime should be improved to increase its ability to meet elevation targets, and reduce impacts related

to shoreline inundation and reduced flows downstream of the dam that are caused by the current operators.

- Zosel Dam operations should be improved by automating the gate operation and through better communication with B.C. dam operators upstream.

- The IJC should encourage Washington State to accurately define the risks to fish and other in-stream resources associated with various flow rates in the Okanagan River.

- This new knowledge of flow requirements should be used, if necessary, to refine flow releases from Zosel Dam to improve conditions for fish and other in-stream resources downstream of the dam.

"By following these recommendations, the IJC will provide greater flexibility to the operators of Zosel Dam to meet lake level targets," the report stated. "(This) will increase the ability to operate the lake within its desired ranges, and will account for present and future uncertainty in inflows."



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

Time to leaf

Kya Casey, 3, of Kelowna, holds up leaves while out for a walk along Richter Street with her grandmother on Friday afternoon. The two were playing an impromptu game of peek-a-boo.

Mussel could stop control of milfoil weed: mayor

Special to The Daily Courier

A proposal by federal officials to declare the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel an endangered species could hamstring efforts to control milfoil in Osoyoos Lake, says the chairman of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Osoyoos Mayor Stu Wells said the water board opposes Fisheries and Oceans Canada's plan to have the freshwater mussel

listed as "endangered."

Wells said such a move could restrict ongoing efforts to control Eurasian water milfoil in Osoyoos Lake which includes a mussel population.

The Rocky Mountain ridged mussel is found throughout the Columbia River system in B.C. and the U.S. Pacific Northwest, as well as south-central California. In the South Okanagan, it is found in Osoyoos,

Vaseux and Skaha lakes.

Fisheries officials believe its population has been declining due to habitat degradation and loss. However, Wells said more information is required before any move is made to declare the mussel endangered.

The water board worries that such a designation could impact annual fall rototilling against milfoil infestations as well as lake level management.