

# VALLEY IN BRIEF

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## Dock regulations causing confusion

Summerland council has made the move to change its zoning regulations for the construction of docks on Okanagan Lake to align with existing provincial regulations.

Ian McIntosh, director of Development Services, stated that the conflicts between the two sets of regulations are minimal, however, they cause confusion and compliance issues.

The new regulations will allow docks to extend into the lake 40 metres from the natural boundary, with access ramps limited to 1.5 metres in width, and the overall width of the dock itself to three metres. Setbacks from the edge of property lines will increase from three metres to five metres with a minimum of 10 metres from any other dock.

## Public hearing for cemetery bylaws

During his report to council, Coun. Bruce Hallquist reminded the public that a public hearing for changes to Summerland's cemetery bylaws will take place in council chambers on Wednesday, July 25 from 2 to 6 p.m. Hallquist welcomed input from the public on what has become a sensitive issue after the removal of many personal items this past spring by staff.

## Sally Ann projects get funding boost

A pair of proposed Salvation Army housing projects got a boost from the provincial government on Thursday. The government provided \$92,000 in funding from its Brownfield Renewal program to help the Sally Ann plan cleanups of a couple of lots slated for development.

The largest grant, \$71,875, will be used to determine the extent of on-site contamination and complete a risk assessment at an old gas station site at 1502 Sutherland Ave. A seniors care home is eyed for that location. The second grant, \$20,205, will allow the organization to assess and make remediation plans for a lot eyed for rental housing and social services.

"Before we started this process, this property was a parking lot. This funding will help us set up facilities to help people, like a thrift store, recovery group meeting space, office space, and programming rooms," said project co-ordinator George Perkin.

The province describes brownfields as abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial and industrial properties, where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination. These sites have great potential for redevelopment when the issue of contamination is addressed.

## Gospel Mission a cool retreat

This week's heat wave has prompted the Gospel Mission to stay open all day.

People who frequent the downtown shelter usually leave for a couple hours after breakfast, lunch and dinner so staff can clean up. With temperatures in the mid-30s, clients can stay cool indoors around the clock.

"This is standard. It happens in extreme weather," said Ami Catriona, who speaks for the 90-bed Mission.

"Whether it's cold in winter or hot in the summer . . . we're able to keep them safe on either end of the weather spectrum."

About 60 people are staying overnight this week, many of them out-of-towners looking for work. Others are camping outside in the Central Okanagan. Some are mentally ill who stay away from the shelter to avoid the crowds.

Outreach workers try to visit daily.

"They'll go to them to make sure they're OK," said Catriona. "We've got water to bring, snacks, sunscreen. And

we always encourage them to come in when they're hot."

#### Water-conservation campaign launched

Local governments and the Okanagan Basin Water Board are launching a new water-conservation campaign. The campaign encourages homeowners to let their lawns grow longer, to limit their lawn watering and to water at night.

"At least 24 per cent of all Okanagan water is used by residents outdoors, mostly on lawns, said Corrine Jackson, manager of the Okanagan WaterWise program.

The campaign includes the slogans: Don't mow. Let it Grow. Water stays longer when grass is longer; Don't let water stand around. One inch a week will do; and Put water on nightshift. Water between dusk and dawn. Okanagan residents can put their names to a Make Water Work pledge at [www.makewaterwork.ca](http://www.makewaterwork.ca) and enter to win \$2,000 in WaterWise yard upgrades.

#### RV safety targeted at campgrounds

In response to a fire at Illahie Beach Campground in May that destroyed three recreational vehicles and put lives at risk, Summerland council introduced a new policy outlining what modifications can be made to RVs in Summerland campgrounds.

Ian McIntosh, director of Development Services, said the new policy is not intended to control the length of stay for RV owners in Summerland campgrounds.

"It's all about safety."

The new regulations will not allow any alterations to an RV that restricts the ability of the RV to be towed or driven from its location, and prohibits "any construction that is not part of the original equipment ... or bona fide accessory to an RV unit."

Coun. Robert Hacking pointed out the danger of after-market "skirting" seen on many RV units that are used as semi-permanent residences; Many RVs vent through their floors, which can lead to a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide and propane fumes.

#### Correction

Domino's Day of Hope is today, not Saturday as listed in Steve MacNaull's Valley Views column in The Okanagan Saturday.

The restaurant at 1607 Sutherland Ave. (at Harvey Avenue) is donating all of its sales for the day, plus staff wages, to the Cops for Kids Foundation which helps children in medical, physical or traumatic crisis.

There will be a Kids Zone with bouncy castles, a silent auction, games and prizes from 11 a.m. to dusk although the restaurant will be open until 1 a.m. Monday.

The Okanagan Saturday apologizes for the error.