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## BC NEWS

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# Mussel Threat: the video

by Carmen Weld | Story: 137785 - Apr 16, 2015 / 7:02 pm

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An international filmmaker, with strong ties to the Okanagan, has taken on the fight to keep the feared zebra and quagga mussel out of B.C. waters.

Brynne Morrice, who splits his time between New York and Vernon, released the six-minute documentary called 'Mussel Threat' yesterday.

It aims to show the catastrophic impact the mussels would have on B.C. lakes, while prompting residents to demand action from the provincial government.

"British Columbia's beloved lakes and rivers are facing a devastating, irreversible threat. The damage can be prevented, but only if we take swift action," writes Morrice

The documentary was funded through a \$5,000 Kickstarter campaign, and was released jointly by Morrice and the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

"The film illustrates just how dangerous the mussels are, and is a rallying cry for the protection of our beloved waters," says Morrice who was inspired after noticing the Don't Move a Mussel billboards in B.C.

"I was at the lake swimming and thinking about it – about the risk to our lakes and beaches. It got to the point where I was literally losing sleep over it, thinking about how we're gambling with the future of B.C. every day we don't do something."

Starting in November 2014, Morrice and his team began filming in the Okanagan and the Kootenays, before hitting the road and interviewing people fighting mussels in New York and Pennsylvania, Colorado, California and into Arizona – a state on the front lines of the mussel-fight.

Just last month, on March 31, the province did announce [\\$1.3 million in funding](#) to help protect B.C. from the mussels, which will include three roving inspection stations to stop and inspect boats coming into the province.

While Morrice was happy to hear the B.C. government is taking some action, he says it's not good enough.

"It's like putting up a fence with holes in it. It needs to be an unbroken wall of defence. All it takes is one infested boat to destroy our waters."

Many local faces at the front of protecting our lakes from mussels are featured in the short film, that you can watch above.

"My hope is that we have created a film that people will want to watch and share, that will create awareness and push people to call for action, and ultimately a swift, assertive government response," adds Morrice.

Along with the documentary, he has created a website full of information that you can [check out here](#). He is also asking residents to sign his [Change.org petition](#) to request action from Premier Clark and Environment Minister Mary Polak.



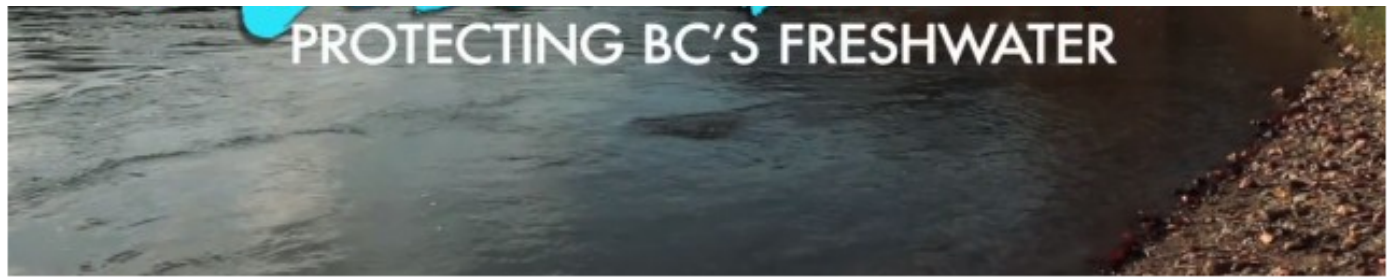


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