

Creek funds flow

By Vernon Morning Star

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Efforts are underway to ensure the quality of Coldstream Creek and Kalamalka Lake.

The Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake has received a \$20,000 Okanagan Basin Water Board grant for the first phase of a land use and water quality assessment along Coldstream Creek because of the creek's importance to the lake.

"The first phase involves water sampling, analysis and reporting," said Trina Koch, with SPPrKL.

"The purpose of the study is to locate areas where land use activities are impacting the creek so land owners, researchers and regulators can take action to reduce the impacts."

During two days in July or August, two field technicians with Western Water Associates and two SPPrKL volunteers will walk the length of the creek between Kirkland Drive and Nobel Canyon and collect samples at upwards of 60 locations.

Information about when the team will undertake sampling will be mailed to land owners along the creek.

Three samples will be collected at each site, one creek sample and two near-surface ground water samples. The samples will be analyzed for hardness, ammonia, alkalinity and full ion chromatography scan (chloride, bromide, sulfate, nitrate, nitrite, total nitrogen and orthophosphate).

"Water quality results will be shared digitally with the Regional District of North Okanagan," said Koch.

The second half of the project involves routine sampling, reporting and sharing results with the public at a public meeting. Routine sampling will occur at the priority sites in October, during or just after high-flow conditions in the spring, and again during low-flow conditions in the summer.

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