

news

▼ KNOW YOUR OKANAGAN

# Historical journey awaits you in your Okanagan Valley museums

Get your passport to explore 10 museums from Salmon Arm to Penticton.

A new passport program has been launched to promote 10 museums from Salmon Arm to Penticton and the Okanagan's rich heritage. "We want to let locals and tourists know about the various historical sites in the Okanagan,"



Val Heuman

said Val Heuman, with the Okanagan Landing Stationhouse Museum and creator of the passport. "The valley is phenomenally historical and exemplifies the pioneer spirit." Besides the Landing museum, the other

participating museums are Armstrong-Spallumcheen, O'Keefe Ranch, Lumby, Vernon, Fintry, R.J. Haney Village in Salmon Arm, Lake Country, the SS Sicamous in Penticton and the B.C. Orchard Industry Museum in Ke-

lowna. Other museums may be added if there is sufficient interest in the passport. "You can drive from Penticton to Salmon Arm and do the museum tour in one day," said Heuman. "Many residents don't know the

history of the region." And there is an incentive to visit all of the museums. "When you are finished and you get all of the stamps in your passport, you receive a certificate," said Heuman. The passport also in-

cludes information on local cultural organizations and 11 hiking trails in the Greater Vernon area. It also has coupons from the publication's six sponsoring businesses. The passport costs \$1 and is available at all participating museums.

▼ WATER QUALITY

## Ok Water Basin wants five inspection stations to look for invasive mussels

RICHARD ROLKE

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is strengthening its case against invasive mussels. Last week, directors upgraded their position on zebra and quagga mussels and the potential risk the species poses to Okanagan waterways. "We are trying to put

pressure on the provincial government to do more and have five inspection stations," said director Juliette Cunningham. "There is a cost if we don't stop them (mussels) from arriving here." It's believed the annual impact to government, businesses and residents could be more

than \$43 million if the mussels take hold in local lakes. "This scenario has played out across watersheds throughout North America, where ecosystems and local economies have been drastically altered by these invaders," states OBWB's position statement. Zebra and quag-

ga mussels are native to eastern Europe and they have spread across North America since the 1980s. They clog water intake pipes, pumps and boat motors. They also deplete food sources for fish and produce toxins that kill fish and birds and contaminate drinking water. As part of the changes to the position statement, the board is calling on the provincial govern-



ment to fund permanent, mandatory inspection stations for boats at the five major crossings between B.C. and Alberta. In March, Victoria announced three mobile stations.

"OBWB strongly urges the provincial government to consider the cost to the province and local governments for the long-term treatment, mitigation or control of zebra or quagga mussels if the province fails to enact appropriate prevention measures and consequently the species are introduced," says the position statement.

"We call on the province to commit to funding all treatment and containment programs in infested waters should an invasion occur."

While the government may be concerned about the cost of running monitoring stations, Cunningham says the budget could come from a boater-pay sticker program, similar to those in the U.S.

"Those with watercraft pay and it seems effective. I'm not sure why the province is reluctant to look at that," she said.

OBWB also wants water utilities to review what upgrades and maintenance measures will be needed if the mussels arrive and ways to prevent service interruptions.

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We'd like to fill the pages with local photography, taken by Lake Country residents, or visitors, that have memorable shots they wish to share. Pictures should showcase the community, lifestyle, or the wonderful scenery of Lake Country.

We need at least 14 photographs to fill the pages of the calendar.

**Photos need to be at least 8" wide, full colour and have a resolution of at least 300dpi.**

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