

KELOWNA

Study to focus on local streams

By ANDREA PEACOCK
The Okanagan Saturday

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is moving forward with a study to determine the environmental flow needs of local streams.

A grant of \$397,000 through the federal Gas Tax fund will fund the two-year study.

"This funding is going to be going toward understanding how much water is needed in the major fish-bearing streams in the Okanagan," said Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB executive director.

"Instead of waiting to see the fish dying in the streams, this will allow us to know how much water they need. It's like an advanced warning system, letting us know when and where restrictions and regulations are needed."

The study will use flow monitoring equipment in approximately 10 streams identified as important for fish habitat in the Okanagan.

"It will allow people to have a better understanding about wa-

ter licensing and planning for a drought," said Sears.

"It will allow people to understand where infrastructure might need to be improved, like new reservoirs or improved irrigation systems to better manage the water."

Conducting this study is "the essential first step in improving water management" in the valley, she said.

Funding this study is one way to ensure quality scientific information is available for future decision-making, said Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fry.

"This initiative is going to collect valuable data so we can ensure the decisions we make with regard to water are the correct ones," he said.

"Water is becoming more and more of an issue, particularly in the valley here, so we need to manage our resources and we can only do that with good information."

The Okanagan National Alliance will be working with the OBWB on this initiative.

"It's one system, one water-

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Lake Country MP Stephen Fry

shed, one community," said Pauline Terbaske, Okanagan Nation Alliance executive director. "We have to be thinking globally and universally about how we as citizens of this valley that call this valley home are in a relationship with water. When you have no water, everyone is affected."

Several other projects in the Okanagan are receiving funding through the federal Gas Tax fund on Friday.

The Regional District of

Central Okanagan is receiving a \$600,000 grant to create a regional strategic transportation plan, which will serve as a blueprint outlining goals and objectives for achieving ideal regional transportation for the Central Okanagan.

This project is anticipated to begin this coming fall and be completed by fall 2019.

The Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre in West Kelowna is also receiving \$65,000 through the fund for chlorine room upgrades.

Phases two and three of the Upper Glenrosa plan will receive \$100,132 from the gas tax fund.

The Glenrosa plan will focus on creating an infrastructure servicing strategy for the area and a secondary access out of the neighbourhood.

Work on the next phases of the plan is expected to begin in the fall.

The District of Peachland is also receiving \$612,500 through the federal for pressure-reducing valve replacements.

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VERNON

Driver stabbed after hitting pedestrian

A Vernon man was stabbed by a bystander after his car hit a pedestrian on Wednesday.

Both men are facing charges, Vernon RCMP say.

RCMP officers discovered a vehicle had gone off the road in the 3500 block of 27th Avenue and struck a 23-year-old female pedestrian, said Const. Jocelyn Noseworthy.

A man who was at the scene when the vehicle struck the pedestrian allegedly walked over to the vehicle, broke the driver's side window and stabbed the 18-year-old driver.

The injured driver and his 17-year-old male passenger led the vehicle prior to police arrival.

The female pedestrian was taken to Vernon Jubilee Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver, was located by police, arrested and taken to Vernon Jubilee Hospital, also with non-life-threatening injuries.

Abd'l-Malik Loubissi-Morris, 18, was charged with assault with a weapon, "stemming from the alleged manner in which he was driving the vehicle when it struck the pedestrian," said Noseworthy.

Thomas Richie, 29, was arrested for assault with a weapon for allegedly stabbing the driver.

Both men were held in custody and have appeared in court.

There were apparently many witnesses. Anyone who hasn't yet talked to police is asked to contact RCMP at 250-545-7171 or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

— The Okanagan Saturday

Beach patrol

Canada geese prowl the beach at Marina Park in Kelowna. Today's forecast calls for mainly cloudy skies with a 40 per cent chance of isolated showers.

