

## **LAKE COUNTRY CALENDAR**



credit: Capital News files

Mill Creek spilled its banks last year, causing flooding along Adams Road in Kelowna last year. Photo

## Okanagan streamflows, water demands to be studied Okanagan Basin Water Board received funding to help study

water issues KEVIN PARNELL / Mar. 9, 2018 10:53 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS





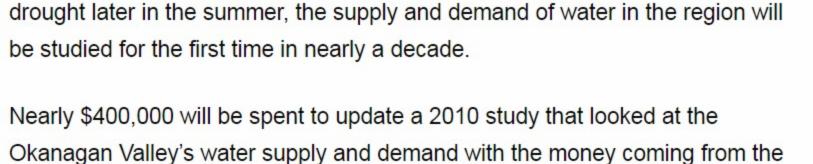




lakes in the Okanagan Valley







With the Okanagan coming off a year which featured heavy floods as well as a

federal gas tax. The study will focus on streamflows from up to 27 tributaries that enter the major

"We're very pleased to receive this funding," said Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB's executive director. "With all the uncertainty we've seen with historic flooding, and extreme drought with low flows in streams, it's more important than ever to

have the best science to estimate streamflow." Streams that will be studied include Vernon and Whiteman Creeks in the North

Shuttleworth Creeks in the South Okanagan, and others. "Local planners and water managers simply cannot rely on historic water

Okanagan, Mission and Mill Creeks in the Central Okanagan, Trout and

patterns and ranges to manage supply any longer," said Warwick Sears. "We need to identify the shifts in supply—in snowpack, in rainfall, and reservoir storage—and consider these in flood and drought plans, resource development

plans and infrastructure plans."

and utilities, helping them make water management and future planning decisions to meet the needs of all, including fish, agriculture, and human consumption. It will also be provided to the province to help with water licensing decisions.

The data will be made available to local governments, Okanagan First Nations

"There have been a lot of technological advances and improvements in

streamflow estimating science since the last time we did these studies. It's time to update our understanding of what is happening with water in our valley," said Warwick Sears. The streamflow study is expected to begin in spring 2018 and wrap up by the

end of 2019. The Federal Gas Tax Fund is provided twice-a-year to provinces and territories

and is intended to address three objectives: productivity and economic growth, a clean environment, and strong cities and communities. In B.C., the program is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

Dir. Wendy Booth, UBCM President, spoke to the importance of this funding. "Communities across B.C. are looking for funding to replace, upgrade and expand local infrastructure," she added. "The federal Gas Tax Fund is accelerating the pace of infrastructure renewal through the transfer of close to \$3 billion since 2005 for projects in our province. I appreciate the Government of Canada's long-term commitment to fund priorities identified by B.C. local governments."

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