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Okanagan Weed Control Delayed Due to Vandalism

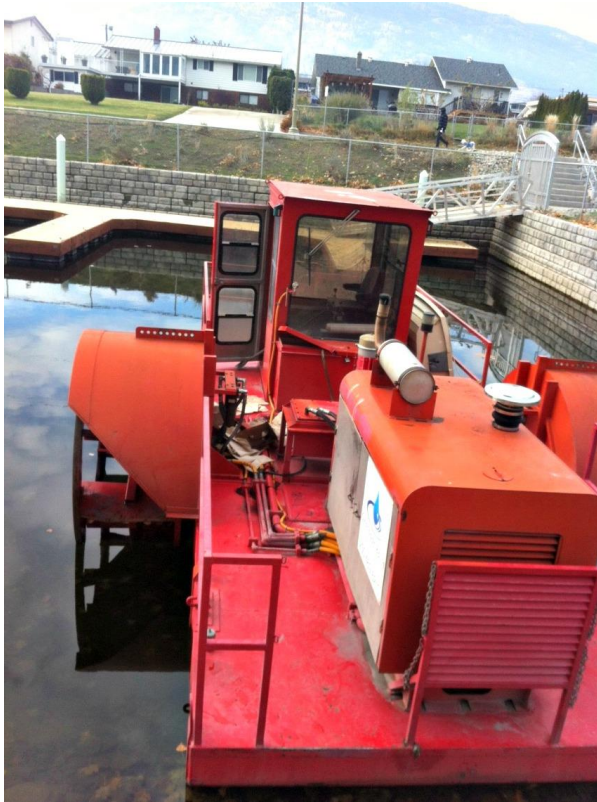


Photo Credit: Okanagan Basin Water Board

Efforts to effectively control an invasive weed in a South Okanagan Lake are at a standstill after vandalism and theft from one of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's machines.

According to OBWB, their rototiller was damaged at the Osoyoos Marina on Osoyoos Lake. The suspects also stole a number of items including life jackets, a GPS, a personal locator beacon along with other pieces of safety equipment.

"It's really unfortunate," said OBWB Office and Projects Manager James Littlely. "The Water Board is already limited by environmental work windows and has added extra operator hours, during the work time available, to try and remove as much

milfoil as possible. All of this is in an effort to ensure we have less of the troublesome weed in the lake for the upcoming summer and tourist season.”

Rototilling is the most effective method of controlling the weed plus it is the only option available in the winter. “It can’t be done in the summer since the plant will re-root in warmer conditions,” adds Littlely. In the summer, the Water Board harvests the weed and only to a depth of about six feet. “This is really more an esthetic treatment,” said Littlely.



Photo Credit: Okanagan Basin Water Board

Rototilling will be delayed by at least a few days while staff repair the machine and replace the stolen safety equipment. The exact cost of repairs and lost equipment isn’t known at this time.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact Osoyoos RCMP at 250-495-7236.