

Harper is not a bullying big sister

Counter to beliefs, our prime minister was not a bully at the G20 Summit, he was actually deemed a hero by the Australian press for having the guts and courage to tell Russian President Vladimir Putin where to go.

Canada couldn't possibly bully and try to take over powerful Russia. Who is larger in size and larger in population? And definitely no match with their larger army and powerful military equipment. You must realize bullies only pick on weakness, be it humans or countries. I personally know what bullying is all about.

Poor Ukraine is the perfect vulnerable little country for Russia to bully, just as I was the perfect person for my older sister to bully. She was two years older, bigger, well-built and stronger. I was smaller, weak, skinny and looked just like Popeye's wife, Olive Oyl. My sister bullied me until I was 15 years old when I nervously got enough courage one day to hit her back. That is the only way to stop a bully. It takes guts, courage and action.

The United Nations leaders of the world have been scolding, demanding and threatening Russia to stop interfering and trying to take over the Ukraine, but Russia being a bully will not stop the combatting, threatening and harassing by land and air.

As a result of Harper's unexpected angry remark, Putin was seen sitting alone at a big table during the conference, and leaving the G20 Summit a day earlier. Putin lost respect and any friends he did have. It is a joke to say Harper's brave remark was just a publicity stunt to gain some Ukraine votes. I suppose we stepped on a few political toes. Canada's little heaver is no match for Russia's big black bear.

Dot Davies-Fuhrman, Kelowna

Don't move a mussel a strong move

Re: Federal government plans to crack down on boats carrying invasive mussels, The Daily Courier, Dec. 5.

Thank you for your recent coverage of the proposed new federal regulations to ban importation of invasive zebra and quagga mussels into Canada. It was great news, and a significant honour to have the announcement made in the Okanagan, recognizing the intense concern expressed by local residents for the health of our lakes. The new rules allow border agents to screen boats for aquatic hitchhikers, and for the federal and provincial governments to coordinate emergency response.

Significant further actions are needed to ensure vigilance and reasonable protection for our valley. As we know from the Okanagan's 40-year experience with milfoil, one innocent deposit of an invasive species can cause headaches, heartbreaks, and high maintenance costs for decades. These mussels could form a whole new category of super-weeds.

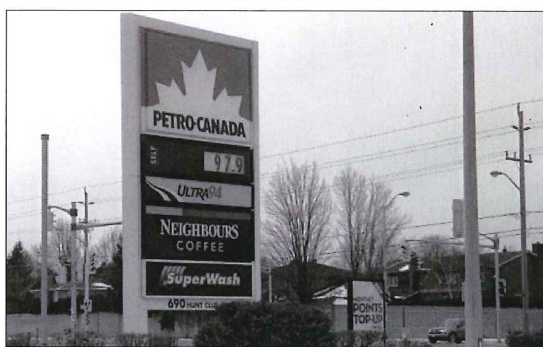
We hope to soon see the roll out of B.C.'s new invasive species plan. We also hope to see adequate federal and provincial budgets set aside for monitoring and enforcement, and an on-the-ground plan for how boat inspections and decontaminations will proceed.

Boaters, fishers, and all lake goers are an important part of the solution. We invite you to learn more about the threat posed by invasive mussels to Okanagan waters and how to avoid inadvertently transporting these creatures into our lakes and streams at www.DontMoveAMussel.ca.

Doug Findlater, chairman, Okanagan Basin Water Board

What do you think?

Please limit letters to 400 words. Provide name, address and telephone number for confirmation purposes. No anonymous letters will be published. Email letters to ok.bc.ca.



To drive the point home, C.V. Comben snapped this photo of an Ottawa gas station.

Not happening right now in the Okanagan

I have just returned from Ottawa where gas prices in one day ranged from 96.2 to 97.9 cents per litre.

It seems that we are once again held captive in the clutches of the local suppliers.

Not only do our prices at virtually every station all rise and fall in unison, but they stay at the same price point for days or weeks on end. Just thought your readers would like a way to get their blood pressure up.

This is not an aberration, but the usual situation at the stations all over Ottawa on any given day.

G.V. Comben, Kelowna

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