

Opinion

Invasive mussels a 'whole new category of super-pests'

To the editor:

RE: New Federal Regulations To Combat Zebra And Quagga Mussels, Dec. 5 Capital News.

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

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

Following on last week's federal announcement, we hope to soon see the roll out of the Province of B.C.'s new invasive species response 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
chair,

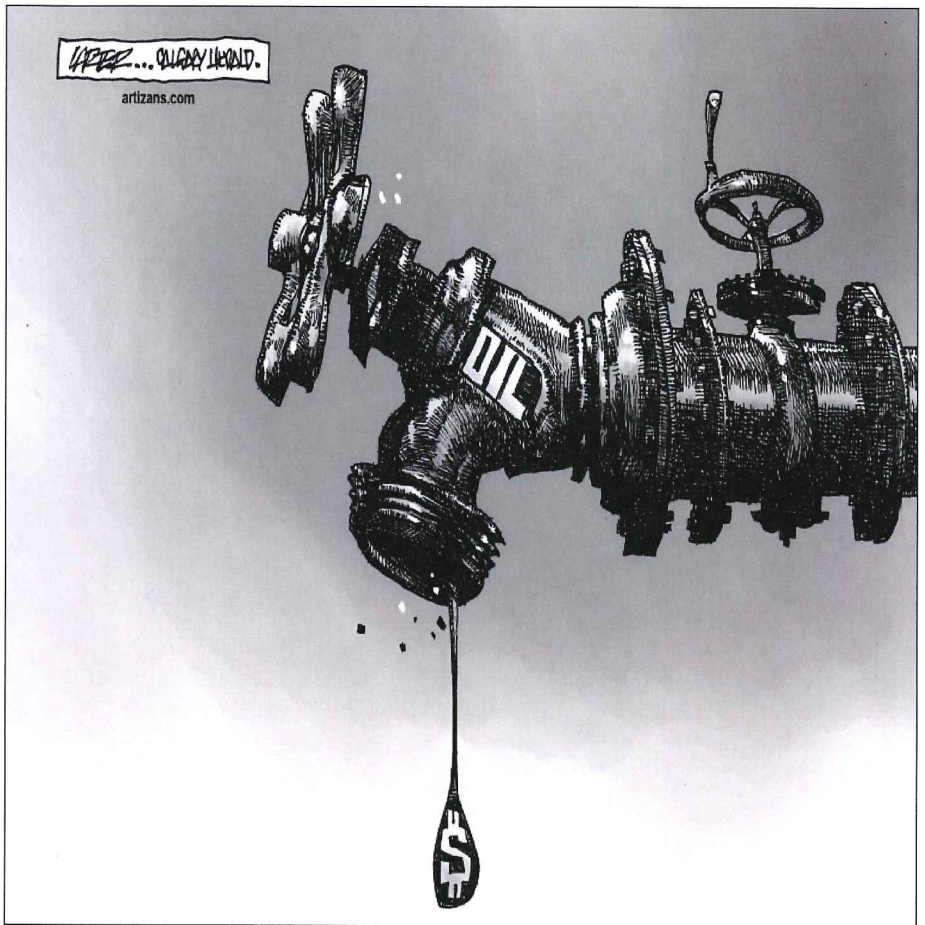
Okanagan Basin Water Board

LETTER OF THE WEEK

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 procedures.

Significant further actions are needed to ensure ongoing vigilance and reasonable protection for



Drug-resistant

It's projected that 10 million people will die every year by 2050 from infections resistant to drugs. <http://tiny.cc/4ospqkx>

Spidey sense

Engineers are copying organs in spider legs to build sensors sensitive enough to detect blood flow and speech. <http://tiny.cc/5tspqkx>

Earthy waters

Scientists are now ruling out the theory that Earth's water came from comets. <http://tiny.cc/5tspqkx>

Bat brains

Researchers think all animals have internal 3D directional navigation systems similar to bats. <http://tiny.cc/m5spqkx>

Drop in a dollar, or least a smile

If you want to be ignored, ringing a bell next to a kettle might be a sound route to take.

People from all walks of life averted their gaze when I jingled bells for the Salvation Army last week. There were elderly folk who were going to the store to pick up their sundries for the weekend ahead, teenagers who were rushing by with their noses in mobile devices and children who had rightly been told not to engage strangers who are smiling at them and waving seemingly innocuous looking bells in their faces.

Not to say that I blame any of them. I've done my share of looking away when it comes to cheerful bell ringers.

Sometimes it's because I simply don't carry cash. Sometimes my inner-Scrooge comes to the fore, and I think all about how my hard-earned money belongs in my own pocket. Sometimes I really can't afford it.

When I'm being a better person, I know it's worthwhile to try. A dollar here and there, can really

Kathartic

KATHY MICHAELS



add up. And to the 500-plus families who have registered with Kelowna's Salvation Army this year, it could very well add up to something bigger than I'll ever truly comprehend—knock-on-wood.

So, to get to the point: It's time to give, to wherever and whatever feels right.

I won't offer any talk of personal tragedy among us to get you to ante up. For some reason, it just seems wrong to try and incentivize decency by exploiting the personal tragedy of others.

Also I think we know these stories. We've all

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brushed by people who need a hand in our own lives, or through the lives of our friends. We can see them when we're out and about. There are apparent discrepancies between those who have and those who don't in this city.

So, once again, just give.

Thus far the community has been doing just that. The Kelowna Salvation Army has raised \$300,000 for its Kettle Campaign, which has set a goal of \$700,000 for the season.

“It's awesome. But we still have two weeks to go, and we still need people to put money into the kettle,” said Geri Grainger, community ministries director.

“We also need people who are willing to give their time. It's vital.”

And if you see someone chiming a bell for their benefit, said Grainger, don't be afraid to just smile and say hello.

It's almost as good as a donation.

For information on how to help at the Salvation Army, call the church office at 250-860-2329. For more information kelownasalvationarmy.ca.

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