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Local water projects get funds

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Three North Okanagan projects that will help improve water quality conservation and quality have tapped into funding.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is providing support for water quality enhancement along Coldstream Creek, water source assessment and protection in Armstrong and bacterial source tacking at the Kalamalka lake intake.

“It’s so gratifying to be able to support fantastic – and important – projects in this valley that may otherwise have sat idle or taken longer to complete,” said Genevieve Dunbar, grants administrator for the OBWB.

The District of Coldstream will receive \$15,500 to restore two high priority areas along Coldstream Creek. The work will include livestock fencing, replanting of riparian areas, livestock crossings and bank regrading.

The North Okanagan Regional District will receive \$18,000 to identify probable sources of fecal pollution at each of the Kal Lake water intakes. Knowing the sources and concentration of each source will allow for more targeted control programs such as dog area restrictions or goose management.

The City of Armstrong is being provided with \$25,000 to complete a source protection plan for the Fortune Creek watershed.

The city will also review the status of licenses on the creek in an effort to better understand demand and available supply.

OBWB has awarded a total of \$300,000 to 18 applicants throughout the Okanagan Valley for water-related projects.

“Since the grant program was introduced in 2005, we have seen improvements to water conservation in the Okanagan,” said Dunbar.

“There has also been an increase in water science, which allows for better decisions to be made. And, the grants have increased the number of best practices in place.”

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