

# Osoyoos Times



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## Ready to race



*Photo by Richard McGuire*

Diana Feuerhelm, of Olds, Alta., raced down the track at Desert Park while training a horse last week. Feuerhelm is one of four trainers currently working with about 50 horses. The climate in Osoyoos is much more conducive to horse training than the winter weather in Alberta, she said, and she thinks the horse industry could provide a great opportunity for Osoyoos to draw visitors outside of peak tourist season. After a decade without horse racing, Desert Park was recently granted two race dates this summer.

## Planning continues to offer shuttle service from Kelowna Airport to Osoyoos and other towns

BY KEITH LACEY  
*Osoyoos Times*

It may not happen until nearly next year, but numerous key stakeholders are continuing plans to offer a daily

shuttle service from Kelowna International Airport to Osoyoos.

"This is something we believe would be of great benefit to a lot of people in our community," said Holly Plante, the

new president of the South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce (SOCC), which is one of the key stakeholders involved in discussions to form a business plan that would eventually see a shuttle service offered

between the Kelowna airport and several communities in the South Okanagan, including the Town of Osoyoos.

A group of nine individual stakeholders met at the Town of Osoyoos council chambers

on Feb. 19 to discuss the development and future operation of a proposed shuttle bus service from the Kelowna

*See SHUTTLE SERVICE  
on Page 10*

Sisters-in-law  
ready to raise cash  
for July 1 fireworks  
p. 2



## INSIDE

Opinion.....	6
TV Listings... 13-14, 19-20	
Bulletin Board .....	23
Classifieds.....	28-30



*Osoyoos Potters  
excited about  
upcoming show  
p. 22*

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# Water board plans to raise awareness of major aquatic threat

**From Page 1**

Corinne Jackson, OBWB communications director.

The special guest at the public meetings will be Heather Larratt, of Larratt Aquatic, who is an expert on water quality and reservoir management.

In a recent presentation to the OBWB, Larratt said the potential impact of a mussel invasion to Okanagan water systems, municipal infrastructure, boating, fish-

eries, lake-front real estate values and tourism could exceed \$43 million per year in lost revenues and added maintenance.

The cost to the Great Lakes region of mussel management between 2000 and 2010 is estimated at \$5 billion, Larratt told the OBWB.

The mussels, which are native to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea area, were first discovered in the Great Lakes in 1982.

They have since spread to the southwest-

ern United States.

The OBWB has been in touch with U.S. authorities and recently received permission to use the slogan "Don't Move a Mussel."

Other slogans being considered include calls to action such as "Clean, Drain, Dry," "Spread the word – not mussels," and "Keep B.C. zebra mussel-free."

The mussels are typically spread by boats. In their early stages of development they are too small to be seen. Adult zebra mussels can sur-

vive out of water for several days in the right conditions.

The best policy is for anyone who has had a boat or other water-related item such as a jet boat, life jacket, or hip waders in an infected area is to consider themselves infected, Larratt told the board.

Wells is particularly concerned about boats used for wakeboarding that take water into a bladder.

After the bladder is emptied, some water may remain in the blad-

der with gelatinous infant zebra or quagga mussels, which then can spread to other lakes, Wells said.

The OBWB requested that a local official with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) come to its March 5 board meeting to discuss how the agency could help to prevent mussel-infected boats from entering B.C.

The official declined to attend, citing federal cutbacks for public outreach and instead sent the board a five-month-

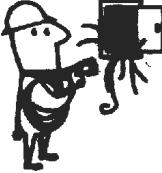
old PowerPoint presentation.

Until federal legislation is enacted on the specific issue of zebra and quagga mussels, customs information can be provided to officials in other departments when necessary to protect the life, health or safety of an individual or the environment.

Wells said he was surprised CBSA could not send the official to the meeting, especially since she is based in Penticton, where the board's meeting was held.

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