

# News

## WELCOMING COMMITTEE



Manager Craig Dickson and the staff of the downtown Safeway welcome their customers back to the new improved 30th Avenue and the reopened entrance to the grocery store Saturday.

LISA VANDERVELDE/MORNINGSTAR

## Polls open in North Westside

Morning Star Staff

North Westside Road residents will know later today who will represent them in Victoria.

Polls for the Westside-Kelowna byelection run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at various locations in the constituency, including at the Killiney Beach Community Hall on Udell Road.

Residents of Westside-Kelowna are eligible to vote if they are 18 years of age or older on July 10, they are a Canadian citizen and they have lived in B.C. for the past six months.

Under the Election Act, voters must prove their identity and residential address in order to receive a ballot or register to vote.

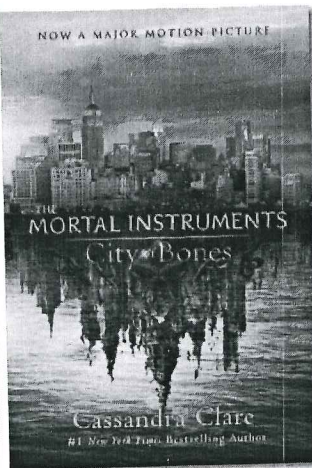
Identification can include a single document issued by the federal or provincial governments such as a B.C. driver's licence, B.C. Identification Card or B.C. Services Card.

You can also present two documents that together show the voter's name and residential address.

The candidates are Jag Bhandari (B.C. Vision), Christy Clark (Liberal), Carole Gordon (NDP), John Marks (independent), Silverado Socrates (independent), Sean Upshaw (Conservative), Dayleen Van Ryswyk (independent) and Korry Zepik (independent).

The byelection became necessary after MLA Ben Stewart resigned recently to free up a seat for Clark, who lost her Vancouver seat in May's provincial election but is premier.

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## Water board reaps funding rewards

Morning Star Staff

Funding has been approved for a trio of Okanagan Basin Water Board projects to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive water data collection program and valley-wide wetlands strategy.

"Good water management begins with good water measurement. The first step in preparing for floods or droughts is to know how much water is flowing in the streams. It's important information for residents and

water managers, for farmers, and for those concerned with fish," said Anna Warwick Sears OBWB executive director.

"This information has immediate value, and when we can track flows over time, we are better at predicting what the future will bring."

Recognizing the importance of this type of data collection, Environment Canada has awarded \$30,000 to the OBWB to re-establish two strategic stream-flow hydro-metric monitoring stations.

"Right now, about half of the stream flow stations are being run by independent managers," Warwick Sears said.

"In this time of tight budgets, we have to share data to get the most value out of our combined efforts."

Another \$95,000 has been allocated by the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Gas Tax Innovations Fund to develop a single database where stream-flow measurements from across the valley can be collected and accessed.

Environment Canada also approved \$35,000 to create phase one of an Okanagan wetlands strategy. The strategy includes compiling existing wetlands information, and establishing a steering committee to guide development of a valley-wide protection plan.



Warwick Sears



Some things are just better together.

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## Housing starts on par

Morning Star Staff

Housing construction remains steady in Vernon. There were 13 housing starts in June, down from 16 during the same month in 2012.

Of the 13 starts, 11 were single-detached units and there were two multiple units.

Year-to-date, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports there were 81 housing starts compared to 80 during the first six months of 2012.