

## CHARITY

# Christmas in July

**Food bank director optimistic after years of not reaching goal**

aged to bring non-perishable food items to help fill up the food bank trucks and cash donations are also welcome.

"We'll have firefighters helping out in both locations, so we hope to collect a lot," said Lavers.

As well, there are several ongoing programs designed to bring in food and money.

Purchasing Buy BC coupons at the

grocery store allows the food bank to collect local products from the stores.

People can sign up to donate \$35 a month to go toward the No Hungry Grocery stores also donate items that are close to or just past expiry and best-by dates.

Demand for the food bank's services is steadily increasing.

From January through May this year the agency distributed 6,225 hampers to 12,594 people, a 14 per cent increase over the same period last year.

On the web: KelownaFoodBank.com.



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

The Kelowna Food Bank's Christmas in July campaign is currently underway with volunteers out at both Kelowna Walgreens this Saturday and Sunday collecting food and cash donations. Holding a box of canned food is, from left, Brandon Gambacort, summer student, Linda Knol, office administrator and Vonnie Lavers, Executive Director.

## Climate expert urges Okanagan residents to conserve water

**Water demand expected to increase 30 per cent by 2030**

By JENNA HICKMAN  
Special to The Daily Courier

Recent devastating floods in Alberta and this week's deluge in Toronto highlight the fact climate change is here, says a global warming expert.

However, flooding is not what the Okanagan has to worry about.

The Okanagan is "more likely to have other types of extreme weather, like deep and persistent drought," said Robert Sandford, chairman of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the United Nations Water for Life Decade, while visiting Kelowna on Wednesday.

"The cost... on society would be a tremendous impact on people."

The Okanagan is a semi-arid region with relatively low annual rainfall.

As experienced in 2005, the Valley is more susceptible to drought due to its dry climate in the rain shadow of the Coast Mountains. Drought is especially

harmful to the local economy due to the many agricultural crops grown here, from tree fruits to wine grapes.

Sandford, a member of the Adaptation to Climate Change Team at Simon Fraser University, recently co-authored a report on Canada's crop and food supply.

The report says that with an increase in temperatures, efforts to monitor and protect groundwater should be made a high priority.

In addition, he says B.C.'s Water Act should be modernized. It is the principal law covering the use and management of water within the province.

"What this report says is how important Water Act modernization is to your region," said Sandford. "I really urge people from the Okanagan to press the government to advance this modernization - I think it's one of the most important things our Agriculture and Food Crops Climate Change Report would support."

Sandford believes the Okanagan uses far too much water, with 24 per cent being used for residential landscape watering.

If the Okanagan wishes to continue growing as it has, economical-

ly and agriculturally, there is no choice but to conserve water, he said. The report predicts that by 2030, water demand will increase by 30 per cent and food and energy demand will spike by 50 per cent. This means much more food will have to be produced with much less water.

"What do you do when you have to make a choice between providing enough water for ecosystem protection that allows the life-support system to actually function and the hydrological cycle to work, and supplying enough water to feed people?" he asked.

It seems like a lose-lose situation. However, with guidance from what Sandford regards as one of the best water basin boards in the country, there is hope.

"I see the Okanagan as one of the places that can get this right and that can be a model for others elsewhere. You have the institutions like the Okanagan Basin Water Board in place. You understand how precious water is to you, as a society and the region. And I think you need to have help from your provincial government in modernizing water legislation in order to help you succeed," he said.

## Minister Toews' retires, thanked for service

By JENNA HICKMAN  
Special to The Daily Courier

Federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews' retirement caused mixed feelings across the country, but at least two groups expressed their gratitude to the minister.

The Canadian Convenience Stores Association and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) both extended their appreciation to Toews when hearing of his resignation.

"It has been a pleasure to work with a minister with an unwavering commitment to strengthening the safety of Canadians and improving conditions for Canada's fire services," said Stephen Gamble, fire chiefs' association president, in a recent press release.

Firefighters credit Toews with playing a major role in the implementation of spectrum in the 700 MHz band for the exclusive use of public safety, building the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, and implementing the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit.

The Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit was created in 2011. This gave volunteer firefighters who per-

form at least 200 hours of service per year a 15 per cent tax credit on up to \$3,000.

"You don't volunteer for the money, you volunteer for the service to the community," said Kelowna Fire Chief Jeff Carlisle.

The Kelowna Fire Department has 52 volunteer firefighters.

"I would like to commend the minister with his involvement. We really appreciate his leadership and strong support of the firefighting community," Carlisle said.

Toews was perhaps best known for his role in implementing the Conservative government's tough on crime agenda.

In March, Toews took part in measures to tackle contraband tobacco.

Stricter measures will limit the amount of tobacco sold on the streets and promote tobacco sales in convenience stores, Toews said in March.

The measures will have more impact in Ontario and Quebec, where contraband tobacco is a bigger problem than in B.C.

Toews says he wants to pursue opportunities in the private sector and focus on his family.

### VALLEYINBRIEF

#### Free movie night coming to Kelowna

Scotiabank's free national movie tour is coming to Kelowna.

July 17 will be the tour's second stop.

Russell Crowe's A Good Year will play on a 40-foot outdoor movie screen at Heartland Kelowna, 5983 Highway 33, East.

The only things you might want to bring are a lawn chair and blanket,

as the first 500 guests will receive free water and popcorn.

If you are a Scotiabank Scene member, you might want to get there early, as the first 100 guests who show their Scene card will be invited to a VIP section. The event will start at sunset.

If it looks like it's going to rain, the event will be held on July 18, so check [www.scotiabank.com/summerfree](http://www.scotiabank.com/summerfree) on the day of the event.

#### Springer Park opens Tuesday

Another revamped West Kelowna

park is about to reopen.

Springer Park on Elliott Road will open officially Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Springer Park will be the second of three West Kelowna park improvement projects opening this summer.

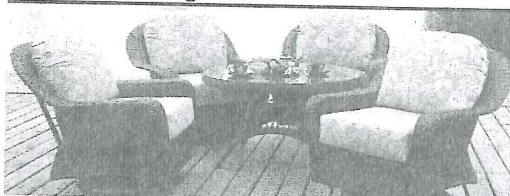
Springer Park improvements were largely possible because of a \$100,000 contribution from developers of the Gateway project on Brown Road.

In August, the lakeside Osprey Park on Green Bay Road is expected to open. The waterfront Paddlewheel Park on Pritchard Drive opened June 27.

— Daily Courier Staff

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