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Short film reveals threat mussels pose to local lakes

An Okanagan filmmaker who also works out of New York has released a short film about the threat invasive mussels could pose to local lakes.

Actor and filmmaker Brynne Morrice said the idea for Mussel Threat came from an Okanagan Basin Water Board Don't Move a Mussel billboard campaign.

After reading news stories in which the board complained about lack of action by senior governments to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from getting into local waters, Morrice decided to do something.

"I was at the lake swimming and thinking about it — about the risk to our lakes and beaches. It got to the point where I was literally losing sleep over it, thinking about how we're gambling with the future of B.C. every day we don't do something," he said in a news release.

Morrice got in touch with the OBWB, gathered names of people to interview, started filming and started a Kickstarter campaign last November to raise funds to help with the costs of the project.

His research had him speaking

with people fighting mussels in New York and Pennsylvania, Colorado, California and more. His filming started in the Okanagan, but took him to the Kootenays and into Arizona — a state on the front-lines of the mussel-fight.

On March 31, the province announced \$1.3 million in funding to help protect B.C. from the mussels, which will include three roving inspection stations to stop and inspect boats coming into the province.

Morrice said the government response isn't enough and makes the release of his film all the more important.

"It's like putting up a fence with holes in it. It needs to be an unbroken wall of defence. All it takes is one infested boat to destroy our waters."

Heather Larratt, an Okanagan-based aquatic biologist was also interviewed. It was Larratt's work for the OBWB that determined the cost of a mussel infestation in the Okanagan would be \$43 million to just manage.

To view the film, go to vimeo.com/protectourfreshwater.

— Staff

Vernon chef eliminated

A tag-team chef challenge did in Vernon's Jennifer Innis in Sunday's episode of Masterchef Canada.



Penticton Herald

Air time

Tyler Phillips, 17, jumps over the stairs at Penticton's skateboarding park. Phillips lives in Kelowna, but frequently travels to the Penticton park.

Penticton school boss gets a raise

PENTICTON — Following consecutive years of budget cuts, the Okanagan Skaha School District has come up with money to give its top administrator a pay raise, the

ment of financial information the names and wages of all employees who earn over \$75,000,

He also argued that a public budget meeting where \$1.1 million in

wait for the statement of financial information to be released in December.

"We just don't have public discussions about personnel