

Vernon NEWS

Creek water under scope

Kate Bouey - Mar 8, 2016 / 1:07 pm



Photo: Contributed - okanaganfisheriesfoundation.com

There are some problems with water quality in Coldstream Creek, but more testing needs to be done to get an accurate picture.

Coldstream council was given an overview Monday night by representatives from Western Water Associates Ltd.

“There are around 150 test sites all the way back into Lavington,” said Coun. Glen Taylor. “They have identified the sources of water going into the creek. That’s the first step.

“They have identified areas where we’ve got culverts and the readings are a little high, so mediation work will have to be done where those outlets go into the creek to reduce those readings.”

“We’d like to be able to test the seasonable variability,” said hydrogeologist Bryer Manwell.

The firm has applied for about \$20,000 in added funding from the Okanagan Basin Water Board and another \$20,000 from the B.C. Real Estate Foundation. The company has also offered more than \$11,000 in pro bono work.

One area of concern is a former dairy farm site above School Road in Lavington, where nitrates were found in the sampling.

“We’ve had plans in the works (to rectify the situation) for a couple of years,” said Mike Baker, director of infrastructure services for Coldstream.

He said engineered wetland will be put in this summer, costing a “couple of hundred thousand dollars.”

Baker said officials are hopeful the second phase of water tests will go ahead this year, depending on funding.

Experts hope to test the creek, which runs into Kalamalka Lake, at least three times over one year to be able to average out the readings and get a more accurate picture.

“What happens at different points in the year is very different,” said Manwell.