

March 16, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

CURTAIN COMES UP ON CANADA WATER WEEK – OKANAGAN WATER BOARD HOSTS FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Kelowna, B.C. – The Okanagan Basin Water Board and its Okanagan WaterWise program are hosting a free movie night, complete with snacks, engaging conversation and more, as part of Canada Water Week and U.N. World Water Day celebrations.

“SHARED WATERS. SHARED CONVERSATIONS. ...Keeping the Okanagan River flowing” is a free event and will feature a special welcome & opening with syilx (Okanagan) Nation’s **Krystal Lezard**, screening of the award-winning *“A River Film,”* a short Q&A with some of the local people featured in the film, followed by a mix and mingle. The event is set for Wednesday, March 21, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Rotary Centre for the Arts, Mary Irwin Theatre, 421 Cawston Ave. Kelowna.

“We really look forward to this event each year, allowing us to meet and visit with anyone and everyone with an interest in water, but in a relaxed and fun setting,” explained OBWB Communications Director Corinne Jackson, who also manages the OkWaterWise program. “Basically, we bring the film, engaging guests for a Q&A, the snacks, and more. You bring yourself, maybe a friend, and your interest in water issues.

“We’ve held very successful movie nights and separate panel discussions in the past. This year we’re presenting a hybrid, one-night-only event,” Jackson added.

“A River Film” profiles the Okanagan rivershed, a transboundary waterway that straddles the Canada-U.S. border and is regulated by the International Joint Commission (IJC), a bi-national organization established to protect the interests of all. Breathtaking footage provides a spectacular look at the river and the lake, and explores the complex relationships between people, fish, upland species, and the wider Columbia Basin.

Those participating in the Q&A include: **Anna Warwick Sears** – OBWB’s Executive Director and a member of the IJC’s International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, **Dawn Machin** - Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Biologist, **Shaun Reimer** - B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development’s Section Head of Public Safety & Protection (in charge of Okanagan Lake dam operations), and **John Wagner** – UBC Okanagan Associate Professor of Anthropology (with expertise on agriculture and food security and the Columbia River Treaty).

Following the Q&A, attendees are invited to visit with local organizations that will have displays, showcasing the work they are doing to protect the waters of the Okanagan. Plus, collect some great giveaways to help you do your part.

Light refreshments will also be served.

This is a FREE event, but registration is required at <https://okwaterwise-cww2018.eventbrite.ca/>

The OBWB-OkWaterWise is also pleased to support a number of additional events in the valley to mark

Canada Water Week (March 18- 24) and UN World Water Day (March 22). For a full listing, please visit www.OkWaterWise.ca/events.

"A River Film," recently presented with an Impact DOCS Award of Excellence, is currently on a film festival circuit and so unavailable online at this time. The documentary was created in partnership between the OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise, the International Joint Commission, and the Washington State Department of Ecology, and produced by Kelowna-based Ascent Films Inc.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Corinne Jackson, OBWB – Communications Director
Office: 250-469-6271 Mobile: 250-718-7249
E-mail: corinne.jackson@obwb.ca