

# News

## Dock owners asked to watch for invasive mussels

### Capital News Staff

The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) has launched a citizen science initiative to help monitor for invasive mussels in Okanagan Valley lakes.

The society is seeking community members who own private docks on Kalamalka, Wood, Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos lakes to participate in monitoring for the non-native zebra and quagga mussels.

This citizen science project is the first of its kind in the province, and will allow community members to be more actively involved in protecting Okanagan lakes from the invasive mussel threat.

Participants in the citizen science project will be provided with a pair of mussel monitors to be attached to their private docks.

Dock owners will be required to check the monitors every two weeks throughout the summer for the presence of invasive mussels.

"Our society has been checking for invasive mussels for seven years, however, this initiative will greatly expand our efforts to regions of the lakes that were previously inaccessible," said Lisa Scott, executive director of

OASISS.

"Not only will we be able to improve the quantity of our data, but we will also be able to involve the community in an environmental cause that many feel passionate about."

Invasive mussels were introduced from

Eastern Europe and Western Russia to the Great Lakes Region in the 1980s, and since then have spread into lakes around North America, primarily by contaminated watercraft.

As of 2016, they are now as close to the Okanagan as

Montana, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington are still believed to be free of invasive mussels.

The current project is being funded in part by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and run in conjunction with its

Don't Move A Mussel initiative.

The society has also received a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to support the monitoring of the five Okanagan lakes through both water sampling and the

monitoring stations.

"The OBWB is extremely concerned about the possibility of zebra and quagga mussels reaching our lakes," added Anna Warwick, executive director of the water board.

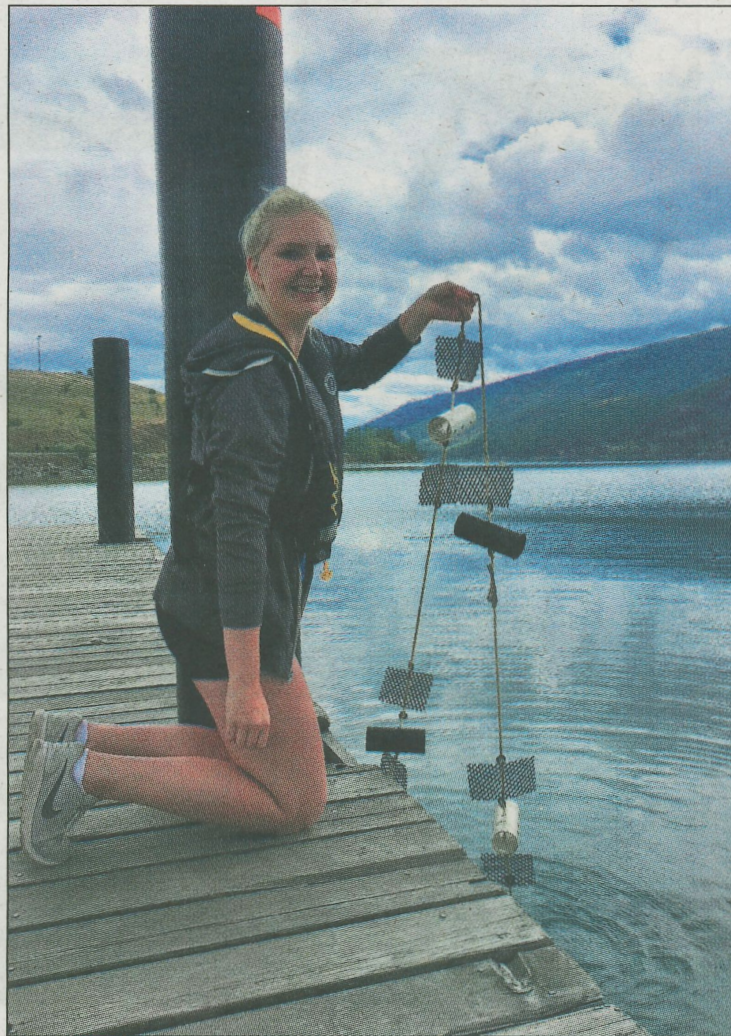
"Once established in a lake, invasive mus-

sels harm ecosystems and impact water supplies. The lakes in the Okanagan Basin are especially vulnerable to these impacts."

Zebra and quagga mussels are considered to be an environmental disaster, costing millions of dollars to provinces

and states each year.

In regions where they are already established, invasive mussels damage sensitive ecosystems, clog water intake pipes and water infrastructure, reduce water quality, and impact tourism and the local economy.



Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society summer student Sierra Collins checks a substrate monitor at Kalamalka Lake as part of a regional invasive mussel monitoring program. (Contributed)

Do you want  
to learn about a  
**fast-growing**  
and **exciting**  
**business,**  
right here in the  
Okanagan?

 **BlueSky**  
Organics

Register by calling BlueSky Organics at (250) 260-1105 or  
by e-mailing at [info@blueskyorganics.com](mailto:info@blueskyorganics.com)

An investment into BlueSky Organics is only open to "accredited investors"  
(as defined in applicable securities legislation).

**BlueSky Organics Corp** is revolutionizing cultivation methods through science and innovation. We are based in Vernon, BC and would love to meet potential accredited investors. BlueSky is hosting an information session on **Tuesday, August 13, 2019**. The purpose of the session is to meet current investors in BlueSky Organics and other interested parties to update them on BlueSky's business operations and growth plans.

**Where:** Predator Ridge Conference Centre Ballroom, 301 Village Centre Place, Vernon, BC

**When:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Why settle for anything but the best?  
**HOT TUBS, SWIM SPAS, MASSAGE CHAIRS, SAUNAS**



There has never  
been a better  
time to save.

Great Selection  
Great Savings

**PremiumPoolandSpa.ca**

230 - 2469 Hwy 97N Kelowna, BC 250.861.5484



OASISS summer student Sierra Collins checks a substrate monitor at Kalamalka Lake as part of a regional invasive mussel monitoring program. (OASISS photo)

## Okanagan dock owners urged to monitor for invasive mussels

Kalamalka, Wood, Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos lakes at risk

MORNING STAR STAFF / Aug. 2, 2019 5:00 p.m. / COMMUNITY



The Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS), is launching a citizen science initiative to help monitor for invasive mussels in Okanagan valley lakes.

The society is seeking community members who own private docks on Kalamalka, Wood, Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos lakes to participate in monitoring for the non-native zebra and quagga mussels. This citizen science project is the first of its kind in the province, and will allow community members to be more actively involved in protecting Okanagan lakes from the invasive mussel threat.

Participants in the citizen science project will be provided with a pair of mussel monitors to be attached to their private docks. They will be required to check the monitors every two weeks throughout the summer for the presence of invasive mussels.

“Our Society has been checking for invasive mussels for seven years, however, this initiative will greatly expand our efforts to regions of the lakes that were previously inaccessible,” says Lisa Scott, executive director of OASISS. “Not only will we be able to improve the quantity of our data, but we will also be able to involve the community in an environmental cause that many feel passionate about.”

**READ MORE: [Film focuses on Kal Lake threat](#)**

Invasive mussels were introduced from Eastern Europe and Western Russia to the Great Lakes Region in the 1980s, and since then have spread into lakes around North America, primarily by contaminated watercraft. As of 2016, they are now as close to the Okanagan as Montana. B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington are still believed to be free of invasive mussels.

The current project is being funded in part by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and run in conjunction with its Don't Move A Mussel initiative. The society has also received a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to support the monitoring of the five Okanagan lakes for invasive mussels through both water sampling and the monitoring stations.

“The OBWB is extremely concerned about the possibility of zebra and quagga mussels reaching our lakes,” says Anna Warwick, executive director of the Water Board. “Once established in a lake, invasive mussels harm ecosystems and impact water supplies. The lakes in the Okanagan basin are especially vulnerable to these impacts.”

Zebra and quagga mussels are considered to be an environmental disaster, costing millions of dollars to provinces and states each year. In regions where they are already established, invasive mussels damage sensitive ecosystems, clog water intake pipes and water infrastructure, reduce water quality, and impact tourism and the local economy.

**READ MORE: [LETTER: Mussel risk too great](#)**

[@VernonNews](#)

[newsroom@vernonmorningstar.com](mailto:newsroom@vernonmorningstar.com)

Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

0 Comments

Sort by [Newest](#)

**WWW.VERNONDODGE.COM**

*fashion* FRIDAYS

NEW EPISODE EVERY FRIDAY

### One of Canada's top stylists

will be sharing all of her fashion secrets, every Friday across the Black Press Media network on the Life channel!



STYLE by Kim XO



**You May Like**

Promoted Links



**If You're Over 40 And Own A Computer, This Game Is A Must-Have!**

Throne: Free Online Games



**Okanagan book looks at 100 years of fruit farming - Vernon Morning Star**

Black Press Media