



# Newsletter

## SUMMER 2015

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## A Recovery Plan for Water Is More Important Than Ever

BY MAUDE BARLOW

*Canadian Perspectives Spring 2015*

*The Council of Canadians*

**T**wenty-two years ago, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 World Water Day. In a world facing a severe and growing water crisis without a road map, this day is more important than ever.

Our collective abuse of water has caused the planet to enter “a new geologic age” – a “planetary transformation” akin to the retreat of the glaciers more than 11,000 years ago. This is according to 500 renowned scientists brought together in Bonn at the invitation of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in May 2013. A majority of the world’s population lives within 30 miles of water sources that are badly impaired or running out, the scientists said.

The water crisis is also our greatest security threat. This is according to 900 global experts asked to assess the world’s biggest global risks in advance of the World Economic Forum’s annual meeting. Another global study warns that by 2030, demand for water will outstrip supply by 40 per cent. Lack of access to clean water is already by far the greatest killer of children.

While recognized as real, the water crisis is usually seen as a symptom of climate change, itself caused by excessive greenhouse gas emissions. Droughts are almost always reported as the result of climate change. While no doubt greenhouse gas emission-driven climate change does have an important and negative impact on watersheds, warming temperatures and speeding up evaporation,

there is another story that needs to be told.

Massive water diversion for flood irrigation and the over-exploitation of groundwater has left large areas of the world without water. The destruction of the Aral Sea and Lake Chad – once the fourth and sixth largest lakes in the world respectively – was not caused by climate change. It was a result of relentless extraction for commodity exports.

The drought crisis in California is not caused by climate change per se, but rather by the massive engineering of the state’s water supplies to provide for a handful of powerful farmers. A huge amount of the state’s water is exported as “virtual water” embedded in export commodities. The Ogallala Aquifer is not being depleted by climate change, but by unrelenting extraction, mostly for corn ethanol.

Removing water from water-retentive landscapes leaves behind parched lands and desertification, another cause of the water crisis. Removing vegetation from water-retentive landscapes changes the water patterns forever. The current crisis in Brazil – once a water-rich country – is largely due to the destruction of the rainforest. Take down the forests and the hydrologic cycle is negatively affected.

Because the water crisis is misdiagnosed, we do not have the right solutions to solve the crisis. World leaders, elected officials and international institutions wrap the water crisis in with their research and deliberations on climate change. If water is mentioned at all, it is as one more victim of climate change,

*continued on next page...*



*One of nature's creatures enjoying a little shade at Penticton's Okanagan College Campus. Photo by I. Graham.*

## Editorial

**A** couple of OSPS Newsletters back we addressed the theme of biodiversity. The question was legitimately asked “Why is biodiversity important?”. It is appearing more and more like the answer to this question will be that biodiversity plays a major role in the health, and ultimately the life, of the planet itself. This is very heady stuff to think about but looking at it from a systems perspective this answer makes sense. The earth thrives on systems, probably many of which we have scant understanding of. Systems react to, and interact with, other systems. Systems interact as they are seldom independent of each other. If then this answer is correct we need to start to value the ecosystems upon which the forces, of what we call nature, are dependant.

One of the ways in which we can protect the natural world upon which humanity and our home depends is to place a value on

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the aspects of nature that are present in our communities. Oh yes we have dollar values on minerals, carbon fuels, some trees (large enough for lumber or pulp) and licenses to harvest fish and wildlife. However this is not valuing most species of flora and fauna, clean water, clean air and historic knowledge, among other attributes of our home.

Locally in the Okanagan Similkameen region we can begin to address this inequity through the process of exploring what it is worth to us to have and maintain the aspects of our natural world that still exist. What is the value of being able to walk, hike, ski or travel in some of the natural settings that exist just outside of our communities? What is the value of a close to pristine protected area that provides a home for plants and animals that are under threat elsewhere? What is the cost of community expansion and growth when not being calculated in dollars and cents?

By way of example, let us examine the story of a hypothetical Okanagan Similkameen community. Oh let's call it Pentoctin. As homes and developments started to rise out of the valley that was Historic Pentoctin, residents started to come into contact with the deer, bears and other wildlife. While the homeowners were not happy with tipped over trash cans and other inconveniences, they often enjoyed sightings of 'safe' wildlife.

Then one of British Columbia's logging companies hypothetically began to cut roads, cut forests and burn slash in the mountains above the community. The hypothetical deer and other ungulates, along with the hypothetical predators who stalk them, began to move lower on the mountains, hypothetically interacting with more residents, more often, hypothetically speaking. Of course, this interface could suggest all sorts of hypothetical reacts: deer culls, wolf hunts, more enforcement of bylaws for trash and yard maintenance, etc.

Of course this is a very simple hypothetical system that has been described around

Pentoctin. Aspects such as enticing gardens and orchards, bicycle and ATV enthusiasts cutting km. of roads and trails, various wildlife ranges dependant on seasons and others could have hypothetically been factored into Pentoctin's system. What value, what costs, and for who, do these aspects of nature carry?

Is breeding season and territory important to protect? (Remember that construction was halted on the Summerland highway project for lambing season a few years back!) What about considering the extent of animal range and protected travel corridors, are these important? What is the cost to the habitats and the systems of invasive species?

The systems that are naturally in place are essential for biodiversity. Biodiversity is ultimately essential for life. We must consider the value that our natural world holds, not just for us, but for generations to still come. As we plan we have to look at the big picture, over long terms and factor in the true value of actions that we take.

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### RECOVERY PLAN from front page

almost always attributed solely to the burning of fossil fuels. The fact that destroying water-retentive landscapes is a major cause of climate change is not part of the analysis or discussion in climate change circles.

As a consequence, flawed as it is, there is a very serious process to deal with climate change, including an annual climate summit every December and multiple preparatory meetings in between. But there is no corresponding process to deal with the global water crisis.

Water must be addressed as an issue in and of itself. There is an urgent need to create a global recovery plan for water. Key components would include water-shed protection, conservation and restoration, and strong local, national and international commitments to put water protection at the heart of all laws and policies, among other things.

Five years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a historic resolution. It recognized water and sanitation as fundamental human rights. It is urgent that the United Nations and world leaders now take the next step toward a water-secure future. They need

to commit to creating a global water recovery plan for water that has its own convention, plan of action, and the resources needed to meet the greatest threat of our time.

*Maude Barlow is the national Chairperson of the council of Canadians and has been a leader in the fight for the human right to water. This article originally appeared on the website Common Dreams.*



## Director Michael Meheriuk Retires from Board

As of August, long time Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Director, Michael Meheriuk will be retiring from the board of directors. Michael did

not stand for re-election at the A.G.M. last April. He has been a director of the society for over ten years the board and the society will miss Michael's effort and integrity which he so generously provided over the years.

Michael was born June 5, 1936. The retired researcher, who worked with Agriculture Canada, at the Summerland Research Centre, for thirty years, has been an integral part of the board. Recently, Michael manned the communications post for the society collecting and distributing news and information via technology and old fashioned mail. He has been the board's representative with the groups advocating for a South Okanagan National Park. In this role Michael has cultivated connections and contacts with many

partner groups and individuals in our region.

Areas of interest for Michael have included historical structures and the wetlands of our region. He has been instrumental in assisting board deliberations to be evidence focused. We wish Michael and his wife, Irene, the very best in the future and thank them for their dedication to the cause of environmentalism in pursuit of establishing and maintaining parks in the Okanagan Similkameen.

# Leave our parks alone

**A**lthough extremely well-intentioned, a waterslide park belongs somewhere other than land presently occupied by Skaha Lake Park.

The park is a jewel of Penticton – if not the entire Okanagan – with a beautiful beach, multiple sports and adequate parking.

Placing a major commercial venture there, other than the marina, is far too risky. Too many things could go wrong.

As realtor and former city councilor Gary Denton correctly stated, imagine the outcry of citizens in Vancouver had their councils caved in to the many developers who, for decades, have tried to break into Stanley Park.

Nobody opposed to the proposal hates the idea of waterslides returning to Penticton. They simply love Skaha Park and don't want 25 per cent of the space going to a large, noisy, three-month-a-year operation. Many of the seniors who are being unfairly labeled as "crotchety old people fearful of changes"

are grandparents.

To state there's little for children and teens to do in Penticton is trite.

Tourists by the tens of thousands come from Alberta, the Lower Mainland and Washington come to Penticton to enjoy our beaches.

From the many festivals (most which are free) to school activities to clubs, there are many things for young people to do in Penticton compared to other cities of similar size. Our geography and climate allows for year-round recreation.

Thanks to the efforts of Rotarians as well as locals and businesses who donated both time and money, the splash park is a great attraction.

According to former three-term mayor Jake Kimberley, many previous councils bought up land so that people from all walks of life could enjoy the park for generation to come.

From a business standpoint, something that hasn't been stated yet is whether Skaha Lake Park actually raises the price of real estate in the southern part of town. Potential home buyers love that they're within walking distance of such a great park.

Credit the present council for trying something new. Their heart is in the right place but the location is not.

We'd suggest the Penticton Indian Reserve. The band is seeking major tenants now that the Green Avenue bridge is near completion. With Coyote Cruises already a major water attraction, placing a water park near the new bridge, perhaps relocating the unload area for tubers right beside a waterslide, would be awesome.

If not, there's dozens of other vacant lots available. We're certain those property owners would be willing to negotiate.

*James Miller*

# Too little, too late for Skaha's fate

**E**ven though they talked for three hours, the voices raised at the special meeting of council on Monday may still have been a case of too little, too late.

Council voted 5 to 2 to greenlight a plan that will see Trio Marine Group convert the area around the Skaha Marina, including a goos-sized chunk of Skaha Lake park, into a water slide attraction.

In a tourist town, the idea of adding another amenity to attract tourists isn't a bad idea. But in this situation it will come at the cost of leasing part of a public park to private interests, in addition to temporarily removing the public (and free) splash park that presently graces that end of the park.

Many of the protests council listened to during the lengthy public hearing questioned whether the development was going in the right place. And now that council has given Trio the go ahead the tune has changed to one that council isn't listening to the voice of the people.

On the surface, that is true. But digging deeper, we have to ask why there hasn't been ongoing protests, starting last September, when the City of Penticton forced out the previous leaseholders – the Attrill family, who operated the marina and their business there since 1986 – in favour of the bigger plans put forward by Trio. Details were sketchy at the time – itself a warning sign that more was going on behind closed doors than the

City wanted taxpayers to know about, or could divulge at the time – but it was clear that public park lands were part of the deal.

If the people of this community wanted to put a stop to this deal, or make Trio Marine fit it better with our community's overall desires, that was when the questions and demands for answers should have started.

But by the time of the June 29 hearing arrived, it was already too late. After more than a year of planning this sale of public land, mostly behind closed doors, council had little choice but to support the deal.



# Is democracy dead in the South Okanagan?

ROBERT HANDFIELD

*Nature Wise – Penticton Western News*  
Friday May 15, 2015

Last month the proponents of the proposed South Okanagan – Similkameen national park released a new public opinion survey that shows overwhelming support amongst all groups for establishing a national park.

This survey, conducted in march of this year showed that 69 per cent of residents of the South Okanagan – Similkameen support “protecting a portion of the South Okanagan – Similkameen in a national park.” Further it showed that 65 per cent of the residents of MLA Linda Larson’s riding and 75 per cent of MLA Dan Ashton’s constituents support the establishment of a national park. Broken down by the political party they support, the survey showed 71 per cent of BC Liberals support the park. NDP supporters supported the park by the same margins which “only” 69 per cent of Conservatives supported the park.

Most telling, when broken down by the business or recreation activity they were involved in, 79 per cent of ranchers and farmers and 70 per cent of the hunters supported the park. These are the very groups most cited by opponents of the park as a reason for opposing it.

Both Larson and Aston regard themselves as having strong mandates to represent the people of their ridings.

Seldom in politics (and almost never in B.C. politics) have so many different constituencies aligned themselves in favour of something. Here are just some of the groups that have passed resolutions in favour of the national park:

*Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce  
BC Chamber of Commerce  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce  
BC Wine Institute*

*Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association  
Tourism Penticton  
Tourism Oliver  
Destination Osoyoos  
The Union of BC Municipalities  
RDOS  
Regional District of Kootenay boundary  
BC Nature  
David Suzuki Foundation  
Greenpeace  
and on and on.*

So if everyone from businesses to conservationists is in favour of a national park, who on earth is holding it up and why?

It seems that main opposition comes from a very few Liberal MLA’s. For some reason the Premier and the Provincial Minister of Environment have been convinced that there is a “lack of support” for a national park.

Mary Polak, Provincial Minister of Environment said the B.C. Government is not interested in reopening talks with parks Canada.

Apparently the wishes of the residents and businesses of the South Okanagan are not important to the government. Perhaps the real problem stems from the fact that they have not yet been able to figure out how their supporters can make a bundle on a national park.

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, never have the legitimate aspirations of so many been frustrated by so few.

Democracy is indeed dead when it comes to Linda Larson representing her constituents.

On another note, the upcoming Meadowlark Nature Festival is a great way to get out and enjoy our wonderful valley. With more than 75 different events, there is something to interest everyone.

The next meeting of the South Okanagan Naturalists’ Club will be May 28.

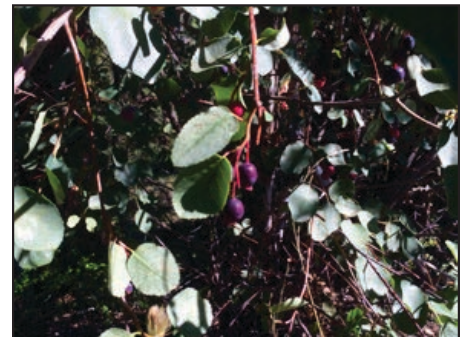
*Bob Handfield is part-president of the South Okanagan Naturalists’ Club but the views expressed here are his own and not necessarily those of the Club.*



*The tall Oregon Grape is ubiquitous in our region.*



*The Red Currants bloomed early this summer. They are found throughout the Okanagan Similkameen.*



*The purple berries of this Saskatoon bush promise to be sweet and delicious.*



*The Tall Oregon Grape, Red Currants and Saskatoons coexist and intermingle along trails and stream banks of the region.*

ALL FLORA PHOTOS BY I. GRAHAM.

# Local Flora

In our last issue there was a report on some of the invasive species of plants that have made their way into the Okanagan Similkameen. The purpose of this article is to provide equal time to some of the common, indigenous local flora that is found in our region. With this in mind and with the assistance of Parish, Coupe and Lloyd's Plants of Southern Interior British Columbia, let us begin the survey with shrubs found along many of our trails.

**Nootka Rose (*Rosa nutkana*):** This deciduous plant often grows to about 3 meters high and has prickles or thorns at the base of each of its toothed compound leaves. Each leaf group contains between 5-7 leaflets. The Nootka Rose produces large (4-8 cm across) pink flowers, with 5 broad petals, at the ends of its branches. Behind the flower is a large round hip that begins green and ripens to a 'Purplish Red' colour. The flower's sepals remain at the top of the hip.

As with other species of roses, the foliage and young stems of the Nootka are browsed by domestic and wild ungulates. Generally found scattered about open and disturbed spaces this species is often located at mid level elevations. Not surprisingly The Nootka Rose is common around lake shores, drainage ditches and in areas with water seepage.

First Nations people historically used the Nootka and other species of indigenous roses for medicinal and spiritual purposes. The leaves and twigs were dried and smoked or concocted into a pleasant tonic. This was provided to the young person reaching puberty or to relatives of deceased individuals. Apparently this tonic was employed as a soothing eye wash for sore eyes. Rose leaves were also chewed and applied to insect bites.

Historically the hips of the Nootka Rose were seldom eaten by members of First Nations except in times of famine. The hips do brew into a passable tea and can be chewed as a source of vitamin C.

**Squaw Currant (*Ribes cereum*):** Growing to a height of between 0.5 m. to 1.5 m this deciduous shrub also spreads its branches. While the branches are thorn-less they are covered in fine, sticky hairs when they are

young. The branches mature to a redish-brown or grey colour.

The leaves of the Squaw Currant are small and broadly fan shaped. They are composed of 3-5 shallow lobes or coarse round teeth. The leaves are sparsely hairy and often granular on both sides.

Greenish white to slightly pinkish in colour the flowers are urn shaped. They found singularly or in small clusters hanging from a drooping stalk.

Like the shrub's leaves the flowers can be finely haired and sticky granular. They are an important food for the early Humming-birds. The small red currants that the flowers give way to are bitter and not considered palatable.

The Squaw Currant is located at the low to middle elevation throughout the Okanagan Similkameen. It is found in open Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir forests. The shrub is often located on open warm, dry rocky slopes.

Local First Nations people historically ate the currants but considered them tasteless. They were sometimes used as a tonic or as a cure for diahrea.

**Tall Oregon-Grape (*Mahonia aquilolium*; *Berberis aquilolium*):** This erect, stiff-branched shrub is an evergreen that grows 20 -100cm. tall. It has yellowish bark and wood. It is common at low to mid elevations on the dry plateaus, on rocky hillsides and in open spaces within the forests. Tall Oregon-Grape is similar in appearance to the smaller dull Oregon Grape (*Mahonia nervosa*) which is found on the coast and on the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

The leathery, oblong or egg shaped leaves of the Tall Oregon-Grape come compounded in groups of 5-9. They have serrated teeth along the edge of the leaves which along with the glossy green of the surface contribute to their similarity to English Holly leaves. The bright yellow flowers cluster in erect groupings of six.

The sour but edible blue berries also cluster in elongated form. They have several large seeds and a whitish bloom. The First Nations people made a form of jelly, from the berries,



*Prior to turning red the hips on this Rose specimen are a light green bulb.*

which was used to compliment meats.

First Nations people also used the inner bark and roots to extract a dye which was used on quills and baskets. European settlers to the region used the shrub as a horticultural specimen beginning as early as 1823. It was prized for its bright flowers and vivid green leaves.

**Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*):** This deciduous shrub varies

in height between 1-5 meters which explains the occasional description of it as a small tree. The smooth stems are covered by a dark grey to reddish bark. It usually can be found in dense groups and thickets since it often colonizes new ground through sending out creeping stems, shoots and roots.

The thin leaves are round or oval with regularly toothed edges, mostly on the upper half. The leaves are smooth on the top but finely haired on the bottom. The leaf blade is notched or straight at the base.

The flowers are brilliant white with linear to oblong petals which are narrowed at the base. They cluster at the tips of the branches in groups of three-twenty. The blossoms give way to purple to virtually black berries. The berries, also sometimes referred to as Serviceberries, are apple shaped and sweet. They are very edible with tiny seeds.

The Saskatoon, which probably got its name from the Blackfoot (*mis-ask-a-tomina*), is widespread in the Okanagan Similkameen. It is common in low to mid-level elevations throughout the region. Saskatoons can be found in the dry and moist forests as well as on slopes and on the grasslands or in disturbed sites. The shrub provides winter browse for many hoofed mammals and berries for a variety of birds in late summer.

The people of the First Nations used the Saskatoon very widely. They traded the dried berries but consumed them fresh, as a type of raisin or in cakes themselves. The sticks were boiled with Maple sticks to concoct a medicinal drink consumed by women following childbirth.



# Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Honours Steve Cannings

**T**he 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society saw the presentation of what is to become an annual award to someone the directors feel exemplifies the values of the OSPS.

It was entirely fitting that the late Steve Cannings was so recognized for his many accomplishments. His son, Richard (Dick) Cannings accepted the award. He spoke of his father's love and knowledge of all nature as he recalled family outings to examine, enjoy and photograph plants, animals and birds.

Working with other enthusiasts like Doug Fraser of Osoyoos and Katy Madsen of Summerland, Steve accomplished many things discussed in our last edition. His love and familiarity with the natural world was passed to his three sons, all of whom have successful careers in that area. It is worth noting that Richard and Sydney Cannings co-authored "The Natural History of BC, its origins, ecology, and diversity". This wonderful book is now available in its freshly minted third edition.

Richard Cannings displayed his own interesting expertise as the A.G.M.s guest speaker. He told of B.C.'s incredibly large, varied and important natural history, taking the audience for a tour of the province's many types of lands: lakes and mountains; rainforests; the multi-island coast and near-desert lands; and the differing agricultural land products. It was a tour worth taking.



*Dick Cannings was the guest speaker at the 2015 AGM of the Okanagan Skaha Parks Society in April at Summerland's Centre Stage Theatre. Photo by D. Graham.*



*The April 2015 AGM was the 50th Annual AGM of the OSPS. A special cake was served to help celebrate the event. Photo by D. Graham.*

# A Summary of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Activities 2014-2015

- April
- AGM –49<sup>th</sup> Annual
- May
- Met with Mrs. M. Hansen of the TransCanada Trails Society and donated \$1 000.00 to society for maintenance
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning commenced
- June
- Met with Don Gemmell of the Lakeside Trail group: Made the point that it was important to protect the environment while focussing on the project even though it was touted as an economic engine
  - Research being conducted on Wind Farm License Applications in the area – has been ongoing
  - OSPS membership bestowed on Erick Thompson for his work on our behalf
- July
- Newsletter published for the Summer
- September
- Director Trainer attending Lakeside Trail Meetings
  - Directors Johnston, Johnson and Guild tour protected areas above highway in the South Okanagan
  - OSPS declines to partner with group reconstructing Vasseaux Lake bird blind
- October:
- Planning meeting for OSPS50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held
- November:
- Directors decide to investigate production of a Video on the OSPS
  - Director Davidson attended a meeting on ALR at Okanagan College
  - Monitoring of logging practices at Solco Lake
- December
- Joined Okanagan Volunteer Centre to look for members and directors
  - Planning for 50<sup>th</sup> Annual AGM underway
  - Winter newsletter distributed
  - Decision made to purchase and place outdoor cameras in protected areas
  - Contacted Environment Minister when not invited to local stakeholders meeting *“It was with great surprise that we discovered that the meeting had been held and we had not been included”*
- January:
- Directors investigate land being purchased by Nature Conservancy – Antelope Brush
  - Directors investigate an area between Naramata and Penticton touted as a bicycle recreation area – needs to be protected area for elk calving and winter calving: (mountain biking may impact this) Extension to Rock Oven may not go through if the bike area is called a “park” —
  - Directors investigate cut pile photos – South Okanagan Areas east of highway 97
- February:
- Directors investigate (and listen to presentation on) commissioning a video on the Society
  - Society made donation of \$10 000.00 to the purchase of property by the Nature Conservancy of Canada
- March
- Directors listen to a presentation on POINTS TO CONSIDER FOR A COMMEMORATIVE FILM by guest speaker Erick Thompson of ET2Media
  - Directors’ Meeting heard about progress from Cascade Trails group and expressed support for the projects
  - Decided that budgets would be set for the society in advance of the fiscal year – a setting of priorities—will be brought to next year’s AGM
- April
- Grant to the Meadowlark Festival of \$1 000.00

## NOTES FROM THE PAST

### Limit Growth To Our Water Carrying Limits

In his May 19 editorial, Think ahead, protect options, Editor Tom Wilson, acknowledged that the Okanagan Partnership organization has research from UBC professors that indicate there won't be enough clean water to sustain Kelowna's population by 2050.

Despite this, Wilson states the typical pro-growth position that we shouldn't politically limit growth and we won't because we have the ability to vastly improve sustainability without pulling up drawbridges.

If the city can't sustain water to 2050, how is it going to ensure water is sustained beyond 2050 for future generations? Unfortunately, in accommodating growth, Kelowna City Hall's strategies of reducing household and yard water use, and it's so-called smart growth high rise densification are futile shortterm band-aids.

Indeed, whatever water saved is consumed

by increasing population, leaving a net water deficit. The reality is, clean water supplies are finite, where-as growth increases exponentially. This means, the faster the growth, the greater depletion, pollution and drought.

Logically, the way to sustain water to 2050 and beyond for future generations, is to limit growth to the carrying capacity of tipping point of water. We face two main choices. Carry on with chasing endless growth and blindly speeding along using conservation Band-Aids believing all is well, until we collide with nature's barrier of carrying capacity. When carrying capacity is exceeded, supreme nature, restores its equilibrium of balance by lifting its deadly drawbridges of depletion and drought to terminate the growth plague and to paralyse Kelowna.

Or, we can voluntarily slow growth, by lifting our drawbridges just enough to limit growth to ensure it doesn't exceed the barrier of nature's carrying capacity, in perpetuity. One method is to simply have moratoriums or quotas on building permits tied to vital water supplies.

In conclusion, endless uncontrolled growth is one of the main causes of water shortages, pollution and drought. Therefore, survival depends on controlling and limiting growth. So, the obvious question is, why is Kelowna City Hall and Okanagan Partnership malinger in properly putting the brakes on growth today to prevent disastrous drought being here before 2050 or after?

*Robert Cichocki, Kelowna – OSPS Member  
Okanagan – June 23, 2007*

### BC's PHO Releases Drinking Water Quality Report

In his first formal report since BC's Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA) was amended in 2003, Public Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall outlines the provinces, health authorities' and water suppliers' resulting activities and accomplishments. Progress on the Action Plan for Safe Drinking



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## NOTES FROM THE PAST

Water in British Columbia provides a comprehensive yet user-friendly update on public health protection, source water protection, water system assessments, water treatment and distribution, drinking water quality, small systems, and full-cost accounting.

The report also offers a list of 18 recommendations for continued improvement, one of which says that “rates for drinking water should reflect the true, long-term costs of water treatment, distribution, and water system operation, maintenance, monitoring. Revenue generated from charges for water should be reinvested in programs that promote awareness of water quality and quantity, protect water quality, improve public health, and encourage sustainable water use to promote healthy communities.

Other recommendations state that:

- The province should improve monitoring of the impacts of resource activities on drinking water sources to ensure adverse impacts on water quality can be identified.
- The province should introduce legislation requiring the licensing of groundwater extraction, and restrict access to groundwater where aquifers are being overused.
- The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture and Lands should work to gain a better understanding of how different land-use practices can influence drinking water sources.
- All provincial ministries and agencies should regularly review their activities in the context of the government’s commitment to an integrated approach to drinking water protection.
- All provincial policy decisions related to land use or water management which could have an impact on the province’s drinking water program should be taken to the Assistant Deputy Ministers’ Committee on Water to ensure that policy direction is consistent with the Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia.
- The provincial government should consider options to improve access to funding support for public water supply systems that are currently ineligible for federal/provincial infrastructure assistance.
- All water suppliers should undertake thorough assessments of their systems and develop assessment response plans. Health authorities need to ensure that all water suppliers have established time frames to complete the assessments.
- Strategies should be developed to prevent the creation of new small water systems where other supplies could be expanded or existing supplies amalgamated.
- Public water systems should engage their customers in fiscal planning for maintaining and upgrading their systems over the short and long terms. In addition, small water supply systems should be offered assistance to develop revenue streams to fund assessments, response plans and system upgrades.

*WaterWise – District of Summerland June 2007  
– by Interior Health*

## Off-road vehicles must be registered by Nov. 1

The province’s expanded rules for off-road vehicles operators will take effect Nov. 1.

If you own a golf cart, dirt bike, quad, side-by-side or snowmobile, you will be required by law to plate and insure your vehicle. Failure to comply with Bill 13 Off-Road Vehicle Act could result in fine of up to \$5,000 and seizure of your vehicle.

The province recently extended the deadline for compliance from June 1. As well, it announced a sticker option will now be available for those owners who prefer this to a metal plate.

“We’re seeing a multitude of people coming into the branch to get their plates and insurance decals,” said Linda Thompson, manager of insurance services at Valley First, a division of First West Credit Union.

The new registration system, which was introduced by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resources last November, is aimed at catching rogue operators and joy riders who put other in danger. Registration will also cut down on theft and the selling of stolen units.

“While there is an exemption for people who operate their vehicles on private land only, any operator crossing the highway, riding on crown land-such as crossing the Kettle Valley Rail Trail –or loading and unloading their units in a parking lot will fall under the

new rules,” says Thompson.

The combined cost of registration, plates and insurance decal is \$96 plus taxes. Owners who bought their vehicles prior to 2010 won’t have to pay taxes.

To get the registration, owners will need to provide to their insurance broker a new vehicle information statement or a certificate of origin, a bill of sale and a transfer/tax form signed by the seller. In addition, pre-owned units will also require a statutory declaration to determine the continuity of ownership, which needs to be notarized by Service BC.

HERALD EXTRA  
*Friday, May 29, 2015*

# Okanagan Lake shore walk

PHOTOS BY D. GUILD.



*A little piece of tranquility just off of Highway 97*



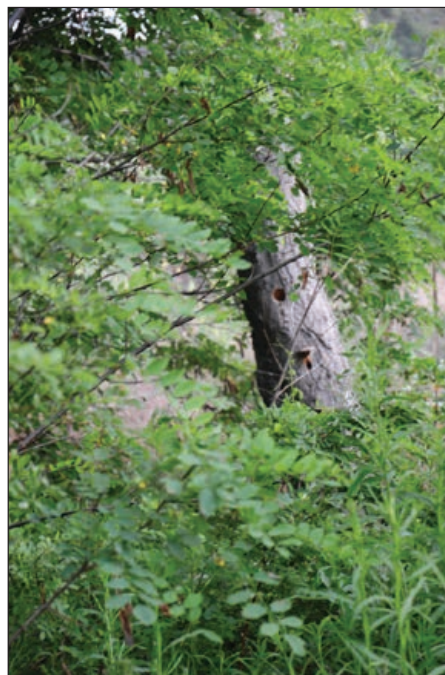
*The protection of bee species is important for the Okanagan Similkameen's indigenous and domestic flora*



*Notice the change in soil and vegetation on the shore*



*Insects of all sorts spread pollen to local plants*



*High in the bush bordering Okanagan Lake a pair of Flickers have made a home*



*Beaver have been busy all along the shores of regional lakes*

*An inlet provides habitat for all sorts of lakeside plants and animals*

*A Mallard raises her brood on the foreshore of the lake*

