

Like

Message from the Coordinator

Once again, OCCP Partners have had a very busy month, and there more exciting projects, workshops and events coming up!

Remember, if you have submissions for the OCCP monthly newsletter please submit them by the last wednesday of the month to admin@okcp.ca.

Carol
occp123@gmail.com



Partner & Conservation News

SPrKL assesses water along Coldstream Creek

Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake
Volunteers from the Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake (SPrKL) assisted Western Water Associates Ltd., with sampling near surface groundwater and surface water along Coldstream Creek on August 18th and August 19th. The volunteers carried equipment, took pictures, recorded field measurements and sketched each site. Work was arduous and hot but the volunteers worked hard. Their assistance was invaluable. A memo including the results of the assessment will be available on [SPrKL's website](#) in October of 2015.



Volunteers assessing water along Coldstream Creek

Volunteers needed for Rattlesnake Research Project

mid Sept. to mid to later Oct. (depends on the weather)

North Okanagan Naturalist Club

The North Okanagan Naturalist Club is conducting a Northern Pacific Rattlesnake Den Population Monitoring Project on [Campbell Brown Ecological Reserve](#). The Reserve was set aside partly because it had a long recognized active rattlesnake den. A second den has since been discovered. The project will focus on marking the snakes by inserting Pllt tags under the snake's skin which can be read without recapturing the snakes, and recording their biostatics in order facilitate long term research on the growth and conditions of snake and den populations as well as providing a means of tracking the snakes' use of the habitat.



The Western Rattlesnake is Blue Listed in BC and designated as threatened. Its range in Canada is limited to the Thompson and Okanagan Valleys and its habitat is increasingly threatened by development.

Starting September 15th the project will need two people on most warm days to start monitoring for snakes returning to the dens. Experienced assistants (i.e. people who have some experience in helping to handle snakes) will be beneficial. The project also needs recorders to help record snake id and measurements and assistants and "go fors" to watch for snake activity and miscellaneous jobs. Volunteers will always work with another person. All jobs will require you to be able to walk up to both dens (steady up hill but good path) and to have sturdy boots/gum boots. For more information or to volunteer please contact Linda asap at ardtarig@gmail.com.

This project is being funded with grants from the BC Naturalist Foundation, North Okanagan Naturalists Club, BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund, and the Public Conservation Assistance Fund.

Keeping Nature in Our Future Exhibit at Armstrong IPE

The Allan Brooks Nature Trailer is now on the road and outfitted with interactive displays on "Keeping Nature in Our Future". Hundreds of children and adults enjoyed the walk-thru trailer experience this past weekend at the 116th IPE in Armstrong. As visitors walk through the trailer they learn about the unique Okanagan landscape, its wildlife and habitats, and the importance of protecting habitats and water through different interactive display stations.



The trailer will be at other events this fall including the Kokanee Festival Sept. 20th in Kelowna, and River's Day at Polson Park in Vernon, Sunday, September 27th. This project is supported in part by Environment Canada, Vancouver Foundation, Telus, Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Honda Canada Foundation. There is still an on-going opportunity for OCCP partners to provide public outreach materials that could be included at upcoming events. Please contact Aaron Deans (ed@abnc.ca), if you have any interest or questions about getting involved.

Hunters asked to submit Heads in MU 8-23 for BC Wildlife Health Surveillance Program



The Government of British Columbia is again asking hunters to participate in a voluntary collection of deer, elk or moose heads in MU 8-23 (Cherryville area of the North Okanagan) as part of its ongoing monitoring for Bovine Tuberculosis and Chronic Wasting Disease in wildlife. Neither of these diseases is currently in B.C., however, we are performing surveillance to be sure. Both diseases infect cervids (deer, elk and moose) and can be extremely difficult to control or eliminate if they enter wildlife. The surveillance in this area compliments other health monitoring such as for Chronic Wasting Disease in the East Kootenays and Peace regions of the province. Hunters who submit heads hunted in MU 8-23 are eligible to win a prize donated by Grouse River in Kelowna as a thank you for their participation!

For information about the MU 8-23 program, including drop off locations and previous years testing results or information about monitoring programs and other diseases, visit our new wildlife health website at www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth.

Invasive Burdock Weed Pull in Lumby a Success

Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society

On September 3rd a small but mighty crew tackled the burdock infestation on the [Lumby Salmon Path](#). The



Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship

Society with the help of North Okanagan Naturalist club volunteers removed 10 garbage bags of invasive burdock seeds. We look forward to getting out next year to see the results of our hardwork and remove any new growth from the seed bank. We were thanked by many dog walkers, joggers and families out enjoying the path on this beautiful day. It's a beautiful path if you haven't been check out our hard work, the great path and the interpretive signage. It's a great day out!

Have your say!

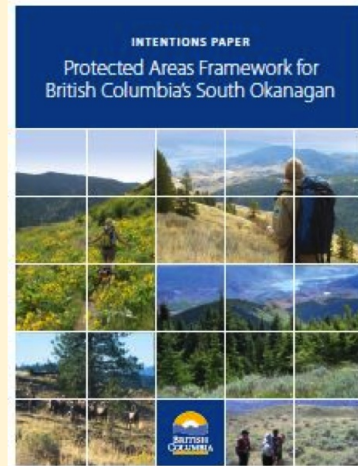
RDCO seeking public input for Regional Park Management Plans



The Regional District of Central Okanagan is seeking public input into the future planning of the [Goats Peak Regional Park](#) and [Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park](#). The Open House for the Goats Peak Regional Park Management Plan will be Tuesday September 15th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Westbank Lions Community Hall in West Kelowna and the Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park Management Plan Open House will be Thursday September 17th from 2 to 6 pm at the Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan (EECO) in Kelowna. For more details see the Events listings below.

Protected Areas Framework for British Columbia's South Okanagan: Invitation for Public Feedback

The Province of BC has released an [Intentions Paper](#) for public and stakeholder feedback in relation to a protected areas framework for the South Okanagan Similkameen - including a proposal for Parks Canada to establish a South Okanagan National Park Reserve and provincial conservancy areas. The public has until October 12 to provide feedback that will help the provincial government finalize designation recommendations for this area. Link to [Intentions Paper and maps](#).



Conferences & Workshops

Columbia River Treaty: Past, Present and Future

October 7 2015

Osoyoos

The Canadian Water Resources Association and the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT) at Simon Fraser University invite you to participate in a workshop on the Columbia River Treaty. The workshop will invite the public to engage in discussion with panelists from various levels of government, First Nations, and academia to discuss issues related to the Columbia River Treaty and what consider how a renewed treaty might be negotiated. The presentations and discussions will address the unique socio-economic situation of the Okanagan Valley as a sub-basin of the Columbia. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum

October 7-9 2015

Osoyoos

Osoyoos Lake is a microcosm of global concerns. This beautiful lake spans the Canada United States border in the Okanagan River basin, and has many environmental challenges. Lake sustainability depends on the actions of all who work, live or visit the basin, and all those involved in governance. The Conference theme this year is ***A Watershed Beyond Boundaries: Stewardship of our Shared Waters***. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Okanagan Water Forum "From Knowledge to Forward Thinking"

October 14 2015

Four Points by Sheraton, 5505 Airport Way, Kelowna

The Okanagan Water Forum "From Knowledge to Forward Thinking" will bring together Okanagan Nation representatives and regional water stakeholders in an effort to build partnerships, and create actionable solutions in regards to water management in the Okanagan. Join us for a full day of presentations, networking and facilitated dialogue that will allow for knowledge sharing and provide the opportunity to forage partnerships for addressing our common water management challenges. The keynote speaker is David Suzuki. This Forum is brought to you by the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the RBC Blue Water Project. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Events

Open House for Goats Peak Regional Park Management Plan

Tuesday September 15 5:30-7:30
Westbank Lions Community Hall
2466 Main Street, West Kelowna

Open House for Black Mountain / sntsk'il'ntən Regional Park Management Plan

Thursday September 17 2-6 pm
Environmental Education Centre for the Okanagan, Mission Creek Regional Park
2363A Springfield Road, Kelowna

Okanagan Nation Salmon Feast & Celebration

September 18-20
sǰ'wəǰ'nitk'w Provincial Park (Okanagan Falls)

The Salmon Feast honours the sacredness of the river at sǰ'wəǰ'nitk'w (Okanagan Falls), which is a culturally significant site for the Syilx (Okanagan) People, and an important traditional fishing camp, gathering place and trading site. Everyone is welcome. More details and a schedule of events is available [here](#).

NatureKids Get Bugged Out!

September 19-20, Noon-Noon
Camp Arbuckle, Carrs Landing Rd

This overnight adventure targeted for children ages 5-12 will be all about BUGS! What is the difference between insects and bugs? Why do spiders have more legs? What are antennae for? How do butterflies make cocoons? All these questions and more will be explored through a combination of games, crafts, activities and discussions. We are also right on the lake so bring a swimsuit! This event has a small cost to participate; \$20 per person covers accommodations and three meals. For more information and to RSVP, contact yncKelowna@gmail.com
RSVP Deadline: September 13th

Shining the LIGHT on SustainAbility

Tuesday, September 22 5:30-8:30pm
Lake Country Coffee House, Lake Country

Want to know how you can feed your body, mind and spirit, while meeting new friends and potential business connections? You'll get all this and more at the next Women 4 SustainAbility event entitled Shining the LIGHT on SustainAbility. The [Fresh Outlook Foundation](#) is partnering with the [Lake Country Art Gallery](#) and [Lake Country ArtWalk](#) to host the event at [Lake Country Coffee House](#) Tuesday, September 22nd from 5:30-8:30pm.

There are only 60 tickets available, so get yours [here](#) today! Tickets include a three-course meal, coffee and tea. Wine is available for purchase by the glass.

SENS Environmental All Candidates Forum

Thursday September 14 7-9:30 pm
Schubert Centre, Vernon

Be an informed voter for Canada for October's election. Join us at SENS' Environmental All Candidates Forum, Thursday, September 24, 7 – 9:30pm, Vernon Schubert Centre, to meet the candidates and learn how they have answered questions provided by SENS over a month ago. What 'green' questions do you want to ask that will support local and national quality of life? Sponsor is the Sustainable Environment Network Society. More information [here](#).

Mason Bee Homes

Saturday September 26, 11am-3pm
Brent's Grist Mill Heritage Park, 2128 Leckie Place (corner of Leckie and Dilworth)

Join ecological artist Lori Mairs who will be guiding our community in building on-site mini-homes for native bees, some of the future pollinators for the Pollinator Pasture Project. There will be a large-scale model of a mason bee tube to explore. The community is invited to make their own take-away mason bee homes and to contribute to the on-site mini-homes. We'll make finger puppets and there will be lots of great information to learn about native bees and their habitat. This free family friendly event is a collaboration between UBCO, Eco Art Incubator, and the City of Kelowna. More information is available [here](#) or check out Bee Central on Facebook.

Funding Opportunities

Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)

Deadline: September 10 2015

MEC helps keep space for adventure by conserving ecologically and recreationally important places and by inspiring and enabling Canadians to be active outside. MEC's community contributions program is currently accepting grant applications for: land acquisition, capacity building, advocacy and awareness and access and activity. [More information.](#)

Get Outdoors (GO) Grant

Deadline: September 15 2015

BC educators and schools have until September 15th to apply for a Get Outdoors (GO) Grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. These grants provide funding for activities that connect K-12 students with the outdoors and support hands-on learning experiences about the environment. GO Grants have helped over 18,000 students to get outdoors since the program began in 2012. [More information.](#)

Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia (REFBC)

Deadline: September 16 2015

REFBC is now accepting applications for general grants of up to \$20,000. Water, sustainable food systems and well-planned built environments are a priority for these grants.

[More information](#)

Telus Community Foundation (Thompson Okanagan)

Deadline: September 18 2015

Community Board members choose programs that focus on youth, demonstrate social or technological innovation in program delivery, and involve arts & culture, education & sport, or health & well-being in our environment. [More Information.](#)

TD Friends of the Environment

Deadline: October 15 2015

The Foundation supports a wide range of environmental initiatives, with a primary focus on environmental education, urban greening and enhancing biodiversity, and energy conservation. Please consult the checklist of what is and is not eligible for funding. [More Information.](#)

EcoAction Community Funding Program

Deadline: November 1 2015

Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funding Program is again accepting applications for funding. Since 1995, EcoAction has provided over \$101M in financial support to 2944 community-based projects that have supported communities to protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment. Preference will be given to projects that support the priorities of the Government of Canada's [National Conservation Plan](#) to conserve and restore our lands and waters and connect Canadians to our natural spaces. We will continue to focus on larger multi-year projects (minimum \$10,000, maximum \$100,000) that clearly demonstrate environmental and community engagement results anywhere in Canada. [More information.](#)

HCTF Enhancement/Restoration Grant

Deadline: November 2 2015

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation(HCTF) Online will be open for 2016-17 enhancement and restoration applications in mid-September. We encourage to submit your proposal early – HCTF staff will be available to help you with any questions or problems, but the last few days before the deadline get pretty busy and we cannot guarantee timely assistance at the final hour! [More information.](#)

Please visit the OCCP website at www.okcp.ca and 'Like' the OCCP Facebook Page.



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