

**TEXAS HOLD'EM**  
CHARITY GAME  
Food Bank FEBRUARY 27, 2015 GET INFO

**MARSHALL'S**  
HOME LIVING

Anniversary Celebration  
**SPECTACULAR**

Sale Ends This Saturday!  
**Graduated Daily Discounts!**

**CLICK**  
for full details

## Kelowna NEWS

Kelowna	West Kelowna	Penticton	Vernon	Kamloops	BC	Canada	World	Business	Sports	Entertainment	Letters	Poll
---------	--------------	-----------	--------	----------	----	--------	-------	----------	--------	---------------	---------	------

### We need a mussel strategy

by Carmen Weld | Story: 133690 - Feb 25, 2015 / 5:00 am

Log In  8

6



Photo: Thinkstock.com

For years residents in the Okanagan and across B.C. have feared the day an invasive mussel would make its way into our pristine waters.

Fortunately that day has not yet come, but the fear is still there and the need for funding to combat the possibility is once again the topic of hot debate.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board has been fighting for more provincial funding for boat checks at our borders, as B.C. only spends about three per cent of what Alberta does to combat the same problem.

"It seems that B.C. is relying on other provinces and states for perimeter protection," says Doug Findlater, water board chair and West Kelowna mayor. "There are certainly robust inspection schemes in Idaho and a number of other US states."

According to the board, Alberta spent \$530,000 last year on inspections and decontaminations, while we only spent \$20,000 in B.C. They checked 3,747 marine vessels, while we only inspected 132.

"We understand that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are all revving up inspection station plans in the six figures, and yet in B.C. we know they are looking at the issue but nothing has been announced," says Findlater. "We are concerned they are simply moving too slowly to put something in place for this coming summer when the boats really start to move."

The water board is not alone in this battle, as the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce is vocally joining the cause to get the work done.

Last week, Premier Christy Clark was in town for the chamber luncheon and they were given the opportunity to ask only three direct questions. They used that opportunity to bring up the mussels.

"We think it is that critical," says Caroline Grover, chamber chief executive officer. "If you think of what

**CURVE**  
communications  
**MARKET YOUR BUSINESS AND GET AHEAD WITH CURVE**  
**Free Consultation**

**Land swap over 700 acres**  
West Kelowna - 10:37 am

**What's next for rail trail?**  
Lake Country

**Partners still in on rail buy**  
Kelowna - 8:42 am

**Film pitch for reel cash**  
Vernon - 5:00 am

**New flight naths fees at**

**More Kelowna News >**

**Send us your news tips >**

**YOUR HOMEPAGE NEWSTEAM**

is at the heart of our area, it is the clean water. We take pride in it, we drink it, we enjoy the recreational aspects. Water is critical for our farming and agricultural related industries. It is certainly a great draw when people want to move to our area; they love to look at the lake or live on the lake. And tourism is an important industry as well. I cannot imagine what our tourism would look like without having pristine lakes."

She says just one mussel could cause catastrophic damage to the tourism industry, real estate values and taxes, as municipalities would be forced to pay millions of dollar to clear the numerous water intake valves and the lake itself.

"This is of dire concern to us and we would like to know what actions we can expect from the province," says Grover. "We are putting out a call for inspection stations. At the end of the day, they are critical."

According to Grover, the premier acknowledged the issue at hand and said the province is looking into what needs to be done, but she did not commit to any funding.

"I think it was good she was aware of the issue. She seemed to be very mindful of the facts and knew exactly what we were talking about," explains Grover. "While she stopped short of saying they will fund boat check stations, she did indicate that there needs to be continued training and monitoring of our borders."

She says the chamber has put together a policy resolution on the issue that has received approval from all other chambers across the province and the country.

"We will be meeting with the BC Chamber of Commerce in Prince George in June and we have another resolution ready to go that is calling on the provincial government, specifically, to put a plan of action in place."

She knows that asking a government and tax payers to spend money is difficult, but it is critical spending that could prevent an infestation we would never recover from.

Findlater adds that mussels have made it to the province before and were fortunately either dead or detected by an alert border guards. Mussels were also discovered on several boats in the Calgary area – a major source of Okanagan tourists.

"They are getting through and our concern is that all of the lakes in B.C. could be infected, and in particular our Okanagan Lake that is so important to us. It is really the lifeline in the Okanagan Valley," says Findlater.

The board has suggested a user paid sticker program that would offset the costs of inspection. Boaters would buy a sticker to confirm they had been inspected and to raise awareness.

As it stands the province has estimated it would cost about \$2.4 million per year for 15 boat check stations, while the province also estimates an infestation would cost approximately \$28.2 million per year to fix.

But board studies suggest an introduction of the mussels could cost at least \$43 million a year in the Okanagan alone just to mitigate the problem.



### FEATURED Property



496 Sarsons Road  
3 bedrooms 2 baths  
\$549,000  
[more details](#)



[Click here to feature your property](#)



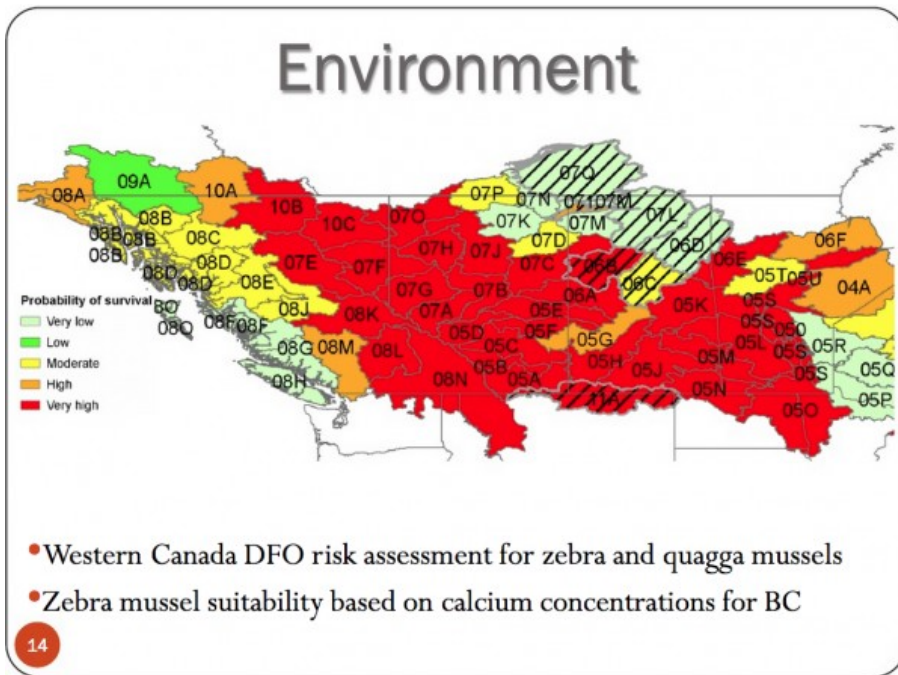


Photo: Contributed

Read More: [Kelowna](#), [West Kelowna](#), [Central Okanagan](#)

[Report a Typo](#)

[SEND US YOUR NEWS TIPS](#)

COMMENTS WELCOME

**Comments on this story are pre-moderated and approval times may vary.** Before they appear, comments are reviewed by moderators to ensure they meet our [submission guidelines](#). Keep it clean, keep it civil, keep it truthful, stay on topic and be responsible. Comments are open and welcome for three days after the story is published. We reserve the right to close comments before then. Comments that appear on the site are not the opinion of Castanet, but only of the comment writer.

**THE CRITICS HAVE SPOKEN. AND SO HAVE BC'S DRIVERS.**

CR-V, BC's #1 SELLING COMPACT SUV<sup>1</sup>

LEASE FROM **\$70\***

1.99% APR<sup>2</sup> \$0 down<sup>3</sup>

2015 CR-V

---

**CIVIC, BC's #1 SELLING COMPACT CAR<sup>1</sup>**

LEASE FROM **\$42\*** @ 0.99% APR<sup>2</sup> \$0 down<sup>3</sup>

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments. MSRP \$17,245\* includes freight and PDI. Model shown: FB2EPEX.

**FIT, BC's #1 SELLING SUBCOMPACT CAR<sup>1</sup>**

LEASE FROM **\$40\*** @ 2.99% APR<sup>2</sup> \$0 down<sup>3</sup>

Weekly on a 60 month term with 260 payments. MSRP \$16,090\* includes freight and PDI. Model shown: GK5G3FE.

2550 ENTERPRISE WAY KELOWNA  
250.860.6500  
TOLL FREE: 877-91HONDA

**HARMONY Honda**  
HARMONYHONDA.COM

[CLICK HERE](#)

### Kelowna SPCA Featured Pet



**Ernie**

[Kelowna SPCA >](#)

# YLW

Kelowna International Airport

Your Link to the World

1 Comment Castanet

Login

Sort by Newest

Recommend Share

Join the discussion...



Anna Warwick Sears · 4 hours ago

Just to clarify, as the Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the figure of \$28.2 million estimated by the province will not "fix" the mussel problem, but will be ongoing maintenance and management costs, primarily borne by local communities. Once the mussels are established in the lake, they cannot be eradicated. \$28.2 million also a very low estimate, as (among other things) it does not include impacts to private water intakes for lakeshore residents or agriculture, of which there are more than 900 on Okanagan Lake alone. Each of these intakes will have to be modified with special chlorine systems to prevent their being clogged by the mussels. This figure also does not include maintenance costs for Kelowna's floating bridge, which would likely have to be scraped and repainted each year, or the damage to docks and other in-lake infrastructure. The mussels will severely harm our sports fishery, and completely change the natural aquatic environment of the lakes. In areas of the Great Lakes where they have taken hold, we've heard many accounts of the beaches being covered by sharp shells, requiring all beach-goers to wear shoes or risk cutting their feet. Make no mistake - these mussels are bad news, and once they are here, there is no going back.

Reply Share

ALSO ON CASTANET

WHAT'S THIS?

3 in 4 were bullied in school - Canada News

9 comments · 14 hours ago

guest — A better story would actually address adult bullying. They should study how many employees have been ...

Ferries not another highway - BC News

6 comments · 21 hours ago

Mark G. — Having the ferries in private hands is like having private police forces or a private army with profits to be ...

Who dug T.O. tunnel? - Toronto - Canada News

2 comments · a day ago

Wondering — If the entrance to the tunnel was found why was it not put under surveillance to determine the ...

Cluck, cluck question period - Victoria - BC News

1 comment · 21 hours ago

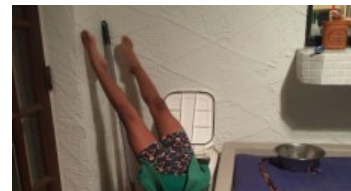
Douglas John — That's "coop" not "coup" but at least the writer maintained the flocking continuity through the entire ...

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Privacy

Read more Kelowna News

OMNIEYE + VISION OPTOMETRISTS at Pandosy Village THE NEW YEAR IS HERE! AND SO IS THE SEASONS' MOST FASHIONABLE EYEWEAR OAKLEY D&G Ray-Ban VERSACE NEW PATIENTS WELCOME CLICK HERE 250-861-8850 Pandosy Village, #109 - 2900 Pandosy Street

MOST RECENT ON THE Tango.NET



WEIRD WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Best of the web photos + WTF If these were things you see every day they wouldn't be weird. They are defiantly weird.



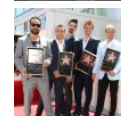
WEIRD WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25, 2015 (2)

Best of the web photos + WTF If you don't feel even a little bit weird after looking at...



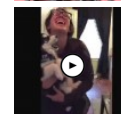
FUEL-UP FAIL

Fail/Prank + Viral Videos This woman has one of the most unfortunate experiences you will...



BACKSTREET BOYS REVEAL NEW MUSIC PLANS

Music Backstreet Boys will record new music this year. The five-piece...



TALKING HUSKY PUPPY

Animals + Viral Videos This husky really thinks he can talk.

Okanagan Quick Links

- City of Kelowna
- Airport Arrivals
- Airport Departures
- Kelowna Discussion Forum
- Kelowna's Cultural District
- Kelowna Transit
- Kelowna Road Closures
- William R. Bennett Bridge
- Tourism Kelowna
- Central Okanagan Regional District
- District of Peachland
- District of Lake Country
- Interior Health
- UBC Okanagan
- Okanagan College
- School District 23
- Okanagan Regional Library

## Kelowna City Council Audio

February 23, 2015 @ 1:30 pm

[Live broadcasts, archives, schedule >](#)

[Member of BC Press Council](#)



**ALL STAR  
EAVESTROUGHING**  
*quality workmanship since 1985*

Mention  
this ad for  
10% OFF!



**INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS  
FOR RAIN GUTTERS**

**As well as eavestroughs, we also install...**

- Gutters and Downpipes
- Aluminum Facia
- Soffits
- Hardie and Vinyl Siding

Exclusive Distributors for






**We also carry garden accessories such as**  
*Kusari Petals Rain Chain*



Contact us for a quote or further information [click here](#)

AdChoices 