

# Westside Weekly

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Contributed photo  
Long-time Canadian Cancer Society volunteer Steven Francis, left, and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater kick off the society's annual Daffodil Month event.

## Flower power fights cancer

Special to Westside Weekly

For the Canadian Cancer Society, the daffodil is more than a simple flower.

This bright and hopeful symbol shows people living with cancer they don't have to face cancer alone, and that CCS won't give up until it has achieved its vision of a world where no Canadian fears cancer.

During April – Daffodil Month – the CCS is asking all Canadians to buy a daffodil pin and wear it to show their support for those living

with cancer.

"We celebrate the 'power of the flower' all year round, but April is really our time to shine!" said Steven Francis, long-time volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society in the Southern Interior Region.

"When loved ones are diagnosed with cancer, we often want to do something to help or honour them. This April, we want people to know that there is something they can do."

West Kelowna residents can support Canadians living with cancer by wearing a pin,

buying fresh-cut flowers and donating to the door-to-door campaign.

Last year, the Canadian Cancer Society was able to fund \$45 million dollars in world-class research to fight all cancers and help more than 85,000 Canadians through its information and support services.

The Society also funds important cancer prevention work so fewer Canadians are diagnosed in the first place.

Continued on page 2

## More cash to battle invasive mussels

By RON SEYMOUR  
Westside Weekly

The propellers and hulls of some boats being brought into B.C. this spring and summer will be checked for an invasive mussel that poses a risk to provincial waterways.

Government officials in Kelowna on Tuesday announced a \$1.3-million expansion of an ongoing program to detect and prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels.

Precise details of the program are still to be worked out, but it's likely to consist of random checks at popular boat launches in areas favoured by visitors from Alberta and the U.S. Six auxiliary conservation officers and three mobile decontamination units have been assigned to the detection program.

The mussels have never been found in B.C., but they exist in other nearby jurisdictions. Should they establish a presence here, officials say they could threaten native marine species, clog water intake pipes, foul beaches and increase maintenance costs for power-producing dams.

"This is a major step in our ongoing efforts to keep the province's ecosystems, hydro stations, drinking water facilities and salmon populations safe," Environment Minister Mary Polak said.

Continued on page 2

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### Daffodils

Continued from page 1

"In April, we like to focus on the support programs that help people on a cancer journey," said Francis. "Like our lodge in Kelowna where out-of-town patients can stay during cancer treatments and locals can come to use the wig bank to borrow a wig and get the emotional support they need. We also have a financial support program that helps pay for patients' travel expenses to get to treatment, and a volunteer driver program that offers free rides to-and-from medical appointments."

Of the five different regions in the BC/Yukon Division of the Canadian Cancer Society, the Southern Interior Region is the largest user of the financial support program. Since September 2010, more than 1,500 clients have been approved for a total of more than \$700,000 in funding.

"Our region is the biggest user of the financial support program for several reasons," said Francis. "We're very geographically dispersed and patients often

have to travel long distances for cancer treatment in Kelowna or Vancouver. For example, a patient in Cranbrook might need specialized treatment that they can only get in Vancouver. That's 958 kilometres with limited low-cost transportation options and barriers such as mountain passes and winter weather."

"I'm proud to be a part of the Canadian Cancer Society because I think with the help of our amazing volunteers and generous donors we're making a real difference in the lives of people on their cancer journey," said Francis

The daffodil pin will be available by donation at various businesses in West Kelowna throughout April, including all Starbucks, Pharmasave and BC Liquor stores.

"We're looking forward to another successful Daffodil Campaign!" said Francis. "I want to thank everybody that buys a pin, or a bunch of daffodils, or donates to one of our volunteers at the door. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families."

### SUDOKU

			9			1		
				1	5	2	8	
					2		3	
			2	8				
	5	1		7				
		7			6	4		
	3				8	7	1	
				2	1	8	5	
		5	3					

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	4	6	7	3	9	8	5	1
3	5	8	2	1	9	6	7	4
9	1	7	8	4	5	2	3	6
8	9	4	6	1	5	7	2	3
6	3	2	9	4	7	1	5	8
7	1	5	7	3	8	2	6	4
7	3	6	2	9	8	4	1	5
4	8	2	5	1	7	3	6	9
5	1	6	5	3	4	1	6	5

### Mussels

Continued from page 1

The Okanagan Basin Water Board has been campaigning for a more aggressive and far-reaching plan to deal with a potential mussel invasion. Among other things, the OBWB has suggested check-points be set up on all roads leading into the province so conservation officers can check all boats being towed into B.C.

"(We) still want to see inspection stations at all en-

try points on the Alberta border," OBWB chairman and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater said.

But he described the government's beefed-up random inspection program as a "good start."

"We're going to be monitoring this program closely for its effectiveness — how many boats are stopped and how many are mussel-infested," Findlater said.

Along with the random inspections for mussels, the government will put up more roadside signage alerting boaters to the dangers posed by mussels, and encouraging them to make sure their vessels are cleaned, drained and dried before being transported.