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West Kelowna RCMP volunteers will be manning boat launches this weekend

If you plan on taking the boat out in West Kelowna this weekend, you'll have a chance to make sure your pre-check is done right.

A number of RCMP volunteers will be at boat launches throughout West Kelowna on Saturday, voluntarily helping pleasure boaters with their pre-checks.



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“This will be the second year our volunteers have provided this education and awareness program to boaters,” says Roy Morgan, West Kelowna RCMP crime prevention coordinator.

“This is strictly a voluntary check, that gives the boat operator the opportunity to correct any deficiencies they might have prior to launching into the water.”

The RCMP volunteers all hold valid boating licenses and knowledge in how to properly inspect a boat prior to launch.

Included in this is checking that the boat has all safety items required to be legally operating a pleasure craft on the lake.



Photo Credit: City of West Kelowna

“The program will assist the boat operator with any interaction later that day with the RCMP boat and members on the Okanagan Lake,” adds Cpl. Jesse O’Donaghey.

“The RCMP working on the water are concerned about your safety and they also ask boat operators not to consume alcohol while operating their boat on our waterways.”

As a bonus, boats will also be checked for signs of invasive quagga and zebra mussels after recently being given training in that regard.

They’ll promote the “Don’t Move a Mussel” and “Clean, Drain and Dry” campaigns in an effort to keep invasive aquatic species out of Okanagan Lake.