



BCLSS LOONIE NEWS

A monthly e-newsletter from the BC Lake Stewardship Society

March 2006

BCLSS Group Profile: Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society

In 1989, water quality monitoring results indicated phosphorus and nitrogen levels in Osoyoos Lake were well beyond acceptable levels. Concern for the health of Osoyoos Lake resulted in the formation of the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society (OLWQS) which became a registered, non-profit charitable society in 1992. Currently, the OLWQS has approximately 100 members.

The OLWQS fundamental intention is to re-establish and maintain the water quality throughout the Okanagan Valley lake system, and especially in Osoyoos Lake, so that it is suitable for indigenous plant and animal life and for human use and consumption. This goal is achieved through:

- ⌘ water quality monitoring & dissemination of results to various government departments and agencies and to the public;
- ⌘ public education and awareness;
- ⌘ lake and waterway "cleanup" projects; and
- ⌘ participating with various levels of government in implementing programs which enhance the environmental quality of the Okanagan Valley lake system.

The OLWQS has been actively involved in environmental initiatives both locally and across the border in Washington State. Activities include: conducting regular water quality monitoring in Osoyoos Lake (from their own 22' pontoon boat!); groundwater quality monitoring in 7 observation wells for the Ministry of Environment; environmental surveys (for example, the effects of septic systems on water quality); and the installation of Groundwater Protection signage. The OLWQS is also involved in the Okanagan Watershed Management Plan, and are active members of the Washington State Lake Protection Association, the North American Lake Management Society and the BC Lake Stewardship Society. The OLWQS works closely with federal, provincial and municipal governments and agencies, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Town of Osoyoos and the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District.

Congratulations to the OLWQS on their many significant contributions to improving water quality in Osoyoos Lake! Further information can be found on their webpage www.OLWQS.org and questions and comments can be directed to: dallas@vip.net, phone: (250) 495-3341 or fax: (250) 495-3392.

Upcoming Events



World Water Day 2006

March 22nd, 2006. This year's theme is "Water and Culture". <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwd2006/index.shtml>



Earth Day Mill Creek Enhancement Project

The BCLSS, Diving Dynamics and the City of Kelowna Environment Division are organizing this day long event in celebration of Earth Day, April 22nd. Volunteers will be removing invasive plants (weeds), planting native vegetation, assembling and installing bird and bat nest boxes and removing waste from the Central Park area of Mill Creek, to restore and enhance this valuable urban green space. To register or for more information contact the BCLSS office.



The BCLSS Annual Conference & AGM

This year's event will be held at the Cowichan Lake Research Station Conference Centre on June 16th - 18th, 2006. This year's theme is ***Alien Invasions: Plants, Animals, Fish and People***. Information and registration forms will be sent out with the April newsletter and will also be available on the BCLSS website: <http://www.bclss.org/conferences.html>

Contact

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If you have an article to contribute, contact Carolyn at the BCLSS office, or email carolynj-bclss@shaw.ca