

# local news

## ▼ ENVIRONMENT

# Watersheds under the spotlight at upcoming workshop

*Presentations to include work on mapping, water management, fish stocks, groundwater and impact of the mountain pine beetle.*

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STAFF REPORTER

There are still a few spaces remaining for a full day of free presentations on the Status of Central Okanagan Watersheds workshop Jan. 27.

Organized by the City of Kelowna, the event is aimed at people working in watershed fields such as irrigation districts or in non-profit groups involved with watersheds, said Tracy Guidi of the

city's environment division.

The first presentation will be on the sensitive habitat inventory and mapping of Bellevue Creek, Mill Creek and Okanagan Lake's shoreline. Kyle Hawes of Ecoscape Environmental Consulting and Todd Cashin of the Central Okanagan Regional District will be the presenters.

The Okanagan Fish Water Management Tool will be the second topic, with Clint Alexander talking about balancing the flood, water supply and fisheries objectives in Okanagan Lake and River.

Remi Allard or Jacqueline Foley of Golder Association will talk about current groundwater research and initiatives in the Okanagan Basin, including the ground-

water assessment of the basin now underway.

Bob Hrasko of Black Mountain Irrigation District will talk about watershed management to optimize water quality supplied to the public.

The status of kokanee stocks in Okanagan, Kalamalka, Skaha and Wood Lakes will be discussed by Jerry Mitchell of the environment ministry.

The impacts of human land use activities on some selected watershed processes is the topic of Melissa MacLeod, Wesley Miles and Adam Wei of UBCO. They will talk about degradation of aquatic habitat and water resources.

Following a short lunch, Frank Kaempf, timber development forester for Tolko

Industries will talk about the impacts of increased harvesting of mountain pine beetle-infested forest on manufacturing facilities.

Hydrologist Don Dobson will discuss how the beetle will impact watersheds in its destruction of all mature lodgepole pine in the Interior in the next decade.

Environmental Farm Plans and their affect on water use and watershed protection will be discussed by Pete Spencer of the B.C. Cattleman's Association and Don Magnusson of the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association.

Jason Schleppe of EBA Engineering will talk about incorporating environmental information into long-term shoreline planning along the Kelowna waterfront.

EBA has done a fisheries

assessment, documenting fish use of the waterfront to identify sensitive fisheries areas there.

Rick Simpson of the Oceola Fish and Game Club will discuss management of water levels on Ellison (Duck) Lake and hydrological data collected over the past few years.

He will discuss developing partnerships and outline the advantages of planning from the bottom up, as well as outlining the next steps.

The workshop will be held at the main library in Kelowna and attendees must register by calling Guidi at 469-8983, as space is limited.