

SPKL

The Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake

Kalamalka Lake is named by National Geographic as one of the 10 most beautiful lakes in the world

In this Issue

- Sunshine Festival
- Quilt of Many Colors
- Meet Our Students!
- Community Awareness
- Lake Watch
- Sechi Dippin'
- SPKL AGM
- Coldstream Creek
- Healthy Water Tips
- **SPKL Contact Changes**

SPKL Shines at the Sunshine Festival



Maria Besso-Ockert SPKL Member, Amanda Shelley, SPKL Student, Erin Crockett, SPKL student, Trina Koch SPKL Director, and Christine Cookson former SPKL President stand proudly in front of the SPKL Display June 21st at the Vernon Sunshine Festival.

The booth featured an informative display describing the wonders of Kalamalka Lake, boating safety information, and water conservation tips. Raffle tickets were sold for the Colors of Kalamalka Quilt Raffle and free water was available for everyone.

We thank all of the curious (and thirsty) visitors that came to the SPKL booth and shared their time with us.

Raffle: Colors of Kalamalka Quilt... Get your raffle tickets before September 27th!

Linda Garrett, who created "Colors of Kalamalka" quilt says that this was a labor of love. She was inspired by the beautiful colors and summer hues of Kalamalka Lake.

The winning ticket will be drawn September 27th 2009 at the SPKL Annual General Meeting. Tickets for the quilt cost two dollars each or three for five dollars. Proceeds will go towards creating a Kalamalka Lake interpretive poster series.

To obtain a ticket, please send us an email at info@spkl.ca



Linda Garrett stands next to her quilt.



Summer 2009

Meet Our Students: Amanda and Erin!

Amanda Shelley

Amanda is entering her second year at Queens University. She is majoring in biology. Amanda did a great job of researching and creating the Sunshine Festival displays.

Best of luck this coming year Amanda!

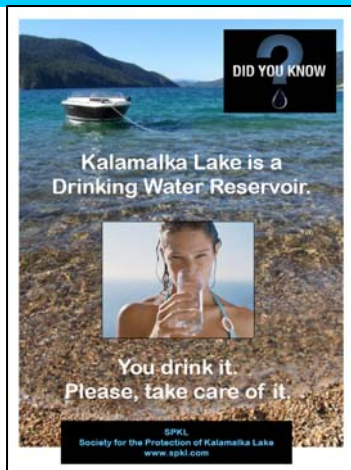


Erin Crockett

Erin Crockett is a UBC Vancouver student majoring in Environmental Science. Erin is an honors student with a natural talent for research and environmental study. Erin was very helpful to us this year.

All the best to you Erin!

SPKL Poster and Safe Boating Guide Sends a Clear Message



As a community service SPKL members handed out Safe Boating Guides on May Long Weekend as well as other information on water wise practices. We also hung posters at Kal Lake boat launches.

The poster sends a clear message: Kalamalka Lake is a drinking water reservoir, so please, take care of it. Visitors to this area may not know that.

The pleasure craft operator card is mandatory for adults beginning September 15th 2009.

For further information on the pleasure craft operator card and boat safety please visit the Transport Canada web site at

www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

The Lake Watch Project

On July 30th, 2009 approx. 25 concerned Kal Lake residents met with representatives from the City of Vernon Community Policing Office, to learn more about a program called Lake Watch.

The meeting was facilitated by the Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake as a result of increasing safety concerns, particularly after the tragic loss of life earlier this season.

The program is simple, if you see activities of concern on the lake, report them!

1. Complete a Lake Watch Form, attached to this newsletter and available from the Vernon Community Policing Office.
2. Phone in , Fax or drop off the form to the Vernon Community Policing Office, attention Warren Smith.



Sunday August 2nd, mid afternoon two boats sit idle well within the swimming area at Kal beach, despite signs (and common sense)

Vernon Community Policing Office Contact Information

Phone# (250) 260-5833
Fax# 250-260-5866
Address:101-3334 30th Avenue
Vernon, BC V1T 2C8



Summer 2009

Sechi Dippin'

The sechi disc is a black and white disc attached to a length of measuring tape. It is lowered into the water from the surface into a deep part of the lake near Rattlesnake Point.

When the white and black triangles on the disc can no longer be seen by the naked eye (no sunglasses) the reading on the measuring tape at the water surface is taken. In this way, the turbidity, or clarity of the lake can be measured.

SPKL, through membership with the BC Lake Stewardship Society, submit sechi disc readings to the BC Ministry of Environment. The readings are taken from May until October.



Chrisitne Cookcon, lowers the sechi disc (pronounced 'seckie')

SPKL Annual General Meeting



The SPKL Annual General Meeting will be held at 3:30 to 6:30 on Sunday September 27th at the Women's Institute Hall. It will include informative talks from a Mike Sokal from the Ministry Environment and Heather Larratt, a Professional Biologist and Environmental Consultant from Larratt Aquatic.

Everyone is invited to attend.

The winner of the Colors of Kalamalka Quilt will be named, **Coffee and Refreshments will be served. We hope you can attend!**

Healthy Water Tips

Do not allow pet waste to enter the water body. If pet waste is washed into lakes or streams, the waste decays, using up oxygen. It also contains nutrients that cause weeds and algae to grow. Pet waste can carry diseases which make water unsafe for swimming and drinking,

Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash, or away from where soapy residue can enter the lake, lagoon or creek. Soap can act like a fertilizer when it gets into fresh water, causing weed and algae growth.

Avoid using fertilizer on your lawn and do not allow cut grass, soil, or leaves, to enter the lake, lagoon or creek. All these things contain nitrogen and phosphorus which when added to freshwater can disrupt the natural balance of nutrients and decrease water clarity, cause bad odors and decrease general water quality.

In the winter time shovel your driveway and sidewalk before the snow gets packed down to avoid the use of salt. Too much salt creates a difficult environment for aquatic life and decreases drinking water quality. It is also harmful for trees and grass.





Summer 2009

Whos E.coli is in Coldstream Creek?

The results of a water quality study entitled *Coldstream Creek Water Quality Monitoring: 2008-2009* completed by the Ministry of Environment are in. Coldstream Creek flows directly into Kalamalka Lake and contributes to the quality of our drinking water. The study included bacteriological results and specifically, Bacteria Source Tracking (BST). The BST method identifies the probable sources of fecal pollution by comparing genetic profiles of E. coli bacteria collected from Coldstream Creek with a reference library of known E.coli profiles.

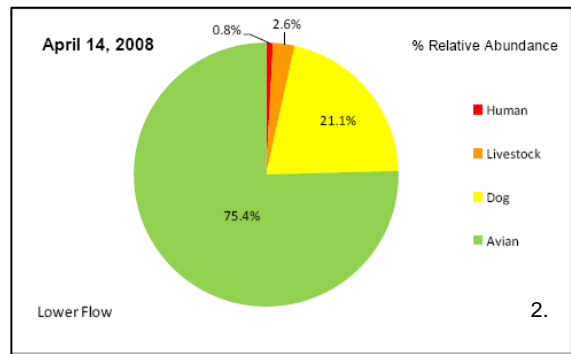
Bacteriological results indicate elevated levels of bacteria, confirming long-term Ministry of Environment monitoring results of a chronic water quality problem in Coldstream Creek. Potential sources of these bacteria include wild and domestic animal feces, agricultural field and storm drain runoff, and seepage from septic and sewage systems.

Results indicated that there was a marked increase in bacteria numbers on multiple occasions between McClounie Rd and Kirkland Dr. Possible reasons for the increase were; discharge from a storm-drain, non-point source from residential properties (ex. septic, dog waste, fertilizer), or a re-mobilization of bacteria from sediments in a low-gradient section of the stream.

BST results revealed that the majority of E. Coli were from wild sources (birds), E. coli from livestock and dog were significantly represented and the amount of human E. coli was minor.

The study recommends habitat protection, stream bank stabilization, ensuring requirements of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation are met, and restricted or off site livestock watering.

More emphasis on public education on picking up dog waste, especially at the dog park, is an obvious solution to decreasing the amount of dog E.coli found in Coldstream Creek. SPKL supports volunteer activities that will improve water quality in Coldstream Creek.



We are thankful to Ministry of Environment and the District of Coldstream for their collaborative efforts in completing this study.

SPKL Contact Information

info@spkl.ca

Please contact us at the email above if you are interested in becoming a member.

A membership form is attached to the end of this newsletter that includes a mailing address for membership forms.



Summer 2009

References

1. <http://tailsmagazines.files.wordpress.com/2009/03/doggie-pooper-scooper.jpg>
2. *Coldstream Creek Water Quality Monitoring: 2008-2009* BC Ministry of Environment
3. http://web.uvic.ca/~wcirc/english/staff/images/coldstreammetering_75dpi.jpg

Society for the Protection Of Kalamalka Lake (SPKL)



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Mission Statement: To preserve and protect the quality and health of Kalamalka Lake watershed for all future generations so that the lake may be enjoyed by all user groups in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Name of individual or organization: _____

Mailing Address:

Phone number: _____

Fax number: _____

E-mail: _____

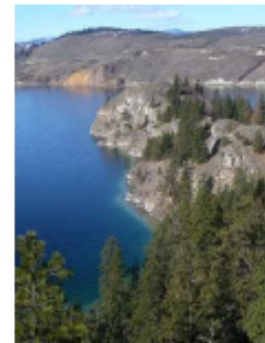
Membership includes volunteer participation in regular meetings, involvement in SPKL projects and receiving the SPKL newsletter.

Membership:

Family (\$25)

Individual (\$15)

Student (\$5)



Donations: A donation in any amount is welcome. Businesses donating \$50.00 or more will be recognized in the SPKL newsletter.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

In signing, all applicants for SPKL membership acknowledge that they endorse and support the mission of the society.

_____ signed on the _____ day of _____

(Please sign here)

Please send this membership form and a cheque made out to SPKL to:

Greg Ockert, 11505 Primrose Drive, Coldstream BC, V1B 2C3

Thank-you!