



News Release

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Joe Rich Creek Restoration Work Underway

An effort is underway to restore a section of Joe Rich Creek thanks to the cooperation and participation of several people and agencies. The creek is a major tributary of Mission Creek and has been facing increasing pressure from development activities in the Joe Rich area.

This week, young people from Katim Enterprises Ltd., and staff from the Regional District Environmental Planning area are working with the Weddell family on Phase 1 of the Joe Rich Stream Restoration Project. They are planting 500 potted cottonwood and willow plants along the banks of the creek to help restore some of the natural vegetation needed to improve water quality and promote the fish and wildlife habitat. As well, 900 metres of fencing are being installed along the Weddell property to protect and stabilize the creek banks, encouraging the return of native plants.

In 2003, Streamworks Unlimited prepared the Joe Rich Channel Assessment for the Regional District. The study found that in this area just off Highway 33, the creek is subject to intense livestock use. Riparian vegetation is sparse in this area, as ranging cattle heavily use the creek channel and banks. The study identified rehabilitation opportunities for this area and the remedial work that is underway has been developed with that in mind. Planning work is underway for future restoration projects that might be undertaken along other areas of Joe Rich Creek.

The Regional District supplied the plants used in the project while the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has provided the fencing. Katim Enterprises Ltd. is providing the labour. The total estimated cost of the project is \$5,000 and several organizations have provided financial assistance: Black Mountain Irrigation District, City of Kelowna Environment Division, Gorman Brothers Lumber, Riverside Forest Products, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Regional District.

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