



News Release

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
Telephone: (250) 763-4918
Fax: (250) 763-0606
www.regionaldistrict.com

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Whelan Creek Restoration Work Underway

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

This week, staff from the Regional District Planning Department is working with the Day family on the Whelan Creek Stream Restoration Project. They are planting 100 potted native plants along the banks of the creek to help restore some of the natural vegetation needed to improve water quality and promote fish and wildlife habitat. As well, 150 metres of fencing are being installed along the Lanyard Stables property to protect and stabilize the creek banks, encouraging the return of native plants.

The Lanyard Stable property, located on the lowest downstream section of Whelan Creek, was first identified as a priority area by the RDCO Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) project. Development of riparian management prescriptions followed with a field survey conducted by Regional District Planning staff. The primary concerns observed at Lanyard Stables were; stream bank erosion and siltation, soil compaction, nutrient runoff and loss of riparian vegetation due to livestock access and grazing.

The Regional District supplied the plants used in the project while the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has provided the fencing. The Stream Restoration Crew is providing the labour, which is a joint venture between the City of Kelowna and the Regional District. The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,500.

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Contact:

Bruce Smith
Communications
979-7339

Todd Cashin
Environmental Technologist
868-5288



