



MEDIA RELEASE

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Long-weekend closure of Paddlewheel Park Boat Launch due to high water levels creating boating hazards and threatening shoreline properties

The Board of Directors of the Regional District of North Okanagan have made the decision to close the boat launch at Paddlewheel Park over the May long weekend, effective May 18, 2017. The closure is in response to the hazardous boating conditions created by high waters, and the potential threat to shoreline properties as a result of wake-creating activities such as boating or use of personal watercrafts.

“While we recognize that this is just one of many launches that access Okanagan Lake, and that boaters may still choose to launch from other access points, this closure demonstrates the seriousness of the hazards that exist as a result of the current high water conditions” said Bob Fleming, Chair of the Regional District of North Okanagan Board of Directors. “We are strongly encouraging people to stay off of the lake this weekend, if possible, and if they must be out on the lake, to keep their speeds down in consideration of the unprotected shorelines.

Transport Canada advises that anyone operating a power-driven boat in B.C. must adhere to a speed limit of 10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of shore.

At the recommendation of the Province of British Columbia and Emergency Management BC, the Regional District is taking additional steps to protect parkland shorelines and beaches by not clearing debris that is washing up as a result of the high waters. The debris acts like a cushion to waves in the event of an onshore wind, and reduces sand erosion.

For further information, please call 250.550.3700.

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