

A photograph showing a pair of hands cupped together, holding a small amount of water. The hands are positioned over a body of water, which is visible in the background. The water in the hands is clear and reflects the light. The background water is slightly blurred, showing gentle ripples.

Anna Warwick Sears, PhD  
Executive Director

# Okanagan Basin Water Board 2020 Overview

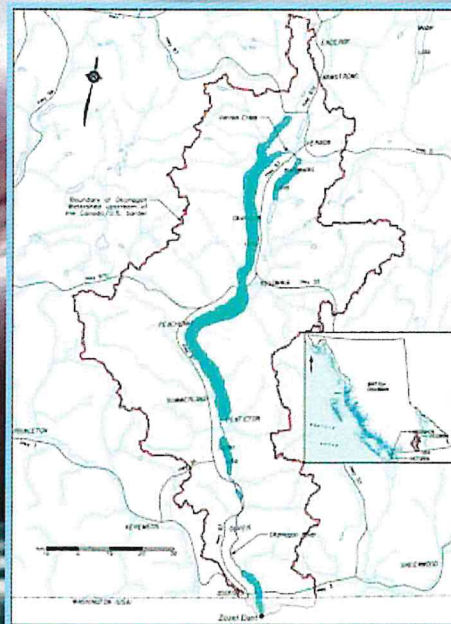
A horizontal strip of water, showing ripples and a slightly blurred surface, located at the bottom of the slide.

## Mandate 1970 – present

- Define problems and priorities
- Communicate and Coordinate
- Present recommendations
- Organize and receive proposals
- Participate financially in projects on behalf of local governments



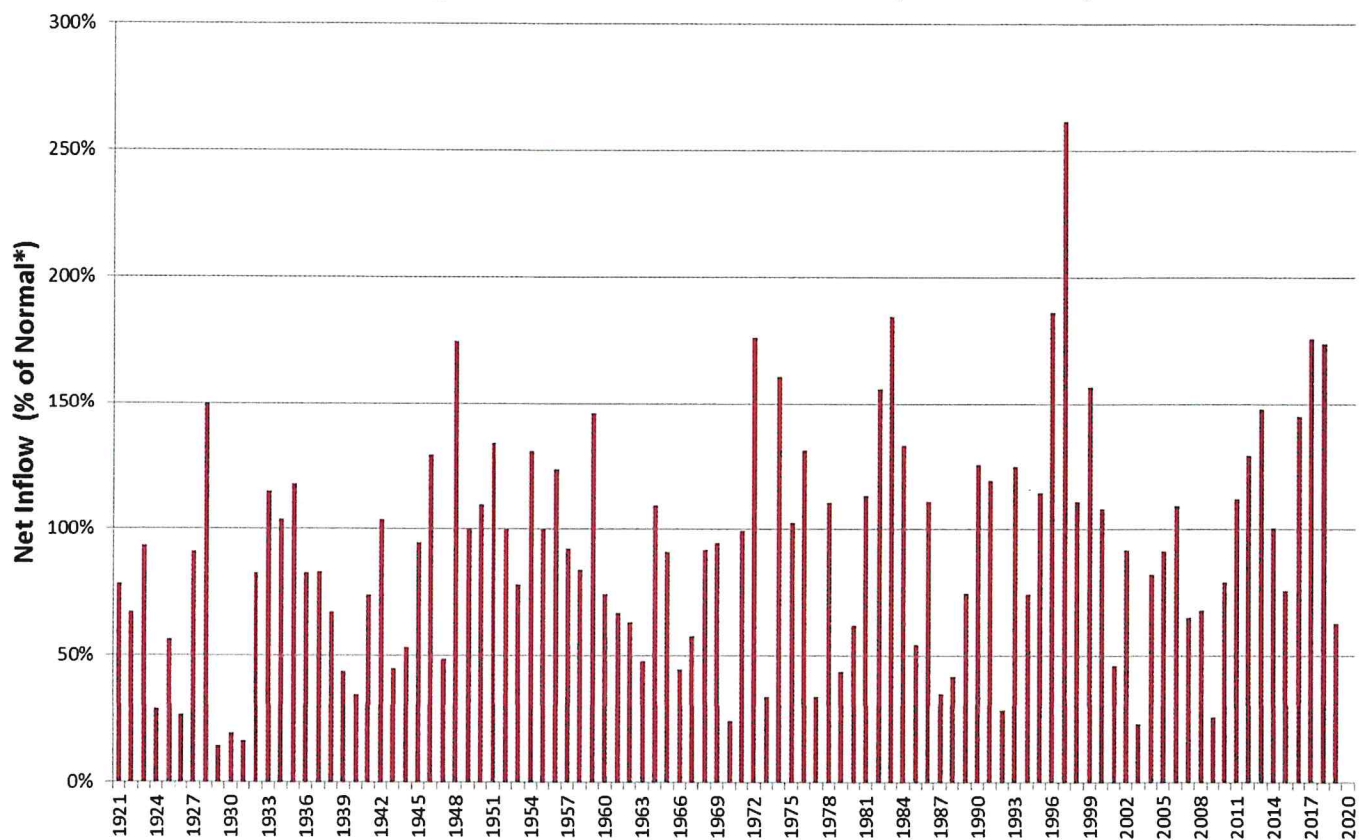
# Okanagan Basin Water Board



# 50 Years, Three Programs

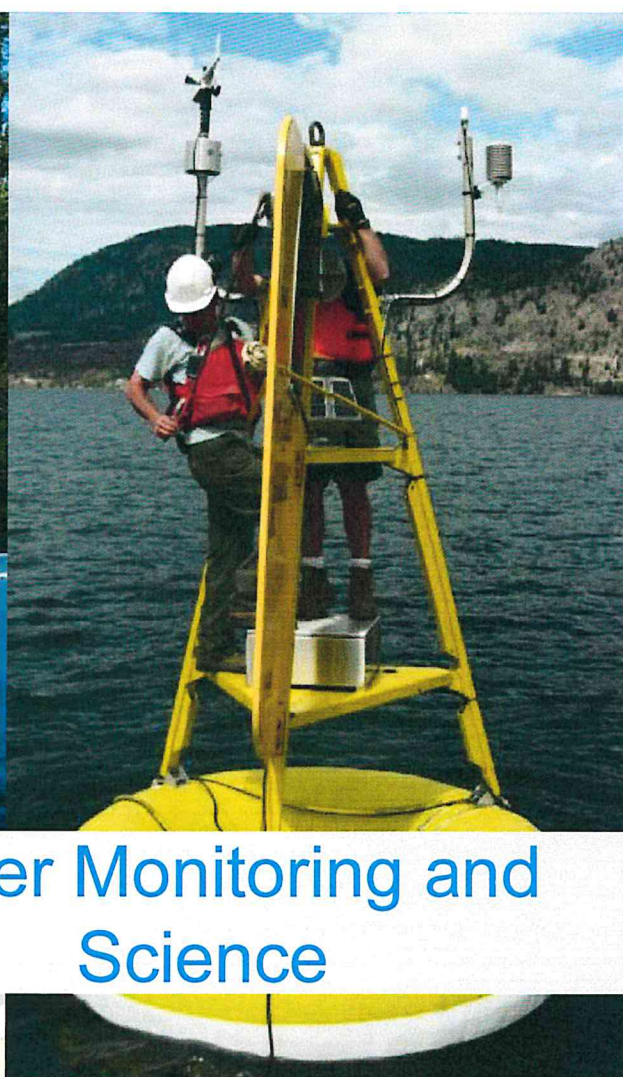
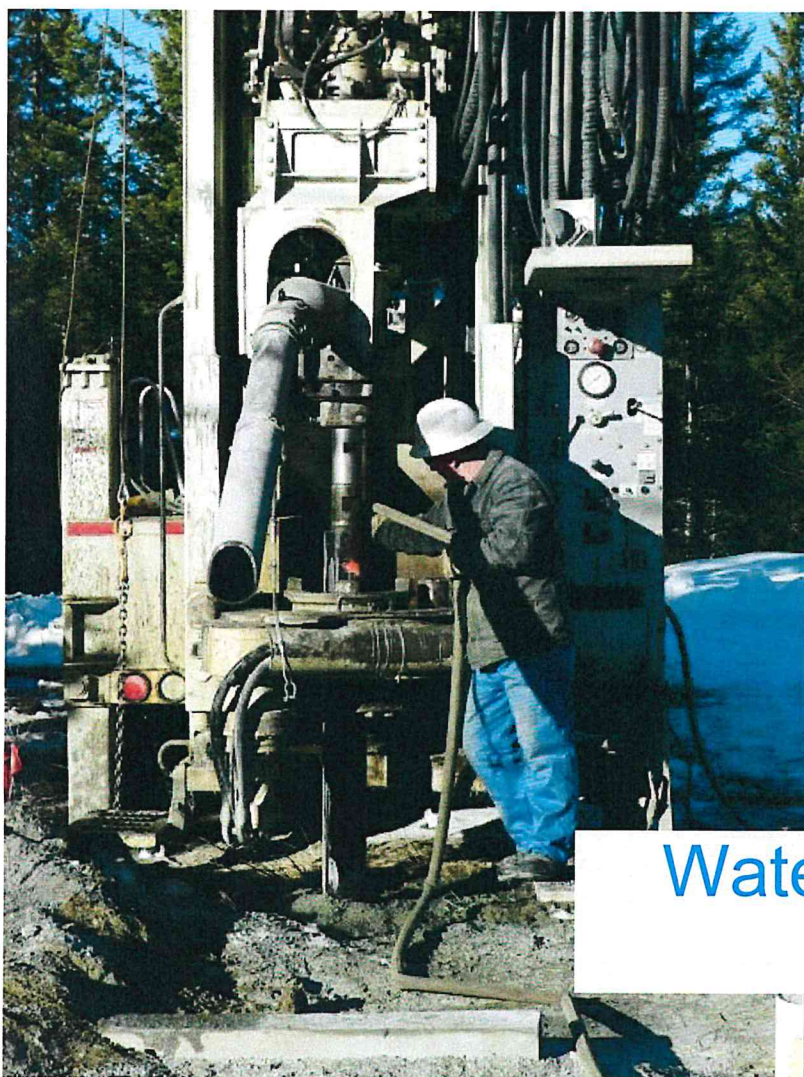
- Sewage Facilities Assistance
  - *Grants to local governments*
- Watermilfoil control
  - *Valley-wide, year-round*
- Water Management Program
  - *Grants, Collaboration & Coordination*
  - *Water Science and data*
  - *Policy and planning*
  - *Communications*
  - *Advocacy*

## Okanagan Lake - Annual Net Inflow (1921 - 2019)

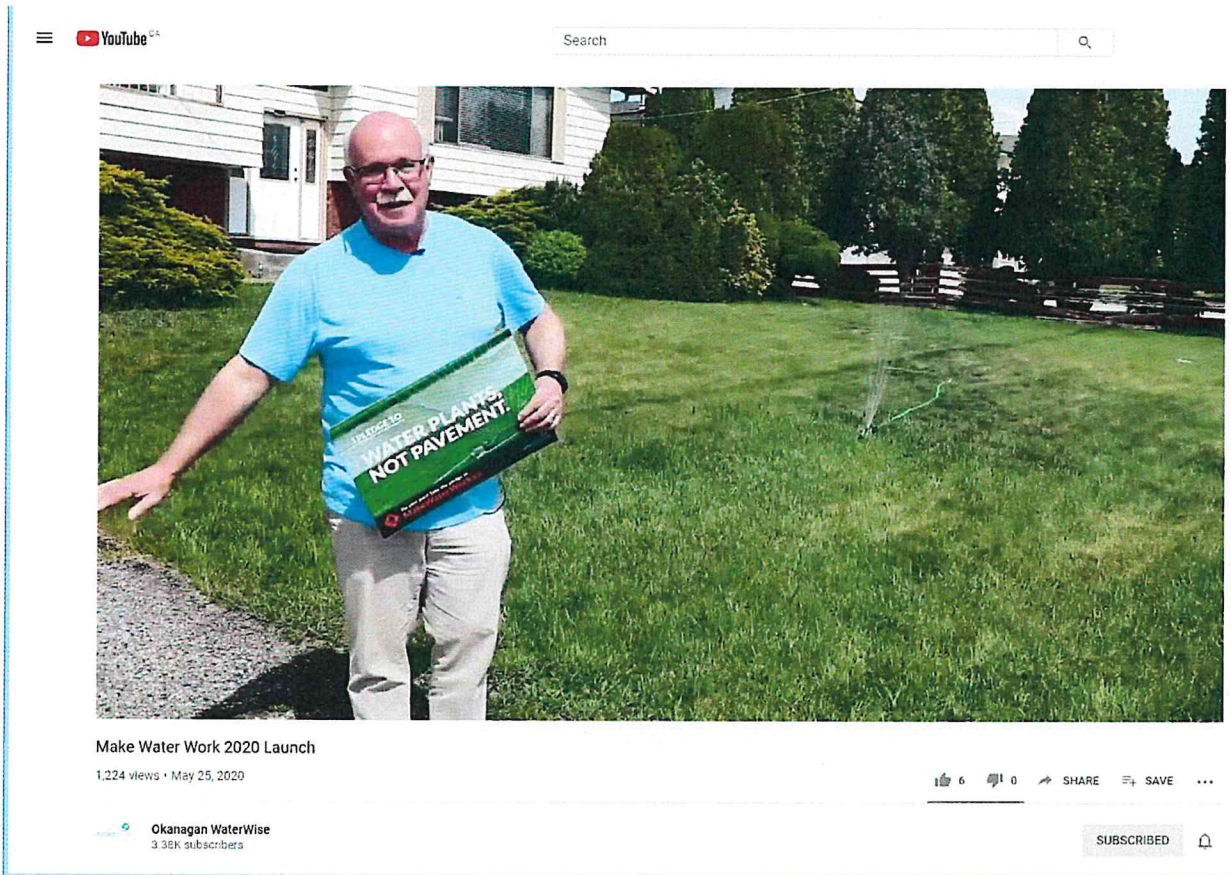


\* Based on 1981-2010 Normal

Source: BC River Forecast Centre, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations



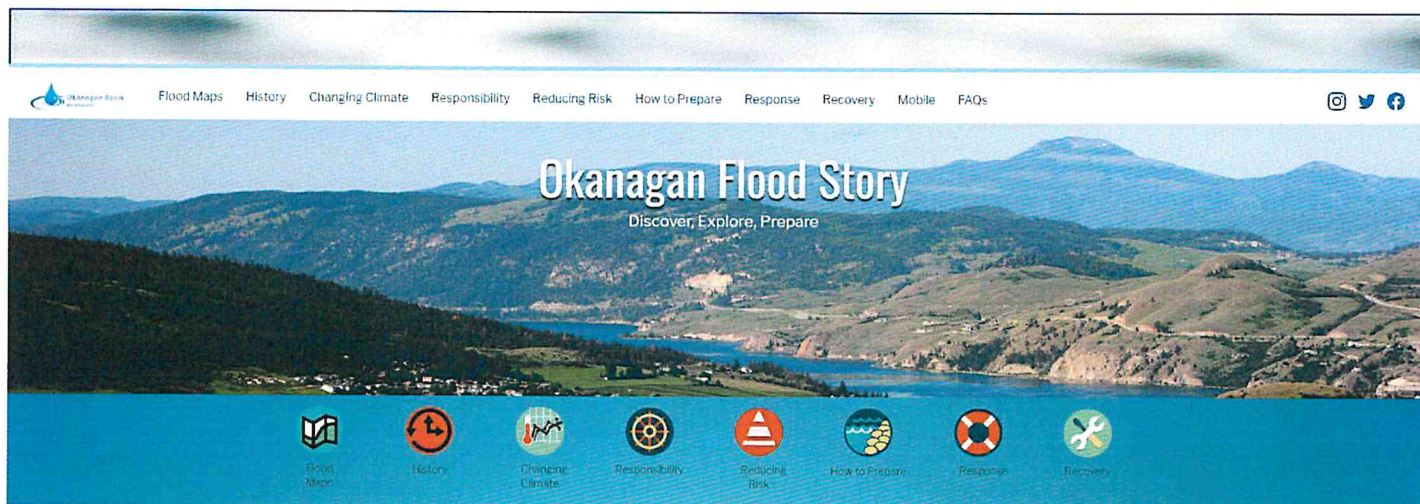
## Water Monitoring and Science



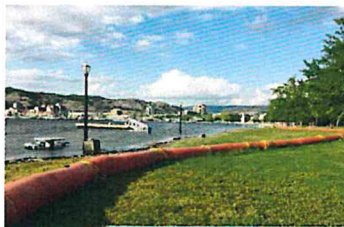
## Water Conservation and drought planning



2017 & 2018



## Flooding in the Okanagan - An Introduction



There have always been floods in the Okanagan – a valley born of water and ice. As times change, with different weather and different ways we live on the land, the story of flooding in the Okanagan changes with each generation. It is a story of resilience, regeneration, balance, and community.

After highwater events in 2017 and 2018, the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) led a valley-wide partnership of local governments and Indigenous communities to update the region's floodplain mapping. This included mapping Okanagan valley-bottom lakes (Ellison [also known as Duck], Wood, Kalamalka, Okanagan, Skaha, Vaseux and Osoyoos) and the Okanagan River from Penticton to Osoyoos Lake. The project report is

[www.OkanaganFloodStory.ca](http://www.OkanaganFloodStory.ca)



[Flood Maps](#) [History](#) [Changing Climate](#) [Responsibility](#) [Reducing Risk](#) [How to Prepare](#) [Response](#) [Recovery](#) [Mobile](#) [FAQs](#)



## Okanagan Flood Story

### 1 WHAT IS FLOOD MAPPING?

### 2 HOW TO USE THE MAPS

### 3 OKANAGAN LAKE AND RIVER FLOODPLAIN MAP

The following table identifies the Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) which were mapped and the corresponding probability of flooding in each year, over 25 years (average life of a mortgage), or over 75 years (a timeline used for infrastructure and community planning). As an example of how to read the table, in each year, there is a 1% chance that Okanagan Lake water levels will be above the 100-year ARI water level of 343.36 metres. Over 25 years, there is a 22.2% chance that lake levels will be above this level and over 75 years, there is a 52.9% chance that the lake will be higher than this.

Recently, the vertical datum in Canada has been updated to the Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum 2013. This means that while the location or height of a point hasn't changed, its reported elevation is different (see more information from Natural Resources Canada [here](#)). All elevations reported through this Okanagan mapping project are in the new datum. In the Okanagan valley, the new datum is between approximately 19cm and 33cm higher (an elevation reported as 370.00m in the old datum may now be measured anywhere from 370.19m to 370.33m depending on where the point is located in the valley). As many lake levels commonly known in the Okanagan were in an older vertical datum (CVGD 28), some elevation conversion information is provided below.

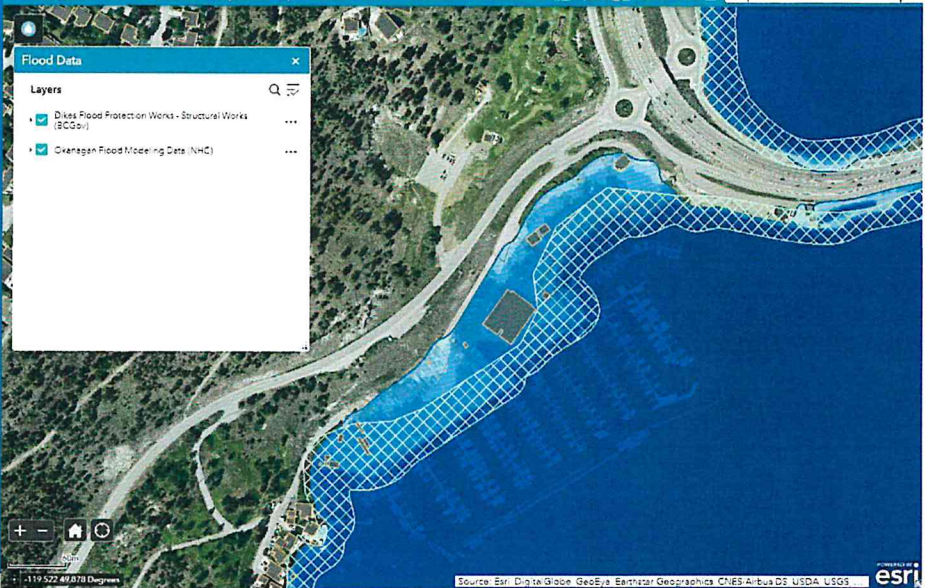
Click the table for a larger view.

Average	Probability of	Probability	Probability	ARI	Water level (m)	Water	Water	Water	Water

### 4 COMPLEMENTARY FLOOD MAPS

esri A Story Map

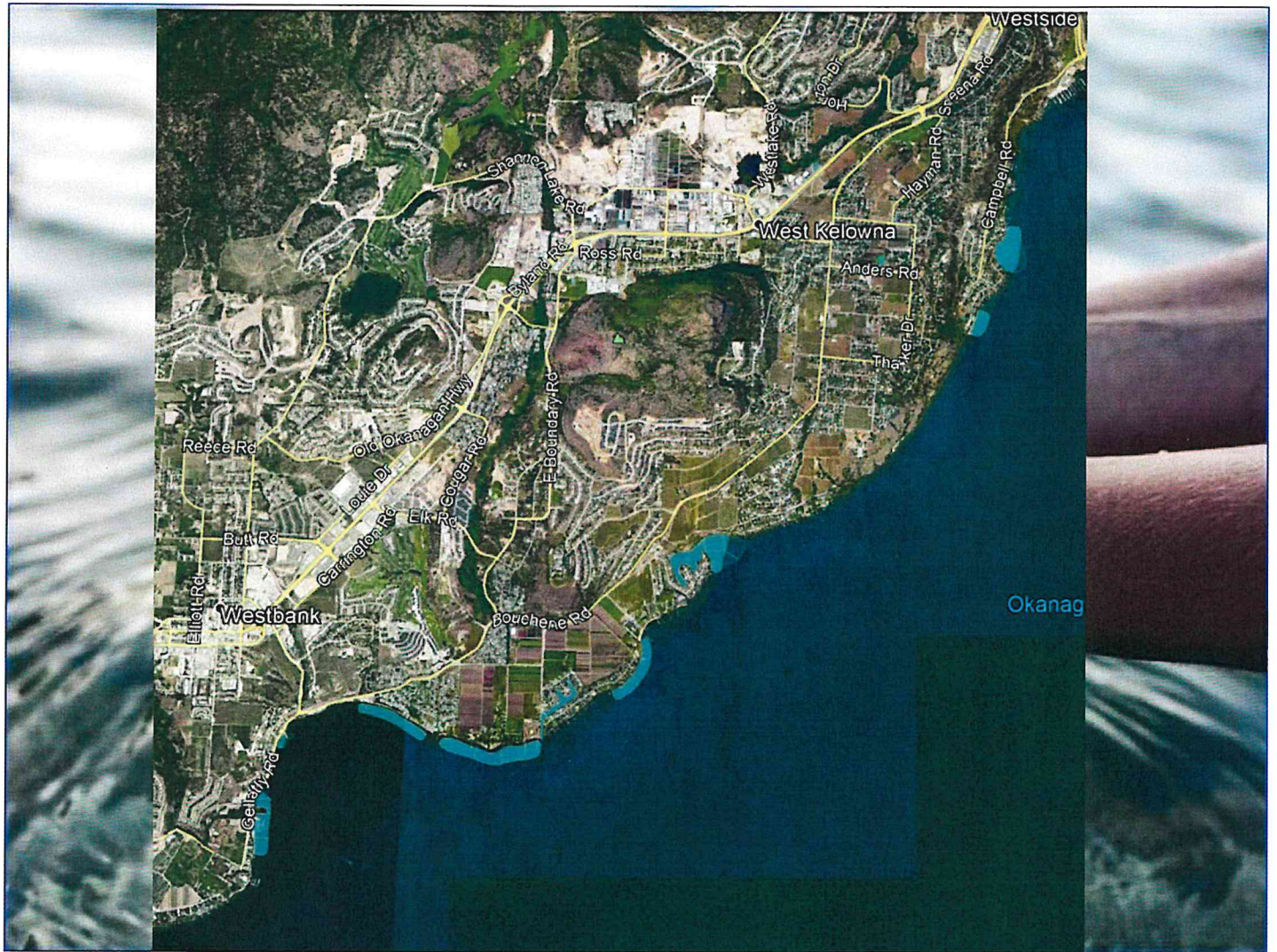
#### Okanagan Lake and River Floodplain Map



## Watermilfoil: a long haul



Issues: access & permitting...





HOME

MUSSELS

RISKS

PREVENTION

PARTNERS

MORE INFO

IN THE NEWS



# DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL



SPEAK OUT!



SPREAD THE MESSAGE, **NOT** THE MUSSEL.



OKANAGAN  
waterwise  
One valley. One water.





## *Strengths*

- *Many diverse partners and supporters*
- *Joint capacity is greater than individual capacities*
- *OBWB creates a communication hub: bridges levels of government and other partners*
- *Valley-wide strategic planning*
- *Integrated projects give highest value*
- *Long-term, steady efforts bring big results*

**Thank You!**