

Creek cleanup set for March 29

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Things are picking up at the second annual Adopt-A-Trail clean-up campaign March 29 starting at McNicoll Park Middle School.

The cleanup of the Penticton Creek shoreline is a collaborative effort of the Canadian Federation of University Women Club (Penticton) and the Penticton campus of Okanagan College.

The morning will kick off with an opening ceremony at the school at 10 a.m.

Volunteers will be picking up litter near the creek and along the trail to the Penticton Wastewater Treatment Plant before making the return trip along the opposite side.

Dorothy Tinning, co-ordinator for the club said it has ties with Okanagan College dating back several years and in that time has provided bursaries to deserving students.

"We decided maybe we should do something a little more high profile and work together as a partner group," she said.

Tinning said it also wanted to find a way to tie in a "green" initiative, draw in more public involvement and to raise the club's profile.

"Part of our mandate for CFUW is to take on things for the community and for civic pride," she said. "And to stay involved and do volunteer work for the community."

Tinning said based on the response so far, she's expecting a great turnout for this year's cleanup: "I already have a whole hockey team coming. All the parents, all the coaches, so these kind of things are just escalating."

Another group has come forward to make cloth recycling bags to give away as gifts to those participating in the cleanup.

"In this big clean-up campaign, we are really trying to follow the city's direction, which is to reduce the input in the landfill," she said. "We're hoping we're going to be working with the Penticton Flyfishers group . . . and there's another reason for keeping the creek clean."

Besides the common trash items — plastic bags and miscellaneous paper — Tinning noted volunteers came across a number of bicycles, a grocery cart and vehicle tires last year.

Donna Lomas, regional dean, South Okanagan Similkameen, Okanagan College, said its involvement in the cleanup is a chance to give something back to the women's club for its support of students in the past.

"It's also an opportunity for college staff and students to give something back to the community at large, in terms of being able to help clean up the creek in what is really a beautiful stretch," said Lomas. "It's just a great opportunity to raise awareness about our environment and the fact that we do need to be proactive."



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From left, Claire Hawrys, Sue Fahey, Bonnie Bodtker and Dorothy Tinning show off some of the bags to be used for the Adopt-A-Trail cleanup on March 29 along the shoreline of Penticton Creek. The City of Penticton will provide tongs, rubber gloves and garbage bags for anyone needing them.