

Drug

Continued from page A1

"We would like to see a solution to this problem so the availability of drugs isn't so prevalent in this city," he said. "It just takes vigilance and we have to constantly be aware of it."

Wayne Golling, outreach case worker for Inn from the Cold, said he has not noticed a significant increase in drug use, but he has seen an increase in drug paraphernalia around Kelowna.

"There's been more needles found in parks or beside buildings," said Golling. "That could give people the perception there's more drug use, but I don't think it necessarily means there's more drug use. I don't see open drug use on a daily basis."

He said he sees a need for more safe deposit boxes for needles to keep them off the street and out of parks.

Interior Health's Outreach Urban Health Centre in Kelowna has noticed an increase in needles and sharp containers handed out under its harm reduction program, the health authority said in an email statement.

"Additionally, there has been an increase in the numbers of used needles returned to the centre. IH is unable to say whether this change is due to an increase in IV drug use, or because of a concentrated effort by Outreach Urban Health staff to educate people who use drugs to dispose of used needles appropriately."

Ron Beahun, on-street services manager for the Downtown Kelowna Association, said his downtown patrol team confronts many drug users downtown, asking them to stop what they are doing.

If enforcement is necessary, then the RCMP or bylaw officers will be contacted.

While he has seen more drug activity lately, Beahun said he does not believe it is a downtown-specific issue.

"A lot of it goes in waves," he said. "In the summer, you'll see more activity because of the transient population."

While those numbers tend to go down come fall, Beahun said it seems to be remaining stable this year.

"Right now, the City Park area has been fairly heavy with drug use," said Beahun. "We're trying to deal with it. We're constantly trying to keep the downtown safe and clean."

Developer

Continued from page A1

Kelowna Mountain is also involved in a lawsuit filed by Tri City Capital Corp., which claims Kelowna Mountain defaulted on a mortgage.

"Tri City wrongfully started foreclosure," said Nicola. "Tri City does not have any right to do what they did, and like always, we will deal with this matter."

In a third lawsuit, several corporations have filed a foreclosure lawsuit against Kelowna Mountain. Calls to Consiglio were not returned, but Nicola said he is working in Vancouver.

The Facebook page for Kelowna Mountain Bridges and Vineyards states it will open Easter weekend in 2016 and will be open every weekend until summer. It states the park will be open seven days a week during summer and will close for the season on Labour Day weekend.



ANDREA PEACOCK/The Okanagan Saturday

Happy 105th

Kelowna's Ann Maze celebrates her 105th birthday with granddaughter Jackie Watson, left, great-granddaughter Zoe and son Jim.

UBC supports drive to expand blood and stem cell donor registry

Contributed by UBC

For most people, having 26 million options to choose from would seem like good odds.

For Kelowna's four-year-old Nadia Bjarnason and her family, those odds were not quite enough.

Nadia was born with Dyskeratosis Congenita. It's a genetic disorder that affects one in one million people, can cause premature aging or cancer, and requires a stem cell transplant to treat.

After being diagnosed at an early age, Nadia and her parents, Tara Beehary and Thor Bjarnason, began their crash course on the importance of countries building and maintaining blood and stem cell donor registries.

"Because Canada is so ethnically diverse, it's very important for people to become rec-

ognized blood and stem cell donors so we can widen the diversity of the registry," says Beehary. "Finding a match is like finding a needle in a haystack, and for us, it was a matter of life and death."

After being diagnosed, doctors told Nadia's family she would need a stem cell transplant that would come from an unrelated, volunteer stem cell donor. Suitability is dependent on genetic compatibility and is heavily influenced by the donor and the recipient's ancestral background.

"There were 26 million stem donors registered worldwide that Canada had access to, and there wasn't a suitable match as Nadia has a mixed ethnic background," says Beehary. "In the end, we found a suitable match through a cord blood registry (a database that catalogues voluntary donations of umbilical cord blood) and we were able to find a match."

In the end, it's a numbers game. Having a larger registry, comprised of young, ethnically diverse registrants will improve the chances of finding a match, which is why Beehary and her family were glad to hear about a donor clinic that was held at UBC Okanagan earlier this week. The clinic attracted over 80 students, staff, and faculty who rolled up their sleeves.

"We have such a large



Contributed

Four-year-old Nadia found a suitable stem cell match through a cord blood registry (a database that catalogues voluntary donations of umbilical cord blood). Her family encourages more people to become blood and stem cell donors.

pool of potential donors here on campus," says Warren Brock, UBC Okanagan Partners for Life Representative. "It's great to see more and more of the UBC community getting involved each year."

As the population grows, so does the need to expand the country's blood and stem cell registries and access to suitable donors, says David Patterson, director of donor relations, B.C. and Yukon region.

"Every 60 seconds, someone in Canada needs blood, and blood has a limited shelf life so demand is constant," says Patterson. "The need for blood and stem cells goes hand-in-hand, and we urge everyone to continue helping Canadian patients by donating regularly at the blood donor clinic in

Kelowna."

There are a number of opportunities to donate blood in the Kelowna area, including the permanent Kelowna donor clinic located at 103-1865 Dilworth Dr. The permanent clinic is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and every other Saturday.

According to Canadian Blood Services, although about one in two Canadians are eligible to give blood less than four per cent of eligible donors donate blood each year. Blood is used for a variety of applications, including transfusions for accident victims and people undergoing surgery. Stem cells are used to treat some 80 diseases, including leukemia, lymphoma, and various immune and blood diseases.

KELOWNA

Elementary school wins \$20,000 worth of new books

By ANDREA PEACOCK
The Okanagan Saturday

Kelowna's Springvalley Elementary is getting \$20,000 worth of new books from Chapters after winning a national contest.

The school won first place in B.C. in Chapters' Adopt-a-school contest, where employees, customers, schools and communities raise money to fund local elementary school libraries across Canada.

First prize is \$10,000 in books from Chapters, along with the \$10,000 Springvalley Elementary raised online.

"I can't wait to see all the new books the kids will get," said Kimberly Graumann, a parent at Springvalley. "I think it will get them a lot more excited about reading, espe-

cially if they can have input on the kinds of books they want."

Springvalley Elementary is considered a high-need school, because its library budget is under \$30 per student.

"The books they bring home from school, the covers are half missing, ripped and torn," said Graumann.

All the students are excited about filling their library with new books, she said.

"I'm really proud of all the work all the parents and staff put into it," said Graumann. "And I'm just really excited and thankful for everyone in Kelowna that helped us."

Chapters will present Springvalley Elementary with the prize at an assembly on Nov. 9.

Art

Continued from page A1

Lego said that rule applied to requests for donations — which it generally refuses unless the recipients are children — or bulk purchases. But it said "anyone can purchase Lego bricks in toy stores or in other ways and use them for any purpose they desire."

Lego is eager to avoid artistic controversies like the 1996 incident in which provocative Polish artist Zbigniew Libera created a concentration camp toy set with Lego blocks. Since then, his death-camp toys have been shown in museums and galleries around the world.

Lego said then that it had given some of its building blocks to Libera when he asked for a donation, but would have refused had it known what he planned to make with them.

Honouring Our Veterans

On Remembrance Day, we remember the brave men and women who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We invite you to share a personal message honouring these Canadian heroes on Remembrance Day. All greetings will appear in our special Remembrance Day coverage on Tuesday, November 10th.

25 Word Greeting & Photo: \$13.60 + GST
Additional Words: \$0.25 Per Word

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Veteran's Name: _____

Message _____

Submission Deadline: Friday, November 6th at 2 p.m.

Mail or drop off your photo, along with your completed submission & payment to:

The Kelowna Daily Courier
550 Doyle Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 7V1

The Penticton Herald
186 Nanaimo Ave W, Penticton, BC V2A 1N4

Email: classifieds@ok.bc.ca

(Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of your photo.)