



CAPRI ECHO

September 18, 2025

Newsletter for the Rotary Club of Kelowna Capri
Website: <https://caprirotary.ca/>

President Peter Spek
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Sep 22 – Regular Meeting
Sep 29 - Regular Meeting
Oct 6 – Regular Meeting
Oct 13 – Regular Meeting



Valentines Locks at Lonsdale Quay

Just a reminder that summer solstice
occurs on September 22nd.

SIGNS ON SHIRTS





The Sheriff presented something he came upon on the CBC News website. Essentially, he began to wonder about 'are we being manipulated by the news'.

(The following is an abbreviated version of the article)

This red retardant is crucial in the fight against wildfires. But is it also harming the environment?

Exact composition and impact of retardants unknown, but many agree firefighting benefits from it. Once dropped, these retardants leave a rust-coloured or pinkish liquid coating on roads, roofs, and vegetation. This technique, commonly used since the mid 20th century, helps fire crews contain blazes by depriving flames of oxygen, explains Jen Baron, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of British Columbia's Centre for Wildfire Coexistence.

Since 2009, the B.C. Wildfire Service has relied on Phos-Chek LC-95A. Its main ingredient, ammonium polyphosphate, is a common fertilizer. Additives, like iron oxide, give the retardant its signature red colour for use as marker.

"There isn't a ton of research on retardant environmental impacts, but they're generally assumed to be safe for

people and for the environment," Baron says. However, she points out that there are restrictions on their use near waterways because ammonia and phosphate can be dangerous for aquatic ecosystems.

"If the retardant directly enters a water system, this can result in die-off of fish species," Baron said. Many fish species and amphibians are very sensitive to ammonia salts and the retardant's chemicals can also cause algae blooms.

B.C. Wildfire confirmed in an email to CBC News and Radio-Canada that it has a policy "not to release or drop fire retardant where it can enter a body of water." The service added that Phos-Chek LC-95A is diluted before use, with nearly 90 per cent of the retardant solution comprised of water.

In 2020, Silins and his team had the chance to study long-term effects of retardants, after Phos-Chek LC-95-A was accidentally dumped over North Racehorse Creek in southwest Alberta.

Crews were combating a small fire during a time of "particularly high hazard" and accidentally hit a 100-metre stretch of the waterway, Silins says. The quantity dropped was unknown, but "pretty significant," he added.

When asked about the amount of fire retardants used domestically, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) stated that "the risk

that fire retardants could pose to the environment and aquatic life is probably less important than those of extreme wildfires."

Hydrologist Silins echoes this, pointing out that retardant misapplications remain rare and their impacts on watersheds are not on the scale of the effects of severe wildfires.

Evelyne Thiffault, an associate professor at Laval University's department of wood and forest science in Quebec City emphasizes that retardants are used only in specific situations where public safety is at risk.

"Even with these products, we see all the impacts that wildfires have. We had Jasper burned down last year, we see all the people who are evacuated. Without retardants, it would be even worse," Thiffault said.

"If we removed this product from our toolbox, we would end up in catastrophic situations," she added.

So, we have another product that is both good and bad, but things could be worse if we didn't use it. The Sheriff then fined everyone \$5 for his efforts.

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Sarah MacDonald from the Child and Youth Advocacy Centre Kelowna will be our guest speaker on September 22nd. Their webpage is: <https://cyackelowna.com/>

Marjolein Lloyd, Ambassador to ShelterBox Canada will be our guest speaker on October 6th. She will be making a presentation on Shelterbox and requires our laptop.

Laura Dunne from Elevation Outdoors will be our guest speaker on October 20th. Their website: https://elevationoutdoors.ca/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=11971626414

Helmut Hubert from Freedom's Door will be our guest speaker on October 27th. Their website is: <https://freedomsoorkelowna.com/>

Gord Lovegrove, city councillor and Professor of Engineering at UBCO will be our guest speaker on November 3rd.

On November 24th, Shannon Christensen from MamasforMamas will be giving a presentation to our club. Their website is: www.mamasformamas.org



2025-2026 Capri Rotary Club President – we are looking for a volunteer to serve as next year's President.

Rotary Day July 2026 - Peter reported that early planning has begun, and things look good for next year.



My future hat!

HUMOUR



Me and my computer!

GUEST SPEAKER

There was no guest speaker at Monday's meeting.

GALLERY



Colorful Hustle and Bustle in Autumn by GloHe (Gloria Hepke; Germany)



Snorlax by Fluffy Biscotti (Canada)



Big Bottoms by Hans Trapp (France)



Sapphire Model by Beautifulartstreet (Italy)
– AI artwork