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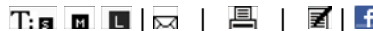
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## Academics meet community to discuss urban sprawl

By Adrian Nieoczym - Kelowna Capital News - March 26, 2008



The fourth annual Urban Forum is coming to Kelowna on Tuesday, April 1.

This year's edition, When Urban Meets Rural: Planning for sustainability in the Okanagan is sponsored by UBC Okanagan, the City of Kelowna and Planning Institute of B.C.

It's basically a link between the community (and the university) on the research that is being done in academia on the problems of encouraging urban sprawl on agricultural land uses," said UBCO associate professor of geography Bernard Momer, who is helping to organize the forum.

"The city needs land to build on and to develop for people to live. And on the other side you have the people who are trying to live from agriculture, the farmers and the orchardists and the people who own wineries."

Often, these different needs conflict, leading to battles over how land should be used.

There are two parts to the forum. At 11 a.m., four experts will give short lectures at a colloquium on the UBCO campus.

Kevin Hanna from Wilfrid Laurier University, will give a talk called In Praise of the BC Agricultural Land Reserve.

Ken Beesley of Brandon University will speak about Living on the edge: The rural urban fringe in the new Canadian countryside.

Ione Smith with Smart Growth B.C. will give a lecture called Smarter Growth for B.C.: Creating More Livable Communities.

At 4:30 p.m. a public panel discussion will be held at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in downtown Kelowna.

Mayor Kelowna Sharon Shepherd will open the event and the discussion will be moderated by Bernard Bauer, dean of the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBCO.

Panelists will include the three presenters from the morning colloquium, as well as Richard Bullock, Anna Warwick-Sears and Joe Sardinha.

Bullock is a Kelowna orchardist and managing director of a large Okanagan orchard and agri-tourism operation. He has served as president of the B.C. Fruit

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Growersâ Association, B.C. Tree Fruits Ltd., and Sun-Rype Products Ltd., as well as director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Warwick-Sears is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, including the new coordinated water management initiative, water quality improvement programs and aquatic weed management.

Sardinha is president of the B.C. Fruit Growersâ Association. The BCFGA is an industry association representing fruit growersâ interests.

The panelists will each give a short talk before the floor is opened up for the audience to ask questions and give their opinions.

Momer hopes members of the public will come out and share their perspectives.

âBy involving the public, by involving the university, we can maybe start a dialogue and further research by knowing whatâs on the minds of the people and whatâs on our minds and making sure thereâs no disconnect there and that weâre moving in the right direction,â he said.

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