

Katimavik



Founded in 1977, Katimavik is a federally-supported program which fosters the personal development of young people aged 17 – 21 through a challenging program of volunteer community work, structured learning and group interaction. Participants live in three different regions of Canada over an eight month period and they learn about themselves and their country, while providing valuable community service.

Naramata Conservation was one of eight South Okanagan organizations selected to benefit from the work done by Katimavik participants. From January to August, six Katimavik young people have taken on various tasks in the Naramata community.



Earlier in the year, the tasks included: gathering 130 Christmas trees for chipping and shredding); planning an Earth Day fun fair at the school; building and placing owl boxes; and harvesting invasive weed species along the KVR at the Smethurst parking lot and the Arawana gazebo.

We'd like to thank Hannah, MacKenzie, Gabriel, Sandy, Marcus and Josh for all of their energy and creativity!

January:
The Katimavik crew collected 130 Christmas trees from Naramata homes. There was no charge for this service provided by Naramata Conservation, and local residents did not have to take their trees into Penticton for chipping, as in past years. The trees were chipped in March.





July: the crew painted the bicycle trailer as a 'thanks' to Freedom Cycle. The bike shop often donates its trailer for nature events such as school trips and Meadowlark Festival.

In March, the crew built 24 boxes (for small owl species' habitat) from fir donated by Plexus Doors.

In April, local birder Dick Cannings lead an owl box placement field trip in the forest northeast of Naramata.



Naramata Conservation sold some of the boxes to the public and \$200 was donated to the South Okanagan Owl Rehab Centre (photo left).



May - June:
Katimavik harvested invasive weeds
along the KVR trail.



April: The Katimavik crew planned, set-up
and worked at the Green Village Carnival, an
environmental fair at the Naramata
Elementary School. Hundreds of kids and
grown-ups turned out to learn about climate
change, recycling, water conservation and
local flora and fauna.

July: The crew works on
improving the kokanee spawning
habitat in
Naramata Creek.





Since January, the Katimavik crew has been doing trail work on the KVR, such as painting outhouses, clearing brush, improving side trails and enhancing signage.

The crew assisted with preparations for July's Trans Canada Trail Challenge, an event which saw 500 cyclists pass through Naramata during a one-day 80 km. trek from Myra Canyon to Penticton.

In May, the Katimavik crew helped Naramata Centre widen some pathways to improve wheelchair access.

The crew also harvested invasive weeds on the Centre's claybank and participated on various 'green building' improvement projects.



The crew also helped Naramata Conservation assist other stewardship groups with projects outside Naramata: helping at the Meadowlark Festival office, erecting a sign at Max Lake for the South Okanagan Stewardship Program, and planting trees in a riparian rehabilitation zone in Osoyoos.



August:
the Katimavik crew began work on a solar generating trailer.



Naramata Conservation's Solar Trailer Generator Demonstration Project



The trailer is a small scale, practical demonstration project about the potential of solar power both for residential supplemental purposes and for off-grid applications.