

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006

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## Setting Sun

The Okanagan Sun fall to the Vancouver Island Raider in the B.C. Football Conference championship game. **B1**

C A P I T A  
**new**

*The Central Okanagan's Best-read Newspaper*

# Trail riders seek to resolve conflicts

By MARSHALL JONES  
 STAFF REPORTER

The local dirt bike club is calling on the provincial government to let it manage its designated riding area near Bear Lake, give them the authority to ticket other rule breaking bike riders and to build an engineered track at taxpayers' expense.

Ken Umbarger says a plan put forth by the Okanagan Trail Riders Association Tuesday could resolve some of the conflicts between off-road riders and other back country users.

They want a stewardship agreement over the one remaining authorized place in the Central Okanagan for dirt bikes.

Under that agreement, they want the ability to discipline riders who don't comply with rules.

And finally, trail riders want some \$250,000 over two years from city, regional and provincial governments to build better trails and reduce the impact of their bikes on the environment.

He said the stewardship agreement—even with the



**SINGING FOR PEACE...** Members of the Raging Grannies sing a protest song during a presence of the Canadian military fighting against The Taliban insurgence forces in Afghanistan.

▼ SCHOOL FEES

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He said the stewardship agreement—even with the authority they request—isn't enough without the cash for trail building.

"One and two doesn't really do it without the resources," Umbarger said.

"They can give us the authority but we don't have the money to do it ourselves.

"If we don't have the

SEE CONFLICTS ON A14



## local news

# Club offers 3-point proposal

### CONFLICTS FROM A1

money to do the plan then... the plan won't get done."

He admits it's a tough sell, even as an environmental cause. He hopes they have built enough clout with local governments, including the Lakeview Irrigation District, to work in their favour.

The trail riders association has long stepped up to represent a better side of dirt bike riders when the irrigation district complained that water quality would soon suffer from vandalism, watershed damage and slumping hill-sides from too much riding.

The club has been working to educate riders to show a

better face to their neighbours, reduce noise and reduce conflicts.

Umbarger says he's seen their territory reduced all around the province for those very reasons.

He and the club want to put the time and money in now to protect what they have. But it's a message that not everyone on two tires understands.

"That's a big part of our education of the riding public," he says of non-members.

"They don't understand why they are closing riding areas.

"They don't understand because they don't get the complaints; they are closing because of noise, largely.

"We talk until we are blue in the face about using aftermarket pipes that are too loud.

"It's a huge problem with private landowners and I can completely empathize with how they feel about it."

Recently, club members travelled to Washington State to see how they are taking care of their investment there.

Umbarger says they hired a consultant to construct the trails and built "mini logging roads" that can withstand the damage caused by knob-by tires. He said it would cost \$20,000 for the plan, \$100,000 for equipment and the remainder for maintenance and other costs.

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