

## **STAY SHARP—BE AWARE OF NEEDLE SAFETY**

Submitted by Ken Dewerson, Kelowna Parks Volunteer

There has been a notable increase of discarded needles found on public property. As Metal Detectors we may be exposed to disposed used needles in Parks and beaches. Protect yourself by following the City of Kelowna's safe needle policy.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Discarded needles are a health hazard, Drug users often have communicable diseases. The used needles may contain transmittable diseases and should be sterilized before disposal. **DO NOT TOUCH OR DISPOSE OF A NEEDLE INTO REGULAR GARBAGE.** This helps to protect the public, staff collecting garbage and the landfill workers. If you find a needle and don't have the proper equipment, call Bylaw or Parks for needle collection.

City Park has a disposal unit in the washrooms and by the grassy area that is for used needles. Use a needle kit to safely and properly dispose of the needle, Using gloves and an instrument pick up the needle and place it into a puncture proof sharps container, deliver the container to a biohazard locker.

If you are stuck with a needle, don't panic. Remove the needle if necessary and keep the wound clear and bleeding freely.

Procced to the hospital emergency room immediately.

In Kelowna any needle found is reported to Parks Department for documentation in a sharps file for a record of hazardous locations and for police information.

