

Okanagan mayors issue challenge to “Make Water Work” this summer

Editor

Feature Slider, News

July 10th, 2014

0 Comments

260 views



AFTER MAKING THEIR PITCH TO CITIZENS, mayors and council members from Armstrong to Osoyoos lined up to take the pledge. Left to right: OBWB Chair and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater, Armstrong Councillor Shirley Fowler, Vernon Councillor Catherine Lord, Lake Country Mayor James Baker, Peachland Mayor Keith Fielding, Kelowna Councillor Luke Stack and Penticton Councillor Wes Hopkin.

“We’re having fun with this contest but the message behind it is serious,” noted OBWB chair and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater, noting some of the stats behind water use in the Okanagan.

The average Canadian uses 329 litres of water each day. In the Okanagan, the average is a whopping 675 litres when averaged out over the year. The summer average in the Okanagan climbs to almost 1000 litres;

24 per cent of all Okanagan water is used by residents outside – mostly on lawns and gardens; and

There is less water available per person in the valley than anywhere else in Canada.

“Some residents use less water, especially if they’re on a meter, but we still are using more than what is sustainable. It’s for this reason we launched Make Water Work – to show that there are simple ways to save water and make it work more effectively and efficiently,” added Findlater.

Make Water Work provides residents with tips to get the most from their water, such as watering between dusk and dawn to prevent evaporation, and putting where it’s needed – on plants, not pavement. Many are simple tips that can make a huge difference, saving water for the things that matter to us most as residents of this valley – water for crops, for fish, and even firefighting.

Residents who take the pledge are entered for a chance to win \$5,000 in WaterWise yard upgrades. This year’s contest partners are KelownaGardens.com, Bylands and ProSource Irrigation.

Now that hot summer temperatures are upon us, the mayors and councillors of the Okanagan valley are asking residents to take the pledge to “Make Water Work.”

Make Water Work (www.MakeWaterWork.ca) is an effort by the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s (OBWB) Okanagan WaterWise program, and local government and water utility partners throughout the valley, to encourage outdoor water conservation during our hot Okanagan summers, when most water is used. Several valley mayors and councillors gathered Wednesday morning to take the pledge, invite residents to learn more about the water of the region and take the pledge.

“We’re having fun with this contest but the message behind it is serious,” noted OBWB chair and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater, noting some of the stats behind water use in the Okanagan.

The average Canadian uses 329 litres of water each day. In the Okanagan, the average is a whopping 675 litres when averaged out over the year. The summer average in the Okanagan climbs to almost 1000 litres;

24 per cent of all Okanagan water is used by residents outside – mostly on lawns and gardens; and

There is less water available per person in the valley than anywhere else in Canada.

“Some residents use less water, especially if they’re on a meter, but we still are using more than what is sustainable. It’s for this reason we launched Make Water Work – to show that there are simple ways to save water and make it work more effectively and efficiently,” added Findlater.

Make Water Work provides residents with tips to get the most from their water, such as watering between dusk and dawn to prevent evaporation, and putting where it’s needed – on plants, not pavement. Many are simple tips that can make a huge difference, saving water for the things that matter to us most as residents of this valley – water for crops, for fish, and even firefighting.

Residents who take the pledge are entered for a chance to win \$5,000 in WaterWise yard upgrades. This year’s contest partners are KelownaGardens.com, Bylands and ProSource Irrigation.