

[Kelowna](#) posted [May 12, 2016](#) by [Molly Gibson Kirby](#)

Okanagan mayors want you to conserve your water

The “Make Water Work” annual conservation campaign kicked off in the Okanagan on Wednesday morning.

A group of mayors gathered to chat about the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s (OBWB) Okanagan WaterWise program.

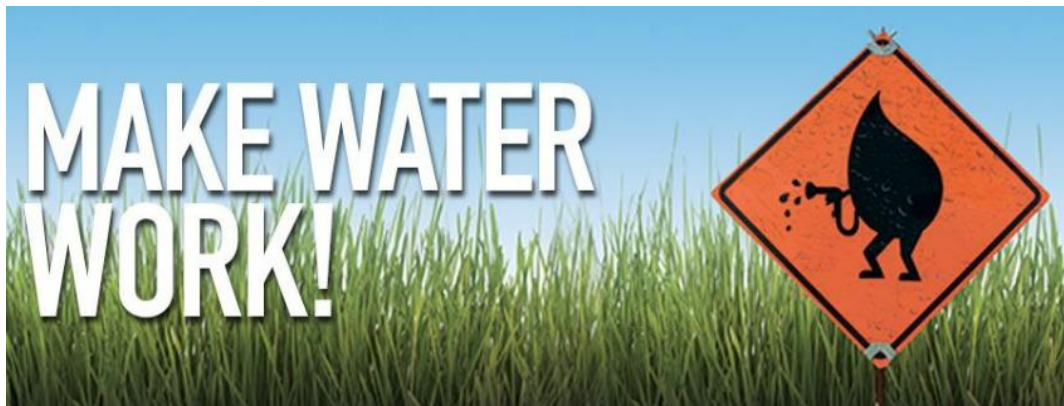


Photo Credit: www.MakeWaterWork.ca

“We had a healthy high elevation snowpack this winter, but we also had an early warm spring which caused much of it to melt quickly,” noted Okanagan Basin Water Board Chair and West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater. “At the same time, fire season has come early in Western Canada and we’ve had enough experience with devastating fires in the Okanagan to know we can’t waste our water.”

Findlater noted that if the Okanagan Valley doesn’t get enough rain, residents could be in the same spot as last year.

“If we don’t get our spring rains, we could end up in the same situation we were in last year, where the province orders utilities and residents to cut back on water use in an effort to meet socio-economic and environmental needs.”

Each year a city is named the Make Water Work champion. Last year the City of Armstrong took home that title.

“The City of Armstrong was very proud to have been named last year’s Make Water Work Champion,” said mayor, Chris Pieper. “The challenge was well-received by our residents who saw that they had a role in helping conserve water, especially during last summer’s drought.

“I think the awareness generated through the Make Water Work program has really helped bring attention to the value of water in our valley and right here at home, in Armstrong. We intend to defend our title this year and issue a challenge to Peachland to meet the standard we’ve set.”



Photo Credit: Corinne Jackson

During the event Corinne Jackson, OBWB’s communications director said the Make Water Work Plant Collection is expanding as well. This year’s collection includes low water landscapes that could help save water.

“This year the collection has been expanded to include 54 plants, including beautiful grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, perfect for the dry Okanagan climate,” explained Jackson.

“As well, two new garden centres have joined the program, bringing the total to nine, ensuring nearly all Okanagan residents can walk into a garden centre in their community and find the Make Water Work collection, making it easier than ever to find WaterWise choices for their yard.”

To join the challenge and find about more about water restrictions, by visiting www.MakeWaterWork.ca.