



A friend to the hummingbirds and honeybees. Swan Lake Nurseryland employee Donna Lewis nurtures a row of vibrant perennials on a lovely weekday morning. The daisy-like yellow coneflower is a type of *Echinacea* that has been known to attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

City and township make water work history

While Armstrong has claimed the Make Water Work championship title for the fourth time, the real winners are the residents in both the city and the township that proved their ability to rally together to raise awareness about water conservation and Make Water Work.

Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) communications director Corinne Jackson reported that this year's total pledges were the highest since 2016.

"The efforts of these two communities to raise awareness about water conservation has been phenomenal," Jackson said, noting that more than 670 people pledged to conserve water in their households,

which is a 28 per cent increase in total pledges compared to last year.

"But it's not just about the pledges. The Make Water Work web site had almost 12,000 visits in the last few months and more than 8,700 were first-time visitors," Jackson reported.

Armstrong Mayor Chris Pieper said this year every community organisation and club was contacted to ensure they pledged.

"Half the people we were harassing were from Spallumcheen, so it increased both of our numbers," Pieper laughed, noting how intermingled the city and township are.

Spallumcheen Mayor Christine Fraser said both staff and council worked hard to spread the word.

"Coun. Gerry Popoff is like the godfather of our community, and anytime someone called him, he told them to go to MakeWaterWork.ca, learn about water conservation and take the pledge—and they did," Fraser praised.

This increase in participation was not only seen virtually but throughout the community, according to Pieper.

"We definitely see people turning to more drought-tolerant landscapes, especially in new subdivisions," Pieper pointed out.

"I think people talk about it a lot more than they used to. There seems to be a greater recognition of water's importance," Pieper added.

"We live in a water-stressed region," ex-

plained OBWB chair Sue McKortoff.

"We still need to ensure there is enough water for late harvest farm crops, salmon coming back to our streams to spawn and potentially firefighting," Jackson furthered.

"We all have to do what we can," McKortoff added.

Everyone who pledged received \$2 off a purchase from garden centres that carry the *Make Water Work Plant Collection*.

Energy at work  FORTIS BC™

Up to **\$150** in **Rebates**?
Hop to it!

Have your natural gas appliances serviced by a licensed gas contractor and save up to **\$150**—but only until November 30, 2020.



Annual servicing helps maintain the life expectancy of your appliances and helps ensure they're operating safely and efficiently. With up to \$150 in rebates for select appliances serviced between September 1 and November 30, 2020, there's never been a better time to leap into action.

Appliance service rebates²

Furnace or boiler	\$50
Natural gas fireplace	\$25 (maximum two)
Tankless water heater	\$50

Apply online by December 7, 2020 at fortisbc.com/service.

Find a licensed gas contractor
Look for a contractor that employs certified gas fitters and has experience inspecting all types of gas appliances for safe operation.
Find one at fortisbc.com/findagascontractor.

¹Maximum rebate is \$150 when you have either a furnace or boiler, two fireplaces and one tankless water heater serviced. Note: storage tank water heaters are not eligible for service rebates.
²Conditions apply. Full terms and conditions are available at fortisbc.com/service.

FortisBC Energy Inc. uses the FortisBC name and logo under license from Fortis Inc. (20-069.4.5 09/2020)



Come visit our newly renovated office!



Armstrong Optometry
FAMILY EYE & VISION CENTRE

#4 - 3380 Smith Drive,
Armstrong
Ph: 250-546-2020
Fax: 250-546-3052