



Armstrong mayor Chris Pieper accepts the Make Water Work Community Champion award from the Okanagan Xeriscape Association's Sigrie Kendrick (photo courtesy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board)

WATER CONSERVATION AWARDS

By Liam Verster

Armstrong mayor named 'Make Water Work' champion

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The mayor of Armstrong has received recognition for work to reduce water waste in his community.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) has named Chris Pieper the Make Water Work Community Champion as the 2022 "Make Water Work" campaign nears its end.

Pieper earned the title as his city collected the most pledges per capita to conserve water over the summer.

"Winning is the prize, but awareness and actual conservation is the biggest prize," said Pieper in a release from OBWB.

This is the fifth title won in Armstrong. Previous wins were recorded in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Pieper joined other Okanagan mayors in pledging to Make Water Work this past summer, and Armstrong's council discussed water conservation at each meeting while also having information shared on the city's website.

Pieper, who is retiring this fall after 31 years as mayor or councillor in Armstrong, added winning the title involved engaging with the citizens.

"Involve your community, involve your volunteers, service clubs, garden clubs. You need to involve the community. You can't do it yourself."



Armstrong mayor Chris Pieper (left) poses with his community's Make Water Work Champion award along with fellow Okanagan mayors, Christine Fraser of Spallumcheen, Lake Country's James Baker, Osoyoos' Sue McKortoff, Vernon's Victor Cumming, and Cindy Fortin of Peachland. (photo courtesy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board)

Additionally, residents Randy Goncalves of Kelowna and Don Brain of Osoyoos were named Make Water Work winners by OBWB.

The winners each received \$500 to be used for Water Wise yard upgrades through local business sponsors.



Make Water Work winner Randy Goncalves of Kelowna (right) accepts \$500 WaterWise yard upgrade certificate from Carmen Walisser of Better Earth Gardens and Ed Hoppe with City of Kelowna (photo courtesy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board)



Make Water Work winner Don Brain of Osoyoos (right) accepts \$500 WaterWise yard upgrade certificate from Surinder Sandhu of Sandhu Greenhouses and Casey Brouwer with Town of Osoyoos (photo courtesy of the Okanagan Basin Water Board)

Though awards have been handed out, the Make Water Work campaign continues through to October 15.

Area residents are encouraged to continue following water restrictions to ensure there is enough water for fall crops and for fish returning to spawn in local creeks.