Okanagan celebrates Water Week with several activities

for everyone as the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its outreach program, Okanagan WaterWise, prepares to celebrate UN World Water Day and Canada Water Week, March 17 to 23.

"It's going to be a great week," noted OBWB chair Doug Findlater, the

mayor of West Kelowna. "We have much to celebrate. We have amazing champions in our region, working to protect and conserve our water.

"We also have challenges, and learning about these and gathering more champions will serve us

To kick things off, the OBWB's OkWater-Wise has teamed up with REEL Change SustainA-

bility Film Fest to present Watermark, named Best Canadian Film of 2013 the Toronto Film Critics Association and based on the phenomenal photography of Edward Burtynsky.

There will be one

screening only, on Mon-day, March 17, 7 to 9 p.m. at Famous Players Orchard Plaza 5 cinemas in Kelowna.

documentary, illustrates our complicated relationship with —how it influences

us, and how we have influenced it.

Tickets must be purchased in advance through EventBrite and will not be available at the door. For more details see www.OkWaterWise.ca.

Also kicking off on

the 4th annual Okanagan WaterWise Challenge, in which school class and individuals throughout the Okanagan, from kindergarten to Grade 12, are invited to 'Map their Tap' and submit multi-media entries, telling us where their water comes from, and why it's important to conserve and keep it

Contest prizes include a two-hour boat cruise on Okanagan Lake for a private class lesson on Okanagan water, presented by the Okanagan Science Centre, as well as piz-za parties and pool pass-es. For contest details vis-it www.OkWaterWise.ca.

The contest ends April 25.

And on Thursday, March 20, 1150 morning show host Phil Johnson will moderate the OBWB/ Okanagan WaterWise's annual public forum, this year entitled WAVES of Change—emPOWERing Okanagan Residents for a Sustainable Future

It is based on the U.N. World Water Day theme of "water and energy."

The forum will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Laurel Packinghouse.

Participating panelists will include Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB executive director; Keith Veerman, FortisBC's manager of PowerSense programs; Kiel Wilkie, engineering technician with the Dis-trict of Lake Country; Deren Sentesy, co-chair of Cascadia Green Building Council (Thompson Okanagan branch) and owner of En Circle Design Build; and Brian Guy, an Okanagan homeowner who recently built a water/

energy efficient home.

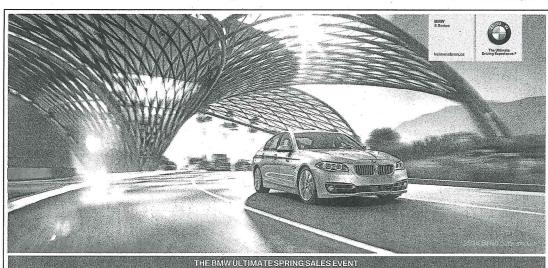
The panel event is free but seating is limited so pre-registration is re-

Visit www.OkWater-Wise.ca for more information.

The OBWB will also partner with UBC Oka-nagan as the Kelowna campus plans to hold events to celebrate UN World Water Day.

Those events will be a presentation March 19 by Dr. Jeannette Armstrong called A Syilx Perspec-tive on Water and Energy in the Columbia Basin and on March 20 a special World Water Day ceremony at the university and a fun "Splashdown" water research event.

For more details see www.worldwaterday. ok.ubc.ca/.



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