

Fitness focus of park project



By Vernon Morning Star

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Ground has been broken at Armstrong's Memorial Park for some new exercise equipment.

The equipment is courtesy of the city and its Age Friendly Community Advisory Committee.

"This is the next step into a healthier community," said committee chairperson Peter Rotzetter.

Funding for the project, in co-operation with the city, came from grants from New Horizon for Seniors and the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

Rotzetter is hoping the equipment will be installed and ready for use during the last week of July or the first part of August.

Water works

Council has been challenged by one of its own when it comes to water conservation.

Coun. Shirley Fowler challenged her peers to sign up at www.makewaterwork.ca and pledge to become more water wise.

"There was a news conference in Kelowna with the whole idea to raise awareness and education throughout the Okanagan for people to become more efficient and water wise," said Fowler.

Make Water Work is an effort of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Okanagan WaterWise program and local government and water utility partners to encourage outdoor water conservation during hot Okanagan summers, when most water is used.

The average Canadian uses 329 litres of water each day, but in the Okanagan, the average is 675 litres when averaged out over the year. The summer average in the region climbs to almost 1,000 litres.

"They're not asking you not to grow your own vegetables and flowers and have nice lawns," said Fowler.

"They're asking you to make priorities in your yard where you want to use water."

Anybody can sign up at www.makewaterwork.ca, and somebody who does sign up will win a grand prize draw of a \$5,000 yard makeover.

Councillors Kelly Rowe and Paul Britton took up Fowler on her challenged and signed on.

Labyrinth considered

Council is contemplating putting in a walking labyrinth, similar to the one found at Fintry Provincial Park, in Huculak Park.

The idea came after a letter from Armstrong resident Pat Weninger, who recently visited the maze at Fintry. She also included some potential designs for such a labyrinth in the new park.

"I'd like to give direction to staff to come up with plans and ideas to see if its feasible to install a labyrinth at Huculak Park or some other city-owned property," said Coun. Paul Britton, whose motion was unanimously supported.

Funding forthcoming

The city has been notified by the province's minister of community, sport and cultural development that it will receive a portion of the \$35.1 million for small community and regional district grants.

Armstrong will receive \$330,000.

"This year's funds have been earmarked for public works shop office, Huculak Park construction, computer and software replacement and fire protection," said chief administrative officer Melinda Stickney.

The provincial government funds support local governments to provide services in areas with small tax bases.

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