

World Water Day meeting

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Robert Sandford, with United Nations "Water for Life", was in Kelowna Monday to discuss better managing water resources.

Photo Credit: Steve Beskidny, CHBC News Kelowna

The Okanagan can learn good water management habits from other parts of the world, according to experts.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board and UBC-O sponsored a public forum on water issues Monday in Kelowna.

The event, held in conjunction with United Nation's World Water Day, is for sharing ideas on how to preserve the region's water quality.

"You have many people who come from elsewhere," says Robert Sandford with United Nations Water for Life. "Most of them are Canadians who've grown up with the myth of limitless water abundance where they lived. They think it's a birthright and when they see lakes like this it might be hard to imagine water scarcity as an issue."

Nelson Jatel, with the Okanagan Basin Water Board, says the water that comes down from the mountains in creeks and streams is what the Okanagan gets to 'spend' every year.

This year the snowpack is well below average in most of the Okanagan, and Jatel believes could be widespread water shortages.

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