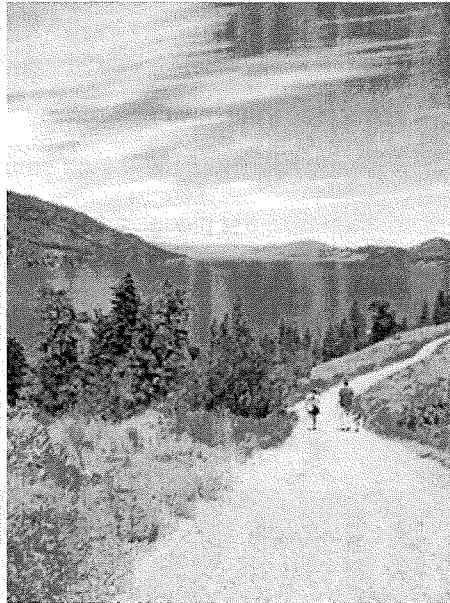


PEACHLAND VIEW

BE WATER WISE: Don't let the beautiful lake fool you

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Even though the Okanagan boasts many lakes, there is less fresh water available here than almost anywhere in Canada.

Everyone can pitch in and help conserve water

We're surrounded by beautiful lakes in the Okanagan and that can make it hard to believe we could run short of water.

Looks can be deceiving, however, and it has led to a myth of abundance in our valley.

Okanagan Lake fills 1.5 metres (about 4.9 feet) per year on average and we run the risk of "mining" it if we use more water than can be replenished.

The need to be water wise becomes clear when we consider:

There is less fresh water available in the Okanagan than almost anywhere in Canada;

Okanagan residents use 675 litres of water per day on average, more than twice the average Canadian; and

Residential outdoor water use accounts for 24 per cent of all water used in the Okanagan (used mostly on lawns) and is the second largest use of water after agriculture.

The Okanagan Basin Water Board, its Okanagan WaterWise program and local partners are encouraging residents to "make water work." By being efficient and effective with the water we use, we get the most from it and help ensure enough for farmers, fish and others that depend on a healthy supply. After all, our population is expected to increase 45 per cent by 2036 to more than 260,000 people.

Over the summer, Okanagan WaterWise is working with numerous partners to help you make water work, offering easy but meaningful ways to conserve water.

We'll be covering lawn care, landscaping and gardening, and we'll be sharing local stories on the importance of conserving our precious resource.

Here are some tips to get you started:

Put water on the nightshift. Water between dusk and dawn to prevent evaporation;

Don't mow, let it grow. Longer grass slows evaporation;

Water plants, not pavement. Save time, effort and money;

Leave grass clippings as mulch. This helps feed your lawn and retain moisture; and

Collect and use rainwater for container plants, flowerbeds and food gardens.

Learn more at www.makewaterwork.ca, then take the pledge and enter to win \$5,000 in WaterWise yard upgrades thanks to KelownaGardens.com. Make Water Work is an initiative of the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its Okanagan WaterWise program.

Contributed

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