

Armstrong taps into honour

By Vernon Morning Star

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Armstrong residents are taking a leadership role when it comes to conserving water.

The City of Armstrong is Okanagan Basin Water Board's new Make Water Work champion.

"We're pretty proud when we win any award, but winning this is a community victory. That's what makes it a true win," said Mayor Chris Pieper.

Okanagan residents can go to www.makewaterwork.ca and learn how to use water effectively and take a conservation pledge.

After joining valley mayors to take the pledge at this year's Make Water Work launch event in May, Pieper started to push the message in Armstrong.

"I didn't do it alone," he added, noting city staff started talking with residents as they came in at tax time, reminding them to conserve and encouraging them to take the pledge.

The city has also installed water meters and has been providing residents with mock bills showing how much they will be charged once billing comes into effect. Again, the last set of mock bills were used as an opportunity to provide residents with tips to make water work.

Armstrong residents reduced use by 40 per cent during recent restrictions.

"I think our community has really bought into water conservation and I see it across the valley – a recognition of the need to protect our water," said Pieper.

"People are talking about water, the forest fires, the drought. I think awareness is top of mind for people and they're concerned."

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