

COMMENTARY

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Prepare to take the pledge for Peachland and be more waterwise

MAYOR CINDY FORTIN
COMMENTARY

Clearly we experienced an eye-opening event last year, both locally and in the greater region surrounding us. That is, severe drought conditions.

Why bring this up while it is still early in the new year and we are surrounded by an abundance of snow? Because not only it has been predicted that in 2016 we'll see another drought, it could be even worse.

While our snow levels are currently well above normal it is expected that warmer weather will kick off the snow melt early again, as occurred last year.

This may mean that the growing season will also begin early, and many communities will have to balance agriculture demand and maintaining stream flows, in addition to residential usage.

That's why as part of the Mayor's Task Force on Climate Change (MTFCC) 2016 Drought Awareness Campaign, members of the Task Force will be asking Peach-



Mayor Cindy Fortin

land residents to take the "Make Water Work Pledge" - an initiative of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB). Taking the pledge is part of the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise outreach program and will run from May to

mid-September. Each year a community within the OBWB's area of focus, which encompasses the valley's three Regional Districts, is recognized for their combined community effort of taking the Make Water Work Pledge.

The results are calculated on a per capita basis. Last year the recipient was the City of Armstrong. Residents can also win prizes on an individual basis. In 2013 Peachland's own Don and Lynda Grant were the recipients of a \$5,000 prize toward Waterwise yard improvements, that can include water-saving irrigation products, and an array of drought resistant plants.

Why take the pledge? While the community recognition for the greatest number of water wise residents is a motivator in itself, even more important is the demonstration of the sincere commitment of our citizens when it comes to water conservation and management, both for now and for future generations.

It's still early, but a good time to start to get the word out, and consider ways to conserve water. I will be writing more on taking the pledge and the MTFCC's Drought Awareness Campaign in future columns.

For more information on the pledge you can visit makewaterwork.ca. Other sites of interest are okwaterwise.ca and obwb.ca. On another subject, I'd also like to remind residents that the district still needs your input on your street lighting prefer-

ence as part of the District's LED Street Light Pilot Project.

Four of the decorative lamp standards along Beach Avenue - in front of the District offices and the Gasthaus restaurant - have been retrofitted with lower energy LED lights. The lamp standards are clearly marked with coloured signs. The red marked post has a 100 watt white LED light, the blue post has a 100 watt warm light, the yellow post has a 60 watt white light, and the green post has a 60 watt warm light. The 100 watt LED lights have a potential 47 per cent energy savings, and the 60 watt LED lights a 68 per cent savings.

The district is asking the public to check out the lighting in the evening and let us know which type of lighting you would like to see illuminating the streets of downtown Peachland in the future. To submit your comments you can drop by the Planning Department at 5806 Beach Avenue, or call 250.767.2647 or email ktaylor@peachland.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

How can we build a stronger Canada in the face of terrorism?

MP DAN ALBAS
COMMENTARY

Last week the world was horrified to learn of yet another terror attack, this time in Burkina Faso where roughly 30 citizens, including six Canadians from Quebec, were brutally murdered in a senseless act of violence.

What is particularly disturbing is that these Canadians were all serving in the region as humanitarian workers helping those who are less fortunate.

This terror attack has again renewed calls on the Liberal government to state a clear and coherent position



Dan Albas, MP

on the allied campaign against terrorism.

As many citizens will recall, the Liberals made a promise to immediately withdraw Canada's CF-18s from the allied aerial campaign against ISIS if they were elected.

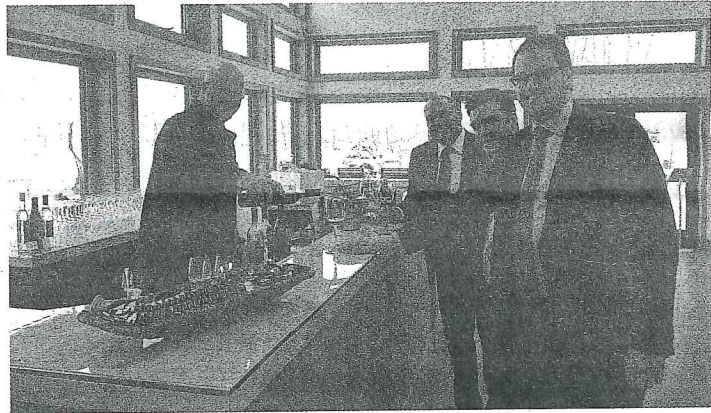
With the election over last October the

Liberal government has stated it will honour this promise, however to date our CF-18s continue to be a valuable part of the coalition air campaign against ISIS.

There was recently a meeting of our allied defence ministers in Paris specifically on this subject where it has also been widely reported that Canada has not been invited.

Although the Liberal government has been clear it intends to withdraw our CF-18 aircraft, the government has also stated it will instead implement other measures that have yet to be announced.

The Official Op-



MP DAN ALBAS is poured a tasting by former BC Jobs Minister Pat Bell, with Edmonton MP Matt Genereux and MP Todd Doherty at Northern Lights Estate Winery, Bell's new organic fruit winery, during the BC Natura Resources Forum in Prince George last week.

CONTRIBUTED

Peachland Places of Faith

Grace Lutheran Church
1162 Hudson Road
West Kelowna, B.C.
250-769-5685

Sunday Services
Contemporary Worship
Service 9 a.m.

Traditional Worship
Service 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
Ages 3 through Grade 6

www.gracelutherankelowna.com
We are wheelchair accessible

St. Margaret's Anglican Church

Sunday Worship
10 a.m.

Tuesday Morning
9:30 a.m. Study, Coffee & Conversation

Office Hours
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Monday to Friday

Rev. Robin Graves

4th Street & Brandon Ave
250-767-3131
www.stmargaretspeachland.org

PEACHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH
Affiliated with The Protestant Church of Canada

Sunday Worship 3 pm

"The Story Continues"
Chapter 9 - The Faith of a Foreign Woman
- Ruth

Poduck February 14

For more information call
Don McMillan 250-300-1643
John 250-767-2921
4464 4th Street
(St. Margaret's Anglican Church building)

Peachland United Church
4421 4th Street
250-767-2206
"Let Us Worship Together"

Theme for Jan. 31
"Watercore Theology"

Hall rental contact Doreen
250-767-2132

Sunday Morning Service
10 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Wayne Atkinson
all are welcome

position believes that Canada should continue to stand with our allies in the war against terror, as it has long been a Canadian tradition to stand with our allies to fight for those who are less fortunate or unable to stand against tyranny and oppression.

This remains a challenging subject and one that can be divisive, as I hear frequently from citizens who strongly support the mission but I also hear from those who are upset that our CF-18s are still actively bombing in spite of promises they would be withdrawn.

I will continue to provide updates on this subject as they become available.

On an entirely different subject, late last

week the Supreme Court announced that it will extend the deadline for parliament to provide a legislative response to the assisted suicide ruling from last year.

Although the government requested a six-month extension, the Supreme Court granted four months to reflect the time parliament was dissolved as a result of the recent election.

There is roughly twelve weeks the House of Commons will be sitting over the next four months so this will be a subject that will likely feature prominently once the House of Commons resumes sitting next week.

Although much of my time will be spent

in Ottawa over the next few months I welcome your comments, questions and concerns.

One of the high lights of my time in Ottawa is hearing directly from citizens throughout Centra Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola on issue of importance to our local communities.

In turn I am often able to share this information in member statements, speeches and question within the House of Commons. I am truly excited for this next parliament to get underway and to begin raising issue of concern in Ottawa. Ultimately this is how we help build a stronger Canada. I can be reached at Dan.Albas@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 1-800-665-8711.