

NEWS

www.pentictonwesternnews.com VOL. 50 ISSUE 39 FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

PLAY BALL
page 21

Kids learn the basics of fastball in the Tim Hortons Learn to Play program



WATER CONSERVATION MESSAGE

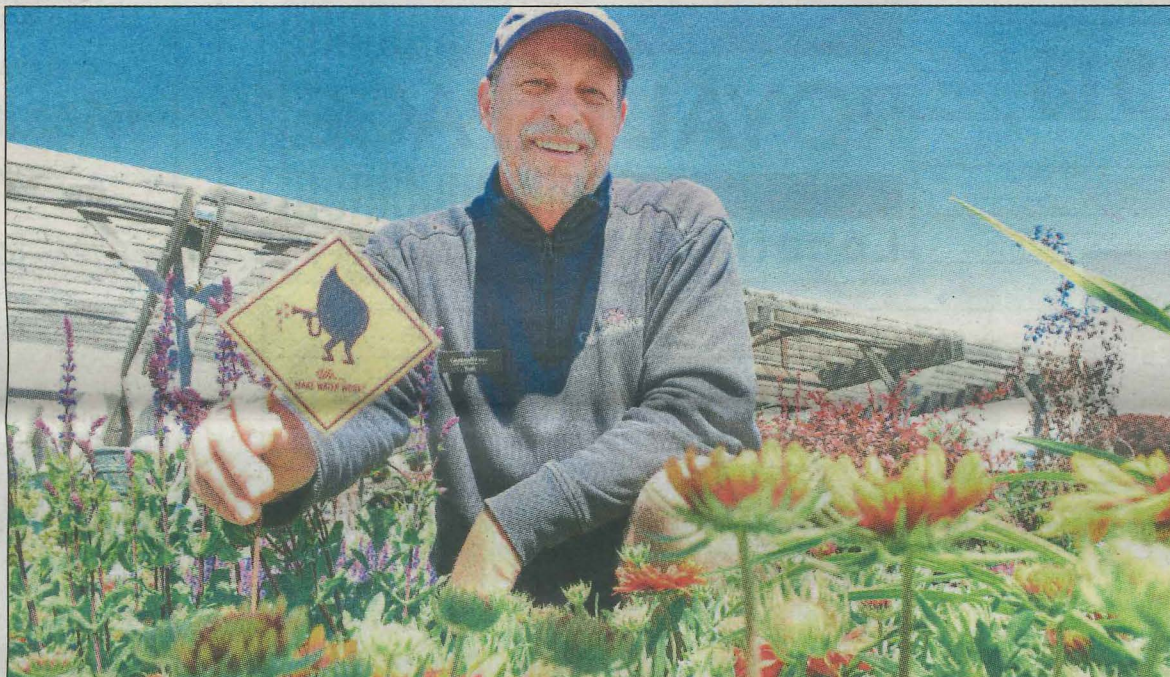
Kevin Parnell and
Kristi Patton
Black Press

Municipal leaders from around the Okanagan gathered Wednesday to urge residents to change their water use habits and conserve water as the region — known as one of the driest in Canada — once again appears headed for drought conditions this year.

Politicians from nine municipalities — from Osoyoos to Vernon and everywhere in between — pledged to take a Make Water Work Challenge and change their own water use habits heading into another Okanagan summer.

"I think *MakeWaterWork.ca* is a great resource for people who want to better understand it. There is great pictures and information, you can see the tips and tricks and various city's policies on water conservation," said Penticton Mayor Andrew Jakubeit. "I encourage everyone who is thinking of water management and re-doing your lawns to use that resource. It will give you a push to do something different in your backyard and make a difference because collectively we can all make a difference."

Local politicians from every municipality stood in front of what's known as the UnH2O Xeriscape Demonstration Gardens at the H2O Centre in Kelowna to speak about the benefits of using more xeriscape plants, including 54 plants in the Make Water Work Plant Collection, plants that need less water and are perfect for the dry Okanagan climate.



NURSERY MANAGER Scott Austin of the Penticton GardenWorks with the store's display of plants, which are included in the Make Water Work Challenge in the Okanagan this summer. Anticipated drought conditions again this year has prompted politicians to urge residents to conserve water as much as possible.

Mark Brett/Western News

"Our behaviours today are what our children are going to learn. Hopefully down the road, being water wise will be the norm for future generations," said Cindy Fortin, mayor of Peachland.

The Okanagan is coming off a year where the provincial government enacted a level 4 drought and this year's warm spring and early fire season are pointing towards another year of extremely dry conditions in the area. According to the B.C. River Forecast Centre the extremely warm periods in April have led to significant and rapid melt of the snowpack, almost one month ahead

of schedule. The concern of another drought is there.

"Potentially," said Greg Bethel of the River Forecast Centre. "The supply of water later in the season is the main concern because it is going to put pressure on the flows into June, July and August."

The forecast centre has been monitoring the snowpack since 1980 and Bethel said this year's melt is unprecedented.

The message of water conservation is being hammered down by local politicians as well as the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and municipalities, all

of which are enacting some sort of water restrictions or conservation plans. In Penticton there are water restrictions from May 1 to Aug. 31. This includes even-numbered street addresses irrigating on even numbered days of the month and vice versa for odd

numbered street addresses.

Homes, in mobile home parks, to water according to unit number. Manual sprinklers can water from 6 to 8 a.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. while automatic irrigation can run 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. A full list of regulations by city or regional district area can be found on *makewaterwork.ca*.

"Hopefully the message is getting out there," said Lake Country Coun. Rob Geier. "Young people are the ones you can mould in elementary and high school. They are the ones who will have the helm and they won't even look to (green) lawns, they will look to xeriscaping. (Municipalities) need to take a lead role. We can't go planting and having sprinklers going all the time and expect residents to reduce water as well."

Several municipalities have moved to water metering systems in the past years while others have already enacted water restrictions on residents this year. But with bylaw enforcement mostly done only if and when there is a complaint lodged, it's up to individuals to change water patterns and think of the future when it comes to the amount of water that will be available as the years move on.

See WATER on PG. 2

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is less water available per person in the Okanagan than anywhere else in Canada.
 - The Okanagan has one of the highest rates of water use per person in Canada.
 - 24 per cent of all water used in the Okanagan is used on our household lawns and gardens.
- From www.makewaterwork.ca

Great Power & Reliability • Powerful Connections to Your Favourite Devices

Specially designed for people with severe-to-profound hearing loss and is one of the most powerful hearing aids on the market. Wirelessly connect your Boost™ hearing aid to your mobile device.



Beltone
Helping the world hear better



Beltone Boost™
reddot award 2015 winner
product design www.beltone.ca



Shelley Matheis
Registered,
Hearing Instrument
Practitioner



Cherie L. Fowlie
Registered,
Hearing Instrument
Practitioner



Debbie Mulligan
Board Cert. in Hearing
Instrument Sciences;
Registered, Hearing
Instrument Practitioner



PENTICTON - 250-492-5255 • OSOYOOS - 250-495-6535 • SUMMERLAND - 250-494-8778
PEACHLAND - 778-479-9060 • OLIVER - 250-498-4544 • TOLL FREE 1-800-793-1787

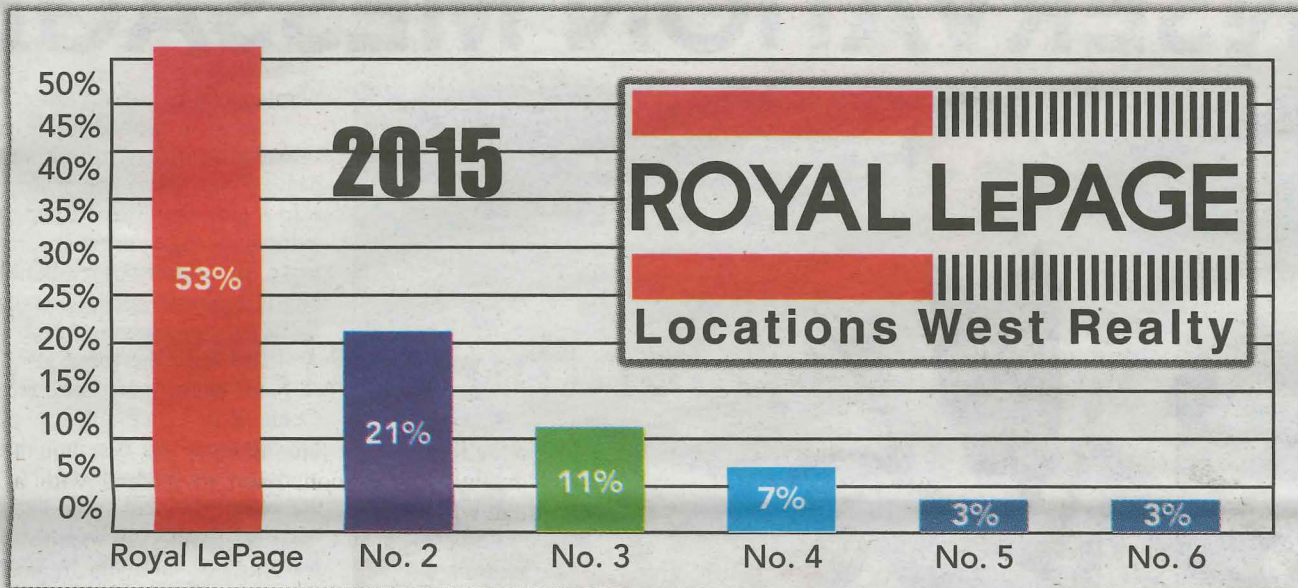
Made for
iPod iPhone iPad

Beltone Legend is compatible with iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, iPhone 5s, iPhone 5c, iPhone 5, iPad Air 2, iPad Air, iPad (4th generation), iPad mini 2, iPad mini with Retina display, iPad mini and iPod touch (5th generation) using iOS7.X or later. Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone, iPad and iPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

53%

Market Share 2015

**FOR BUYERS: WE HAVE THE LARGEST LISTING POOL.
FOR SELLERS: OVER 60 REALTORS TO SELL YOUR HOME.**



"Based in whole or in part on information supplied by the South Okanagan Real Estate Board for 2015"

#1 in Penticton for 34 Consecutive Years!

www.royallepage.ca

484 Main Street, Penticton • 250.493.2244 • 1.800.734.0457

Body of missing senior found

Western News Staff

The search is over for a Penticton man declared missing after he was found dead.

RCMP confirmed Wednesday that 76-year-old Kees Van Egmond was found in a remote location in the Oliver/Osoyoos area.



Penticton RCMP Cpl. Ted Manchulenko said foul play is not suspected and that police believe the Penticton senior succumb to a medical condition.

KEES VAN EGMOND was found dead in a remote location in the Oliver/Osoyoos area.

Submitted photo

RCMP began the search for Van Egmond when his family contacted police after not hearing from him since May 4, saying it was unusual for him to be out of contact.

The RCMP are now attempting to contact next of kin, Manchulenko said.

Making water work

From WATER on PG. 1

"If we don't get the rains in May and June that we want and we need, not only will we see our reservoirs and lakes drawn down, but if you get two or three years of that, you're in trouble," said West Kelowna Mayor and OBWB chair Doug Findlater. "I dread summer now because of the wildfire season. We always seem to have some area being evacuated. It feels like summer now, but we need to be concerned about this."

The Make Water Work challenge lays out several ways residents can conserve water. Go to makewaterwork.ca to take the challenge and to find plenty of information on conserving water as well as on the make water work plant collection.

"This year the collection has been expanded to include 54 plants, including beautiful grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, perfect for the dry Okanagan climate," said Corinne Jackson, OBWB communications director. "As well, two new garden centres have joined the program, bringing the total to nine, ensuring nearly all Okanagan residents can walk into a garden centre in their community and find the Make Water Work collection."

Residents who take the challenge will be entered to win several prizes including a grand prize of a water wise yard upgrade with \$6,000.

Participating garden centres offering plants in the Make Water Work Collection in the South Okanagan include GardenWorks Penticton, Grasslands Nursery in Summerland, Sagebrush Nursery in Oliver and Sandhu Greenhouses in Osoyoos.