

Lake Country Calendar

Black Press



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Ask me about
my new listings!

May 18, 2016

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New CFO
selected by Lake
Country to start job in
June. **2**

**Singer/
songwriter**
to perform with a band
at Creekside
Theatre. **2**



Douglas Farrow
photos

Lake Country's young people gathered outside George Elliot Secondary on the weekend to paint sidewalks as part of the Keep it Real: Lake Country Youth Festival. Locals, like Maddy Elia (above left) worked with professional artists to create the works of art in a public space by putting unique designs down on a stretch of sidewalk between the high school and Lake Country municipal hall. The festival featured live music as well as an exhibition of postcards created by more of Lake Country's young people.

Flyers

- Axiom Group
- Home Depot
- Jysk
- Rona
- Save-On-Foods
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Sobey's
- Staples
- Tourism Kelowna



KEVIN PARNELL/LAKE COUNTRY CALENDAR

THERE ARE WAYS to ease the pressure on your use of water and still have an attractive garden without a blanket of water guzzling grass.

Make Water Work in and around your own home

KEVIN PARNELL

Twenty-eight years ago, when Rob Geier first planted the seeds for what would become a garden beautiful enough to join the Lake Country Garden Tour, there was plenty of grass around the perennial garden and much water was needed to keep it going.

But the Lake Country councillor says times have changed and while

his garden is still a labour of love that needs water, he has vowed to use less water and continue to change his habits as the water resource in the Okanagan Valley continues to be stretched by dry conditions.

"When we first planted we did have a lot of grass and a lot of it has been eliminated over time," said Geier last week as he took the Make Water Work

pledge to reduce his personal water use. "I was the furthest thing from someone who saved water and I'm moving towards that now. I'm more cognizant of the water being wasted. We have been replacing a lot of the plants with xeriscape plants. We used to have nine zones with overhead sprayers and now we are down to two

SEE WATER A3

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Sold

151, 9020 Jim Bailey Road
2.95 Acres with Okanagan Lake View. This solid home has 3 beds up & a new 2 bed in-law suite down. The garage is an enjoy having a garage and fully fenced back yard. Loads of parking so bring the RV.

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14111 Moberly Road
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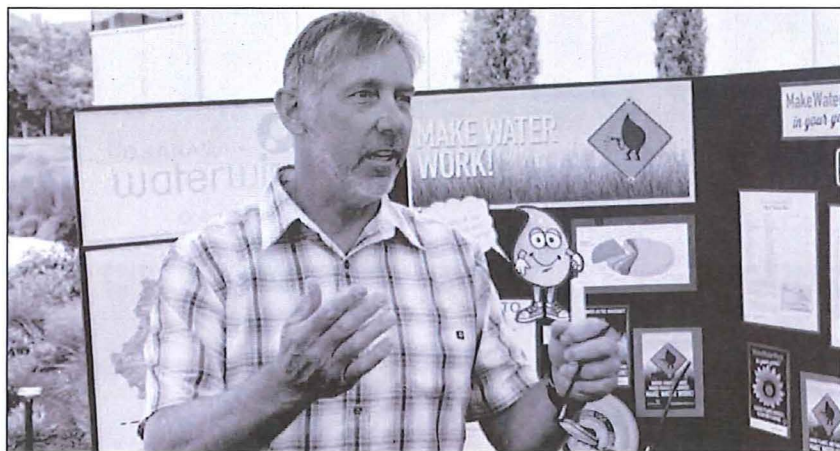
MLS® 10110036 \$749,000

1725 Harrison Road
2 acre luxury property with Okanagan Lake View! The home has over 6000 sq ft of gorgeous living space. If you enjoy entertaining you will appreciate the salt water pool with 4000 sq ft of stamped concrete patio

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news



KEVIN PARNELL/LAKE COUNTRY CALENDAR

ROB GEIER, a councillor with the District of Lake Country, says he is more aware of water usage in his own garden and pledges to change his water habits as another dry Okanagan summer approaches.

Get serious about water use

WATER FROM A1

overhead sprayers and the rest are drip.”

Geier was in Kelowna, along with mayors and local politicians from every municipality from Vernon to Osoyoos, pledging to take a Make Water Work Challenge and change their own water use habits heading into another Okanagan summer.

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.

However, despite the message 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, the message doesn’t appear to be getting through to everyone.

“(I) wish they wouldn’t attack water so much cause (sic) I use it as bug

spray. I spray off the bugs with it every day and every day I water. Screw the district. I would much rather have water sprayed on my plants than pesticide,” commented Sharon Smith on the *Kelowna Capital News* Facebook page, responding to a water conservation tip.

Still, Geier felt the message is getting through and he was hopeful that the leadership shown by the OBWB as well as the municipalities will push people to think twice before over-using water.

“Hopefully the message is getting out there,” said Geier, a retired teacher who said adults today need to show leadership and educate the youth and future homeowners. “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.”

In Lake Country, Geier pointed to the district’s investment in water with a 20-year, \$79-million water master plan. The district is in the midst of installing water metres on every residential, agriculture, commercial and industrial water user. Residential installations are complete and residents have now received the first of four mock-bills that will show what they pay and their water usage.

Geier said he’s hopeful the water metres will help people conserve water.

“I think the majority of the people will get the (water conservation) message,” he said. “And I think it’s because of the metering. It’s easy to abuse water when everyone is paying the same amount. When you are paying the same amount you are going to keep your lawn and garden green. I don’t want to see it where people allow their places to fall apart and everything dries out. I think it’s about educating people so they will

look at these types of xeriscape plants. They are drought tolerant plants and a lot of them bloom all year.”

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 worth \$6,000.

Stretch our water further

- **Is your water productive?**
Put water on the nightshift. Water between dusk and dawn. Putting water to work during the coolest part of the day prevents evaporation. A good rule of thumb is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Check with your water utility for specific watering restrictions in your area.
 - **Is your water working efficiently?**
Put water where it’s needed. Don’t let water waste time, effort and money. It should sprinkle your lawn or garden, not pavement.
 - **Is your water working effectively?**
Leave grass two to three inches tall (five to eight centimetres). Don’t mow. Let it grow. Water stays longer when grass is longer. Leaving your grass longer slows evaporation from the soil making it work more effectively.
 - **Leave grass clippings as mulch.** Leaving grass clippings on your lawn helps feed the lawn and retain moisture, requiring less water and reducing evaporation.
 - **Aerate your lawn and top dress with compost.** Aerating the lawn in early spring or fall improves water penetration. Water also works best with organic products like compost which minimize over-fertilizing and help prevent storm-water pollution.
 - **Does your water work well with others?**
Pair water with plants suitable to our dry climate. Okanagan water works best when paired with plants suitable to our dry climate: drought-tolerant turf, and native low-water variety plants. Visit the Okanagan Xeriscape Association’s Plant Database (okanaganxeriscape.org/db/) for an extensive listing of WaterWise plants for the Okanagan.
 - **Does your water simply stand around?**
One inch a week will do. Most lawns need just 2.5 cm (one inch) of water per week—about the depth of a tuna can. Watering deeply and less often promotes deep, healthy root growth. If you’re watering deeply but not seeing results the problem may be inadequate topsoil. Try top dressing with half an inch of compost, then over-seeding for a thick and vigorous lawn.
 - **Check sprinkler heads.** Notice brown spots? Water needs supervising. Sometimes sprinkler heads break, or plants grow around the sprinkler head, preventing effective water use. Check sprinkler heads and make necessary fixes to ensure they’re working right.
 - **Install water-saving irrigation products.** Save money on your water bill by using high efficiency irrigation, like drip or microjet, for shrubs and gardens.
 - **Collect and use rainwater.** It’s free. Rain barrels collect fresh, naturally soft and chemical-free water that is great for container plants, flower beds, and food gardens.
- For more water conservation tips online, go to makewaterwork.ca.

Places you can get water wise plants for your garden

- Participating garden centres offering plants in the Make Water Work collection. Phone: 250-769-7272
- CENTRAL OKANAGAN**
Kel Lake Greenhouses
4351 Shanks Rd., Lake Country
Phone: 250-868-1889
Art Knapp Kelowna
1994 Springfield Rd., Kelowna
Phone: 250-860-5633
Email: artknapp.kelowna@shaw.ca
Bylands Garden Centre
1600 Byland Road, West Kelowna
- NORTH OKANAGAN**
Blue Mountain Nursery Company
1871 Pleasant Valley Rd., Armstrong,
Phone: 250.546.8181
E-mail: info@bluemountainnursery.ca
Swan Lake Nurseryland
7920 Highway 97, Vernon
Phone: 250-542-7614
Email: admin@myswanlake.com

WALK WITH US!

If someone you know is in pain, don't just stand there. Walk with us.

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna | 1k and 5K Route Options
Registration Open: 8:30am | Walk Start Time: 10:00am

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