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## Rain barrels aid in conservation of water

Ron Seymour **Apr 22, 2018**



Corinne Jackson of the Okanagan Basin Water Board explains the workings of a rain barrel to Shannon Weys on Sunday.  
Ron Seymour

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Shannon Weys believes having a rain barrel will help her make better use of her now forgotten backyard.

The Kelowna woman was among hundreds of residents who bought rain barrels and composters during one-day sale co-ordinated by the Central Okanagan regional district.

"Our kids are all grown, and we hardly ever go out into our backyard anymore," Weys said Sunday. "I really want to get a garden going, and I like how a rain barrel will help with water conservation."

A total of 125 rain barrels were offered, at \$80 each, along with 350 composters, priced at \$35.

Before the sale started at 9 a.m., about 150 vehicles were lined up in the parking lot of Okanagan College, used as the distribution centre.

By 10:15 a.m., only seven rain barrels remained, though the supply of composters was expected to last for awhile longer.



Both items were sold on a first-come, first-served basis, in contrast to past years where advance purchases were necessary.

"That system took a little bit of organizing so we were doing the distribution in March," waste reduction coordinator Rae Stewart said. "That was before a lot of people had even really begun to think about gardening especially if it was a longer winter, like we had this year."

Sunday's fine weather, and the forecast of temperatures into the mid- and high-20s by the weekend clearly had many people eager to get growing.

Distribution of the composters and rain barrels was aided by volunteers from the Kelowna Secondary Owls football team.

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