## Let drought convince you to make transition to Xeriscape

frigid temperatures, that our collective cipitation coupled resource - water. gardeners have a perception was in- with above-average brief respite from the deed correct. physical aspect of that invariably leads 2021 was the driest clared by Agricul- per cent of water to reflections on the on record for Kelow- ture Canada in Au- used in the Okanaprevious season and na. planning for the upcoming one.

in gardening circles received only 206 last year was: 'It's so millimetres of pre- seem overwhelming, dry this year' echoed cipitation in 2021 there are choices we we can all take acin gardens up and compared to the av- can make, as indi- tion to make a difdown the valley.

With snow and Well, it turns out

A common refrain reports Kelowna the drought scale. erage of 380 mm.

Although this can scapes. viduals, to conserve ference.

This lack of pre- our most precious

Modelling by the temperatures led to Okanagan Basin Environment Can- 'exceptional drought' Water Board shows gardening, a break ada confirms that conditions being de- that a whopping 24 gust last year, and a gan Valley goes to Meteorologist drought level of D4 domestic outdoor Doug Lundquist - the most severe on purposes- watering our household land-

And this is where



Sigrie Kendrick Add water conservation to your list of New Year resolutions. This is an at-

tainable resolution.

Memberships are reasonable and include many perks, so join the Okanagan Xeriscape Association.

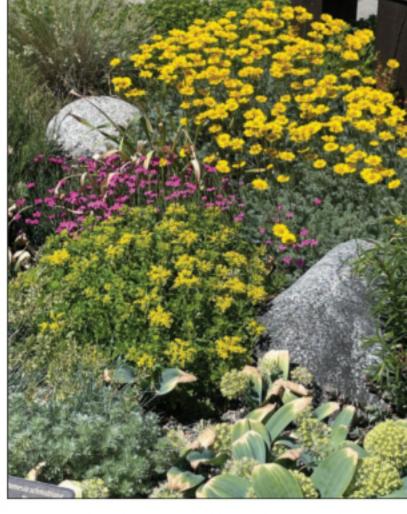
Take a class on xeriscaping, familiarize yourself with the searchable plant database on our website www.okanaganxeriscape.org

Xeriscape is a term that was coined in Denver in the late 1970s in response savings in your own new plantings of gan climate. to unprecedented garden. drought there and is not 'xero-scaping'.

stark and barren.

yourself at the array the seasons. of inspiring photos ciples.

lead to huge water



Combat drought by transitioning to colourful xeric landscaping. (Judie Steeves photo)

Xeriscaping is gar- Xeriscape Demon- the water-thirsty ful for the ongoing dening with nature stration Garden lo- cedar hedge, which financial support of and it is both lush cated in front of the will be augment- the Okanagan Basin and colourful, not H2O Aquatic Center ed this Spring with Water Board and is Take a look for Kelownathroughout additions.

You'll

Beginning with the annual May plant find here in our Okana- org.

drought-tolerant The Okanagan Xe-As the weather trees and shrubs, riscape Association warms, visit our plus alternatives to is extremely grateon Gordon Drive in further perennial proud to collaborate with the Make Water Join us for our Work program.

Sigrie Kendrick is a on our website of first bulbs emerging sale, the primary Master Gardener and landscapes based on from the thawing OXA fundraiser and executive director of use of drought-tol- soil, to a variety of a fantastic place to the Okanagan Xeerant plants and the perennials and annu- find new and inter- riscape Association seven xeriscape prin- als through the year, esting plants, many and can be reached at you can take home of which have been 778-363-8360 or by Learn how relative- ideas for your own successfully trialed email at exec dir@ ly small changes can favourite landscapes. in volunteer gardens okanaganxeriscape.

## **KNOW A** HOMETOWN

Do you know someone that goes above and beyond to hake our community great? We want to tell their story and spread the inspiration throughout our communities.

We are looking for those Unsung Heroes that help their neighbours keep their driveway clear, someone that Volunteers at the Food Bank, a teacher that goes the extra mile with their students, Emergency Services personal or a mentor that helped an individual or organization thrive. These are just a few examples of the many people we would like to recognize every week in our Hometown Heroes feature.

If you know someone that is a Hometown Hero please send their name, email and phone number to adsales@kelownacapnews.com.