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Managing stormwater focus of workshop

Published: **August 19, 2010 6:00 PM**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board and the B.C. Water and Waste Association will co-host From Rain to Resource: Managing Stormwater in a Changing Climate Oct. 28 and 29 at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

The goal of the workshop is to share positive and innovative developments in managing rainwater and discuss how barriers to change are being overcome in communities in B.C. and beyond.

A trade show will also be held to allow innovative companies to share the latest developments in rainwater management technologies.

"I've had a few people ask about the title of the conference," remarked Anna Warwick Sears, executive director of the OBWB.

"In the old days, we used to try to get the stormwater into the storm sewers as fast as possible, and run it into the lake to prevent flooding. But rain really is a resource if you handle it properly.

"To have a healthy and sustainable water supply we need more emphasis on keeping pollution out of our lakes and streams, with less runoff during storms.

"We can also use the water to recharge the aquifers under our neighbourhoods. This workshop is about how to do these things by following the example of other communities that are doing it successfully. Plus, the long-term benefits to the environment and the tax savings can be huge."

For more see bcwwa.org/seminars/RtoR.htm.

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