

Drinking Water Week 2011 – Highlights

Communities BC-wide participated to create awareness of the value of water.
Join us for Drinking Water Week 2012!

'Get to know your H₂O' was the theme of BC Water & Waste Association's 2011 Drinking Water Week initiative (May 1-7). The purpose of the campaign was to increase public awareness of the value of our water and the need to protect and conserve it. The Province of British Columbia and municipalities province-wide proclaimed Drinking Water Week 2011, with many communities holding tours, displays and contests.



The Government of BC proclaimed Drinking Water Week 2011 in the legislature. Attending were: (L-R) Mike de Jong, BC Minister of Health; Daisy Foster, BCWWA CEO; Ida Chong, BC Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; John Slater, MLA; Jim Mattison, BCWWA Board Member.



The City of Vancouver was one of many municipalities that proclaimed Drinking Water Week. Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson (r) and BCWWA board president Len Stein celebrated with a toast of Vancouver tap water at City Hall.



BCWWA CEO Daisy Foster and City of Kelowna mayor Sharon Shepherd toast Drinking Water Week at Kelowna City Hall.



Taking a break at the pristine Sooke reservoir during the Capital Regional District's free public tour of its watershed.



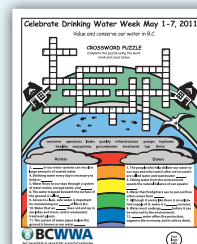
BCWWA Communications Coordinator Alana Tees promoting Drinking Water Week at BCWWA's Annual Conference in Kelowna.



Burnaby Drinking Water Week display at City Hall.



Two page spread in Vancouver Sun.



Children's activities and other resources were available through BCWWA.

Highlights

- 'I ♥ BC Water' buttons were a runaway hit – over 7,000 buttons distributed throughout BC.
- BCWWA produced *The People Behind the Water*, a short video featuring people working at each stage of water and wastewater processing. Communities presented the video at various events. View it online at www.bcwwa.org.
- Educational advertorials through sponsor Black Press were featured in 36 community newspapers. Many municipalities customized the advertorials with their local content and logos.
- BCWWA ran a two-page advertising feature in the *Vancouver Sun*, with support from local advertisers. It included conservation tips, water use statistics and ways to get involved.

- Media interviews and DWW coverage were featured in print, TV and radio.
- The BC Government proclaimed Drinking Water Week 2011 in the Legislature. MLAs were given 'I ♥ BC Water' buttons.

We hope this awareness week helped instill public confidence in our water supply and the dedicated people who work to provide us with safe drinking water and manage our wastewater. By engaging local governments and communities, we hope to create a lasting awareness of the value of our water.

Our goal is to engage more people in more communities in 2012 – get involved now!

- Drinking Water Week 2012: May 13-19.
- Budget now for your DWW 2012 activities – customizable resources and tools will be provided by BCWWA.
- Contact Alana Tees at 604-433-4389 or dww@bcwwa.org to join our contact list and find out more.
- Visit www.drinkingwaterweek.org for more ideas on how to get involved.



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DRINKING WATER WEEK 2011: EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Okanagan Basin Water Board: Kids aged 5-15 completed an online questionnaire and were entered in a draw to win a pool and pizza party for 10 friends in the Water Wise Challenge. Prizes were given to a lucky winner in each of: South, North and Central Okanagan.

Abbotsford Mission Water & Sewer Commission: A free tour of the Norrish Creek Water Treatment Plant was held in Mission, BC. Attendees learned about the process required to treat their water before it reaches their taps.

City of Campbell River: 'Powerful Water Tours' educated residents of Campbell River about where their drinking water comes from. Attendees visited John Hart Lake, the community watershed, the City of Campbell River Ultra Violet Treatment Facility, the John Hart Generating Station, and the Norm Woods Environmental Centre. Residents also learned about watershed and water conservation issues in Campbell River.

Capital Regional District (Victoria): Hundreds of people attended free day-long bus tours of the region's pristine watersheds, located in Sooke, to learn more about where their water comes from. This was a unique opportunity for visitors as these watersheds are usually closed to the public.

City of Coquitlam: A mobile water wagon for people to fill up their own reusable water bottles was a highlight in Coquitlam. At an open house at City Hall, residents learned about local water from source to tap, and entered a draw to win a rain barrel or water wise kits by participating in a water taste test. Residents could also take the Tap Water Pledge and pick up an entry form for the kids' colouring contest.

City of Dawson Creek Environmental Department: Free public tours of its water supply treatment facilities were offered, including the Arras Water Intake, Hanson Reservoir, Dawson Creek Monitoring Station, and Watershed Stewardship Office. Dawson Creek residents learned about how their tap water is delivered and managed, and the importance of valuing and conserving this precious resource.

City of Prince George: Classroom learning was provided through the Wacky Wet Water Program throughout the week for grades 4-7, as well as free tours of the Fish Trap Island Well House.

District of Summerland: Residents were invited to tour the local water treatment plant and learn about the journey their water takes to get to their taps. Attendees enjoyed a photo display of Summerland's water system, including its history, watershed, and storage system. They also learned about threats to the watershed and ways to protect it.

City of Vancouver: A Water Wise workshop at Van Dusen Gardens and a photo contest to encourage people to think about how drinking water is used for our gardens and lawns were highlights of the City of Vancouver's outreach. Entrants submitted photos of simple things they have done in their gardens to reduce water use, and inspired and challenged others to make similar changes.

Science World: Throughout the week, Science World held water-related activities for kids that challenged them to calculate their water footprint and build their own rain gauge. A 'Water Detectives' video was also shown.

City of Vernon: Residents attended a free public opening of the new Duteau Creek Water Treatment plant. The plant serves those living in the Greater Vernon Area, and has significantly reduced turbidity and colour of the region's drinking water.

Cowichan Valley Regional District: Activities included open houses and barbecues at the Satellite Park Water Treatment Plant and the Kerry Village Water Treatment Plant. Residents were encouraged to come and learn how their tap water is treated, while enjoying some delicious barbecue fare.

District of Peachland: Residents were invited to an Open House and Water Intake Tour to celebrate the week, and encourage people to "get to know their H₂O." Residents enjoyed a tour of the Deep Creek Intake and learned how the water is treated and tested. They also viewed poster boards showing the future water treatment plant and reservoir.

DRINKING WATER WEEK 2011 COMMITTEE

Thank you to our province-wide Drinking Water Week Committee for your help planning Drinking Water Week and for being champions in your own communities!

Amy Wakeford, City of Abbotsford
Carolyn Stewart, City of Penticton
Corinne Jackson, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Deborah Walker, Capital Regional District
DG Blair, Blair Whitehead & Associates
Gil Bogaard, City of Nelson
Gina Layte-Liston, City of Prince George
Heather Mitchell, Columbia Basin Trust
Jennifer Bailey, City of Vancouver
Jennifer Munro, City of Kamloops
Jeremy Sagebiel, City of Powell River
Karen Prentice, City of Powell River
Kevin Reilly, Capital Regional District
Luisa Richardson, City of Campbell River
Peter Cech, City of Vancouver
Renee Clark, Regional District of North Okanagan
Tracey Weldon, City of Burnaby
Virginia Sarrazin, Yukon Engineering Services

PROCLAMATIONS

The following communities and regional districts proclaimed Drinking Water Week in 2011:

City of Armstrong
City of Burnaby
City of Campbell River
City of Colwood
City of Dawson Creek
City of Duncan
City of Fort St. John
City of Kelowna
City of Nanaimo
City of New Westminster
City of North Vancouver
City of Parksville
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Port Alberni
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody
City of Prince George
City of Surrey
City of Trail
City of Vancouver
Comox Valley Regional District
District of Logan Lake
District of Mission
District of New Hazelton
District of Saanich
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Town of Creston
Town of Ladysmith
Village of Tahsis

WATER FOOTPRINT CONTEST

facebook

PENTICTON RESIDENT WINS BCWWA'S FACEBOOK WATER FOOTPRINT CONTEST

Congratulations to Shannon Cornell and her family from Penticton for taking the top prize in our online Water Footprint Contest. Shannon won a one-night stay at the Delta Hotel Vancouver Airport, admission for two to Science World, a \$50 gift certificate to White Spot, and a stainless steel water bottle. Shannon's post received the highest number of 'likes' on our Facebook page. Here is her winning submission:

"We use 122,816 L/person/year – we have a pool and live in a semi-arid climate and we water our grass by sprinkler – a lot, we also have young children, so we do a lot of cleaning. We are going to landscape our property this year with native plants to significantly reduce our 'grass footprint' as well as install irrigation to better utilize our water. Now, if only we can figure out a way to use even less water – maybe by washing the car on the lawn with the children in all their dirty clothes and holding all the dirty dishes helping? Although, evidently, cutting our shower time in half would make the biggest difference."

THANK YOU

TO OUR 2011 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Media Sponsors:



CBC

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Science World, Delta Hotels

Join us for Drinking Water Week 2012 May 13-19.
Visit drinkingwaterweek.org or contact Alana Tees at dww@bcwwa.org or 604-433-4389.

 **BCWWA**
BC WATER & WASTE ASSOCIATION
www.bcwwa.org