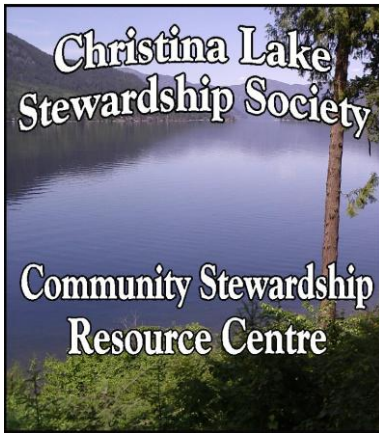


Christina Lake Stewardship Society

"You Can Make
a Difference".



"WATER TIPS"

**For More Information
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This year the southern part of the province faces one of the driest summers on record.

Latest measurements by the River Forecast Centre of the Ministry of Environment show the snowpacks that replenish British Columbia's streams each year are far below normal in much of the province. Water restrictions are being imposed in many areas and the threat of wildfire is increased and spawning fish are at risk. Adjusting your water usage habits will help to conserve water.

Here are a few tips that will help:

Water Conservation in the Kitchen and Laundry Room:

- Do only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine. Each machine load uses from 170 to 190 litres. Or do dishes the old fashioned way – by hand.
- While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on houseplants or garden (saves 400 to 1200 litres/month)
- Wash vegetables and fruit in a pan instead of under a running tap. Remember that a tap uses 7 to 12 litres each minute it's running. Use the water left in the pan to water houseplants or your garden.

- Instead of running a tap to get cool water, keep a jug in the fridge.
- Dripping taps can waste as much as 300 litres a week. Changing tap washers can reduce that loss.



Water Conservation in the Bathroom:

- Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave. This could save 7 to 12 litres of water a minute.
- Take shorter showers and save 6 to 19 litres a minute. Installing a low-flow showerhead can save as much as 10 litres a minute.
- Toilets account for as much as 40% of indoor water use, and older toilets use up to 30 litres per flush. Don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Retrofit your toilets with water-saving devices. New

low-volume toilets use only six litres per flush.



Toilets are notorious for hidden leaks and can waste hundreds of litres of water a day. Check worn parts to see which ones need replacement. Check toilet for leaks by dropping food colouring into the tank. If colour appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired (saves approx. 850 litres/month).

Water Conservation Outside the Home:

If local restrictions allow you to wash your car - use a bucket and sponge or spring-loaded nozzle on the hose. This could save 300 litres of water or more.

Choose drought-tolerant native plants for your garden. This not only saves water but also provides habitat for local animals, birds, and beneficial insects. It is illegal to dig up wild plants, but many garden centers have a

wide selection of native plants from nursery grown stock.

Collect rainwater in barrels for the garden or washing the car.

Water your garden using a watering can or spring-loaded nozzle. This can save 10 to 35 litres a minute. The best times to water are early in the morning or late in the evening when evaporation rates are low.

Mow your lawn less often, raise your mower blades or both – longer grass reduces loss to evaporation and requires less watering. Don't water your lawn every day. It will produce shallow roots and weak grass.



Use mulch and compost to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds. Aerate your lawn to allow better absorption of water.

A broom is better than a hose for cleaning driveways and sidewalks. Let the next rainstorm finish the job!

The more water we use, the greater the strain on treatment systems. Every drop from the tap costs our community money in water treatment and has a lasting effect on our environment.

CAN I REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes you can! Our environmental problems are the result of a thousand small things we do every day. What seems like small changes in our lifestyles and ways of thinking are actually the only lasting solutions to these problems. And when we do a little, it quickly adds up to a lot, especially related to water. By taking action on water efficiency, each member of our community will reflect the universal concerns for a secure water supply and a healthy environment. Water management is key to the future of our community. The time to show leadership is now!

This brochure was prepared by the Christina Lake Stewardship Society. For more information contact our office the Community Stewardship Resource Centre at 447-2504

Source: Ministry of Environment.