

AquaStar Water Awareness Program Update Bethany Scholfield Wins "Water in Parksville" Art Contest

The City's AquaStar Water Awareness program, launched in August 2009, was developed to enhance public awareness about the conservation, quality, management and supply of our water. The program includes education and public awareness, conservation and community outreach.

In partnership with the Oceanside Community Arts Council, the City hosted the "Water in Parksville" art contest, held to recognize the significance of World Water Day (March 22, 2010). Residents submitted two dimensional original art or photos with "Water in Parksville" as the theme. Submissions were reviewed by a panel made up of Councillor Sue Powell, Michele Deakin and Lauren Sabine with a winner chosen in each category.

The overall winning artwork was submitted by eleven year old Bethany Scholfield. Her watercolour entitled, "Waterfall," will be featured on AquaStar promotions, with credit to the artist. Bethany, along with the other residents submitting artwork, was recognized by Council on May 3. The artwork will be on display at City Hall until May 31.

The City of Parksville is committed to reducing water consumption in Parksville by 10% in 2010 and the AquaStar program is an initiative of this goal. The program's most recent accomplishments are outlined:

- New water rate structure and new sanitary sewer rates.
- Through a work experience program, a university student has undertaken an audit of the resorts to determine water conservation awareness and to recommend possible conservation solutions.
- www.parksvilleaquastar.ca is devoted to water awareness in Parksville.
- The highest residential water users have been identified and the City will assist the homeowners in possible solutions to consumption. A workshop is also planned.
- An industry roundtable was held to obtain feedback from businesses in related industries - such as irrigation, nurseries, etc.
- Water usage audit completed for Bay Avenue strata development with video presentation.
- The City of Parksville will participate as partner in the RDN Watersmart program.
- A new brochure, *How to Check for Water Leaks* is available.

Questions regarding the AquaStar Water Awareness program should be directed to 250 954-4697. Residents are encouraged to visit the City's AquaStar website at www.parksvilleaquastar.ca

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For more information, please contact the Planning Department, 250 954-4697