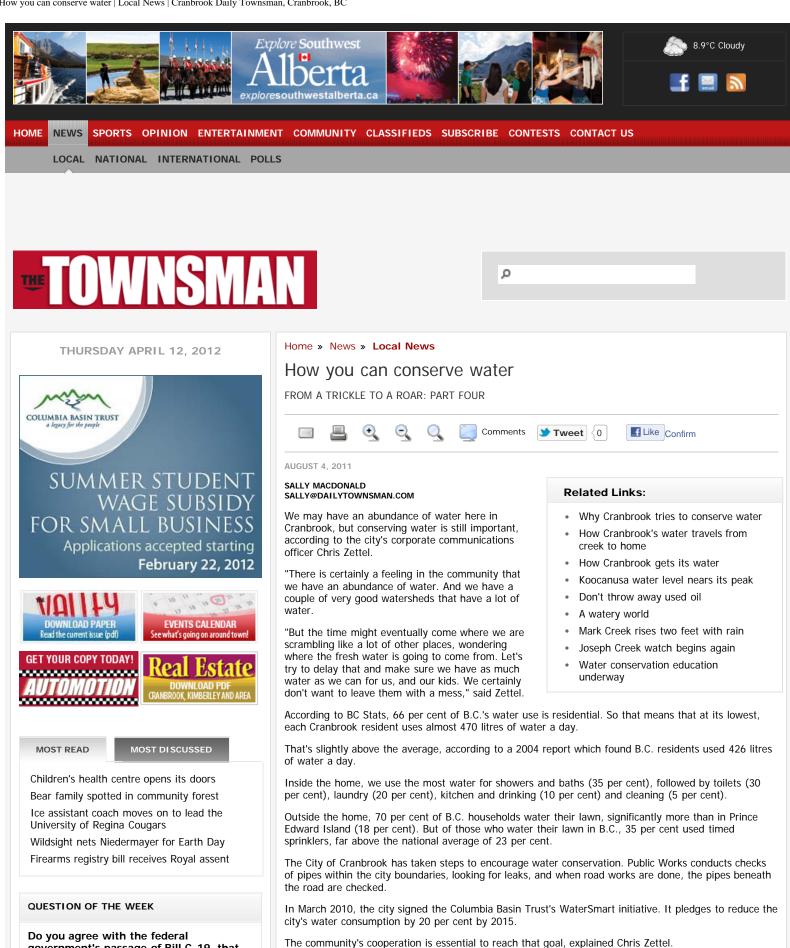
How you can conserve water | Local News | Cranbrook Daily Townsman, Cranbrook, BC



government's passage of Bill C-19, that lead to the abolition of the federal gun registry and having the records destroyed?

"The program is not intended to be preaching, telling people that you need to do this and you need to do that. What we're trying to get people to do is step back and have a look where they think they can get the most out of the water they are using."

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Yes No Don't care

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Fast, Reliable, Honest, Careful, BBB, WCB, Insured, Experienced BestChoiceMoving.com AdChoices ▷ To encourage residents to conserve water, the city introduced a \$50 rebate last year for homeowners replacing old toilets with new, low-flow toilets. Last year, 200 rebates were given out, and in 2011 so far 100 have been paid.

What's more, the city has an outdoor watering program controlling when residents can water their lawn.

So far, the city hasn't gone so far as to introduce water meters, but is "on the radar", said Zettel.

"Certainly the water meter discussion has come up. Right now, there are no plans for water meters but we're doing our homework."

There are plenty of things Cranbrook residents can do to watch their water use, many of them outside.

Zettel suggest planting gardens based on what parts of the yard get the least rain.

"If they have one spot in their yard that is quite dry, instead of trying to plant grass and water-hungry plants, why not try something that might be a little dryer?"

Grass takes root best if it doesn't get too much water, he added. Two to three centimetres of water a week is enough for the grass to get established; more than that and its roots aren't deep enough to withstand a heat wave.

In-ground sprinkler systems use less water if they are well-maintained, said Zettel.

"It's really key for people to take the time to go around in the spring and fall and check their systems to make sure everything is working great."

Look for broken sprinkler heads or spongy grass that could indicate broken pipes. Change the sprinkler schedule often to reflect the season, and isolate zones that require more water.

Inside the home, install low-flow toilets and showerheads.

"We really want people to look around and see what they can do to reduce their water use where they can. We just want people to be smart about it," said Zettel.



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