

Being water friendly

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Editor:

March 22 is World Water Day, a UN international annual event celebrated since March 22, 1993.

‘Water and Food Security’, the 2012 theme, focuses potable water and sufficient food for a planet not keeping up with an ever-increasing overpopulation and depletion/ despoiling of scarce water resources.

In addition, 2005-2015 has been named the ‘Water for Life Decade’. We are at a crisis moment here on the Island regarding care and use of our scarce water resources. At a water meeting I attended Feb. 2, we were challenged to focus a systemic approach to our watersheds. With our consumption rate of 102 per cent over the last 10 years, our daily water extraction exceeds a natural recharging. According to Environment Canada, the average Canadian uses about 330 litres per day, making us the second highest water users in the world, with Charlottetown alone using 305 litres per day.

This year, we Islanders are challenged to become more aware and more proactive given our overconsumption and misuse of water. During this awareness day, teachers/ students, homes/ families, workplaces could look at ways to conserve water.

The Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility, with its own theme of ‘Be Water Friendly’, has many materials available to help us with our becoming more water responsible. Two suggestions: cut our water usage by 60 litres per day; and become water-metered customers, paying for water based on the amount we use. Contact city@city.charlottetown.pe.ca or 902-629-4014 for more conservation tips at home, school and the workplace.