

46 million litres water saved annually thanks to conservation retrofits



Photo by Suh Jin Kang

Board chair Kristine Barr (right) accepts a cheque from Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick.

Water conservation was the theme of a World Water Day news conference held at Churchill High School and Collège Churchill on March 22.

Over 50 students were on hand as Kristine Barr, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Winnipeg School Division, accepted a Water Stewardship Fund grant cheque from Water Stewardship Minister Christine Melnick.

“This \$24,300 grant will help the Division in its continued efforts to reduce water consumption,” said Ms. Barr.

The grant will offset the \$205,000 contract for the second phase of water conservation retrofits, which included four schools and one administration building.

Under the contract with Johnson Controls L.P., old toilets that used 20 litres of water per flush were replaced with new efficient ones that use only six litres. Urinal flush valves were installed to produce a water-conserving rate of 3.8 litres per flush instead of 4.4 litres. In addition, infrared motion sensors and programmable control units were installed to automate flushing of urinal tanks. Old faucets were removed and replaced with reduced-flow faucet aerators.

At Churchill, it is estimated that the building’s water consumption will drop by 4.2 million litres annually. The savings to the Division will be \$8,500 each year.

Including the three other schools and one administration building where these changes were also made, estimates show that water consumption will be reduced by just over 15 million litres of water annually, with savings of \$30,989 each year.

This is the second round of water conservation upgrades. Previously the Division retrofitted seven schools.

Data indicate that in those seven buildings, the Division is conserving about 31 million litres annually with cost savings in the range of \$62,000 per year. As a result of both projects, retrofits are saving 46 million litres of water annually, as well as saving \$93,000 in water costs.

Ms. Barr applauded staff members who started the plan.

“I want to commend the Division’s Building Department staff who spearheaded this water reduction initiative. I know that there are many who were involved in this wonderful project. While time will not permit me to name them all, I do wish to mention acting director of buildings George Heath, and energy management coordinator Irene Babashko. Your work is most appreciated!” she said.

After the cheque presentation, students had a question and answer session with the minister and the chair.



Photo by Suh Jin Kang

A student stands to ask a question at the news conference, while his classmates look on.