

What's Happening at the Westbank Museum

Remembrance Day

The Museum will be closed on November 11, however, our Board Members will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Museum at the Westbank Community Centre (Lion's Hall) on Remembrance Day. The ceremony starts at 10:45. The Museum has artifacts on display in honour of Remembrance Day. To find out more about our veterans, please visit us.



Jack Drought and the D-Day Landings

A number of brave people from Westbank fought for our country in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. Their names are immortalized on Main Street's cenotaph. This particular story is about World War II Veteran, Jack Drought.

Jack was born in 1915 in Peachland. He and his family moved to Westbank in 1921, though they had lived and worked in the surrounding area for several years already. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Jack enlisted in the military, later transferring to the air force. The following information is from a 2003 article written by Geoff Pringle.

Westbank Pioneer Jack Drought and his crew mates were a part of the 518 Squadron, which patrolled the North Atlantic gathering meteorological information. Jack's duty was Wireless Operator and Air Gunner. On June 5, 1944, Drought and his team were called to do an urgent patrol. They were tasked to take barometric readings at a height of only 50 feet above sea level. A terrible storm raged on whilst they gathered data. Their readings were so extreme that meteorologists told them that there is no way they could be correct - but they were!

The crew faced rain, snow, and winds of 150 mph. Jack made exclamations of concern in very "flowery" language to the entire crew over the intercom while huge ice balls whizzed past his position.

The flight that Jack and his crew-mates endured that night would change history. Little did they know at the time, but the D-Day invasion by the allies had to be timed perfectly to coincide with the weather. There was only a 36 hour window for the invasion to occur. Their weather reports helped time the invasion perfectly. The invasion launched the following day on June 6, 1944, ending in an allied victory.

Jack returned home and remained in the Okanagan until the end of his life in 2008, at the age of 93.

Christmas Craft Fair

Hand-made crafts ★ Refreshments ★ Entertainment

December 2nd, 10am – 3pm

Westbank Museum, 2376 Dobbin Rd. Westbank, BC

Tea Tickets: \$4 donation / person



Christmas Craft Fair

Join us in the festivities for our annual Christmas Craft Fair on December 2nd from 10am - 3pm. The fair features local artists selling a variety of hand-made treasures, including paintings, glasswork, miniatures, tea and treats, and much more. Entertainment by the West Kelowna Music School will be from 11am - 1pm. Tickets are \$4 to cover refreshments (Museum members receive complimentary tickets!) Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Book Review: A Slice of Life by Sheila Paynter *written by Jean-Anne Copley*

This aptly named book is a delightful read. Through good times and bad, decade after decade, Mrs. Paynter's joy in life shows as she talks of her husband, kids, and extended family. Her commitment to life on the farm and orchard along with her continuous involvement in her community (Westbank) is a model for us all.

I particularly loved Gerry (her faithful canine companion). Well worth the read!

Volunteers Needed

Are you handy? Do you enjoy gardening? Or maybe you have a passion for history? The Westbank Museum is always appreciative of volunteers. We have many exciting projects on the go, which include carpentry, gardening and archival work. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact the museum at 250-768-0110 or info@westbankmuseum.com.