

The Westbank Express....



Pictured left, Doug and Yvonne Waines display Welcome Wagon information that they share with newcomers in the community.

And that's a basket plumb full of informational tidbits too, which includes ample resource material for the newly-planted resident or business joining the community. Doug and Yvonne, keen to encourage new neighbours in the area, which encompasses the entire Westside and Peachland, enjoy the social aspect of welcoming newcomers to the Okanagan. Yvonne handles Community and Baby welcomes while Doug looks after the Business and Professional Welcomes. Some informational items that they distribute to new residents include a visitors guide, road maps, trail guides, pertinent websites, support groups and senior activity groups, local libraries, Medwatch for seniors, community services directory as well as gifts from sponsors. Local sponsors such as

Westbank Home Hardware have been supporting Welcome Wagon for several years and the Hardware store recently received a 25 year plaque from Welcome Wagon. During their travels throughout the community as Welcome Wagon representatives, both Doug and Yvonne noted that they meet interesting people and discover businesses they might not normally encounter. Welcome Wagon, founded in Memphis, Tennessee, has been a Canadian friendly neighbourhood tradition since 1930 and its roots can be traced back to the days of the Conestoga wagon (a heavy, broad-wheeled covered wagon named after Conestoga Township in Pennsylvania). These wagons were used during Frontier days when settlers would provide supplies to passing wagon trains and encourage the travellers to settle in the area. For more information, please call Doug or Yvonne at 778-754-0987.

Summerland celebrates Earth Day



in a big way. The town has myriad events planned a week prior to Earth Day (Apr. 22nd) starting on **Sunday, Apr. 15th**

with the Square Foot Gardening Demonstration at Grasslands Nursery, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Events continue throughout the week as follows:
Monday, Apr. 16th - Documentary Film: "The Future of Food," Summerland Centre Stage Theatre, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Apr. 18th - Philosophers' Cafe, "Working Toward a Sustainable Local Food System," Summerland Art Gallery, 9533 Main St., 6:30 pm.
Thursday, Apr. 19th - Documentary Film: "Silent Invasion," Summerland Centre Stage Theatre, 6:30 pm.
Friday, Apr. 20th - Earth Week Street Festival, Main St., 3:00 - 6:00 pm. For further information about more events, call the Summerland Chamber at 250-494-2686.

Earth Day, first observed in San Francisco and other cities March 21, 1970 was established to help raise awareness about planet sustainability. Add an event to your calendar starting with the:

**SWITCH OFF FOR EARTH HOUR
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012
8:30 PM TO 9:30 PM.**

Switch off non-essential lights, electronics & appliances for ONE HOUR! For more info. visit www.fortisbc.com/earthhour.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

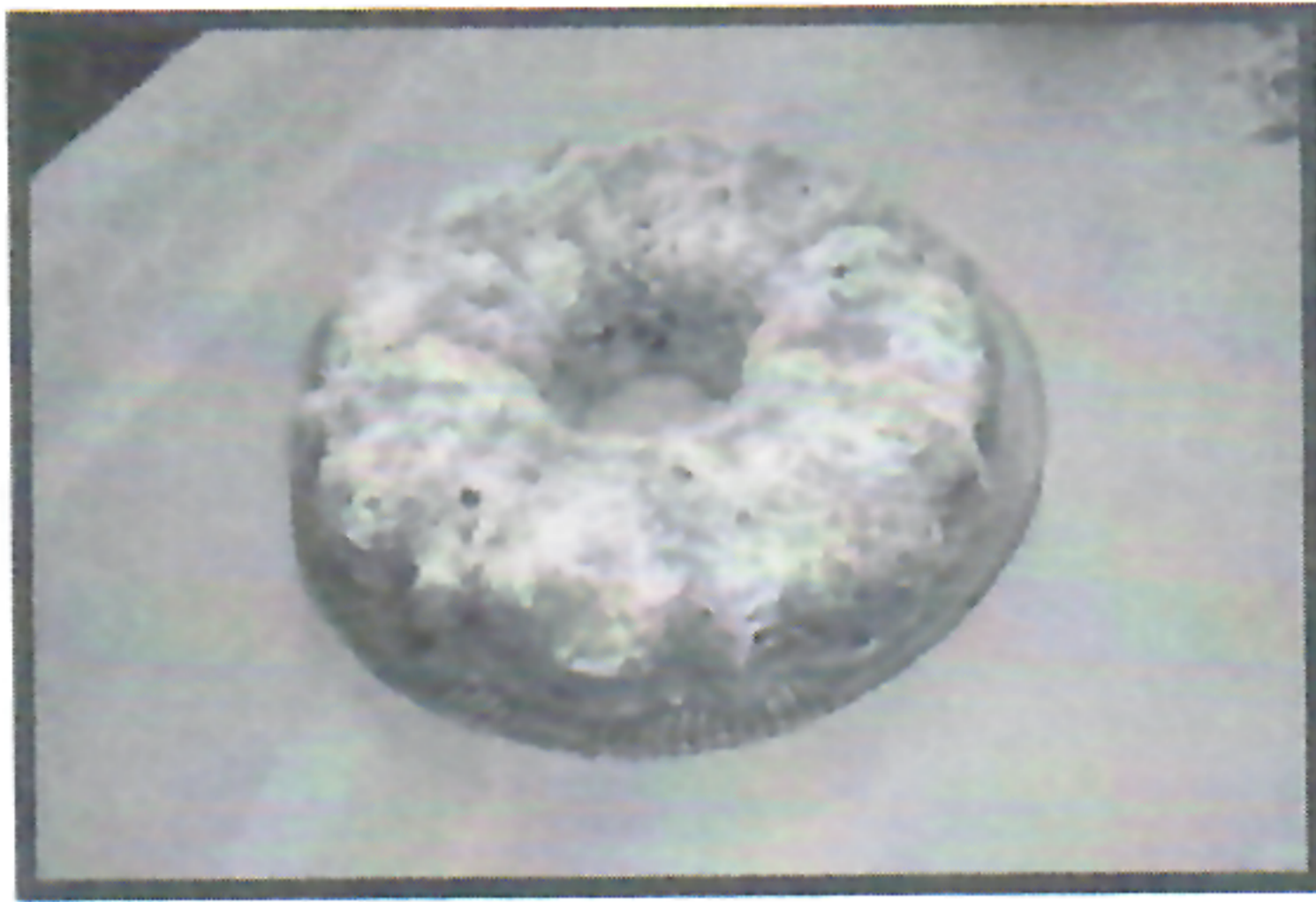
Administrative Office: 250-769-4999
Recreation Dept.: 250-768-7337

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

Apr 10 - Regular Council Meeting. - 1:30 pm
Apr. 17 - Committee of the Whole - 1:30 pm
Apr. 18 - Advisory Planning Comm. - 9:30 am
Apr. 24 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

For questions or further information about the newsletter, please email westbankexpress@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: Gordon Ficke, Rita Pedersen; Editor: Barbara Heaney

**From the Kitchen Nook: Chocolate Chip Sour Cream Coffee Cake**

by Rita Pedersen **INGREDIENTS:** 1 cup butter, 2 cups sugar, 2 eggs-beaten, 2 cups sour cream, 1 tbslp. vanilla extract, 2 cups all purpose flour, 1 tbslp. baking powder, 2 cups chocolate chips. **TO PREPARE:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 10-inch bundt pan and lightly dust with flour; cream together the butter and sugar. Add eggs, blending well, then the sour cream and vanilla; sift together the flour and baking powder; fold the dry ingredients into the creamed mixture and beat just until blended. Do not overbeat; stir in chocolate chips and pour into prepared pan; set on the middle rack of the oven and bake for about 60 minutes or until cake tester, when inserted in the center, comes out clean. This is especially good served warm. A chocolate Lover's' delight!

Florence Edwards Recalls the Dobbin Family History - Part 1 by Gordon Ficke

Photo: Florence Roberta Edwards(nee Dobbin).

"My father's grandparents immigrated to Canada from Ireland in the late 1800s. They settled in Morris, Manitoba," recalled Florence, who was born in Kelowna in 1921 and is named after her mother and father (Roberta). "I never knew my grandparents, let alone my great grandparents." Her father, Francis Arthur Robert Dobbin was born there in 1882, the youngest of five children. The family operated a mixed farm there and when Francis finished grade school in the early 1900s, they packed up and moved west to Calgary, Alberta. Not being content to remain in Calgary, Florence's grandparents pulled up stakes and moved again around 1905. Arthur went with them while the other children went their own ways. The family arrived in the Okanagan Valley and decided that Westbank was the place they wanted to live. In 1906 the family acquired a piece of land at the junction of Bartley Road and Shannon Lake, north of where Bylands Nursery is today. They struggled to clear the land and before anything could be produced on it, other work had to be found. Art secured employment in the logging industry at Whiteman's Creek, in the north Okanagan. He began by driving a team of horses hauling logs to the edge of Okanagan Lake.

The outbreak of World War I disrupted logging operations and Art enlisted to serve his country. Upon arriving in England he learned that he might have an opportunity to transfer to the milling and logging division of the army located in northern England. With persistent lobbying, he was successful. While he was working there in the small village of Northumberland, Art met Florence Mae Barclay. The couple married in 1917. "My dad was 33 years old when he got married," Florence recalled. In 1919 Art, Florence Mae and their son Clifford returned to the Homestead in Westbank. Logging became their main source of income and a sawmill was added in the early 1920s and was located near where the old barn stood on Shannon Lake Road. The sawmill was then moved to a property he had acquired in the Shannon Lake area. Then it was moved once more to an area along Smith Creek. By the mid 1920s Art had an opportunity to trade the sawmill for a piece of land adjacent to the one he owned by Shannon Lake. The two parcels were 480 acres and he built a second homestead here.

In the interim Art and Florence Mae had seven more children, the second was Olive, followed by Florence, then Frank, Mary, Doreen, Lorne and lastly Pamela. Tragically, Frank lost his life as a result of severe burns and shock resulting from his nightshirt accidentally catching fire, after Clifford had started a fire in the fireplace one cold December morning. Around this time Art's sister Mary Jane, a spinster, moved from Calgary, followed shortly by their brother John. Mary later established M.J. Dobbin General store, the second grocery store in Westbank. "While we were growing up," Florence remembered, "Dad would have each of us children take turns staying with aunty Mame (Mary) to help her by working in the store and be company for her. We packed up sugar and flour, stocked shelves, etc." John became an orchardist, purchasing large tracts of land on both sides of Brown Road South, about a quarter mile from Main Street and land on both sides of Dobbin Road. Art cleared all the rocks and trees on the second homestead to create a cattle ranch. However, he had limited land to grow feed crops and because there was no irrigation available, he had to lease tracts of land in Green Bay and the area around the Paradise Trailer Park, and along the right side of Old Okanagan Highway just north of Main Street, or Highway 97. Mostly alfalfa was grown.

"We had lots of chores to do." Florence remembered. "There were around one hundred head of cattle and in the spring we moved them up to Bear Creek, where there was a lot of grazing land, ideal for the cattle. During the summer we would grow the hay for them for their winter feed," Edwards continued. "We would take the horses and the truck up there on weekends to see how the cattle were doing. The cattle would have to be chased back into the hills and we would look for missing calves. That was quite a job. In the fall the cattle would be brought back to the ranch. We were very busy people," she remarked. "With all the things we had to do, from going to school, milking the cows on occasion, and the myriad of other chores we had to do, I never complained and didn't mind the work at all. It was a very interesting life," Florence summarized. "We did our jobs and we never had a holiday."

Story to be continued in May/12 Issue

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

WESTBANK

**Westbank Museum
Heritage/Heirloom Seeds
Early April, 2012**

The Westbank Museum will have a selection of these very desirable seeds in early April. There will be three types of stunning and highly fragrant Sweet Peas including Old Spice Blend, the gorgeous pastel red Henry Eckford and Royal Family. The Museum will also have Titan Sunflowers and a variety of interesting vegetables like Lemon Cucumber and the medium-size favourite Table Queen Acorn Squash, three types of tomatoes, beets, and so on. Some of the Heritage seeds date back to the pre-1850s; all have been grown for many generations and are rated easy to grow and like hot summers. 250-768-0110.

The Westbank Lions welcome book donations for their summer Book-O-Thon. Call 250-768-2322.

Westbank Museum - Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2012 - 7:00 pm
Westbank Museum, 2376 Dobbin Rd.

Country Opry

Sunday, April 29th - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Enjoy local musicians' country music gathering. Intermission with coffee, tea, pop, water and cookies. \$5.00 admission at the door. 12 and under free. Westbank Lions Community Hall.

Native Tacos-Pine Acres Home

Wed., Apr. 18th 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Luncheon includes taco, beverage and home-made dessert for \$5.00. Bring a neighbour or friend and join the Seniors for a delicious hot meal. Take-out available. Pine Acres Home, 1902 Pheasant Lane, Westbank. For more info. call 250-768-7676.

Westside Seniors Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

Annual General Meeting - May 29th - 'Hawaiian Luau' theme. Lunch at Noon. Hawaiian Dancers, Sr. of the Year Award, 50/50 Draw,

Election of Officers. Tickets available April 3rd. \$11.00 for members; \$13.00 for guests. For more info. call 250-707-3494.

"Take a Break" - Apr. 5th - 10:45 am - Noon. "Insurance...I'm retired; do I need it?" Presented by Jen Roussel, CAIB and Marlee Pateman, Team Leader, Western Financial Group.

Wednesday Night Bingo - 6:45 pm (sharp) every Wednesday. You do not need to be a member to play, but must be 19 years of age or older.

Friday Night Jam Sessions - The 1st and 3rd Friday of every month. Bring your instrument and join in, or just visit to listen. Open-mike jam. C & W, Blue Grass, Old-time, etc. For more info. contact Norm Dumont at 250-768-9358.

**Westbank Legion - RCL Branch
288, 2525 Dobbin Road**

Due to a small fire at the Legion in March, 2012, the venue is temporarily closed. Minor damage and flooding require a Legion facelift which should be completed before the end of April, 2012. Regular programs will start up again including Pancake breakfasts, Tuesday and Thursday Night darts and Sunday Jam Sessions. Watch for Grand Re-opening activities.

**Orion's Fish Bus by The Cherry Pit
April 28 & 29, 2012**

70 peeled Tiger Prawns \$20 or 2 for \$35 or 3 for \$50--Sole, Snapper & Basa \$12.00 each or 3 for \$30. 2565 Main St. in the parking lot. For more info. go to tritonsage@yahoo.com.

Minature Enthusiasts of Central Okanagan(MECO) Miniature Show and Sale - Sat. April 28th, 10-3 pm

\$3.00 admission. Lions Community Centre, 2466 Main. St. For info. call 250-769-5220.

SUMMERLAND

Kettle Valley Steam Railway - Easter Train

Sat. Apr. 7/12 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

First train of the season with the Easter Bunny hopping on board. Treats for kids. Music. Adults \$22., Srs.(65+) \$20., Teen \$17., Children(3-12) \$13. To book tickets, call 1-877-494-8424.

PENTICTON

8th Annual Seedy Saturday

Saturday, April 14, 2012

12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm. Pick up your seeds for the season. Organic and heritage seeds, bedding

plants, produce, honey and more. Nanaimo Square. Corner of Nanaimo Avenue and Main St. Phone 250-493-8540.

OSOYOOS

17th Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, Apr. 7th - Town Square

8:00 - 11:00 am - Lions Pancake Breakfast for \$5.00. 9:00 am - 2:00 pm - Country Fair - Entertainment: "Rusty Copeland." Egg Guessing Contest, Venfdors Tables. 10:30 am - 2:00 pm - Bounce Castle, Face Painting, Fish Pond, Carnival Games. 1:00 pm - Easter Parade starts at Tim Horton's along Main St. to Family Foods. Call 250-495-4008 or email johnkat1@telus.net

OLIVER

James Keelaghan on Stage

Friday, April 6, 2012

Join Canada's Juno-award winning folk singer James Keelaghan, a poet laureate of folk and roots music and a masterful storyteller. \$25.00 per person. Medici's Gelateria & Coffee House, 9932 - 350th Ave. Phone 250-498-2228 or visit the website at www.medicisgelateria.ca.

PEACHLAND

19th Annual Peachland Business Expo 2012

Sat. Apr. 14th 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Learn about the products and services Peachland & area businesses and community groups have to offer. Gardening & Irrigation presentations by Dogwood Nursery at Noon and 4:00 pm. Peachland Community Centre, 4450 - 6th St. For more info. call 250-767-2455.

LOOKING AHEAD!

WESTBANK

Mother's Day Old Fashioned Photo Shoot - May, 2012

Mother's Day - Old-Fashioned Photo Shoot Fundraiser. Old-fashioned photo shoots Monday to Thursday evenings leading up to Mother's Day, between approx. 4-7 pm with photographer Caron Ridgeway from Central Okanagan Photographic Society. Bring Mom and the family, have some fun and preserve your own moment in time. \$5 per head in the photo and proceeds will go to the Westbank Museum. Watch for details in the May/12 issue of The Westbank Express or email info@westbankmuseum.com



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