

Westbank Express...

Hattie Webber, Keeper of her Husband's Family History. Pt. 2

By Gordon H. Ficke

Once the irrigation flume in Glenrosa was completed around 1944, the water from Powers Creek flowed to provide the lifeblood of the orchards. After Douglas and Harriet Webber were married on March 15th, 1944, Douglas planted their first trees. Fourteen acres of apples with a few cherry trees were planted on their property. Doug and George Irwin's father, John, gave them 12 and 10 acres, respectively. George's property was located on a parcel of land on the eastern part of where Scottstown Road is today. Those first trees were planted there.



The couple lived in a cabin on the home property on Webber Road. They had four children, Raymond, Rodney, Connie and Christine.

Until the trees matured, which took ten years for the bigger trees, the family grew crops of tomatoes and potatoes to help provide much-needed income. Many of the family members pitched in to help reap the harvest.

Fruit farming became a full-time job for Doug, even though he continued logging as he had always done. While Doug was away logging in various parts of the Okanagan Valley, sometimes for weeks at a time, Hattie looked after the orchard. It was hard work moving sprinklers, picking the fruit and moving boxes, especially when the family did not have a tractor in those early years. Their old grey Ford pickup performed yeoman service and Hattie longed for Raymond and Rodney to reach driving age so that they could help deliver the ripe cherries, prunes and apples to the packinghouse!



This year's edition of Art in the Park has commenced under the heading "Vineyard Trails". Selected artists will display their work within West Kelowna's unique vineyards, which feature breathtaking views of the mountains and lake. Hosts Louise Lambert and Allan Waidman invite you to witness local artists and artisans create and display new works of art. This is an intimate setting that allows for interaction with the artists and encourages guests to chat with them and gain insight into their techniques and inspiration for their craft.

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In 1960 Doug and Hattie built their home on their property at the intersection of Glenrosa and McIver Roads. Norm and Marian Fenton built their house for them. Doug would continually supervise its construction to ensure that their home would be built according to his specifications.

During the mid 1960s, John and Bertha retired. The couple celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 19th, 1970. Bertha passed away a short while later. John then moved to downtown Westbank, near the Highway Gospel Hall to live with his daughter Freda and later with Ethel Truant until he died in 1976. Meanwhile, Doug and his youngest son Rodney expanded their logging business. They eventually acquired sixteen logging trucks along with other associated equipment and were engaged in logging operations in many parts of B.C. Hattie faithfully kept the company books until the computer age arrived around 1998, then their daughter Connie took over.

The Glenrosa landscape was also changing. Orchards were being replaced with housing developments and by 1994, 50 years after the family had planted their first fruit trees, the last of them were uprooted. Three schools, two elementary and one middle, were built on John and Bertha's original property. The largest ten acre parcel remaining belonged to Douglas and Rodney. It was here that they had their shop and storage area to park their logging trucks. Doug still came in to the shop at age 79 to change those heavy tires on the logging trucks. "He had it down to a science." Hattie explained, "His technique required little physical effort." Doug always liked to keep in touch with the business.

In 2004 Doug and Hattie invited the community to help celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Westbank. Many longtime friends, members from the Highway Gospel Hall, the church they attended, and relatives helped celebrate their milestone anniversary. They celebrated one more wedding anniversary together and on November 30th, 2005 Douglas passed away. Rod continues to operate the logging company to this day, now with ten trucks and ten employees. Hattie recently moved from her home on Glenrosa Road in July 2016, and now resides at the Village of Smith Creek Seniors Centre.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

WESTBANK

Art in the Park

Various wineries

August, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

Experience creations by local artists while you sip wine!

August 13th - Quails' Gate Winery

August 19th - Off the Grid Organic Winery

August 26th & 27th - Mt. Boucherie Winery

Westbank Farmers' Market

Westridge Shopping Centre, every
Saturday

With vendors supplying fruits, veggies, baked goods, and crafted goods, the Farmers' Market has something for everyone! Onsite music and hot food make it a fun family outing. There's also giveaways and prizes!

West Kelowna World Music Festival

Memorial Park

August 26th & 27th,

6:00pm - 9:00pm Friday,

4:00pm - 9:00pm Saturday

Offering fun for all ages, the West Kelowna World Music Festival aims to embody the social and cultural vibrancy of Westbank. The entertainment lineup has something for everyone, and the kids's zone and multicultural food fair add to the allure of this charming event.

SUMMERLAND

Community Challenge Art Show

Summerland Arts Centre, weekly
(Monday to Friday)

Pieces crafted by local artists, artisans, and more are on display during this exhibition with themes based around Canada's 150th anniversary.

Wednesdays on the Water

Peach Orchard Park, every

Wednesday 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Free concerts in the park featuring local talent every Wednesday through July and August. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, relax and enjoy! This is a friendly event for all ages.

Great Train Robbery + BBQ

Kettle Valley Steam Railway,
August 6th, 20th

Experience the "Old West" with the notorious Garnett Valley Gang at the Great Train Robbery & BBQ. You'll enjoy their antics on and off the train as they rob passengers for local charities. There is a large BBQ meal afterwards, which is included in cost.

Penticton

Penticton Peach Festival

Various locations August 9th - 13th

The 70th annual festival, which originally celebrated the peach harvest in Penticton, has a bounty of free activities and events spanning over 5 days. Activities include annual Peach Bin races, a square dance festival, sandcastle competition, slo-pitch tournament, and the largest parade in BC's interior!

Rotary Wheels Car Show

Rotary Park, August 5th

The 22nd annual car show features incredible vehicles, live entertainment, food vendors, and a beverage garden. Bring the whole family down!

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