



# Westbank Express....



The float entered by the Westbank Chamber of Commerce depicting "The Missing Link" won first place in the 1950 parade. Photo courtesy of Kelowna Public Archives KPA#2346.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Okanagan Lake Bridge Opening Heralded in a New Era in Motor Travel

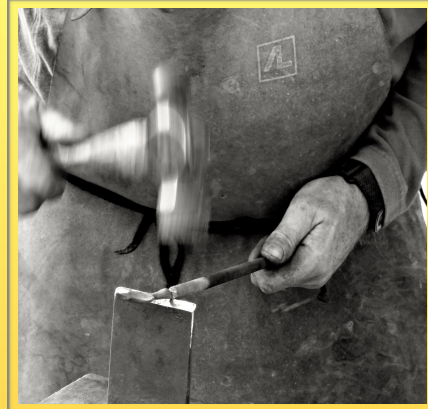
by Gordon H. Ficke

For Westbank pioneers and longtime locals, it is hard to fathom that 2018 marks 60 years since the opening of the first bridge that spanned the narrowest width (7/8 mile or 1400 meters) of Okanagan Lake from Westbank to Kelowna. The official opening took place on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1958 with the ribbon cut by then-Premier W.A.C. Bennett and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret Rose.

Tom Wyatt, the electronic technician for CHBC-TV (now Global Okanagan), suggested to station manager Roy Chapman that they should do live coverage of the official bridge opening ceremony. In 1958, there were 5000 television sets in the Okanagan Valley. Mr. Chapman, who was innovative and liked to try new things, consented to the idea.

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## Blacksmithing Workshop



The Westbank Museum is hosting a blacksmithing workshop on September 9th, 2018. The workshop is set to run from 9:00am - 5:00pm. If you have an interest in learning to forge, please connect with one of our staff and pass along your contact information. You won't want to miss out on this unique opportunity! There are limited spaces available. The cost is \$200 per person. Participants must be above 15 years of age.

## Art in the Park: Vineyard Trails



Enjoy local art among the vines at our future events:

August 12: Quail's Gate Winery

August 25 - 26: Grizzli Winery

Events run from 10:30 am - 4pm.

The one studio camera they had was installed in a borrowed Volkswagen van and a microwave transmitter was placed on the van's roof. The microwave link was set up to send the television signal from the van to the Grouse Mountain transmitter and then relayed to the other two Okanagan Valley transmitters at Chute Lake (for Penticton viewers) and Vernon. This historic ribbon cutting ceremony was only the second live broadcast in CHBC-TV's ten months of operation to that point.

The construction of what was then Canada's largest floating bridge took two years. The mandated lift span (265 feet or 81 meters long) allowed for water traffic like railway barges with cars of fruit, sailboats, and tugs to travel between the north and south of the bridge. Bridge traffic in both directions would be halted while the lift span was raised to allow the larger watercraft to pass through. There was a tollbooth at the west end of the bridge where tolls were collected from car, truck, and bus drivers until April 1, 1963, when the 7-million-dollar bridge construction had been paid for.

In 1999, the generous two lanes on the bridge were narrowed to accommodate a third lane for increased traffic. Green and red traffic lights attached to the overhead gooseneck bridge lights showed motorists which lanes were open for travel. Usually, two lanes were open into Kelowna for commuters in the morning and two lanes were open into Westbank for commuters in the evening, with the single remaining lane running in the opposite direction.

Although there were frustrating times, especially in the latter years when traffic was tied up longer than planned because of the lift span not operating the way it should (jammed in the up position, or not aligning properly with the highway in the down position), this first bridge served our two communities well for 50 years!



*Princess Margaret and W.A.C Bennett cut the ribbon to officially open the Okanagan Lake Bridge on July 19, 1958.*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

## WESTBANK

### Music in the Park

Annette Beaudreau Amphitheatre in  
Memorial Park  
3737 Old Okanagan Hwy  
Most Friday Nights in August, 6:40pm  
Admission is free!

### Art in the Park - Vineyard Trails

August 12th - Quail's Gate Winery  
3303 Boucherie Rd  
August 25th & 26 - Grizzli Winery  
2550 Boucherie Rd, 10:30am - 4pm  
Enjoy local art among the vines!

### Westbank Farmer's Market

Westridge Shopping Centre  
2484 Main St  
Every Saturday from June 30th -  
September 15th, 9am - 1pm

### Dinner in the Vineyard

Quail's Gate Winery  
3303 Boucherie Rd  
Every Wednesday Evening  
Starting at 6:00pm

## PEACHLAND

### Rotary Peace Concerts

Heritage Park on Beach Ave.  
August 12th at 6pm  
August 19th at 7pm

### Final Official Bat Count with BC Community Bat Program

Peachland Visitor Centre  
August 3rd, 8:30pm - 10:30pm

## SUMMERLAND

### Music in the Park

Memorial Park, 9999 Wharton St  
Wednesday Evenings until August 29,  
6:30pm

### Lobster Lunch

Dirty Laundry Winery Patio  
7311 Fiske Street  
Fridays until August 31  
12 - 2pm

### The Great Ogopogo Bathtub Race

Powell Beach Park  
August 18th, am - 3pm  
Hosted by the Summerland Yacht club, this high-  
speed charity event raises funds for the Penticton  
General Hospital.

## PENTICTON

### Peach Festival

Various Locations  
August 8-12



# BUSINESS SECTION

## Featured Business: Liquidation European Stock



2330 BC-97, Westbank, BC  
V4T 2P4

778-754-7081

[www.liquidationbc.com](http://www.liquidationbc.com)

Liquidation European Stock is a hidden gem in Westbank's shopping district. There, you will find high quality European-made clothes for as low as \$7. Keep an eye out for them at their new location in Westbank Shopping Centre. They will be open for business in their new location on August 1st.



1 (250) 768-6789  
2550 Boucherie Rd,  
West Kelowna, B.C.  
Website: [grizzliwinery.com](http://grizzliwinery.com)  
Email: [info@grizzliwinery.ca](mailto:info@grizzliwinery.ca)

"Experience Beauty and Award-Winning Wines"



(250) 864-4226  
674 Petterson Rd, West  
Kelowna, B.C.  
Website:  
[brokenrailranch.com](http://brokenrailranch.com)

A family run business  
looking forward to sharing  
their piece of paradise with  
you!

Off the Grid  
Organic  
Winery

(778) 754-7562  
3623 Glencoe Road  
Westbank, B.C.

Website: [offthegridorganicwinery.com](http://offthegridorganicwinery.com)  
"One of the Okanagan's Best Kept Secrets"



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