

The Westbank Express....



A closely-knit crowd enjoyed the Westbank Country Opry on Jan. 29th at the Community Hall. From left to right, country singers Bryan Faegan, Linda Johnson, Jack O'Connor, Patrick Wright and Lavern Panich keep the audience entertained.

It was a stompin' good time at the Community Centre on Sunday where a country line-up of local performers sang and played to a crowd just shy of 200 people. Two hours of country music performed by local artists entertained the audience, some of whom simply toe-tapped and clapped while others got up and swayed across the dance floor. Wendy Rodocker, Westbank Country Opry Artist of the month, belted out several tunes with a clear, crisp voice that marked an unmistakable country twang. Melita Ree chose to sing the Patsy Cline tune "I Fall to Pieces" which resonated crystal clear throughout the hushed hall. Other entertainers included Fred Spinks, Ken Johnson, Dyan Burnell, Laverne Prozny, Bill Bredin, Wayne Blair, and Dale Seaman—Hwy 97 Band member—who is planning a Nashville tour in the near future. The Westbank Opry Band plucked at their guitars, tapped the piano keys and finessed their drums as backup for all of the guest singers. Shirley Boehmer, retired singer and songwriter, milling about the hall during intermission, commented; "As a life-time member of the Westbank Country Opry I would like to give kudos to the Westbank Country Opry Band, the best band in the valley, who are not only very talented but very kind-hearted." Laverne Prozny, President of the Westbank Country Opry, said the show has been running for 17 years. During the ten minute intermission spectators and musicians visited with one another and relished in coffee and snacks. Artists' CDs were available for sale after the show. Several sponsors from Westbank included A & W, Bering Music, Boston Pizza, Edo Japan, Gorman Bros. Lumber, Matterhorn Bakery, Panago Pizza, Some Wear'in Time, The UPS Store, The Medicine Shoppe and Wright On Signs; Turner Volkswagen from Kelowna; and, Peachland Wine Shoppe, Rocky J's Beach Hut and Ships-A-Hoy from Peachland. The Opry is always looking for more sponsors; for further information contact Laverne Prozny at 250-767-2090. Upcoming Oprys: February 26, March 25, April 29, May 27 and September 30, 2012. Opry tickets at the door for \$5.00 each. Showtime 2:00 - 4:00 pm.



13th Annual Pickarel Dinner

On Sunday, **March 11, 2012** a well known Westbank tradition—the Annual Pickarel(Walleye) Dinner hosted by the Westbank Lions Club—will take place at the Lions Community Hall, 2466 Main St. With only one seating taking place this year for 300 people, tickets will be snapped up quickly, so don't dally. Tickets \$15.00 each. Doors open at 4:00 pm Dinner served at 5:00 pm. Tickets available from any Lions Club member, the Westbank Community Centre(Mon-Fri.9-12 noon), Home Hardware and Shannon Lake Convenience Store.

AROUND TOWN

Friday, March 16 - 5:30 pm St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Enjoy a hearty Irish Stew dinner and talented Irish dancers while celebrating St. Patty's Day. To be held at the Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road. Cost \$12.00 per person.

Westside Warriors Home Games - March, 2012: Royal Lepage Place

Friday, March 2nd 7:00 pm
Westside vs. Chilliwack
Saturday, March 3rd 7:00 pm
Westside vs. Vernon
More events on page three.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

Mar. 13 - Regular Council Mtg. - 1:30
Mar. 20 - Committee of the Whole - 1:30 pm
Mar. 27 - Regular Council Mtg. - 6:00 pm

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

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

From the Kitchen Nook: Spicy Vegy Soup by Rita Pedersen **Ingredients** - Vegy Soup * 2 tbsp (30 mL) extra-virgin olive oil * 1 onion, chopped * 1 sweet red pepper, chopped * 3 minced cloves of garlic * 1 tsp (5 mL) dried sage * 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt * 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper * 3 cups (750 mL) butternut squashes, peeled & cubed * 3 cups (750 mL) vegetable stock * 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed * 1 dash of cayenne or hot chili sauce * 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh parsley. **Preparation:** In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion, red pepper, garlic, sage, salt and pepper until onion is softened, about 6 minutes. Add squash; cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add stock, 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) water, beans and cayenne or hot chili sauce; bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer until squash is tender, about 12 minutes. Stir in parsley. Serve with honey whole wheat scones.

The Story of the Gellatly Cemetery and Heritage Park by Gordon H. Ficke



"My Grandfather, David Erskine Gellatly and his wife emigrated from Scotland to North Bay, Ontario in 1883," declared Ferne Jean. They had an infant, David with them, and Eliza Ure was pregnant with Jack. David was a carpenter and also farmed for the two years the family was there. The family then moved to Sudbury; nickel mines had just opened up. Gellatly took on carpentry jobs as he had done previously in North Bay; however, he became disillusioned with the area, as it was not what he left Scotland for.

In 1893 the family pulled up stakes again and moved west across Canada to Vernon, B.C. David utilized his carpentry skills there building houses. "David E. Gellatly was one of the three prominent carpenters in Vernon during that time." Ferne stated. The family lived in Vernon for three years when he had an opportunity to lease a parcel of land at Shorts Point that is now referred to as Fintry. Gellatly would have preferred to purchase the land but that option was not available. They raised cattle and cultivated potatoes on the flat land there. D. E. Gellatly was noted for shipping the first load of potatoes by paddle wheeler steam vessel that plied its way to Penticton and then overland to Sandon, a newly established mining town in the Kootenays. With the influx of miners and the establishment of businesses this proved to be a good market for his potatoes.

The family continued to farm there until 1900 when the family that included four sons and five daughters moved to Westbank where David purchased Powers Flats; 350 acres that encompassed where R. J. Bennett's horse farm, The Cove, The Gellatly Nut Farm, Whitworth Road properties and the Gellatly Heritage Park are today. In that first year David and his crew cleared two acres of land with dynamite, picks and shovels. By year two he had cleared up to 20 acres more and continued until all of the arable land was cleared. "It was all ditch irrigated." Ferne explained. "He then planted tomatoes, potatoes and assorted ground crops. By 1903 they planted fruit trees. In 1905, uncle Dave and uncle Jack started growing nut trees. They raised cattle as well as growing hay in the less arable land they owned above the flat land." In 1910 the family purchased 350 acres of the Boucherie Flats, around the Green Bay area, from Mrs. Boucherie. In that same year David and Eliza's daughter, also named Eliza Ure died tragically from pneumonia. She was only 21 years old. "David then had to decide which piece of land he would set aside for the family cemetery." Ferne continued. "I don't know why many cemeteries are located on hills overlooking the water, but the ones I've visited in Ontario and here in the Okanagan are situated on hills and have vistas overlooking the lake," she surmised, "so where the Gellatly Cemetery and Heritage Park is now was the land that was set aside by David E. Gellatly. The second person to be buried here occurred a year later in 1911 when David's mother Jane Mason Gellatly was laid to rest. In subsequent years other family members were buried there. By 1915 their farming business was flourishing to the extent that a warehouse was opened in Calgary and 74 carloads of produce were shipped from Gellatly Wharf that year.

In 1920 disaster struck one day while the S.S. Sicamous was docked at the Gellatly wharf overnight. The day before the vessel had been loaded with apples from their orchard. The ship's cook started a fire in the stove and an errant spark shot out between the box plant and packinghouse and the resultant blaze consumed the entire Gellatly enterprise, including buildings, greenhouse and barns. Unfortunately, David had been too busy loading the fruit onto the Sicamous to make the trip into Kelowna to buy property insurance, which had expired only a few days before. Gellatly tried to fight the C.P.R. (Canadian Pacific Railroad), the owners of the S.S. Sicamous, in court, but subsequently lost not only the lawsuit but his property as well. Thankfully, two of his sons; David and Jack had received ten acres each from the original property, and those were exempt from the foreclosure. "So David Erskine Gellatly died in 1922 broken in health and financially crippled," Ferne concluded. In 1927 Jack Gellatly realized that the cemetery had been included in his father's lost property. By that time John Brown had purchased the land, so Jack approached him and asked if he could have the cemetery lot back. John replied, "well it is no good to me. You pay for the survey and you can get it back." Jack surveyed the 1.6 acres from the original property and the family resumed the use of the cemetery. "Before each burial we would go down and clean up the cans and debris that had accumulated as a result of people having bush parties, etc.," Ferne revealed. "Jack Gellatly was the last person to be buried in the cemetery in 1968."

Then Ferne came along in 1996 and decided that the cemetery should be cleaned up. Over the years the area had become a repository for broken bottles, cans and garbage that had accumulated from years of graduation and bush parties. Family members pitched in to rake the pine needles and pick up all of the debris. The more they raked, the more debris and glass seemed to surface. After that job was done, the family placed a large stone in the middle of the cemetery etched with all the names of the people that were buried there, as there were no individual headstones. Plaques of all the Gellatly family members that had passed away and were not buried in the cemetery were mounted on a large natural rock. Then a fence with cement posts with adjoining chains was erected around the property. A nice wooden sign was constructed and erected but that was later stolen. "It's probably in somebody's basement!" Fern quipped.

One thing leads to another. Later, R.J. Bennett donated the Gellatly barn, that had been built in 1903, to the Gellatly Heritage Park. As well, the Powers house, located on the road allowance by the same farm, built by Billy Powers circa 1887, was painstakingly moved to the Park. All the logs were methodically numbered before being moved to the new site by her son Charles. Webber Logging used their cherry picker to move the big logs from the barn to the new site. A house was built for a caretaker. The grave mounds were leveled. Loads of mushroom manure and soil were brought in to improve the soil. Paved pathways, curbing, an irrigation system, flowerbeds and picnic tables were added over time. Today the Gellatly Heritage Cemetery is a beautiful inviting place with a lovely lawn area shaded by huge pine trees and pathways meandering around the property with a view over Okanagan Lake. More shrub and flowerbeds have been added over the years. On July 18th, 2009 the ominous Glenrosa Wildfire that raged toward the park from the west, like a juggernaut, threatened the park. The fire threatened to raze the entire park, buildings and all. Thankfully, the fire bypassed the park on either side as a result of the valiant efforts of the local fire department and B.C. Forest service. "I was very grateful for their amazing work that saved the cemetery and park, with very little damage to the garage and electrical service," Ferne recalled.

The trustees of the cemetery have a partnership agreement with the Regional District who is responsible for the maintenance of the property. For more information about the Gellatly Cemetery you may contact Ferne Jean at ferne@uniserve.com or phone (250) 768-5960.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

WESTBANK

Library Speaker Series - Get Ready to Garden

Wed., Mar. 14/12 - 7:00 pm

Presented by Friends of the Westbank Library, Don Burnett will be the guest speaker detailing how to prepare for upcoming spring and summer gardening with question and answer period to follow. To be held at the Westbank Branch Library, 2484 Main St.

Country Opry

Sunday, March 25 - 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.

1. When were the Academy Awards first televised?

Native Tacos-Pine Acres Home

Wed., Mar. 14th 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

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.

Thursday, March 2nd - "Take a Break" series presentation by Harry Liedtke entitled "Always Travel Light." Commentaries from an experienced traveller. 10:45 - 12 Noon.

Tuesday, March 20th - Hamburger lunch at 12:00 Noon.

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road

Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, March 4th 9:00 - 11:00 am. Hosted by the Ladies Auxillary. \$5.00. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, tea, coffee and juice.

Tuesday & Thursday Night Darts

Sunday Jam Sessions - 2:00 - 4:00 pm; local artists jamming with usually 3 - 6 musicians - guitar, fiddle, piano and singers.

A house can't be kept without talk. - Irish Proverb

Orion's Fish Bus by The Cherry Pit

Keep your eye out for the Fish Bus sometime in March, 2012!!!!

tritonsage@yahoo.com.

SUMMERLAND

The Philosophers' Cafe

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Join in on the discussion regarding: Counting on families to support older adults—a good approach to population aging? with Dr. Norah Keating, Gerontologist and Professor, Department of Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. Discussion venue: Summerland Art Gallery, 9533 Main St. Doors open 6:30 pm. Discussion begins 7:00 pm. Admission by donation. Tea, coffee and refreshments available. Confirm event before attending and call 250-494-4494 between 12:30 and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

PENTICTON

The Good Lovelies @ The

Dream Cafe - Mar. 14 - 8:00 pm

All female Canadian Fold Music Trio. Recent winners of the 2010 Juno for Roots Album of the year and 2009 New Emerging Artist Award from the Canadian Folk Music Awards. Introducing their new CD "Let the Rain Fall." Tickets \$25.00 each. 67 Front Street. Info. 250-490-9012.

OSOYOOS

Dock Side Drive - Show Band

Saturday, Mar. 10/12 7:00 pm

Music from the 40s, 50s & 60s swing, blues, jazz and show tunes including the music of Ray Charles, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole

Porter and many other. Enjoy the swingin' and sing along. Tickets at the door. Osoyoos Secondary School Mine Theatre, 5800 - 115th St. For more info. call 250-495-8082.

LOOKING AHEAD!

WESTBANK

Westbank Outdoor Market

June 30th - Sept. 15th, 2012

The 3rd Annual Westbank Outdoor Market kicks off the season June 30th alongside Westside Daze celebrations. The Market, to be held at the Westbank Lions Community Centre parking lot, 2466 Main St., will host weekly singers and musicians as well as a pancake breakfast every Saturday morning from 8:00 - 11:00 am which benefits local charities. Fresh in-season fruits and vegetables, craft items, baking, and many other wares featured. Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. For further information about renting a table or interest in entertaining, please email the Westbank Lions Club at westbanklionsclub@yahoo.ca.

PEACHLAND

Peachland Half Marathon and Spring 10K - April 22, 2012

The scenic route features a two loop(21.1K) or a one loop(10K). Participants may choose to run or walk. The route includes both flats and hills as it follows the lakeshore to Buchanan Road and return. Cousins Park at the Community Centre. For registration and more information call 250-767-2133.

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