



The Westbank Express....

If we don't change our direction, we're likely to end up where we're headed. - Chinese proverb



Your Monthly Newsletter



Raptors, Hoot, Snowball and Fleece check-in at SORCO for rehabilitation.

For a local Westbank family, the discovery of SORCO(The South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls), began with Fleece, a northern saw-whet owl that the family named after rescuing it from their backyard in mid-January. Fleece was perched on a low-lying branch looking weak and despondent. Upon contact with SORCO, a representative made arrangements for pick-up and transportation of Fleece to the rehabilitation clinic in Oliver. SORCO, in its 26th year, rescue, rehabilitate and release injured birds and orphaned chicks. Raptors(birds of prey) including owls, eagles, falcons, hawks, vultures, and osprey, are protected by the government and it is illegal to own or hunt a raptor.

Hoot, a northern saw-whet, has been in the rehabilitation centre for over a year and will remain there as an ambassador as he would be unable to survive in the wilderness with only one eye. Snowball—a snowy owl—found in a chicken coop, was due to be released near the end of January. He spent several months recuperating in the clinic in surroundings similar to those of his native habitat. Volunteer staff remain distant from the birds so as not to encourage a pet-like relationship. Fleece, who appeared to be recovering at the clinic, unfortunately passed away after three days of care.

Lauren Meads, who previously worked with the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC, now manages SORCO. Part of her job entails delivering injured birds to the Penticton Veterinary Hospital including cases such as a Great Horned owl with a hip problem, a Red Tail Hawk with a foot impediment or an excessively weak Northern Pygmy Owl. Volunteers like Dr. Harvey of the Penticton Veterinary Hospital offers a dedicated support system along with his assistant Erin Forget. They donate their time, x-rays, and advice. Once the birds are treated at the Veterinary Hospital, Lauren transports them to the SORCO facility in Oliver where they recuperate with care from volunteers who prepare them for release into the wild.

SORCO relies entirely on personal donations and dedicated volunteers. Donations cover treatment, medical supplies, food and equipment. Delivering birds directly to SORCO is more helpful to the organization but volunteers throughout the valley will pick-up and transport the birds. SORCO will be holding an Open House on May 5, 2013 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tour the site, view resident owls, silent auction, local environmental booths, food and refreshments. For location contact SORCO at 250-498-4251 or email sorco@telus.net. Web site: www.sorco.org. SORCO is always looking for volunteers and they encourage and appreciate any donations. "Please give a hoot!"

A storehouse of acorns embedded in a Redwood tree by acorn



wood-peckers at the grounds of the Veterans Memorial Home in Yountville, California.

AROUND TOWN

Westbank Lions Club Roast Beef Dinner

Sunday, March 10th at 5:00 pm, 2466 Main St. Door open at 4:30 pm. Tickets \$15.00 each. Cash bar. 50/50 Draw. Tickets available at the Westbank Lions Hall, Home Hardware, and Shannon Lake Convenience Store. More events on the 3rd page.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

Mar. 7 - Agricultural Advisory Committee 1:30 pm
Mar. 12 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
Mar. 19 - Special Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
Mar. 20 - Advisory Planning Comm. - 9:30 am
Mar. 26 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

For questions or information about the newsletter, please email westbankepress@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Gordon Ficke, Rita Pedersen; Editor: Barbara Heaney



From the Kitchen Nook: Yamburgers by Rita Pedersen

Ingredients: 1 1/2 cups cooked yam; 1 cup cooked chickpeas, rinsed and drained; 1/4 cup flour or more as needed (whole wheat or almond); 1 1/4 cup panko crumbs (bread crumbs); 1 tbslp. fresh lemon juice; 1 1/2 tsp. minced garlic; 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese. **Directions:** Mash yam and chickpeas together; add flour, 1/2 cup panko crumbs, lemon juice and garlic; stir well to blend. Season to taste with salt, pepper, thyme and red pepper flakes. On a shallow plate, mix the remaining panko crumbs and parmesan cheese. Using 1/2 cup measure, scoop the yam mixture and roll into a ball; place on plate and roll, lightly pressing down into patty shape. Cook until golden brown and crisp. Garnish yam bun with avocado, lettuce, red onions, dijon mustard and lime mayonnaise.

Westbank Elementary School Remembered by Gordon H. Ficke



Pictured left - Student cloakroom - June 19, 2003.

I arrived late that sunny day on June 19th, 2003. Teachers, former teachers, students, former students, parents, parents of those former students and some interested local pioneers were packed inside the Westbank Elementary School Gymnasium. I, along with a few mothers with their small children watched from the doorway, as the ceremony unfolded. Westbank history was being made that day. Sadly, this would be the last assembly conducted in this school. I watched the final tribute to my school, as each of the presenting students mumbled a few words into the microphone before solemnly depositing a coffee mug, pen, tee shirt, etc., emblazoned with the official "Westbank Wildcats" logo, into the time capsule. Poignant nostalgic memories overwhelmed me, and I felt strangely disconnected to this generation of elementary school students.

The open door leading to the playground, beckoned me. I stepped into the warmth of the bright sunshine. The familiar narrow strip of lawn between the single row of five large elm trees adjacent to the original school building, and its counterpart on the west side of the school, were the only grassy areas on the whole playground during the mid 1950s through the late '60s.

The south woods that lay beyond the downed barbed wire fence boundary of the playground was a magnet for us kids. We were industrious and built rudimentary forts from rotten logs, defended them from renegades, captured rival fort members, and confined them until the bell rang. The next day the game resumed where we had left off. It was great creative fun! As we explored deeper into the forest it became more difficult to hear the school bell. Consequently, the principal one day declared that the woods were now out of bounds. We were now relegated to confine our activities to the playground area. During the spring and summer we engaged in mixed scrub softball. Most of the boys played marbles on the level dirt playground. Some of the older kids taught the younger children the skill of burning their names into an old log, by tilting their magnifying glasses at the perfect angle to direct the sun's rays to form a pinpoint laser beam. The girls, meanwhile, were adept at games of jacks, hopscotch and skipping rope.

It was sometime during the early '60s that an asphalt pad was laid down on the east side of the playground, between the grassy area and the raised sports field belonging to George Pringle Secondary School. Two basketball hoops were then installed, one at each end. That rectangular hard surface became very busy in the warmer weather as children engaged in numerous activities from skipping, playing hopscotch to playing basketball. In wintertime that piece of pavement was converted into a slick ice slide with all the students competing to see who could skid the furthest. On this June day in 2003, after more than forty hot summers and cold winters, this piece of pavement was now showing its age. Through neglect and lack of maintenance, the surface had numerous cracks and the nets on the basketball hoops were frayed and torn.

The assembly was still in progress when I re-entered the building. One of the teachers spoke about some of her personal highlights while she taught here. I walked down the corridor, glancing at the class and school pictures lining the walls. Sadly, there were no class pictures prior to the early 1970s.

The rear door from Miss Gorman's former classroom creaked, as I swung it open. There was the same cloakroom from my childhood days. Nothing had changed, except that now backpacks hung from the brass coat hooks instead of shoulder bags. The same desks were now facing away from the windows, instead of to the front of the class. Back in the 1960s the students from the whole school were crammed into this one classroom on Friday afternoons to watch films! In those early years there were only five classrooms in the whole school, with perhaps 20 to 25 students in each class. However, the seating was still tight as we watched those health and safety educational flicks interspersed with a few travel and science documentaries. Jiminy Cricket features were my favourite! The dedicated teachers that taught here left an indelible impression on me. Miss Dobbin, a short, vivacious woman, always had a kind word for each child in her grade one class. Mrs. Owehand, a very thin, reserved woman, showed us how to write with those requisite Ad Pac pens in grade two. For grade three we had Miss Beet, a no nonsense teacher, and Mrs. Anderson, who taught grade four, was more lenient. Miss Gorman, the grade five and six teacher, enjoyed reading a chapter to us each day, after lunch, from popular children's books. The indelible memory still lingers with me on that cold 22nd day of November 1963. While we were in her class we learned of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Schools were officially closed for the rest of that Friday afternoon.

Mr. McCulloch, our Principal and grade seven teacher assigned us our first social studies project. I built a replica of the Greek Parthenon (with a little help from my dad, of course). Today, it has a home on top of a small bookcase in my garage. One of the last memories I have as a student at Westbank Elementary School was in the summer of 1965. All the students lined up in our respective divisions, outside the front doors of the school, as we always did each school day. Our elementary school had no public address system so the principal or other teachers would use these opportunities to make important announcements to the students. After the assembly was over, each division was directed to march into their respective classroom, to usher in the beginning of our school day. However, this particular day was special. Instead of hoisting the ubiquitous Union Jack up our flagpole, it was replaced by our new Canadian maple leaf flag.

Today the buildings are all gone. On the footprint of the former Westbank Elementary School that stood for almost fifty years, are a community garden and a dog friendly park. A children's water park occupies the flat scrub brush area, beyond the former fence to the west of the school. The row of five large elm trees on the former east side of the school, are the sole remnants of that era. Those wonderful memories, however, will continue to thrive in the minds and hearts of all those students who attended Westbank Elementary School.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

WESTBANK

Okanagan Regional Library

Westbank Branch

Okanagan Reads Shoot! - Mar. 6th - 7:00 pm

Enjoy bannock, coffee and conversation in the library. Jordan Coble, Curatorial and Heritage Researcher at the WFN Repository and Heritage office, will share his points of view and thoughts regarding the novel Shoot!. Join the discussion.

Gearing Up for Gardening - Mar. 13 - 7:00 pm

Join members of the Okanagan Master Gardeners Association as they explain the Master Gardeners program and answer your gardening questions. Presented by Friends of the Westbank Library. For further information call the Library at 250-768-4369. Westridge Mall. 2484 Main Street.

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch

288, 2525 Dobbin Road

Sunday, Mar. 3 - Ladies Aux. Pancake Brkfst. 9-11am

Monday, Mar. 11 - Branch General Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, Mar. 15 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner 5:00 pm cocktails with the 288 Jammers; 6:00 pm Irish Dancers; 6:30 pm dinner. Tickets \$13.00 each. Please purchase tickets at the Branch prior to March 13th.

Monday, Mar. 18 - Ladies Aux. General Mtg. 7:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays - League Darts - 7:30 pm

Wednesdays and Saturdays - Meat Draws: 3-5 pm

Thursdays - Euchre(the card game). 1:00 pm

Sunday Jam Sessions - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

WORLD THEATRE DAY - March 27th!

GOSPEL MEETINGS every night except Saturday until mid-March at Highway Gospel Hall, 2549 Herbert Road, Westbank.

Follow the first law of holes: If you are in one, stop digging. - Denis Healey. - English politician(b. 1917)

Westside Seniors Activity Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

March 5th - Marty Edwards at 2:15 pm; **March 12th** - Blind Auction with proceeds for the Westside Seniors Centre at 2:00 pm; **March 19th** - Hamburger Day at Noon; **March 26th** - Mary Kerckhove for birthdays and anniversaries at 2:15 pm. For further information contact Valerie at 250-707-3494 or email visolomon@shaw.ca. **New members welcome!**

Westbank Museum

**Annual General Meeting
Wednesday March 13th, 2013**

Doors open at 7:00 pm; Meeting starts 7:30 pm. Location address: 2376 Dobbin Road. New Members and Board Nominees Welcome!

Westbank Country Opry 🎵 🎵

Sunday, March 24th - 2:00 pm

Normally held the last Sunday of the month however this month's Opry will be held on the 24th due to Easter. Westbank Community Centre, 2466 Main Street. Doors open 1:00 pm. Show starts at 2:00 pm. Refreshments and door prizes. \$5.00 admission fee. Call 250-768-1593 for further information.

Native Tacos - Pine Acres Home

Wednesday, March 20th 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. 1902 Pheasant Lane. For more information, call 250-768-7676.

Orion's Fish Bus - by the Cherry Pit

Saturday and Sunday - March 30th & 31st

70 peeled Tiger Prawns \$20.00 or 2 for \$35.00 or 3 for \$50.00. Stop by the Fish Truck and join the email list to get tasty seafood recipes and a free bonus every \$100.00. 2565 Main St. by the Cherry Pit. For more information go to tritonsage@yahoo.com.

Westbank Bumper Stickers available at Lil' Sprouts #24-2475 Dobbin Rd. Phone 778-754-5594.

PEACHLAND

Jerry Dober Breakfast

Sundays - 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Morning meal includes: pancakes, french toast, eggs to order, bacon, sausage, homemade hashbrowns, toast, coffee and orange juice! All for \$5.75. Confirm dates by calling 250-767-0141. Location: Peachland Wellness Centre, 4426 5th Street.

SUMMERLAND

Philosophers' Cafe 2013

Wednesday, March 20th

Doors open 6:30 pm. Discussion 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. What does spirituality mean in everyday life? Summerland Arts Centre. 9533 Main St.

Kettle Valley Steam Railway

Easter Train - Saturday, March 30th

Ride the Kettle Valley Easter Train on Saturday, March 30th at 10:30 am or 1:30 pm. For tickets and more information, call 250-494-8422.

PENTICTON

The Penticton Tune Agers

Sunday, March 24th, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Performing with the theme titled 'Look to the Rainbow' for their spring concert. The show features the Tune Agers' choir and orchestra. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available at the Penticton and Wine Country Visitors Centre. Show at the Cleland Community Theatre, 325 Power Street. Phone 250-490-2430.

OLIVER

Western Swing 🎵 🎵 🎵 🎵

Thursday, March 7th - 7:30 pm

Join Woody Holler and his Orchestra at the Oliver Alliance Church where they will explore the crossover between jazz and western with a bit of yodelling thrown in. Richard Moody on violin, Greg Lowe on guitar, Daniel Koulack on double bass and Woody Holler vocals and guitar. For more information, call Maureen at 250-495-7978.

OSOYOOS

Love, Loss and What I Wore by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron

Fri., Mar. 8th and Sat., Mar. 9th - 8:00 pm

Presented by the South Okanagan Amateur Players. Osoyoos Mini Theatre. Adults \$18.00; Seniors/Students \$15.00. Tickets at: Your Dollar Store with More(Osoyoos); The Sweet Tooth(Summerland); Dragon's Den(Penticton); and Sundance Video(Oliver).

COUPON CORNER



Rocky J's Beach Hut

5866B Beach Ave, Peachland

Coffee, teas, lattes, delicious meals, snacks, baking.

Buy one Medium Coffee.

Get one free!

Expires March 31, 2013

Phone 250-767-2454



Kick Start Printing
OSOYOOS

COMMERCIAL PRINTING AND DESIGN

www.kickstartprinting.com

BUSINESS SECTION

Hughes
TIRESTORE
R.B. (BOB) HUGHES
USED TIRES Sales & Service
2471 MAIN ST.
WESTBANK, B.C. (250) 768-4005

John C Whittall Photographs
Birds, Beasts, Blooms and Bugs

3250 Shetler Drive
Westbank, B.C.
V4T 1M3 Ph: 250-768-7866

jbc100@shaw.ca
<http://jbc100.shawwebspaces.ca>

PANICH MUSIC

- Lessons
- Repairs
- Rentals
- Instruments
- Recordings
- Dance Music

#3 - 3393 Webber Rd.
Westbank, BC V4T 1G8
panichmusic@shaw.ca

Studio
250.768.1593
Lavern Panich

JOE S. MATTIASCH
EL. CONTRACTOR

S. M. Electric
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL WIRING

1936 KNOX CRESCENT
KELOWNA, BC V1Y 1L1

PHONE OR FAX: (250) 763-0604
CELL: (250) 317-1095

Westbank

CAR & DOG WASH

Coin Bays & Touchless Automatic

Tel: (250) 768-6669 • Fax: (250) 768-6709
1 - 2460 Dobbin Road • Westbank, BC V4T 1K5

RELAX
WE HAVE LUNCH COVERED

Delivery starts 11 AM EVERYDAY

WESTBANK
768-9191

Teas and Wellness Centre

Silver Leung
Lady Dragon

250-452-9188
Vintage View Centre
102-3480 Carrington Road
Westbank, BC V4T 3C1

dragonslairdirect@yahoo.com
www.dragonslairtea.ca

BIG TIRES
WESTBANK 250.769.5909

Phone: 250.769.5909
Fax: 250.769.5990

2110 - 1920 Old Okanagan HWY
Westbank, BC, V4T 1T8

Email: big0351@shaw.ca

THE WESTSIDE'S ONE STOP SHOP™

MAKING SIGNS THE WRIGHT WAY

WRIGHT SIGNS

Vehicle Lettering & Digital Graphics • Booth Safety & Electrical Signs • Illuminated Signs
Window Lettering • Banners • Trade Show Displays

Graphic Design • Installation • Maintenance

Call: 250.718.SIGN (7446)

Website: WrightonSigns.ca Office: 250.707.1123
email: wrightonsigns@shaw.ca Fax: 250.768.1158

JENSEN'S AUTOMOTIVE
"For all of your automotive needs."
3245 Elliott Road, WESTBANK, BC

Phone: 250-768-2733

Lil' Sproutz Children's Boutique

#24-2475 Dobbin Road
Westbank, BC V4T 2E9

Sarah Arnault
Owner

sarah@lilSproutz.net 778-754-5594

<http://www.lilSproutz.net/>

Jaak Ranniste
Lawyer Notary

1 - 2413 Main Street Westbank BC V4T 2H8 Tel 250 707 1230 Fax 250 707 1451

KEKULI ABORIGINAL FOODS INC.
CAFE, CATERING & GIFTS

"DON'T PANIC... WE HAVE BANNOCK!"

Sharon Bond
Darren Hogg
kekulicafe@telus.net
www.kekulicafe.com

250-768-3555
505-3041 Louie Dr. (Governor's Landing)
Westbank, BC V4T 3E2

Rocky's Beach Hut

Joanne & Don

Tel: 250.767.2454
Fax: 250.767.2854

5866B Beach Ave
Peachland, BC V0H 1X7

Licensed Premises

WOODEN ARMS

custom furniture & architectural woodwork
Westbank, B.C.

H Paynter
Cabinet Maker

250.718.2891
woodenarmsworkshop@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/woodenarmsworkshop

I Drive For You
Errands and Services
Proudly Serving
Westbank and Peachland

Lauralee Gordon
Tel: (250)863-7301
Fax: (778)754-5448
Web: <http://www.idriveforyou.ca>