



The Westbank Express....

Easter Egg Hunt at the Peachland Recreation Centre, Friday April 18th, 10:00 am for children 2 and over. Crafts, activities, bouncy castle and easter egg hunt. Pre-registration required. Call 250-767-2133



Your Informative Newsletter

EARTH WEEK

celebrated from April 21 - 25, 2014 involves festivities/events around the world that include participating in earth sustaining activities: planting wildflowers or plants native to a particular area, planting new trees, conserving water and more.



AROUND TOWN

The Westbank Country Opry
Sundays, Mar. 30th & Apr. 27th, 2014



The Opry Band

Westbank Country Opry concerts continue their shows at the Emmanuel Assembly Church (next to the Holiday Inn), 2600 Hebert Rd. Doors open @ 1:30 pm and show starts at 3:00 pm. \$8.00/person or \$15.00/couple. Intermission: refreshments and snacks available for sale from the Emmanuel Church Youth Group. www.westbankcountryopry.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

- Mar. 6 - Agricultural Advisory Committee - 5:00 pm
- Mar. 11 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
- Mar. 19 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am
- Mar. 25 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm
- Apr. 3 - Agricultural Advisory Committee - 5:00 pm
- Apr. 8 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
- Apr. 16 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am
- Apr. 22 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

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

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

The Westbank Annual Duck Convention



They're back! It's that time of year again when hundreds of Mallard ducks gather at the pond on the corner of Louie Drive and Bering Road where they enjoy a cool swim, snow sunbathing and some seed snacks provided by a local Westbank resident, pictured below right. The male Mallard duck, pictured below left, sports an uncrested glossy green head and white neck ring, chestnut chest, white tail, yellowish bill, and orange feet. The female is mottled brown with a whitish tale; a patched orange bill, and orange feet. Mallards' habitat includes marshes, wooded swamps, grain fields, ponds, rivers, lakes, bays, and city parks. They reside in the northern parts of N. Hemisphere and some winter in Mexico.



**From the Kitchen Nook: Vegetable Quinoa Soup by Rita Pedersen**

Ingredients: * 2 tsp (10 mL) olive oil * 1 onion, diced * 2 cloves garlic, minced * 1 cup (250 mL) thinly sliced cremini mushrooms, (about 115 g) * 1 sweet potato, (about 340 g) peeled and diced * 2 cups (500 mL) homemade vegetable broth, or organic vegetable broth * 1/2 cup (125 mL) quinoa * 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pepper * 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt * 2 cups (500 mL) stemmed kale, thinly sliced * 1 tbsp (15 mL) red wine vinegar. Preparation: In large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion and garlic, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms; cook, stirring occasionally, until beginning to soften, about 4 minutes. Stir in sweet potato, 3 cups water, broth, quinoa, pepper and salt; bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook until quinoa is tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Stir in kale; cook until tender, about 4 minutes. Stir in vinegar.

Three Mile House...An Encounter on Twisty Bear Creek Road in Westbank by Gordon H. Ficke. Pictured left, Sour Cherry Orchard on Bear Creek Road

Turning sharp left from Parkinson Road onto Bear Creek Road, and almost immediately, the housing subdivisions disappear from sight as my black car meanders down the narrow twisty two-lane blacktop through the silent unspoiled wilderness. The road winds northward and I get the occasional glimpse of Okanagan Lake peeking through the trees on my right, revealing the natural beauty of this area.

Further along this lonesome road and as I round a left-hand curve all of a sudden there appearing before me on the right is a sweeping tract of hundreds of leafless grey sour cherry trees. An orchard in the middle of a wilderness setting is definitely out of place. What happened here to demolish this entrepreneur's dream? The car climbs the moderate grade and the road veers 90 degrees to the

right. Just off the road to the left are the remains of what was once a log building. The roof had long ago collapsed in on itself. The weathered log walls lean inwards. Even in this precarious state, this prominent structure, whether a house or barn exudes an enduring character. If it could talk, it would have an interesting story to tell. "That building was referred to as the 'Three Mile House'. There is so much history associated with that building," Irene (named after her mother) Wiberg (formerly Petterson) revealed. Irene grew up near that log building, in the Bear Creek area of Westbank. Her dad John Petterson, born in 1907 in Sweden, moved to Canada in his late teens and could not speak a word of English. Petterson hung around with other Swedes that came to Canada and he found it very difficult to converse with other Canadians. John was a logger all his life and later moved from the prairies to the Okanagan to initially work for Irene's grandparents, Gardo and Marie Getts who owned a large tract of land near that log house. John met the Getts's daughter and future wife, Irene, when she was only 16. The couple were later married in 1937 and boarded with her parents for a short time. "Dad drove logging trucks, first for one of the Garraway brothers in Peachland and then for S.M. Simpson's sawmill in Kelowna. Then in the early 1950s he bought his own logging truck, a Diamond T, that he was very proud of," Wiberg effused. "That log building was used as a barn, a house, and then a barn again," Wiberg recalled. "I remember that the McLean family lived in that house when I was in elementary school. They cleaned up the building to live in it. The couple had two boys and a daughter. I think Tina was the daughter's name. Upstairs there was a loft to store hay, when the building was used as a barn." There were a number of squatters that lived in the area during the 1930s through to the 1960s. There were several older gentlemen that lived near Bear Creek. "Mr. Sutherland was a big burly man who had formerly served in the army, then there was Henry Bone, who always wore a hat, I remember. There was a very small fellow, named Jerry Prior and he was such a nice gentleman, and he was very interesting," Irene remembered. "These people were like little hobos and packrats," Wiberg chuckled. "When these people left their shacks, other men would move in to take up their residences." The only chap that Irene remembered quite well was Henry Locke. "He was the clean little man that moved in and tidied up those houses, and then for one reason or another, they would just leave! Mr. Locke occupied a house that was right beside Bear Creek, near to where the weigh scales were." Locke helped Irene's father, John, construct their water pipe to their house from John's spring above their property. The remnant of that water line still exists today.

"In 1950 my dad, Archie Currie sold the Westbank Garage (where the Petrocan Service Station is today on the corner of Old Okanagan Highway and Main Street in Westbank)," Marjorie Milroy declared. Marjorie is the eldest daughter of Archie and Luella Currie's five children. After coming back from a two month prairie vacation, Archie and Luella bought the 380- acre property that included the sour cherry orchard, from Maurice Chaplin. The family moved in to Gardo and Marie Getts' former home. They lived in that house for around two years. "We had hayfields, five cows and five heifer calves on the part of the property where that sour cherry orchard is now," Milroy remembered. "There were two acres of apple trees, one or two cherry trees, one of them a Royal Anne variety that my mother and I picked and she made them into maraschino cherries. We also grew a vegetable garden on that piece of land." To this day there is an old cabin next to a big tree on the orchard property. "The logger that built that cabin on the Petterson property owed my dad some money, and in lieu of payment, my dad hauled the cabin down on the deck of his truck and set it on the concrete foundation of the former house that had been built there. That house had burned to the ground during the 1930s. Rumour has it that the fire was deliberately set to collect the insurance. I was thirteen at the time and my sister Callie was 12," Marjorie explained. "Our job was to move the 3" x 40' pipes with sprinklers, Callie at one end and I at the other, and we moved miles of those pipes to keep our hayfield irrigated." I was like my dad's hired hand," Marjorie cajoled. "I had to ride the range and chase the cows up to the bald range every third or fourth day. The cows would winter in the hayfield near the shed we kept the hay in. Every day the cows would wander down the Bear Creek for a drink. When we were living in the area, someone was using the Three Mile House to house their chickens," Marjorie remembered. Ferne Jean (nee Gellatly) would truck their cattle to the range during the early mid 1960s. "I hated driving that truck on that narrow, windy Bear Creek Road," Ferne admitted. She passed Three Mile House many times and commented, "I thought that the Three Mile House would be a perfect building to be included with the log buildings at Gellatly Heritage Park!" However, it would be a mammoth task to have it moved there from Bear Creek Road!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH/APRIL?

WESTBANK

Westbank Museum Annual General Meeting April 23rd at 7:00 pm

The Westbank Museum Board will recap events from the past year, discuss upcoming projects and they encourage residents to join the gathering which will include refreshments. Everyone welcome! 2376 Dobbin Road. Phone 250-768-0110.

Artifact Collections

If anyone is interested in exhibiting a small collection of artifacts such as telephones, oil lamps, dolls, postcards or other items, please contact the Museum. The facility is available for presentations about the artifacts which could also be housed in the museum as a temporary display.

Pioneer Teas

Pioneer teas will start up again in the Spring. Pioneer families are welcome to give a presentation at the museum regarding their history in Westbank. Please call the museum for further information.

Rental Space/Museum Tours

The Museum has heritage rooms available for rent for meetings, conferences, poetry/book club groups, etc. and there is a kitchenette available for refreshments. **Museum tours** are also available for school groups or other parties interested in learning more about Westbank history.

Okanagan Regional Library

Westbank Branch

Friends of the Library Speaker Series

Wednesday, March 19 - 7:00 pm

Join Vic McDonald for a presentation on "bee-keeping" in the Okanagan.

Wednesday, April 16 - 7:00 pm

Westbank Fire Department discussing "inside and outside fire protection."

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Irish Dancers at 6:00 pm; Dinner to follow. \$14.00 per person.

March 21st - Ladies Auxiliary Dinner 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

March 30th - Doubles Crib Tournament 9:00 am. \$10.00 per person. Lunch available for \$5.00.

April 6th - Ladies Auxiliary Pancake Brkfast 9-11 am

April 11th - 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Cocktails 6:00 pm. Roast Beef Dinner 7:00 pm. \$15.00 per person. Please book in advance and pick up tickets at the Legion by April 4th.

Tuesdays & Thursdays - Dart Pub League, 7:30 pm.

Wednesdays and Saturdays - Meat Draws: 3-5 pm

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

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

For more information call 250-768-4330.

Westside Seniors Activity Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

Tuesday Social Gatherings at 1:30 pm.

Mar. 4th - Gordon Ficke presentation on Historic Westbank.

Mar. 11th - Ako Hobbs. Guitar and singing.

Mar. 18th - at Noon; Hamburger Day.

Mar. 25th - Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Bingo Nights - Every Wednesday at 6:46 pm sharp!

For further information contact Valerie at 250-707-3494 or email vlsolomon@shaw.ca. **New members welcome!** Membership fees \$20.00 per year(May 1 - Apr. 30), must be 50 years of age.

Orion's Fish Bus - by the Cherry Pit

March 8th and 9th, 2014

Mix 'n Match Deal: Shrimp, Sockeye, Fillets, Cod Fillets, Panko Shrimp, Coconut Shrimp, Battered Cod. \$20.00 each. Any 2 for \$35.00. Any 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.

Native Tacos - Pine Acres Home

March 12th & April 16th, 2014 11:00 - 1:30 pm

Luncheon includes taco, beverage and home-made dessert for \$5.00. Take-out also available. For this community highlight, bring a friend and join the Elders for a delicious hot meal. 1902 Pheasant Lane. For further information, please call 250-768-7676.

PEACHLAND

Peachland Players Present: Bus Stop

April 10, 11, 12 at 8:00 pm and April 12 and 13 at 2:00 pm

Enjoy this play about a small group of people travelling on a bus who take refuge at a roadside diner in the middle of a snowstorm. Tickets \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for students. Tickets available at the UPS Store in Westbank, Peachland Pharmacy or at the door if still available. 4th Street Place.

Half Marathon and Spring 10K

Sunday, April 13th - Choose the Half Marathon Run or Walk, or the 10K Run or Walk. The Half Marathon course runs along a scenic two loop(21.1K) or a scenic one loop(10K) course. Registration by phone: 250-767-2133. Check in at the Peachland Community Centre - 4450 6th St.

PENTICTON

The Dream Cafe presents Shakura S'Aida - Wednesday, April 9th

Born in Brooklyn, raised in Switzerland and now living in Toronto, Shakura and her band breath new life into '40s and '50s blues classics. Tickets \$30.00. Reservations and ticket sales 250-490-9012. 67 Colourful Front Street.

OSOYOOS

The Wheat in the Barley Concert

Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 pm

Specializing in wind, string and percussion instruments with Celtic, Slavic, French Canadian, Yiddish and Cajun influences, The Wheat in the Barley will perform Canadian roots music. \$23.00 in advance at Imperial Office Pro in Osoyoos or Sundance Video in Oliver. \$25.00 at the Door. The Osoyoos Mini Theatre. 5800 - 115 St. Phone 250-485-4433.

OLIVER

Easter Bonnet Bridge Social

Gathering - Sunday, Apr. 13 at 12:30 pm

The Women of Oliver for Women invite all bridge-playing ladies and gentlemen to an Easter Bonnet Bridge Social at the Cherry Grove Clubhouse in Oliver. \$10.00 per person includes coffee, tea and dessert. Wear your funny, glamorous Easter bonnet. Pre-registration required. Call Shirley 250-498-6033; Doreen 250-498-0081 or Enid 250-498-3318.

SUMMERLAND

Native Plants and Gardens in the Okanagan - Mar. 8th: 10:00 am-12:00 Noon

Join Dennis St John and Eva Antonijevic to learn about landscaping with native plants, drought-tolerant plants and plants that attract butterflies. Location: Superintendent's House at the Summerland Gardens. 4200 Highway 97 South.

Kettle Valley Steam Railway Easter Train

Take in the scenic views and enjoy the fresh spring air. Saturday, April 19th at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Adults \$22.00; Seniors(65+) \$20.00; Teens \$17.00; Children (3-12) \$13.00. Reservations required. 1-877-494-8424.

Some natural ingredients for dying
Easter eggs: grape juice, red wine, canned
blueberries(with juice), red cabbage leaves,
spinach leaves, ground cumin or turmeric,
carrots, canned beets(with juice).

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