

THE WESTBANK EXPRESS

Happy Summer from the Westbank Museum

Contact us: info@westbankmuseum.com / 250-768-0110



OKANAGAN WEST SCHOOL

Okanagan West School opened in the Spring of 1897 to serve the pupils of the Shannon Lake area. The school offered a single class for all ages that were able to attend.

Children who attended the school trekked along a dirt road which stretched through the points of least resistance; however, the landscape was not like it is now. It is likely the students walked for long distances and through difficult terrain to attend class. The building was located near McDougall Creek Bridge on Highway No. 5 and no other building was in sight within half a mile.



To learn more about the history of the Westbank's schools, visit our booth during Westside Daze festivities (July 12-14, subject to change). This year, our booth will include an overall history of Westbank's schools and what it was like to be a student and teacher back in the day. Hope to see you there!

At the time, the Department of Education had no funding to support the school, which meant those who attended the school were the ones who paid for and built it. Besides its main purpose as a school, Okanagan West served as a meeting area and church hall for the many denominations that were practiced by the citizens.

A former member of the school recalls the original roll-call listing 11 children in total. By 1905, there were upwards of 20 students at Okanagan West.

George W. Hall was the first teacher to work for the school. He came from London, UK, and taught at the school for nearly six years.

By 1906 the schoolhouse became overcrowded and the Department of Education built another school a mile away from Okanagan West. During this transition time, Okanagan West changed its name to Westbank School (1905), and then to Mount Boucherie School in 1933.

This was just one of many schools that was built throughout the rural areas of Westbank.

information for this article was sourced from "From Slates to Blackboards to Computers: a History of Public Schools in the Central Okanagan"

EVENTS

GO FISH!

Every weekend, June 1 until Father's Day, Go Fish! will be held at the Shannon Lake Regional Park from 10AM-3PM. The program offers youth ages 15 and under to catch one rainbow trout each day without a fishing license. Rods, reels, and bait are available, but in limited supply!

WESTRIDGE CAR SHOW

Every Friday (as of May 17), meet at the Westridge Shopping Centre parking lot to view an assortment of old and new cars alike. The event includes entertainment, and a 50/50 raffle, with the stores are there to browse.

BOUCHERIE GRIND (HIKE)

Come out for the 4th Annual Fundraiser Event in support of C.R.I.S. Adaptive Adventures! There is a hiking trail for everyone's style; all ages and abilities welcome. The event is on June 23, 8:30AM-2:30PM on Mt. Boucherie (2781 East Boundary Rd).

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate Canada Day with Westside's events at Memorial Park. The day begins at 12:30PM and ends at 9PM. See www.visitwestside.com for the full list of events.

ART IN THE PARK

Grizzli Winery will be hosting Art in the Park- Vineyard Trails on June 30 and July 1, 10:30AM-4:30PM. The event features locally inspired creations displayed with the backdrop of the vineyard.

WESTSIDE WOBBLERS

A support and socialization group for those fighting MS and those who support them. The group meets for breakfast at the Gate Keeper Restaurant every other Thursday at 9:30AM. They also meet at Tim Hortons (between Bering Rd and Gosset Rd on HWY 97) every Monday at 10AM for coffee.

KELLY O'BRYAN'S TRIVIA

Swing by Kelly O's for a fun trivia night! Every Thursday at 8PM. Free to play!

DINNER IN THE VINEYARD

Enjoy a 4-course farm-to-vineyard long table dinner, paired with Quail's Gate award-winning wines. The event will be held every Wednesday and Thursday evening (as of June 26, begins at 6PM) at Quail's Gate Winery. Each ticket costs \$185/person. The night begins at 6PM.

OKANAGAN INDIGENOUS MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Enjoy a culture-filled weekend, July 6 (2PM-10PM) until July 7 (11AM-10PM). The weekend will include performances, dancers, music, comedy, Indigenous cuisine, and artistic workshops (hip-hop, crafts, hand drums, rattle making, and song-writing). The event will be held in Gellatly Fields and Memorial Park.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Hosted at the Annette Beaudreau Ampitheatre. See the City of West Kelowna website for further details in June.

WESTSIDE DAZE

Check www.visitwestside.com/events/ for more details on this event. July 12-14, 10AM-10PM. The museum will be holding a booth too, so check it out!



Picture taken from City of West Kelowna website.

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Picture taken from City of West Kelowna website.

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

STEREOSCOPE/STEREOGRAPH

Info sourced from Smithsonian.com "Stereographs Were the Original Virtual Reality"

In June 1838, Charles Wheatstone, a British scientist, published a paper of a "curious illusion" he discovered when two of the same images with slightly different perspectives were viewed through the left and right eyes. He explained that your brain would amalgamate the two into a three-dimensional scene. Wheatstone created the world's first stereoscope with this discovery.

Ten years later, scientist David Brewster created his own design of Wheatstone's device. The new stereoscope was small enough to be hand-held. Goggle like lenses were held up to the eyes to display an image on the card. After the invention of the photograph, stereoscopes had a whole new potential! Users of the stereoscope could view real-life scenes, as well as illustrated images. Brewster's design of the stereograph was extremely popular, especially with the use of photographs.

European vistas and ancient landmarks, much like the Roman scene in our very own stereoscope, were common subjects.

"Victorian-era travel was too expensive for anyone but the wealthy, so the stereograph provided virtual voyaging for the emerging middle class."

Nowadays, virtual reality is a booming business. VR devices are not rare in households, especially those with teenagers and video game fanatics. You can virtually participate in practically anything: golfing, bungee jumping, racing cars, or being a character in a horror movie. The possibilities are endless. In fact, Westside has its own VR arcade, Escape Reality in Glenrosa. Here is their website for more details: <https://escapereality.ca/>



GROWING TO GIVE

The community legacy partnership, Growing to Give, is fighting to end hunger in a sustainable and regenerative way. Their mission is a collaborative effort with the Okanagan to grow food and share it through the Central Okanagan Food Bank. Fresh produce will be grown specific to the needs of the food banks and the folks who utilize the centre. This means that food bank administrators can strategically plan in advance every year for the vital nutritional needs of their guests. Instead of too many of one kind of produce, food banks can count on a base number of pounds each year of the fruits and vegetables their clients require. This initiative will benefit food bank patrons with improved access to healthy food choices.

The initiative has the potential to have a tremendous impact on the health and welfare of communities. The Westbank Museum has joined the effort to end hunger through Growing to Give. As a partner of Growing to Give, we ask the Westside community to support this project with us. For more information please go to <https://www.growingtogive.org/growing-to-give-okanagan.html> and follow their social media accounts (Instagram: @growingtogive_FB; @growingtogive1)

"Growing to Give changes how food banks work to end hunger in the Okanagan."



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www.MrMozzarellaPizza.com

THANK YOU CORPORATE MEMBERS

AD LIB Art Gallery, ALEXANDRIA HOUSE Bed & Breakfast, OFF the Grid organic winery, APOTHIC boutique bed & breakfast, Two Eagles GOLF COURSE ACADEMY, OKANAGAN FALLS WINERY ASSOCIATION, MYRA'S CANYON BIKE RENTALS, A View of The Lake B&B - Demonstration Kitchen, H2O adventure • fitness centre, Mr. Mozzarella, GRAND OCEAN YACHT TOURS, CASALETTA LAKESHORE RESORT, VOLCANIC HILLS ESTATE WINERY, SECLUSION BAY RESORT, The UPS Store, CHRISTY'S SPA & LASH, Apple Blossom West Kelowna, B.C., ROLLINGDALE WINERY, QUAILS' GATE Okanagan Valley, HANDCRAFTED ESTD 2017, TRUCK 59 CIDERHOUSE, UBC OKANAGAN, energyplex, indigenious, Red Fox, THE HARVEST GOLD CLUB, CVS TOURS Driving into the Future, OKANAGAN FOODIE TOURS, Red Dog Wine Tours, Paynter's Fruit Market Westbank, BC, SUMMERLAND'S Bottleneck Drive WINERY ASSOCIATION, JOHNSON BENTLEY MEMORIAL AQUATIC CENTRE, The Chef in Steward your own chef, GRIZZLI WINERY Souvenirs Kelowna, Cheers B&B, PLANET LAZER, VALHALDA HELICOPTERS, Kelowna Boat Rentals, MANTEO RESORT WATERFRONT HOTEL & VILLAS, BROKEN RAIL RANCH Wood Lake RV Park and Marina, KINGDOM LODGE BED AND BREAKFAST, Todd's RV & Camping, THE COVE LAKESIDE RESORT, Westbank CORNER Fruit Stall, WildPlay ELEMENT PARKS, DR. LUCI SKAKEN N.D., LITTLE STRAW VINEYARD, URBAN DISTILLERY + WINERY