



# The Westbank Express...



Your  
Monthly  
Newsletter!



## THE LAST FIRING!

After 27 years of—in potting terms—pugging, throwing, drying, trimming, bisquing, glazing, decorating, bricking-in, firing, sanding, oiling, and, oh yes, retailing as well, Gillian Paynter, owner of the Westbank Pottery Studio, will be closing her doors for a change of palette at the end of December, 2010. Pictured above, Gillian is seen dismantling—for the last time—the gas kiln brick door that helps to protect and seal pottery pieces within the kiln when they are being fired with those 2000-degree swirling, bending, whooshing flames that creep and meander in and around the shelves and their guests, morphing chalky-looking containers painstakingly-thrown and intricately-drawn into brilliantly-coloured pieces of clay art. From her store's display units, Gillian's pottery has travelled to homes around the world and will have graced many a mantle-piece, coffee table, kitchen island and glass cabinet.

It's been a long road, full of surprises to this point in Gillian's life, but one that she would never trade. After graduating from George Pringle High School in 1966, Gillian moved to Scotland for three years, then returned to Canada and attended the Kootenay School of the Arts where she completed a three-year program majoring in painting, printmaking and drawing; minoring in clay. After mastering her art course, Gillian spent the next seven years between Holberg, Jor-

## Ski Season in the New Year

Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, down-hill skiing and snowboarding weather conditions have been favouring outdoor enthusiasts recently as hefty mid-November snowfalls and frosty temperatures settle into the



Okanagan. Tentative opening day for Crystal Mountain is Dec. 3rd. During the latter part of the month, Instructor courses will be held for CSIA Level I Ski Instructor: Dec. 17, 18, 19 & 20th and for CSIA Level I Snowboard Instructor: Dec. 17, 18 & 19th. Go to [www.snowpro.com/csia/e/](http://www.snowpro.com/csia/e/) for further information. And for course conditions and weather visit the Crystal Resort website at [www.crystalresort.com](http://www.crystalresort.com). Telemark is also gearing up for a lively season by offering Christmas Gift-Five Day Passes available for \$50.00 including HST. For further information phone 250-768-1491.

### Westbank First Nation

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

### District of West Kelowna - December/10-January/11 Meetings

Dec. 2 - Ag. Advisory Comm. 5:00 pm  
Dec. 14 - Council Meeting 1:30 pm  
Jan. 11 - Council Meeting 1:30 pm  
Jan. 18 - Comm. of the Whole 1:30 pm  
Jan. 25 - Council Meeting 6:00 pm



don River and North Vancouver working with electric kilns and from there she returned to the Okanagan and devoted a year to potting at Tom Dendy's Studio in the Mission.



In 1984, Gillian and her pottery partner Elaine Hughes-Games established the Westbank Pottery Studio. After 10 years, Elaine moved on to other endeavours and Gillian continued to operate the pottery business. One of Gillian's oldest decorative themes—the tree and ladder—evident on many of her pottery pieces, stems back to her family background of fruit farming which began many years ago when her parents, Henry and Sheila Paynter, took on the daunting challenge of growing fruit. And so, it's not surprising that, even though a new tenant will be taking Gillian's place, she is delighted to welcome them (Buckerfields)—a farming business—to Paynter's Market as the new face on the block. Buckerfields plan to open sometime in early 2011.

As a friend, family member, and employee of Gillian's for the past 16 years, I have come to know her exacting ways from the detailed packing, wrapping, and parceling of gifts to unparalleled customer service which regularly included a tour of her gallery, workshop and kiln rooms; a speed lecture on kiln-firing procedures; a synopsis of other artists in the valley; directions to anywhere in the country; and, a gracious escort out the door with a wave and a "Have a Good Day." From the community, Gillian, Thank-you!

by Barbara Heaney

Bridge toll fees were cost prohibitive for Westbank Fruit Farmers

by Gordon H. Ficke

In July 1958 when the Okanagan Lake Bridge first was opened a toll was charged for vehicles crossing the bridge from Westbank to Kelowna. The \$4.50 fee that was levied to travel one-way with their truck laded with fruit surprised Heinz Zdralek (pictured on the left with his 1920s irrigation pump) and his father Englebert! Formerly, a book of truck tickets to cross the lake by ferry cost fifteen cents for each trip! This was a very crucial time for their



family as they were producing a lot of fruit, especially peaches. Heinz remarked, "That hit hard then. My father and I sat down and figured it out real quick." He continued, "We switched from hauling our fruit from our orchard in Casa Loma to the Kelowna Growers Exchange (K.G.E.) packing house, where we normally took our fruit, and now trucked it to the Westbank Co-op." The Kelowna packinghouses naturally complained bitterly that they were no longer getting their business. Many local people relied on the packinghouses for their employment and now with less fruit coming from those Westbank orchards, the K.G.E. required fewer workers. The Zdraleks retorted, "Well smarten those people up!" Meaning, talk to those politicians responsible for implementing the Okanagan Lake Bridge toll fee structure and ask if it can be changed to make it fair for truckers. However, it wasn't until April 1st, 1963 that the bridge toll fees were finally eliminated.

Later the K.G.E. contacted Heinz and his father and asked them if they would reconsider sending them their fruit now that the bridge tolls were removed. "No," they replied. "We are happy where we are taking our fruit." The Zdralek family continued to take their fruit to the Westbank Co-op until they stopped fruit farming and went into hay production.

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**PARTNERS IN BRINE SEAFOOD** Orion's Fish Bus will be in Westbank by the Cherry Pit at 2565 Main St. Saturday and Sunday December 18th & 19th. Last time 'till Feb!!

70 PEELED TIGER PRAWNS \$20! 2/\$35!! 3/50!!! SOLE, SNAPPER, & BASA \$12 Each or 3/\$30! STOP BY THE TRUCK AND JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST TO GET TASTY SEAFOOD RECIPES AND A FREE BONUS EVERY \$100! Health approved.

Good prices. Great selection. Really-Good Seafood!



**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY?**

**WESTBANK**

**Last Chance Craft Fair & Bake Sale**

**Saturday, Dec. 4 9:00 am-12:00 noon**  
Lots of crafts, hostess gifts, delicious baking, floral arrangements and stocking stuffers. Enjoy a muffin and coffee or tea for a Loonie. Westbank United Church Hall. 3672 Brown Rd.

**27th Annual Christmas Open House - Westbank Pottery Studio**

**Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 4th & 5th**  
**10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Featuring work from new firing. Refreshments and baked goods. Located at Paynter's Market, 2565 Main St. Phone 250-768-3722 for further information.

**Country Opry**

**Sunday, Dec. 5th 2:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**Sunday, Jan. 30th 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

Enjoy an afternoon of country opry music. Tickets \$5.00 each available at the door. Westbank Lions Community Hall, 2466 Main St.

**Santa Sleigh Bus**

**Saturday, Dec. 18th 10:00 - 10:30 am**

Kids(and their parents) can join Santa and his elves for Free Hot Dogs and Hot Chocolate from Santa's kitchen. Donations of toys, food, and cash for the benefit of the less fortunate in our community will be gladly accepted at the

bus at the Westbank Lions Community Centre, 2466 Main St.

**PEACHLAND**

**Christmas Light-Up**

**Fri. Dec. 3 5:30 pm Heritage Park**

Entertainment, Santa Parade, refreshments, bonfire, bouncy castle, carnival games and much more.

**Breakfast with Santa**

**Saturday, Dec 4th 9:00-11:30 am**

Children will enjoy a breakfast prepared by St. Margaret's Anglican Church. Magic show, crafts and a visit from a special guest! Children will also receive a small gift from Santa. \$10.00/person, \$4.50/photograph. Advance tickets only. For more information call 250-767-2133.

2. How many Chinese animal signs are there?

**SUMMERLAND**

**Christmas Concert with Penticton Tuneagers Choir & Orchestra**

**December 5, 2010 2:00 pm**

Enjoy an afternoon of Christmas music at the Summerland United Church, 13204 Henry St. Tickets \$15.00.

**Kettle Valley Steam Railway Christmas Express Train**

**Dec. 11th & 12th, 4:00 & 6:00 pm**

**Dec. 17th, 5:00 & 7:00 pm**

**Dec. 18th & 19th, 4:00 & 6:00 pm**

\$14.00 - \$22.00. Contact the Visitor Centre at 250-494-2686 or e-mail [kvr@telus.net](mailto:kvr@telus.net).

**PENTICTON**

**Cannery Winter Market**

**Dec. 4, 11, 18th; 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Cannery Trade Centre - Fairview and Duncan**

Lively indoor market: fresh produce, baking, fine arts & crafts, jewellery and

more. Contact 250-492-7717.

3. Chinese New Year is also known as?

**KELOWNA**

**Stan Chung, Global Citizen**

**Sunday, Dec. 12th 1:00 pm**

**Okanagan College, 1000 KLO Road**

An informal afternoon showcasing ideas and imagination in the Okanagan creative economy. Seating by reservation on the website: [www.okanaganinstitute.com](http://www.okanaganinstitute.com).

**COLDSTREAM**

**Christmas Tea & Tour**

**Dec. 12th, 2:00 pm,**

**Mackie House Lake, 7804 Kidston Rd.**

Tour Historic Mackie Lake House and enjoy tea in the Dining Room. Reservations required. Contact [mackiehouse@shaw.ca](mailto:mackiehouse@shaw.ca) or phone 250-545-1019.

LOOKING AHEAD!

**SILVER STAR**

**Ladies Day Snowshoe Tour & Lunch**

**February 8, 2011, 10:00 am-2:00 pm**

Snowshoe through Silver Star's wilderness forest to the Wild Horseman's Cabin for lunch. For further info. go to [www.skisilverstar.com](http://www.skisilverstar.com).

**GRINDELWALD, Switzerland**

**Tobogganing Festival on Bussalp - Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011**

Sledging fun with a fancy dress competition in Grindelwald, the largest ski resort in the Jungfrau region. For more information visit [www.MySwitzerland.com](http://www.MySwitzerland.com).





# Business Section

## IL MERCATO Deli and Fine Foods

**Don & Michelle Ravndahl**

2441D Main Street  
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*John C Whittall Photographs*  
*Birds, Beasts, Blooms and Bugs*



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

[jbc100@shaw.ca](mailto:jbc100@shaw.ca)

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FOR SALE #117-Hwy 97 South  
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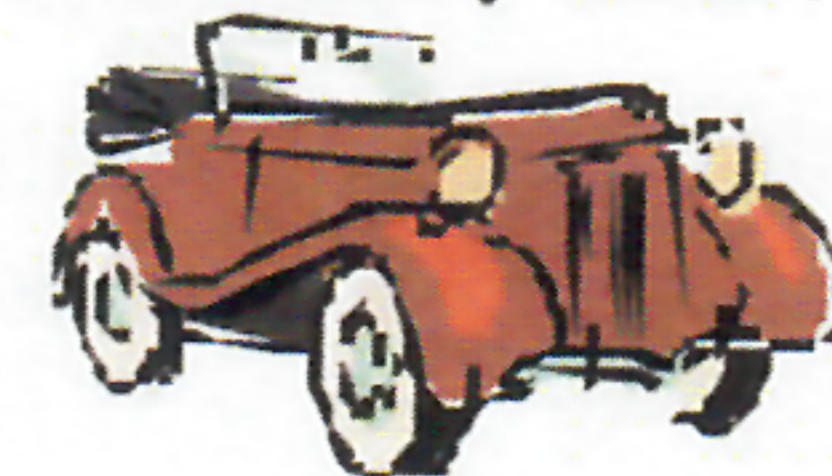
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1. 2011; 2. 12; 3. The Lunar New Year.