



Westbank Express....



Members of the Okanagan Treasure Hunters Club pose for a photo while detecting near Bear Creek, Westbank.

Volunteers Needed

Are you passionate about your community and interested in learning more about its history?

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available for both the museum and the visitor centre, including gardening, customer service, archival duties, and more.

For more information, contact
The Westbank Museum at
250-768-0110 or
info@westbankmuseum.com.

Seeking Buried Treasure on the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail

by Darci Ritchey

Metal detecting has been a hot topic in the news lately, including stories about detecting enthusiasts, known as “detectorists”, finding long-lost rings and returning them to their grateful owners. When I took up the hobby 2 years ago, I was particularly interested in unearthing objects of historical significance to the area. Recently, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to search an area that may have been located on the historic Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail.

I met Blair Jean, a descendant of the Gellatly family, while working at the Westbank Museum. Blair is a history enthusiast and, coincidentally, owns a metal detector! He was having trouble operating it so I connected him with the Okanagan Treasure Hunters Club, whose members are passionate about metal detecting. In exchange, Blair gave an enthralling presentation to our club about the history of Westbank. He generously invited us to detect on his property, which he believes may have been part of the Okanagan Fur Brigade Trail.

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The Fur Brigade Trail was a major travel route that ran from Fort Okanogan in Washington to Fort Alexandria, north of Quesnel. It also ran along the west side of Okanagan Lake. The trail became mostly obsolete after 1846, and many parts of it have disappeared due to decades of logging and development, making it difficult to pinpoint where it actually was. However, some sections of the trail that have been identified remain as they did 200 years ago.

Located near Bear Creek, Blair's property contains a field that could have made an ideal rest stop along the trail. On a rainy Sunday in August, me and a small team of detectorists embarked on a hunt of Blair's property in hopes of finding evidence the trail passed through there. When we arrived, we were greeted enthusiastically by Blair's faithful guard dog, Foxy. Foxy is a delightful little Pomeranian, but has the spirit of a dog three times her size. Blair led us through the forest to a clearing that would be our detecting site. An old cabin, faded and crumbling with age, still stood on the site. It was exciting knowing that we were possibly detecting on the trail that was traveled hundreds of years ago by First Nations people, fur traders, European explorers, early settlers, and prospectors.

As soon as we turned on our detectors, they signalled that there were a lot of metal objects beneath our feet. I knelt down and dug and discovered a small bullet shell casing. As the day progressed, we had varying success, finding scrap metal, bottle caps, a bronze Dom Perignon Champagne menu holder that somebody had clearly used for shooting practice. The most intriguing find was a hair barrette found by Brian. The barrette looks like it is from the Victorian era, but we are still awaiting information on what period it is from. It is bow shaped with an intricate vine design. In the centre of the barrette is a circular frame that looks like it once held a jewel or a cameo. The barrette, though it has become green after being lost underground for so long, is still beautiful.



While we did not find any significant evidence that the fur brigade trail ran through where we detected, we are very grateful that Blair let us detect on his property. Detectorists have had great luck searching in other historical sites within Westbank; just weeks earlier, Blair, Brett and Brian uncovered a horseshoe where the old Billy Powers cabin stood in the 1800s. It was likely forged at the Gellatly Blacksmith shop. It just goes to show that history is all around us – even underneath our feet!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS FALL

WESTBANK

Cheese-making with the Modern Milkmaid

Little Straw Vineyard
2815 Ourloland Rd
Sept 30, 10am-12pm
Participants make their own mozzarella!
Register by Sept 24th, cost is \$80.

Astronomical Wine & Sky Gazing

Rollingdale Winery
2306 Hayman Rd
Oct 1, 7-9pm
See Saturn, Jupiter, & Mars with the Royal
Astronomical Society of Canada and wine
for sale by the glass. Reservations required.

Westside Warriors Games

Royal LePage Place
2760 Cameron Rd
vs Wenatchee Sept 15 7-10pm
vs Salmon Arm Sep 28 7-10pm
vs Victoria Oct 7 2:30-5:30pm
vs Nanaimo Oct 13 7-10pm
vs Chilliwack Oct 16 7-10pm
vs Penticton Oct 19 7-10pm
vs Salmon Arm Oct 26 7-10pm
vs Wenatchee Oct 30 7-10pm
vs Powell River Nov 4 2:30-5:30pm
vs Surrey Nov 10 7-10pm
vs Penticton Nov 13 7-10pm
vs Vernon Nov 16 7-10pm
vs Langley Nov 27 7-10pm

PEACHLAND

End of Summer Gala

Peachland Wellness Centre
4450 6th Street
Sept 22, 5-11pm

Scarecrow Festival

Heritage Park
Sept 29-Oct 31

SUMMERLAND

Tuesday Market

Memorial Park, 9999 Wharton St
Tuesdays through Oct 23, 9am-1pm

Summerland Stomp Western Dance

Summerland Rodeo Grounds
18707 Bathville Rd
Sept 15, 7-10pm
Featuring live music from Appaloosa, dancing,
and a 50/50 draw! Concession and saloon on site.

PENTICTON

Community&Farmers Markets

Main Street (100 Block and at Front St)
Saturdays through Oct 27

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville"

Many Hats Theatre, 1475 Fairview Rd
Th/F/Sat/Sun Sept 6-29
Many Hats Theatre performs a modern adaptation
of Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Nightmare on Front Street

Oct 31, 4-7pm
Penticton throws a Halloween bash, including
Costume Parade, Trick-or-Treating, and Prizes!

BUSINESS SECTION

Mr Mozzarella

Featured Business: Mr. Mozzarella Pizza and Wings



Mr. Mozzarella is a genuine exemplar of what a local business ought to be, striving to be as locally focused as possible. They source local vegetables, basil from the Pure Basil farm on Benvoulin Road, and even meats from Helmut’s Sausage Kitchen in Kelowna, and you can taste the difference their attention to food quality makes. Mr. Mozzarella offers a variety of delicious pizzas made with a homemade dough and oodles of sides and dipping sauces for customers to choose from. While the price is a little higher than some pizzerias around, their their commitment to using high quality, local ingredients, and paying all employees a living wage makes their pizzas a more than fair compensation! Support Mr. Mozzarella (and your tastebuds) today by trying a slice or two! (Coupon offer below).

Mr Mozzarella
GOURMET PIZZA & WINGS

15% OFF
regular priced items with this coupon

Like us on Facebook
for contests and special offers

Westbank Museum
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Valid for pickup only • Offer Expires Dec 31st, 2018

www.MrMozzarellaPizza.com

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