

The Westbank Express...



Tammy Wyatt, Museum Coordinator for the Westbank Museum takes a short break from packing up relic museum pieces.

They're on the move! After many years in the same building on Lower Glenrosa Rd., The Westbank Museum will be moving to a new location next to the Police Station and the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce at 2376 Dobbin Rd. One of the last displays in tact, as pictured above, a two-piece wedding dress from 1896 and a porcelain bedroom set circa 1890, will be carefully dismantled into packing boxes and prepared for the short journey to their new location. A few other items still waiting to be packed were the collection of Brownie cameras: Target, Hawkeye and Bullseye, kerosene lamps, a 1940 RCA Victor radio and a gramophone. Tentatively, the museum plans to open in early July along with the Visitor Centre which will also be located in the same building as the museum. As you enter the building you step into a reception area where the Visitor Centre will be located. To the left is the barn area which will house information, articles and artifacts pertaining to orchardists, farming, logging and blacksmithing. Wandering to the right, takes one into the General Store and then the house area which has several feature rooms; dining and living rooms, master bedroom, children's room and kitchen. There will also be an open area with viewing screens where visitors can view Pioneer testimonials. The museum is always looking for items to be donated to their collection, especially with a significance to Westbank. Presently they are in need of an early 1900s sofa, dining room set and any other household furnishings. Larger items will need to be assessed prior to being donated. Annual museum memberships are available for \$10.00. Contact Tammy at the Museum at 250-768-0110 or info@westbankmuseum.com

From Westbank to Winthrop



If you ever have a hankering to step back in time, especially to the old west, visit Winthrop! It's a relatively short drive from Westbank. Just meander down Hwy 97 S., cross the border at Osoyoos and carry on to 20 West—it's well worth the effort. A small western-themed town, nestled at the foot of the Cascade mountains, Winthrop houses a three to four block main street lined with wooden sidewalks, lots of interesting shops plus quaint cabins and motels hugging the riverside. And for a delicious home-cooked meal, Three Fingered Jack's, the oldest legal saloon in Washington State, serves up a variety of dishes from fish and chips to steak and mashed potatoes with gravy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna Council Mtgs.

June 7- 1:00 pm Special Advisory Planning Committee Meeting; 5:30 pm - Transit Service Open House

June 14 - 1:30 pm Council Meeting

June 16 - 3:00 pm Shape Your Community Open House

June 21 - 1:30 pm Comm. of the Whole

June 28 - 5:00 pm Council Meeting

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

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



From the Kitchen Nook: Apple Cake by Rita Pedersen

Ingredients: 5 cups dices apples using a combination of Golden Delicious and McIntosh, 2 cups sugar; 1/2 cup salad oil; 1 cup chopped nuts(pecans or walnuts); 2 eggs, well beaten; 2 tsps. vanilla; 2 cups flour; 2 tsps. baking soda; 2 tsps. cinnamon; 1 tsp. salt. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix apples and sugar thoroughly. Add oil, nuts, eggs, and vanilla. Mix dry ingredients and add to apple mixture. Bake in a greased 13 x 9 pan for one hour. Whipping cream, ice cream or sour cream frosting go well with this cake.

Merle Griffin (nee Runacres) Tracks her Family's History by Gordon H. Ficke

Around 1980 long-time Westbank resident Merle Griffin began researching her family history on both her father and mother's sides. She even made several trips to Essex in England with local pioneer Ferne Jean to follow up the genealogy on her grandfather's side of the family. She visited relatives, searching cemeteries and scouring records for any tidbits of information about her family and over the years meticulously compiled her family tree that dates back to 1711 that she drew onto several sheets of heavy cardboard. Merle then did the same



research on her mother's side of the family, the Dunfield's. "My father, Forrest Archibald Runacres was born on July 21st, 1890 at Lelott's, Great Wakering, Essex, England to William and Matilda Runacres. He was the fifth of seven children." Merle related. "The family emigrated to Canada in March 1905." The family farmed for approximately three years in McGregor, Manitoba. It was here that her father contracted scarlet fever, but he recovered. In 1908 the family moved again to New Westminster. "It was here that my grandfather got colon cancer which spread to his sciatic nerve." Griffin said. "He passed away at age 54 in the Royal Columbian Hospital on August 7th, 1909.

During this time family members worked to help to support their parents. Merle's dad worked at Royal City Planer Mills for \$2.00 per day for around three years. Later he became a teller at Merchant's Bank and then worked in a laundry where he met his future wife Marion White from Calgary. After they were married 5 1/2 years Marion, who was quite a frail woman, died of Rheumatic Fever. They had no children at the time. Forrest worked for Bennett & White Construction Company in Calgary and travelled to Medicine Hat, Banff, Bassano Dam, etc. before enlisting in November 1917 in the army with the 49th Edmonton Regiment. After serving overseas in the battles of the Somme, Ypres and Paschendale, Runacres finally left Liverpool for his home in Canada on May 21st, 1919. Arriving in Calgary he met Bessie Dunfield, a boarder at the home of Mr. & Mrs. William White, the parents of Marion. Bessie, born in Dauphin Manitoba on June 18th, 1901, was a stenographer at Ashdown's Hardware Store in Calgary at the time they met. They married on December 26th, 1923. At the time they were married Forrest was working at Hanbury's Sawmill in False Creek Flats in Vancouver (site of Exp '86). Merle was born on July 23rd, 1925 at Slaven Nursing Home on 10th Avenue in Kitsilano. Her brother Malcolm was born in 1927 and youngest brother Keith in 1929, also born in Vancouver.

When the Great Depression hit in the fall of 1929 Forrest wanted to make a move and go farming so they made the decision to come to Westbank. The family took the C.P.R. train to Penticton then boarded the S.S. Sicamous to the Westbank Wharf. Merle's aunt and uncle, Milton and Eva Gorman met them there and transported all their belongings with a team of horses and wagon to the Gorman's house in Glenrosa. The family stayed with them for four months until they moved into a house owned by Mr. Grieve Elliot located in the northwest of Westbank Town site at the end of Elliot Road. "My dad and Mr. Elliot primarily grew tomatoes and onions for two years." Merle relates. "However we came out the poorer. Our family left that venture on February 1st, 1932 and moved to Penticton to operate a dairy route," Griffin added, "which my father hated immensely!" One month later on March 1st they moved back to Westbank to reside in Captain Browne's house located above where the Westbank Museum sits in Glenrosa. It was here that Merle and her brothers experienced some of their fondest childhood memories. The family had cows and horses and the Browne family had a milk run and delivered milk around the Westbank town site. "We children enjoyed watching the Browne boys milk the cows and we had fun riding on the hay wagon in the fields." Merle added. "Our mother washed the milk bottles and pails to pay the \$15.00 per month rent for our house. My brothers and I started school when we lived here and had about a mile to walk each way."

"The summers were hot in those days." Merle remembers. "In the summer of 1934 when visitors came down from Vancouver to visit, we slept upstairs. The bats flew around in that unfinished attic." The children ducked under the covers for fear that they would get tangled in their hair. "We were also afraid of rattlesnakes as we strolled through the tall grass." She recalled. There were evergreens around the house and in the springtime the children watched the robins and Stellar Jays in their nests. Our father always grew a wonderful garden so the family always had a good winter's supply of canned vegetables and fruit. The family lived on this idyllic spot until March 1st, 1936 when they moved into their own house on a property that is the now the site of Westwind Village, Delray and Solar Roads.

Pictured above is Captain Browne's house. The photo was taken in 1934 and shows Malcom & Keith Runacres(Merle's younger brothers) on the sleigh. The Runacres lived in this house which was once located on property above the Westbank Museum in Glenrosa.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN
JUNE?

WESTBANK

Westside Jam

The 1st & 3rd FRIDAY of every month.

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Bring your instrument and join in, or come listen. Open-mike jam. C & W, Blue Grass, Old-time, etc. Meets in the Westside Seniors Hall on Old Okanagan Hwy. next to the fire-hall. For more info. contact Carl at 250-707-1030 or Norm at 250-768-9358.

Never
send a chicken to bring home a
fox. - Irish proverb

**Westbank Legion - RCL Branch
288, 2525 Dobbin Road**

**🍏 Ladies Legion Auxillary Pancake
Breakfast**

Sunday, June 12th, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Pancakes served with all the fixins. \$5.00 per person. Call 250-768-4330.

🍏 End of Poker Tournament

Tuesday, June 14th

**🍏 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast -
Legion Fathers Free!**

Sunday, June 19th

**🍏 Drop-In Darts every Wednesday
7:30 pm all summer.**

🍏 Westside Daze

June 30th - July 3rd

Outdoor barbeque, refreshments and entertainment.

PEACHLAND

Breakfast with the Mayor

Tuesday, June 7th at 7:30 am

To be held at The Waterfront Grill. Contact the Peachland Chamber for reservations: 250-767-2455.

Sowers & Growers - Rose Show

Sat., June 25th 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

4th Street Place, 4475 4th Street. For further information call 250-767-2218.

SUMMERLAND

**Rodeo Grounds Naked Horse
Show**

Sunday, June 19th

Show includes classes such as Dressage, Jumping, English and Western flat classes, etc. Helmets required for all participants. Call 250-809-4344 for more information.

VERNON

**17th Annual Downtown Vernon
Sunshine Festival**

Saturday, June 18th 9:00 - 5:00 pm

Largest street fair and sidewalk sale in the north Okanagan. Activities will include pony rides, climbing wall, face painting, entertainment stages, food vendors, roaming entertainers and all of the downtown merchants. 2900 - 3400 Blocks of 30th Ave. Downtown Vernon. For further information call 250-542-5851.

Lovely
flowers fade fast. Weeds last
the season. - Swedish proverb

PENTICTON

Peach City Beach Cruise

June 24th - June 26th, Lakeshore Drive

View over 800 of the finest antique cars. Live music, vendors and more. Auction Friday evening and a Collector Car Auction at 12:30 pm on Saturday. Contact 866-889-2288.

**10th Annual Penticton Pacific
N.W. Elvis Fest**

June 24th - 26th, Okanagan Lake Park on Lakeshore Drive

Presenting headliner Shawn Klush. Approximately 30 Tribute artists. Pancake breakfast, food and refreshment vendors and Gospel Show Sunday 9:00 am. For more information call 1-800-663-5052.

LOOKING
AHEAD!

WESTBANK

Westbank Outdoor Market

Every Saturday Morning

July 9th - Sept. 17th, 2011

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Once again the Westbank Outdoor Market will take place in the parking lot of the Westbank Lions Community Centre at 2466 Main Street. Fresh in-season fruits and vegetables, craft items and other wares will be for sale. There will also be weekly entertainment with local singers and musicians; and, the Lions' chefs will be cooking up a pancake breakfast every Saturday morning during the Market.

The Royal Revival of Rock and Roll

August 12th & 13th, 2011

Tickets now available at the Westbank Lions Community Centre or from any Lions member. Concert T-shirts, supplied by WrightOn Signs in Westbank, will be available and you can get a FREE fifties hairdo before the concert. The majority of the net proceeds will be donated to the fine arts department of Mount Boucherie Secondary School. For more info. call the Lions Community Centre at 250-768-2322.

COBBLE HILL

Lavenderfest

July 30th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

A day at the Lavender Farm in support of the Canadian Cancer Society. Will include Lavender harvesting and essential oil distillation demonstrations, farm tours, u-pick lavender, wand making, children's crafts and scavenger hunt, live music, wine garden and more. Adults \$5.00; Seniors \$3.00; Children 12 and under \$2.00. 3500 Telegraph Road. For more information phone 250-743-4100.

Envy never
has a holiday. - Latin proverb



Business Section

 **Westbank Outdoor Market** 
Every Saturday Morning
July 9 - September 17, 2011

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www.westbankmarket.squareserve.com

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