

The Westbank Express...



BIG O TIRES IS MOVING



Family business member Kris Sanderson (pictured on the left) of Big O Tires in Westbank stands in front of one of the new service bay doors at their upcoming location. Adjacent to Highway 97 at 1920 Old Okanagan Highway Big O Tires plans to move to their new building sometime in early May, 2011. Finishing touches are still underway as ground packers roll through the parking lot preparing for new paving. A celebratory event to mark the opening will be the WESTSIDE FOODBANK SHOW & SHINE, a joint venture between Big O Tires and their soon-to-be neighbour Great Canadian Oil Change. The Show & Shine will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Plan to visit the Big O Tires location and enter a draw by food or cash donation to win a trip to Las Vegas. Music for the event will be supplied by Good Guys Video & Video Unlimited; and, D.J. Billy Retro. Big O Tires, family owned and operated, is making the move because the

Sanderson family has decided it's time to make a change for their business and move to a new location to serve the public better. They'll still continue to provide the same great service and staff everyone in the community has come to know but now they will have 5 full service bays and will be able to service trailers and RVs. They offer full mechanical including brakes, shocks, alignments, front-end work and general tune-ups; and, if they can't help, they'll recommend someone who can. Big O Tires' former location at 2547 Main St., which they have been operating out of since 1999, was at one time the home of the Catholic Church, Our Lady of Lourdes. After Big O Tires moved in, some used to joke that it was definitely the place to take their 'holy' tires! For further information about Big O Tires' move contact Kris at 250-769-5909 or by fax at 250-769-5990 and be sure to visit the Show and Shine at Big O Tires new Westbank location on May 14th.

From cuddly warm coats in the east
(Stratford, Ontario) to...



...barely a thin layer of protection in the
west (Westbank, B.C)...



...it's that time of year again when alpacas need to shed their fibre (earlier for the westerners), with the help of a shearer of course. A shearer will also perform grooming duties such as clipping the alpaca's nails and their fighting teeth.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

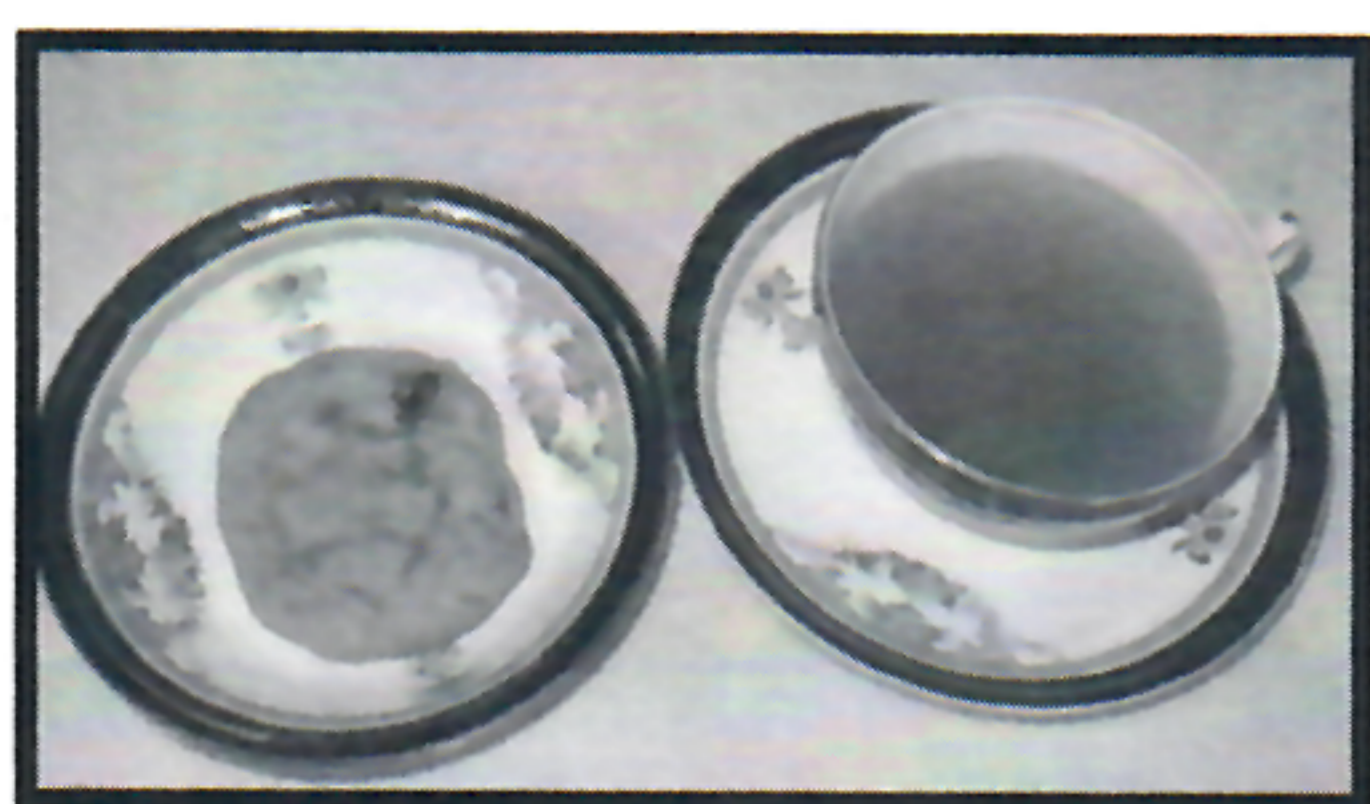
District of West Kelowna Council Mtgs.

- May 10 - 1:30 pm Council Meeting
- May 17 - 1:15 p.m. Comm. of the Whole
- May 24 - 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

For questions or further information about our newsletter, please contact westbankexpress@gmail.com

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Contributing Writers: Gordon Ficke, Rita Pedersen.

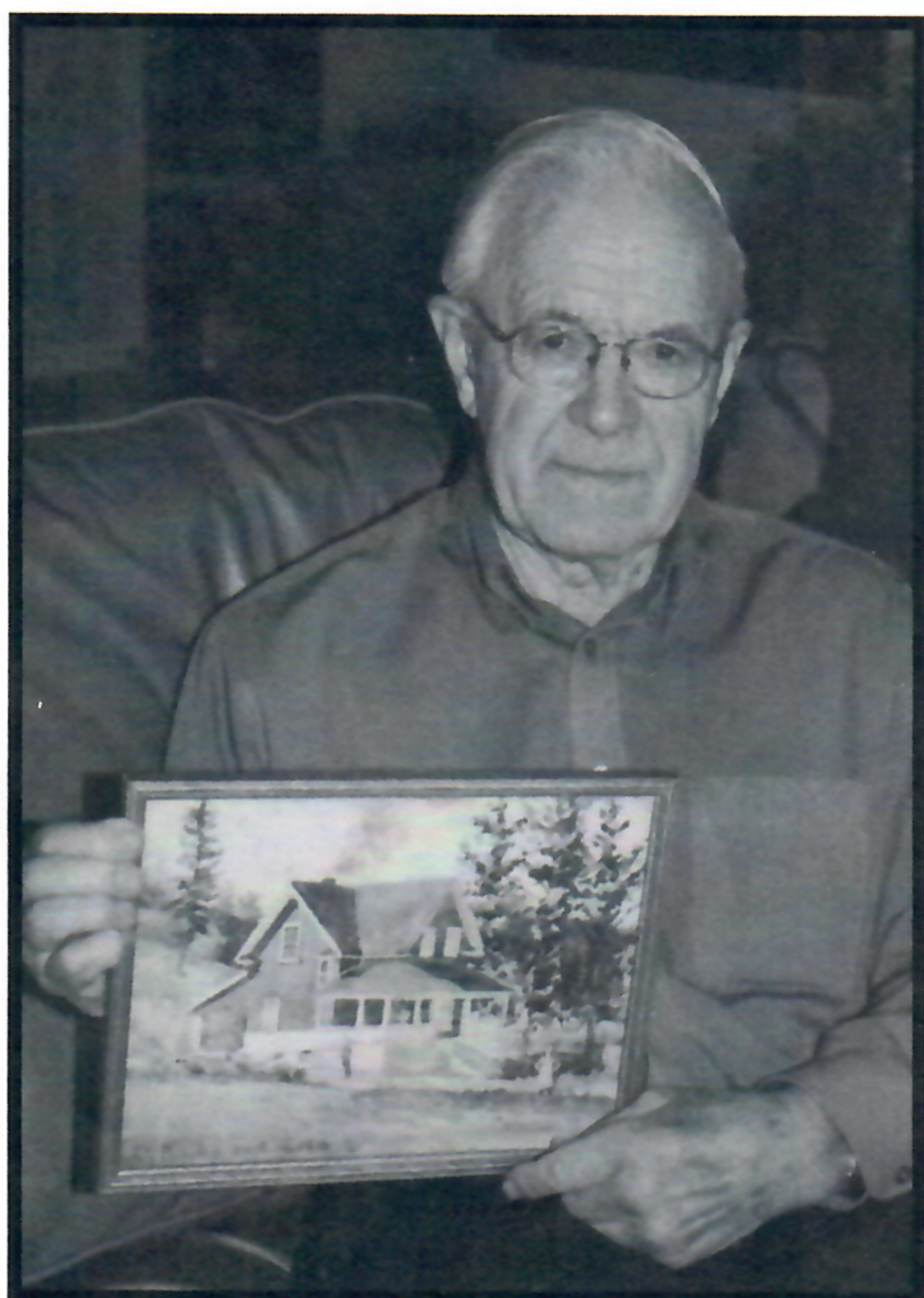


From the Kitchen Nook: Peanut Butter Cookies by Rita Pedersen

1 cup butter or margarine, 1 cup peanut butter, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup brown sugar (sugar to taste), 2 eggs. Mix thoroughly; sift together and mix in 2 ½ cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, 1 ½ teaspoon baking soda, ½ teaspoon salt. Add crushed nuts and chocolate, butterscotch or carob chips to vary flavour. Bake @ 375 for 10-12 minutes. Serve with tea.

Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd. Cofounder turns 90 by Gordon H. Ficke

On April 7th, 2011 Ross Gorman celebrated his 90th birthday. Very few people living in the Westbank area can say that they were actually born here. Just about a half-mile northwest from the home Ross shares with his wife Eunice was the former McKellar house, built in 1912. Until it was demolished in early December 2009, it stood at the top of McIver Road on what was once the family farm established by Gorman's parents Milton and Eva. The family moved with Helen their eldest daughter and four-month-old Bert into the two-story house in 1914.



In 1917 Eva gave birth to John, her third child. Then four years later on April 7th, 1921 Eva was in labour with their fourth child, Ross. Milton hurriedly rode his horse to summon Dr. Buchanan in Trepanier to deliver Ross. As the doctor was traveling on foot it took much longer to get to the house and Dr. Buchanan barely arrived on time to deliver the child. Along with his three older siblings Ross attended the one-room Glenrosa School for grade 1 to 8 students. His older sister Helen was even his teacher for a number of those years he went to school there. After classes he rounded up the ten milk cows that roamed freely around the countryside and herded them home. There were no fences around any of the farms and properties in those days. Their mixed farm included chickens, pigs and a two-acre prune and cherry orchard. The orchard, however, produced very little fruit because there was no irrigation available.

After World War II ended in 1945, the Gorman family moved to a property in lower Glenrosa that they had purchased in 1920. Here there was a large orchard and irrigation was available. They built a house that still stands today across from the new mill offices.

In May of 1946 Ross and Eunice were married and had six children: Ron, Esther, Carol, Marjorie, Mary and Louise.

During the harsh winter of 1949/50 many of the fruit trees in the central and north Okanagan were decimated. As a result, Ross and his older brother John put on their thinking caps during a kitchen table discussion late one cold evening and decided to start a small sawmill. They would buy scrap lumber from surrounding sawmills and build fruit boxes. Ross

and John hoped this temporary venture would tide them over until the new fruit trees that were planted to replace the frozen ones would produce fruit. The box mill that began in the winter of 1951 struggled to provide an income for the Gorman families during those first few years. However, through perseverance, much backbreaking hard work and the wisdom to make the right decisions the little mill expanded to include producing one-inch lumber in varying widths and lengths. In 1960 orchard bin manufacturing replaced the making of fruit boxes. Gorman Bros. Lumber Ltd. continued to develop the lumber side of the business over the years, and became Westbank's largest employer and continues to be to this day. The company stands by their slogan that is "Finest Boards" and their quality lumber is shipped around the world.

When Ross was asked what he felt was his most significant contribution during his lifetime he thought for a moment and then responded... "Staying alive!" His candid response reflects his indomitable spirit. Ross continues to be involved with the lumber business he started with his brother sixty years ago. Even at 90 years young Ross still arrives at his office at 8:30 a.m. five days a week. Now that is dedication! Photograph above shows Ross Gorman holding framed watercolour painting of the McKellar house dated September 14, 1916 by renowned C.P.R. photographer Archie Murchie.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

WESTBANK

"Learning from the Masters"

Wed. May 11th 6:00 - 8:00 pm

A collection of paintings by students of New Moon Gallery's instructor Linda Lovisa. Exploring the styles of the Group of Seven, the Impressionists and the Expressionists, Linda's students have attempted to broaden their horizons in acrylic painting. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Okanagan Regional Library - Westbank Branch.

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.

Native Tacos

Wed., May 18th 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Monthly Taco luncheon at Pine Acres, 1902 Pheasant Lane. Meal includes taco, beverage and home-made dessert for \$5.00. Bring a neighbour or friend and join the Seniors for a delicious hot meal.

He who makes excuses accuses himself. - French proverb

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

Big Slick Poker - Ends mid-June/11

Runs for 10 weeks every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm.

Ladies Legion Auxillary Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, May 1st, 9:00 - 11:00 am

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

Sculpture Symposium

May 7, 2011 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

To be held at the New Moon Gallery, #1B - 2525 Dobbin Rd. Featuring the work of local sculptors Nick Dawson and Nino Fabbro. Demonstrations and some instruction. No charge.

Annual Sun Village Garage Sale

Saturday, May 14th 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Meander down treasure trove alley and enjoy Sun Village's annual sale where you'll find practical kitchen items to antique surprises. Lunchtime hotdogs and refreshments for sale at the clubhouse. Located at 2330 Butt Road just across from Super Store.

PEACHLAND

Peachland Players Present: The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds by Paul Zindel

May 5, 6, & 7 @ 8:00 pm

May 7, 8 Matinees @ 2:00 pm

Adults \$10.00; Students \$5.00. Tickets available at The Washtub - Town Centre Mall in Westbank, Peachland Pharmacy or at the door. To be held at 4th St. Place.

Oh What A Night Fundraiser

Sat., May 14th 6:30 pm - midnight

Peachland Stands UP, a grassroots organization celebrates the journey to wellness of their neighbour Cleo Murray who is recovering from breast cancer. Enjoy an evening of laughter and dancing with Comedian Herb Dixon, local duo Donovan Sweet, songstress Gillian Russell and Dyle Anderson's Amazing Rubber Band. Location to be announced. Tickets \$30.00 each. Call 250-767-3457.

Go Batty in Peachland

Thursday, May 19th 7:30-9:30 pm

Tanya Luszca, bat biologist will present an interactive slide show to learn about the biology, behaviour and conservation issues of the bats of Peachland. Bring all-weather clothing for the outdoor excursion. \$10.00 per person(includes refreshments); 1 child

free with every adult. Peachland Community Centre Gym, 4450 6th St. Call 250-767-2455.

World of Wheels

Sunday, May 22nd 10:00 am

Once again the World of Wheels arrives in Peachland with more than 525 classic and antique cars, trucks, motorcycles and boats from across Canada and the U.S. There will be food vendors, music, shopping, beer garden, games for kids and special entertainment all on Beach Avenue.

SUMMERLAND

Kettle Valley Steam Railway Ride

Sunday, May 8th 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

Enjoy live music and the beautiful spring views in Prairie Valley from your seat on the Mothers Day train. Each Mom receives a flower and a cup of tea. Adults \$22.00; Srs. (65+) \$20.00; Teens \$17.00; Children 3-12 \$13.00.

Annual Meadowlark Festival

South Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys

May 19th - 23rd, 2011

Join in the outdoor nature celebrations that include guided walks & hikes, bird-watching field trips, geology & history tours, horseback riding and much more. 2011 Meadowlark Festival's theme, water, will be highlighted in many of the tours & events. For further information email: meadowlarkfestival@osca.org.

No answer is also an answer. - German proverb.

PENTICTON

Downtown Community Market

May 7 - Sept. 24th 8:30 - 12:30 pm(see website for specific dates).

Located at the 200 Block of Main St., Nanaimo Square & Westminster Ave., the Downtown Community Market will be an evening gathering spot with live entertainment, artisan wares, organic farm-fresh produce, open shops & restaurants. Go to www.downtownpentiction.org.



Business Section

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