



The Westbank Express....

Many a barrel of cider (and plum khuchen) has been lost by nobody taking the pains to pick the fruit up as it falls. - The Old Farmer's Almanac, 1802. "I am wealthy in my friends." - William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616).



Your Informative Newsletter

WINTER CARNIVAL
February 7th to 16th, 2014
Vernon, B.C.



AROUND TOWN

Monday, November 11th
Remembrance Day Wreath-laying Service at the Westbank Cenotaph.
The Westbank Cenotaph is located at the Westbank Lions Hall parking lot, 2466 Main St. Refreshments, sandwiches and sweets will be served after the Service at the Westbank United Church, 3672 Brown Rd.

Commemorative postage stamps



Commemorative Westbank 110th Anniversary postage stamps, printed by Canada Post, are still available for sale at the Westbank Museum, 2376 Dobbin Road. 250-768-0110.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

Nov. 12 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
Nov. 20 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am
Nov. 26 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm
Dec. 5 - Agricultural Advisory Committee - 5:00 pm
Dec. 10 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
Dec. 11 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am

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

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

The Westbank Lions Community Hall - circa 1930



Young people built the Westbank Community Hall by Gordon H. Ficke

Judy Ingram answers the phone at the Westbank Lions Community Centre whenever anyone calls there intending to book the hall for his or her special event, such as a wedding reception, an anniversary celebration, a public meeting or a dance. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the phone isn't ringing very much these days. The phone calls Judy makes these days from her large empty rented office area, just around the corner from the Westbank Lions Community Centre, is to cancel hall bookings that were reserved for dates in 2014.

Early Sunday morning of September 1st, 2013, during the Labour Day Weekend, an arsonist started a fire in front of the double doors leading into the hall. The flames quickly raced along the top of the front wall of this vintage structure. Thankfully, firefighters arrived in time to halt any further damage to the rest of the structure. Local pioneers and newcomers alike were saddened when they heard of this tragedy. An air of uncertainty prevailed, as there was no news as to whether the Westbank icon could be saved, or if it would be torn down. "Our community was devastated," Judy sadly related. "The events that took place within those walls spawned a lot of wonderful memories for a number of generations." Her father, Arthur Johnson, only in his early twenties, was one of about seven to ten young people, who volunteered to help build the Westbank Community Hall. Continued on the 2nd page.



**From the Kitchen Nook: Harvest Pasta Bake by Rita Pedersen**

Ingredients: 1 butternut squash (2 lb.), peeled, cut into 1-inch cubes; 1 red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces; 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper; 2 tbsp. olive oil; 4 cups rigatoni pasta, uncooked; 2 cups heavy cream, 2 cups shredded cheese, divided. HEAT oven to 400°F. COMBINE first 4 ingredients in 13 x 9-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray or oiled. BAKE 30 to 40 minutes or until squash is tender. Meanwhile, cook pasta as directed on package, omitting salt. DRAIN pasta, reserving 1/3 cup cooking water. Add to squash mixture cream, reserved water and 1 cup shredded cheese; mix lightly. Top with remaining shredded cheese. BAKE 20 min. or until heated through. Special extra garnish with 1 tbsp. chopped fresh basil just before serving.

Young people built the Westbank Community Hall continued from 1st page.

He kept a journal and for Tuesday, December 17th, 1929, he wrote, "Lumber for the hall has arrived." For December 18th he recorded, "Worked for six hours hauling lumber to the hall site. There are two trucks on the job, with two railway car loads of lumber to bring up." On December 18th Johnson reported, "On December 19th I worked for six hours, hauling the rest of the lumber. It is good lumber that came from Vancouver." Judy commented, "The actual construction of the hall didn't commence until after Christmas." That is confirmed by Arthur's comments for December 26th, "I worked on the hall today. There are about six people working at getting the floor joists in today. We expect to lay the first floor tomorrow." On December 28th he worked all day in warm dry weather.

The primary purpose for building the Westbank Community Hall was to provide a venue for the youth to play badminton and basketball. The idea originated with the youth, and this tight-knit group of volunteers, who were mostly in their early twenties, accomplished their task. Mr. Max de Fyffer, who was the manager of one of the local packinghouses, made the arrangements to purchase the materials that were used in the construction of the hall. The money to build the Westbank Community Hall was raised through ticket sales for raffles; bake sales and a major raffle for a 1930 Chevrolet. The accounting balance sheet recorded for the hall, stated that they made \$1331.00. Max wrote the following comment beside that figure, "Far more than we ever dared hope for! We will certainly have a fine hall now. Everybody is happy!" Those volunteers worked whenever they had spare time to construct the Westbank Community Hall, and had it completed within four months. There was even a hitching rail out front for the horses. Only outdoor biffys were available for a few years until money was raised to install proper toilet-equipped washrooms. On Wednesday, April 30th, 1930, the community of Westbank celebrated the grand opening of their new hall with a "Dance and Carnival." The festivities began at 9:00 p.m. with music provided by the Syncopators Orchestra. A supper was included for the \$1.00 admission charge. The Recreation Association was responsible for the Westbank Community Hall and looked after the booking of mostly badminton and basketball activities and special events, as well as the maintenance of the building.

The community hall served Westbank well for many years, but by 1976 the building was in disrepair. The roof leaked, there were broken windows, the doors were sagging, and the building needed a paint job and the plumbing and heating system needed to be replaced. The Recreation Association were in a tight financial situation and did not have the required funds to bring the aging community hall back up to current standards. The Westbank Lions Club saw the need to either replace the current community hall or repair it. They approached the Recreation Association with the proposal that the Westbank Lions Club would undertake the task, as they saw fit. The Recreation Association accepted their proposal. Work did not commence right away because the Westbank Lions Club did not have the funds. Over the next two years the club held many bingos, beef dinners, flea markets, farmers' markets, fire wood sales, raffles, auctions and dances to raise the funds necessary to begin the project. Other community organizations, such as the Rotary Club, Jaycees and Volunteer Fire Department also donated funds to the project. While the Westbank Lions were busy with the "Hall Project," within the Lions Club another organization was formed, known as the Westbank Lions Community Development Society. This organization had its own president, secretary, treasurer and directors. This society enabled the club's regular executive to work on the usual club projects, while all members were automatically members of the Development Society.

The official sod-turning ceremony took place in May of 1980. That initiated the start of the renovations and additions that laid the foundation for the hall that was set well back from Main Street. The community hall was moved back on to this foundation and then the necessary repairs were made to the existing building. The trusses were repaired, the entire building was gypsum boarded, suspended ceilings were installed, as well as new lighting, plumbing and a new kitchen. The library became a tenant on a portion of the downstairs and in 1981 a Day-care Centre operated in the remaining part of the basement. It was a struggle to complete the hall and it became necessary for the Westbank Lions Club to borrow \$152,000, which was partly repaid by a \$60,000 government grant. The Regional District also donated additional parking space. A further \$75,000 was available to complete the parking area, landscaping and exterior painting of the building. Despite these successes, there still was a shortfall of \$115,000, for which the Lions could only pay the interest on.

On a long shot, it was suggested at one of the Lions meetings that a house raffle be held to raise funds to pay off the debt. A raffle of this magnitude had never been held in the Okanagan before. The raffle began in June 1982 and through their member's diligent and earnest efforts, by the end of August (which is normally a quiet time for fundraising), the club had sold 2000 tickets at \$100 each! A commitment was made to increase advertising through television and newspaper ads in an effort to sell the remaining tickets. It worked. All but 16 tickets were sold! The proceeds helped to pay off \$90,000 of the loan. The Westbank Lions Community Centre stands as a testament of the countless hours of the Westbank Lions Club's concerted endeavours and donated materials that have gone into this venture. They can stand proud.

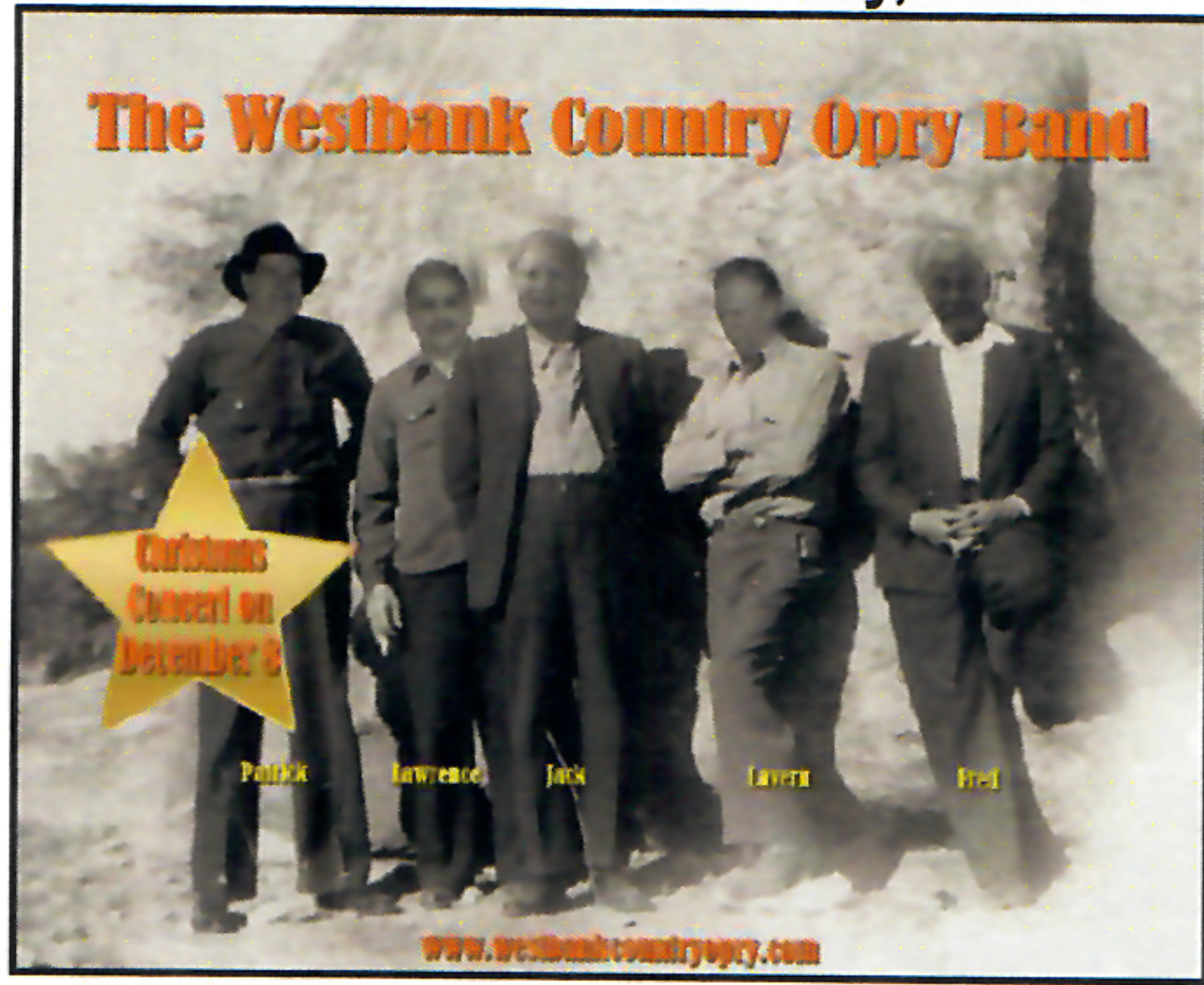
Will the Westbank Lions Community Centre be rebuilt? As of today, October 31st, the renovation plans are in the hands of the architect. The exterior of the building will be wrapped to prevent water and snow from coming into the building, while construction will continue inside. Much will have to be done to repair, replace and bring the building up to the current building code. It will be a better building, while retaining its heritage value. May the Westbank Lions Community Centre continue to serve our community for decades to come!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER?

WESTBANK

The Westbank Country Opry Christmas Show - Sunday, Dec. 8th



The Westbank Country Opry's new location at the Emmanuel Assembly Church(next to the Holiday Inn), 2500 Hebert Rd. will open their doors @ 1:30 pm on Sunday, Dec. 8th for their annual Christmas show. \$8.00/person or \$15.00/couple. Show starts @ 3:00 pm. Intermission: refreshments and snacks available for sale from the Emmanuel Church Youth Group.

Christmas Extravaganza and Luncheon - Sat., Nov. 2nd 10 am - 2 pm

Knitting, candy, jewelry, jams and jellies, baking, silent auction, Christmas novelties and a men's table. Enjoy a delicious luncheon for only \$5.00. Everyone welcome! Westbank United Church, 3672 Brown Rd.

Okanagan Regional Library

Westbank Branch

Local Artists' work on display.

Jean Monteith, Karen M. Andrews, Ralph Carlson Jenny Mohr, Jo-Anne Legree, Christine Millar, Marina Leisen, Crystal Yutzy.

Friends of the Library Wednesday Evening Speaker Series

Nov. 20th - 7:00 pm Speaker Gordon Ficke presents the "History of Westbank - 110 years." Library located at #31 - 2484 Main St. Phone. 250-768-4369.

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch
8, 2525 Dobbin Road

Nov. 3rd - Ladies Aux. Pancake Breakfast 9-11

westbankepress@gmail.com

Nov. 11th - Remembrance Day Service, Royal Lepage Place, 11:00 am. Please be seated by 10:30 am.

Nov. 24th - Grey Cup Party

Dec. 1st - Ladies Aux. Pancake Breakfast 9-11

Dec. 8th - In-House Crib Playdowns for Zone entry

Dec. 15th - In-House Dart Playdowns for Zone entry

Tuesdays - Dart Pub League, 7:30 pm.

Wednesdays and Saturdays - Meat Draws: 3-5 pm

Thursdays - Euchre(the card game) at 1:00 pm. In-house Dart League at 7:30 pm.

Sunday Jam Sessions - 2:00 - 4:00 pm every Sunday in November and December 1st & 22nd.

Westside Seniors Activity Centre,
3661 Old Okanagan Highway

For further information contact Valerie at 250-707-3494 or email vsolomon@shaw.ca. **New members welcome!** Membership fees \$20.00 per year(May 1 - Apr. 30), must be 50 years of age.

Orion's Fish Bus - by the Cherry Pit

November 9th & 10th and December 7th & 8th

Mix 'n Match Deal: Shrimp, Sockeye, Fillets, Cod Fillets, Panko Shrimp, Coconut Shrimp, Battered Cod. \$20.00 each. Any 2 for \$35.00. Any 3 for \$50.00. Stop by the Fish Truck and join the email list to get tasty seafood recipes and a free bonus every \$100.00. 2565 Main St. by the Cherry Pit. For more information go to tritonsage@yahoo.com.

Christmas Market @ Dogwood

Nursery - Dec. 7th & 8th 10 am - 3 pm

Local vendors displaying and selling their wares. Christmas gifts, baked goods and preserves and Christmas trees. 3417 Paynter Road.

Pine Acres Home Christmas Craft and Bake Sale - Sat. Nov. 16, 9 am-1 pm

Visit the Seniors of Westbank and join in on this fun community event. 1902 Pheasant Lane. For further information, please call 250-768-7676.

Elvis Gospel & Dessert Night - Friday, Nov. 15th at 7:00 pm

Enjoy a Gospel evening as part of the Emmanuel Church Fundraiser. Tickets \$20.00 per person. Available at the Church. 2600 Hebert Rd. (next to the Holiday Inn). For more info. call 250-768-7638.

Westbank United Church 75th Anniversary. November 10th 10:00 am Church Service with luncheon to follow.

PEACHLAND

Annual Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, Nov. 30th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Local vendors sell their crafts and wares including jewelry, wine soap, pottery, baking, preserves, fabrics,

knitting, woodwork, Christmas ornaments, bath products, children's clothing, honey, native art, dried foods, cards & papercrafts, bead work, perogies, and apple pies. Concession. Admission \$1.00. Peachland Community Centre. 4450 6th St. Call 250-767-2133.

SUMMERLAND

26th Annual Festival of Lights

Friday, Nov. 29th 5:00 - 10:00 pm

Live music at the Main Stage. Known for its great food, the Festival will again host numerous food vendors serving traditional stollen, mini donuts and savoury dishes. Childrens' activities include Santa's workshop, pony rides, face painting, bouncy castles and kids crafts. Unique holiday gifts at the Summerland Art Gallery. Fireworks at 8:30 pm.

Kettle Valley Steam Railway

Dec. 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22, 2013

Brave the cooler temperatures on the Christmas Express Train. For tickets call 1-877-494-8424.

PENTICTON

The Dream Cafe presents Offramp - Saturday, December 7th

Show-time 8:00 pm. Tables are yours from 6:00 pm. The Offramp Jazz Sextet, a group of local musicians from Penticton and Summerland will gather at the Dream Cafe to perform everything from the great swing standards of Duke Ellington and Count Basie, Latin grooves and a bit of boogie to a beautiful ballad. Tickets \$22.00. Reservations and ticket sales 250-490-9012. 67 Colourful Front Street.

OSOYOOS

Festival of Trees at Nk'Mip Resort

November 23, 2013 - January 6, 2014

Weekdays 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and weekends 9:00 am - 7:00 pm. Beautifully decorated trees on display in the Spirit Lodge & Nk'Mip Cellars buildings with more than 30 trees decorated in support of BC Childrens Hospital Foundation. Vote for your favourite tree with a \$2.00 donation. Guess how many lights are on the spectacular Tree of Hope. Silent auction. Also visit the Conference Centre morphed into a holiday season shopping market place with numerous artisan vendors and booths November 23rd from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and November 24th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. 1200 Rancher Creek Rd.

OLIVER

Arts & Craft Fair - Nov. 16 (10-7) and Nov. 17(10-4). Oliver Community Centre

Quality gift items including jewelry, clothing, woolens, quilts, toys, soaps and scents, preserves, crafts and more. Lunches and beverages available. Free admission. 6385 Park Drive.

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