

The Westbank Express....

One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar. - Helen Keller. He understands little of love who is forever speaking of love to his lady. - Italian proverb



Your
Monthly
Newsletter

Commemorative Westbank 110th Anniversary postage stamps (pictured below), printed by Canada Post, are available for sale at the Westbank Museum.



AROUND TOWN

Mother's Day Old Fashioned Photo Shoot - Westbank Museum

From April 30th to May 4th, the Westbank Museum will be taking photos from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Create an old fashioned memory with a photo shoot in honour of Mother's Day. There will be a selection of costumes to choose from for the pictures. Book ahead! 250-768-0110. \$5.00 donation per person. 2376 Dobbin Rd. More events on the 3rd page.

Congratulations to Karen Halvorsen

who was runner-up in the world-wide "Songwriter of the Year" competition. Karen is a regular entertainer at the Westbank Country Opry. For more info. about Karen visit www.westbankcountryopry.com

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

May 2 - Agricultural Advisory Committee - 5:00 pm
May 14 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
May 15 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am
May 28 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

75th Annual Keremeos Elks Rodeo - Saturday, May 18th - Monday, May 20th

Dance on Saturday at Victory Hall, Rodeo parade, lawn mower races, pancake breakfast in Memorial Park, free camping. For more info. call 250-499-2634.

For questions or information about the newsletter, please email westbankexpress@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Gordon Ficke, Rita Pedersen, Editor: Barbara Heaney



As Cocoa stretches out (photo above) on a shearing table for his annual shave, Dave Carlson, a professional shearer from Fort Macleod, Alberta, skillfully maneuvers his clippers along the alpaca's upper leg at the Mountain View Alpaca Farm in Westbank. Only hours later, clean-shaven Cocoa, pictured below, relaxes in a near-by orchard!

It's that time of year again when Dave Carlson makes his rounds throughout southern B.C. covering areas from Kamloops to Osoyoos. He spends three weeks shearing approximately 1,000 alpacas, 1,500 sheep and 20 llamas. Dave started shearing in 1993. With the guidance of shearers from Australia and New Zealand, enrollment in some classes and self-instruction, Dave learned the shearing trade. His wife Connie joked, "Our sheep weren't pretty that first year."

Initially Dave sheared the animals on a ground sheet spread out in the farmyard. As a full-time shearer he soon discovered working with that many animals on the ground proved awkward and back-breaking so he invested in a pacaped (an alpaca pedestal) and actually constructed the one pictured above. Made of metal, with heavy canvass stretched over rollers, a shearing pad, and leg holders with wooden bars, the pacaped provides more comfort and security for the alpaca, makes the shearers job efficient and catches in-flight fibre before it hits the ground. Throughout the entire grooming session, Dave's assistant, usually the alpaca's owner, cradles the alpaca's head in his or her arms.

What is referred to as the "blanket," fibre from the alpaca's hips to the neck is top-notch stuff; the makings of an elegant alpaca sweater. Call Dave if you need a shearer; he visits B.C. every April, 403-553-4268.





From the Kitchen Nook: Creamy Cheddar-Vegetable Lasagna by Rita Pedersen

Ingredients: 1/4 cup butter; 1 onion, chopped; 1/2 lb. (225 g) fresh mushrooms, sliced; 5 carrots, shredded (about 2 cups); 4 cloves garlic, minced; 1/4 cup flour; 2-1/2 cups milk; 1 pkg. (300 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained and squeezed dry; 2 cups mozza-cheddar shredded cheese, divided; 1/2 cup 100% Parmesan Grated Cheese; 2 cups cottage cheese; 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil; 9 lasagna noodles, cooked; **Directions:** **HEAT** oven to 375°F. Melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add onions; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, carrots and garlic; cook and stir 6 minutes or until carrots are crisp-tender. Add flour; cook and stir 2 minutes. Gradually stir in milk. Bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in spinach, 1 cup Mozza-Cheddar and Parmesan. **MIX** cottage cheese and basil. Place 3 lasagne noodles in bottom of 13 x 9-inch baking dish oiled; top with layers of half the cottage cheese mixture and 2 cups vegetable mixture. Cover with 3 noodles, remaining cottage cheese mixture and 2 cups vegetable mixture. Top with remaining noodles and vegetable mixture; cover. **BAKE** 35 to 40 minutes or until heated through. Top with remaining mozza-cheddar; bake, uncovered, 5 min. or until melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Substitute fresh parsley for the basil. Serve with garlic bread and a mixed green salad.

The Drought family story, from England to Westbank! - Part II by Gordon H. Ficke

Pictured left - 1954 picnic in the spring. Nellie and first son, Claude



As one of thirteen veterans returning to the Westbank area, Eric Drought was given the first opportunity to purchase a twelve-acre plot of land for fair market value in the Veteran's Land Act (VLA), later known as Lakeview Heights. Eric's and the other twelve veteran's names were put in a hat and the first ones could choose which lot they wanted. Eric's name was the last to be drawn and he got lot #13 by default, which was next to Lakeview Elementary School, and deemed by the others to be the least desirable property.

Eric cleared the land in 1950 by hand on evenings after work and weekends, using only a Swede saw. He cut the hundred-year-old pine trees to length in the hopes of selling the logs to Simpson's Sawmill across Okanagan Lake. When he had completed this daunting and arduous task, he called the mill and they answered with, "just pile all the logs into a pile on your property and burn them!" At that time this sawmill had a huge backlog of timber and didn't need any more logs. How disconcerting, as this was a huge disappointment to the family!

After the logs were burned, Eric planted the orchard in 1951. Stuart Brothers Nursery provided the fruit trees. To comply with the bank loan he received, the orchard had to have a mixed variety of fruits, just in case one type of fruit tree froze, didn't produce, etc., then the others would compensate for the loss. The Droughts planted cherry, apricot, peach, apple and pear trees.

The family constantly worked hard, pruning, thinning and picking as the various fruits came into season. They sold fruit from their door, with the bulk of the fruit being shipped to Westbank Orchards Packinghouse. While the trees were maturing for ten to twelve years, Eric worked for the Prairie Farming Rehabilitation Act (P.F.R.A), surveying Lakeview Heights properties in preparation for the development of orchards, roads and utilities. His duties included surveying and building Rose Valley dam and its infrastructure. This dam would bring the necessary water required to irrigate their orchard and the other orchards in the V.L.A. Coincidentally, both Claude Drought's and his wife Kathleen's (nee Reece) fathers worked on this important irrigation project. Kathleen's dad, Adrian Reece, dug the ditch with his back-hoe for the pipes that were laid from the dam to the Lakeview Heights area.

In 1955 William and Mary Howe, Nellie's parents, left their farm in Elstow, Saskatchewan, in the care of uncle Maurice, and moved to Westbank to live. Unfortunately, Mary contracted Parkinson's disease, and as Saskatchewan had a better health care system than B.C. had at the time, they returned to the farm. Mary's condition worsened and she died shortly thereafter. William suffered from a kick to the head by a horse and became blind. He passed away in the early sixties. The Co-op Packinghouse shut down in the early 1960s and Nellie worked then at Reece's Packinghouse. She did the night shift in order to keep her house in order and look after her three boys. Eric and Nellie continued to farm the original twelve-acre plot until their son Claude decided to lease the operation in the late 1970s. Later Claude bought the orchard from his parents.

Eric and Nellie enjoyed travelling together. They purchased a truck and camper and took many trips with their unit. On one occasion they drove to Ontario for Brenton's wedding and then continued to P.E.I. On another trip they travelled to California. Trips to Hawaii and Great Britain were other vacations they also enjoyed taking together. Even after her husband passed away, Nellie continued to travel on bus trips and an Alaskan cruise.

Eric, who was born in 1906, passed away in 1999 at the age of 93. He had lived an adventurous and full life, despite the odds that were stacked against him. Nellie lived in her own home from 1966 to 2012 and today, at 94 years old she now resides at Westwood in downtown Westbank. "I love it here." Drought remarks contentedly.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

WESTBANK

Okanagan Regional Library

Westbank Branch

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, 1953
Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 pm

2:00 pm - "Journey of a Canadian Sea Cadet to the Queen's Coronation, 1953." Carl Zanon shares photos and recollections of his trip to London as a young sea cadet. 2:30 pm - "Short Intermission." Featuring music played at the Coronation recorded by the BBC. 2:40 pm - "Coronation Memories & Souvenirs," display and talk by John and Heather Raybould. ALL AGES WELCOME! 2484 Main Street.

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road

Sunday, May 5 - Ladies Aux. Pancake Brkfst. 9-11am
Saturday, May 11 - GARAGE SALE - 3580 Elliott Rd (across the street from the Medical Clinic), 9:00 am - 4:00 pm—coffee or juice and a muffin \$2.00—Hot dogs \$3.00—Donations for the sale are welcome. Come out and support your Local Royal Canadian Legion.

Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day Breakfast 9-11am
Wednesdays - Drop-in Darts (do not need to be a member to participate). 7:00 pm. Toe line 7:30 pm
Wednesdays and Saturdays - Meat Draws: 3-5 pm
Thursdays - Euchre (the card game). 1:00 pm
Sunday Jam Sessions - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

WESTLAKE GARDENS GARAGE SALE

Sat., May 25th from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Westlake Gardens - 2250 Louie Drive.
Search for those special treasures at the ballooned residences.

Westside Seniors Activity Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

May 7th - 1:30 pm - Marilyn Dodd (cowboy poetry);
May 10th - 7:00 - 10:00 pm - Friday Night Dance with Vic Ukrainetz & Co.; **May 14th - 1:30 pm** - Russ Gerrie & Mabel Babcock (accordion & guitar); **May 21st - Noon** - Hamburger Day; **May 24th - 6:30 pm** - Movie Night; **May 28th - 1:30 pm** - AGM (tickets required);
Wednesday Night Bingos - 6:45 pm sharp! You do not need to be a member to play; must be 19 years or

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

Westbank Country Opry 🎵 🎵

Sunday, May 26th - 2:00 pm

Westbank Community Centre, 2466 Main Street.
Doors open 1:00 pm. Show starts at 2:00 pm.
Refreshments and door prizes. \$5.00 admission fee.
Call 250-768-1593 for further information.

Native Tacos - Pine Acres Home

Wednesday, May 15th 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Luncheon includes taco, beverage and home-made dessert for \$5.00. Bring a neighbour or friend and join the Seniors for a delicious hot meal. Take-out available. This will be the last Native Tacos lunch of the season. The luncheon will start up again in the Fall of 2013. 1902 Pheasant Lane. For more information, call 250-768-7676.

Orion's Fish Bus - by the Cherry Pit

Saturday and Sunday - May 4th & 5th, 2013

70 peeled Tiger Prawns \$20.00 or 2 for \$35.00 or 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 tritonstage@yahoo.com.

**Westbank Bumper Stickers
available at Lil' Sprouts *24-2475
Dobbin Rd. Phone 778-754-5594.**

PEACHLAND

Go Batty in Peachland

Thursday, May 16 - 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Tanya Luszcz, bat biologist, will present a slide show about bat behaviour and biology. Tour the Peachland Primary School to get a glimpse of the entrance to the bat roost and possibly, a bat. Admission \$10.00/person, includes refreshments. One child FREE with every adult. 4450 6th Street. Call 250-767-2133 for further information.

SUMMERLAND

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Sat. & Sun. May 11 & 12 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Vegetables, herbs, drought-tolerant plants including annuals. Master Gardeners' advice. Refreshments available by Joy Road Catering. Hwy 97 - Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre. Opposite Sun-Oka Beach Park. For more information go to www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org.

Kettle Valley Steam Railway

Mother's Day Train - Sunday, May 12th

Ride the Kettle Valley Mother's Day Train on Sunday at 10:30 am or 1:30 pm. For tickets and more information, call 250-494-8422.

PENTICTON

Gary Comeau @ The Dream Cafe

Friday and Saturday, May 24th and 25th

Tables available at 6:00 pm. Showtime 8:00 pm. Gary plays a range of instruments including guitar, mandolin, fiddle and piano, playing New Orleans-style roots and blues. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, Gary has combined the rhythm of the Maritime Acadian music with Louisiana zydeco blues. Tickets \$27.00. 67 Front St. For reservations and tickets call 250-490-9012.

OLIVER

Slimy Salamanders & Totally Awesome Toads

Sunday, May 19th 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

An adventure for kids 14 and under. Learn about the amphibians of the South Okanagan—Tiger Salamander and Great Basin Spadefoot—while exploring their habitat and discover how they survive in fragile and sometimes arid environments. Tickets \$10.00 plus one adult FREE. Extra Adult \$10.00. Bring water, snacks, sun hat/protection, all-weather clothing, good footwear & long pants. Oliver Community Centre parking lot, 6359 Park. Register @ www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca.

OSOYOOS

Birdathon

May 11 - 17, 2013 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Take part in a week-long bird count starting on Migratory Bird Day. Record bird species you see during your guided or self-guided tour and share your results with staff. Osoyoos Desert Centre, 14580 - 146th Ave. Call 1-877-899-0897 or email mail@desert.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

WESTBANK

110th Anniversary Dinner and Barn Dance - Saturday, August 17/13

Happy Hour 5:30-6:30 pm; Dinner 6:00 - 7:45 pm; Dancing 8:00 - 11:00 pm

Roast Beef dinner and all the fixins courtesy of Happy-Tizers Catering. 50/50 Draw, Door Prizes, Dancing to LP and the Allstars. Country and Good Ol' Rock & Roll. Tickets available at Buckerfields, Dogwood Nursery, the UPS Store, Paynters Fruit Market (opening July 1st), and Home Hardware. Tickets \$20.00 each.