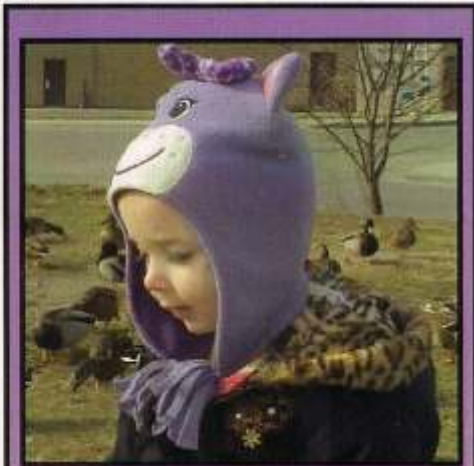




The Westbank Express....

Silence is the answer to the fool. - Persian proverb
 The person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amused. - Shirley MacLaine.



Inquisitive youngster, Kendall, along with her mother and sister Makayla, visit the Annual Duck Convention on a cool March day at the corner of Louie Drive and Bering Road in Westbank.



Judy Collison of A & J Leather displays her wares at a local craft fair.



Buff up those golf clubs, take stock of ball markers, tees, sunblock, gloves, golf shoes, fluorescent lime green balls easily discernible in the rough; any paraphernalia the golf bag houses because it's that time of year again to visit the local links, and if one were willing, spend as much as \$3,000.00 on a new golf bag similar to the one pictured below; that is, if Alfred Collison, Judy Collison's husband and one of the creators of A & J Leather, still endeavoured to tackle such daunting projects. Because of the time-consuming, meticulous hand-carving and embroidery work involved, Alfred no longer creates masterpiece golf bags however he and Judy continue to run their 30 year-old business selling leather and cotton one-of-a-kind pieces.



The Collison's carry a variety of items including cotton wall-hangings like the zebra pictured below, several types of men's and women's hand-stitched wallets, knife cases, key cases, eye glass cases, cell phone cases, credit card holders, leather



bracelets, hair barrettes, toothpick holders, key chains, change key cases, loonie holders and machine-embroidered leather and cotton change purses picturing pandas, elephants, horses, eagles, wolves, hummingbirds, Canadian maple leaves, bluebirds, dragonflies, dragons and more. During the Farmers' Markets season the Collison's can be found in Kelowna Wednesdays and Saturdays, Peachland on Sundays, Summerland on Tuesdays,



and if scheduling permits, they will join in at the Westbank Farmers Market on August 17, 2013 to help celebrate Westbank's 110th birthday. As well, for the past 30 years, the Collison's have attended the annual Oliver Christmas Craft Fair held the 3rd weekend in November and they plan to be there again this year. For more information about A & J Leather, call 250-768-2338 or email ajspiker@telus.net

AROUND TOWN

Westside Seniors Friday Night Dance - April 12th

7:00 - 10:00 pm at the Westside Seniors Centre
 Music by Vic Ukrainetz & Co. \$5.00 per person.
 Includes refreshments, cookies and a door prize.
 3661 Old Okanagan Hwy. Call 250-707-3494 for more information. More events on the 3rd page.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Westbank First Nation

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

District of West Kelowna - 778-797-1000

Apr. 4 - Agricultural Advisory Committee 5:00 pm
 Apr. 9 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
 Apr. 17 - Advisory Planning Commission - 9:30 am
 Apr. 23 - Regular Council Meeting - 6:00 pm

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



From the Kitchen Nook: Fiesta Cheese Fajitas by Rita Pedersen

Ingredients: 1 green pepper, cut into strips; 1 onion, sliced; 1/2 lb. (225 g) fresh mushrooms, sliced; 2 tblsp. balsamic vinaigrette dressing; 1/2 cup salsa; 3/4 cup shredded cheese, divided; 4 flour tortillas (9 inch), warmed; 1 cup shredded lettuce, divided; 1 tomato, cut into 8 wedges. **Directions:** Cook onions, peppers and mushrooms in dressing in large skillet on medium-high heat 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in salsa and 1/2 cup cheese. Spoon onto centers of tortillas; top with remaining ingredients. Fold up bottom of each tortilla, then overlap the sides. Serve topped with sour cream, additional salsa and/or chopped green onions.

The Drought family story, from Bury Saint Edmunds to Westbank! - Part I by Gordon H. Ficke



Pictured left - May 20th, 1950 wedding photo of Eric and Nellie Drought, with Brian Drought (youngest Brother of Eric) on the left, and Pat Drought (sister-in-law married to Jack Drought) on the right.

"I was born in southern England in the town of Bury Saint Edmunds," Nellie Drought began. "I was named after Ellen, one of my father's sisters. Both of my parents, William and Mary Howe, were born in England." William went to Canada in 1917 and set up a homestead on a quarter section of land in Elstow, Saskatchewan, near Esterhazy. The rule was if a homesteader worked the land, they then got it for free! Howe constructed a sod house to live in and built another house for the family before he returned to England. William brought his wife, Mary, Nellie's 10-year-old stepbrother George Stutters, and Nellie who was seven months old, to the farm. They grew mostly wheat and barley for cash crops and used horses to work the land. They had the usual cows for milking, pigs, and other farm animals for their own consumption. William and Mary farmed there until the mid 1950s and then moved to Westbank.

"My brother George was living in Westbank, B.C. and I decided to come out to visit him in 1946. One of my other sisters, Phyllis, who had been working in Ontario with our other sister Olive, also moved to B.C." Nellie recalled. "I worked first for a new couple that just had their first baby. Later I worked at the Co-op Packinghouse that was located on the corner of Drought Road and 1st Avenue North(now Old Okanagan Highway). "I started sorting fruit when I first started to work there." Nellie related. "I liked packing better, however, because it was more interesting and more money." Drought admitted. "Once you packed fruit you didn't want to go back to sorting."

The workers could rent the three or four cabins that were constructed by the packinghouse and were located in front of the Co-op property. It was

while working here that she met Eric Drought, her future husband. They were married in the Kelowna Anglican Church on May 20th, 1950. Claude, their first son was born in 1951, followed by Brenton in 1954 and Kelvin, their last child in 1958.

During World War II Eric's four brothers decided to enlist for service to their country and were stationed overseas. Because his brothers enlisted, Eric decided to join the B.C. Dragoons. He was trained as a Driver/Mechanic in the Artillery Division. While working overseas on one occasion, after he had taken a general to the front lines and was returning to base, a sniper's bullet pierced his helmet (his head was unscathed) and went through the bottom part of his left arm. After sustaining this injury, he lost his feeling from the elbow to his hands in this limb. Consequently, when he received a scrape, bruise or cut on his left forearm, he would bleed, but feel no pain.

After recuperating from this injury, Eric returned to active duty driving a Red Cross ambulance. One day, as he was driving along a paved road, a bomb exploded near his vehicle causing him to lose control of the ambulance and it overturned in a ditch. His buddy pulled Eric's unconscious and shrapnel-riddled body out of the upside down vehicle. He was taken to a hospital in Horsham, south of London. As he came to he overheard a couple of hospital workers conversing about him; "He'll never walk again." Drought was determined to prove them wrong. He spent months in the hospital and then was transported by hospital ship to Halifax and back home by train. Eric was paralyzed but he persevered with special exercises, and over a year later he was able to walk and work again.

....Part II to be continued in the May, 2013 Issue



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

WESTBANK

Okanagan Regional Library

Westbank Branch

Hiking Trails in the Okanagan with John Reddick

Wednesday, April 17th @ 7:00 pm

Join John Reddick, President of Gellatly Bay Trails & Parks Society, for a power point presentation and information on local trails in the Okanagan. Presented by Friends of the Westbank Library. Westridge Mall. 2484 Main Street.

Art Work on Display in the Library

Johanna Hoogervorst - Paintings acrylic; Jean Monteith - Paintings; Karen M. Andrews - Photography; Christi Battrick - Photography; Ralph Carlson - Paintings acrylic; Jenny Mohr - Mixed media, For further information call the Library at 250-768-4369.

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road

- Sunday, Apr. 7** - Ladies Aux. Pancake Brkfst. 9-11am
- Friday, Apr. 19** - Ladies Aux. Dinner 5-6:30 pm
- Friday, Apr. 26** - Branch Open House - 5:00 pm until closing: everyone welcome. Steak dinner \$10.00
- Saturday, Apr. 27** - Mini Sale - jewelry and small items for sale from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.
- April 4 & 11 (final days)** - League Darts - 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

Sing for your Life - Silver Song Club for Seniors 60 years and older. Participatory singing and music making. April 10th & 24th - 10-11:30 am. Refreshment break. Westbank Lions Hall.

Westside Seniors Activity Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

Jammers - 1st & 3rd Friday of each month at 6:30 pm. Join in the musical mix and match.

Afternoon entertainment after regular Tuesday meetings: approximately 2:15 p.m.

Apr. 2 - Remi Pico, accordion and vocals.

Apr. 9 - Dustin McGifford, guitar and vocals.

Apr. 16 - **HAMBURGER DAY** 12:00 Noon, \$3.00 per person. Includes a hamburger with all the trimmings,

coffee or tea and ice cream in a cone.

Apr. 23 - Frieda Woerler, accordion.

Apr. 30 - Mary Kerckhove, piano.

For more information about the Westside Seniors call Valerie at 250-707-3494 or email visolomon@shaw.ca. **New members welcome!**

Westbank Museum

Science on Saturdays for Kids

Make snow, volcanoes. Aerodynamics. Pre-registration required. Contact the Museum at 250-768-0110.

Rental Rooms Available

Need an event venue? The Westbank Museum has rental rooms available. Useful for teas, meetings, workshops, gatherings or reunions. Kitchenette for coffee, tea and refreshments. Located at 2376 Dobbin Road. Contact Anna for further info. at 250-768-0110.

Heirloom Seeds and Bottled Water

The Museum is selling Heritage seeds: beets, cucumbers, acorn squash, nasturtium, tomatoes, pumpkin, radish, sunflowers, sweet peas and more. Bottled water also available for sale boasting the Westbank Museum antique truck label.

Westbank Country Opry 🎵 🎶

Sunday, April 28th - 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, April 17th 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. 1902 Pheasant Lane. For more information, call 250-768-7676.

Tax Service - Thursdays only

April 4, 11, & 18, 2013 - 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon

The Westside Health Network Society is offering Income Tax Services, no charge, for low income families and seniors (maximum earnings of \$30,000 or less for singles; \$40,000 or less in total for couples) at the Westbank Lions Hall, 2466 Main Street. No appointments. First come, first serve. Inquiries: 250-768-3305.

PEACHLAND

Stars On Stage

Sunday, April 21st - 2:00 pm

Enjoy the 'Stars on Stage' variety show featuring entertainers Wendy Rodocker, Leverne Prozny, Melita Ree, Cheyenne, Grant in Concert and magician Leif David. Performing at the Peachland Activity Centre - 5672 Beach Ave. Door prizes. Tickets \$10.00 each

available at Peachland's Rocky J's Beach Hut, Westbank's The UPS Store and Summerland's The Sweet-Tooth Cafe. Call 250-767-2090 for more info.

SUMMERLAND

Philosophers' Cafe 2013

Wed., Apr. 17 - Summerland Arts Centre

Doors open 6:30 pm. Discussion 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. "Farmland Forever" Protecting our land and water for food. As part of Summerland's Earth Week events, join the panel discussion. 9533 Main St-Call 250-494-4494.

PENTICTON

Dream Cafe's 12th Annual Celebration Weekend

**April 5th - Kenny Blues Boss Wayne
April 6th - David Gogo Acoustic Trio**

Showtime 8:00 pm, tables available at 6:00 pm. 67 Colourful Front St. For reservations: 250-490-9012.

OLIVER

The Spinney Brothers 🎵 🎶 🎵 🎶

Tuesday, April 9th 7:30 p.m.

From Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley to B.C.'s Okanagan Valley, The Spinney Brothers ensemble consists of a four piece, blue-grass band featuring southern-flavoured bluegrass music. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Medici's Gelateria & Coffee House. 522 Fairview Road. Tickets \$25.00. Call 250-498-2228.

OSOYOOS

Oyster Brewfest

Friday, April 19th - 6:00 pm

Live entertainment and local vendors showcasing food (including fresh oysters), beer, cider and wine samples. Spirit Ridge Convention Centre. Tickets \$25.00. Call 250-498-6321.

"COUPON CORNER"

Golden Chopsticks Restaurant

Chinese and Japanese Cuisine

**With any \$25.00
order receive one
spring roll free!**

Expires April 30, 2013

Phone 250-754-5535