

# Westside Weekly

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2013

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GARY NYLANDER/Westside Weekly

## What a birthday

Westbank's birthday brings past to life, and celebrants live words of novelist William Faulkner: The past is never dead. It's not even past

By DOROTHY BROTHERTON

Westside Weekly

History seemed to come alive Saturday, with the celebration of the 110th birthday of Westbank. Ted Hewlett came from Surrey to rediscover his roots in Westbank. "It's important to keep the past in mind. People need to know these places weren't born in a day," said Hewlett, who is the son of pioneers Ted and Nora Hewlett.

His Aunt Dora, Dorothy Hewlett Gellatly, wrote the book, *A Bit of Okanagan History*. He renewed acquaintances with Ferne Jean, a granddaughter of David Erskine Gellatly, and they laughed over the fact that she used to babysit him while she was making chertv pies.

"They tell me I bit your nose," said Hewlett.

Now a member of the Surrey historical society, Hewlett noted, "There are many people with roots here in Westbank. It's amazing."

Jean tended a table with displays of historic photos, especially recalling days of the Gellatly family on the flats and at today's Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park, where globally known varieties of nuts were developed by Jack Gellatly.

Carl Zanon of the nut farm society showed off what's believed to be the largest nut ever grown at the farm, a 2 1/2 inch Manoka walnut.

"It's narrow of hip, but tall," he said, and calls it Valentina IV, because there have been three runners-up.

Sadly, said Zanon, the Guinness Book of Records is not interested in record-breaking nuts. Milton Reece displayed artifacts and photos from his father and brothers' orchards and packinghouse business, which operated on Brown Road from the 1930s until 2007. He demonstrated a device he called a nail stripper.

"You could toss in a couple handfuls of nails and they'd slide down here and be all lined up with the heads up for you," said Reece. Box makers could grab them and build fruit boxes fast. "We could make 800 boxes a day."

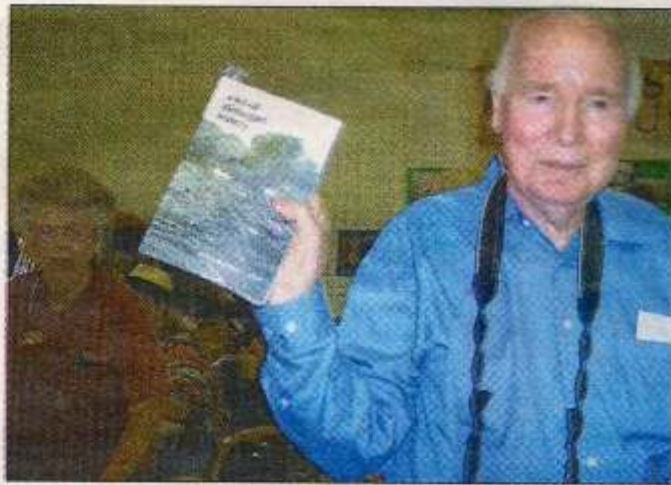
"It was the first nail gun," said Bill Doyle, watching Reece work the machine.

Sheila Paynter, from another pioneer family, displayed artifacts and photos and told stories of logging operations and days on the orchard that has been farmed by five generations of Paynters.

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Sheila Paynter rests an antique horse collar on a saddle from 1919 during Westbank's 110th birthday party celebration at the Lions Westbank Community Hall on Saturday.

# Happy birthday, Westbank



Ted Hewlett shows off a copy of his Aunt Doro's book, *A Bit of Okanagan History*; pioneer Ferne Jean is in background.

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Dorene Lander grabs one of the last pieces of the official birthday cake for Westbank's 110th birthday party celebration at the Lions Westbank Community Hall on Saturday.



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Milton Reece demonstrates to Bill Doyle how an old nail stripper worked.



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Carolyn Ellis shows Heather Raybould a photo of the old Gellatly home.



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Rolf Meyer and his dog, Tiffy, take a break during Westbank's 110th birthday party celebration at the Lions Westbank Community Hall on Saturday.



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Deagan McMillan, 8, left and Brody Vadeboncoeur, 10, eat hot dogs during Westbank's 110th birthday party celebration at the Lions Westbank Community Hall on Saturday. Events included, a pancake breakfast, farmers market and a barbecue lunch. Also on display were various old artifacts from and photos from the Westbank Museum, Gellatly Nut Farm, Okanagan Archive Trust, Westbank First Nation and Westbank Packers.



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Left: Auto grabs a quick nap. He's a schnauzer who belongs to WDCR, the new West Kelowna community radio station.

George Raulick sells Yurko's Ukrainian Bortch, apple pies and more at the Westbank Farmers' Market.



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