

The Westbank Express....

Food Bank Christmas donations greatly appreciated.



Your Monthly Newsletter

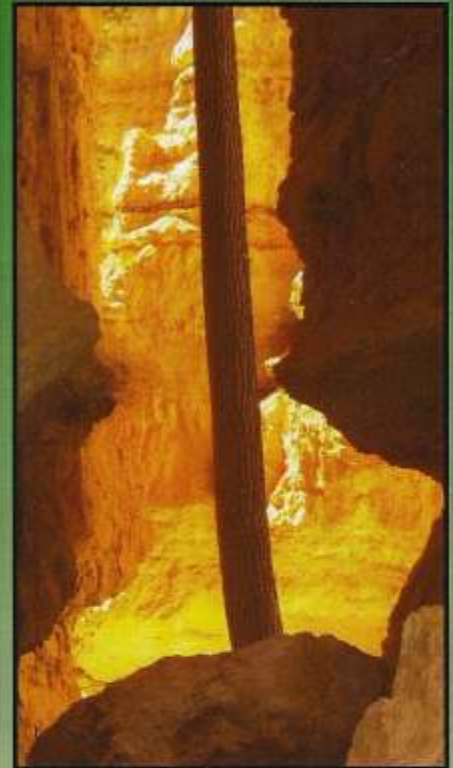


Telemark Cross Country Ski Club before the rush!

Only a day after Remembrance Day, snow started to accumulate above Glenrosa at the entranceway to the Telemark cross country ski trails. The Cross Country Ski Club, "dedicated to fostering and promoting the sport of cross-country skiing," will be opening its doors in the next few weeks. A variety of passes are available: Day Pass: Youth \$5.00, Adult \$12.00; 5 Day Pass(any 5 days): Adult \$50.00; Night Skiing(4:00 pm-9:00 pm): Youth \$4.00, Adult \$5.00; Snowshoe Day Pass: \$5.00; Snowshoe Season Pass: \$52.00. Snowshoeing is Free for ski season pass holders. Season Pass after November 1st: Youth \$52.00, Adult \$145.00, Family \$340.00(Family pass for parents and children under 19 only). Ages as of December 31st. HST and \$10 fee/member to Cross Country BC included. There are also Adult Ski Lessons, School Programs, Skill Development programs, the Junior Racing Team, Biathlon programs, Special Olympics, and Rentals. Easy, Intermediate and Advanced trails meander throughout the property. Easy Trails include Squirrel Loop 1.46 km; Forest Lane 1.15 km; Memory Lane 1.0 km and Summer Road 0.50 km. Intermediate Trails are Rabbit Run 2.40 km and Telemark 6.8 km. Advanced Trails consist of Panorama Ridge 5.42 km; Fern Creek Trail 9.2 km; Crystal Rim 7.8 km; Connector 0.86 km; Cut-Off 0.62 km and Racing Trails 7.5 km. There are also approximately 40 km of snowshoe trails. "The mission of the Telemark Cross-Country Ski Club is to promote cross-country skiing, biathlon and snowshoeing as life-long sports, assist individuals with development of their skills, provide training for those wishing to take up competitive skiing and to make cross-country skiing fun and affordable for everyone!" For further information and daily conditions call 250-768-1494 or email tcsc@telus.net. Telemark Cross Country ski area is located approximately 10-15 minutes from downtown Westbank along the paved road to Crystal Mountain. For directions to Telemark, pick up a Westbank map or go to westbankmaps@gmail.com.

"Do not forget little kindnesses and do not remember small faults." - Chinese proverb. "Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom." - Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet(1772-1834). Wright Brothers Day - Dec. 17th; Winter Solstice - Dec. 21st.

A Charlie Brown Tree?



For some, maybe. The tree trunk pictured above is actually the trunk of a Douglas Fir tree at Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, USA.

AROUND TOWN

Westbank Christmas Country Opry Sunday, December 2, 2012 2:00 - 4:00 pm. 2466 Main Street. 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

Dec. 6 - Agricultural Advisory Comm: 5:00 pm
Dec. 11 - Regular Council Meeting - 1:30 pm
Dec. 12 - Advisory Planning Commission-9:30 am
Dec. 18 - Committee of the Whole - 1:30 pm

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

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



From the Kitchen Nook: Easy Perogi Casserole by Rita Pedersen

Ingredients: Nine lasagne noodles, uncooked, 4 cups hot mashed potatoes, 1/2 cup Herb & Garlic cream cheese spread, 6 green onions thinly sliced, 2 cups cheddar shredded cheese, divided, **Directions:** Heat oven to 375°F. Cook noodles as directed on package, omitting salt. Meanwhile, combine mashed potatoes, cream cheese spread, onions, and 1 cup cheddar. Place 3 noodles in 13x9-inch baking dish greased; cover with 1/3 of the potato mixture. Repeat layers twice. Top with remaining cheddar; cover. Bake 30 min. or until heated through. Uncover; bake 3 to 5 minutes or until cheddar is lightly browned. Let stand 10 min. before cutting to serve. Serve with a mixed green salad tossed with your favourite dressing. **How to Make the Mashed Potatoes:** Peel 2 lb.(about 4) baking potatoes; add to large saucepan of boiling water. Cook 20 to 25 min. or until tender. Drain potatoes, reserving 1/2 cup of the cooking water. Return potatoes to pan; mash until smooth. For extra creamy potatoes, add 1/4 to 1/2 cup of the reserved cooking water to the potatoes when mashing them. For a change of pace, substitute cottage cheese for the mashed potatoes.

John A. Brown, Westbank Pioneer and Entrepreneur, Part 1 by Gordon H. Ficke



Pictured left - John A. Brown, his wife Majorie and their daughter Jan, in 1945.

"To the best of my knowledge," John Brown recalls, "my family moved from their half section of land in Morris, Manitoba, where they farmed, to settle in Peachland in June 1909." Washington, John's father, was born in 1862 on the Isle of Man. Kathleen, his mother, was born on the family estate, 'Oaklawn', in King's County, Ireland. "My mother's family, the Drought's, had moved to the Peachland area earlier." Drought's Hill on Highway 97 was named after them.

Shortly after they arrived, Albert Drought, a carpenter, built the Brown house on Elliott Road in Westbank. Drought commuted from Trepanier to Westbank on foot during the year it took to build the house. The ten-acre parcel where the house was built was initially covered in Ponderosa pine trees with trunks two feet in diameter. Local natives cleared the timber and the logs went to Hitchner Bros. Sawmill in Glenrosa.

John was born in the family house on February 27th, 1915 and has many memories growing up there. One that stands out is the time, one winter, when he and a friend undertook a major renovation project. The front of the house stood on five-foot posts, while at the back, the house rested on the ground. John was about fifteen at the time, dug almost all the basement out using a horse pulling a scraper. Brown constructed a concrete foundation and created a 3/4 basement. His good friend Frank Browne (no relation) helped him with the project.

Frank would often live with the family during the winter. The Westbank Legion, Branch 288, purchased the property in recent years, and several years ago the house was torn down.

Once the land was cleared and the house built, the Browns planted an orchard with cherry, pear and apple trees. Ten crab apple trees stood on the property for many years. John and Washington ran the farm together for a number of years. They purchased more land and orchards in Westbank to expand their farming operation. In 1930 they purchased the Gellatly farm. This was a vast holding that formerly encompassed all the flat land from the south end of Whitworth Road to the north where the public beach and Angus Drive are today.

"When World War II came," John related, "my two brothers talked me into staying home to help dad with the farm."

The family operated their own fruit packinghouse on the Gellatly property for a number of years and transported their fruit via a CN barge that ran the length of Okanagan Lake. That changed when the Westbank Co-op and dock (formerly located next to The Point at the mouth of Powers Creek) was built. The fruit was loaded on railway cars and then transported by barges. Farming was not a sustainable occupation, even back in those days. John logged timber but his back was giving him severe problems. While in his early thirties, he made an appointment with his doctor to see if his back issue could be rectified. The doctor informed John that he could have an operation but oftentimes these types of operations weren't successful.

"Why don't you get a job where you can walk on a level surface," the doctor advised him. Brown took his advice and was hired at the Westbank Co-op Packinghouse where he was quickly promoted to foreman. He had that job for three or four years. His son Doug also worked for him there.

In those early years the farm was losing money and the Browns owed the federal and provincial government taxes on their properties. John made an arrangement to work for the Provincial Highways Department. As he owned a truck, Bill Miller the road foreman would put him to work any time they required his services.

In 1947 Washington passed away and a new chapter in Brown's life was about to begin.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

WESTBANK

Okanagan Regional Library Westbank Branch

Visit from Santa - Friday, Dec. 14th 6:30 pm. Kids are invited to visit with Santa at the Westbank Library. Parents bring your cameras. No registration required. Christmas music by the Westsyde Ramblers. Sponsored by the Friends of the Westbank Library.

Preschool Storytime: Thursdays 10:00 - 10:30 am Free and Drop-in. Join David for stories and songs.

Baby Rhyme Time: New-born to 18 months. Tuesdays 10:15 - 10:45 am. Free and Drop-in. Enjoy rhymes and music. Caregivers must attend.

September 13 - December 13, 2012

Westbank Legion - RCL Branch 288, 2525 Dobbin Road

Tuesdays and Thursdays - Darts.

Thursdays - Euchre (the card game).

Sunday Jam Sessions - 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Friday, Dec. 14th - Christmas Turkey Dinner hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary. Door prizes, entertainment. 5:00 pm.

Christmas Ham and Turkey Draws - Dec. 5, 8, 12 & 15.

Westside Seniors Activity Centre, 3661 Old Okanagan Highway

Dec. 4th - Freida Woerler on Accordion 1:30 pm

Dec. 11th - Enjoy an evening of dinner, entertainment, door prizes and Santa at the Annual Christmas Dinner.

Tickets available at the Seniors Centre or from any Board member. Members \$18.00; Non-members \$22.00. New members are welcome to attend any of these activities. For further information contact Valerie at 250-707-3494 or email visolomon@shaw.ca.

Last Chance Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 1st 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon

The Westbank United Church women are hosting their Last Chance Craft Fair & Bake Sale at the Church Hall at 3672 Brown Road. Hand knit and sewn items, children's sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, slippers, afghans, placemats, etc. Enjoy coffee or tea and a delicious muffin for only a Loonie!! Everyone welcome.

Use shower hooks as key chains!

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

SUMMERLAND

Kettle Valley Steam Railway Christmas Train

Sat. & Sun. Dec. 15, 16 - 4:00 & 6:00 pm;
Friday, Dec. 21, 5:00 & 7:00 pm; Sat. & Sun.
Dec. 22 & 23 - 4:00 & 6:00 pm.

Jump on the Summerland Christmas Express and enjoy twinkling lights, music and Jolly Old Santa. Entertainment by banjo pickin' Felix Possak. Each child receives a Christmas goodie bag. Adults \$22.00, Srs.(65+) \$20.00, Teens \$17.00, Children(3-12) \$13.00. Reservations required. Call 1-877-494-8424.

Feed the Family Christmas Concert Fundraiser - Sat., Dec. 1st 7:00 pm

Jaclyn Guillou and her 3 piece jazz band will be performing the music of popular singers Roy Orbison, Patsy Cline, Diana Krall, Connie Francis, Michael Buble and Elvis. Net proceeds will be distributed to Okanagan Food Banks. Tickets \$25.00 with a non-perishable food item. Summerland Yacht Club. For more information call Brian at 250-470-7959.

PEACHLAND

Annual Christmas Light-up

Friday, December 7th 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Heritage Park. Bring a Food Bank donation. For more information call 250-767-2133.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 1st

The Peachland Community Centre is taking table reservations now for the annual "Breakfast with Santa." Book your table early as this popular event sells out each year. The morning includes a pancake breakfast, entertainment and a special visit with Santa. For reservations call 250-767-2133.

PENTICTON

The Dream Cafe presents

The Sojourners

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 14th & 15th

Tables available at 6:00 pm. Showtime 8:00 pm. Enjoy Vancouver-based singers Marcus Mosely, Will Sanders and Ron Small as they live up The Dream Cafe with "seriously spiritual sounds." Winners of the 2011 Western Canadian Music Award for Outstanding Contemporary Christian/Gospel Recording. Tickets

\$32.00. 67 Front St. For reservations and ticket sales, call 250-490-9012.

SS Sicamous Christmas Arts & Crafts Market

December 7, 8, 9 & 14, 15, 16, 2012

Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 am - 7:00 pm;
Sundays 11:00 am - 4:30 pm. 1099 Lakeshore Drive

Crafters selling their wares; soaps, flowers, Christmas wreaths, Christmas crafts. Entertainment, concession stand, lots of vendors. Admission \$2.00, Food Bank Donation. For more information call 250-492-0403.

OLIVER

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012 9:00 - 11:30 am

Children aged 3 - 11 and their family and friends are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast with Santa. Holiday music, children's craft stations, and photo opportunities with the North Pole guest. Tickets \$7.00 per child. Adults by donation. Oliver Community Centre Hall, 6359 Park Drive. For more information call 250-498-4985.

OSOYOOS

Breakfast with Santa & Photos

Saturday, Dec. 1st, 8:30 - 11:00 am

\$5.00 per person. Children under 10 free with donation to Food Bank. Photos \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. Bake Sale. Osoyoos Baptist Church on Hwy. 97.

Kiwanis Christmas Craft Fair

Dec. 1st 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Admission by donation for Food Bank. Legion Hall.

"Musical Journey to Christmas" sing along

Saturday, Dec. 1st 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Hot chocolate and cookies. Free will donation. Osoyoos United Church Hall. 7814 Spartan Drive.

LOOKING AHEAD

VERNON

Vernon Winter Carnival

February 1 - 10, 2013

Tickets go on sale Friday, December 7, 2012.

A week-long festival event includes Prehistoric Planetarium, Dino Days, Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, Beer Garden, Snowshoe Safari, Roster's Wallyball Tournament, Fantastic Fossils, Talent Showcase, Broomball Tournament, Best Decorated Premises Contest, Queen Silver Star Official Debut & Fashion Show. For more information go to www.vernonwintercarnival.com.

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jbc100@shaw.ca
<http://jbc100.shawwebpage.ca>

Lil' Sproutz Children's Boutique

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Sarah Arnault
Owner

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<http://www.lilsproutz.net/>

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