

SKAHA MATTERS

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March 2025

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Up To Date Weekly eCalendar! Sign Up Online Quick Facts: Skaha Matters is published every month. All residents and businesses in Kaleden, Heritage Hills, Okanagan Falls, Skaha Estates, St. Andrews, and Twin Lakes receive an issue via Canada Post on the last business day of each month. Limited locations also carry copies. For full advertising details, please visit SkahaMatters.com.

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Subrina Monteith

Director of
RDOS Area "I"

From The Director For RDOS Area "I"

The RDOS has been working through the budget for 2025, as well as the related operational work plan. Having a clear understanding of projects and staff capacity, has put some Area "I" projects on hold until 2026. The Area "I" Parks and Recreation budget was reduced this year to remove organized recreation and return to community volunteer based club activities.

The multi purpose court resurfacing is out to tender right now with the hope it

will be started soon. The scope will have one tennis court and two pickleball courts with separate entrances.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me.

Subrina Monteith, Director of RDOS Area "I"

Direct: 250.460.0723 | smonteith@rdos.bc.ca | www.rdos.bc.ca



KALEDENHUB

for knowing and responding to individual and family need in the community

If you live in the Kaleden area and have needs, please call the HUB. Our frozen meals (mostly soup) are available immediately. We can also provide grocery shopping - Please allow a few days advance notice.

HUB NUMBER: 250-460-3387

Kaleden Volunteer Fire Department

By Jean Dube

Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00 am Clocks Are Turned Forward 1 Hour

Spring forward safely. This is a good time to test your smoke alarms and change or replace batteries if needed. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.

Working Smoke Alarms are a critical element of home fire safety.

There are many types of smoke alarms on the market with varying battery requirements.



When replacing a battery, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. Interconnect smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

Kaleden Irrigation District News

By Bruce Shepherd, KID Trustee

Watch For Wet Spots! ~ The crusade to plug leaks continues. January's consumption was almost 5 million liters more than in 2024, with most of this increase attributed to leaks. If you see a chronic wet spot somewhere, don't be shy - let the KID Office know.

Budget Almost Finalized ~ Pencils were sharpened, and shavings litter the floor. As mentioned last month, costs of virtually everything are rising, and KID must build funds to meet Provincial requirements for an upgraded water treatment plant (WTP). Tentatively, KID's 2025 taxes and tolls will increase by 4% and the IHA Levy by \$50. Not too bad, considering other local authorities have announced increases of 5-7% and more. However, KID remains well short of the estimated \$3.6 million cost to construct the WTP, even with an extension to 2030 for its completion. Expect to see more about this, including a survey, along with your next Water Tax Bill.

Meeting Our New MLA ~ KID Staff and Trustees met with Donegal Wilson on January 29. We thank MLA Wilson for making the time to hear our concerns regarding the exclusion of Improvement Districts such as KID from even applying for federal or provincial grants and other forms of financial assistance. Ms. Wilson expressed interest in boosting provincial awareness of this and other rural issues, and KID is providing her with additional information regarding this ongoing inequity.

Say Hello To Lynn Shead! ~ Lynn started part-time at the KID Office on January 27, and is job-shadowing KID's Office Administrator Cheryl Halla. Lynn comes to the position well-qualified, with some 20 years' experience in office administration and accounts. Welcome to the team, Lynn!

A Water Quality Conundrum Revealed? ~ Of the 67 chemical parameters measured by KID, only TOC (Total Organic Carbon) and TP (Total Phosphorus) exceed BC Drinking Water Guidelines. Sounds concerning, until you search OBWB's Water Quality Database and find that the entire Okanagan system is naturally high in both TOC and TP, with no significant increases as you move downstream. A possible concern is that chlorination can result in potentially harmful byproducts, but these can be further reduced with the use of ultraviolet disinfection proposed as part of the KID WTP upgrade.

Wanna Be A Trustee? ~ Two positions are up for election this year. One seat is currently vacant due to the unfortunate passing of KID stalwart Dave Libby. The other is currently held by Brian Lang. If you are interested in joining the Board, please contact the KID Office or chat with a Trustee. KID Monthly Board Meetings are open to the public (the next one is at 7 pm on March 10) and attending would be a good way to test the water ...



Office Hours: 9-12 Mon/Wed/Thur 119 Ponderosa Ave | 250.497.5407 kaledenirrigation@gmail.com www.kaledenirrigation.org

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Kaleden Community Association Update

By Glenda Livolsi

The Kaleden Community Association is informing the community that two AED (Automated External Defibrillator) machines have been stolen from Pioneer Park. These life-saving devices are over \$1800 each. If you see something suspicious going on in the park or have any information regarding the missing AEDs, please call RDOS at 250-492-0237 or email parks@rdos.bc.ca.

The Kaleden Community Hall rentals have been busy with badminton, pickleball, floor hockey, quilting/knitting/crocheting/crafts, celebration of life, drama group and community groups. Good news on the indoor lights at the hall. The fluorescent bulbs are being replaced with LED's; hopefully, this will result in less light glare for badminton and pickleball players.

Hope everyone enjoyed the skating rink, while it lasted during those cold days. If you're not a skater, you can still enjoy our beautiful park sitting by a warm fire and thinking of the warmer days of spring.

The KCA has the following projects planned for our community Pioneer Park:

- Barbeque platforms at be attached to the picnic tables.
- Book Lending Library, a Toy Lending Box and a Lost & Found Box.
- · Another accessible picnic table will be installed.
- A new bench will be installed along the KVR trail near Ponderosa Point.



All new website for all things Kaleden!

www.KaledenCommunity.com

Courtesy of the Kaleden Community Association



Kaleden FireSmart Tip

By Linda Dahl

Spring is just around the corner and it is never too late to start planning your FireSmart projects. It is a good idea to start with the immediate zone (0-1.5m around your home). The following tasks will increase the safety of your property.

- 1. Clean under your deck.
- 2. Assess your roof and gutters.
- Keep vour lawn maintained.
- 4. Relocate combustible materials.
- Prune trees on your property.
- 6. Reduce highly flammable plants.
- 7. Create a Wildfire Evacuation Plan.

Remember that a few routine chores in the immediate zone could save your home in the event of a wildfire. Go to firesmartbc.ca for unlimited resources to help in all areas of FireSmart.





Update From MLA Donegal Wilson

Boundary-Similkameen

As I write this update, I am at the airport on my way to Victoria for the opening of the legislature. It has been nine months since the legislature last sat, and I am eager to start to ensure that the voices of Boundary-Similkameen are heard.

This past month has been a busy one, as I traveled throughout the riding offering our first round of Pop-up Offices. These sessions provided an opportunity to connect with residents, listen to concerns, and discuss issues that matter most to our communities.

One of the key meetings I had, particularly relevant to Skaha Matters readers, was with the Kaleden Irrigation District. They are facing infrastructure challenges and, like many other water providers, are blocked from accessing provincial funding for critical water projects. Under current policy, only regional districts and municipalities are eligible for water infrastructure grants, leaving well-managed irrigation districts without the support they need.

This issue extends across the region, as many private water, improvement, and irrigation districts are responsible for delivering drinking water to homes. I am working with these boards to develop a plan that ensures equitable access to funding, while also benchmarking best practices for system management. We need a solution that not only supports responsible operators, but also strengthens oversight for those that need improvement.

Of course, irrigation and improvement districts are not the only ones struggling. The RDOS, RDKB, and all municipalities in our region are grappling with aging infrastructure and limited government funding. The backlog of necessary upgrades has grown so large that it is now pitting communities against one another for scarce resources - an unacceptable situation that puts our domestic water supply at risk.

Water is a basic necessity, and ensuring stable, long-term funding for infrastructure must be a priority. I will continue to push for changes to provincial policy that recognize the reality on the ground and ensure all communities, regardless of governance structure, can access the support they need.

As always, if you have concerns or need assistance, please reach out to my office at **250-498-5122** or email **Donegal.Wilson.MLA@leg.bc.ca**. I look forward to continuing to work for you in Victoria and throughout our riding.



Matt Taylor
Director for
RDOS Area "D"

From The Director For RDOS Area "D"

Budget 2025 ~ Could there be a more interesting topic to open with? The Budget for RDOS, with Area "D" being just one component of that, had 2nd Reading on February 20. The Budget is a full year project, currently at 830 pages. People often focus on the percent increase in the tax requisition, being the additional property tax collected this year relative to last, but there are other things to consider ...

- Individual property taxes will differ from this percent increase.
- Property Taxes in the Area are collected by the province for a 5% fee or approximately \$175,000 for Area "D" alone.
- Adding a \$100,000 project requires a roughly 3% increase on everyone's property taxes.
- Inflation impacts every input on every line in every budget for every service. Despite inflation now being 2-3% for Canada, it has been considerably higher in recent years and one of the RDOS single biggest inputs are staff costs that increase by 4% annually.

The overall Tax Requisition - the amount of property tax collected from all properties - may be reduced using 'Reserves', built up from property taxes banked over prior years. Increases may also be reduced by Grants, although Electoral Areas receive only one grant annually, the Community Growth Fund or Gas Tax. Roughly \$190,000 for Area "D" is a sizeable and useful grant, but it doesn't go far in offsetting the overall tax requisition. Lastly, increases can be reduced using Debt that spreads the same tax increase over several years, but comes at a cost - the interest paid on the debt. With these factors in mind, a tax increase on the order of 6-7% is anticipated at Third and Final Reading.

Business Licenses And Short Term Rentals ~ Hosts will need to register with the province's STR as of May 1 to advertise on platforms like AirBnB or VRBO. An RDOS Business License will also be required to operate short term rentals in Area "D", from a principal residence, a secondary suite, or an accessory dwelling attached to that principal residence. While not available yet, hosts can register now in the Registry without a License, and add it to their file in the Registry once available later this spring.

Clarifying Some Points On Incorporation And Okanagan Falls:

"We can't afford the road repairs." ~ To clarify, the province provides a grant equal to the anticipated cost of repairs over the first 5 years, AND is responsible for all repairs over that same time period. This allows a new municipality to put the grant funds into reserves for

future use. The new municipality has zero responsibility for road repairs for the first 5 years, after which it assumes responsibility only for side roads. Responsibility for Highway 97 repairs always remains with the province.

"We can't afford the policing costs, as we'll have to pay for 4 police and a new detachment." ~ To clarify, police costs are paid by the province until we reach a population of 5,000 at which point we'd pay 30% of the cost. With a 3% annual population growth, we'd not reach this point until 2042. Other communities nearing this population have managed the transition by budgeting in advance to avoid sharp tax increases.

"Taxes will double." ~ To clarify, the study demonstrated that the incorporated municipality would incur an additional \$289/year on an average home in Okanagan Falls valued at \$500,000 to deliver the very same services at the very same level as are presently delivered by RDOS. These additional costs include a realistic budget for costs of mayor and council, town hall, any additional staff, etc. If an incoming council raised/lowered service levels, added or removed a service, beyond what residents wanted, then residents could elect a different council at the next election.

"Okanagan Falls is too small to incorporate." ~ To clarify, more than 60 municipalities - nearly 40% of all BC municipalities - are smaller than the proposed municipality, whether based on population or assessed property values.

Additional information is at rdosregionalconnections.ca. I hope this helps you make an informed choice ... **And PLEASE VOTE** on March 22, 8 am - 8 pm at Okanagan Falls Elementary School.

Coffee With A Cop ~ Was attended by the RCMP's second most senior staff member, Staff Sergeant Bob Vatamaniuck. About 20 residents had a coffee, raised their concerns and had discussion time. As a follow up, RCMP will meet with local businesses, providing some onsite guidance to reduce vulnerabilities.

Crime statistics in Area "D", while understandably a concern to local residents, are significantly lower than those in Penticton as demonstrated in the table below. This is a good thing!

 Summary
 2023
 2024

 Per 1,000 population*
 OK Falls / Penticton
 OK Falls / Penticton

 Violent Crime
 10.9 / 29.2
 13.0 / 30.1

 Property Crime
 29.7 / 102.9
 30.1 / 94.9

 $^{\star}\,\text{Okanagan Falls 2,760 for proposed community footprint, and Penticton 36,885-StatsCan 2021}.$

Residents are always encouraged to report crimes, as it provides a more accurate measure of crime. Police can then allocate and deploy resources in accordance with real need.

Director Information ~ Office hours are 1-3 pm on the first Tuesday every month at the RDOS Okanagan Falls Office.

Matt Taylor, Director for RDOS Area "D"

Direct: 250-460-0980 | mtaylor@rdos.bc.ca | www.rdos.bc.ca





Okanagan Falls Community Association Update

By Colleen Simmons

Deciding With An Open Mind

Lately, it feels like the world is more divided than ever. We see it online, in the news, and even in our communities - differences in politics, ideologies, and values pulling people and families apart. The idea of "us vs. them" has become all too common, making it easy to let emotions take over.

As we approach the Okanagan Falls Incorporation Referendum this March, we all have a decision to make. But let's commit to making that decision thoughtfully - without anger, without division, and with respect for one another.

Imagine if we all approached this with two old principles in mind:

Divided we fall & love your neighbour.

Some choices in life are easy - when one option is clearly good and the other is obviously bad, the decision practically makes itself. But most of the time, choices aren't that black and white. We wrestle more with decisions when both sides have valid points, when the pros and cons are evenly matched. Ironically, those should be the easiest choices - because when both options have merit, either one has the potential to work out. The uncertainty isn't about picking the right choice, but recognizing that both paths can lead to a positive outcome in different ways. There will always be surprises, but often, the things we fear aren't the ones that end up mattering most - it's the unexpected challenges that truly shape the future.

So, whatever stance you're leaning toward on this referendum, take a moment to genuinely consider the other perspective. Set aside personal filters and ask: Could they have a valid point? Why do they believe what they do? Is there any merit to their view?

At the end of the day, the most important thing is to vote. But before you do, take the time to see if there's another angle you hadn't considered. A little more understanding can go a long way in keeping our community strong - no matter the outcome. With or without this referendum, we will still be neighbours, still be a community. What truly matters is how we move forward together, with respect and unity, regardless of the decision.



We're Back & Ready To Help You!

By Diane Chatfield

After a well-deserved break, Vi and I are back to working hard for our clients! It was fantastic to escape winter for a bit. Vi soaked up the sun in Puerto Vallarta, while I spent 11 nights aboard the beautiful Regal Princess, sailing through the Western Caribbean. The itinerary was incredible, with stops in Jamaica, Roatán, Belize, and Mexico. One of the highlights for me was swimming with stingrays in Costa Maya - an unforgettable experience!

We'd love to help you plan your next adventure. Let us know how we can make it unforgettable too!

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Important Vote For Community Off Eastside Road

By Ethan Ribalkin, Executive Board Member of HHLHCA

The Heritage Hills/Lakeshore Highlands Community Association (HHLHCA) is encouraging their neighbours to vote on the future of their water and wastewater services.

An assent vote being held April 12, 2025, will ask residents of Vintage Views, Heritage Hills and Lakeshore Highlands whether to approve takeover by the Regional District of these systems run by a private operator. This includes borrowing \$6.9 million to upgrade the wastewater system and \$13.5 million to upgrade the water system to bring them into repair, including government compliance. These costs will be passed onto the homeowners, who receive these services with the potential for government grants to offset costs and repaid over a 30-year period with interest.

"We feel it is very important our community members and neighbours make their voice heard on April 12", the HHLHCA said in written statement. "Please come out and vote. Make your voices heard."

The wastewater system is under a provincial Pollution Prevention Order (PPO), due to ongoing non-compliance with infrastructure repairs, sampling and reporting. A Boil Water Advisory has been in place for nine months.

The vote will take place at the Okanagan Falls Community Centre at 1141 Cedar Street on April 12th from 8 am to 8 pm. Advanced voting April 2nd from 8 am to 8 pm at RDOS office, 101 Martin Street, Penticton. Only residents connected to each service can vote. This means, if a resident is connected to water, but not the wastewater system, this resident will only vote on water. The RDOS advised their takeover requires a yes vote to both systems. To vote, an individual must either be a resident elector or a non-resident property elector, which includes tenants. If you are uncertain whether you can vote, please contact the RDOS for clarification. Mail in ballots can be requested by sending an email to communications@rdos.bc.ca.





Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

NOTICE OF ASSENT VOTING

VOTE ON THE INCORPORATION OF OKANAGAN FALLS

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to the electors within the Proposed **Municipality of Okanagan Falls** in the Province of British Columbia as defined on the map on the page to the right, that assent voting will be held on the following question:

"Are you in favour of incorporating Okanagan Falls as a municipality?"

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING: SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm Okanagan Falls Recreation Centre 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls, BC

ADVANCE VOTING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen 101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

There is no need to pre-register to vote as the registration of qualified electors will take place at the time of voting. You will be required to make a declaration that you meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older on assent voting day
- Canadian citizen
- resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration
- resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Proposed Municipality of Okanagan Falls for at least 30 days immediately before the day of registration, and
- not disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in the assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

Resident electors must produce **2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, provide proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner, provide written consent from a majority of the property owners to one owner voting.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

REQUESTING A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE:

Mail-in ballot packages can be requested by filling out the Application for Mail-In Ballot Package form available at:

- · www.rdosregionalconnections.ca
- in-person at the RDOS office (101 Martin Street, Penticton) or RDOS Economic Development office (1109 Willow Street, Okanagan Falls)
- by contacting Legislative Services at elections@rdos.bc.ca or 250-492-0237 (toll free 1-877-610-3737)

Your mail ballot package will contain instructions on how to complete and return your mail ballot.

Information Required:

- 1. Full name:
- 2. Residential address;
- 3. Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors);
- 4. Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
 - pick up at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office (101 Martin Street, Penticton);
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address: OR
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address provided when requesting the mail ballot package.
- 5. Two pieces of identification that together prove who you are and where you live. Combined BC Driver's License/Services Card is considered one piece of identification.

For the mail ballot to be counted you are responsible for ensuring that your completed ballot is received at the:

- Regional District Office no later than 4:30 pm on March 21, 2025; or
- Okanagan Falls Recreation Centre, 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS SYNOPSIS

The Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, of the Province of British Columbia ordered that:

- A vote be taken to determine whether the electors of the area of Okanagan Falls are in favour of the proposed incorporation as a new municipality.
- 2. The vote will be taken on Saturday, March 22, 2025.
- The vote will be conducted in accordance with Part 4 of the Local Government Act and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Election Procedure Bylaw No. 2798, 2018.
- 4. For the purpose of the vote, the area of the proposed incorporation of the community of Okanagan Falls as shown on the map on the page to the right entitled "Proposed Municipality of Okanagan Falls", RDOS-07-04.
- The question on the ballot will be: "Are you in favour of incorporating Okanagan Falls as a municipality?"

TAKE NOTICE that the above is a synopsis of the Ministrial Order and that this synopsis is not intended to be and is not to be understood as an interpretation of the Ministrial Order. The Ministerial Order may be inspected at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office, 101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC, during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday or online at www.rdosregionalconnections.ca.

For further information on the Order or the voting process, please contact:

Christy Malden, Chief Election Officer
Diane Vaykovich, Deputy Chief Election Officer
elections@rdos.bc.ca
250-490-4237 | Toll Free at 1-877-610-3737

Christy Malden Chief Election Officer

MAP OF PROPOSED MUNICIPALITY OF OKANAGAN FALLS Proposed Municipality of Okanagan Falls Schedule 1 to Ministerial Order posed Municipality of Okanagan Falls



Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen NOTICE OF ASSENT VOTING

LAKESHORE WATERWORKS SYSTEM SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 3071, 2024,

AND

LAKESHORE WATERWORKS SYSTEM LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW NO. 3072, 2024 ASSENT VOTING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to the electors within the proposed **Lakeshore Waterworks System Service Area** in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen as defined on the map below, that assent voting will be held on the following question:

"Are you in favour of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen adopting Lakeshore Waterworks System Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3071, 2024, to operate, maintain, and upgrade the Lakeshore Waterworks System -AND-

Lakeshore Waterworks System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3072, 2024, to authorize the borrowing of up to \$13,530,000.00 (thirteen million, five hundred and thirty thousand dollars) for capital upgrades of the Lakeshore Waterworks System?"

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING: SATURDAY, April 12, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Okanagan Falls Recreation Centre 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls, BC

ADVANCE VOTING: WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

There is no need to pre-register to vote as the registration of qualified electors will take place at the time of voting. You will be required to make a declaration that you meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older on assent voting day
- Canadian citizen
- resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration
- resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Vintage Views Wastewater Area for at least 30 days immediately before the day of registration, and
- not disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in the assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

Resident electors must produce **2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, provide proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner, provide written consent from a majority of the property owners to one owner voting.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

REQUESTING A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE:

Mail-in ballot packages can be requested by filling out the Application for Mail-In Ballot Package form available at www. rdosregionalconnections.ca or in-person at the RDOS office (101

Martin Street, Penticton) or by contacting Legislative Services at elections@rdos.bc.ca or 250-492-0237 (toll free 1-877-610-3737). Information Required:

- 1. Full name:
- 2. Residential address:
- 3. Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors);
- 4. Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
 - pickupatRegionalDistrictofOkanagan-Similkameenoffice;
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address; OR
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address provided when requesting the mail ballot package.
- 5. Two pieces of identification that together prove who you are and where you live. Combined BC Driver's License/Services Card is considered one piece of identification.

Mail ballot packages will be sent out commencing on or about February 24, 2025. For the mail ballot to be counted, you are responsible for ensuring that your completed ballot is received at the Regional District Office no later than 4:30 pm on April 11, 2025, or at the Okanagan Falls Community Centre, 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls, BC between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on April 12, 2025. Your mail ballot package will contain instructions on how to complete and return your mail ballot.

MAP OF SERVICE AREA



SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

To create a service to operate, maintain and upgrade the Lakeshore Waterworks System and to borrow funds for capital upgrades of the Lakeshore Waterworks System.

TAKE NOTICE that the above is a synopsis of the proposed bylaws and that this synopsis is not intended to be and is not to be understood as an interpretation of the bylaws. The full bylaws may be inspected at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office, 101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC, during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday or online at www. rdosregionalconnections.ca.

For further information on the bylaws or the voting process, please contact:

Christy Malden, Chief Election Officer Gillian Cramm, Deputy Chief Election Officer elections@rdos.bc.ca 250-492-0237 | Toll Free at 1-877-610-3737

Christy Malden Chief Election Officer



Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen NOTICE OF ASSENT VOTING

VINTAGE VIEWS WASTEWATER SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW NO. 2068, 2024 AND

VINTAGE VIEWS WASTEWATER SYSTEM LOAN AUTHORIZATION BYLAW 3069, 2024 ASSENT VOTING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE is given to the electors within the proposed **Vintage Views Wastewater System Service Area** in the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen as defined on the map below, that assent voting will be held on the following question:

"Are you in favour of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen adopting Vintage Views Wastewater Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3068, 2024, to operate, maintain, and upgrade the Vintage Views Wastewater System

-AND-

Vintage Views Wastewater System Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3069, 2024, to authorize the borrowing of up to \$6,962,000.00 (six million, nine hundred and sixty two thousand dollars) for capital upgrades of the Vintage Views Wastewater System?"

VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

GENERAL VOTING: SATURDAY, April 12, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Okanagan Falls Recreation Centre 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls, BC

ADVANCE VOTING: WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2025

8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC

ELECTOR REGISTRATION

There is no need to pre-register to vote as the registration of qualified electors will take place at the time of voting. You will be required to make a declaration that you meet the following requirements:

- 18 years of age or older on assent voting day
- Canadian citizen
- resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately before the day of registration
- resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Vintage Views Wastewater Area for at least 30 days immediately before the day of registration, and
- not disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in the assent voting and not otherwise disqualified by law.

Resident electors must produce **2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, provide proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner, provide written consent from a majority of the property owners to one owner voting.

MAIL BALLOT VOTING

REQUESTING A MAIL BALLOT PACKAGE:

Mail-in ballot packages can be requested by filling out the Application for Mail-In Ballot Package form available at www. rdosregionalconnections.ca or in-person at the RDOS office (101

Martin Street, Penticton) or by contacting Legislative Services at elections@rdos.bc.ca or 250-492-0237 (toll free 1-877-610-3737). Information Required:

- 1. Full name:
- 2. Residential address:
- 3. Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors);
- 4. Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
 - pickup at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office;
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address; OR
 - regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address provided when requesting the mail ballot package.
- 5. Two pieces of identification that together prove who you are and where you live. Combined BC Driver's License/Services Card is considered one piece of identification.

Mail ballot packages will be sent out commencing on or about February 24, 2025. For the mail ballot to be counted, you are responsible for ensuring that your completed ballot is received at the Regional District Office no later than 4:30 pm on April 11, 2025, or at the Okanagan Falls Community Centre, 1141 Cedar Street, Okanagan Falls, BC between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm on April 12, 2025. Your mail ballot package will contain instructions on how to complete and return your mail ballot.

MAP OF SERVICE AREA



SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED BYLAWS

To create a service to operate, maintain and upgrade the Vintage Views Wastewater System and to borrow funds for capital upgrades of the Vintage Views Wastewater System.

TAKE NOTICE that the above is a synopsis of the proposed bylaws and that this synopsis is not intended to be and is not to be understood as an interpretation of the bylaws. The full bylaws may be inspected at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office, 101 Martin Street, Penticton, BC, during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday or online at www. rdosregionalconnections.ca.

For further information on the bylaws or the voting process, please contact:

Christy Malden, Chief Election Officer Gillian Cramm, Deputy Chief Election Officer elections@rdos.bc.ca 250-492-0237 | Toll Free at 1-877-610-3737

Christy Malden Chief Election Officer

Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department RCMP Community Report 🙇 🚾 🚾 🚾

By Colin Pickell



As we leap like a lamb (a lion?) towards the light of longer spring days, our fire department is gearing up for what promises to be a full calendar of training.

Seriously, the gear is a big deal in what we do as firefighters. Take this past weekend, for example. We finally had enough ice in our district to get out there for an afternoon of Ice Rescue training. The members of our department who are certified Ice Rescue Technicians (our own IRT team!) suited up in dry suits, donned PFD's, helmets, throw-bags, gloves, and shoes with spikes and headed out onto Skaha Lake to frolic in the frigid waters and refresh our frosty skills in various rescue techniques. We cut a hole in the ice with a chainsaw large enough for a couple of us to bob about, while a team of two safely approached and decided how to pull us from the icy water as quickly and safely as possible. After a few hours of this, our teams returned to the hall for the hallowed tradition (painstaking process?) of hanging every piece of gear - from neoprene caps and gloves to lengths of rope - so that they would be perfectly dry before being returned to their gear bags. Damp equipment will deteriorate and weaken, so we always need to ensure we're keeping our gear in the best shape possible. Please always check the conditions of the ice before heading out on it, especially as the weather fluctuates with the approaching spring thaw.



Ice Rescue Technicians L-R: Zahrawi, White, Miller and Carrier on Skaha Lake.

SAVE THE DATE! This year our fire department is celebrating 75 years of serving Okanagan Falls and we want you to celebrate with us! Saturday, September 27 will be our big Anniversary Party, with times and details to follow. We hope you'll be able to join us!

Darcy-Rae's Painting is now available for interior painting projects. Residential & commercial. Serving Okanagan Falls & surrounding area. Contact Darcy-Rae for your FREE quote! Darcyraespainting@hotmail.com or call/text 204-228-0256.



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By Jo Anne Ruppenthal, Community Policing-Resortative Justice Coordinator

Volunteering

Usually when I think of March, I think of Spring Break, better weather, and a nice transition into spring. But in this article, I am going to focus on community presence and what you can do to either give back to your town or be part of the solution to some of the issues that you see around you.

Penticton Community Policing Team has a number of volunteer opportunities for anyone from the age of 16 and up. You must be able to pass a Police Information Check or a Criminal Background Check to join, which is free to all potential volunteers. The first step would be to visit the City of Penticton website under 'Community Programs' and check out the various positions we have available. The second step would be to go to your local Police Detachment to request an application to volunteer. The third step is an interview with the Community Policing Coordinators, and then finally (if suitable) a position will be offered.

If you are between the ages of 16-19, the programs of Ambassador and Garage529 are great to build your resume and look great on Post Secondary applications. Also, for Grade 12s there is another program being offered at their high school called Peer2Peer; applications close for 2025 on March 15. This program offers a chance to speak with grades entering into high school about peer pressure, resistance strategies, and other tips they may have to navigate the stress of high school.

The Penticton Community Policing team can be reached at communitypolicing@penticton.ca for any questions, or visit us on Facebook at "South Okanagan Similkameen Community Policing", or call us at 250-492-4300.



Creative Wellness Solutions

By Dee-anne Stone, Seniors Wellness Practitioner



March is Nutrition Month, so let's examine how our daily food and drink choices play an important role in our health. We've been hearing a lot lately about the importance of eating real food and avoiding processed foods.

But what is processed food? For that matter, what is minimally processed food or ultra-processed food? And how does

processed food affect our health?

Unprocessed or minimally processed foods are whole foods in which the vitamins and nutrients are still intact. The food is in its natural (or nearly natural) state. These foods may be minimally altered by removal of inedible parts, drying, crushing, roasting, boiling, freezing, or pasteurization, to make them suitable to store and safe to consume. Unprocessed or minimally processed foods would include carrots, apples, raw chicken, melon, and raw, unsalted nuts.

Processing changes a food from its natural state. Processed foods are essentially made by adding salt, oil, sugar, or other substances. Examples include canned fish or canned vegetables, fruits in syrup, and freshly made breads. Most processed foods have two or three ingredients.

Some foods are highly processed or ultra-processed. They most likely have many added ingredients such as sugar, salt, fat, and artificial colours or preservatives. Ultra-processed foods are made mostly from substances extracted from foods, such as fats, starches, added sugars, and hydrogenated fats. They may also contain additives like artificial colours and flavours or stabilizers. Examples of these foods are frozen meals, soft drinks, hot dogs and cold cuts, fast food, packaged cookies, cakes, and salty snacks. [www.health.harvard.edu]

I found a fantastic website with a wealth of useful information. On UnlockFood.ca, you will find information on nutrition, food and healthy eating, as well as recipes, videos and online tools. There is information on hundreds of topics from A-Z. The content on UnlockFood.ca focuses on healthy eating throughout the lifecycle (from infants to seniors), nutrition topics of interest, and preventing and managing health conditions.

We need to take care of our health and nutrition. So eat well, stay away from ultra-processed foods, get plenty of rest, 6-9 hours of sleep and receive regular massages.

Creative Wellness Solutions provides a convenient massage with innumerable benefits on a comfortable massage chair. You do not need to climb onto a table or remove clothing and no oils are used. You can choose from a head and face, upper body, or legs and feet massage, or any combination.

We are a mobile service, so are able to come to you in your home (\$50 for a 30 minute appointment). Group sessions and gift certificates are also available. Please call Dee-anne at **250-497-5974** to arrange an appointment or to discuss The Grease Cream; which is an amazing, all-natural, cannabis infused pain management alternative that actually works. Be sure to check out our website at www.CreativeWellnessSolutions.com for more information about our services, The Grease Cream and where you can read any past articles you may have missed.







Got a great idea to bring your community together?

You could receive up to \$500 to lead a local project that strengthens neighbourhood connections.

Join a free info session to learn more and apply!

Bring a friend or neighbour!

Okanagan Falls – Regional Library March 25 at 5:00 - 5:45 PM Osoyoos – Regional Library March 25 at 7:00 - 7:45 PM Oliver – Regional Library March 29 at 10:30 - 11:15 AM

More details and RSVP: www.cfso.net





Neighbourhood Small Grants: Bringing Communities Together One Idea At A Time

By Kim English

Have you ever wished your neighbourhood felt a little more connected? Maybe you'd love to start a community garden, organize a storytelling night, or host a "learn-to-fix-it" workshop. Good news ... your great idea could get a boost!

The Neighbourhood Small Grants (NSG) program is back in the South Okanagan, offering up to \$500 to support resident-led projects that bring people together. Applications open March 3 and run until April 18, giving locals the chance to turn small ideas into meaningful community connections.

Past projects have included block parties, cultural cooking classes, book/plant/caring-sharing boxes, and nature walks - all led by neighbours, for neighbours. This year, more than sixty community projects could receive funding - yours could be one of them! The best part? You don't need to be part of an organization - just have a great idea and a passion for community. Join an NSG info session in March to meet other community-minded people, share ideas, and plan a project together. With a little creativity, we can make this summer full of local events - right on your own street!

Let's celebrate where we live. Visit www.cfso.net to learn more and start dreaming up your next community project!



Women's Health And Menopausal Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement Therapy



By Dr. Tamara Browne, ND Naturopathic Physician, Licensed and Registered by The BC Ministry of Health

Menopause is a natural transition in a woman's life which often passes without much notice, but which can cause some fairly uncomfortable symptoms such as hot flashes, mood swings, insomnia, weight gain, dry skin, memory and cognitive difficulties, migraines, and night sweats. Many of these symptoms

can be treated safely with natural, risk-free methods including bio-identical hormone replacement therapy (BHRT). These hormones are identical to the hormones our bodies produce. This means they act naturally and do not increase risks for chronic disease including heart disease, cancer, or dementia. Synthetic or unnatural/non-human hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was demonstrated in some studies to slightly increase the risk of cancer and heart disease in post-menopausal women, and for this reason, has largely been discontinued. This has left a gap in treatment options for many women who are not offered effective relief for their menopausal symptoms. Further, there are anti-aging benefits of natural hormone replacement therapy, with multiple studies showing improvements in healthy aging, maintenance of bone and tissue health, and fewer symptoms associated with aging. Fortunately, women can now use prescription natural hormones either individually compounded by Pharmacists with advanced compounding training, or pre-made commercially and approved by regulatory agencies.

Menopause is defined as the cessation of menses for a 12-month period. It usually occurs between the ages of 50-55, but may occur earlier or later with the mean age being 53.3 years. The "Climacteric" is the period leading up to menopause and may begin a decade prior to menopause. During the climacteric, many women experience symptoms associated with changing hormone status, similar to the menopausal symptoms previously described. During these times in a woman's life, bio-identical hormones can safely provide great relief of symptoms.

Balancing hormones and improving health in general are also key to helping any woman at any age with menstrual issues including Endometriosis, Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome, and painful or irregular cycles. Infertility, which is an ever-increasing problem, is often improved with these therapies as well.

Naturopathic Doctors treat the whole person and employ lifestyle medicine to ensure all aspects of health are addressed in a cohesive manner. Along with BHRT, we address diet and nutrition, mental/emotional issues, stress management, sleep patterns, exercise, and other lifestyle factors that contribute to health. We focus on supporting wellness solutions and decreasing obstacles to optimal health. We recognize that each person is a unique individual with unique needs. By spending time with our patients and completing thorough work-ups including physical exams and extensive lab testing, we often can uncover hidden causes of distress that are otherwise missed.

Please visit a licensed healthcare provider for advice and guidance with your health care needs. This article is for informational purposes only and should not be considered medical advice.



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Dr. Tamara Browne, Naturopathic Physician

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Unlocking Mobility: How Fascial Stretch Therapy And Thai Massage Improve Flexibility

By Danielle Cournoyer, Functional Movement Therapist

At **Bamboobody Fitness and Flexibility**, I help clients enhance mobility, recover from injuries, and alleviate pain through Fascial Stretch Therapy (FST) and Thai Massage. These therapies employ passive stretching and applied pressure to create space in the body, improve circulation, and restore natural movement. Despite their different origins, both aim to boost flexibility, reduce tension, and promote long-term wellness.

Understanding Passive Stretching ~ Passive stretching involves an external force - such as a therapist's hands, gravity, or tools - guiding the body into deeper motion ranges without muscle engagement. This approach offers: effective, strain-free stretching; enhanced flexibility and range of motion; pain relief by easing muscle and fascial tightness; and improved circulation, posture, and nervous system.

I utilize both FST and Thai Massage to address injury recovery, athletic performance, and overall movement enhancement. These methods target fascial restrictions, joint mobility, and muscle imbalances beyond traditional stretching.

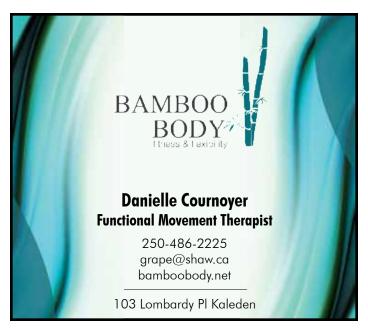
The Role Of Applied Pressure ~ Applying pressure during stretching is vital in both therapies. Through gentle traction in FST or rhythmic compression in Thai Massage, appropriate pressure: stimulates blood flow, delivering oxygen and nutrients; facilitates deep muscle and fascia release, reducing tightness; and activates the parasympathetic nervous system, promoting relaxation and recovery. To enhance these effects, I incorporate a percussion gun into sessions. Its vibrations release deep muscle tension, making stretching more effective and comfortable. This combination of passive stretching, applied pressure, and muscle vibration fosters smoother movement and increased mobility.

Fascial Stretch Therapy (FST): A Targeted Mobility Solution ~ FST is a hands-on technique designed to release tight fascia - the connective tissue enveloping muscles, nerves, and joints. Unlike traditional stretching focusing on individual muscles, FST addresses entire fascial lines to restore movement patterns, improve posture, and reduce pain. Benefits of FST include: enhanced flexibility and range of motion; decreased joint compression and stiffness; better posture and movement efficiency; and improved sports performance and injury prevention. This method is especially beneficial for athletes, post-surgical recovery, chronic pain sufferers, and those with limited mobility.

Thai Massage: Integrating Deep Stretching and Balance ~ Thai Massage, often termed "lazy yoga", is an ancient practice combining acupressure, passive stretching, and joint mobilization. Performed on a floor mat, it employs deep, flowing stretches with applied pressure to release tension and restore energy balance. Benefits of Thai Massage include: increased flexibility and reduced muscle stiffness; deep relaxation and stress relief; improved circulation and energy flow; and enhanced posture and movement awareness. Thai Massage offers a comprehensive therapeutic experience, ideal for those seeking deep tissue release and passive stretching.

Schedule Your Session Today! Experience the benefits of passive stretching, deep tissue release, and enhanced mobility. Let's collaborate to develop a flexible, pain-free body. Visit Bamboobody Fitness and Flexibility today and feel the difference!

Danielle Cournoyer, Functional Movement Therapist 103 Lombardy Pl, Kaleden | 250-486-2225 | bamboobody.net



Courtney's Homecare

By Courtney & Jeremy Robinson

We would like to introduce ourselves to the community. Based out of Summerland, we are a husband and wife team dedicated to providing exceptional homecare services. We are WorkSafeBC insured and we are bonded. Our combined strengths and shared passion for helping others drive us to deliver personalized, compassionate care to each of our clients. Together, we bring a unique blend of skills, experience, and commitment to ensure the well-being and comfort of those we care for.

Why Choose Courtney's Homecare?

- Experienced and Caring Professionals ~ We are skilled non-medical caregivers that are passionate about delivering top-notch care to our clients.
- Personalized Homecare ~ We will tailor our services to meet the unique needs of each individual, ensuring a comfortable and supportive environment.
- Flexible Scheduling ~ We offer flexible scheduling, so we can accommodate your family's needs. We help to maintain a life with dignity.
- Our Services Include (but not limited to) ~ Companionship, light housekeeping, meal preparation and planning, bathing and dressing (personal hygiene), grocery shopping and errands, pet care (feeding and walking), medication reminders, and respite care. We are here to help you stay in the comfort of your home.

"Courtney has been my care giver for a number of years. She is an easy going gentle, loving lady. Always willing to please. Courtney always arrives with a smile. It's contagious. She takes responsibility for tasks, ensuring that they are completed. Courtney is a very good cook and makes the best Chicken Soup. Always willing to go the extra mile to be a friend, as well as caring for you."

For more information or to book any of our services, please call 250-462-8679 or email courtneyshomecare@outlook.com. We look forward to caring for you and your loved one's needs with companion care, personal care, and respite care.





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Kaleden Branch: 101 Linden Avenue - 250-497-8066 Tuesday 1-5 pm / Thursday 1-8 pm / Friday 1-5 pm

Does March really "Come in like a lion, but go out like a lamb"? We will have to wait and see! Here at the Kaleden Library, we have lots of spring themed books to browse, as we move into the new season. Is the spring sunshine highlighting some corners of your home that could use some attention? Why not check out "Simply Class" by Regley Repinably For all the passinget good page.

home that could use some attention? Why not check out "Simply Clean" by Becky Rapinchuk. For all the passionate gardeners who are already eagerly perusing seed catalogues, there is "Food Science for Gardeners" by Robert Pavis.

The following programs are FREE, but require registration as space is limited. Call 250-497-8066 or email Kaleden@orl.bc.ca.

Children's Programs:

On **Tu**esday mornings from 10-10:45 am, we look forward to welcoming little ones and their caregivers to the **Preschool Storytime** for stories, fingerplays, rhymes and fun! The current session ends on March 11. From 10:45-11:45 am after the Storytime program has ended, families are invited to nurture young imaginations and early learning skills by staying to play with a variety of age-appropriate educational toys and puzzles.

Our popular **Afternoon LEGO with Cara** is from 2:30-3:30 pm on Thursday, March 20. All school aged children are welcome to bring their block-building skills and see what magical creations they can come up with, enjoy a small snack and win a door prize!

If you have school-aged children who are looking for something to do over the Spring Break, register for a **Special Crafting Program** Tuesday, March 18 from 11 am - 12 pm. We will craft away the winter blahs, and explore the colours of spring!

New Staff:

The new face behind the circulation desk at the library belongs to me! My name is Judy Komar, and I would firstly like to express my gratitude to Glenda Livolsi who for over 25 years has been the beating heart of the library, for her support during this transition and for entrusting her patrons to my care. I have already been welcomed with incredible generosity and warmth by the community and appreciate their patience as I do my best to fill Glenda's (dainty!) shoes.

Submitted by Judy Komar, Kaleden Community Librarian

CatMatch



Meet Hersey!

Unexpectedly captured, transported in a mysterious box on wheels, my siblings and I found ourselves in a whole new world! A world where food mysteriously appeared and we were no longer cold. We have neat little

items to play with, which sure beats the pinecones that we had in our previous world! And the best part is the alien beings, who although large, seem to have gentle hands and love to scratch behind our ears. Come meet us at Total Pet in Penticton. www.alleycatsalliance.org.

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OK Falls Branch: 101 - 850 Railway Lane - 250-497-5886

Tuesday 10 am - 6 pm / Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm Friday 10 am - 5 pm / Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

We're Sprucing Up for Spring: The Okanagan Falls Library and the book bins will be closed March 1-11 for painting and new flooring. We can't wait to welcome you back to a fresher space on March 12! See you soon.

Special Event: Saturday, March 15 from 12-1:30 pm ~ Come join us for a special event featuring local author Faye Arcand. Celebrate the official launch of her debut novel "Inside Outside". Light refreshments and door prizes.

Adult Programs:

Crafting Circle ~ Every Wednesday from 1-3 pm and Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm. Bring your creative talents and participate with like-minded individuals. Have fun while you create!

Book Club ~ Wednesday, March 19 from 1-2 pm. This month's discussion will be "The Book Woman's Daughter" by Kim Michele Richardson. If you would like to join our club, please contact the Okanagan Falls Library for more information.

Art Therapy ~ Every Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm. Come and experience the calming effects of adult coloring. We also have coloring pages for kids!

Saturday Board Games ~ Every Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm for tween and adults. Come play your favourite board or card game at the library. We have Monopoly, Scrabble, Crib, Yahtzee, Skip-Bo, Chess and others!

Children's Programs:

Preschool Storytime ~ Starting in April, Preschool Storytime is every Tuesday from 1:30 - 2 pm. Build your child's love for reading with interactive games and fun picture books.

Okanagan Falls Kids Building Club ~ Every Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm. Bring your family and imagination and see what you can create with LEGO, Keva Planks and Megagontile.

Afterschool LEGO Club ~ Wednesdays from 3-4 pm. Bring your school buddies, put your imaginations together and see what you can create while having fun building with LEGO.

Take & Makes ~ Don't forget to pick up your monthly Take & Make from the library, while supplies last!

Other:

Friends of the Library ~ Your local Friends of the Library are actively looking for new members, who are interested in supporting our local library through fundraising events, such as book & bake sales and raffles. If you are interested in joining the Okanagan Falls Friends of the Library, please contact the library for more information.

Puzzle Table and Exchange ~ Do you need a change of scenery and a quiet place to relax? Visit us at the library and enjoy some quiet time working on our current puzzle. We also offer a puzzle exchange, take a puzzle home and bring it back when you are all done. We also gratefully accept puzzles (with all their pieces) too! Submitted by Artessa Wiker, Okanagan Falls Community Librarian



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A Fond Farewell To Glenda Livolsi

By Michal Utko, Director of Marketing and Communications, ORL

On Friday, January 24, 2025, the Kaleden Library hosted a heartfelt retirement celebration for Glenda Livolsi, honouring her years of dedication to the Okanagan Regional Library and the local community. More than 55 attendees, including friends, colleagues, and library patrons, gathered to share memories, express their gratitude, and wish Glenda well in her next chapter.

The event was attended by Okanagan Regional Library CEO Danielle Hubbard and Public Services Director Mark Reinelt, both of whom shared their appreciation for Glenda's contributions. Guests enjoyed coffee and cake, with Mark Reinelt stepping in to cut 55 pieces for the crowd.

"Glenda's dedication and kindness have made a lasting impression on everyone who has visited the Kaleden library," said Danielle Hubbard, CEO of the Okanagan Regional Library. "Seeing so many people come together today is a testament to the positive influence she has had over the years. We are deeply grateful for her service and wish her all the best in retirement."

Reflecting on her time at the library, Glenda Livolsi shared, "It has been an absolute joy to serve this community, and I'm so grateful for the friendships and connections I've made. This celebration has been incredibly touching, and I will always cherish my time here." As the library bids farewell to Glenda, it is also pleased to welcome Judy Komar as the new Kaleden Community Librarian. With her experience and enthusiasm for serving the community, Judy is eager to continue the library's tradition of excellence.

The Okanagan Regional Library extends its heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this event such a memorable occasion. For more information, please visit our website or contact the Kaleden Library directly.



Dodging A Bullet

By Tom Landecker

We learn the names of the planets in elementary school, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Pluto. Pluto was demoted in 2006 by the International Astronomical Union - it's now a "minor planet", one of the biggest of 750,000 minor planets whose orbits have been measured and recorded. There are many more objects orbiting the Sun: these are the *asteroids*. There is probably an uncountable number of asteroids, with sizes all the way down to a grain of sand.

When bits and pieces the size of a grain of sand collide with the Earth, we see the result as a shooting star, a brief flash of light across the night sky as the particle burns up in the atmosphere. But can we collide with one of the larger pieces?

We certainly can. About 66 million years ago, an asteroid 10 to 15 kilometres across crashed down on the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, making a crater 200 kilometres from edge to edge. The resulting dust and debris in the atmosphere led to drastic cooling of the entire Earth; the dinosaurs became extinct, together with half of the life forms existing on Earth at the time.

Could this happen again? Yes. Can we predict when? No. Can we do anything about it? Happily, yes.

A network of telescopes is watching for asteroids like this, the so-called Near-Earth Asteroids. In 2024, four were detected, landing over Berlin, Germany (January 21st), over the Philippines (September 4th), over the Pacific Ocean (October 22nd), and over Siberia (December 3rd). These objects were small, all around 1 metre across. All were detected about 12 hours before impact. Three of them burned up in the atmosphere, while the Berlin object scattered a few small fragments (meteorites) onto the ground. The impacts of these four were all calculated from the tracking data with an accuracy of 0.1 seconds (when) and 100 metres (where).

Larger asteroids pose a real danger. Fortunately, they can be spotted a lot earlier. The aim of the monitoring program is to detect potentially dangerous asteroids early enough that we can deflect them. On September 26th, 2022, the DART spacecraft (launched by NASA) smashed into an asteroid, Dimorphos. This asteroid will not hit the Earth, and is a good candidate for a test to see how easy it is to deflect an asteroid that might be on a collision course with us. Dimorphos is a 70-metre-wide loosely packed ball of rocks. The impact changed its shape, and changed its orbit. The European Space Agency has now launched another spacecraft, Hera, to measure these changes precisely. When Hera gets there, in December 2026, the data will tell us exactly how well this operation worked. With a little international cooperation, maybe we can dodge the bullet, or at least deflect it.

Interesting websites:

- https://www.space.com/the-universe/asteroids/tiny-asteroiddetected-hours-before-hitting-earth-to-become-4th-imminentimpactor-of-2024
- https://science.nasa.gov/science-research/planetary-science/ planetary-defense/near-earth-asteroids/
- https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Planetary_Defence/ Asteroid_2024_RW1_impact_ESA_analysis
- https://chime-experiment.ca

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory is operated by the National Research Council Canada and is located at 717 White Lake Road in Kaleden. For more information, please call 250-497-2300.



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Highlights From Kaleden Elementary School

By Principal Ron Manning

The month of March arrives with only 2 weeks to go until Spring Break. The term has moved so very quickly and now spring is on its way here in the Okanagan. We have had many activities happening at the school this term. Grade 3/4/5 basketball has been a huge hit with both the girls and boys teams playing 6 games during the season, plus the entire school went up to Apex for Tubing in February. The grade 4/5 students also participated in cross country skiing at Nickel Plate. Sienna Gabriel, the school district cultural interpreter from the Penticton Indian Band, came into the school to teach Indigenous lessons to our students. Our Kindergarten students just celebrated 100's day, marking quite the milestone for their school year. Second term report cards will go home on March 13 and Spring Break will commence on Saturday, March 15. Students will be back in session for the third term on Monday, March 31. We wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break with family and friends.









New To Kaleden?

We would like to welcome you & provide you with a package of community information. Please call 250-460-3387.

Kaleden Elementary PAC Update

By Trenna Fisher, PAC Chair

The Kaleden Elementary School PAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 pm in the school library! We would love to welcome anyone parents who have a child going to school at Kaleden Elementary to join us!

If you have any questions or comments, please contact PAC Chair Trenna Fisher via email to trennafisher@outlook.com.

School Trustee Report For SD67

By Karen Botsford, School Trustee

Strategic Goals ~ Relationships and belonging are key components of the district's strategic goals and there were several events in February supporting these goals. Here are a few.

DPAC Parent Engagement Series - Monday, January 20 Bridging Cultures, Indigenous Education in our Community ~ Principal Dustin Hyde and Knowledge Keeper Lainee Greveyes lead a circle of attendees through questions and discussion on Indigenous culture and the integration of Indigenous ways of knowing into our schools. Thank you to DPAC for hosting not only this evening, but a series of learning opportunities for parents.

Real Acts of Caring (RAC) Event - Thursday, February 6 ~ | attended the Real Acts of Caring (RAC) live virtual rally created and hosted by students from SD67. An invitation was extended to K-7 classes in BC and as noted on the RAC Website, the rally "is designed to share the science of kindness, examples of ways to be kind, and reflections on the impact of kindness". This year marked the 20th Anniversary of Real Acts of Caring. Grade 6 and 7 students and RAC alumni (grades 10-12) spoke about their personal experiences and actions. Students shared a video and requested input from the classrooms attending on how they perform real acts of caring. It was wonderful to hear all the ways students all over the province are spreading real acts of caring day by day. While it was a student-led event, teachers Jenny Mitchell and Melissa Burdock and the district tech team provided hours of support. Anti-Racism Assembly with Anthony MacLean ~ Anthony

MacLean, advocate for anti-racism, was the guest speaker at the district's secondary schools in late February. His storytelling of real experiences was engaging and empowering for the students. He provided examples for us to challenge biases, to speak up and to take action. He illustrated that we need to get to know one another - we are all human. His dynamic and inspiring message is another example of how we can continue to build relationships and a sense of belonging in our schools.

For more information, please contact Karen Botsford, School Trustee for SD67, by sending an email to kbotsford@sd67.bc.ca.



Thrift Shoppe

Open 10-3 Wed-Fri & 12-3 Sat 250-497-7047

Okanagan Falls Heritage & Museum Place - 1145 Main St

Kaleden Quilters, Crafters & Barn Quilters

By Vivian King

Welcome Kaleden Quilters, Crafters and Barn Quilters! You are invited to join us every Wednesday from 1-4 pm in the Kaleden Community Hall. Ladies of all skill levels are invited to join us for an afternoon with other quilters and crafters. Coffee and tea are always available. The spring session runs from March 12 - April 30 for \$20/person. For more information, call 250-497-1164 or email viv20king@gmail.com. We'd love you to join us!



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No Job Too Small

Highlights From Okanagan Falls Elementary School

By Principal Katie Poole

February was an exciting month at OKFE, filled with unforgettable events and incredible moments! From lacrosse clinics with PMLA and swimming lessons to the "Pink the Rink" event, kindness challenge week, 100s day, ice fishing, and a thrilling basketball tournament, there was something for everyone. We also enjoyed inspiring science presentations from Kandis Lipsett, gymnastics, Valentine's Day celebrations, and Pink Shirt Day! Most importantly, the kindness and positivity we witness in our learning community every day continue to make a lasting impact. Way to show the world what you've got Falcons!













School Trustee Report For SD53

By Sholeh Pickell, School Trustee

Spring is just around the corner now, as we enter the final stretches of winter. At the district, we are in our budget development cycle. We have begun our consultation process with our preliminary meeting with parents, community members, teachers and Indigenous rightsholders held on February 19. The next public meeting is on April 16 at 4:30 pm in the annex building located at the district offices in Oliver. These meetings are an opportunity for the public to give input on our budget for the next school year. There will also be surveys sent to parents through their child's school. All this feedback will be used to guide our budget development.

Coming up on March 6, 7, and 8, students of South Okanagan Secondary will be performing the musical "Footloose". If you haven't had the pleasure of watching one of the SOSS musicals, I encourage you to go. These shows are produced with a high level of professionalism and do not disappoint. Tickets are available on the Venables Theatre website.

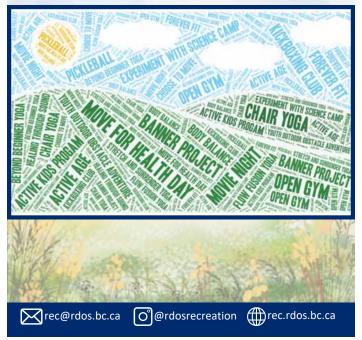
For more information, please contact Sholeh Pickell, School Trustee for SD53, by emailing to spickell@sd53.bc.ca.



Okanagan Falls



A variety of spring programs will be available in Okanagan Falls.



Okanagan Falls PAC Update

By Chantelle Bruwer

On Tuesday, February 11, the **PLMA (Penticton Minor Lacrosse Association)** came to our school to teach our children about Lacrosse. Thank you to PAC for sponsoring this activity.

OKF PAC is having an **Online 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser** with proceeds going to upgrade our school's technology. Tickets are \$5 each and available to BC residents only, until April 1st. To purchase your tickets, visit www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ofes. Good Luck!

We would like to thank Kyle and Belich's AG Foods for their wonderful rewards program called "Belich Bucks", which has supported so many local non profit organizations in our community. This program funds our school's Breakfast Program. Thank you! (PAC also has their own account #11000, which you can use anytime you shop and help us earn Belich Bucks for our PAC.)

Come join us! The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5 at 6 pm in the School Library. All parents/guardians of OKF students are welcome! Free child minding is available.



We've Expanded!
Come visit us at our
new location in the
OK Falls Corral.



Shop Local. Buy Local. Tailoring Also Availables

THE FALLS BARBER + SHAVE SHOP

BARBER SERVICES

Kids under 12	\$20
Seniors/Basic Buzz	\$21
Men's Cut/Style	\$30
Men's Cut/Style (Long Hair)	\$35
Bear Trim (Clipper Only)	\$20
Beard Trim with Razor Cut-Out	\$25
Straight Razor Shave	\$50
Head Shave with Straight Razor	\$45

MENSWEAR

We are fully stocked with a great selection of everyday menswear & accessories. We have suits & dress shirts for weddings & all occasions. Tailoring also available!

#1 - 5350 Highway 97 Okanagan Falls

778-515-1313

Kaleden Museum

By Mike Gane

Kaleden Packinghouses - Part 1 of 4

This next series is on the Kaleden Packinghouses. The next 4 articles will present to the reader a vision of what was in the community in years past. Later articles will focus on what has replaced the two packinghouses. Some of you know ... and we will inform the rest. Enjoy!

The fruit trees planted in 1910 began to produce in just three years, with 67 boxes of apricots packed in Lapsley's shed on the waterfront and shipped to Winnipeg. By 1915, apples started to come into production and after one year of trucking fruit to Penticton for packing, the Penticton Co-operative Growers provided facilities locally. In the beginning, they too used Lapsley's shed or the hotel basement. By 1916, Muir Steuart had signed up some growers, hauling their fruit to Summerland for packing and the following year he built Kaleden's first packinghouse on the site where the community hall now stands.



KMA 2012-003-P017 (Barb and Ted Gane collection)
Packinghouse workers in front of Hotel Kaleden.

Tune in next month for Part 2 of the Kaleden Packinghouses series. If you wish to donate items to the Kaleden Museum, please contact Mike Gane at 250-497-5674.

Kaleden Seniors Committee Update

By Karla Avendaño, KSC Coordinator

February was Heart Health Month, and we were pleased to welcome our local health practitioner, Rhianna Head, to the Kaleden Community Hall on February 7th for an insightful talk on heart health and more. We had a fantastic turnout, enjoyed delicious food, and even gave away prizes! A heartfelt thank you to Rhianna for generously donating her time and to everyone who joined us for this informative event.





Mark your calendars for March 14th at 12 pm! Scott Austin will be at Kaleden Community Hall to talk about his book, "Sun, Sand, and Sagebrush: Lessons from an Okanagan Garden". Lunch will be available by donation.

Want to stay updated on our events? Email us at kaledenseniors@ gmail.com to join our mailing list!





Need A Ride?

kaledenseniors@gmail.com

If you live in the Kaleden Area and need a ride, please call 250-460-3387.

The Pros And Cons Of Co-Home Ownership: Risk Versus Reward

By Sergej Sinicin of neuHouzz Real Estate Group



It's not easy for 1st time buyers to make homeownership a reality. One of the more innovative solutions I've come across is cohome ownership - a trend where friends, family members, or like-minded folks join forces to purchase a property together. Now co-owning a home can be a fantastic way to enter the

market, but it's essential to weigh the pros and cons before diving in. We handled several co-home ownership transactions last year and it comes with its own set of challenges. Here's a breakdown of the advantages and potential drawbacks to help you navigate this path.

The Pros of Co-Home Ownership

Reward 1: Affordability - Shared Financial Responsibility ~ One of the biggest benefits of co-owning a home is the ability to pool resources. By sharing the down payment, mortgage payments, closing cost, etc., co-owners are able to afford a property that would have been out of reach for them otherwise.

Reward 2: Entry into the Market - Building Equity ~ Real estate remains one of the best long-term investments. While real estate prices continue to rise, co-ownership enables 1st time buyers to enter the market and start building equity now.

Reward 3: Shared Maintenance Costs - Lower Ongoing Expenses ~ Co-owning a home means splitting the cost of maintenance, repairs, property taxes and utilities. This will significantly reduce the financial burden and financial risks in comparison to individual home ownership.

Reward 4: Community Living - Shared Space ~ Co-home ownership can be a great way to live in a shared environment with friends or family, while creating a supportive and collaborative living space.

The Cons of Co-Home Ownership

Risk 1: Complicated Decision-Making - Potential for Conflict ~ The more people are involved, the more complex decision-making becomes. Whether it's renovations, repairs, maintenance or selling the property, different opinions can lead to disagreements. If conflicts arise it strains relationships, so it's important to enter into a co-ownership agreement.

Risk 2: Legal Considerations - Need for a Co-Ownership Agreement \sim A legally binding co-ownership agreement is essential. This is a document that outlines each person's rights, responsibilities, and what happens if one party wants to sell or leave the arrangement. Drafting and agreeing on the terms will be time-consuming and I strongly recommend using legal assistance to draft this up.

Risk 3: Financial Risk - Shared Financial Responsibility ~ While sharing costs is a major benefit, it also means a shared financial risk. What if one co-owner is unable to meet their financial obligations due to job loss or a divorce? That could impact everyone involved.

Risk 4: Exit Strategy - Complicated Selling Process ~ If one party decides to sell their share, or if the entire group decides to sell the property, it can be a complicated process. Finding a buyer for a shared ownership property or getting all the owners to agree on the terms of the sale will be different than with a traditional real estate transaction.

Conclusion ~ Co-home ownership offers 1st time buyers a viable path to homeownership, but it's not without challenges. As your knowledgeable REALTOR®, I understand the pros and cons to help you make informed decisions and start enjoying the benefits. Are you ready to take the plunge? Do you want to start exploring your options? I'm here to guide you every step of the way. Call 778-764-1373 for a complimentary and no obligation consultation.





Half Price Dance Lesson

By Brian Udal, DVIDA Master Instructor

Half price on first dance lesson - only \$35. Ends March 1.

Private Lessons and Wedding Couples ~ For the ultimate fast track to success, take Private lessons. Wedding couples do it all the time and get quick results in a 5 lessons package. You will learn a minimum of 5 to 7 dance patterns in a choreographed routine to the music of your choice.

If you are just a single person or a couple with a busy schedule, who want to learn dancing for personal reasons or for an occasion, then give me a call and we will nail the time and place for your lesson(s) any time of the day/evening or week. Regular Fee is \$70 per hour or less in multiples.

Other Services ~ Group or corporate lessons. DJ for hire with equipment for selective gigs.

Serving the Okanagan with Swing, Latin, County & Ballroom. Call Brian Udal, Certified Master Dance Instructor since 2004, at **604.220.6256** (cell) or email Brians.dance.class@gmail.com. More info at www.briansdanceclass.ca.



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Swing, Latin, Country, Ballroom for Group, Private & Wedding Lessons
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Okanagan Falls Lions Update

By Bob Wilson, Past President

Yep, just when we were about to put those snow shovels away, Mother Nature decided it was our

turn. However, it looks like we have a warming period following, so at least for this episode there will be relief. Then onward into March and see if the lamb or the lion is going to show up first, even being Lions, we're rooting for the lamb. With looking at the rest of the continent, we're doing fine.

The King Charles III medal is awarded for community service and 3 of our community residents are receiving it - Ed and Mary Findlater, who have worked in various organizations over the past many years, and our own Michael Livingstone, Past District Governor and charter member of the Okanagan Falls Lions Club since 1979. Congratulations to you all.

Our next event is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lion's Park on Easter Sunday in April. More to follow on that next month. Lion President Dave is busy getting all the goodies together, so it should be another good time. As I have said before, we have people bringing their children to the park who were brought there by their parents a number of years ago.

The school breakfast program and eyeglass collection are ongoing and doing fine. We are set to send another shipment in April of around 1000 pair and are approaching the 100,000 goal set by Lion Colin a while back. Lion Colin van Blerk is no longer with us, but will always be remembered by the club.

That's about all for now. We'll see you around town. Take care.

Blood, it's in you to give! The next Blood Donor Clinics will be held on March 8 & 10-12 at the Penticton Senior Drop In Centre from 1:30-5:30 pm. The Canadian Blood Services needs both donors and volunteers, visit www.blood.ca or call 1-888-236-6283.

The Okanagan Falls Lions Club meets the second Monday each month at 7 pm upstairs at the Okanagan Falls Legion. Come and join us and see what we are all about. If you have any questions, please call 778-439-2275. www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/okfalls/ or www.facebook.com/okanaganfallslionsclub.

Okanagan Falls Seniors Activity Society

By Donna Taylor

We are located at 1128 Willow Street in Okanagan Falls. The local bus stop is right across the street from our front doors.

We have a library and puzzles to loan out. If you would like to use the library when the hall is not in use, call Donna at 250-462-5233.

Activities in March 2025:

Canasta ~ Mondays at 10 am

Morning Pool ~ Mondays at 10 am

Tuesday Bingo ~ Tuesdays - March 4, 11 & 18 at 1 pm

Evening Pool ~ Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

Social & Lunch ~ Wednesdays at 10:30 am (Reservations are required on Monday. Call 250-498-7030.)

Mexican Train Dominos ~ Wednesdays at 1 pm

Afternoon Pool ~ Wednesdays & Thursdays at 1 pm

Bridge ~ Thursdays at 1 pm

Cribbage ~ Thursdays at 7 pm

Line Dancing ~ Fridays at 1 pm

Pancake Breakfast ~ Saturday, March 1 from 8-10 am

General Meeting ~ Monday, March 3 at 1 pm

Country Music Jamboree ~ Sunday, March 9 & 23 at 1 pm

Drop-in Bingo ~ Saturday, March 15 from 1-4 pm

Pot Luck ~ Saturday, March 22 at 5:30 pm

Carpet Bowling ~ On hold

Scrabble ~ On hold for now - looking for players

Booking Agent - Heather at 250-497-1171



Are you over 50? Just \$25/yr to join!

Enjoy activities. Meet new people. Get out and have FUN!

Become a member of the OK Falls Seniors Society!

For more information, call 250.497.8199 or 250-462-5233.

Music & Market In The Park

By Grant Henderson, Event Coordinator

No sooner are we done with Christmas when it's time for us to start planning Music & Market in the Park for the forthcoming season. Sponsorships need to be secured and bands booked for the occasion well in advance of the first event.

The idea of placing a bandshell in Centennial Park came from the Women's Institute; a member of which, left funding and directions in her will to construct a foundation for a public performance stage in 1997. The fundraising for the bandshell began in 2011 and took almost four years to raise the required funds to construct a bandshell on that concrete foundation. Greyback Construction from Penticton built the bandshell in 2014 and the very first concert of Music in the Park was held on May 11, 2015. The weather was miserable, cold and wet that day. Nevertheless, we were off to a grand start. And, nothing could have dampened our spirits.

Ten years later, we find that our little community music and market program has really blossomed in popularity and attendance. I have more bands wanting to play in our bandshell than I could shake a stick at. Two years' worth, at least. We are overjoyed to have been supported by local organizations and businesses by their contributions of ideas, activities, funding and energy. Everyone's efforts have made this a very successful summer event.

2025 is a big celebration for Music in the Park. Plans are in the works to make this a superior season including seven concerts, craft vendors, food trucks, and family activities. I will let you know the dates in the next issue of Skaha Matters. Stay tuned!



The Royal Canadian **Legion Branch #227**

By Bev Van Uden

Welcome Everyone! What is the Royal Canadian Legion? We are a non-profit national organization that serves Canadian war veterans and their families and lobbies Governments on their behalf. We are best known for selling poppies every fall and organizing Remembrance Day ceremonies across the country. You don't have to be a veteran to join and make a difference.

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 2 pm to close. Open Sunday from 11:30 am to close. Everyone Welcome! Sunday the guys are playing pool. Come check it out and maybe join the game.

Beginner Line Dancing ~ Tuesdays & Fridays from 10-11:30 am. Drop-in \$2.

Meat Draws - Fridays at 5 pm & Saturdays at 3 pm ~ Thanks to our local grocery store - Belich's AG Foods. All profits are donated to local charities.

Drop-in Darts ~ Every Saturday at 2 pm. Registration at 1:30 pm. Pancake Breakfast ~ Sunday, March 16 from 8-10:30 am. Everyone welcome!

General Meeting ~ Tuesday, March 18 at 7 pm (3rd Tuesday).

Membership ~ Member cards and stickers are at the Branch. Please ask the bartender.

Bottle Returns ~ Drop off cans and bottles at the Legion.

Congratulations ~ 3 of our members received the "King Charles III Coronation Medal" for their outstanding contributions to our community - Ed Findlater, Mary Findlater and Michael Livingstone.













Receiving King Charles III Coronation Medal in West Kelowna on February 15. 2025 from left to right are Ed Findlater, Mary Findlater and Michael Livingstone.

We are always looking for Volunteers ~ Great way to give back to your Legion and Community.

For Updates ~ Call the branch, check the board outside, or check our Facebook Page at "Royal Cdn Legion - Branch 227 Okanagan Falls BC" or our Instagram at "Veterans227".

For more information, call 250-497-8338 We are a Small Legion with a BIG Heart!

RISE AND SHINE!

It's Brunch Time & Now ... It's Dinner Time Too!





Join us for a cozy brunch or start your day off right with our delicious coffee and breakfast options. We now serve dinner 3 nights a week! Stop by and enjoy our tasty food & great service. Follow us on Facebook & Instragram!



OK Falls Heritage & Museum Society

By Connie White, Secretary

We held our Annual General Meeting on February 11 and have elected a new Board of Directors as follows: President - Bill Jennings; Vice President - Sue Waznyl; Secretary - Connie White; Treasurer - Lynda Routley; Director - Marguerite Gibson; Director -Colleen Wright; and Director - Cheryl Snyder. Congratulations to all! The Board will endeavour to forward the progress of Heritage Place. Our museum is jam packed with brand new displays, so get your membership at just \$20/year. We hope to see you soon!



Emergency Vouchers can be made available from Okanagan Falls Helping Hand throughout the year with proper qualifications.

To apply, please call 778-559-2412 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.



South Skaha Housing Society Update

By Michael Livingstone, SSHS Chair

South Skaha Place Phase 2 Update ~ We continue to hold biweekly Zoom meetings with our team of architects, contractors, and society representatives to refine the requirements for the Phase 2 construction of South Skaha Place. Our goal remains to build a high-quality, long-lasting structure that adheres to best building practices, ensuring durability and minimizing long-term maintenance costs. One of the ongoing challenges we face is the uncertainty surrounding total project costs. Fluctuations in pricing present difficulties in budgeting and planning, but we remain committed to finding the best possible solutions within our means. We are carefully evaluating all options to make the most informed decisions for the success of this project. Despite these challenges, our dedication to the project's integrity and sustainability remains unwavering. We appreciate the continued support and patience of the community, as we work towards completing this important development. SkahaMatters.com | March 2025 | Page 21

LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Kaleden Community Church

Sunday Worship at 10 am ~ in-person and online Visit kaledenchurch.ca for updates and the link to our live worship. 443 Lakehill Rd. | kaledenchurch@gmail.com | 250-497-5995

Okanagan Falls Community Church

Sunday Worship Service & Children's Church at 11:00 am Speakers: March 2 - Maple Springs Bible Camp presentation; March 9 & 16 - Pastor Jon Manlove; March 23 - Guest Speaker John Rankin; and March 30 - Pastor Jon Manlove.

Worship services available at okfcc.net.

FB: Okanagan Falls Community Church. Everyone is welcome! 1356 McLean Creek Rd, Okanagan Falls | 250-497-5131

Okanagan Falls United Church

Sunday Service at 9:00 am ~ Speakers: March 2 - Rev. Laura Turnbull; March 9 - Rev. Liz Bowyer; March 16 - Sarah Tupholme; March 23 - Rev. Paul James; and March 30 - Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt. Everyone is welcome! Coffee fellowship following the services. Visit okfallsunited.ca for more information.

1108 Willow St, Okanagan Falls | 250-497-1171 or 250-460-2560

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Service

Sunday Mass at 11 am ~ All services held in St. Barbara's Church. 1039 Willow St | Father Gabriel Chinnaperiannan | 250-494-3110

St. Barbara's Anglican Church

Sunday Service at 9:30 am ~ Join Rev. Rick Paulin on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Morning Prayer on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Everyone is welcome! Call or email for more information. 1039 Willow St | 250-497-7844 | st.barbaraanglican@gmail.com



John Van Bynen

1955 - 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John Van Bynen on February 4, 2025. He passed away at home in the presence of family.

John is survived by his wife, Gail, daughters Riesa (Aidan), Tanis (Eric), Daina (Mike) and his beloved grandchildren: Mckenna,

Grant, Paisley, Alec, Cole, Callum and Scott. He is also survived by his mother, Joyce, brother Frank, sister Marian and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. John was predeceased by his father, Andres, and brother, Jack.

Born in the Netherlands in 1955, John immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1956. He grew up in Burnaby and later North Vancouver, where in high school he met and later married his wife, Gail. Together, they started their family, and in 1985 they moved to Okanagan Falls with their three children, so John could work alongside his dad at Vanholt Machine Works. When his father was tragically taken too young, John carried on the work at the shop until its closure in 2007, due to the closing of Weyerhaeuser.

John had a deep love for the outdoors, and nature was always a source of peace for him. He loved spending time with his family, often taking them on adventures in the beautiful landscapes around them. Whether it was hiking, fishing, or simply enjoying a quiet moment outside, John was happiest when surrounded by nature. He also had a special connection with horses, and many of his happiest memories were spent riding and caring for them. His love for motorcycles was equally strong. John found peace and adventure every time he took a ride.

John's family was his greatest joy. He was devoted to his family, and his love for them was unwavering. He will be remembered for is wild spirit, his sense of humour, and the many stories that will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Diabetes Canada in John's memory.



Exhibitions, artist studios, workshops, drop-ins, and more. Let's get creative!

pentictonartscouncil.com 250.492.7997

Exhibitions & Coming Events

The Penticton & District Community Arts Council is excited to host our first exhibition of 2025!

February 15-April 26~Incredible Journeys in PDCAC Galleries: Group Exhibition by Ullus Collective. This exhibition is a reflection on the journeys our artists have taken. Navigating the rough terrains of grief, loss, and challenges, while changing, learning, and healing along the way, we have arrived here today. We invite you to walk alongside our artists for a moment to celebrate the paths that lead us here and the people we have become.

The Penticton Arts Council Galleries are currently open Wednesdays to Saturdays, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm, at 220 Manor Park Avenue in the Leir House Cultural Centre. To find out more about the exhibitions, events, artist opportunities, the community calendar, and more, please visit www.pentictonartscouncil.com.



Flowers Or Fish Heads?



Send yours to skahamatters@telus.net

Your full name and location area is required on any submission. (Please Note: Some discretion on content inclusion may be involved.)

Flowers to Glenda Livolsi. It's been an absolute pleasure working with you. Happy Retirement! ~ *From Myleen M. of Skaha Matters* **Fish Heads** if you don't vote! ~ *From Myleen M. of Skaha Matters*



Card Making With Sherrie

By Barb Shanks

You are invited to join us for a special Card Making event with Sherrie at Okanagan Falls United Church on Tuesday, March 11

from 7-9 pm. The cost is \$15 for 3 cards. Refreshments provided. For more information, call 250-488-8174 or email barb.shanks@gmail.com. We hope you can join us for this fun creative evening!



Need Medical Equipment?

The HUB has a collection of used medical equipment ranging from large items such as a scooter, lift chair, wheelchair, etc. to bath and

shower chairs, raised toilet seats, hoists, pillows, crutches and more. If you are looking for this type of equipment for the long or short term, please call the HUB.



South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre Update

By Laura Turnbull, Board Chairperson

A few weeks ago, Subrina Monteith, the Executive Director of the South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre, received a lovely phone call for which I was fortunate to be present. The caller thanked her for the article, such as this one and particularly affirmed the inclusion of our phone number. We were reminded that not everyone is computer savvy and using emails and websites is either intimidating or impossible. We were affirmed for knowing our clientele and making our resources as user friendly as possible.

The kind volunteer who phoned pointed out two important principles too easily forgotten. Many of our volunteers are most comfortable with the phone as a tool of communication. Member agencies are wise to remember this in their advertising and resource materials. Don't forget to include your phone number! Phone messages ought to be returned in a timely manner. Prospective volunteers are often anxious to get going!

The other point raised revolved around orientation and training. New volunteers crave being able to do things correctly. Clear understanding of the expectations and the requirements of the job are essential if the new volunteer is to thrive. "Please don't make us sink or swim!" To those entrusted with supporting volunteers, the time you give in the beginning towards orientation and guidance will be rewarding for all.

The South Okanagan Similkameen Volunteer Centre is committed to working alongside you to ensure the optimum volunteer experience. If you are interested in either a short term or longer-term volunteer opportunity, please check out the Volunteer Centre for help in finding the right volunteer experience for you. Subrina Monteith, the Executive Director, would be happy to meet with you. Call for an appointment at 1-888-576-5661, email info@ volunteercentre.info or check out www.volunteercentre.info. We want you to have the ultimate volunteer experience!

Credible Cremation Services

Sensible Prices for Practical People - At need / Pre need.

Call **Lesley**, our own Senior, Licensed Director

Basic Cremation ... No Hidden Costs \$1240.00 + taxes (Penticton area) \$1440.00 + taxes (Kelowna area)



Helpful Tips When Choosing A Direct Cremation Service

By Lesley H. Luff, Okanagan Falls & Osoyoos

Where To Start: Is there a Will? Who is the named Executor/ Executrix? If no Will, who is the next of kin? Is the deceased on Social Assistance?

Next: Gather all of the deceased's identification, such as Birth Certificate, Passport or any other ID that states the deceased's full legal name. Once you have all of this information at hand, you will be prepared to answer the questions that the Funeral Director will ask when you make the call to the Direct Cremation Provider.

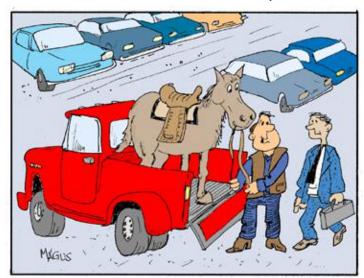
Please Note: You are the "purchaser" and will be purchasing a service, albeit a very personal service, and will be offered several different price options, depending upon your very personal needs and budget. There is no "one price fits all", as each family is unique.

Questions That You May Be Asked: Name of the deceased and where is the deceased located (which city)? Date and time of death? Male or female? Hospital, hospice, home or coroner care? Present weight of the deceased? Is there a pacemaker? How many Death Certificates are required?

There will also be several legal forms that will need signatures in order to transfer the deceased and/or to proceed with the cremation once the death has been registered and the necessary paperwork is in order. We hope that these helpful tips outlined above will be of some value to those either pre-planning their final arrangements or those facing the loss of a beloved family member or friend.

Credible Cremation Services

110-1960 Barnes St. Penticton, BC V2A 4C3 (Office by appointment please)
250-493-3912 or Lesley@crediblecremation.ca
Sensible Prices for Practical People



This is the "park and ride" isn't it?









We're **HIRING!**

We are looking for dynamic, knowledgeable people to join our team for the 2025 season.

We offer competitive wages and benefits and have full time and part time seasonal positions available. Hiring for:

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- · Loves working with and developing team members
- · Skilled with Microsoft Office suite
- · A flexible schedule that includes weekend and evening hours

Tasting Room Associates

- · Passion for wine
- · Enjoys providing exceptional customer service within a social environment

Please see our website for more information:

wildgoosewinery.ca/employment

To apply, send a current resume, cover letter and indicate position of interest to employment@wildgoosewinery.com.

P: 250-497-8919 | wildgoosewinery.ca