



SKAHA MATTERS

"Bringing Community Matters To You"

Volume 17 : Issue 9

September 2025

Your FREE Monthly
Community News!



Photo by MorrisseyPhotos@shaw.ca



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Monthly
Deadline
Between
15-20th

Okanagan Falls Deserves Local Representation

By Donegal Wilson, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen

I hope everyone has been enjoying a wonderful summer. From everything I've seen, our communities have been vibrant with events, visitors, and local activity - and tourism numbers appear to be strong again this year. It's always encouraging to see our region bustling during these warm months, with businesses and volunteers working so hard to make the season successful.

This past month, I released a position statement on the incorporation of Okanagan Falls. I shared that residents voted to incorporate with the goal of gaining local representation and decision-making power for their community. People expected a straightforward path toward self-governance, but instead the process has stalled.

The NDP government has made Okanagan Falls the first test case for its implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). While reconciliation is an important and shared goal, the way this is being applied has created delays and uncertainty that were never part of the community's expectation when they cast their ballots.

What concerns me most is that these discussions are happening entirely behind closed doors. The Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) has asked for concessions before incorporation can proceed, but none of this has been shared publicly by the government. There are no agendas, no minutes, and no updates. At the table are OIB, the Province, and the RDOS. With only one director of 20 representing Okanagan Falls - and others hesitant to push back for fear of

repercussions in their own communities - the people of Okanagan Falls are effectively left without representation in these meetings.

Even more concerning, as your MLA I have not been invited to these meetings, informed of outcomes, or given a seat at the table. This means the residents of Okanagan Falls - and their elected MLA - have been completely sidelined in decisions that directly impact their future.

This is not acceptable. The referendum that residents voted on did not include conditions or concessions. Changing the rules after the fact undermines trust and sets a damaging precedent for every other community that may want to pursue incorporation.

That is why I am calling on the Province to issue the Letters Patent immediately. Once incorporated, Okanagan Falls can elect its own mayor and council, receive municipal tax revenue, and engage in proper consultation with OIB from a position of democratic strength. That's how reconciliation and collaboration should happen - with all elected local leaders at the table.

I will continue to speak up on this issue and advocate for the people of Okanagan Falls. You deserve to have your voices heard. To read my full position statement, please visit: <https://www.donegalwilsonmla.ca/news/>



Wine Shop Open Daily 11-5pm
Bistro Open Daily 11-4pm
2575 Green Lake Rd, Okanagan Falls



A Community Invitation

Save **Sunday, September 14** on your calendar for ...

Okanagan Falls Connects -

A Gathering and Celebration of Community Volunteers

Okanagan Falls is a community built through the efforts of many Volunteers. The continuing work of all Okanagan Falls Community Groups, Volunteers and Service Organizations will play a major role in helping build a strong and unified community as Okanagan Falls begins the transition from the current RDOS-governed to a self-determining, incorporated community.

This event is a gathering of Okanagan Falls Public, Community Groups, Volunteers and Service Organizations, a celebration and reaffirmation of their good works, and interaction of the groups with the public and with one another.

The Gathering and Celebration will occur in **Kenyon Park on Sunday, September 14 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm** with introductions, greetings, interactions among the public and volunteer groups and **Food for All**.

This event is organized by "Okanagan Falls Connects" Committee made up of Allison Symons, Judy Garner, Heather Jackson, Kelvin Hall, Barb Shanks, Connie White and Bob Daly and endorsed by Okanagan Falls Community Partners, Okanagan Falls Parks and Recreation Commission and RDOS Area "D" Director Matt Taylor.



South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre Update

By Laura Turnbull, Board Chairperson

As youth and young adults are returning to school, colleges, and universities, it has me thinking about the profound contributions they make as volunteers. Many of our festivals would not run if it were not for our dedicated team of younger volunteers. The Library, Museum, and Archives are the beneficiaries of skilled, enthusiastic younger volunteers. And, let's not forget the countless hours that teens and young adults give to Care Facilities assisting with reading, giving out water, and being genuinely friendly visitors.

A 2018 Statistics Canada study found that 46% of Canadian youth formally volunteered through organizations. These young people make up almost half of the of the 22 million Canadians who volunteer each year! Thanks to school programs that often make volunteerism a part of their curriculum and scholarship requirements. Plus, with a changing job market, youth are often encouraged to begin careers through volunteer roles.

Youth and young adults who volunteer do so for a variety of reasons. Many see it as a valuable stepping stone in their job search. Hands-on experience can be gained, while building marketable skills, expanding networks, and boosting visibility to future employers. What a great way to make new friends, while also contributing to an organization or community!

If you are a younger person and are interested in volunteering, I invite you to contact the South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre and speak to our Executive Director, Subrina Monteith. She can be reached at: 1-888-576-5661, info@volunteercentre.info or check out the website at www.volunteercentre.info. She would love to hear from you.

Please consider making volunteerism part of your fall activities. You won't regret it!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and wishing you a wonderful fall!

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**A GATHERING AND CELEBRATION
OF OUR VOLUNTEERS**
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 11:30 - 2:00
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The poster is red with yellow and white text. It features an illustration of five diverse people holding their hands up in a heart shape. There are yellow starburst graphics and a heart icon. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'Neighbourhood Small Grants South Okanagan Similkameen'.

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The advertisement has a blue border. It features a starburst logo for Sarsons Mechanical Services Ltd. and a list of services. The main text is in red and blue, with a blue border around the entire ad.



Subrina Monteith

Director of
RDOS Area "I"



From The Director For RDOS Area "I"

Fall is just around the corner. I would like to provide a few quick updates, as it has been a busy month.

Pioneer Park ~ The tennis side of the courts is getting a redo to centre the courts in the space during the two weeks of September 2-13.

Hopeful Safety Study ~ In September at UBCM, a meeting request was submitted to meet with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding Phase Two of upgrades

on Highway 97, which will encourage a study to take place to recommend steps to make the strip of highway along Kaleden safer. More to come on this as things unfold.

Speed Signs By School ~ Shortly, there will be speed signs installed along Linden Avenue near Kaleden Elementary School to visually show speed and track speeders. The speed signs are a joint project co-funded between ICBC and RDOS.

Volunteers Needed ~ Kaleden Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for more volunteers to join the team, who advise on Parks and Recreation in the service area of Kaleden, Twin Lakes and St Andrews. Enjoy the beautiful community, as we hopefully wrap up our summer with being smoke free.

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 during this time, 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.

We are grateful for all the neighbours helping neighbours!

HUB NUMBER: 250-460-3387

Kaleden Community Association Update

By Glenda Livolsi

Well, by the time you read this the hot days of summer should be over and the milder weather of autumn will be sneaking up on us. The month of September is notable for marking the transition from summer to autumn, the approaching of the fall harvest season, and the beginning of a new school year. Just a reminder to all that the speed limit in school zones is 30 km/h. This limit is in effect on school days between 8 am and 5 pm. Please remember to slow down if you see children riding their bikes or walking along the side of the roads in our community. Let's all try to keep our children safe in Kaleden.

The Kaleden Community Association is having their next meeting on Monday, September 8th at the Kaleden Firehall Meeting Room at 6:30 pm. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer in our community, please email chair@kaledencommunity.com.



Ask about our Kaleden
Grant Funding Program

All new website for all things Kaleden!

www.KaledenCommunity.com

Courtesy of the Kaleden Community Association

Kaleden Irrigation District News

By Bruce Shepherd, KID Trustee

Drawing On A Deficit ~ As of mid-August, the Okanagan was dropped to Drought Level 2 and we stayed at Stage One watering restrictions (kaledenirrigation.org/watering-restrictions). Dodged one bullet, but we are in a years-long precipitation deficit situation. Our main lakes may have remained stable so far, but without more rain and snow the Valley cannot recharge fully. So, we need to carry on conserving (check out okwaterwise.ca for tips), and KID staff will continue to monitor compliance with watering restrictions. Thanks for doing your bit!

What Hue Is Your Hydrant? ~ You may have noticed that our fire hydrants are sporting a new paint job. This was done to conform with the National Fire Protection Association's colour-coding system, followed by both Canada and the USA. This colour coding guides both local and outside assisting firefighters, as firetrucks are now able to pump at much higher rates, which could collapse smaller supply pipes. All of KID's hydrants and standpipes have a yellow base, but the colour of the top cap indicates its flow rate (something your insurance company also may want to know):

- **Green** - 1,000-1,500 USgpm (3,875-5,780 lpm)
- **Orange** - 500-999 USgpm (1,893-3,874 lpm)
- **Red** - below 500 USgpm (1,892 lpm)

Nowadays, the classic all-red hydrant is only used to indicate a private system.

Let's Celebrate The Cemetery! ~ You're invited to come and check out the improvements at the Kaleden Cemetery on **September 19**. The event will begin at 10:30 am with a ribbon-cutting ceremony complete with piper, and will include presentations and handouts on the history and operation of the graveyard. Thanks goes to the Kaleden Seniors Committee (KSC) for partnering with KID on this event and providing refreshments. (See also the KSC poster on page 19.) The Cemetery is located at the southern end of Oak Avenue. We hope to see you there!



Kaleden
Irrigation District

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



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart

Kaleden FireSmart Tip

By Linda Dahl

Is Your Fence FireSmart?

Wood fences offer ZERO fire resistance and can act as a wick directly to your home.

- Fence panels with gaps, such as wood slat fences, can allow embers to become lodged in the gaps and ignite the fence.
- Combustible materials (firewood, mulch, cedar hedges) along the base of a wood fence increase the likelihood of flame spreading to a building.
- If a wood fence is installed, ensure there is at least a 1.5-metre non-combustible break between the wood portion of the fence and your home. Install a metal gate, for example, to break up the combustible fence and protect your home.
- Repair or replace any fence panels or posts that show signs of rot or damage.
- Combustible debris near the fence should be cleared regularly and the lawn well maintained.

Refer to the FireSmart Canada Home Development Guide for more information.

Twin Lakes Harvest Dance

By Daina Zilans



The Twin Lakes Social Club and Megan Tribbeck, the new general manager of the Twin Lakes Golf Course, share a vision of providing opportunities for the community to gather together and have a good time. We invite you to come out to the **2nd Annual Harvest Dance on Saturday, September**

6 from 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:00) to 11:00 at the club house of the Twin Lakes Golf Course at 79 Twin Lakes Road.

Last year's dance was a sold-out success, a great post-Covid event that got many of you out on the dance floor for the first time in years. DJ Brayden is back by popular demand and will once again provide you with all your favourite dance tunes. Get up and show your moves in the clubhouse or visit with friends and neighbours on the outdoor patio, while enjoying a beautiful view of the grounds and mountains. A big thank you to the Twin Lakes Golf Course for the use of their wonderful space! Thanks also to the Neighborhood Small Grant we received from the South Okanagan Community Foundation.

The Golf Course will be offering a cash bar and the Social Club will provide complimentary snacks. Advance tickets for the dance are \$10 each, \$15 at the door, if tickets are still available. Tickets can be purchased by scanning the QR code to the right or by contacting Daina at zilkres@yahoo.ie. Proceeds will help fund future Twin Lakes Social Club events.

Come on out and spend an enjoyable evening with the great people in your neighbourhood and community! We hope to see you all there!



1st Annual Kaleden Volunteer Fire Department Hot Shot Scramble Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 28th

9:00 am Shotgun Start

St. Andrews By The Lake Golf Resort



Get out on the links with your friends and family for a fun round of golf, while supporting the KVFD Society! 9 holes of golf and lunch included with your ticket.

Sponsor Packages Available!

Please contact steph@dream-big.ca for more info.

Scan the QR Code below for details & to buy tickets!



Kaleden Volunteer Fire Department

By Jean Dube

Recruitment Is Now Open



KVFD is looking for community minded, hardworking, self-motivated individuals to join the team. Are you interested in learning valuable skills and promote a safe community? Are you prepared to respond to emergency calls at unexpected times? There is more to being a Volunteer Firefighter than putting water on a fire. You will gain experience working in a challenging and rewarding field alongside supportive members. You will be trained to use the latest fire suppression technologies and rescue techniques all while being a POC, paid-on-call Firefighter.

We are looking for individuals that reside in Kaleden or St. Andrews. You must commit to attending a two-hour practice on Wednesday evenings from 7-9 pm. New training class to commence January 2026. All personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for you. If you see vehicles parked at the firehall, stop in and say 'hello'. Any of the members would be happy to show you around the hall and answer questions.

Don't wait! Apply today. Application deadline is October 31. For more info, go to our new webpage at www.kaledenfire.ca. To pick up a recruitment package, please email kaledenfire@rdos.bc.ca.



Attention Friends and Neighbours!



\$10.00 (PRE-PURCHASED) \$15.00 (AT THE DOOR) – 19+ EVENT
(ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS FUN SOCIAL EVENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2025

TWIN LAKE GOLF COURSE CLUB HOUSE WITH DJ
DOORS OPEN 7:00PM DANCE 8:00PM-11:00PM

Complimentary snacks served and cash bar!
Contact zilkres@yahoo.ie with ticket inquiries!
Do not wait....it was a sold out event last year!



Scan QR Code



New To Kaleden?

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



Matt Taylor
Director for
RDOS Area "D"



From The Director For RDOS Area "D"

"Open House" Discussion With Director ~ Thanks to all those who attended the August 6 meeting. It was very well attended - I'm told it was the best attended meeting in Okanagan Falls in decades. Regardless, 300-350 people showed up in person or online. We ran out of chairs, and it was standing room only at the back.

For some there were frustrations that the meeting wasn't chaired adequately

or that a few were too vocal, and there's probably some truth to that. On the other hand, residents were hearing some possibly alarming news on an issue they feel very connected to - so no matter what you do or say as chairman, they're not all going to comply! By the end of the night, together, we got the job done and while people may not have liked what they heard, I think most were pleased to get the information.



As Director, I had the opportunity to update residents on the incorporation - both the current status and the issues. My primary objective was to inform residents. And in response, residents had an opportunity to tell me what they thought ... and they did! And I really appreciate it, because my second objective was to understand people's views, so that I can pass these on to the provincial government!

Incorporation Meeting With Minister ~ The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, invited RDOS and myself to meet on August 14. At our request, this meeting was lengthened due to Okanagan Falls being the first incorporation in 15 years, the first since passage of DRIPA (Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Persons Act, 2019) and the process being challenging for everyone - whether from Ministry, Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB), Okanagan Falls, or RDOS.

While 'name' was the primary issue discussed, others were acknowledged for subsequent discussions. On the issues discussed, the residents' views shared on August 6th were communicated and a broad range of questions is being submitted.

I remain very concerned about our situation. However, I do recognize and appreciate that this Minister actually chose to meet with us - her predecessor did not - and is taking a direct role to lead a process that gets our incorporation through to completion. Supported by a facilitator who will meet with all parties, this process should now provide Letters Patent next spring and an election in 2026. Meetings with the facilitator and senior staff from the province and OIB, start in early September here in Okanagan Falls, and will continue with ongoing engagement and leadership by the Minister. This is the process we have, to learn what additional changes will actually occur with incorporation - at the moment we're mostly guessing.



Director Taylor meets with Minister Boyle and RDOS senior staff and directors.

As your representative, my efforts will be dedicated to: informing residents as we proceed; making best use of the resources and options at our disposal; and, creating the most sustainable municipality possible - through a provincial process where we're only a part of the decision-making! More to follow ...

7th Avenue Infrastructure Upgrades ~ Work on long-awaited upgrades to the Okanagan Falls water system will start on September 8 or shortly thereafter, and run through to mid-October. The work is on 7th Avenue between Cedar Street and Main Street, and involves upgrading the watermain and adding additional fire hydrants. The work has been postponed until after the bulk of summer traffic, but can't be delayed further, as new asphalt has to be laid down before winter.

This is one of several water and wastewater projects that were initially announced in December 2023. At that time, a \$6.5M package was assembled and approved through the RDOS budget process, involving sewer and water upgrades servicing the core 'downtown' of Okanagan Falls. These upgrades will enable or facilitate already planned development in Okanagan Falls, including market-based and supported housing that is needed in the community.

Business Licenses For Short-Term Rentals ~ Business Licenses were approved in late August, and will be required for Short-Term Rental operations advertised on various public platforms and registered in the BC Short-Term Rental Registry. Business Licenses will be available at a cost of \$500. Failure to obtain a business license if required may result in a fine of \$3,000. The licenses should be available for purchase soon.

Parking Requirements In 'Downtown' Okanagan Falls ~ Parking requirements are being reviewed and a significant change is proposed. Generally speaking, the area included is businesses either side of Highway 97 throughout most of the town and the intent is to grandfather the parking presently required, so long as operators are simply changing the type of business they are doing. If the footprint of the building changes, then the operator would need to comply with current parking requirements for the zoning on that parcel. This proposal has worked its way through the RDOS committee process and will be considered by the RDOS Board in early September. To me, this proposal makes sense. Many of our buildings are built to the property line. The only parking available is street parking. Without a change like this, new businesses may be declined simply, because they cannot provide off-street parking required by zoning. What do you think?

Summer Coming To An End ~ It seems that summer only just started, but it is actually September. School is starting or has already started for some! 'The holidays' are over, and our out-of-town guests have returned to their homes, fresh and relaxed from the summer - some of which was spent here in Okanagan Falls ... and the rest of us can enjoy September, one of the nicest months of the year in Okanagan Falls, one of the most beautiful places there is!

Director Information ~ Office hours are 3-4:30 pm on the first Tuesday every month at the RDOS Okanagan Falls Office.

Matt Taylor, Director for RDOS Area "D"

Direct: 778-931-6080 | mtaylor@rdos.bc.ca | www.rdos.bc.ca

Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department



By Colin Pickell

This month, our fire department is celebrating 75 YEARS of serving the community of Okanagan Falls and the surrounding area! We are extremely proud of the history of our fire department, and all of the people who have stepped forward over the years to give back to this community. We would like to thank each and every member, past and present, for making our fire department what it is today. From the CO2 fire extinguisher that marked the first piece of equipment and the alarm bell loaned to us by Penticton back in 1950, to the seven apparatus we have today, we've come a long way!

Our department is grateful for all of the support this community has shown over the years, and we would like to say THANK YOU by inviting you to our family-friendly **75th ANNIVERSARY PARTY on Saturday, September 27th in Centennial Park from 2-8pm**. We will have local food trucks, a bouncy castle, face painting and games for the kids, as well as a beer and wine garden selling drinks by local wineries Meyer Family Vineyards, Mayhem Wines, Noble Ridge Winery and local brewery Giant's Head. Try your hand at dunking a firefighter in our dunk tank! Live music will be provided throughout the day by The Mudrats, Stephen and Lisa Toon, and classic rock cover band Desert Rogue. Bring your own lawn chairs! More details can be found on our Facebook page. See you there!

"Building Community Spirit"

The intention of this column is to share inspirational stories, or even a quick photo, to show that community spirit is alive and well.

RDOS Amazing Race in Okanagan Falls



RDOS Recreation extends heartfelt thanks to the following local businesses and organizations for their generous support and enthusiastic participation in the RDOS Amazing Races held on Thursday, August 21, 2025:

- The Falls Barber Shop (Sponsor)
- KJ Coffee Shop (Sponsor)
- Okanagan Falls Library (Race Station)
- Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department (Race Station)

These valued community partners served as engaging race stations and/or sponsors, helping make the event a memorable experience for all involved.

Community spirit was truly alive as seven energetic teams raced through Okanagan Falls, solving clues, completing challenges, and showcasing the beautiful green spaces that make our community so special. The event was a celebration of teamwork, local pride, and outdoor fun.

Cheers to everyone who participated, supported, and cheered us on - your enthusiasm made all the difference!

For nominations in this "Building Community Spirit" column, please email a few sentences and a photo to skahamatters@telus.net.

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Overview Of The Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study

By Randy Ludwar,

Recent Incorporation Study Committee Member

The Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study was a community-driven process that examined whether Okanagan Falls should incorporate as a municipality. Initiated under a Terms of Reference adopted by the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) in April 2023, the study focused on governance, service delivery, and financial impacts. Its purpose was to give residents clear, balanced information to decide if incorporation was the right path forward.

The study area confirmed by the Province was a defined portion of Electoral Area "D", chosen for its population density, infrastructure, and growth potential. Oversight was provided by an Incorporation Study Committee made up of 10 local residents, along with the RDOS Area "D" Director and hired technical consultants. With support from the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the RDOS received \$150,000 in grants to fund technical analysis, public engagement, and a roads assessment.

Key activities included a detailed comparison of service costs, taxation, and governance under two scenarios: incorporation or remaining within the RDOS. Community engagement was central, with public forums, mail-outs, and information booths held to ensure residents were well-informed and able to provide feedback.

The timeline extended from the technical analysis phase (Fall 2023 - Spring 2024) to community information sessions (Summer 2024). The committee delivered its final report to the RDOS Board in December 2024. The Board recommended moving forward, and a referendum was held in March 2025.

The referendum presented a single question: "Are you in favour of incorporating Okanagan Falls as a municipality?" Only those living within the study boundaries were eligible to vote, in accordance with provincial legislation. Okanagan Falls residents voted 512 in opposition and 588 in support of the referendum question to incorporate. Therefore, a simple majority vote confirmed the community's decision to move forward.

In the end, the study provided the foundation for a community-led decision on greater accountability, representation, and service delivery. With the referendum now complete, the community is waiting for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to issue letters patent, which will officially establish Okanagan Falls as a new municipality.




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Okanagan Falls Business & Community Association Update

By Marshall MacKinnon

The Okanagan Falls Business & Community Association (OFBCA) goal is to make an impact in the community with beautification, events, improvements, and to shed light on local businesses, such as who they are and what they do. Since our new board was elected in May, we have been very busy behind the scenes working on some exciting new things coming this calendar year. Many locals love where we live, but we want everyone to "Fall in Love with the Falls". We look forward to sharing more on what we're up to and how you can get involved. You can contact us by emailing okanaganfallscommunity@gmail.com. Stay tuned as we plan to share some exciting news next month!



New OFBCA Board Members - Back row left to right: Riley Kascak, Graham Watkins, Ethan Ribalkin, Amy Bydal, Jim D'Andrea. Front row left to right: Marshall MacKinnon, Peter Beauchamp and Lynda Grinnell. Missing from photo: JAK Meyer and Paul White.

Music & Market In The Park

By Grant Henderson, Event Coordinator

August 3rd was a wonderful day. The Bench Boys from Naramata did a really great job for their first performance on a public stage. The crowd was thoroughly entertained. What can I say about Rebel Luv, who played on August 17th? For 10 years, they have enthusiastically entertained the audience with great tunes and high energy. Thanks to Mikie and Ken for your undying support of our musical program. On August 31st, we will have hosted Rumble Seat Revival. They were here last year and they were mighty good. Since they were on their way through the area again this year, I elected to bring them back.

We are having an extra event on September 14th to make up for the cancellation in June. We found a sponsor for that event, who would prefer to remain anonymous. Victor Cullihall and I will be entertaining for the crowd on this day.

As our season draws to a close, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the ever-growing support of Music & Market in the Park. It takes a lot of people to make our summer program what it is; any one of which, if missing, would seriously impact the ability to present our community service. Without our corporate sponsors, our vendors, the bands, the Lions, the food service, and especially the public who attend the events, Music in the Park would not have grown to the popular event it has become.

I would like to mention our regular sponsors who have continued to support an event each year. Since we receive no government funding to host these events, our reliance on the corporate community has been supported by the following firms: Weyerhaeuser; United Steel Workers; Greyback Construction; FortisBC; Belich's AG Foods; RE/MAX Penticton Realty; Wild Goose Winery; and new this year, Okanagan Falls Pharmasave. These firms pay for the bands. We are also grateful that the bands are willing to play for the limit of \$600 that we receive from our donors. Typically, they would charge much more.

I also wish to acknowledge the support of the good people of Okanagan Falls. Each year, our events become more and more popular, and the attendance increases. The people are the reason we go to all this effort to bring Music & Market in the Park to Okanagan Falls each year. Thank you, one and all.

On a sad note, Tara and I are moving away from Okanagan Falls in early 2026. This means that we will not be arranging next year's program. For that reason, we are desperately seeking someone who would be willing to continue coordinating this excellent program. The bands are typically arranged by February. That's the easy part. The real work is in arranging the market, dealing with vendors, pegging out the spots, and seeing it all come together. It definitely requires a commitment for the summer. We would truly hate to see this wonderful event fall away, because no one wanted to volunteer to carry on. If you would like to ensure that Music in the Park continues, please contact Grant at musicintheparkokfalls@gmail.com. Let's keep the momentum going.





Okanagan Falls



OK Falls Parks & Rec Commission

By Bob Daly, Chair

ActivAge™

ActivAge™ is a free 3-month group-led physical activity program for inactive older adults. The program features progressive activities based on ActivAge training and daily living activities, into their daily lives.

INSTRUCTOR: Angela



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Supported by the Province of British Columbia

WHERE:
Okanagan Falls Zen Centre

WHEN:
Tuesdays, September 23 - December 9
(No class September 30 & November 11)
TIME:
10:45 - 11:45 am

AGES:
55+

COST:
FREE, sponsored by the BCRPA

By Registration Only
Maximum of 10 participants

Priority is given to Choose to Move Participants



Choose to Move

Choose to Move™ is a free 3-month program aimed at helping older adults develop and maintain healthy lifestyle habits while making new friends.

Participants receive motivation and support to sustain these positive changes.

INSTRUCTOR: Angela

WHERE:
Okanagan Falls Multipurpose Room

WHEN:
Tuesdays, September 23 - December 9
(No class September 30 & November 11)
TIME:
12:15 - 1:15 pm

AGES:
55+

COST:
FREE, sponsored by the BCRPA

By Registration Only

Choose to Move participants will be given priority to the ActiveAge program



rdosrec@rdos.bc.ca



[@rdosrecreation](https://www.instagram.com/rdosrecreation)



www.rec.rdos.bc.ca



Fall Recreation Update

By Nancy Wigley,

Recreation Coordinator for Electoral Areas "D" & "I"

Hello everyone! Just like that... it's September! The RDOS Recreation Team hopes your summer was filled with fun, sunshine, and great memories.

The RDOS Recreation Team had a jam-packed summer full of fun for all ages. Madison Boerner continued to shine in her role as the summer recreation programmer student, we wish her all the best in her upcoming academic year. From tie-dye days and summer camps to obstacle courses and the RDOS Amazing Races, it was a season to remember.

As routines settle back in, RDOS Recreation is rolling out a fresh lineup of fall programs. Some of your favourite instructors are returning, along with a few new faces, to keep things exciting. Whether you're interested in strength training, cardio, crafting, children's programs, or the Active Age Program, there's something for everyone.

The 2025 Fall Recreation Guide is now available for viewing and registration will open on Thursday, September 4, 2025. We hope you find programs that are a great fit for you and your family. To view the Fall Recreation Guide, please visit rec.rdos.bc.ca.

As always, RDOS Recreation welcomes suggestions and feedback as we continue to "Strive for Healthy Individuals and Communities". Please email rec@rdos.bc.ca or call 250-490-4233.

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We are ending what has been one of the busiest summers for Okanagan Falls Parks and Recreation. There were record numbers of park and beach visitors during the extremely hot days and a summer filled with recreation activities and events including August's Amazing Race! As summer comes to a close, Nancy Wigley has recently launched the Fall Recreation Guide.

With the hot and dry weather, grass has been growing much more slowly and Parks Staff has been able to spend less time mowing and more time on maintenance to meet the high user demand and to complete deferred maintenance jobs. There were a couple of issues with the Spray Park, but staff were able to quickly repair the problems and get the Spray Park back in use.

"Friends of Okanagan Falls Parks" have completed their work for the season with the painting of picnic tables, cleaning and painting of the concrete parking abutments in Kenyon and Lions Parks, and refinishing of the two picnic tables in Kenyon Park. Thanks to so many who volunteered their time and energy.

Parks and Recreation Commission has already begun planning for next years' "Friends" projects. Early planning will give the volunteers a head start enhancing the parks in preparation for the 2026 summer crowd.

Additions to parks this summer include a bike stand in Christie Park, which was built by shop students of South Okanagan Secondary School under direction of Teacher Mr. Travis Hoffman and donated by Bob Daly. You will also find another bike stand located in Lions Park at the start of the KVR donated by Paul White.

Also, at the start of the KVR in Lions Park is a bicycle repair station, donated in the memory of John Riess by his family and friends. John was a well-loved man who recently passed away. He had a passion for cycling and building bikes and had a unique ability to fix anything on two wheels. What a wonderful and appropriate tribute for John.



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Creative Wellness Solutions

By Dee-anne Stone, Seniors Wellness Practitioner



Living with epilepsy can come with a unique set of challenges, from managing seizures to coping with the psychological impact of the diagnosis. This is where chair massage can play a significant role in enhancing the well-being of individuals with epilepsy. Not only is it a convenient and accessible form of relaxation therapy, but it also offers numerous benefits that can improve overall quality of life.

One of the most immediate benefits of chair massage is its ability to reduce stress. People with epilepsy often experience heightened anxiety, due to the unpredictability of their condition. Stress can potentially trigger seizures, making it crucial for those living with epilepsy to find effective ways to unwind. A soothing chair massage employs techniques that promote relaxation and release tension in the body, helping to alleviate feelings of anxiety. Lower stress levels can contribute to a more stable mood, which is beneficial in managing epilepsy.

Regular chair massage can enhance emotional health by promoting the release of endorphins, the body's natural feel-good hormones. Individuals with epilepsy may experience episodes of depression or mood swings, which can sometimes be exacerbated by the stress of living with the condition. By incorporating chair massage into their routine, individuals may find an improvement in their overall mood, making it easier to cope with daily challenges.



Chair massage is particularly beneficial for relieving muscle tension. Many individuals with epilepsy may experience muscle stiffness or chronic tension, possibly as a result of stress or medication. A massage can effectively work through these tense areas, providing immediate relief and contributing to improved physical comfort. In turn, this can lead to better mobility and functionality, allowing individuals to engage more fully in daily activities.

Sleep disturbances are common among those with epilepsy, with some individuals finding it challenging to achieve restful sleep. Chair massage can promote relaxation before bedtime, making it easier for individuals to fall asleep and stay asleep. By alleviating tension and stress, a gentle massage can create an ideal atmosphere for a good night's rest, which is crucial for overall health and seizure management.



Creative Wellness Solutions

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www.CreativeWellnessSolutions.com



Chair massage holds numerous benefits for individuals with epilepsy, ranging from stress reduction and improved sleep quality to enhanced physical wellbeing. By integrating this therapeutic technique into their daily lives, those living with epilepsy can find a supportive tool in managing their condition while promoting relaxation and overall health. Consider giving chair massage a try - the potential benefits may be just what you need!

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.



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Valuable Travel Advice

By Vi Creasey

The last weeks of August has seen many Air Canada clients stranded all over the world. Also, Hurricane Erin has caused many cancelled flights from many Caribbean Islands, again leaving people stranded. Is there some way of protecting yourself from all the additional costs you will incur, if you happen to be away on vacation when these events are happening?

Yes! Cancellation/Interruption insurance will definitely help with the additional costs of hotels, meals, transportation and other incidental items. Please ask Vi or Diane to thoroughly explain how this insurance works.

Most travellers are aware of the high cost of getting emergency medical assistance in many places in the world, and most travellers do purchase Emergency Medical Insurance. Please do everything you can to protect yourself financially when you are travelling. Add the cost of both Emergency Medical and Cancellation/Interruption insurance to your budget when planning your trip.

On another topic, this September, Vi will be exploring a new destination in the Canary Islands. Lanzarote is one of the seven main Islands that make up the Canary Islands, which are part of Spain. Lanzarote is off the northwest coast of Africa and near Morocco's coast.

If this is a destination that you may be interested in visiting, please give Reliable Travel a call later in September.



ReliableTravel.ca

250-488-9313



Vi Creasey vcreasey@shaw.ca

Diane Chatfield dchatfield@tpi.ca

BC Business Licence #48999

Alpha-Lipoic Acid: Oral & Intravenous Uses

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



Alpha-Lipoic Acid (ALA) is one of the most potent antioxidants in the natural world. Although humans make ALA internally, with age this production decreases, contributing to an increased risk of chronic diseases of aging. Researchers and Doctors, who work with replacing this nutrient in either a pill form or by intravenous administration, are seeing promising results treating some of our most resistant chronic diseases. These

include diabetic peripheral neuropathy (a numbness, usually in the feet of diabetics), support during therapy for pancreatic and other cancers, liver diseases, and auto-immune diseases. ALA is a thiol antioxidant compound that has direct free-radical scavenging properties, and has been shown to benefit vascular and endothelial function, as well as improving mitochondrial energy production.

Dr. Burton Berkson, Phd, MD, studied the use of Intravenous and oral ALA for over 40 years. His patients included those with a diagnosis of diabetes, auto-immune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and Lupus, those with liver failure from toxins and viruses, as well as those with chemo-resistant cancers. You can discover more by watching his YouTube presentation by entering "**Dr. Burt Berkson complete talk LDN09**". He often integrates LDN or low dose naltrexone along with ALA for treating autoimmune disorders and cancer. LDN has a positive, modulating effect on the immune system and research data shows that it will decrease autoimmune markers and often significantly improve symptoms in these debilitating diseases.

When prescribed in the correct form and dose, ALA has virtually no side effects. Its effects on the body are wide ranging, since it works at the cellular level as both a water-and fat-soluble antioxidant, an energy inducer (by increasing the production of ATP, our body's energy molecule), a recycler of other antioxidants, a toxin and heavy metal detoxifier, a stimulator of healthy organ regeneration, and a promoter of healthy gene expression. What does this all mean to patients? Clinical experience and research reveal that ALA is amongst the most powerful anti-aging nutrients available and has the ability to reverse some serious illnesses. Used judiciously and in an integrative, holistic care model of health, ALA can contribute greatly to overall health, especially in regards to age related diseases.

I am always grateful for people like Dr. Berkson who devote their lives to helping some of the sickest patients. These new treatments offer hope where there was little before. As always, Naturopathic Doctors follow holistic principles and treat each individual with a tailored protocol designed for each person's unique needs. Having great researchers and clinicians to draw data from helps us immensely in our goal to improve your health. As always, it is advised that you follow the advice of a registered Naturopathic Physician before embarking on any new treatment protocol.



Need Medical Equipment?

The HUB would like to remind local residents that medical equipment is available to borrow. There are crutches, walkers, hospital beds, raised toilet seats and other helpful items one might need. If you are looking for this type of equipment for the long or short term, please call the HUB at 250-460-3387.



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Ask Cheryl ...

By Cheryl Snyder, RTC, MRT, CBP

Hello everyone! Welcome to my favorite season, the fall, when things become more clear and settled. When the children return to school and we start tending to all the needs around education, settling in and preparing for the cooler months ahead.

This fall, I'm planning to do what I love to do most - facilitating workshops, expanding my counselling office with growth through loving prosperity and tending to the needs of my beloved community.

The month of August was one of nurturing my own spirit, as I was home in Nova Scotia with my family on a much loved sabbatical. I laid to rest and officiated two loved family members, celebrating their beautiful lives here on Earth.

I look forward to hearing your questions for me to answer in the October edition of Skaha Matters.

Please feel free to book with me at 250-574-8972 or email your questions/inquiries to cherylsnyderrcc@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and am grateful for your continued support.

CHERYL SNYDER

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- Registered Addictions Specialist

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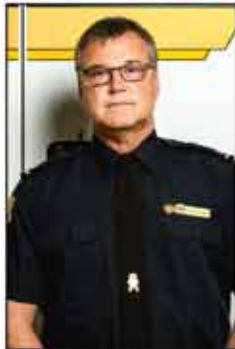
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Family-friendly Anniversary Party!

When: Saturday, September 27th 2-8pm

Where: Centennial Park (behind firehall)

Live music! Beer/Wine Garden! Food trucks!

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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

Special Event ~ September 20, 2025, from 11 am - 12:30 pm.

Meet local author Karen Barrow at the Okanagan Falls Library. Join us for a captivating time with award-winning author Karen Barrow as she reads from her acclaimed historical fiction novel, *Palmyra*. Followed by light refreshments and an intimate Q&A session.

Friends of the Library Book & Bake Sale ~ Coming Soon!

Contact the Okanagan Falls Library for more information.

A Special Thank You to the Friends of the Library! We are so grateful for the incredible support of the Friends of the Library in making our Summer Reading Club a success! Thanks to their hard work and dedication in fundraising, we were able to offer more prizes, exciting presenters, and unforgettable experiences for our readers. Thank you, Friends of the Library, for all you do - we couldn't have done it without you!

Seed Exchange ~ Preserve the Harvest - Share Your Seeds!

As the crisp autumn air settles in and gardens wind down for the season, it's the perfect time to collect and save seeds for next year. Help us keep the cycle of growth going by **donating your extra seeds** to the Okanagan Falls Library! Whether you've harvested flowers, veggies, or herbs, your seed donations will help nurture our community's gardens in the seasons to come. Every contribution - big or small - is deeply appreciated. Drop off your seeds at the library, and let's grow together!

Book Club ~ September 18 from 1-2 pm. This month, we are discussing "Demon Copperhead", by Barbara Kingsolver. New members are always welcome! For details on how to join, contact the Okanagan Falls Library.

Thank You for a Fantastic Summer Reading Club! ~ Now that summer has come to a close and students are settling back into their school routines, the **Okanagan Falls Library** would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who made this year's **Summer Reading Club** such a success!

To all the **eager readers** and **dedicated parents** who participated - your enthusiasm made this summer unforgettable. A special **congratulations** to all our **prize winners** - we hope you enjoy your rewards! We're also incredibly grateful to our **generous sponsors**, whose contributions helped bring the **Carnival of Colours** to life and made it a vibrant, fun-filled event for all. Thank you for helping us foster a love of reading and community spirit. We can't wait to see you at the library for more exciting programs ahead!

What's Next? ~ Check out our **Events Calendar** on or website **orl.bc.ca/okanagan-falls** for a sneak peak on upcoming and current events.

Submitted by Artessa Wiker, Okanagan Falls Community Librarian



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May 25 - October 5*
from 9 am to 1 pm
***No Market June 15 or Sept. 21**

FARMERS' & COMMUNITY MARKET

Kaleden Branch: 101 Linden Avenue - 250-497-8066

Tuesday 1-5 pm / Thursday 1-8 pm / Friday 1-5 pm

Kaleden Branch Summer Reading Club programs continued as Lauren of the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC visited the branch with Pluto, their stately and adorable education owl. We learned about burrowing owl biology (including a little droppings demonstration!) and we made flapping owl crafts to take home.



Our last program was everyone's favourite, Bubble Wonders! Geoff delighted and amazed a large and enthusiastic crowd with his captivating stories and amazing feats of bubble-making!



Our August "Beat the Heat" Take & Make activities were popular for those long, hot summer afternoons. Kaleden kids made musical anklets, paper airplanes, whirlygigs and played sea creature dominoes with their families! Some even completed challenges and won book prizes!

Next up for the Kaleden Library, **Tween Game Night!** Starting **September 18th**, board game enthusiasts ages 10-14 are welcome to join us at 6:30 pm to unwind, socialize, and have a blast with friends and fellow gamers! We'll have an array of board games and card games for you to enjoy, along with yummy snacks. See you then!

Submitted by Cara Sheppard, Kaleden Community Librarian

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Okanagan Historical Society Book Sale

By Karen Collins, Penticton Branch President



The OHS, incorporated in 1925, is one of British Columbia's oldest organizations dedicated to preserving local history. In addition to publishing an annual historical report since the end of the Second World War, the Society supports a wide variety of heritage-based projects, preservation initiatives, and public events.

The 89th Report includes a feature article by Chief Clarence Louie, an article on *The Okanagan Basin Channelization* by Frank Metcalfe, *Changing Waters* by Elliot Tonasket and Kasey Moran and *Mary McLean/Yellow Dress* by Karen Collins. Also included is the *Origin of the Okanagan Historical Society* and chronology.

The Penticton Branch, formed in 1948 with Hester White as our first president, is holding a Book Sale on Saturday, September 13th from 9:30-5:30 and Sunday, September 14th from 11:00-5:00 at Cherry Lane Shopping Centre. Along with the latest release, the OHS 89th Report, our centennial edition, Penticton Memories published by the Penticton Branch as a centennial project will also be on sale.

Kaleden Quilters & Crafters Invitation

By Vivian King

Quilters, needleworkers and crocheters ... 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 fall session runs from September 3 - December 3 for \$30/person or drop-in for \$4/day. For more information, call 250-497-1164 or email viv20king@gmail.com. We would love you to join us!

Exhibitions & Coming Events

The Penticton & District Community Arts Council is excited to announce our fall/winter exhibition!

September 13th to December 20th ~ Everything PDCAC All at Once in PDCAC Galleries: It's the PDCAC's 65th anniversary this year, and we've prepared an extra special exhibition for the occasion. To celebrate the journey of our organization and honour the community that has brought us here today, we are putting everything PDCAC has ever done in to our galleries all at once like a fun and chaotic collage! We will have several themed feature walls in this exhibition, bringing back popular exhibitions we've hosted over the years as well as highlighting the diverse demographic that we work with.

Saturday, September 13th | 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm ~ Artiverse: 65th Anniversary Block Party. Come down to Leir House for a night of music, art, food, games, and more as we celebrate our 65th Anniversary!

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 Penticton Arts Council's exhibitions, events, artist opportunities, the community calendar, and more, please visit www.pentictonartscouncil.com.

"Sinners"

By Cheryl Gill, Many Hats Theatre Company Publicist

Reverend Lloyd is the minister in a quaint small town. His beautiful and seductive young wife, Monica, has the eye of several of the local men and Peter, the owner of the local furniture store, has recently been seduced into having an affair with her. Monica has coerced a reluctant Peter to rendezvous with her in her home, while the Reverend is out of town. The situation gets out of control when the Reverend returns home unexpectedly catching the two in a compromising situation. Police, members of the parish, and the women's auxiliary all get involved as the intricate web of deceit is hilariously exposed. Laugh along as Peter tries to get himself out of this sticky situation.

"Sinners" is written by Norm Foster, directed by Dawn Bassett, produced by Shannon French, and stars John Erridge, Jim Minshull, Kim Palmer, Neil Ritcey, Katie Welsh and Dianna Zumpano. The play will run from September 5-28 on the Cannery Stage, located at 1475 Fairview Road in Penticton. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the show begins at 7:30 pm, while the Sunday Matinees begins at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 for Adults and \$33 for Seniors and Students. To purchase tickets, please visit www.manyhatstheatre.com and click on the 'Buy Tickets' link.

Highlights From Kaleden Elementary School

By Principal Jessa Arcuri



Jessa is excited to step into the role of Principal at Kaleden Elementary, bringing 20 years of experience in education. Most recently, she served as Vice-Principal at Wiltse Elementary for three years, and before that, was Vice Principal at Skaha Lake Middle and Summerland Middle School. Since joining the district in 2005, Jessa has taught middle school math and science and has grown into a thoughtful and supportive leader for both students and staff.

Jessa holds a Master's Degree in Leadership and Administration from Gonzaga University, a Bachelor of Education from UBC, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Victoria.

Originally from a small town on Vancouver Island, Jessa made the move to Penticton over 20 years ago to begin her career in education. Drawn to the stunning landscapes and vibrant outdoor lifestyle of the Okanagan, she quickly came to cherish the region as home. Now, as she steps into her new role at Kaleden Elementary, Jessa is eager to connect with students, families, and staff - and to learn from the close-knit community that makes Kaleden such a special place.

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 2nd. Students will attend from 8:23-11:23 am on that first day of school, except for Kindergarten students who will be on a gradual entry schedule. This schedule was mailed out to all parents of Kindergarten students back in July. The regular bell schedule will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd and students from grades 1-6 will attend from 8:23-2:23 pm. Looking forward to meeting all the students!

RCMP Community Report



By Jo Anne Ruppenthal,
Community Policing-Resortative Justice Coordinator

Back To School Safety

Let's congratulate all those parents out there that were able to juggle their little ones being out of school for the summer. As much as it was probably fun (for the kids) and a bit hectic (for the parents), it is time to get back into a routine of school.

First day of school is Tuesday, September 2nd which means that although in Penticton we have 24/7 school/playground zones in effect, drivers will have to be more cautious as they drive in these areas. Children often will see an approaching vehicle, but they first notice the colour and not how fast it is going. A child's field of vision is one-third narrower than an adult. They will be excited to see their new friends and may not be paying attention to what is going on around them, so we as drivers must drive more defensively.

The City of Penticton Community Policing Unit will be out doing Speed Watch and starting to engage the schools into our Anti-bullying, Internet Safety and Consent, and Youth Restorative Justice Pathway programs to help during the 2025-26 school year.

To learn more about how to volunteer or request school talks in your child's school, please reach out to our Community Policing Unit at 250-492-4300.

Kaleden Elementary PAC Update

By Tenna Fisher, PAC Chair

Welcome Back to School! The Kaleden PAC would like to wish all students a wonderful start to the new school year! Whether you're heading off to kindergarten, middle school, or high school - we're cheering you on for a year full of learning, friendships, and fun.

A Reminder for Drivers: With students walking to and from school, please slow down, stay alert, and watch for extra kids along the roads, crosswalks, and bus stops in our community. Let's work together to keep everyone safe.

Here's to a safe and successful school year ahead!



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Okanagan Falls PAC Update

By Kari Hill, PAC Chair

The Okanagan Falls Elementary School PAC is saying a big, cheerful "Yay! - It's September!" And, every parent knows exactly what that means.

This school year, you'll see us out and about in the community - supporting local partners, lending a hand at events, and hosting our own fundraisers to benefit the school and our kids. We can't wait to connect with you along the way.

If you're new to the Okanagan Falls school family, come out to the PAC meetings and we'd love for you to join our Facebook page to keep up-to-date on important dates, events, and happenings. Let's make 2025-2026 a fantastic year together!



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Highlights From Okanagan Falls Elementary School

By Principal Katie Poole

Just like that, summer has come to a close! We're grateful for a fantastic season, highlighted by our successful summer reading program, which gave students fun and meaningful experiences to spark and deepen their love for reading. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Raines, Mrs. Schlackl, and Mr. Schlackl for their dedication and hard work in making the program a success.

Now, we're looking ahead to an exciting school year filled with opportunities to inspire kindness, curiosity, and a lifelong passion for literacy.

Join us on **September 9th** for our **Welcome Back BBQ** from **5:00 to 6:30 pm!** This is a wonderful opportunity for families to meet their child's teachers, explore the classrooms, and enjoy some fun together as we kick off the new school year. We look forward to seeing our Falcon families there!

Our **office** is open from **8:00 am to 3:00 pm**. If you need to register a student, please contact us to pick up a registration package and schedule a tour. We are currently accepting new registrations - we'd love to welcome you to the Falcon family!



School Trustee Report For SD53


By Sholeh Pickell, School Trustee

Happy September! This is the month of getting back to those routines and starting back to school. This can mean many things depending on if you are the parent, the child or the teacher. In my own household, we are marking a milestone September, as my eldest starts post secondary in a new city and my youngest begins his final year at SOSS. However back to school looks and feels for you this year, I hope you are in for a year of rich experiences and meaningful learning.

I had the pleasure of attending the Indigenous Professional Development Day alongside district staff on August 27. I attended last year as well and will be sure to attend each year. I learned so much and appreciate the opportunity to deepen my understanding.

We will be getting back to the board table after a break with an Education Committee Meeting on September 9 at 5 pm and a Board Meeting on September 23 at 6:30 pm. These meetings are open to the public. The full schedule can be found on the new website at sd53.bc.ca. Check it out.

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



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A Grain Of Sand

By Tom Landecker

"To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a flower, hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, and Eternity in an hour". The English poet, William Blake, wrote those words in 1803.

There are about 5×10^{26} grains of sand on the Earth. That's a shorthand way of writing 5 followed by 26 zeros.

Can we really see the world in a grain of sand? In one way, yes: sand is everywhere on the Earth, and any one grain looks very much like any other. A handful of dirt picked up in your back yard isn't very different from a handful of dirt picked up anywhere else (geologists might have a different opinion!) Your handful of dirt is easily recognizable for what it is, a representative sample of the Earth's surface covering.

A similar principle runs right through astronomers' concept of the Universe: however special our corner of the Universe may seem to us, it is probably just a representative sample, and there are very probably thousands upon thousands of similar places elsewhere in the Universe. On a warm, sunny fall day, we think our Sun, shining brightly in a blue sky is special. In fact, the Sun is just an ordinary star, and there are billions of others like it out there in the vastness of space.

We live on a planet orbiting a star. That's not unique. We know of more than 5000 places out there where one or more planets are orbiting a star. And we have explored only a tiny region, and we know that there must be many more planets, currently beyond the reach of our telescopes.

This principle, the uniformity of the Universe, applies to space, but does it apply to time? The answer is, nearly, but not quite. An hour of my life is not necessarily very different from an hour of William Blake's life 200 years ago: certainly, we dress differently, we do different work, but we both started the day with a meal, and then we both set about our occupation. Our societies are organized in such a way that neither of us hunts for our meat, or gathers our vegetables, we pay other people to provide them for us.

William Blake wrote his poems using a quill pen, made from a bird's feather, and I write using a very elaborate machine, a computer. William Blake's poems are still read, two hundred years after his death, and will be read for many more years. What I am writing now will be in the recycling bin an hour after you have read it. Nevertheless, we both write as part of our daily work.

That being said, there is not perfect uniformity of time. A sample of the Universe today does not resemble a sample of the Universe 13 billion years ago, just after the Big Bang. William Blake's poem has fine ring to it, but an hour is not a sample of eternity.

Interesting websites:

- www.britannica.com/science/space-time
- 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.

The Scoop On Your Poop: Why A Pre-Septic Inspection Is A Seller's Best Friend

By Sergej Sinicin of neuHouzz Real Estate Group



Let's face it - when you're preparing to sell your home, you don't exactly expect your septic system to be the star of the show. It's not as glamorous as your granite countertops, and not as pretty as your lake view patio. But here's the thing: even when your septic system is not front and



centre, it can absolutely steal the spotlight ... and not in a good way!

In my experience as a local South Okanagan REALTOR®, I always recommend a pre-listing septic inspection before putting your house on the market. Why? Because nothing kills a deal faster than a surprise in the yard - especially the kind that comes with a hefty repair bill and a questionable smell.

Why You Should Inspect Before You List ~ Most buyers today are smart - and cautious. They'll very likely request a septic inspection as part of their due diligence. And if it turns out that your system is in rough shape, they will start backing away faster than a raccoon caught in your compost bin.

When you proactively get your septic system inspected and serviced before listing, you can:

- Fix minor issues before they become deal breakers.
- Price your home confidently.
- Show buyers you've taken care of your home.
- Avoid unpleasant surprises mid-transaction.

All of the above will give buyers peace of mind, and when buyers feel confident, they are less likely to reopen the negotiations with demands for septic-related repairs or considerable price reductions.

Real-Life (Unfortunate) Example ~ I recently showed a gorgeous family home just outside Summerland to a young couple. Everything was going great - until the septic inspector reported back with a \$25,000 to \$35,000 septic system replacement cost. Needless to say, the mood changed instantly. And despite a certain degree of willingness from both sides to resolve the issue, the buyers eventually backed out, leaving the sellers with no choice but to take the house off the market, scramble to make repairs and then relist the home later. A pre-septic inspection would have brought this to light prior to selling, which in turn could have avoided the drama, and prevented leaving a bad taste in the buyers mouth.

What Does a Septic Inspection Involve? ~ A certified septic inspector will:

- Locate and expose the tank lids.
- Pump the tank if needed.
- Inspect the tank, baffles, and drain field.
- Check for backups, odours, and signs of failure.
- Provide a detailed report (with photos - lucky you!).

The cost of a septic inspection can range anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000. Still, this is a small price to pay compared to the thousands it might cost to replace a system - or to the full-blown chaos of losing your sale entirely.

A Realtor Who's Not Afraid to Talk About Poop ~ As your local REALTOR®, I am always honest with you - even when it involves

the "less glamorous" parts of your home. I want your sale to go smoothly, quickly, and for top dollar. That's why I recommend a pre-listing septic inspection, especially here in the South Okanagan where many rural and semi-rural homes depend on these systems.

If you're thinking about selling and want a strategy that includes **the not-so-fun but absolutely essential stuff**, give me a call or send me a text at 778-764-1373. I'll connect you with reliable local septic pros and guide you through every step of the process. Because when it comes to real estate, **you don't want any surprises bubbling up later.**



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he is loving and smart! Come visit and see if you are his destiny! Visit alleycatsalliance.org for more information.



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Kaleden Seniors Committee Update

By Margie O'Brien, Chair

We hope you've had a great summer, enjoying everything the Okanagan has to offer from this year's abundant fruit crops to time in the local parks.

KSC has planned some great events for 2025/26, starting in September collaborating with KID in exploring the history of the Kaleden Cemetery (see poster to right for details). Come learn things you never knew about Kaleden history.

Dates to mark on your calendar include: the first "Lunch and Learn" of the fall on October 17 - Restoration/Fish Habitat on the Okanagan Falls Channel; the annual Progressive Winter Market on November 15; and Create Your Christmas Greenery - wreath, swag, pot, etc. (greenery supplied) on December 5. 2026 sees a number of "Lunch and Learn" events with topics ranging from Planter/Square Foot Gardening, Climate Change/Sustainability in Kaleden, Decluttering, Local Geology, and yes, back by demand, the ever popular Bingo. Watch this column in future Skaha Matters for more information.



Need A Ride?

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

Kaleden Museum & Archives

By Mike Gane

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer! As I write this in August, picking peaches and yard work have absorbed all my time. The summer is a busy time for all, and Kaleden Museum and Archives (KMA) articles will resume in October.

For this month, please take the time to go to British Columbia Regional Digitized History (BCRDH) hosted by UBCO to view some interesting early pictures of Kaleden. KMA will be adding more pictures to BCRDH in the near future. Please visit <https://bcrdh.ca/islandora/object/kaleden%3Aphotographs>.

KMA now has a proper email address for you to correspond with at kaledenmuseumandarchives@gmail.com.

We at KMA are looking for photographs of Kaleden from the 1930's through to the 1990's. Also, digital photographs from the 1990's to present day. We all take photos on our "smart" phones now, and photo albums have become extinct. We wish to preserve a bit of our history by accepting donations of these digital photographs. Please consider passing some along. Digital photos are treated the same way as actual "photographs", as you will be asked to fill out paperwork for your donation.

If you have any items to donate to the Museum, please contact us at the above email address or call Mike Gane at 250-497-5674.

Here is a teaser for next month's article. What was this community gathering all about?



KID and KSC Present
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
KALEDEN CEMETERY



KALEDEN CEMETERY
501 Oak Ave, Kaleden (South end of Oak Ave)

19 September, 2025

Start at 10:30am

Discover the recent upgrades, explore the rich history and operations of our cemetery, and enjoy the sounds of the piper along with complimentary refreshments.

Remember: bring a chair and a hat

KSC
Kaleden Seniors Committee

"Building Community Spirit"

The intention of this column is to share inspirational stories, or even a quick photo, to show that community spirit is alive and well.

A Night of Rhythm & Giving at Kaleden Hotel Park



On the evening of July 23rd, the Kaleden Hotel Park grounds came alive with the sound of drums, laughter, and heartfelt community spirit. A special fundraising event was held in support of Canadian Food for Children, an entirely volunteer-run organization dedicated to shipping essential items to 22 countries around the world.

The highlight of the evening was a lively drumming circle led by the energetic and passionate Bobby Bovenzi. Participants and observers alike were swept up in the rhythm, creating a shared experience that was not only fun, but deeply inspirational and healing.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of those who attended, a total of \$1,075.75 was raised to support the ongoing humanitarian efforts of Canadian Food for Children. The organization continues to rely on grassroots support to fulfill its mission of compassion and care.

It was truly a beautiful evening in the park, marked by music, unity, and the kind of community support that warms the heart. Fun was had by all - and the impact will be felt far beyond our community.

For nominations in this "Building Community Spirit" column, please email a few sentences and a photo to skahamatters@telus.net.

Helping Hand Update


By Carmen Dixon

It's been a busy summer for all. I hope that everyone had a safe, but adventurous, summer holiday! Enjoy the remaining beautiful weather of the Okanagan.

We will be gearing up again to get ready for the Helping Hand Christmas Hampers and will be holding our first meeting back on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 4:30 pm in the Okanagan Falls Community Church (1356 McLean Creek Road). If you would like to see what we do or lend a hand, we hope to see you at our regular meetings held at 4:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday each month at the Okanagan Falls Community Church. Hope to see you there!

The Okanagan Falls Helping Hand is a registered charitable organization. Donations can be sent to Okanagan Falls Helping Hand at P.O. Box 640, Okanagan Falls, BC V0H 1R0 or e-transfer to helpinghandsokfalls@gmail.com. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more. Cash donations will allow us to purchase exactly what families are in need of, which makes a huge difference. Thanks for your continued support!

We are always looking for volunteers to join us. If you would like to volunteer, or for any other questions you may have, please call us at 778-559-2412 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.



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.

OK Falls Heritage & Museum Society

By Connie White, Curator/Board Secretary

We have had lots of visits to the Museum this summer and are so thankful for all of the wonderful comments in our guest book. It seems people are loving the new exhibits. If you haven't checked out the Museum, what are you waiting for? This is YOUR town!

We are excited to offer **Okanagan Falls T-shirts** (which are selling like hotcakes) and stickers as a fundraiser for the Museum. Shirts are **\$30 each** and can be purchased at the Thrift Shoppe while supplies last. Show your Okanagan Falls pride and purchase one today! Speaking of Thrift Shoppe we would like to give a shout-out to all of our wonderful volunteers at the Shoppe. Thank you for all of your hard work - you are appreciated more than you know! We will have a booth at the upcoming Volunteer Celebration, September 14th at Kenyon Park. So be sure to look for us there.

The Museum closes for the Season after Labour Day weekend, but will be open to coincide with the Fire Department's 75th Anniversary Celebration on September 27th. That way, people can come and see the new fire display in the Kenny McLean room. So come on out and support your local Volunteer Fire Department. We do offer arranged tours in the off season, if you have a group you would like to bring through. We will also be contacting the local schools to offer tours to them as well.

In thinking about rotating displays, if you have an idea for a display of our local history, please contact okfallscurator@gmail.com. We would love to do a vintage toy display, so if you have any to donate, we would greatly appreciate it! As always, thanks for your support!



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Okanagan Falls Lions Update

By Bob Wilson, Past President

Hello again everyone! I hope you all have had a great summer so far and are keeping as healthy and safe as possible. It was nice to get through the first 3 months without smoke and/or bad weather being a deterrent to the many outdoor activities.

Music events in the park have gone really well this year for our club activities. The addition of ice cream treats, along with the cookies, has been received well.

With the new school year coming up, the breakfast program will start again and will run 3 times a week throughout the school year. Thanks again to all the Lions who participate in this activity. You are all very much appreciated.

The Lions Used Eyeglasses Collection around the town and area is ongoing. We collect and ship the glasses to the Calgary centre where they are graded, cleaned and again shipped to Lions International for worldwide distribution. Thanks to all the communities and vision clinics who support this project.

Again, we would like to thank our community and surrounding area for their support - we couldn't do it without you. That's about all for now, see you around town.

Blood, it's in you to give! The next Blood Donor Clinics will be held September 22-24 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 starting again in September. Come and join us and see what we are all about. If you have any questions, please call 778-439-2275. Visit 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.

Check out our new website at www.okfallsseniorscenter.ca. Follow us on Facebook at "Okanagan Falls Seniors Center".

The centre was closed during August for the floors to be refinished. We are now back to all our regular activities listed below.

Activities in SEPTEMBER 2025:

Canasta ~ Mondays at 10 am - Not on Holidays!

Evening Pool ~ Mondays & Wednesdays at 6 pm

Tuesday Bingo ~ Tuesdays - September 2, 9 & 16 at 1 pm

Afternoon Pool ~ Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1 pm

Mexican Train Dominos ~ Wednesdays at 1 pm

Bridge ~ Thursdays at 1:30 pm for September & June

Cribbage ~ Thursdays at 7 pm

Line Dancing ~ Fridays at 1 pm

Pancake Breakfast ~ Saturday, September 6 from 8-10 am

General Meeting ~ Monday, September 8 at 1 pm

Country Music Jamboree ~ September 14 & 28 from 1-4 pm

Drop-in Bingo ~ Saturday, September 20 at 1 pm


Pot Luck ~ Saturday, September 27 at 5:30 pm

Craft Morning ~ We are going to have a craft morning starting in September. Call Donna at 250-462-5233, if you would like to join.

Carpet Bowling ~ On hold for now - looking for players

Scrabble ~ On hold for now - looking for players

Booking Agent ~ Please call 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.



South Skaha Housing Society Update

By Michael Livingstone, SSHS Chair

Well, it is now the end of August and summer is quickly winding down. With the return of school just around the corner, we want to remind everyone that children will once again be out on the roads. This means we all need to be a little more diligent and cautious in our driving to ensure the safety of students, families, and our community as a whole.

On another note, we are excited to share that if all goes according to plan, there is a good possibility that construction for Phase 2 will begin before winter. This is an important step forward in providing more much-needed housing in Okanagan Falls.

So as we move into the busy fall season, please remember to drive carefully - both for the students heading back to school and for the construction vehicles that may soon be a regular part of our community streets.



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Branch 227
Okanagan Falls

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #227

By Bev Van Uden

Legions In The Community ~ As a cornerstone of the community across the country, we provide the central services and support to veterans affairs, youth and those in need.

Thank you to all the volunteers that keep our doors open!

Legion Week is September 21-27 ~ We start off with a **Complimentary Breakfast on Sunday, September 21** from 8-10 am. Children's activity, legion, history, membership benefits and raffle. Check our Facebook page for other activity specials. Come out and see what Legions do for veterans and the community.

OPEN Monday-Saturday from 2 pm to closing. Open Sundays at 11 am for pool day. Check them out or join the game. Everyone welcome!

Line Dancing ~ Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am. \$2 drop-in. Held at the band shell across the street in Centennial Park. If not at the band shell, then on the third floor in the Legion.

Wednesday Car Show ~ The cars start rolling in at 3 pm. Food is available from 4-6 pm. Burgers, fries, onion rings and huge hot dogs will be available. Come check out the cool cars!

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

Drop-in Darts ~ Saturdays at 2 pm. Registration at 1:30 pm.

General Meeting ~ Tuesday, September 16 at 7 pm. Always the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Membership ~ Members cards or stickers are at the Branch. Please ask the bartender.

We are always looking for volunteers ~ Great way to give back to the Legion and the community, plus meet new friends.

Bottle Returns ~ Drop off cans and bottles by the garage door at the Legion. Thank you.

For Updates ~ Call the branch at 250-497-8338, check the board outside, or check our Facebook page at "Royal Cdn Legion - Branch 227 Okanagan Falls BC" or our Instagram at "Veterans227".

We are a Small Legion with a Big Heart!

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 am
With Pastor Jon Manlove. Worship services available at okfcc.net.
September 14 ~ Guest Speakers - Maple Spring Bible Camp
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 am ~ Speakers: September 7 & 14 - Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt; September 21 - Rev. Paul James; and September 26 - Sarah Tupholme. Coffee fellowship following the services. More information available at okfallsunited.ca.
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

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Recovery For Everyone

By Van Hill

What? A Recovery Meeting ~ This is a secular meeting based on smartrecovery.org and AA agnostic. Smart has many tools that are based in CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and techniques which can help individuals recognize some of the thinking/feeling traps that may have unreasonable levels of control over their behaviors. We also utilize the book "The Proactive 12 Steps" for recovery discussion.

When & Where? ~ Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at 216 Hastings Avenue, Penticton (Heritage Train Station). Doorbell at front.

Need More Information? ~ This is a peer led support group for addiction recovery. Our starting point is abstinence. We feel that abstinence, based on what is known, provides the BEST odds of long term success. Our aim is to run a meeting that is inclusive and respectful for everyone. Join us to find out if abstinence is for you. Our intention is to provide a fun, interesting, and conversational style hour, where everyone is heard. We make no distinctions about the specifics of the substance of addiction or use. Our meetings can provide clarity and support for the most common substances of use disorder, i.e. drugs, alcohol, gambling, overeating, sex, smoking, etc. For more info, contact Van Hill at 250.300.5222.

Jane Bland

September 24, 1942 - July 11, 2025



Surrounded by family, Jane passed peacefully on July 11, 2025, with the same love, grace, humour, and strength that defined her life.

She was dearly loved by her husband of 62 years, Michael; her daughters, Marnie and Charmian; her granddaughters, Sola and Mia; her sisters, Halcyone and Rozzy; extended family members and many close friends.

Jane was intelligent, creative, quick witted, and deeply committed to her

work as a childcare services manager. She was a passionate advocate for children's needs, first in North Vancouver and later in Penticton. She shared her love of art with family and community, and her encaustic work remains a lasting reflection of her vibrant spirit.

Jane also found great joy in spending time with her granddaughters and took deep pride in her roles as a mother, grandmother, and lifelong companion. She was a dynamic and social person who loved connecting with friends and family in Kaleden and at the family cabin on Mount Baldy.

We will miss Jane, Mom, Amma, deeply and are grateful for the love and beauty she brought to our lives..

*Condolences and memories may be shared
by visiting www.everdenrust.com.*



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*And for those who used 'artificial intelligence' on the
assignment, you will receive an artificial mark.*



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 the 'crew' at the Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department! After the ambulance was called for a family member's significant health issue, they were first on scene and did a great job. Fast. Calm. Professional. Knowledgeable. Empathetic. Great to know this help is just a phone call away. Thank you!!!

~ From Matt T. of Okanagan Falls

Flowers to Grant and Tara Henderson for their dedication and hard work over the past 6 years organizing and hosting Market and Music in the Park. Our community has benefited greatly by your devotion and loyalty to these wonderful events. Great music, wonderful vendors and their creations, plus a whole lot of fun.

Flowers to Marla Wilson who has also been a huge part of this from the beginning, along with Myrt Niles and Barb Few. **Flowers** to all the Lions Club members and their delicious cookies, as well as Belich's for the added ice cream treats this year. I apologize if I have left anyone out. I know it takes a village! And finally, **Flowers** to the participants, whether you are a vendor, shopper or music lover, thank you for making the effort. It's been an amazing ten years of Music in the Park! ~ From Heather J. of Okanagan Falls

Flowers to Shona Schleppe for donating funds for the bike stand in Lions Park. Perfect location for bikers, where the KVR enters town. A fitting memorial!

~ From Matt T. of Okanagan Falls

Flowers to all the volunteers who helped sort bottles and cans over the hot summer months at the Bottle Depot in Kaleden.

~ From Glenda L. of Kaleden





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Donald MacGillivray

Donald (Don) MacGillivray was born on January 13, 1939 and passed away at the age of 85 on August 10, 2025.

Don moved to Okanagan Falls with his wife Sylvia in September 2001, after living most of his life in Fort St. John, Hudson Hope, BC and Fawcett, Alberta. He married Sylvia Mitchell on January 31, 1959. They had 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, as well as 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Don loved meeting new people, while keeping in touch with his old ones. He loved his family. Don was great with animals and they in return gravitated to him. He was a welder by trade, but wore many different hats, from plumbing, electrical, operating equipment, cook, etc. Don enjoyed leather work, woodworking, and horse training. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Until we meet again, Dad ... Rest in peace.

Edward James Williamson

Edward James Williamson, commonly known as Jim, 79, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 14 at Kelowna General Hospital after a long struggle with heart complications.

Jim was born on September 7, 1945, and grew up in Pitt Meadows, BC in a large farming family, which began his lifelong love of working outdoors and enjoying his pets. After graduating from Pitt Meadows High School, he married Sharon Villiers on October 15, 1965, and together had three children, George, Tara and Raymond. He earned a good living from his construction business and operated his backhoe for many years.

He married Gloria Jeanette on September 16, 1989, and together they made their home in the Okanagan where they operated a beautiful orchard, Bighorn Fruit Stand, of various fruit trees. It is here where Jim spent many of his happiest days in the orchard tending the fruit and vegetables and admiring Gloria's flowers. He always had a joke, a drink, and a job for his many friends and family, who regularly stopped by and enjoyed evenings in the garden with a good dinner, much of which was harvested from the garden, and lively conversation. He enjoyed feeding the quail, tending to his orchard, and admiring Gloria's hummingbirds who made their home outside his back door.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Gloria, his daughter Tara (Martin), his son Raymond (Donna), and his grandchildren Crystal (Andy), Ashley (Brian), Georgia, and Grace as well as his stepson Jeff, and grandchildren Alexis, Emma, Corey (Cynthia), Cassandra, and great grandchildren, Melyssa and Mira, as well as his brother Jack (Carrol), sisters-in-law Andrea and Norma, and many other nieces, nephews, family, and friends. Jim is predeceased by his son George, stepdaughter Jennifer, brothers Harry and Bob, and sisters Vivian and Maryann, as well as many others who will be happy to welcome him to his heavenly home.



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FALL Recreation Guide


SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

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