



SKAHA MATTERS

"Bringing Community Matters To You"

Volume 18 : Issue 9

September 2026

Your FREE Monthly
Community News!



Photo by MorrisseyPhotos@shaw.ca

DORI MUNDAY

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Local Elections Coming This October

By Myleen Mallach, Owner/Publisher of Skaha Matters

There are 9 elected positions to fill in the Skaha Matters readership: Directors for Area "D" and "I"; Mayor and 4 Councillors for the District of Okanagan Falls; as well as School Trustees for SD53 and SD67.

Are you interested in running as a candidate in the upcoming local election? Two very informative websites with invaluable content are gov.bc.ca and elections.bc.ca. Find out what to expect, along with the process, requirements, documents, financial rules, etc.

Candidate Nomination Packages need to be returned to the Chief Election Officer at the Penticton RDOS office between September 1-11. Advance Voting is October 7. General Voting is October 17.

Meet your local candidates, ask questions, and be sure to vote. Stay tuned for more on our local elections in the October issue.



EUGENE DETTLING Councillor For Okanagan Falls

I am South Okanagan born and raised! I have participated in the Okanagan Falls Incorporation Study Committee and processes since 2023. I have been retired since 2018, and have lived in Okanagan Falls since 2019. In 2022, I was a victim of a physical assault by a local prolific, repeat offender in Okanagan Falls while out walking my dog. I still work with BC Prosecution Services and Crown Counsel to ensure this individual remains incarcerated and no longer poses a threat to our community. This experience showed our community spirit, as many came out to help find my terrified little dog after she broke out of her harness during the assault.

With my career at BCTel for 37 years, I have a strong Union background as a Shop Steward, Plant Councillor, and past Delegate to the BC Federation of Labour. I possess strong negotiation and mediation skills, and believe in Collective, Community Decision Making. I am the President of the S.O. Chapter of the Vintage Car Club for 4 years, and our annual fundraiser allows us to give back to local charities. I work with our Legion since 2023 to promote and host the Wednesday 'OK Falls Cruise In', which has become the main weekly Car Show in the South Okanagan. This supports not only our Legion, but other businesses and charities.

I want our community to grow thoughtfully without losing the qualities that make Okanagan Falls a great place to live.

Please feel free to contact me at eugeneforokfalls@gmail.com.

Authorized by Susan Offer, Financial Agent 250-493-7231



VOTE KANDIS LIPSETT FOR RDOS AREA "D" DIRECTOR

My name is Kandis Lipsett, and I am interested in being your representative for Electoral Area "D" of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

As a resident of Penticton and the Regional District for 42 years, I have developed a deep appreciation for the traditional lands of the Sylix Okanagan peoples and for the opportunity to hike, hunt, fish, live, play, and enjoy all that this region has to offer. This is our home and native land.

Through my experiences, I have developed a deep understanding of the importance of our natural resources - including the water we drink, the water we use for recreation and agriculture, our fisheries, the air we breathe, and the land that provides us with shelter and allows us to grow food.

For the past 18 years, I have also worked in emergency response. Through this experience, I have developed a deep sense of gratitude for the emergency services provided by the Regional District, as well as for the services that support construction and development and the professionalism demonstrated during crisis situations.

As your Regional Director, my key priorities will be emergency services, safe and reliable drinking water, wastewater treatment, and keeping our parks public and accessible. My vision is sharing services. By working together, sharing resources, and supporting one another, I believe we can build a stronger and more sustainable community. A world where we can all be a little better off is the world I envision for Electoral Area "D".

Authorized by Kandis Lipsett, Financial Agent 250-328-4527



ALLISON SYMONS

FOR OKANAGAN FALLS COUNCIL



COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE

Helping shape our newly incorporated municipality while protecting what makes Okanagan Falls special.



COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Vice-Chair, OK Falls Parks & Recreation Commission
Community Partners member
Friends of Okanagan Falls Parks volunteer



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Listening, asking questions and working together



Focused on Okanagan Falls.

A strong community.

A thoughtful way forward.

Authorized by Judy Garner
Financial Agent 604-859-3438

ELECT Keith MOSIMANN

For Councillor of District of Okanagan Falls
Your working class ally on Council

WHO AM I!

My name is Keith Mosimann. I have lived in Okanagan Falls for the past 24 years, where my wife and I have raised our kids. I am a working class person that has watched this community grow and change. I would like to play a more active role in guiding our future.

My many years of running a business has taught me budgeting, planning, and serving community needs, as well as interacting with all kinds of people. I feel these skills will allow me to be an effective council member, who listens to the residents and works together to make smarter choices.

WHY I AM RUNNING?

I am running for District Council to bring a working class, boots on the ground, voice to be heard. I work hard every day, just like you. I know the struggle of paying bills and making ends meet. I will fight for fair taxes, safe streets, and an all around enjoyable community. Let's keep this community the "best little community" that we have all grown to love and respect.

**IF YOU VOTE FOR ME,
I WILL WORK HARD FOR YOU!**

yourworkingclasscouncilor@gmail.com

Authorized by Keith Mosimann, Financial Agent 250-462-7778



RANDY LUDWAR

**LET'S GET IT RIGHT
FROM THE START!**

Candidate for Councillor of the
Okanagan Falls Inaugural Council

PUBLIC SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE

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Proud of our small-town character.

LISTEN • LEAD • BE ACCOUNTABLE

Resident • Property Owner

40+ Years Business & Construction Experience

Prepared by Randy Ludwar

Ludwar2026@gmail.com

Authorized by Randy Ludwar, Financial Agent 604-220-1201

District of
Okanagan Falls

MattTaylorForMayor@gmail.com

Matt Taylor

For Mayor

www.MattTaylorForMayor.ca

Start Strong: With the Mayor of Okanagan Falls

A Whole Lot Of Firsts ~ On October 17, Okanagan Falls will elect its first Mayor and Council. On November 6, that Council will meet for the first time as our new municipality - with every councillor new to the job, and new systems, bylaws, staff, services and responsibilities. That's exciting - but it's a lot to get right. And our first Council will face significantly more work and challenges than councils in established municipalities. **To balance that, we need a Mayor who can provide continuity, experience, leadership and common sense to Start Strong.**

Why Matt For Mayor? ~ I believe I'm uniquely prepared to lead our new municipality through this transition. It's uncomfortable saying this, but I believe Okanagan Falls needs the continuity and experience I bring, along with leadership and common-sense, and I'd like to finish the job of incorporation by helping ensure our town gets off to a strong start. For the past four years, I've served as your Electoral Area Director for Area "D" - Skaha East and Okanagan Falls. I know our community, its services and challenges, and have built strong working relationships with the RDOS, Province, neighbouring communities and governments. I've lived, worked and owned businesses here since 2013. Before becoming Director, I formed a community association to bring neighbours and businesses together and help reverse the decline we experienced through the 2010s and COVID. I've also been a leading advocate for incorporation - perhaps 'the' leading advocate. I understand **how we got here, the concerns of those who disagreed, and what it will take for our new municipality to succeed.**

My Priorities & Commitments:

- 1. Start Strong** ~ Build a careful, affordable and transparent municipality. Transfer services smoothly from the RDOS, minimize taxes, build adequate reserves and focus on the essentials. I will promote a financially sound, plain-language budget and a firm financial foundation.
- 2. Keep Okanagan Falls Vibrant** ~ If we don't grow, we fade - and businesses close. Now that incorporation is settled, I will continue promoting the infrastructure and industrial-park development providing the managed growth needed by our businesses and services, while protecting our waterfront and small-town character.
- 3. A Fair Say For Everyone** ~ Seniors, young families and businesses all deserve to be heard. As Mayor, I will remain accessible and continue the regular, open town-hall meetings I hosted as your Director.

A Record of Results ~ During my term as Director, we created a **\$6.5-million package of priority sewer and water upgrades**, advanced a **36-unit supported housing project**, and secured grants for both. We held **four referendums in Area "D" - the most ever in an RDOS electoral area**. These gave residents a direct say on long-standing governance concerns on 3 sewer and water systems and our incorporation. Through more than 20 meetings with the Province during the incorporation process, **I successfully advocated for the name, boundary and parks that residents ultimately voted on. We are now the District of Okanagan Falls.**

Working together we can Start Strong. I'd be honoured to earn your vote on October 17. Advance voting opens October 7.

Authorized by Judy Garner, Financial Agent 604-859-3438

Member Of Parliament Update

By Helena Konanz, MP For
Similkameen-South Okanagan-West Kootenay

There is no doubt that recent events of the Bald Range wildfire will be remembered in our region for many years to come, as the thousands of people in Summerland, Meadow Valley and Faulder communities begin rebuilding their lives, with lost homes, damaged properties and tragically for one family, laying a loved one to rest. The scars of this wildfire will take time to heal.

Without the hundreds of firefighters who put their lives on line 24/7 to fight the fires, more homes and lives could have been lost. These extraordinarily brave people came from across our region, province and world. Their actions were supported by a small army of professionals and volunteers, from the helicopter pilot overhead to the volunteer cook at base camp.

Thank you to the everyday heroes. Our region opened its doors, volunteer hours, wallets and hearts to our neighbours fleeing wildfire. I wanted to offer my thanks to every person who volunteered, who donated or opened their homes and yards during this time. OneSky Community Resources, Bethel Church the Comfort Centre at Princess Margaret Secondary School, the Penticton Sikh Temple, St Anne's and St John Vienney Churches; these are just a few of the organizations who deftly managed the arrival of donated food, clothing and everyday items, and fed thousands of people, to help make life more manageable.

Lessons of course must be learned from any response. Procedures should always be reviewed. I know many were left frustrated in the registration process, and many seniors felt unable to get help due to lack of technical devices or online processes that were difficult to access.

This crisis has once again spotlighted the need for a secondary

Here to Help



HELENA
KONANZ

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Helena.Konanz@parl.gc.ca

250-244-0505

 HelenaKonanz-MP

North-South route for the South Okanagan. As both myself and MP Albas, alongside many local MLAs last summer highlighted, a federal-provincial partnership to upgrade the Forest Service Access Road into a secondary route is long overdue. I've had the opportunity to speak with both provincial and federal Ministers regarding this important infrastructure initiative and there is no point waiting for the next fire or landslide to take action. We should all put politics aside to move a secondary route forward.

Lastly, I want to highlight the importance of keeping an eye and ear out for bad actors. It's well known that in the aftermath of natural disasters many of those affected, particularly those 55+, become the target of scams using phone, text or email to appeal for donations to fake relief funds. In an age of AI manipulation, it's more important than ever to get properly educated on how to spot scams and fraudsters before your money or personal information becomes targeted. Because of this, and in partnership with our local CrimeStoppers and the BC Securities Commission, my office will be hosting 55+ anti-fraud workshops on September 8th and 9th in Princeton, Penticton and Osoyoos. We invite everyone to come to learn a bit more about the sophisticated ways criminals are targeting us. Invitations are in the mail, but feel free to reach out to my office for more information at Helena.Konanz@parl.gc.ca or 250-244-0505.



BACK TO YOUR ROOTS
THE LITTLE RED SHED

WELCOME

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A Message From MLA Donegal Wilson

By Donegal Wilson,
MLA For Boundary-Similkameen

August has been a busy and challenging month across Boundary-Similkameen, with wildfires, community meetings and constituency work keeping much of my focus close to home.

The wildfires across our region have created tremendous uncertainty for families, businesses, ranchers and communities. My thoughts remain with those who have been displaced, experienced loss, or are waiting to return home. I am incredibly grateful to our firefighters, first responders, Emergency Support Services volunteers, local governments and community members who continue to step forward when their neighbours need them.

Throughout August, I have continued travelling across the riding, meeting with residents, local governments, businesses and organizations. These conversations help me understand where provincial policy is creating challenges and where I can advocate for practical solutions.

I recently provided an update to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Board on my work across the region. You can watch my presentation on the RDOS YouTube channel under the August 6 meeting, starting at the 1:05 mark.

Agriculture has also been a major focus. I have been meeting with local farmers and ranchers to better understand the specific pressures they face around water, regulation, operating costs and long-term viability. In Okanagan Falls, I met with two family-run wineries to discuss the realities facing smaller producers, with meetings planned in September to hear the larger-scale winery perspective.

Agriculture is not new to me. My parents owned a ten-acre vineyard in Keremeos, so I understand that behind the vineyards,



orchards and ranches that define our region are families making difficult business decisions about water, labour, costs, regulations and their future. These meetings allow me to dig into the nuances facing different producers and identify where government can get out of the way, where policy needs to change and where strategic investment can help our agricultural sector succeed.

At my "Coffee with Your MLA in Gallagher Lake", residents raised concerns about declining lake levels. While drought is clearly a factor, I am investigating whether the Province's decision to close a diversion creek is also contributing to the decline. Residents deserve to understand what is happening and whether provincial decisions have played a role.

I also connected with the new owner of the Osoyoos Coyotes. I look forward to supporting them, along with the Grand Forks Border Bruins and Princeton Posse, this season.

These conversations are ultimately what my job is about: listening to the people I represent, understanding the problem and taking those concerns back to government to push for practical solutions. Stay up to date on my work, upcoming community events and Coffee with Your MLA dates, or subscribe to my newsletter at www.donegalwilsonmla.ca.

SEPTEMBER SIPPING...

The wine is chilled.
The flights are pouring.
The slushies are ready.
Come sip, stay awhile, and
enjoy a little more
Okanagan summer.

Join us for Happy Hour
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Check us out
online for our
September hours.



Check Out
The New
Menswear
Fall Arrivals!



THE FALLS
BARBER + SHAVE SHOP

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Men's Cut/Style	\$30
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Beard Trim with Razor Cut-Out ...	\$25
Straight Razor Shave	\$50
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Okanagan Falls

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Subrina Monteith

Director of
RDOS Area "I"



From The Director For RDOS Area "I"

As I conclude my time representing Area "I", I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the residents of our community for the trust, support, and confidence you have placed in me over the past eight years. Serving as your elected representative has been both an honour and a privilege. Together, we have worked through challenges, celebrated successes, and advocated for the interests of our community. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to have been your voice at the Regional District table and to have worked alongside so many dedicated residents, volunteers, and community partners.

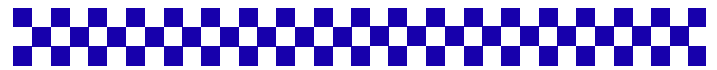
Local government plays an important role in shaping the future of our communities, and I encourage anyone who is considering running for office to explore the opportunity. It is a rewarding experience that allows you to make a meaningful contribution to the place we call home.

If you are thinking about becoming a candidate and would like to better understand the scope, responsibilities, and commitment of the role, please feel free to reach out to me. I would be happy to share my experience and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving you over the past eight years. I will always be grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the many relationships and memories built along the way.

Subrina Monteith, Director of RDOS Area "I"

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



SECOND ANNUAL KVFD



HOT SHOT *Golf Tournament*

SCRAMBLE



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

8:30AM-2:00PM

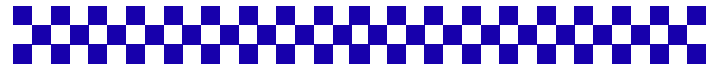
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- BURGER LUNCH AND A DRINK
- DOOR PRIZES
- ENTRY FOR GRAND PRIZE

PARTICIPATION HELPS SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE

GET TICKETS
HERE



Kaleden FireSmart Tip

By Linda Dahl

It is absolutely heartbreaking to see the destruction that has been caused by the Summerland Bald Range wildfire. Many homes were lost and many lives have been disrupted.

Being on alert can cause great stress, but if you prepare early, it can alleviate that last-minute panic. Long before fire season, you should be getting your property and the area around your house FireSmart! You should have your Go Bag ready and so if that call to evacuate comes, you will be ahead of the game.

You cannot be doing FireSmart work when you are to leave your home. This is not a new message, but many people are still leaving their homes vulnerable to wildfire. Please, work with your neighbours and your community, follow BC FireSmart principals and stay safe. More information available at Firesmartbc.ca.

Kaleden Volunteer Fire Department



By Jean Dube

Preparation saves valuable time in an emergency.

KVFD has spoken about this issue many times, but we need to stress the importance once again. If you live in the Kaleden Fire District and have installed an automatic gate opener on your property, please contact the KVFD to advise us of the code to your key pad. Email kaledenfire@rdos.bc.ca or call **250-487-8231**. These codes are kept confidential, are not shared, and are used only by the fire department when emergency access is required. KVFD recently had two medical calls where First Responders were unable to access properties quickly, because of locked gates causing delays. In a medical or fire emergency, every second matters. If we cannot access a property, we may have no choice but to damage the gate to get through - something we would very much prefer to avoid.

Also, the KVFD offers all residents of Kaleden and St. Andrews an opportunity to purchase reflective house number address signs. These reflective signs will improve response time for emergency services and increase awareness of your properties access. Signs are double sided, green and white in colour and come either direction of vertical or horizontal. The cost to residents is \$30. Please leave your name, address, phone number or email and indicate your preferred direction. A member of the KVFD will contact you when your sign is ready and payment can be made at pick-up or by sending an e-transfer.

A few minutes of preparation today can make a critical difference when every second counts.

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.

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Kaleden Irrigation District News

By Bruce Shepherd, KID Trustee

Make Every Drop Count! By mid-August, Okanagan Lake was at its lowest level in 80 years; the plug has been pulled on this big bathtub that supplies Skaha Lake. Record high temperatures and low (nil?) rainfall continue, with little relief in sight. I personally use less than half of my allotted watering time, and my lawn and gardens remain green. How? While this is partly due to minimizing my green spaces, how the water is delivered can be critical, as the next item will demonstrate. Latest consumption figures show that KID used 5% less water this July than last year; part of this reduction was due to leak repairs, but we can take some credit for our efforts to conserve water. Can YOU find ways to use even less?

Turning Gold Into Green ~ KID received complaints from concerned Kaledenites about the lawns in Pioneer Park becoming gold/brown, and it was suggested that longer watering times should be allowed. Instead, KID Operations Manager worked with RDOS Parks staff to tweak the park's water delivery system. Increased water pressure, larger nozzle heads and running two cycles doubled the amount of water absorbed by the lawns, while staying within the watering schedule and flow rates. The rapid return to green was impressive. Thanks, Mike!

Are You A Ratepayer? Do you own property in Kaleden? And does KID send you a Toll Bill in May and a Tax Bill in September (and which you of course pay by the due dates)? Then congratulations, you are a Ratepayer in good standing! As a Ratepayer, you also own the Kaleden water system (KID actually is an Improvement District, and Improvement Districts are local authorities that provide specific services to landowners that pay for those services).

Speaking Of Taxes And Tolls ~ Comparing KID's rates with ten other local water utilities, KID ties with Olalla for the lowest rates (for details, see *Comparative Ratepayer Rates* in the *About Us* section on the KID Website). The rates for the nine other utilities range from 11% to almost 280% more than KID's. While Taxes and Tolls fund the long-term operational costs, there are additional (and hopefully short-term) capital costs that will significantly increase total annual water bills.

To meet Provincial mandates, KID must upgrade its water treatment, as do at least three other utilities. KID's cost estimate to upgrade currently sits at \$6.4 million - pricey, but the estimates for the other three systems range from \$14.6 - 33.0 million. These other utilities have been taken over by RDOS, and MAY qualify for cost-sharing grants that improvement districts such as KID has been excluded.

Some years back, KID implemented an IH Levy (now set at \$400/year), which has accumulated about \$1.0 million to date. A referendum will be held this fall to borrow the remaining funds required to do the upgrade. The cost to each Ratepayer is currently estimated to be \$8,500 as a one-time payment on a \$5 million loan, or \$1,056/year if financed over 10 years at 4.5% (rate subject to change). Note that the IH Levy would be eliminated, making the net increase around \$650/year. The numbers show that, as a small locally-governed utility, KID can provide water at less cost without cutting corners on reliability or quality. Same water. Same standards. Lower bill. Your choice ...

New And Improved! By the time you are reading this, KID's overhauled and updated website should be up and running. More about the newly-added features in next month's column!



Kaleden
Irrigation District

Office Hours: 9-1 Mon & Thur | Appt Wed
119 Ponderosa Ave | 250.497.5407
kaledenirrigation@gmail.com
www.kaledenirrigation.org

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Kaleden Community Association Update

By Margaret O'Brien

Welcome to September! The month we say goodbye to summer, replace flip flops with sneakers, shorts for long pants and head back to school and work. Please be on the lookout for the local children walking or biking to and from Kaleden Elementary School or waiting/disembarking at the many bus stops throughout the community. Reminder that the new speed signs are working on Linden Avenue and the speed limit is 30 km/h in the School Zone from 8 am - 5 pm on school days.



As I write this, there are several areas in the Okanagan Valley and the Province who are still under evacuation orders or alerts. Our hearts go out to everyone in Summerland, Faulder and Garnet Valley areas who have lost their homes and/or livelihoods in this devastating wildfire.

The Kaleden Community Association wish to express our gratitude to the first responders, firefighters, RCMP, local Search & Rescue teams and all the volunteers who have stepped up and worked tirelessly at the many evacuation sites and venues across the Penticton area.

We would also like to give a special shout out to our own Kaleden Volunteer Fire Department for sending trucks and crews to several different wildfires, as well as the Bald Ridge Fire this season to selflessly help protect these other communities during these difficult times. KVFD's dedication, courage and countless hours spent helping others is very much appreciated by all Kaledenites. Kaleden is also thankful that our Fire Chief has returned to duty.

If you may have been thinking of volunteering your time in the community lately, fall is the perfect time to start. KCA's next meeting will be held at the Kaleden Fire Hall on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 pm. Why don't you join us and see if this committee may be just the one to spark your interest. Hope to see you there.



Matt Taylor
Director for
RDOS Area "D"



From The Director For RDOS Area "D"

Our Thoughts Are With You ~ I think I can safely say that our thoughts are with those who were affected by the Bald Range wildfire in Summerland, Faulder and more! The stress and angst have been extreme for evacuees out of their homes and businesses for an extended length of time - some with livestock or animals either safely removed, but in strange surroundings or left behind. As well, there's the

disruption experienced on return - coping with damaged homes or structures, cleaning fridges, disposing of waste, etc. And most significant of all, the devastation for those who experienced the loss of home or possessions or the rare instances of the loss of a loved one. Again, our thoughts are with you.

Thank You ~ A huge thank you for the many contributions of volunteers and donors, firefighters, and the wildfire crews stationed at Keogan Park. BC Wildfire Service did an amazing job of setting up camp in such a short period, going from zero to 400 in a just a few days. I think residents now understand that wildfire crews nowadays really are self-sufficient and not needing local assistance, and we truly appreciate being able to offer a home away from home for these guests.

Hats Off To Local Government Staff ~ Staff from Penticton, Summerland, neighbouring First Nations, and RDOS have done and continue to do a tremendous job of managing the response to the Bald Range wildfire. This fire - still burning at time of writing - led to what is perhaps the largest evacuation ever supported by a community the size of Penticton. Some 15,000 individuals were evacuated, most to the south where the nearest city is Penticton with a population of approximately 40,000. Certainly there have been other large evacuations in western Canada in recent times, but the receiving cities in these other instances have all been considerably larger with populations in excess of 100,000.

Staff from these local governments worked seamlessly, in support of BC Wildfire Services and other emergency service personnel. Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department provided fire crews, along with others from fire departments in Summerland, Penticton and other RDOS locations.

As with any emergency, there will be a lessons learned review after the event. That said and from my informal perspective, response activities generally appear to be well executed and well received by those directly affected by the fire - NOT saying there's no issues.

Water Updates ~ Boil water notifications in place for both Skaha Estates and Lakeshore water systems are the result of coliform levels. Similar situations have occurred in many recent summers for both systems, due to increasing temperature in the lake water that these systems draw from. In recent years, higher water temperatures experienced in the lake for extended periods have supported the growth of bacteria, such as these coliforms. Recommended improvements for both systems involve relocating the water intake point to deeper water further into the lake. Studies are ongoing to determine suitable locations.

Approximately 40 residents of the McLean Creek Bench area met on August 6 to receive and discuss a consultant's report they commissioned. The report provides a preliminary assessment of the water aquifer that supports their wells. RDOS was considering the possible use of a well on this aquifer for the Okanagan Falls

water system. Residents on the aquifer have expressed concern about the proposal, resulting in the work being 'paused' and it will not proceed without further consultation.

Residents can check water quality reports using the map function on Interior Health's website at DrinkingWaterForEveryone.ca.

District Of Okanagan Falls ~ Work is underway to establish the municipal services of the District of Okanagan Falls. Interim Corporate Officer Kerri Lore is meeting regularly with senior RDOS staff, and senior staff from the province as required.

Elections ~ October 17, 2026 is the date of general local elections for the following positions:

- Electoral Area Director, Area "D" (1)
- Mayor, District of Okanagan Falls (1)
- Councillor, District of Okanagan Falls (4)
- School Trustee, School District 53 (1)

People interested in being a candidate for these positions must obtain a nomination package and submit it to the RDOS between September 1-11. Additional information is available through the RDOSRegionalConnections.ca project page for "General Local Elections". A candidate information session was hosted August 26.

Volunteers ~ They are the lifeblood of a community like ours. I encourage you to come out to "Okanagan Falls Connects" on September 13 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm in Kenyon Park. You'll have fun, learn about volunteering opportunities and celebrate the volunteers and their organizations!

Director Information ~ Office hours on the first Tuesday each month are 3-4:30 pm 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



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This project is supported by the BC Government's Buy BC Partnership Program; delivered by MNP LLP with funding from the Government of British Columbia.



How Is Fall Here Already?

By Nancy Wigley, Recreation Coordinator

This summer, RDOS Recreation offered many informal, family-friendly drop-in programs. We also wish Madi, our summer student, a wonderful year ahead as she moves from student life into elementary school teaching. She will be missed by returning vacationers and local families alike.

As this article is being written, we continue to face smoke, devastation, and loss, while also feeling grateful for the support around us. Thank you to everyone who is helping in so many ways.

A special shout out to everyone who participated in creating our "Thank You" banner for the firefighters, especially a thank you to Fabricland who donated the fabric!



September often brings mixed feelings: saying goodbye to sleep-ins, late nights, and carefree days, while looking forward to school friends, new clubs, and fresh routines. As fall begins, RDOS Recreation is pleased to offer programs for all ages, including adult fitness, older adult classes, community open gym, youth intro to pickleball, art, outdoor adventures, and pop-up activities. Fall recreation programs are available online at rdos.bc.ca/community-services/regional-recreation/overview. Registration for our programs opens on September 3, 2026.

Thank you for continuing to support RDOS Recreation programs as we "Strive for Healthy Individuals and Communities".



OKANAGAN FALLS COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO OKANAGAN FALLS CONNECTS A GATHERING AND CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026

TIME: 11:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

WHERE: KENYON PARK



This gathering and celebration is designed to:

- Celebrate the good works of community volunteers;
- Reaffirm the importance of these groups to their community;
- Strengthen the relationship among community groups;
- Encourage public participation

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A Community Invitation

By Bob Daly

Save **Sunday, September 13** on your calendar for ...

"Okanagan Falls Connects"

A Gathering and Celebration of Community Volunteers

Okanagan Falls is a community that was built through the efforts of 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 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.

Come out and meet the organizations and volunteers that make Okanagan Falls the vibrant community it has become.

The Gathering and Celebration will occur in **Kenyon Park** on Sunday, September 13 from **11:30 am - 2:00 pm** with introductions, greetings, interactions among the public and volunteer groups, children's activities, prizes, and a **BBQ Lunch for All**.

In the event of inclement weather, such as smoke, wind or rain, we will NOT be cancelling our event. We have a back up plan to move our event indoors to the Okanagan Falls Recreation Centre, keeping it on the same day and at the same time.

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

Music & Market In The Park

By Bob Shanks, Music Coordinator and
Kandis Lipsett, Market Coordinator

July 26th was a smashing success with Rebel Luv returning for an 11th year. Thanks to Mikie and Ken for stepping in when the Bench Boys from Naramata were unable to make it. The crowd was thoroughly entertained with lots of dancing. There were several requests from young people, which was wonderful to see. The event was sponsored by FortisBC. (Rebel Luv photo below.)



The August 9th performance, which was to feature Uncorked, was cancelled due to smoke. The August 23rd performance with Desert Skies was postponed. Desert Skies felt that they would not be able to sing in the smoky conditions should they prevail. **Desert Skies has been rescheduled for September 6** and will be sponsored by Okanagan Falls Pharmasave. Market at 3pm and music at 5:30pm. Our season is drawing to a close. I would like to thank Kandis Lipsett for stepping forward to take over coordinating the Market in the Park. I would also like to thank our sponsors for 2026, who have made Music and Market in the Park possible - Belich's AG Foods, Tickleberry's, Greyback Construction, FortisBC, and Okanagan Falls Pharmasave. The people of Okanagan Falls who fill Centennial Park for the performances have shown overwhelming support for Music and Market in the Park. Thank you to each and every one of you. Without our corporate sponsors, our vendors, the bands, the Lions, the food service, and especially the public who attend the events, Music and Market in the Park would not have grown to the popular event it has become. If you are interested in helping with Music and Market in the Park, please contact us. Inquiries can be sent to musicintheparkokfalls@gmail.com and/or marketintheparkokfalls@gmail.com.

Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department



By Cheryl Snyder

Standing Together Through The Fire

As summer begins to wind down, we find ourselves reflecting on one of the most challenging wildfire seasons our region has experienced in recent years in such a very short period of time. The devastation caused by the Bald Range Wildfire and the surrounding fires in the Summerland area has touched countless lives, reminding us all of the incredible power of the nature of fire and the strength of community.

For many of our members, this fire meant long deployments, exhausting shifts on the fire line, and countless hours working in difficult terrain under extreme conditions. Fighting wildfire is physically demanding, mentally exhausting, and emotionally taxing. Yet, every one of our firefighters answered the call with professionalism, courage, and an unwavering commitment to protecting lives, homes, and our beautiful landscapes.

On behalf of the Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department, we extend our deepest gratitude to every one of our members. Your dedication, teamwork, resilience, and willingness to leave your families behind to serve others never goes unnoticed. We are incredibly proud to call you our brothers and sisters.

Behind every firefighter is a family making sacrifices as well. To the spouses, partners, children, parents, relatives, and friends who waited patiently for your loved ones to return home after each long shift - thank you. Your encouragement, understanding, and unwavering support allow our members to do what they do best. We know the uncertainty that comes with every deployment, and your strength is an essential part of our firefighting family.

We are also humbled by the overwhelming generosity shown by our community. Thank you to everyone who dropped off meals, baked goods, snacks, cold drinks, care packages, donations, and heartfelt messages of encouragement. Whether it was a simple wave from the roadside, a handwritten card, a hot meal after a long day, or a donation to support our crews, every gesture reminded us why we proudly serve Okanagan Falls.

A special thank you also goes to the many wellness professionals who stepped forward to support firefighters during this demanding season. Massage therapists, physiotherapists, acupuncturists, chiropractors, and other health professionals generously donated their time and expertise, helping firefighters recover physically and mentally so they could continue serving on the fire line. Your care made an incredible difference, and we are deeply grateful.

This summer also brought firefighters from many departments and other countries like Mexico and Costa Rica into our community. We extend a heartfelt thank you to every visiting firefighter who is working tirelessly alongside our members. It was an honour to stand shoulder to shoulder with dedicated professionals, united by a common goal - to protect our communities.

Now Recruiting New Members ~ Have you ever wondered how you could make a real difference in your community? The Okanagan Falls Volunteer Fire Department is now accepting applications for new volunteer firefighters. No previous firefighting experience is required - we provide comprehensive training, mentorship, and the opportunity to develop valuable life skills while serving alongside an incredible team of dedicated volunteers. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, challenge yourself, and become part of something bigger than yourself, we encourage you to consider joining us. Watch for our recruitment poster around town and on our social media for application info and recruitment opportunities. Applications can be picked up every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Together, we continue to protect what matters most. Stay safe, stay prepared, and thank you for standing with your firefighters.

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Encroachments And Title Issues In Older South Okanagan Properties

By Sergej Sinicin of neuHouzz Real Estate Group



In a recent Skaha Matters article, we discussed some of the most common title issues that can impact a real estate transaction. One topic that deserves a closer look is encroachments. While the word may sound alarming, encroachments are surprisingly common throughout the South

Okanagan, particularly in older neighbourhoods, rural properties, and lakeside communities such as Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, Naramata, and parts of Penticton. Many of these properties were developed decades ago when survey standards, record keeping, and construction practices were very different than they are today.

What Is an Encroachment? An encroachment occurs when a structure or improvement crosses a legal property boundary. This could involve a fence built a few feet onto a neighbouring property, a shed sitting partially over a lot line, a retaining wall extending beyond the owner's property, or even landscaping features that were installed years ago without anyone realizing they crossed a boundary. The important thing to know is that most encroachments are not the result of anyone doing something wrong. In many cases, they have existed for decades and have never been discovered, because no one had a reason to look closely.

A Real-Life Example From Penticton ~ A great example comes from one of my business partners here in Penticton. For years, everyone on the street simply assumed the fences marked the property lines. Then, the neighbouring property was purchased by a developer who planned to build a duplex. As part of the development process, a professional survey was completed before construction began. The survey revealed that the assumed property lines were not exactly where people thought they were. My business partner actually gained approximately one foot of property width, while the neighbour on the other side of the new duplex discovered they had effectively lost about a foot compared to what they believed they owned. Nothing physically changed overnight. The legal property lines had always been there. The difference was that a professional survey finally confirmed their exact location. It's a great reminder that fences, landscaping, and long-standing assumptions don't always tell the full story.

Why Encroachments Matter When Selling ~ Problems often surface when a property is listed for sale. Buyers are conducting due diligence, survey certificates may be reviewed, title documents are examined, and questions start getting asked. An encroachment that has existed peacefully for years can suddenly become a concern if a buyer's lawyer, lender, surveyor, or insurance provider identifies it during the transaction. Depending on the situation,



resolving the issue can take time, create additional costs, or delay the completion of a sale. The good news is that most encroachment issues have solutions. The key is identifying them early rather than discovering them halfway through a transaction.

What Homeowners Can Do Before Listing ~ The best time to address a potential boundary issue is before your property hits the market. If you suspect there may be a discrepancy, consider reviewing any existing survey documents you have on file. In some cases, a current survey or professional property line verification may provide clarity before buyers start asking questions. It's also worth having open conversations with neighbours if there are any known questions regarding fences, retaining walls, access routes, or shared improvements. Many issues can be addressed cooperatively when everyone has time to discuss solutions rather than dealing with the pressure of an active real estate transaction. Taking a proactive approach often provides more options and helps prevent last-minute surprises.

Local Knowledge Matters ~ One of the challenges with older South Okanagan properties is that no two situations are exactly alike. A lakeside property in Kaleden may have very different considerations than a rural acreage in Okanagan Falls or an older home in Penticton. Historical surveys, topography, access routes, and long-standing neighbour agreements can all play a role. Having worked with many older properties throughout the South Okanagan, I've seen firsthand how common these situations can be. Most are manageable when identified early, but they become much easier to navigate when homeowners understand their options before listing.

If you're thinking about selling and have questions about fences, survey lines, encroachments, or other potential title concerns, I'd be happy to help point you in the right direction. A little preparation today can help create a smoother transaction tomorrow. Reach out anytime at 778-764-1373.



Ask about our Kaleden Grant Funding Program

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Courtesy of the Kaleden Community Association



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Advanced Naturopathic Medicine: Where Science And Nature Meet

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



As a passionate and seasoned practitioner of Naturopathic Medicine for 30 years, Dr. Tamara Browne, ND has developed a unique set of advanced skills to assist patients achieve optimal health in several key areas. The certifications she has achieved through attending qualified, expert education over the years include:

- Intravenous Nutrition and Chelation
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This allows Dr. Browne to treat advanced conditions, which may be resistant to regular treatment methods. With advanced training, Dr. Browne has developed proficiency in:

- 1. Sports Medicine and Pain Management:** Whether it's a sports injury or a degenerated arthritic joint, various natural injection therapies, administered by a doctor with advanced training in this area, can speed healing, resolve pain, and provide the edge you are looking for. Peri-neural therapy and Prolozone are advanced techniques proven to reduce swelling and pain and restore health to worn out joints, ligaments, and overused muscles.
- 2. Intravenous Micronutrient Therapy:** Higher than can be achieved through oral administration, various nutrients have the potential to correct underlying causes of disease and to replete, repair, and regenerate cells and tissues. Vitamins, minerals, phospholipids, amino acids, glutathione, and more can be administered safely and effectively for various conditions.
- 3. Bio-identical Hormones and Balancing Hormones Naturally:** Naturopathic Doctors have been granted prescribing privileges in BC. This allows certain patients to be administered safe, protective natural hormones and herbal compounds to reduce menopausal symptoms, prevent complications which occur due to aging and low hormone status, and help prevent age related decline.

As my practice grows, new training opportunities have allowed me to bring advanced therapies to the wonderful people living in the South Okanagan/Similkameen/Boundary area. I am thrilled to be able to offer alternative therapies that allow a broad range of health care choices to all.

Complete lab access allows scientific testing for underlying imbalances, toxins, and health insults. These range from food allergy and arterial function testing, to heavy metal testing, hormone analysis, and complete health screening. If you are struggling with your health and looking for more options, perhaps a Naturopathic Doctor can help. Often, Extended Medical Insurance is available to cover some or all of the visit.



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.



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Creative Wellness Solutions

By Dee-anne Stone, Seniors Wellness Practitioner



September is Arthritis Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to explore gentle, accessible ways to manage joint discomfort and improve daily living. Chair massage has emerged as a highly effective, non-invasive tool to combat the stiffness and chronic pain associated with arthritis. Unlike traditional table massages that require undressing or lying flat, a chair massage allows individuals to remain fully clothed while seated comfortably in an ergonomic, supportive position. This makes the therapy exceptionally accessible for older adults who may face mobility challenges or find it physically difficult to get on and off a standard massage table.

The physical benefits of chair massage are rooted in its ability to enhance blood circulation and reduce localized muscle tension. When arthritis inflames a joint, the surrounding muscles often tighten defensively, which leads to fatigue and restricted movement. The rhythmic kneading and compression of a chair massage help loosen these tight tissues, taking undue pressure off the vulnerable joints. This increased blood flow delivers vital oxygen and nutrients directly to the affected areas, aiding the body in naturally flushing out the metabolic waste products that contribute to inflammation. Over time, regular sessions can noticeably improve flexibility and expand a person's range of motion, making essential everyday tasks like dressing, walking, and reaching much easier.

Beyond physical relief, chair massage offers vital emotional and mental health support by calming the nervous system and triggering the release of mood-lifting endorphins. Living with a chronic condition can be deeply stressful, and reducing that mental burden can actually lower the intensity of physical pain. By prioritizing comfort and accessibility, chair massage provides a simple, empowering way to take control of your well-being this September and throughout the entire year.

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). 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.





Providing a unique combination of Chair Massage & Wellness Coaching
Call Dee-anne ~ 250-497-5974
www.CreativeWellnessSolutions.com



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Ask Cheryl

By Cheryl L. Snyder, RTC, MRT, CBT

What Does Grief Feel Like During A Time Of Wildfires?

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for seeing me last month on such short notice. After seeing you, I felt obligated to write to your column. This is not really a question, but a summary of my experience of being in your presence and the way you held space for me. Thank you.

I am writing again after the wildfires. As someone who has experienced the grief of losing a parent, I was surprised to discover that the feelings I am having now feel very similar. Why does grief show up so strongly during a wildfire when I have not lost a loved one?

From Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Thank you for your courage in sharing your experience.

Many people think grief only arrives after a death. Thank you for allowing me to reiterate the teachings I give around grief. In reality, grief is our natural response to any significant loss. During a wildfire, people may lose homes, treasured belongings, pets, livelihoods, landscapes they love, a sense of safety, and even the future they imagined. Some lose entire neighbourhoods and the comfort of familiar routines.

Grief during a disaster can feel confusing, because not all losses are visible. You may find yourself feeling sadness, fear, anger, helplessness, exhaustion, guilt, numbness, or even gratitude that others had it worse. All of these reactions are normal.

Wildfires also awaken old grief. The loss of a parent, a relationship, a home, or another painful life event may suddenly resurface. Grief recognizes grief and at times will wait for us to give it the attention it well deserves. When one loss is stirred, previous losses often rise to the surface as well.

In counselling, I often remind people that grief is not something to fix. It is something to witness, honour, and move through. Healing begins when we stop asking ourselves why we feel this way and instead ask, "What is this grief trying to tell me?"

If you are grieving during these difficult times, be gentle with yourself. Reach out to supportive people. Rest when you can. Share your story. Cry when tears come. And remember that grief is not a sign of weakness - it is evidence of love, connection, and the value of what has been lost.

As communities rebuild after wildfire, we must remember that emotional recovery often takes far longer than physical recovery. Be patient with yourself and with one another.

With compassion and kindest regard,
Cheryl



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

New email: kdstaff@orl.bc.ca

Tuesday 1-5 pm / Thursday 1-8 pm / Friday 12-4 pm

For more information on our programs, please visit our events calendar on our website or get in touch.

Children's Programs:

STEAM Discover Club: Monday, September 21 at 10-11:30 am.

Join us for STEAM Club where exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math combine into fun experiments for little scientists! We emphasize collaboration, communication, problem solving, critical thinking and creative skills, while doing fun hands-on experiments. Registration is required, as space is limited.

Family Storytime: Reading Through the Rainbow on Tuesdays at 10-10:45 am. Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes as we explore a new letter of the alphabet each week at the library. You may expect roughly 20 minutes of stories and songs, followed by time to play. Perfect for ages 0+ with caregivers. No registration required.

LEGO Master Builders: Fridays from 12-4 pm. A drop-in program for school aged children, where you can complete a LEGO BINGO challenge to bring you closer to a fun LEGO prize, or just hang out and build. What will you build today?

Teens & Adults:

Crafting 101: A Beginner Crafting Series where Mistakes are Welcome. Tuesday, September 8 from 5:30-7 pm. Discover potato stamp printing and decorate a custom library bag! No experience needed - just your creativity! Registration is required, as space and materials are limited.

Food Club: A Monthly Recipe Swap. Thursday, September 17 from 4-6 pm. The first rule of Food Club is: you definitely talk about Food Club! Join us at the library on the 3rd Thursday of the month for a delicious, themed recipe swap. Prepare samples of your go-to dish to share, along with a printed copy of the recipe. Get ready to discover your new favourites!

September's Theme: Pickles & Preserves



Submitted by Rachael Dowden, Kaleden Community Librarian

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Tuesday 10 am - 6 pm / Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm

Friday 10 am - 5 pm / Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

As summer winds down, we're looking ahead to a busy fall season at the library! From wrapping up Summer Reading Club to preparing for new programs and collecting seeds for next year, there's lots happening at your local branch.

Summer Reading Club: Under the Sea ~ Our 2026 Summer Reading Club is coming to an end! Be sure to bring in your completed reading logs to collect your **medal** and **treasure chest rewards**. Our in-branch prizes are now on display. Visit the library to see what you could win and get excited for the upcoming prize draw! **Prize Draw Date: September 8, 2026.**

Thank you to all of the young readers who dove into books with us this summer. We loved seeing your reading adventures!

Okanagan Falls Connects - A Gathering and Celebration of Community Volunteers ~ The Okanagan Falls Library and the Friends of the Library are excited to be part of Okanagan Falls Connects - A Gathering and Celebrations of Community Volunteers on **Sunday, September 13 from 11:30 am - 2 pm**. Be sure to stop by our table to say hello, meet some of the people behind your local library, and discover what's coming up this fall. We look forward to connecting with you!

Book Club: Wednesday, September 16 at 1-2 pm ~ We look forward to another engaging discussion, and new members are always welcome. Come share your love of reading and connect with fellow book lovers.

Help Our Seed Library Grow ~ As the growing season comes to a close, we're looking for seed donations for next year's Seed Library. If you have saved seeds from your garden, consider sharing them with the community. Every contribution helps support local gardeners and promotes seed diversity.

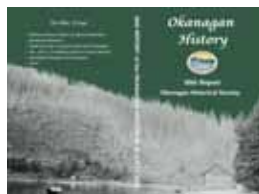
Our **Puzzle Exchange** and **Seed Library** are, as always, available to all members of the public. Feel free to stop by, take what you need, and share what you can!

October Programming ~ We're already planning a variety of programs and activities for October. Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming workshops, crafts, and community events.

Submitted by Artessa Wiker, Okanagan Falls Community Librarian

Okanagan Historical Society Book Sale

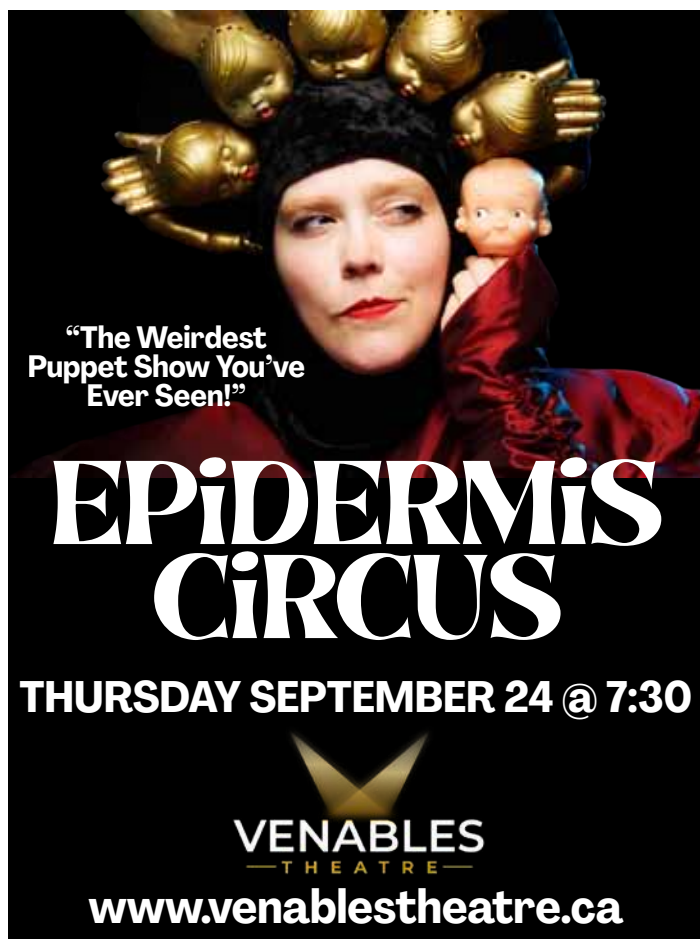
By Karen Collins, Penticton Branch President



As an organization, the Penticton Branch of the Okanagan Historical Society is dedicated to preserving local history. The OHS 90th Report is now available for sale and there are some outstanding articles of historical interest in this edition of the annual report.

There are two excellent submissions written by the Okanagan Nation Alliance Natural Resources Department. *Syilx Okanagan Nation Salmon Restoration: A Case History of Bringing Back a Species on the Verge of Extinction* and *Restoring siwtkw and stuxn in the South Okanagan* about a project restoring wetlands that have been lost and the link to the disappearance of beavers from the landscape. Other articles include: *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle is Not a New Concept* as it applies to Okanagan Falls by Karen Collins; *The Southern Okanagan Lands Project and the Big Syphon* in Oliver by Larry Shannon; and *The Mission Valley & Okanagan Wagon Road, 1876* by well-known author Ken Mather.

The OHS Book Sale is Saturday, September 12 (9:30-5:30) and Sunday, September 13 (11-5) at Cherry Lane Shopping Centre.



Raspberries In Space?

By Tom Landecker

No, there are no raspberries in the space between the stars, but there are molecules of Erythrulose, according to reports published just a month ago. Erythrulose is a type of sugar; it is found in many fruits, including raspberries. Why is sugar found in interstellar space? How did it get there? Why should we be interested?

The space between the stars is nearly empty, but not quite. Single atoms of Hydrogen are the most common thing found there. Hydrogen is the simplest element, the most abundant thing in the Universe. Stars, including our Sun, are made of Hydrogen, with a sprinkling of other elements. It's not a surprise to find Hydrogen atoms in space.

On Earth, we rarely find single atoms. Our world is made of molecules, atoms joined together. Water molecules are one atom of Oxygen, tightly bound to two atoms of Hydrogen.

The space between the stars is a hostile place, where ultra-violet light abounds, breaking molecules apart. It came as a surprise when, fifty years ago, radio astronomers detected molecules of Carbon Monoxide, one atom of Carbon and one atom of Oxygen. Since then, over 350 different molecules have been found by their fingerprints in the radio spectrum. The simplest are two-atom combinations like Carbon Monoxide. One of the most complicated is anthracene, 24 atoms in total, 14 Carbon atoms and 10 Hydrogen atoms bound together in a complex structure. Erythrulose has 16 atoms, four each of Carbon and Oxygen, and eight Hydrogen.

These molecules are detected floating freely in interstellar space, but they cannot form in that hostile environment, and may not survive long there. They form on the surfaces of dust grains, tiny particles that are the debris of dead stars. Dust grains block the deadly ultraviolet rays. Molecules form on their surfaces, and boil off into the surrounding space, where our telescopes can detect them.

Why is the discovery of Erythrulose important? This molecule, and others like it, are found in regions where new stars are forming. Dust grains were abundant in the interstellar cloud in which the Sun and the planets formed five billion years ago, and molecules were probably abundant there too. We find very complex molecules on the surfaces of asteroids, small Solar System objects. It seems possible that the primeval Earth came equipped with a rich soup of molecules, and that those molecules began the long process of the evolution of life on Earth. Sugars like Erythrulose are important building blocks for the molecules that are the basis of the chemistry of life.

If the Earth was seeded with interstellar molecules, the same must have been true of all the planets. The absence of life on Mars, on Venus, on Mercury, and on our Moon, is then the outcome of hostile conditions there, too hot, no water, not enough protection from the Sun. We are the product of the Earth's gentle environment. We must keep it that way.

Interesting websites:

- www.abc.net.au/news/science/2026-07-14/signs-of-sugar-near-the-centre-of-the-milky-way/106135022
- www.astronomy.com/science/super-complex-organic-molecules-found-in-interstellar-space/
- 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.



New To Kaleden?

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

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 8th 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 2026-27 school year.

For more info on how to volunteer or request school talks in your child's school, call our Community Policing Unit at 250-492-4300.

School Trustee Report For SD67

By Karen Botsford, School Trustee

As I write this article, the Bald Range Fire continues to burn, and our region is living through a moment none of us will soon forget. As residents begin returning to Summerland, the emotions are layered - despair for what has been lost, relief at what has been spared, uncertainty about what comes next, and deep gratitude for the people who have stepped forward in extraordinary ways.

In the midst of devastation, we are witnessing the best of who we are. Neighbours helping neighbours. Strangers offering shelter, food, and comfort. Communities rallying without hesitation. Our heartfelt thanks go to the firefighters, RCMP, emergency personnel, local government staff, Emergency Operations Centre teams, volunteers, and every individual who has extended a hand during this unprecedented event. Within the school district, staff have been working quietly and steadily behind the scenes. Princess Margaret Secondary has provided space for a comfort centre, and Penticton Secondary has welcomed RVs for families displaced by the fire. Many of our educators have been volunteering in the community, and many others, along with their families, have been directly affected by the fire.

Even with these challenges, the Leadership Team has been working tirelessly to prepare for the start of the 2026-27 school year. Every September brings its own rhythm, but this year is already unlike any other. The team is focused on meeting students and families where they are, offering support, and helping restore a sense of normalcy as routines return.

Our facilities team has also been hard at work throughout the summer, ensuring schools are ready and making final adjustments as the transition to the K-7 and 8-12 configuration is completed. At the heart of this transition are our school communities - the students, educators, administrators, and families who bring these buildings to life.

As we look ahead, I am reminded that each new school year carries the promise of learning, growth, and renewed connection. To our entire school community, I wish a healthy, productive, joyful, and safe year.

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

Highlights From Kaleden Elementary School

By Principal Jessa Arcuri

As we say goodbye to summer, we hope our students and families are returning with wonderful memories of time spent with loved ones, and adventures big and small. We're excited to welcome everyone back to Kaleden Elementary for another year of learning, friendship, and new experiences!

As we settle into a new school year, we also recognize that this summer has brought challenges for many in our region. The Summerland fires have touched many within our school community through friends, family, and loved ones, reminding us just how closely connected our neighbouring communities are. With that connection comes a shared sense of care and support for all those affected.

As we begin this new school year, Kaleden Elementary will continue to be a place of kindness, connection, learning, and support for our students, our families, and our neighbouring communities.

Welcome back, Kaleden. Here's to a year of learning, caring, and coming together!



Kaleden Elementary PAC Update

By Tenna Fisher, PAC Chair

The Kaleden PAC would like to extend a warm welcome back to all students, staff, and families as we begin a new school year!

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer filled with fun, relaxation, and time spent with family and friends. As we prepare for another year of learning, growth, and community connections, we are excited to see familiar faces returning and new families joining our school community.

As students head back to school, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of safety around our school. Please be mindful of school hours, watch for children walking and cycling, and adhere to the posted school zone speed limits, especially during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. A few extra moments of caution help ensure that all of our students arrive safely each day.

The PAC looks forward to supporting our students, staff, and families throughout the year. Together, we can make this school year a positive, safe, and successful one for everyone.

Welcome back, Kaleden Elementary! Here's to a fantastic year ahead.

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Highlights From Okanagan Falls Elementary School

By Principal Katie Poole

Our school office is now open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you are new to our school, still need to complete registration, would like to arrange a school tour, need to explore options for before or after school care, or have questions as you prepare for the year ahead, please stop by or contact the office at 250-497-5414 or okf@sd53.bc.ca. We are always happy to help!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our summer reading program. We hope you enjoyed discovering new books, sharing stories, and keeping your love of reading alive over the summer. Your enthusiasm and participation are greatly appreciated! A warm thank you to Mrs. Raines, Mrs. Brockholm, Mrs. Cifarelli and Mr. Lefebvre for their educational support throughout the program!

As we welcome our students back, we are also reminded that a school is much more than a building. Our school is an important part of our community, and our community plays an important role in our school. The relationships we build with families, local organizations, businesses, and community members help create a place where children feel known, valued, and supported, especially in a small community like ours. This year, we are excited to continue our partnerships with our community members, and we would like to thank those of you who invest so much time and support in our school!

We look forward to seeing our returning families and meeting those who are joining us for the first time. Here's to a wonderful school year filled with learning, friendship, and new adventures!



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Okanagan Falls PAC Update

By Kari Hill, PAC Chair

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun, relaxing, and memory-filled summer. Whether you're returning to our school community or joining us for the very first time, we're excited to kick off another fantastic year at Okanagan Falls Elementary!

The PAC has big plans for the 2026–2027 school year, and we can't wait to share them with you!

We want to start the year with a HUGE thank you to Value Contracting and UEE for their incredibly generous donations toward our PAC's iPad Fundraiser for our school. Thank you!

We're excited to be back at the Okanagan Falls Legion for our monthly PAC Meat Draws! Our first one of the school year is Friday, September 18. Come out, say hello, support our school, and maybe even head home with dinner!

From BBQs and markets to movie nights, meat draws, and more, there will be plenty of opportunities to join in the fun this year. Every fundraiser helps us provide memorable experiences for our students, including field trips, sports, music, arts, and special school activities. Keep an eye on community Facebook pages and future editions of Skaha Matters, as we start dropping dates and details for everything we have.



RDOS Recreation



Share your photos with us!

Have you captured a great moment at a program, event, or facility?
We'd love to see it!

RDOS Recreation is currently collecting photos from the community to feature in an upcoming Recreation Guide. Selected images may also be used in future promotional materials, including brochures, social media, and advertising for programs and events.

How to submit:

Please email your high-quality photos to rec@rdos.bc.ca along with:

- Your name
- The program, park, facility or event where the photo was taken

Caption it! Add a quick comment to help bring your photo and the experience behind it to life.

Photo use and credit:

By submitting your photos, you are granting the RDOS permission to use the photos in Recreation Guide publications and promotional materials. If you would like to be credited for your photo, please let us know when you submit! We are happy to include your name wherever possible.

Thank you for helping RDOS Recreation showcase our vibrant community!



School Trustee Report For SD53

By Sholeh Pickell, School Trustee

As I write this, our neighbouring communities of the District of Summerland and Faulder have suffered unimaginable losses. It is hard to think about the school routines resuming when wildfire threat is still so present. My fingers are crossed as you read that those affected are receiving all the support and resources they need to recover and to rebuild what was lost. Shane Koyczan has penned a powerful poem titled "20,000" about the experience, it's worth a read. Find it on Penticton Castanet posted on August 13.

My family is having another big change this fall as my youngest son heads to North Vancouver for university. My husband and I will be empty nesters, so we anticipate a big adjustment for us all.

I want to take a moment to wish all the students, teachers and administrators a great year ahead. Our board meetings resume September 29 at 6:30 pm. The full schedule of our meetings can be found on the SD53 website. These meetings are open to the public.

Finally, I want to share that I will be running for a second term as your SD53 Trustee. Thank you for your ongoing support.

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

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Kaleden Museum & Archives

By Mike Gane



Picture taken from the edge of Lookout Mountain sometime mid 1930's looking north. Note that the original packing house is gone, the Community Hall (that took its place) and the "new" school have not yet been constructed. Of note: look at all the fruit trees! This was Kaleden in that time period. Fruit, fruit and more fruit!

If you wish to donate items to the Kaleden Museum, please contact Mike Gane at 250-497-5674.



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KSC
KALEDEN SENIORS COMMITTEE

Kaleden Seniors Committee Update

By Karla Avendaño, KSC Event Coordinator

We hope you had a wonderful summer, despite how eventful it was, and that you were able to stay safe and away from the smoke.

We are excited to announce that we have a calendar filled with activities for everyone this season!

Starting this September, we will tour the **Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory on Saturday, September 19**. Meet us at the parking lot at 9:45 am for the 10 am tour. If you would like to carpool, we will meet at Kaleden Hall at 9:15 am and travel from there. Everyone is welcome!

Save the date for **Harvest Bingo** at Kaleden Hall on **October 2**. Time to be announced.

Our **Annual Kaleden Progressive Winter Market** is happening on **November 14** this year. It's a wonderful opportunity to bring local vendors and handcrafted products together throughout our community. If you or someone you know would like to become a vendor this year, we would love to have you! Please contact us at kaledenseniors@gmail.com for more information.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to receive our emails, please contact us at kaledenseniors@gmail.com.

Kaleden Quilters & Crafters Invitation

By Vivian King

Ladies of all skill levels are invited to join us for an afternoon with other quilters and crafters every Wednesday from 1-4 pm in the Kaleden Community Hall. Coffee and tea are always available.

Falls sessions: September 2 - October 21 for \$20, October 28 - November 25 for \$15, or drop-in is \$4. For more information, call 250-497-1164 or email viv20king@gmail.com. See you there!

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Travelers Turn Back To Travel Agents

By Vi Creasey

In an age where nearly every vacation can be booked with a few taps on a smartphone, it may seem surprising that travel agents are experiencing a resurgence. Yet across Canada and beyond, travelers are rediscovering the value of human expertise, personalized service, and real advocacy - advantages the internet simply can't replicate.

The Rise of "Do-It-Yourself Fatigue" ~ Online booking once promised convenience. Instead, many travelers now describe the process as overwhelming. With thousands of websites, fluctuating prices, hidden fees, and contradictory reviews, planning a trip can feel more like a part-time job than a getaway. "I spent six hours comparing flights and still wasn't sure I picked the right one", says one Penticton resident. "Next time, I'm calling Reliable Travel." Reliable Travel streamlines the chaos. We know which suppliers are reliable, which deals are legitimate, and how to navigate the fine print that often traps online bookers.

Protection When Things Go Wrong ~ The internet is great when everything goes right. But when flights are cancelled, hotels overbook, or a cruise itinerary changes, travelers quickly learn the difference between clicking "Book Now" and having a professional in their corner. Agents act as advocates, negotiating with airlines, securing refunds, rebooking accommodations, and solving problems while their clients relax. During recent global travel disruptions, many travelers who booked online spent hours on hold. Those who booked through Reliable Travel often had solutions within minutes.

Access To Better Value - Not Just Lower Prices ~ Contrary to popular belief, travel agents aren't more expensive. In many cases, we save clients money. Reliable Travel has access to: **exclusive packages** not available to the public; **group rates** even for individual travelers; **added perks** like resort credits, room upgrades, or free transfers; and **transparent pricing** without hidden fees. Online deals may look cheaper at first glance, but once baggage fees, resort charges, and cancellation penalties are added, the "discount" often disappears. Give us a call for more info.



Elks Lodge Oliver #267

By Dee-anne Stone, Secretary

We are a volunteer organization of men and women serving our community. All welcome!

Open: Tuesday - Sunday, 2 pm to closing. Wednesday open at 1 pm. Come celebrate September with some great **BEER SPECIALS!**

HELP WANTED: SUPPORT YOUR ELKS LODGE!

We are looking for friendly volunteers to help keep our lodge thriving. Whether you have a few hours a month or a morning a week, your time makes a huge difference.

OPEN ROLES:

- **Meat Draws:** Sell tickets, manage the draw, and hand out prizes.
- **Lodge Breakfasts:** Cook, prep, serve, or help clean up the kitchen.
- **Bartending:** Serve drinks, chat with members, and keep the lounge lively.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Give back to community programs.
- Meet great local people.
- Keep our historic lodge going strong.

Ready to help out? Send us an email at oliverelkslodge267@gmail.com.

TAPS: Every Wednesday and Thursday 9 am - 1 pm. A program for seniors offered free of charge featuring activities such as chair yoga, music bingo, karaoke, arts and crafts, and computer literacy lessons. A home-cooked lunch for \$7 and free round-trip transportation is provided.

Meat Draw ~ Will resume Sunday, September 13 at 3 pm. Meat provided by Belich's AG Foods. Email us if you would like to host a draw. We are booking for the new fall/winter season. It's a great fund-raising opportunity.

Breakfast ~ Will resume Sunday, September 27. Bacon, eggs, sausage, home fries, pancakes, toast, coffee and juice, all for only \$10. Held the 2nd and 4th Sundays monthly from 8:30-11 am.

Darts ~ Drop-in darts, toeline Sundays at 2 pm and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Come early to sign up.

Mahjong ~ Wednesdays at 1 pm. Come play the real, traditional American Mahjong game played with tiles.

General Meeting ~ Tuesday, September 8 at 7 pm. Held the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Hall Rental ~ We have a large hall with a kitchen available for rent. Email for inquiries.

Contact ~ 250-498-3808 or oliverelkslodge267@gmail.com
477 Bank Avenue, Oliver | Facebook: Oliver Elks Lodge #267



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Okanagan Falls Helping Hand Update

By Patty Neuner

The past month has been especially difficult for our neighbour's to the north. Our thoughts are with the residents of the District of Summerland and the rural community of Faulder, who were evacuated or suffered losses during the Bald Range Fire. Please know that you are not alone.

Okanagan Falls Helping Hand is a registered charitable organization. Donations can be mailed to Okanagan Falls Helping Hand, P.O. Box 640, Okanagan Falls, BC V0H 1R0, or sent by e-transfer to helpinghandsokfalls@gmail.com. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more. Cash donations help us purchase the items families need most and make a meaningful difference. Thank you for your continued support.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer, please join us at our **first planning meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 4:30 pm** at Okanagan Falls Community Church, located at 1356 McLean Creek Road. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm. To volunteer or ask questions, please call 778-559-2412 and leave a message. We will return your call.



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Your call will be returned.



South Skaha Housing Society Update

By Michael Livingstone, SSHS Chair

Affordable 55+ Rental Available In Okanagan Falls!

South Skaha Housing Society currently has a 1-bedroom unit available to rent at South Skaha Place for a single person or couple, meaning a maximum of two occupants.

Rent is \$940/month, plus utilities and cable. Applicants must be 55+, have low to moderate income, be able to live independently, meet Canadian residency requirements, provide proof of income, and have references.

Unit includes stove, fridge, and dishwasher. Building amenities include common laundry and amenity room. Parking is available. Small pets are welcome.

For more information or application forms, contact Locke Property Management, located at 528 Main St, Penticton, BC V2A 5C7. Call 250-492-0346 or send an email to sshsbod@gmail.com.

Okanagan Quilters

By Barb Shanks

Okanagan Quilters meets every Thursday from 9:30 am - 1:00 pm starting September 10 in the Okanagan Falls United Church Hall (rear entrance). All quilters and crafters of all abilities are welcome to join. Coffee and tea are supplied. Yearly dues are \$50 or drop-in is \$5. For more information, contact Barb Shanks at 250-488-8174 or email barb.shanks@gmail.com. We would love you to join us!

Okanagan Falls Seniors Activity Society

By Heather Jackson

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

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

Activities in September 2026:

Canasta ~ Mondays at 10 am

Crafts & Coffee ~ Mondays at 1 pm, starting September 7

Evening Pool ~ Mondays at 6 pm

Tuesday Bingo ~ Tuesdays - September 1, 8 & 15 at 1 pm

Evening Pool ~ Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

Mexican Train Dominos ~ Wednesdays at 1 pm

Afternoon Pool ~ Thursdays at 1 pm

Bridge ~ Thursdays at 1 pm

Cribbage ~ Thursdays at 7 pm

Line Dancing ~ Fridays at 1 pm

Pancake Breakfast ~ Saturday, September 5 from 8-10 am

General Meeting ~ Monday, September 7 at 1 pm

Drop-in Bingo ~ Saturday, September 19 from 1-4 pm

Potluck Dinner ~ Saturday, September 26 at 5 pm

Country Music Jamboree ~ Sunday, September 27 from 1-4 pm

Scrabble ~ On hold for now - looking for participants

Carpet Bowling ~ On hold for now - looking for participants

Theatre Group ~ On hold for now - looking for participants

Lending Library & Puzzles ~ For members when hall is in use

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.

OK Falls Heritage & Museum Society

By Connie White, Curator/Board Secretary

First off ... Viva Mexico! Sending a heartfelt thank you to ALL the brave fire fighters! With wildfires on the top of everyone's mind, we love seeing our community band together in such a supportive way.

The end of the season for the museum is quickly approaching, as the Labour Day weekend is our last weekend open. If you haven't been by for a visit, come by and see us. Looking for something to do with the kids? Have them complete our quiz and receive a prize! In the off season, we are looking to create new exhibits. If you have local stories or photos, please share them with us. They could be featured in the museum! Don't forget our thrift shop takes clothing donations, as well as bottle recycling. If you are looking to shop, we now take debit or credit cards. Come by and see our friendly volunteers ... they are the best in the business!



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Branch 227
Okanagan Falls

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #227

By Bev Van Uden

The purpose of the Royal Canadian Legion is to serve veterans, including military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to support local communities across Canada. Remembrance Day ensures Canadians never forget those who served and sacrificed in military conflict, peace operations, and on the homefront, notably through the annual poppy campaign. The Royal Canadian Legion is a not for profit organization, funded through memberships, fundraising and branch operations.

If you have never been a Legion member, now is a great time to join. As we celebrate 100 years of Legions, you will receive a 2026 and a 2027 membership for the price of one year. Plus, your name will be entered in a draw for a ford truck!

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

Every Wednesday A Spectacular Car Show ~ The cars start rolling in around 1:30 pm. Serving burgers, fries, onions rings, smokies, plus a 60/40 draw.

Meat Draws - Fridays at 5 pm & Saturdays at 3 pm ~ Thanks to Belich's AG Foods for the meat. All profits donated to charities.

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

General Meeting ~ Tuesday, September 15 at 7 pm.

Legion Week is September 20-26 ~ Complimentary Breakfast on September 20 from 8-10 am. Dinner & Dance on September 26 (after the Meat Draw) with Will Schlackl, singer and guitar player for the Jack & Jill band. Come see what Legions are all about. Here how Legions support veterans and our community.

Shuffle Board ~ Starting again in the fall. Anyone interested? Make up your own 4 person team or we can put you on a team. You can play once per week on either Tuesday or Thursday at 2 pm, with spares if you only want to play casually. You don't need to be a member. Call Rick 250-486-7178 or Sandy 250-809-7078.

Bottle Returns ~ Drop off cans and bottles by the garage door at the back of the Legion parking lot. Thank you!

Volunteers ~ Are always welcome. Come on down to the branch.

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".

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Okanagan Falls Lions Update

By Bob Wilson, Past President

Well everyone what can I say, unlike my usual rambling, I find I'm at somewhat of a loss for words. The damage and chaos caused by wildfires this year are once again devastating to all who have been displaced and those who suffered total losses. I was beginning to think, after the last few years, there was nothing left to burn, but once again I'm proved wrong. I can't imagine what these people are going through after losing everything. "I'm so sorry!" doesn't cover it, regrets don't help fix it. All we can do is help right it and offer all we can to rectify it.

Smoke related, Music in the Park #4 was cancelled and #5 undetermined as yet for August 23. Local daily activities are somewhat of the norm, with adjustments for smoky conditions, hopefully they will stay that way for the duration.

Local and worldwide disasters are becoming more frequent and so Lions International has implemented an emergency funding plan, local districts and clubs are doing what they can to cope with the situations. We've beaten emergencies before and we'll do it again, with everyone aware of the needs and actions required.

The Lions School Breakfast program will continue in September as usual. Donated eyewear is being collected on an ongoing basis in Okanagan Falls as well as surrounding communities. Thank you to all our volunteers and donors, as we can't do it without you.

Everyone stay and be as well as possible - don't breathe too much of that smoke! That's about it for now. See you around town.

Blood, it's in you to give! The next Blood Donor Clinics will be held September 21-23 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 from September to June. 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/okanaganfallsionsclub.

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LOCAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Kaleden Community Church

Sunday Worship at 10 am ~ Check website for service location. 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/Teen Church at 11 am
With Pastor Jon Manlove - Everyone is welcome!

September 20 ~ Okanagan Gleaners Presentation at 11 am

Worship services recorded at OKFCC.net.

1356 McLean Creek Rd, Okanagan Falls | 250-497-5131

Okanagan Falls United Church

Sunday Service at 9 am ~ Speakers: September 6 - Carol Jones-Middleton; September 13 - Judi Ritcey; September 20 - Rev. Laura Turnbull; and September 27 - Rev. Paul James.

Coffee fellowship following services. More info 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! Email for more information.

1039 Willow St, Okanagan Falls | st.barbaraanglican@gmail.com

"Every Brilliant Thing"

By Cheryl Gill, Many Hats Theatre Company Publicist

Many Hats Theatre is proud to present **Every Brilliant Thing** by Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe, in a one-of-a-kind solo show, that will undoubtedly be one of the most unique productions. In this solo performance, Vance Potter will lead you through a powerful and uplifting look at one person's attempt to document all the wonderful, beautiful, and indeed **brilliant things**, big, small and everything in between that makes life worth living. The tale begins with a young boy trying to help his mother see how and why life is worth living and progresses throughout his own life. While this deals with heavy and deeply vulnerable topics of mental health, the play is celebrated for being heartwarming, humorous, and ultimately uplifting. It emphasizes the importance of community, communication and human connection.

Performed in over 80 countries, including a stint on Broadway starring Daniel Radcliffe, this highly interactive show involves a great deal of audience participation of which Radcliffe said "the only thing required is kindness. It's kindness that powers the play" and the New York Times said "everybody who left that theatre left in a state of joy. One Actor. One Audience. One million reasons to experience the joy!"

This one person play will run 85 minutes with no intermission. **Every Brilliant Thing** runs from September 11 - October 4 on the Cannery Stage at 1475 Fairview Road in Penticton. For further info or assistance with ticket purchases, please call 250-462-6428.



South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre Update

By Laura Turnbull, Board Chairperson

WOW! What more is there to say about the amazing volunteers who have stepped up to assist the evacuees during the Bald Range wildfire? Showing astounding compassion, endless energy, and phenomenal goodwill, hundreds, if not thousands of people opened their hearts and homes to folks in need. After volunteering for a few days at the "Comfort Centre", I have come away with a renewed sense of appreciation for the way the many service groups, community organizations, clubs, school groups, churches, the Sikh community, Penticton Indian Band, and individuals throughout the region have banded together to show we are all neighbours. I also have been struck by the appreciation on the part of the evacuees when receiving coffee, food, or a listening ear. Repeatedly, I heard gratitude expressed for all that the volunteers were doing.

Volunteers were assisting in handing out packaged food and drinks, playing games with the children and teenagers, listening to the stories of how neighbours helped in the evacuation process, directing to personal care items, delivering truckloads of food for the meals at the "Comfort Centre", and the list goes on. Thank you!

As I spoke with folk who fled their homes, I heard stories of resiliency, good-will, and feeling blessed. On behalf of all the volunteers, we are the blessed ones. You who are now displaced have shown grace, strength in crisis, and have treated us so well. On behalf of the South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre, I am deeply appreciative of every volunteer who has assisted at this time of crisis. We have intentionally taken a back seat in coordinating volunteers at this time of disaster, as Emergency Support Services are the lead organization. If you are looking for information, please check rdos.bc.ca.

When things settle down and you are looking for volunteering ideas, the South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections Volunteer Centre is your place for information on general volunteering opportunities in your community. Check us out at 1-888-576-5661 and Subrina Monteith, our Executive Director, would be pleased to help you. Look us up on our webpage at volunteercentre.info or email at info@volunteercentre.info.

Stay safe and thank you!

CatMatch



Meet Timber

Timber is a very beautiful girl, but still a bit shy. If you feel you have the love and patience to help Miss Timber blossom into the loving cat

that is hidden behind those beautiful eyes, please contact us and we can arrange a meet and greet. Miss Timber is just one of many cats in our care that need that little extra time to become the love of your life.

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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 folks that came to help get my husband and boat back to shore. He did his best to try and paddle the boat, but the wind was pushing him in the wrong direction. We really appreciated everyone's response! ~ *From Cindy & Mirek S. of Okanagan Falls*

Flowers to Bob Daly for his service as Chair of Okanagan Falls Parks & Rec Commision. The community has truly benefited from his service. Thank you Bob! ~ *From Connie W. of Okanagan Falls*

Flowers to the many many individuals who went out of their way to do something nice and caring for the evacuees! Making donations, showing movies, offering RV spaces, opening a respite centre, and the list goes on! THANK YOU! ~ *From Matt T. of Okanagan Falls*

Fish Heads to the person(s) who leave dozens of cigarette butts, cups, cans and other litter along the KVR between Okanagan Falls and Sickle Point. I am tired of picking up after you (as I am sure your mommy had to)! I am also perplexed as to why you come here for the natural beauty, then pollute it and leave. Everywhere there is a place to sit along the KVR is your calling card - cigarette butts! It's a fire danger and is litter. Do everyone a favour, smoke at home, or use a portable cigarette pocket ashtray and pack out your mess! ~ *From Al D. of Kaleden*

Flowers to all the citizens of our lovely town who have been so faithful to water the flower barrels. It's not a job you can skip for a few days, even in the smoke and the heat. Thanks for making town look pretty. ~ *From Colleen S. of Okanagan Falls*

Flowers to all the neighbours helping their neighbours in a time of emergency until the professionals arrive. From forest fires to house fires, thanks for helping. ~ *From Joy M. of Okanagan Falls*



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Contact us via phone or email provided above.

Be Prepared For The Unforeseen

By Lesley H. Luff, Okanagan Falls & Osoyoos

No-one can predict what the future holds. However, this terrible fire season should make us all much more aware. Our hearts go out to all those who have lost their properties or have been evacuated. To those whose animals had to be set free, we hope they will all be returned safely to their owners.

We hope that those who have lost everything will find the resilience to rebuild their lives and be able to set a new course into the future. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone whose lives have been impacted by this unforeseen tragedy.

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