



Time Travel

Historical Milestones

1811 – The Hudson's Bay Fur Brigade & Old Caribou Trails pass through the area. The Cairn at the corner of Main St. & Old Okanagan Hwy commemorates this.

1842 – Chief Tomat born

1846 – The Hudson's Bay Fur Brigade Trail came to an end in the Okanagan by traders, but continued to be used by missionaries and other travellers

1861 – John McDougall set up a small Hudson Bay Company trading post along the Fur Brigade Trail, for miners on the way to the Caribou for the Gold Rush

1872 – Susan Allison becomes the first European settler in Westbank, in what is now known as the 'Allison House' at Quails' Gate

1897 – First school house opens up on the Westside in the Shannon Lake area

1900 – The Gellatly family arrives. They clear some land, build green houses and grow tomatoes, becoming known as the "Tomato King of the Okanagan"

1902 – Westbank post office opens

1922 – Westbank Irrigation District is formed

1924 – Kelowna – Westbank Ferry is launched

1930 – Grand opening of the Westbank Community Hall is held

1939 – Westbank receives electrical power

1939 – Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce was formed, although originally called Westbank Board of Trade

1948 – Okanagan Telephone Company inaugurates the first dial telephone service in the interior of BC in Westbank

1949 – Rose Valley Dam built

1949 – Hope – Princeton Hwy was completed

1951 – Gorman's Lumber & Box Company started

1958 – Kelowna to Westbank floating bridge was opened, residents no longer need to rely on ferry service to cross the lake

1961 – The first grape vines were planted by the Stewart family of Quails' Gate winery

1962 – Trans-Canada Hwy was completed

1962 – The Westbank Yacht Club named its first Commodore

1963 – Westbank First Nation separated from the Okanagan Indian Band

1965 – Bylands Nursery started

1965 – A group of grape growers and business men form Mission Hill Wines Ltd.

1978 – Westbank Museum officially opened

1987 – The Johnson Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre was built

1990 – The Coquihalla Connector was built

1992 – Mt. Boucherie was consumed by a 60 hectare forest fire

2005 – Westbank First Nation became a self-governing First Nation

2007 – The area incorporates into the District of West Kelowna

2009 – Two wildfires threatened the District of West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation, forcing the evacuation of 17,000 residents

