A century of remembrance

1925 — Cemetery land identified

The Westbank Cemetery lot was acquired from the government for $75, plus $10 for the Crown Grant. The first Board of Trustees was established.

1926 — Cemetery established

The first burial took place after the site was formally recognized as a cemetery. Westbank Cemetery became a resting place for local farming families, orchardists, veterans and community builders.

1930s - 2000s — Cemetery grows

The cemetery expanded as Westbank and surrounding communities grew, continuing to serve generations of local families through municipal changes.

2011 — City assumes operations

Following the incorporation of West Kelowna, responsibility for cemetery operations transferred from the Westbank Irrigation District to the District of West Kelowna.

2014 — Updates to cemetery begin

Mausoleums and columbaria were installed, along with a wheelchair-accessible courtyard, viewing deck, railings and seating areas. Trees, shrubs and grass were planted, transforming the traditionally dry gravel cemetery into a landscaped memorial park.

2016 — Memorial gardens expansion

The cemetery expanded eastward with a memorial wall, ossuary, garden pathways and additional interment spaces.

2019 — Infrastructure improvements

The parking lot and access roads around the Memorial Gardens were paved.

2026 — 100 years of remembrance

Westbank Cemetery marks a century of recognized cemetery history.

Westbank CEMETERY

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Westbank CEMETERY

100 Years

2026 marks the 100th anniversary of Westbank Cemetery.

Join the City of West Kelowna and Westbank Museum to learn more about the lives and legacies of those who came before us

Virtual Tour

Scan to discover 100+ years of stories connected to the Westbank Cemetery.

Westbank Cemetery Tour

Discover the stories within

Explore Westbank Cemetery through a guided tour led by the Westbank Museum Executive Director, uncovering the stories that shaped the community. Alternatively, enjoy a self-guided tour to discover the cemetery's tales at your own pace (scan the QR code on front of brochure).

1. Bradford

Bradford was born in Ontario in 1859, lived briefly in North Dakota, and returned to Canada by 1916. He married Charlotte Cassels in her fifties, and by 1921, they were farming in Glenrosa. He passed away on April 3, 1926, and was buried on April 7, 1926.

2. Francis & Florence Dobbin

Francis “Art” Dobbin and Florence Dobbin contributed to their community by building an irrigation ditch, operating a sawmill, and starting a construction business. Florence managed the household, raised their children, cared for animals, and was known for feeding family and passersby during the Depression.

3. Edwin and Margaret Paynter

Edwin and Margaret Paynter significantly influenced the Westbank area's agricultural development by establishing the Westbank Irrigation District, actively participating in community services like the postal system and education, and leaving a lasting legacy with Paynter’s Fruit Market, which underscores the importance of water and agriculture for community growth.



Westbank Cemetery Map

For more information about these historic families, please contact the Westbank Museum at 250-768-0110 or info@westbankmuseum.com.

4. Milton and Eva Gorman

Milton and Eva Gorman moved to Glenrosa in 1914, starting a farm and joining Westbank’s agricultural community. They raised four children, including Helen, after whom Helen Gorman Elementary School is named. Following a destructive winter in 1949-50 that ruined their orchards, sons John and Ross began making fruit boxes, leading to the establishment of Gorman Bros. Lumber in 1951, which became a key player in the local forestry industry.

5. David and Dorothy Gellatly

David and Dorothy Gellatly were key figures in Westside's early history. David founded the Gellatly Nut Farm, now Gellatly Nut Farm Regional Park, while Dorothy was a pioneering historian, journalist, and fruit inspector who helped establish telephone service in the area. Their story illustrates the links between agriculture, communication, community life, and the evolving landscape of the Westside.

6. Herbert and Charlotte Last

The Last family concludes our exploration of Westbank Cemetery. Herbert Charles Last, born in 1864 in Ipswich, England, and his wife Charlotte Isabelle Hall, born in 1853 in Dorset, emigrated to Canada in 1909. They settled in Glencoe (now Glenrosa) after purchasing challenging farmland. Herbert opened a general store and post office in their home. In 1921, they moved to Westbank, establishing another store and a butcher shop.