



COLEMAN JACKSON/Special to Okanagan Saturday

## Time to pig out

Meat master Shane Macinnes of Smoke & Bones from North Vancouver shows off a full rack of ribs at the Penticton Rotary Ribfest on Friday at Okanagan Lake Park. There are 30 Rotary Ribfest events across Canada, but Penticton and Kamloops are the only two events in B.C. The three-day event continues today at 11 a.m.

## KELOWNA

# Liberals, Greens could work together to unseat current MP

By ANDREA PEACOCK  
Okanagan Saturday

Local members of the federal Green and Liberal parties are considering co-operating to ensure the unseating of the Conservatives in the upcoming election.

Dan Ryder, a Green Party member, initiated the idea for the party to co-nominate a candidate in the Oct. 19 federal election with another party.

“Co-nomination means that the same candidate is sponsored by two different parties,” said Ryder. “The idea is that both party logos would appear on all the signs and both platforms would be promoted.”

However, the Green Party name would likely not be on the ballot.

Stephen Fuhr, Liberal candidate for Kelowna-Lake Country, has agreed to work with the Green Party in this way.

He said the Greens and Liberals already agree on ideas such as evidence-based policy, electoral reform and climate change, so it makes sense to collaborate.

“I think there’s a real chance to make a difference in this riding,” said Fuhr.

“The Greens have zero chance of winning in this riding. If we work together, and they have input, it really helps them more.”

Ryder added, “If you put together Liberal and Green vote shares, you have a horse race there.”

Dianne Varga, an opponent of co-nomination, is concerned that the Greens will not be fairly represented, because the Liberals have announced they will whip votes in three categories: matters of confidence, election promises

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Liberal candidate Steven Fuhr

and charter issues.

“Why would we promote a deal whereby essentially the Liberals would be saying, ‘Go ahead and vote, and that will be the last vote you have because you’re not going to be fairly represented in the House of Commons?’”

She added, “A co-nominated MP would be a whipped MP.”

Although the Liberals are on board, the idea is not officially endorsed by the Green Party at this time, says Angela Nagy of the Kelowna federal Green Party.

“This is a community-led initiative,” said Nagy.

She is not confident that a Liberal MP would be able to adequately represent the Green Party in Ottawa.

“Even if Stephen (Fuhr) has the best intentions, he’s going to go and join 20 or 30 Liberal party members and try to affect change of great magnitude and scale,” she said.

“I think it’s very challenging, if not impossible, to represent two different party’s platforms.”

At this time, Nagy said she

would not support a co-nomination.

“I believe that we need to give not only Green Party members, but members of the community, the right to hear the Green Party platform from a dedicated Green Party candidate.”

Although there is no current plan to move forward with it, she said the Green Party will approach the issue with an open mind.

“We are a grassroots party, so if there’s enough interest and support from Green Party members that suggest they want to not elect a Green Party candidate and instead endorse another candidate, then that would have to be referred to the national party.”

Gary Adams, currently seeking Green Party nomination in the Kelowna-Lake Country riding is in favour of collaborating for a co-nomination with the Liberal Party.

“This is our best chance at this point to make an impact on the election coming up on Oct. 19 . . . because we would be able to work with the Liberal Party to combine our efforts to elect the Green-Liberal combination” said Adams.

If such an agreement were made between the two parties and he were to be chosen as the Green nominee, Adams said he would help the Liberals and encourage people to vote for Fuhr.

“I would run as a Green representative and help the Liberals with the idea that they’re getting a package and an agreement with the Liberals that I think will make Greens pretty happy.”

In the event of a co-nomination, Adams said there would be no Green name on the ballot, because it goes against Elections Canada regulations.

always pleasant. I think people will miss it.”

In September 2009, an outlet at Smartshopper Discount, also in the 200 block of Main Street was closed. Dan Albas, then a member of Penticton city council, collected more than 2,000 signatures opposing the closure. Several months later the coin shop took over the operation.

Customers can be served at three other outlets in Penticton, including Shoppers Drug Mart, London Drugs and the main post office at 56 Industrial Ave.

# Safety agency issues heat-stress warning

By ANDREA PEACOCK  
The Okanagan Saturday

With temperatures remaining well above 30 degrees this weekend and next week, WorkSafeBC has issued a heat stress alert for the Okanagan.

The alert is intended to raise awareness of the dangers of working in the heat and remind employees and employers to take caution.

“It gives employers an opportunity to adjust their working environment,” said Shawn Mitton, WorkSafeBC’s regional prevention manager, South Okanagan-Kootenay.

There is particular concern in this weather for people who work outside.

“Workers in the construction, transportation and forestry sectors comprised the majority of the 27 time-loss claims we had in B.C. last year.”

Those time-loss claims refer to time lost from work as a result of heat-related injuries.

Heat stress occurs when the body’s internal temperature increases faster than the body can cool itself, said Mitton.

Prevention can take the form of working in cooler parts of the day, taking frequent breaks in the shade and drinking lots of water, said Mitton.

“Every employer has the obligation to put those protective measures in place.”



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A construction worker stands on scaffolding during construction of the new Interior Health building in Kelowna.

## VALLEYINBRIEF

### Building stats up in Lake Country

Construction values in Lake Country are running about 25 per cent ahead of last year.

From January through June, building permits worth \$26.6 million were issued by the municipality. That compares to \$21.4 million during the first six months of 2014.

Single-family home construction accounts for the majority of new construction, with permits for 44 new homes collectively worth \$14.8 million. That compares with 27 new homes in the first half of 2014, worth just under \$10 million.

But stats for new commercial projects are down considerably, from \$4.5 million worth of new projects to the midpoint of last year to just \$350,000 so far in 2015.

### Film shooting in Kelowna this week

A feature film is set to begin shooting in Kelowna on Wednesday.

The film, Tomato Red, is adapted from the novel of the same name by Daniel Woodrell.

It is the story of two siblings and their ex-con sidekick leaving their small town to follow their dreams

in Hollywood.

Octagon Films, the producer of The Vikings, Calvary, Becoming Jane and others, is producing this movie.

Jon Summerland, Okanagan Film Commissioner, said he is pleased Octagon Films chose the Okanagan as its filming location.

“It will profile our region and location internationally,” he said.

### Highway 97 upgrades ongoing

Work is underway to upgrade Highway 97 in Lake Country.

Construction begins at Oceola Road. It includes constructing traffic islands to facilitate right turns at Oceola Road, a northbound acceleration lane onto Highway 97, raised centre medians, an extension of the northbound left turn lane, pedestrian crosswalks and a new signal with left turn advances.

“This project is an excellent way to make access into and through the community of Lake Country safer and more efficient for all travelers,” said Todd Stone, minister of transportation and infrastructure.

Drivers are advised to expect delays and are encouraged to check [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca) for current conditions.

Work is expected to be complete this fall.

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## PENTICTON

# Downtown postal outlet shutting in autumn

BY JAMES MILLER  
The Okanagan Saturday

For a second time in six years, Penticton’s downtown will be without a post office.

It was announced in a notice posted at the outlet that operations will cease at the 210 Main St., location on Friday, Sept. 11 at noon.

The downtown outlet operated with one employee, plus a handful of part-timers since March 2010 when it shared space with Bluenose Coins and

Precious Metals.

The announcement caught many in the downtown by surprise.

“I’m shocked, really, I thought they were doing quite well,” said Roz Campigotto, manager of The Book Shop.

“It’s going to be a hell of an inconvenience for people who live and work in the downtown. We used it for mail orders, not as much as we once did, but it was quick and we just ran down the block. The service was excellent, always very accommodating and