



Call for Councillors

Notice for Sonoma Pines Residents

In preparation for the upcoming Annual General (AGM), the Sonoma Pines Homeowners Association is seeking expressions of interest from homeowners as Council members and/or, committee members for the coming year. Currently, Sonoma Pines is a community of 435 housing units and once completed in early 2016 will have 495 units. Our proposed operating budget for the coming year is approximately \$1.5 million. As a member of Council you will be in a position to directly influence the priorities and future of our community.

In order to ensure that Sonoma Pines residents have some time to review the information submitted by candidates, we ask that you forward your profile to the Chair of the Welcoming, Volunteer and Elections Committee, JoAnne Luchka at joluchka@gmail.com by May 15. Homeowners may still put their name forward as a candidate, or nominate candidates at the AGM on June 4th, but we feel advance notice of candidacy allows all homeowners to become familiar with those interested in Council positions.

We know our residents possess many skills that could add value to our growing

community. We are seeking individuals who have experience in any of the following areas: finance, accounting, engineering, government and general management. Council meetings typically occur once each month on the first Thursday beginning at 9:00 a.m and concluding at 11:00 am. Preparation time for meetings usually requires a couple of hours. In addition, Council members can get involved by participating on a subcommittee or becoming involved with various community improvement projects.

If you have the passion to work within a team environment to maintain our prestigious community, and are interested in any of the above areas, please use the [attached page](#) to tell us something about yourself. Information on interested candidates will be published prior to our Annual General Meeting in June. Any of the current council members are more than willing to talk with anyone regarding roles on council:

- Rob Taylor (250) 768-8926
- John Scott (250) 681-5681
- Charlie Milazzo (778) 754-1000
- Karen Dickie (778) 754-2286
- Jo Luchka (250) 300-6504



"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom"

We are looking for 2 – 3 extraordinarily charming gardeners, who have a green thumb and enjoy making our souls blossom. We need you to plan, plant and nurture our garden at the entrance of our community for the 2015 season. It is a small area that borders the golf course at the corner of Mesa Vista and Sonoma Pines Drive.

If you would like to help plan, plant and nurture this garden throughout the season, please contact the us, and we will happily give you details and available funding for this important part of our community. We will work with you to achieve your goal.

Thank you, the Sonoma Pines Landscaping Committee.
Please send your email to the Landscaping Committee Chair, "karendickie@shaw.ca"

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Sonoma Pines Website and Sonoma Sun Newsletter

www.sonomapines.info

You can check here for most recent articles on the community, back issues of the newsletter, or copies of Council minutes and financial statements. Some pages are password protected so use sonomapines and you should be fine. If there is something that you would like to see on the site or in the Newsletter please email us at sonomapinesnews@gmail.com.



Sonoma Pines Advertisers

This Issue we are devoting space to our two supporting advertisers, Ron LeStage of BMO Nesbitt Burns, Private Client Division and Steve Corothers, Owner of Home Hardware in West Kelowna. Their advertising in 'Sonoma Sun' has made it possible for your Communications Committee to bring the monthly issues to your computer screen. We thank you very much, Ron and Steve!!! From my point of view they were both an absolute pleasure for me to interview.



Steve and Sara Corothers are the owners of Home Hardware. They are one of two advertisers in our 'Sonoma Sun' Newspaper - the ones that give us a 5% discount on purchases in their store. Didn't you ask for your Sonoma Pines discount when you checked out at the till? Half the time I forget but Steve reminded me during our interview. How else will he know if advertising in the SS is worthwhile?

Steve and his wife are local business owners, live in Peachland, have a 2 year old daughter and another member of their family due in September. Sara who is completing a Masters in Counselling Psychology (finishes June 2016) also teaches approximately 2 days a week. Busy Westsiders!

Service is their forte! and their store has a Gold Store Rating. Nobody asked me or I'd have given them 2 Gold stars because everytime I go into their store a staff person is always more than willing to help me find or order what I want. Service like Home Hardware's in West Kelowna just simply doesn't happen in a lot of places these days.

Steve & Sara's store will soon (within 2 months) be offering in-store tool sharpening and sharpening of kitchen knives. Their Home Hardware will soon become a Fed-Ex Shipping Centre. I asked Steve to name 5 things that his Home Hardware is known for - here they are - (1) Beauti-Tone Paint (which is owned by Home Hardware) is the #1 rated paint in Canada. (2) Yard maintenance & Garden supplies. (3) Free assembly & delivery on any barbecue purchased at Home Hardware. (4) Purified water & key cutting & car chip keys (you'll probably save quite a bit over dealer prices). (5) Home cleaning supplies.

We don't have to worry about price comparison shopping. Steve Corothers does it for us. Every now and again he

goes around and checks to see what his competitors are charging for merchandise. Steve says, "if we're priced a little more on one item, we're less on the next." One does not need to think that because Home Hardware is smaller than some of the big box stores around that the prices will be higher at Home Hardware. Just not so I was assured! Also, if you're on Facebook, just 'Like' Home Hardware West Kelowna to receive their specials. Power tools (DeWalt, Makita, Milwaukee, Black & Decker) all go on sale from time to time as well as their small appliances.

My last question concerned being able to buy something as a gift at the West Kelowna Home Hardware and then having a friend or family member pick up the present at their local Home Hardware. "Glad to do that anytime," Steve said, "We certainly do that."

Service is their Forte! Thanks to Steve & Sara for advertising in "Sonoma Sun." Great Service from one of our Sonoma Sun Advertisers, and thanks for a really pleasant interview too, Steve!

Golf Tournament & Dinner Announced



Bookings for the Sunday September 20 SP golf tournament & dinner are now available. The game will be limited to 80 players (20 teams of 4) with T-times starting at 1 pm. If you don't have your own foursome, we'll put teams together. The organizing committee is finalizing the 'form of play', but will ensure fun for players of all skill levels including novices. This will be a 'rain or shine' event.

A catered gourmet dinner with tastes to suit everyone will be served at the SP Clubhouse that evening. This year's event will be BYOB. Though it reduces the proceeds for the fund-raising event, it results in a lower overall cost for the participants and creates less work for the already-busy volunteers. Fun prizes will be available for everyone to win.

Bookings are limited to SP residents only. The dinner-only option is available for 15 non-golfers and only to those of golfing spouses/partners. Golf & dinner prices are \$75 and the dinner only for \$40. To avoid disappointment, make your bookings now (cash or cheque only) by calling Jean Scheidl tel# 778-754-1884 or Hazel Wolski tel# 250-768-3546.

Important dates for homeowners

SPHOA Council Meeting

May 7 at 9:00 am at the Clubhouse

SPHOA Town Hall

Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 am
We will discuss the planned 2015/16 Sonoma Pines Budget

SPHOA Annual General Meeting

June 4 at 6:00 pm
Lions Hall 2466 Main St, Westbank, BC
Your notice package will be mailed to you in May

Letters



Please send your comments and letters to sonomapinesnews@gmail.com



Locally owned and operated by Steve & Sara Corothers

Check out our website at www.homehardware.ca OR

Visit us beside Save-On Foods,

Tell us you live in Sonoma Pines to save 5%

Proud sponsor of the Sonoma Sun

Store Hours
Monday to Saturday
8:30AM - 5:30PM
Sunday & Holidays
10AM - 4PM
250-768-3125



Ron LeStage has been in the Investment Business for over 20 years and he absolutely loves what he does. Investment Planning and Retirement Planning are not just work to Ron; there's a sparkle in his eyes when he talks about his day to day at BMO Nesbitt Burns. There seems to be a positive energy exchange between Ron and his work. He works at offices in West Kelowna, Kelowna and Penticton. If that's not enough he goes back "by popular demand" to see clients in White Rock, BC twice a year to oversee their portfolios. It is obvious that he really cares about his clients. And as for his professional qualifications, frames hold his degrees and certificates all along one wall in his office.

I learned a lot from Ron just doing the interview. I asked about TFSAs & possible changes, fees charged, minimum amount preferred in a client's portfolio (\$250,000), preferred shares - he answered every question patiently and in layman's terms so that I could understand. [I didn't confess to having been a Stockbroker myself for several years until later in the interview, which brought forth one of Ron's hearty laughs.] Ron is not restricted at all and can handle all forms of investment vehicles which surprised me. Attachments to one bank have usually meant the investment vehicles offered were all 'in house'. I asked him if he'd consider doing a presentation in our Clubhouse at Sonoma Pines if he were to be asked. The answer was affirmative and I for one would love to listen to what Ron has to say and be able to ask questions - while not conducting an interview.

I learned that Ron's working life began as a Commercial Fisherman in the French Creek/Parksville area of Vancouver Island. He fished the whole West Coast for herring, black cod..."you name it", he said. But he always knew he wanted to be in the investment business and he has worked very, very hard to make that happen starting in 1992 at Malaspina

College in Nanaimo studying Business Economics. Next he entered Simon Fraser University in Burnaby and finally worked his way up through the investment business to where he is now. Ron LeStage is a husband, father and grandfather too. As a "kid" he visited his grandparents in Winfield and always had a dream of ending up here in the Okanagan.

The last and most unusual thing I want to mention about our Advertiser, Ron LeStage, was that he asked me if I'd like to talk to any of his clients who would be prepared to do so. "Yes," I said, "first names only please". And when they called me I heard the most glowing reports from some clients about dealing with Ron. He definitely has some very satisfied clients and a lot of hard earned money under his care. One man who is an avid golfer told me that "Ron golfs only about three times a year, you know. Just after I met Ron he went to a charity golf tournament and got a hole in one and won a car at the same tournament". Wonderful!

SPRING FLING

POTLUCK DINNER/DANCE

SATURDAY MAY 9TH 2015
COCKTAILS: 6:00-7:00pm DINNER: 7:00 - 8:00pm
DANCE: 8:00 - 11:00PM



Bring your favourite dish to share, put on your dancing shoes and join us for an evening of good friends and good music
 Door Prizes and Raffle

RSVP TO LORNA WRIGHT lorna-wright@shaw.ca 250-452-9872 or
 SHARON MCNICHOL mcnicholgs@gmail.com 778-754-0777
 THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 80 PEOPLE

Landscaping Update April 27, 2015

United Landscaping started the 2015 season on April 1 in Sonoma Pines. They have been working on spring clean up and the irrigation systems should all be on by the end of this week.

Please take a look at the bulletin board in front of the clubhouse to see the revised work process and task lists for the United Crew. (will be posted May 3) The owner Ken, and Shelly our Customer Representative have provided us with a new work plan that will eliminate uncertainty of what needs to be done/completed and importantly to manage the crew more closely for completion on time.

The plan is to work our community in sections and when you view the charts posted on the bulletin board you will see when your home and area will have work tasks in progress. These tasks will include fertilization, weed control, pruning, and vertical edging.

In 30 days we will do a walk through the community with United to review progress and refine the process where needed.

The Landscaping Guideline update has now been posted on [our website](#) under the Landscaping tab. You will also note we have posted recommended shrubs, perennials, grasses and woody ornaments. Any suggestions for the landscaping committee are welcomed through the comment section within the website.

Thank you,
 The Landscaping Committee



Markets may change. Good investing advice is timeless.

Ron Le Stage, CIM, FCSI
 Investment Advisor, Financial Planner

Author of *Westside Weekly's Smart Money*
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www.lestageinvestmentgroup.com

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Call to Artists, Sonoma Pines Art Appreciation

Art Appreciation will be the theme of our Clubhouse Happy Hour on Friday July 31. Sonoma Pines is a treasure trove of artistic talent that deserves to be recognized and exhibited to our neighbours and friends. Last year's event though held on very short notice, was wildly popular so this year we intend to make it even better. All SP artists are invited to submit their original work (ceramics, jewelry, photography, painting, quilting, woodcraft, etc.).

Please send your expression of interest by June 30 (include your name, tel #, e-mail, type of art) to edndenise@telus.net (include 'SP Art Appreciation' in subject line) or call Ed Dorosz 778-754-1238 for more info.

Painting Club

Our new Painting Club will be meeting every Thursday starting April 14th, from 9:00am – noon, in the clubhouse multi-purpose room. It is an opportunity for painters in all mediums and at all levels to meet

and share their art creation experience. “By sharing and encouraging we all make good paintings better.”

The contact person is Glen Heming [250-768-0991](tel:250-768-0991), and his email address is glenheming@telus.net



Sonoma Pines Ladies Night



Don't Forget to RSVP for your spot at the Sonoma Pines Ladies Night on Wednesday, May 6th, for a Fun Night of Wine and Appies and shopping with 18 Local Vendors. RSVP to Jean @ [250-826-3249](tel:250-826-3249) or jean.wandler@gmail.com

TAKE A HIKE WITH US!

The Directors of the Gellatly Bay Trails and Parks Society (GBTAPS) extend an invitation to come out and join them for our annual fundraiser March for Parks.

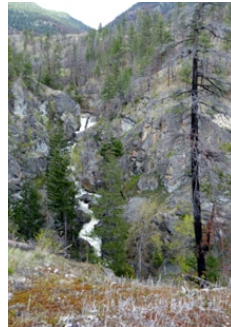
The event takes place on SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2015

Registration 8:30 am at the Gellatly Nut Farm

2375 Whitworth Road, West Kelowna ~ Hikes start at 9:00 am

You have a choice of three hikes:

THE EASY HIKE - PINCUSHION PLACE



A family hike for all ages across the gentle slopes above Peachland along portions of the old Fur Brigade Trail. Enjoy the waterfall on Trepanier Creek and the old irrigation dam. This hike provides spectacular vistas of Peachland and Okanagan Lake. Hiking or sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Water and snacks are encouraged. Estimated time to complete the hike 1.5 hours. Hikers are expected to carpool to the trailhead.

THE INTERMEDIATE HIKE – GLEN CANYON REGIONAL PARK TRAIL



This hike is recommended for physically fit hikers/walkers and takes you along the much improved trails along lower Glen Canyon Regional Park. Hikers will depart from the Gellatly Nut farm and enter the park by the new Brown Road entrance. Hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes are recommended. There is no access to drinking water on this hike. Caution must be exercised while walking along the uncontrolled section of Gellatly Road. Estimated time to complete this hike 2.5 hours.

THE CHALLENGING HIKE – PINCUSHION MOUNTAIN



This hike is recommended for serious back country hikers and accesses some of the most spectacular scenic vistas in the Okanagan Valley. Hiking distance is approximately 4 kilometres with an elevation gain of 260 metres. There are a number of steep sections and hiking boots and hiking poles are recommended. There is no access to water on this trail. Estimated time to complete this hike is 3.5 hours.

Hikers are expected to carpool to the trail head.

If you have further questions contact:

John Reddick

PH: 250 768 4350

EMAIL: john_reddick@shaw.ca

Website: www.westsidetrails.ca



Kimberly Burns and Naomi Kay

We at Sonoma Pines know that as soon as the last house has been built Rykon will be pulling up stakes and saying farewell. The Communications Committee thought that a farewell and thank you to Kimberly Burns, Project Manager and Naomi Kay, Colour and Finish Consultant would be in order.

Kimberly Burns grew up in construction, she told me. Her family had a construction business and Kimberly worked in it from the time she was old enough. When in Grade 12 she was already in a supervisory position. She started her studies in Construction at Okanagan College (Tracking & Estimating, Commercial & Residential) in Salmon Arm, and most recently graduated with a Masters of Science with Honors in Project Management from the University of Liverpool in the U.K. She managed to complete her MSc in less than two years - it usually takes three or more years. Having just tied the knot in June, she and new husband Matt combined the graduation ceremony of her Masters degree in England with a honeymoon in Scotland, making it a dual purpose trip to the U.K. this past summer!

I asked Kimberly how long it usually takes to complete one home. Her reply was "Typically eight months, from contract to possession." She works with a "great team" here at Sonoma Pines, she says. Kimberly manages the overall process that each new home follows from start to finish: gathering specs and client wishes with the Sales Team (Harty and Leah), honing these details through her staff in Estimating, Interior Design and Administration (Mitch, Naomi and Sherri), and translating this information into blueprints and specifications for the Construction Managers (Al and Doug) to build! She also oversees the marketing efforts and represents the developer and builder on the SPHOA council. One of Kimberly's favourite things about her job here at SP is that she personally does the

pre-occupancy walk throughs with the new owners upon completion. Time and time again, she hears from new homeowners how they are thrilled with the quality of the construction and finishings of their new home, and are excited to join this gorgeous community. "It's a happy occasion, and we're excited for them!" she says.

Kimberly told me that there are lots of repeat buyers here. In fact, she says, there are some people on their third home at SP. They downsize, upsize or want a new view or new design features. Many purchasers are referred by friends and family that live here. There are currently 5 homes under construction for repeat SP residents, and 7 underway for the friends or relatives of recent buyers, which is a great reflection on how much people enjoy being here, says Kimberly. At the time of interview, we discussed the last homes now being built and there is one very special one coming up in Phase 10. Lot 1015 is a spacious custom stand alone home with walk-out basement. It's on Candalera Place, with high end finishes and lake, golf course and Mission Hill views. Here's your chance!

Kimberly reminds all of us that the Residents BBQ hosted annually by Rykon is on Friday, July 24th, at the clubhouse. She hopes to see us all there so she can say farewell... as Kimberly will be off on Maternity Leave starting in September. We wish this accomplished woman all the best!!!

Naomi Kay has been at Sonoma Pines since 2012. She has assisted new home buyers at SP with selection of every detail of their interior design, including wall colours, kitchen cupboards and appliances. Naomi does this in two parts - at the first appointment her client makes choices, then there is a time lapse before the second appointment to confirm or make changes. Naomi says it's so much

fun to watch people get excited! She has worked with 123 clients at SP and says there will be up to 25 more to go. I asked Naomi how she came to be in this career and she said it was out of personal experience. Her home was burned in the big Okanagan Mountain Fire a few years ago and she had to start all over again doing her home from start to finish. She decided that she would like to help others with the knowledge she had gained in the process so she enrolled in the Interior Design Program at Okanagan College and became an Interior Designer.

I asked Naomi about current trends. She says "colour" is trending right now - "brights" (green, orange, tangerine, cobalt, red, yellow, turquoise). Greige and neutrals are still popular on the walls but bright pops of colour in accessories are important. Her personal choice is Classic and Timeless "it just doesn't date itself." To help me understand what she meant she pointed out that three designs here at SP are the San Marco (Transitional), the Miranda (Contemporary) and the Tucson (Traditional).

Kimberly says she loves her work here at Sonoma Pines with Rykon and the great team she's with every day. They don't know exactly where they'll be building next but Rykon can always be reached at their main number if you need their assistance or have questions in the future. Kim's probably just dying to meet the future owners of Lot 1015 Candalera Place and get going!!! Time to trade up, anyone???

*Special Thanks
to Mary Trueman
of Sonoma Pines*

for the articles on Steve Corothers,
Ron LeStage and
Naomi and Kimberly.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
					Sonoma Pines Ladies Golf 1	2					
3	Men's Golf Back Nine and Breakfast 7am Yoga 9am	4	Quilting Club 9am - 12pm LL Cribbage 7pm	5	Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Canasta 7pm	6	Men's Golf Back Nine 7am Painting Club LL 9am SPHOA Council Meeting UL 9am Cleaning UL 12pm Mah Jong 1pm	7	Sonoma Pines Ladies Golf 8	9	Spring Fling Potluck Dinner at The Clubhouse 6pm
10	Men's Golf Back Nine and Breakfast 7am Yoga 9am	11	Quilting Club 9am - 12pm LL Cribbage 7pm	12	Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Canasta 7pm	13	Men's Golf Back Nine 7am Painting Club LL 9am Mah Jong 1pm Camera Club 1:30pm	14	Sonoma Pines Ladies Golf 15	16	
17	Men's Golf Back Nine and Breakfast 7am Yoga 9am	18	Quilting Club 9am - 12pm LL Cribbage 7pm	19	Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Canasta 7pm	20	Men's Golf Back Nine 7am Painting Club LL 9am Mah Jong 1pm	21	Sonoma Pines Ladies Golf 22	23	Happy Hour 4-8pm
24/31	Men's Golf Back Nine and Breakfast 7am Yoga 9am	25	Quilting Club 9am - 12pm LL Cribbage 7pm	26	Yoga 9am Canasta 1pm Canasta 7pm	27	Men's Golf Back Nine 7am Painting Club LL 9am Mah Jong 1pm Camera Club 1:30pm	28	29	30	

Upcoming Special Events

May 6th
SP LADIES NIGHT
4pm - 8pm

May 7
SPHOA Council Meeting
9am

May 9
Spring Fling Potluck Dinner at The Clubhouse



June 4
SPHOA AGM 6pm

June 13
3RD ANNUAL SONOMA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
8am - 2pm.

September 20
Sonoma Pines Golf Tourney

Sonoma Pines Activities & Contacts

Clubhouse Cleaning every Sunday.

Upper from 11am to 2pm
Lower from 2 to 4:30pm
Gym from 2 to 4:30pm

Photography Club

Lyle and Karen Larrigan
250-768-2555
heritageimaging@shaw.ca

Quilting

Gaye Hunter at
250 768-0996

Painting Club

Glen Heming
[250-768-0991](tel:250-768-0991)
glenheming@telus.net

If you are interested in past copies of the Newsletter or more information on The Sonoma Pines Community please check out the website at: sonomapines.info