

Von Krosigk to chair wine festival board



Special to The Daily Courier

The Okanagan Wine Festivals Society has elected Eric von Krosigk as president of its board of directors.

"Having spent several years as a board member for the Okanagan Wine Festivals, I was keen to take on the role of president," said von Krosigk, owner of EVK Winery Consulting and winemaker at Summerhill Pyramid Winery.

He said the society has a strong team of co-ordinators focusing on wine tourism in the Thompson Okanagan and Similkameen.

"With such growth in the number of wineries in the region and an increasing awareness of Okanagan Wine Country throughout the world, our board looks forward to an exciting year ahead," said von Krosigk.

The society plans to expand its

Summer Okanagan Wine Festival in 2011 while introducing new events to the winter, spring and fall festivals.

Other directors include:

Erik Fisher — Calona Vineyards/Peller Estates/Sandhill.

Roger Wong — Intrigue Wines/Gray Monk Estate Winery.

Tony Stewart — Quails' Gate Estate Winery.

Brooke Munday — Road 13 Vineyards.

Blair Dufty — Red Rooster Winery.
George Hanson — Seven Stones Winery.

Willy Sharpe — Sumac Ridge Estate Winery.

Martin Lewis — Kettle Valley Station Pub.

Christa-lee McWatters Bond — Local Hospitality Group.

Heather Schroeter — Manteo Resort.

Rhys Pender — Wine Plus+.

Dissidents put party 1st at NDP fundraiser in Penticton

By JOE FRIES

Special to The Daily Courier

Three men at the centre of the infighting dogging the provincial NDP appeared together Wednesday to begin pushing the party out of the political muck, even as they adjust to their new realities.

New Democrat MLAs Norm Macdonald and Harry Lali, along with now-independent MLA Bob Simpson, made their pitches Wednesday at a party fundraiser at the Dream Cafe in Penticton.

Simpson, the representative for Cariboo North who was booted from caucus in October for questioning the party leadership, said he has ceased efforts to rejoin the group and yet saw no problem appearing at an NDP fundraiser.

"Even if I was a Liberal or a Conservative or a Green, if they asked me to come talk about how politics should change, I'd be here in a heartbeat."

Simpson, whose departure sparked a row within the party and led to rebuffed calls for a leadership convention in 2011, said MLAs are tired of being mere "win-



Macdonald



Simpson

ning for somebody's power play." Macdonald, the MLA for Columbia River-Revelstoke who last week resigned his post as caucus chair to protest Simpson's ejection, is pushing for the NDP to start making decisions based on the 12 principles set out in its Sustainable B.C. manifesto, rather than what will play well at the polls.

Despite his apparent dissatisfaction, Macdonald insisted the best place for him to effect change is within the NDP fold.

"I still think, to be effective, I have to work within a structure with other people, and that's part of the struggle that

I'm going through trying to make that work," he said.

"There's still an obligation to work for the people who elected me."

Fraser-Nicola MLA Lali, meanwhile, was outed as a so-called "dissident" at party meetings last weekend as one of the 13 caucus members who wanted the leadership convention. The contrarians were identified when they refused to wear yellow scarves that represented support for leader Carole James.

Lali called the scarves a "stupid idea" and "a betrayal."

"No one has taken responsibility for it, no one has apologized for it, and that doesn't sit well with me," he said, fuming.

Still, the veteran politician refused to state outright whether he still has confidence in James.

"It's a no-comment question," he said.

Regardless, Lali said, it's time for the NDP to "renew and rebuild... and I think the only way we can do that is to open debate, open dialogue and also through a leadership convention in 2011."

Water a precious resource, says survey

87 per cent surveyed believe fresh water is important to quality of life

By DON PLANT
The Daily Courier

Most people in the Southern Interior say fresh water is the province's most precious resource, but few of us want to pay for it, according to a new telephone survey.

Eighty-seven per cent of those polled in the region believe fresh water is extremely important to prosperity and quality of life in B.C. Yet only three in 10 support charging a fee for household water use to encourage conservation.

Anna Warwick Sears is not surprised. The executive director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board said the way the question was framed, it sounds like most people condemn the idea of paying for their water.

"It makes it look like people are against paying more if they use more (water), and

that's not true," she said Wednesday. "The survey says... we think government should regulate it more."

"The public is happy to have government target tax dollars to protect the water resource."

World Wildlife Fund Canada and the Vancouver Foundation commissioned the McAllister opinion poll as the government prepares to modernize B.C.'s century-old Water Act. Pollsters called 835 adults at random across the province in late October.

Eighty-nine per cent of British Columbians support stricter rules for managing industrial and municipal water. The same amount prefer that homeowners pay for their drinking water through taxes over user fees.

In the Southern Interior, three in four residents said that after drinking water, the top priority during water shortages must be protecting plants, fish and wildlife — even if it means slowing economic growth.

Seventeen per cent of respondents in the region said jobs and the economy

should be the priority, even if plants, fish and wildlife suffer.

The breakdown shows having clean water protects the economy, said Warwick Sears.

"You look at places where water's been trashed and no one wants to live there."

The Okanagan and other semi-arid parts of the Southern Interior appear to be worried about water shortages in the next 10 years.

The region showed the most concern about the potential impact on habitats for aquatic life like salmon and trout (64 per cent), water levels in aquifers and groundwater (45 per cent) and outdoor recreation (15 per cent).

Okanagan surveys show a similar trend, said Warwick Sears.

"Everyone knows somebody who is running out of groundwater. People in this region are the most sensitive to the possibility of water shortages."

The findings are considered accurate to within 3.4 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The government is expected to enact the new legislation by 2012.

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- Poppa Dawg**
Thurs. Nov. 25th - Sat. Nov. 27th, 8:00 PM - The Minstrel Cafe & Bar
- Theatre Kelowna Presents: PETER PAN**
Fri. Nov. 26th - Sun, Dec. 5th - Kelowna Community Theatre
- Yoga 4 Life Wellness Yoga**
Mon. November 29th, 6:00 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Venus on Fire Mars on Ice**
Mon. November 29th, 7:00 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Emily West**
Mon. November 29th, 8:00 PM - The Minstrel Cafe & Bar
- Sage-ing - Relax into Art**
Tues. November 30th, 9:30 AM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Tim Buckley and The Tim.buck.two**
Tues. November 30th, 8:00 PM - The Minstrel Cafe & Bar
- Yoga 4 Life Wellness Yoga**
Wed. December 1st, 6:00 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Bellydance Wednesdays**
Wed. December 1st, 6:45 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Sage-ing Through Sculpture**
Wed. December 1st, 7:00 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Kelowna City Band Presents: The Joyful Sounds of Christmas**
Wed. December 1st, 7:30 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts
- Sizzling Salsa Thursdays (drop-in)**
Thurs. December 2nd, 8:00 PM - Rotary Centre for the Arts

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