

# Year in review

2014 FROM A8

populated areas.

## AUGUST

- Local RCMP enrol a remote-controlled drone into the ranks, to assist with traffic accident reconstruction and analysis.

- A voting snafu saw the Rutland Park Society have to say no to \$800,000 from Kelowna to buy the park from the society, with the money used to fix up the aging Rutland Centennial Hall. There were not enough society members at the meeting to make up the 75 per cent required to accept the deal. The city had another \$400,000 ready to make improvements on the park, which had fallen into disrepair and some disrepute in recent years. Opponents to the sale were adamant the deal would ruin the park, turning it into a bus loop for public transit. A second vote passed in October and the park was sold to Kelowna.

- Following the tailings pond breach at Mt. Polley mine near Likely B.C. this summer, it was made clear that Brenda Mine above Peachland is under provincial rules that require it to inspect, make a report and have the findings independently verified. Though Brenda has been closed for decades, its owners are required to inspect the dam every year as part of its permit to treat the water it contains.

- Breaking the \$50,000 barrier in just three hours, the Maxine DeHart United Way-Ramada Hotel Breakfast Drive-thru came through again in support of the United Way fundraising campaign.

- Two of three people involved in hijacking cars and shooting at police during a July 2012 chase north along Westside Road received their sentences; Ashley Collins was found to be a drug addict in with the wrong people but did not take part in the shooting. She was given an 18-month suspended sentence and 18 months probation. Shawn Wysynski was wearing gloves during the event so could not be directly associated with a weapon and was given a nine year sentence. Michael Ellis faced

- Retiring Kelowna mayor Walter Gray was rewarded by the province for his civic service by being appointed

## SEPTEMBER

- Robert Barr appointed executive director of the Okanagan Symphony Society.
- At its AGM, an environmental lawyer told the Okanagan Basin Water Board that First Nation water rights supersede all municipality and water licences issued in B.C.

- A 52-hectare piece of land, encompassing Goat's Peak on the Westside and 900 metres of Okanagan Lake waterfront were made a regional park in September. It preserves kokanee spawning areas and forms part of a continuous trail between W.R. Bennett Bridge and Peachland.

- United Airlines commences daily, year-round, non-stop flights to San Francisco from Kelowna International Airport.

- The Central Okanagan unveiled its 31st regional park—Black Mountain/Sntsk'il'ten.



It was yet another year in the Central Okanagan in which motor vehicle accidents occurred throughout the past 12 months, sometimes with fatal consequences.

At 510 hectares, it will be co-managed by the regional district and Westbank First Nation.

## OCTOBER

- A plan to redevelop the Capri Centre mall shows an outdoor skating rink, public plaza, park, a mix of 2,200 residences in six- to 26-storey buildings as well as commercial and retail businesses. The 220-room Capri Hotel would remain the same. R.G. Properties owns the mall.

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- 22 charges including attempted murder and appear in court in December. Testifying at Ellis's trial, Wysynski changed his story, saying he was in control all the time and threatened his accomplices with being shot if they didn't obey him. Having already been convicted he was immune from further prosecution other than perjury.

## NOVEMBER

- Cesar Rosales, an employee at Kelowna Flightcraft, was murdered on a Kelowna bus. It was a random attack. Tyler Jack Newton was charged with second degree murder.

- Long-time Kelowna city councillors Robert Hobson and Andre Blaneil both retire from politics, joining Mayor Walter Gray on the sidelines for the November civic election. And on Nov. 15, a new era in Kelowna opened with the election of one-term city councillor Colin Basran as mayor. Incumbent mayors Doug Findlater in West Kelowna and James Baker in Lake Country were re-elected.

- Retiring Kelowna mayor Walter Gray was rewarded by the province for his civic service by being appointed

- chairman of ICBC.
- Mental illness played a pivotal role in the trial of Conor Frederick Grossman for the hammer bludgeoning murder of his mother in 2012. He was found not criminally responsible due to his psychosis and was sent to a psychiatric hospital in Coquitlam.

- Residents of Peachland were furious at power outages after a severe storm swept through the area. Outgoing mayor Keith Fielding said BC Hydro had to get its act together.

## DECEMBER

- As construction continued on the Interior Heart and Surgery Centre at Kelowna General Hospital, the foundation needed a few million dollars more in donations to fully equip the high-tech ORs.

- After a few years of being chased by the Okanagan Basin Water Board, the federal government stepped up with funds to stop invasive mussel species from being introduced into B.C. waters, carried on boats trailered in over border crossings.

- Controversy brewed in Lake Country over how much residents there will have to pay

## TOYS"R"US

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Rocker Gaming Chair (sku 062540), Steel 72" Hockey Goal (sku 911607), 30" Blue Fire Tire Acoustic Guitar (sku 123846) are not available in some stores.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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