

KELOWNA POLITICS

Over support for Basran widespread, results show

Kelowna's incumbent mayor won each polling station in civic election by comfortable margin

By RON SEYMOUR
The Daily Courier

Mayor Colin Basran won every polling station in Kelowna with margins of victory that ranged from comfortable to overwhelming.

Basran drew the most votes at each of the 22 advance and general polls, winning an absolute majority at all but three of them.

Perhaps not surprisingly for the incumbent mayor, Basran's level of support was strongest at the polls set up inside City Hall. At the City Hall voting stations, which were used by municipal employees as well as the public, Basran won 65 per cent of all ballots cast.

Across Kelowna, Basran won 57 per cent of all votes, compared to 30 per cent for businessman Tom Dyas, to earn a second four-year term of office.

Basran's level of support was also particularly notable at polling stations set up at the Capital News Centre (64 per cent of all votes) and at UBC Okanagan (also 64 per cent).

Although he lives in the Lower Mission, Dyas launched his mayoral campaign from the heart of Rutland, at Roby Square along Highway 33. At the Rutland polling stations, Dyas did somewhat better than in other areas of Kelowna.

For example, Dyas got 36 per cent of votes cast at Rutland Senior Secondary School compared to Basran's 47 per cent.

And at the Hollywood Road Education Centre advance and general polls, Dyas won 34 per cent of all ballots while Basran drew 48 per cent.

There was a reversal from the 2014 election, when the only poll Basran lost was the mobile one taken around to the hospital and other care facilities. This



RON SEYMOUR/The Daily Courier

Results of the Kelowna civic election were being confirmed Monday afternoon at City Hall in a process overseen by chief election officer Karen Neesham, centre foreground. Candidates or their representatives could attend the meeting. The results are expected to be declared official today.

time, he easily won the so-called "Special Voting" poll, with 60 per cent of all votes cast at RGH and nine residential care facilities compared to just 23 per cent of the votes for Dyas.

Skateboard shop owner Bobby Kennedy, who finished third in the race for mayor, drew eight per cent of votes citywide and about 11 per cent in Rutland.

Bob Schwede, a retired city bylaw officer, got five per cent of votes citywide.

All seven city councillors who sought re-election were returned to office, with most of them placing among the top eight finishers in each of the advance and general polls. Loyal Woodridge was the sole newcomer elected to council.

Contenders Graeme James, Gord Lovegrove and Amarjit Singh Lalli cracked the top eight in a few polling stations, but all three finished well back of Woodridge overall.

Beer, wings night in aid of efforts by Rotary group to wipe out polio

By Daily Courier Staff

A local Rotary group is hosting an event this evening in support of eradicating polio around the world.

A beer and wings night will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the 97 Street Pub in the Best Western Plus in Kelowna.

It will be a casual event, with entry by donation.

All funds raised will go to Rotary's fight to vaccinate children against polio.

Volunteers will be on site to provide information about polio and the work Rotary International does around the world.

Oct. 24 is World Polio Day, and Rotary International will be hosting a livestream event at 3:30 p.m. at endpolio.org.

Rotary launched its polio eradication program in 1986 through the mass vaccination of children.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries.

"There are still young children in the world that are being subjected to this just because some countries don't have access to clean water," said Sheila Persepalkin, president of a local Rotary club. "It seems such a tragedy."

There are currently three countries that have never stopped the transmission of the polio virus: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

"This was an epidemic that, with much effort, we've been able to get some level of control on it, but... if we don't take interest from our past successes, we may not be able to deter future calamities," said Persepalkin. "Our history can become our future if we're not careful."



Special to The Daily Courier

Central Okanagan Search and Rescue members prepare to transport an injured hiker off Pincushon Mountain on Saturday.

COSAR called to help with 2 rescues Saturday

Central Okanagan Search and Rescue was called out Saturday morning to assist Peachland Fire Rescue in rescuing an injured woman from the summit of Pincushon Mountain above Peachland.

The 46-year-old was hiking with family when she slipped and broke her ankle. Firefighters started carrying the woman downhill on a stretcher before they were met by COSAR.

Search and Rescue had a TrailRider backwoods access wheelchair, which is a single-wheeled wheelchair with handles for carrying and steering.

The patient was transferred to the TrailRider and brought two kilometres to the waiting ambulance. She was transported to hospital in Kelowna.

Eleven firefighters and 11 COSAR volunteers attended the scene.

Later Saturday, COSAR was tasked to

assist the BC Ambulance Service in locating and retrieving an injured man.

A group of four off-road motorcycle riders travelled from Alberta to ride the Bear Creek motorcycle trails on the Westside when one of the riders fell while trying to ride a steep slope. The injury to his knee prevented him from riding or walking out, so he called for help and had his riding partners meet emergency crews at the trailhead.

The man was several kilometres from Bear Creek Main.

Seven COSAR members and a paramedic walked into the area, stabilized the leg and brought the man out using a TrailRider chair.

The 47-year-old man was then transferred to a waiting ambulance and transported to Kelowna General Hospital.

— Special to The Daily Courier

Water conference brings natives, non-natives together

About 200 people attended a two-day water conference last week in Kelowna, hosted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

The main topic was environmental flow needs — essentially, determining how much water is needed for fish and the environment to understand how much water communities can use.

But relations and sharing water management with First Nations actually dominated the discussions.

"This week's conference was intended to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together to understand each other's perspectives and build collective vision," said Nelson Juel, the water board's water stewardship director, in a news release.

"I've attended and MC'd so many conferences," added Aaron Derickson, a local First Nation leader and one of three event facilitators. "I was expecting just another conference, to be honest, but

what we got was such an incredible synergy of hope. For me, reconciliation is about healing the gap in understanding. Through this process, I witnessed people listening to each other."

Guest speaker Claudia Pahl-Wost of the University of Osnabrück said it was the first conference of its kind she has attended that integrated traditional Indigenous knowledge so prominently and effectively.

— The Daily Courier

VALLEY IN BRIEF

Part of road in East Kelowna closed due to water project

Part of Bedford Road in East Kelowna will be closed for about three weeks as construction continues on the Kelowna Integrated Water Project.

The water project will link East Kelowna to the city's water system.

Bedford Road between Takla Road and Saucier Road will close first, with a detour for through traffic available via Takla Road.

When this section of road reopens, the closure will shift to Bedford between DeHart Road and Takla Road. During this time, a detour for through traffic will be available via Saucier Road.

Access will be maintained for residents and businesses located in the Kelowna Hill, as well as for transit, people walking and people bicycling.

Repping has begun on other sections that were dug up.

Naturopath celebrating release of book Thursday

A Kelowna naturopath, Alana Berg, is releasing her first book this week.

The Courageous Cure is about the ways people heal. The book-release party will be at the Laurel Packaginghouse from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday.

Tickets, between \$26.25 and \$51.25, are available on eventbrite.com under Courageous Cure Book Launch.

Rock band's 'Howl' in aid of mental health group

The Silverbacks, a classic-rock band based in Kelowna, host the Halloween Howl II at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the East Kelowna Hall.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Canadian Mental Health Association of Kelowna.

The Silverbacks' first Halloween Howl took place in 2015, after band members lost three people to suicide within a year, including the son of lead singer Marcel Leblanc.

Because of scheduling conflicts and changes in the band's personnel, the Silverbacks were unable to host events in 2016 and 2017. However, they felt it was time to host the event, not only to raise money for the CMHA, but to raise awareness of the issue.

Events such as the Halloween Howl are important to the CMHA to raise money for programs and services, but also to continue to increase awareness in the community.

The Halloween Howl is a licensed event restricted to people 19 years and older.

Tickets cost \$25 each and are available online at Eventbrite.ca.

Annual zombie dance set for Saturday in Kelowna

A local arts school is hosting its annual event featuring dancing zombies in downtown Kelowna.

Studio9 School of the Arts is hosting Thrill the World on Saturday in Stuart Park.

The dance, set to Michael Jackson's Thriller, will begin at 3 p.m.

Participants are asked to come early to sign the zombie guest book and to bring a non-perishable food donation for the local food bank.

Participants are also asked to dress in their zombie outfit for the dance.

To learn the dance ahead of time, go online to thrilltheworld.com, or go on the day of the event and follow the dancers.

Hundreds of slices around the world will be participating in the event at the same time.

Nov. 1 show pays tribute to country star Hank Williams

Country music fans can take a trip back to the early 1950s at Hank Williams — the Lonesome Tour starring Jason Petty at 7 p.m. Nov. 1, at the Kelowna Community Theatre.

In this acclaimed show from Nashville, Tenn., Petty will transport the audience to a time when Williams was the biggest name in country music.

Petty first performed the role of Williams in Nashville in 1996 and continues to portray the country legend more than 20 years later in his own show.

Tickets are available by phone at 250-762-5050 or online at selectyourtickets.com.

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Staff Oct 22, 2018



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