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*IN THIS ISSUE: CBC Regular guest and author of **The Joy Of Missing Out**, Christina Crook, writes a feature article for the Curated Community Newsletter.*

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CURATED COMMUNITY
BC'S GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE

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Photo courtesy of www.tourismkelowna.com

FEATURED COMMUNITY: Kelowna

Featured community figure Sandra Kochan enlightens us about the cultural brilliance of Kelowna and the Okanagan.

"it's the sun-baked scent of dry pine needles and the dusty blue colour of the Okanagan hills at sunset that means 'home.'"

**COMMUNITY
FIGURE OF
THE MONTH**

WHO:

Sandra Kochan

TITLE:

Cultural
Services
Manager, City of
Kelowna

HOMETOWN:

Kelowna, BC



It was a ski vacation that first drew Sandra Kochan to the Okanagan in March 1981. Leaving behind Saskatoon's wintery cloak, she stepped off the plane and into Kelowna's sunny embrace.

"There was no snow in sight," she recalls. "I put on my sunglasses, removed a layer of clothing and started smiling."

She returned to Saskatoon boasting a suitcase full of Gray Monk wines, which she proudly shared with friends back home. That original visit was followed by a series of delicious summer holidays. And so began her love affair with the Okanagan. When Kochan had the opportunity to move permanently in 1983, it didn't take her long to make the move. Two weeks to be exact.

Today Sandra Kochan serves as the City of Kelowna's Cultural Services Manager,

with a little strummin' on the side (she's part of a local five member ukulele ensemble, aptly named 'Ukenagan'.) We

Tell us about a local artist we should know about.

Crystal Przybille has created major works of public art in Kelowna, including the design for ornamental tree grates widely used throughout the city, a larger-than-life sculpture of Father Pandosy, and decorative streetscape panels as part of the major revitalization of Bernard Avenue, Kelowna's 'main street.' She has also done a major commission for the Kelowna Art Gallery's exhibition space at the Kelowna International Airport.



Przybille at work on the piece for Kelowna Airport

Crystal's work typically reflects a strong sense of place: the tree grates and the streetscape panels are based on local flora, fauna and landscape, and her bronze sculpture of Father Pandosy captures the energy and determination of an iconic figure from the early history of settlement in Kelowna. Crystal is now completing a new sculpture of Chief Sookinchute, a prominent local Aboriginal leader who was a contemporary of Father Pandosy. Her background research for this most recent work has brought a deep exposure and connection to the traditions

caught up with her to catch a glimpse of Kelowna through her lens.



image via @tourismkelowna on instagram

What makes Kelowna's cultural footprint unique?

Kelowna is a mid-sized city which offers some big city amenities but you can still be in a producing orchard or vineyard by driving about 20 minutes in any direction. Agriculture, food and wine are part of the local DNA. Kelowna also has a long history of creative production; local theatrical performance started not long after the city's incorporation in 1905, and the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra has been performing here for over 50 years. Add a professional ballet company, a new opera company, three professional theatre companies, public and private art galleries, a huge bunch of grass roots organizations offering everything from Korean fan dancing to drum festivals and top with a burgeoning high-tech and animation community and thousands of university and college students; it's a deep footprint and there's a path of them to a vibrant future.

Over the last 30 years, I've seen the community grow and change in a very exciting way. Many of the features which lured me here in the first place are better than ever, and there is a great diversity and quality of experiences available. But I

and culture of the Syilx people. The juxtaposition of the Father Pandosy piece and the Chief Sookinchute sculpture will generate some interesting dialogue; it's fascinating that the same artist has explored two different perspectives in a seminal part of our local history.

What's something only a local would know?

Well, locals only share those secrets with their closest friends because if they shared them with everyone there'd be none left for us! Like where to buy the best local cherries, or which beach access has the nicest sand. But there are a few things we don't mind sharing that you may not find in the tourism brochure racks...

One of them is the Mission Creek Greenway, a meandering 17 km corridor for cyclists and pedestrians along the banks of Mission Creek in the southern part of the city. It's a great spot to see spawning Kokanee salmon, explore some spectacular landscape features, and enjoy the fall foliage as the giant cottonwood trees change colour. It's an easy, level walk for most of its length.



Mission Creek Greenway

The second hidden gem is Kasugai Garden, an enclosed classical Japanese tea garden tucked in behind City Hall off Water Street. The garden features meticulously cared for plantings, a small waterfall, seating and an arched bridge over a beautiful pond, occupied by water lilies and very large and colourful koi. It's

reserve my deepest affection for the landscape - its shape and form, colour, fragrance, and fundamental fragility. These are indelibly etched in me by now, and even though I am still moved by Saskatchewan's 'living skies,' it's the sun-baked scent of dry pine needles and the dusty blue colour of the Okanagan hills at sunset that means 'home.'



Sunset on Lake Okanagan

a place to steal away and have a contemplative moment. The garden is a tribute to Kelowna's sister city relationship with Kasugai, Japan, and was designed and built with the help of Japanese master gardeners.



Kasugai Garden

CULTURAL NEWS



(click image for full story)

TOTA & Greenstep Solutions announce partnership in creation of Charter of Sustainability...



(click image for full story)

Congratulations to the 24 recipients of the Vancouver Mayor's Arts Awards in recognition of cultural excellence.



(click image for full story)

Victoria Artist Sandra Meigs Wins 2015 Gershon Iskowitz Prize of \$50,000

CULTURAL MARKETING TIPS

Cross promotion key to market success for cultural sector

"We can be successful if we partner effectively with stakeholders to tell compelling stories and create memorable experiences that visitors from across Canada and around the world can experience in our unique region."

Glenn Mandziuk TOTA CEO

In the nearly two decades of striving to bring to light the rich cultural tapestry of our province we've developed a level of expertise in the cultural marketing.

One of the most effective strategies for marketing in this industry is cross promotion - building relationships and creating marketing partnerships. The concept is one recognized by award winning tourism industry legend

Glenn Mandziuk, CEO of the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association. Mandziuk comments in a letter to stakeholders:

"We can be successful if we partner effectively with stakeholders to tell compelling stories and create memorable experiences that visitors from across Canada and around the world can experience in our unique region."

Mandziuk eloquently describes the power of partnership and the necessity of true, meaningful stories.

We're passionate about building community and this passion lead to the birth of the Arts & Cultural Guide to BC. We have fine tuned over the years

and recognized that the single most important endeavour developing and portraying the cultural ambiance of a community to present to the world. A community's cultural footprint if you will. This is the

Curated Community.

Working together with partners in communities across BC, we hope to present to the Cultural Tourist, the unique cultural identity of BC's distinctive regions and communities.

We're proud to announce that we have been fortunate to partner with an organization that specializes in unique experiences to bring BC's Guide to Arts & Culture to culturally curious travellers all over the province. The **BC Innkeepers Guild** will very soon be a cross promotional partner with **Art-BC.com** helping to bring their guests, who are seeking unique ways to experience communities, a picture of the unique cultural footprint of the community they are visiting.

We want to make partnering with Art-BC.com effective and simple - to get a copy of the guide, order an **Art-BC.com RECOMMENDED** door sticker, or if you're not yet featured on your Community Cultural Map on Art-BC.com, please [contact us](#).





ART OF THE GETAWAY: Penticton

Sandra Kochan shares her favourite OK experiences.

AG: Describe your perfect Okanagan staycation.

SK: Summers in Kelowna are the time for a lifestyle downshift; the focus moves from the demands of the workplace to the pleasures of home, garden, beach and day trips. In our household, summer Sundays mean mornings working in the garden and afternoons at the beach - we keep our beach gear in the back of the car all summer and can get to our nearest neighbourhood beach in about 10 minutes. Saturdays might bring a leisurely drive to the south of the valley for a stroll through the fabulous Penticton Farmers Market and a visit to a few wineries in Naramata or Summerland. The day will usually end lounging on our patio with something chilled and delicious in a glass. Given the extreme heat during the summer of 2015, our tipples of choice was Broken Ladder Cider - crisp, dry, and essentially apple-y. Coming in as a close second choice would be a gin and tonic made with Urban Distilleries Spirit Bear Gin (a local gin which includes lavender in its mix of botanicals).

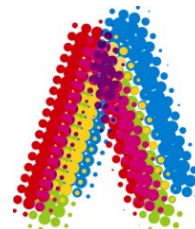


Video: Penticton Farmers Market

TAKE A DAY TRIP TO PENTICTON NEAR BY MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS:



Ikeda Japanese Garden
199 Marina Way
(behind the Penticton Art Gallery)



Penticton Art Gallery
199 Marina Way



Martin St. Gallery
205 Martin St

ART-BC.com RECOMMENDED PLACES TO STAY:



Stay near Penticton and Naramata at
Therapy Vineyards & Guesthouse



Get a view of the whole city
on Kelowna's western shores at
The Cove Lakeside Resort

[For more unique places to stay in the Okanagan, click here.](#)



VAN DOP
ARTS & CULTURAL GUIDE
TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

