

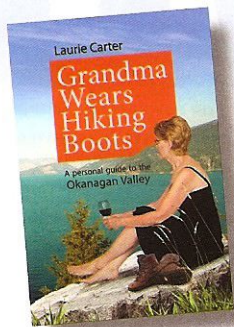
**TOLKO CONTINUES ITS CHINESE LESSONS**

Tolko Industries says it has signed two contracts that will see more of its lumber heading to China. One agreement is actually a renewal of an earlier deal, while the new one specifically relates to the sale of 2x4 coming from Tolko's Soda Creek Division, which is located near Williams Lake. The deals were signed with China National Building Material Company (CNBM), which is a subsidiary of the state owned China National Building Material Group Corporation.

**GRANDMA WEARS HIKING BOOTS**

Local journalist Laurie Carter has just released her new book, *Grandma Wears Hiking Boots: A personal guide to the Okanagan Valley*. Carter relates, "For the last decade I've been writing and shooting photos about the Okanagan for magazine, newspaper and online articles. I felt it was time to pull together my

experiences in a single guide to the valley." The book covers much more than just hiking on valley trails, but includes information on historic sites, cultural activities, family attractions, farm tours and food. The book is the first in a series of three, the second being about Canada and the third on international travel. The 272 page volume will retail for \$24.95.



**WESTJET GETS HITCHED**

Last year it looked like WestJet was set to consummate a deal with Southwest Airlines to provide a partner south of the border, but that fell through last April. Now

the plucky Canadian airline has reached an interline deal with American Airlines. An interline agreement means passengers can buy a single ticket for flights and check their bags through to a final destination even when that involves flying on both airlines through connections. For American Airlines it extends their network to 25 Canadian destinations they do not currently serve. WestJet already has similar agreements in place with Cathay Pacific and Air France-KLM, but lacked a partner in the vital United States market.

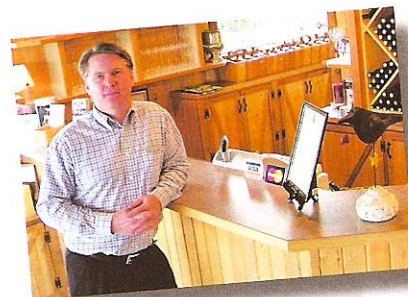
**SKOGIE'S CLEANS UP**

The Skoglunds have reopened their expanded and improved car wash centre at 1830 Underhill Road, next to Highway 97 in Kelowna. Known as Skogie's Auto Spa Express, the rebuilt facility offers the newest technology in auto car washing. Exterior car cleaning runs from \$7.14 to \$14.29 while interior cleaning runs from \$20 to \$32, with many extras available. All prices are before HST. Eight bays can service up to 140 cars per hour. The Skoglund family, run by Dave Skoglund along with his two sons Jason and Chris, owns three car washes in Kelowna.

\$15 million. Another spinoff that Carlaw did not measure, he says, was amounts spent on surrounding businesses like restaurants or the casino on game days. Local merchants testified that there was an increase in business, but this study did not measure such increases precisely. This study is structurally the same as one done for the Saskatoon Blades in 2009, where the overall economic impact was measured at \$10.9 million.

**PRODAN JUMPS**

Miles Prodan, who was at the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association for five years, jumped from that organization to another group with big roots in the region in October. Prodan is the new executive director of the British Columbia Wine Institute.



**MILES PRODAN**

**CAR SALES SUMMARY**

New motor vehicle sales in Canada are erratic, going up and falling and then recovering month to month. In August they dropped 4.8% from the previous month to 128,764 units; although Statistics Canada says initial data suggests sales increased in September. While both car and truck sales dropped, car sales took the bigger plunge and truck sales (which includes minivans, sport-utility vehicles, vans, buses, light and heavy duty trucks) outnumbered cars. Trucks counted for 73,002 units out of the total sales. Sales are not down uniformly across the country, but seven out of 10 provinces reported decreased sales. The worst declines were in Ontario (8.9% drop) and Quebec (4.5% drop) while the biggest gain was Alberta's 2.4% increase. On a year to date basis, new cars sales to the end of August in 2008 numbered 1,205,729. At the end of

**ROCKETS PROVE THEIR WORTH**

A study commissioned by the Kelowna Rockets and prepared by Dr. Kenneth Carlaw, an associate professor of economics at UBCO estimates that the hockey team pumps some \$31 million into the local economy annually. In order of magnitude the Rockets' social activities (community and charity) generates \$242,000; the direct impact from the Rockets themselves is just under \$4 million (this includes salaries and expenses, billet expenses and the WHL scholarship program); playoff, pre-season and special event activity generates over \$5 million; the impact from former Rockets players and support staff now living in the city comes to \$7 million while indirect impact (spending at games, ticket sales, corporate sponsorships, visitors from outside the area, competitors coming into the area) amounts to just under

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