

news

Haircuts for Health Care nears \$40,000



The OC Foundation's Haircuts for Health Care fundraiser has raised more than \$38,000, and with several campaigns left, may crest with \$40,000 for the College's new Health Sciences Centre.

Haircuts for Health Care launched in mid April, nearly a month after non-essential businesses including our community's beloved salons were forced to close. The fundraiser invited people who were in desperate need of a haircut to open up their own 'self-isolation salon' and hand the clippers to their kids or spouse. People could donate the cost of a typical haircut or go for a creative cut and fundraise from their friends.

While some people chose to simply cut their hair and donate, many more people set up fundraising pages with plans to go for a less conventional haircut (dubbed a Corona cut) or a shaved head once they reached their goal.

RCMP Superintendent Brent Mundie raised more than a \$1,000 with the teaser that he would let the RCMP's newest mascot, Sgt Justice, give him an epic haircut.

"I'm proud to support the Okanagan College Foundation in this worthwhile goal," says Mundie. "This crisis has shown what we, as first responders, have always known: our health care workers are vital to our communities."

College employees took on the challenge too. Frithjof Petscheleit, Toolroom Attendant, Automotive, Eric Comeau, Regional Dean South Okanagan Similkameen Region and Ross Tyner, Director of Library Services, all surpassed their fundraising goals and shaved their heads.

Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton joked that while he didn't have much hair to inspire people to donate, he still wanted to thank the community for coming together in support of education. Hamilton personally donated \$5,000 after Haircuts for Health Care reached \$10,000.



The campaign received its biggest boost when Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran and Westbank First Nation Chief Chris Derickson joined on, announcing their intentions to raise \$10,000 each. Both reached their goals within two weeks, and have forgone their locks for buzz cuts. Watch for a video on these haircuts coming soon.

Okanagan College Foundation Executive Director Helen Jackman says the campaign was an easy, fun way to support and celebrate those working on the frontlines of health.

"We are so thankful to College employees and community members for joining this campaign, and especially to those who sacrificed their hair for the training of health care professionals," says Jackman. "Your generosity and community spirit at this extraordinary time is inspiring."

In total, more than 380 donors gave to the campaign. Several OC employee campaigns are still running. Support these courageous employee campaigns: Andrew Hays's page, Sharon Josephson, Phil Ashman and Helen Jackman's page and Bill Gillett's page.

College's Therapist Assistant program earns new national accreditation

As career goals go, what could be more meaningful than improving someone's quality of life?

For therapist assistants, it's more than a goal, it's a daily reality – and you'll find these in-demand health professionals supporting people's rehabilitation in a vast array of settings.



This spring, Okanagan College's Therapist Assistant Diploma (TAD) program – which has been educating Physical therapist assistants (PTA), Occupational therapist assistants (OTA) and Recreation therapist assistants (RTA) for almost 30 years – has earned a new feather in its cap.

The TAD program was recently awarded full accreditation status by the national accrediting body comprised of the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP), Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).

For TAD program Chair Jennifer Stephenson, the accreditation, effective now through April 2025, is the culmination of months of work by the instructor team with support from administration to rigorously evaluate and continue to enhance every aspect of the program.

"What is most rewarding about this accreditation is that the evaluators studied every aspect of how we educate our students, how we collaborate with other departments at the College and how strong our relationships are with our community partners, who in turn work with us to provide clinical placements for students."

Read the full story [here](#).

Health and wellness in the midst of COVID-19

Ongoing mental health supports from Okanagan College's Counselling Services team have proven helpful over the past three months, offering students and employees resources to better navigate these unprecedented times.

While in-person counselling sessions have yet to return for the College's counselling team, students can still access individual counselling via secure online video or phone. In addition, Wellness Wednesday workshops run each week online, hosted through the Pentlicton campus's Flourish wellness team and led by counsellor Sarah Lefebure.

"We've received a really warm response from participants," she says. "We've had quite a few returning participants and it feels like we're building a cross-campus community."

Lefebure has worked closely with Samantha Johnson, counsellor at the College's Salmon Arm campus, to host the virtual workshops.

"It's a delight to be able to collaborate so closely with a colleague of mine that I would rarely see in normal times," adds Lefebure.

Both Lefebure and Johnson led a BC-wide webinar on BCCampus.ca today, titled "Practicing and Promoting Self-Compassion in the time of COVID-19". The webinar is part of a series designed to support the community during the pandemic. Watch the presentation [here](#).

The final May installation of Wellness Wednesdays will be held on May 27 at 11 a.m. on the topic of making room for emotions. Any OC community member with a 300 number can self-enroll in the workshop [via Moodle](#), and pre-recorded sessions are available on the platform.

Future programming is being planned for the coming months; watch Inside OC and College Matters for more information. Current resources for mental health are available on the College's COVID-19 page [here](#).

College's Camp OC cancelled for 2020



COVID-19 concerns are leading Okanagan College to cancel its Camp OC summer camp offerings for 2020.

"We have been closely monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation," said Dr. Dennis Silvestrone, director of Continuing Studies and Corporate Training for Okanagan College. "And decision to cancel Camp OC this summer."

given what we understand about safety and limitations, we have made the decision to cancel Camp OC this summer."

"It is a very difficult decision for us, and one made with the best interests of all our campers, students, staff and our surrounding communities in mind. Given the nature of our camps, the vast array of indoor and outdoor activities – which make physical distancing impossible to guarantee – we determined we simply could not facilitate Camp OC this year in a way that would ensure everyone's health and safety."

Camp OC offers educational, fun and interactive camps to students from Grades 1-12, with a unique array of offerings at each of the College's campuses from Salmon Arm to Pentlicton, as well as its Revelstoke Centre. This summer would have marked the 15th year the camps were offered.

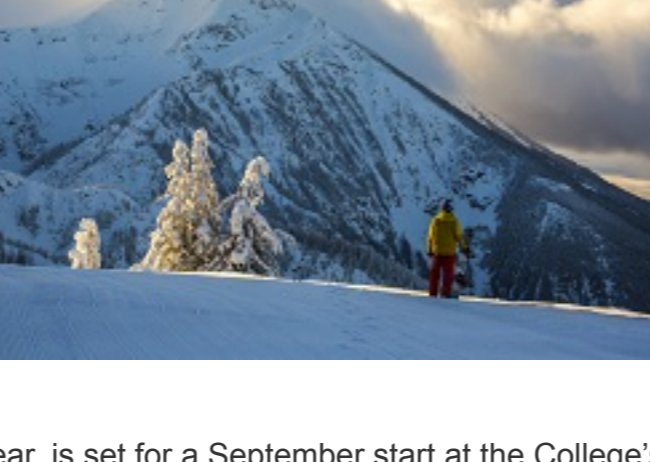
"We know Camp OC is a much-loved resource in our communities and it saddens us not to be able to offer it," says Silvestrone. "We hope people will take heart in knowing that Camp OC will return. We are now starting to explore new youth program opportunities and build our plans for summer 2021."

All registrants will receive a full refund. The College has reached out to registrants and will begin issuing refunds as soon as possible.

More information about Camp OC 2021 and any other new youth programs will be posted on [camppoc.ca](#) as it is known.

Okanagan College hosts virtual info session on Tourism Management diploma program

Set at the foot of the picturesque Columbia Mountains and home to a growing array of four-season tourism operators and activities, where better to advance your career in the tourism industry than Revelstoke?



On May 27, prospective students can attend a virtual information session to learn more about Okanagan College's Tourism Management diploma.

The program, which debuted last year, is set for a September start at the College's Revelstoke Centre and combines hands-on learning in the tourism sector with applied business courses.

The virtual information session offers an inside look at the program: from scheduling to course offerings, transfer options and co-op components. College admissions counselors and financial aid advisors will lead the presentation, sharing what students can expect come September in addition to modified delivery in light of COVID-19.

"The Tourism Management diploma is a fantastic option for those looking to gain practical and hands-on experience to advance in this industry," says Danielle Tighe, Manager of OC's Revelstoke Centre. "Revelstoke is home to world-class tourism employers who, from the very beginning, have helped us create and offer a program that is truly geared toward training the skilled tourism managers and workers desperately needed in this sector."

To read the full story or register for the May 27 virtual information session, go [here](#).

people

Contest winner inspired to help others



When Brittani Sali answered the phone and learned she was the winner of a \$5,000 tuition giveaway contest, she thought she might be dreaming.

The 22-year old was just waking up, and she hadn't been expecting the call from local radio announcer B Mack.

Lucky for Sali, winning the tuition giveaway towards any health program at Okanagan College wasn't a dream. The 22-year old was among one of 80 people who entered the contest, which was sponsored by the Pagan and Dillon Budd Memorial Fund, in partnership with Virgin Radio and the Okanagan College Foundation.

Sali had applied to OC's Therapist Assistant program before learning about the contest. Winning the funds will almost pay the full tuition for the program.

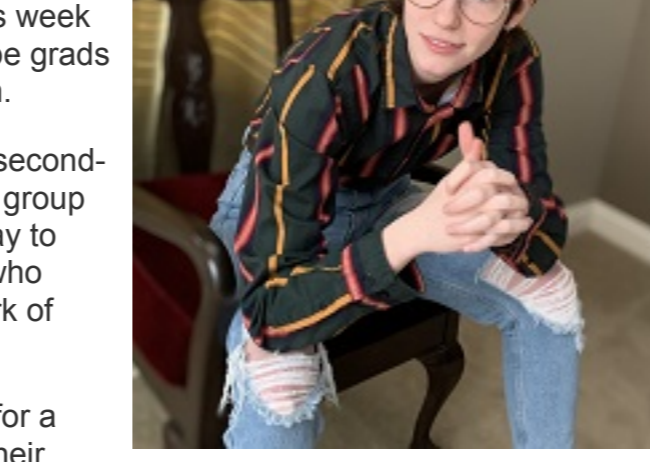
"The health care field was always something I wanted to go into and there are so many options beyond the well-known role of nurses or doctors," says Sali. "and COVID-19 has only made it more clear how important health professionals are to our lives."

"I am impressed by Brittani's passion and I'm so happy my fund can help her pursue a career in health and helping others," says Tom Budd, a local philanthropist who funded the tuition giveaway.

Budd's gift is in support of the OC Foundation's \$5-million Our Students, Your Health fundraising campaign for the state-of-the-art Health Sciences Centre at the Kelowna campus.

Drawing together: College and industry gather virtually to celebrate animation students

If there was ever a time to get animated, this was it – albeit with a virtual twist.



While COVID-19 may have altered the format for the ceremony, it couldn't dampen the excitement as studios from across the valley joined Okanagan College this week in recognizing the newest soon-to-be grads from its Animation diploma program.

At the OC Animation department's second-annual Industry Night on May 13, a group of second-year students on their way to graduation and first-year students who have now crossed the half-way mark of their program were celebrated.

Attendees had a chance to tune in for a livestream of students' work, hear their presentations and chat with them during breakout sessions hosted on the online meeting tool Blackboard Collaborate. You can watch the recorded livestream and view students' portfolio websites [here](#).

"While we wished we could all be together to honour our students in person, we were so pleased that we could still gather virtually to celebrate them and showcase their work with industry," said Yvonne Moritz, Dean of Science, Technology and Health at Okanagan College.

"The efforts invested by our students and faculty are always inspiring, but I particularly want to acknowledge how hard they worked in recent months when COVID-19 forced the shift to online learning mid-semester. Students faced that challenge and uncertainty and went on to produce incredibly creative and polished work. I think that speaks to their talent and work ethic, and is evidence of the very bright future in the animation industry that awaits them."

Isabel Fabian gave the address on behalf of graduating students during the livestream.

"It was so exciting to be able to see everyone get together, despite all the odds," said Fabian, who has her sights set on becoming a visual effects artist. "It feels unreal to be finished the program."

Read the full story [here](#).

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notices

COVID-19 Recent Updates and News

Find the latest COVID-19 updates [here](#), along with links and resources for online learning, teaching and working. What to do if you are feeling ill, answers to frequently asked questions, available services and more.

[View the archive of COVID-19 updates here](#), including important recent messages:

- [May 20 - A message from Andrew Hay, Interim Provost and Vice President Academic](#)

Federal and provincial news updates pertinent to students:

- [Government of Canada announces flexibility in post-graduation work permit rules to help international students and Canadian post-secondary institutions](#)
- [Government of Canada is now accepting applications for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit \(CESB\)](#)
- [Province of British Columbia announces its Restart Plan for COVID-19](#)

Connections 2020 – Save the Date

Even though employees cannot connect in person this summer, Okanagan College's annual employee conference will go ahead virtually. The committee is hard at work to finalize plans for the day and hopes to bring you an unforgettable event.

Connections is organized by employees for employees. It is about connecting with colleagues from different departments and campuses, and celebrating the strengths and diversity of the people who work here through interactive, social activities and fun informative workshops. This year that will happen in a virtual environment.

The event will be held (virtually) on **Tue, Aug. 25**. Mark your calendar and watch Inside OC and College Matters for more information and to register.

Professional development opportunities available

As part of Okanagan College's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College is encouraging and supporting employees to pursue professional development online. To date, more than 245 employees have taken advantage of these workshops. Upcoming courses include:

- Introduction to Project Management – Foundation for Success
- Positive Workplace Culture
- Creative Problem Solving

Municipal Pension Plan statements available online

By the end of June, you should receive your Member's Benefit Statement by mail directly from the Pension Corporation. This statement is a snapshot of your account and shows an estimate of the monthly pension payments you may receive when you retire.

You can also view your Member's Benefit Statement online available now by signing in My Account on the pension plan website located at [mnp.pensionsbc.ca](#).

- Sign into My Account
- Click reports > Benefits Statements
- Choose the year
- View the MBS as a PDF, or print it

Go paper-free for future pension statements

Employees are now able to choose to receive your future member benefits statement (MBS) and other important pension information and notifications digitally.

- Sign into My Account
- Confirm your contact information and select "yes".

Working on campus alone?

On behalf of Occupational Health and Safety

Remind: any employees working on campus in isolation, located in a low traffic area, and/or outside of regular business hours, should please contact the security office for the campus by phone so they are aware of your presence. Worksturdy alone check-in, campus maps, security and emergency procedures are also available via the [OC Safe app](#).

Please send an email to your Regional Dean's office if you have any questions.

Access to OC facilities and services

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Okanagan College continues to operate and provide services remotely. Physical access to facilities is restricted in order to ensure social (physical) distancing and for the health and safety of all.

If you need to access facilities at any of our campuses, or have questions about how to access any services, please contact the Regional Dean office at your campus:

- Central Okanagan (Kelowna): 250-762-5445, ext. 4789
- South Okanagan-Similkameen (Penticton): 250-492-4305, ext. 3216
- North Okanagan (Vernon): 250-545-7291
- Shuswap-Revelstoke (Salmon Arm): 250-832-2126, ext. 6235

You can also click [here](#) to find out how to access all available services, including hours and contact information.

events

Public health announcement

Ongoing – Please refer to the College's [coronavirus page](#) for more information on events, updated regularly.

Partners for Life – Canadian Blood Services Drive

Canadian Blood Services clinics are still open and accepting blood donations at this time. Help contribute to the Okanagan College team annual pledge as part of the 2020 Partner for Life campaign and consider donating to Canada's lifeline.

Donation information:

- All donors are asked to make an appointment online prior to donating. Book individually at [blood.ca](#) or GiveBlood APP or 1 888 2DONATE. Canadian Blood Services has implemented new safety requirements for COVID-19 in all of Donor Centres.
- Be sure to register your donation once so the Okanagan College Team gets credit. You only need to register once and all your donations to Okanagan College PARTNER ID# OKAN002612.
- Ongoing donation events can be found at [blood.ca](#)

Donation events:

- Kelowna - Donation Centre, Tue to Thu from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. including June 6 and 20
- West Kelowna – Lakeview Heights Baptist Church on Mon June 29 from 12 – 6:45 p.m.

Online Wellness Wednesday Workshops for all OC students and employees

The Flourish Wellness Project is offering weekly Wellness Wednesday online workshops this spring, with a special focus on strategies to help you cope during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah Lefebure, Counsellor on the Pentlicton campus, will lead the one-hour drop-in online workshops.

Workshop Schedule - Wednesdays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- May 27 – Making room for emotions in challenging times

To attend any of these workshops, OC students and employees can self register for the Flourish Wellness Workshop Moodle. To do so, log into Moodle, click Site home on the left and search for Flourish. If you have any problems, email Sarah [here](#).

Workshops are free for all Okanagan College students and employees on any campus. They are also drop-in, so attend as many or as few as you'd like, and please ensure you have paper and pen or marker with you for the workshop. Try to choose a quiet place in your home where you are less likely to be interrupted.

media

KelownaNow and the Daily Courier featured new winemaker and general manager of Kitchi Wines Graham Pierce, who is an Okanagan College alumnus.

Global News and Westside Weekly first captured the launch of Westbank First Nation Chief Christopher Derickson's and City of Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran's campaigns in early May to raise funds for the new Health Sciences Centre. Both promised to share their heads once they reached \$10,000 in donations each and both surpassed their goals.

Newstalk1010 also mentioned Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton and his personal pledge of \$5,000 for Derickson's and Basran's campaigns.

Second-year therapy assistant students Adam Lin, Miranda Seib and Brett Vall came together to sew masks for those in need, featured by [Castlane](#).

Supt. Brent Mundie joined the Haircuts for Health Care campaign, pledging to raise funds for the College's Health Sciences Centre by shaving his head, featured on [Castlane](#).

The [Penticton Herald](#) highlighted MP and OC Honorary Fellow Richard Cannings' toe-to-toe conversations with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland over virtual Question Period in mid May.

Okanagan Weekend noted the passing of Quails' Gate pioneering grape grower, Richard Stewart. Stewart served on the Bold Horizons Campaign for OUC in 1992-93.

Kelowna Capital News and the Kereomeos Review highlighted the Tourism Management diploma virtual info session on May 27. The program starts this fall out of the Revelstoke Centre.

Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran mentioned his #HaircutsforHealthcare fundraising campaign in the phased reopening statement for Kelowna on [AM.1150](#).

Students, industry experts and instructors gathered in mid March for the second-annual Animation Industry Night, a virtual livestream to showcase students' work, hear presentations and mix and mingle, as noted by [Newstalk1010](#).

Interior News and Coast Mountain News covered College instructor Marv Machura's song "War in the Chilcotin", released on Machura's fifth album, "South of the North Saskatchewan".

feedback

Do you have comments, questions or a submission for INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE? Please email Public Affairs c/o [Kate Maryschuk](#).

To ensure the best chance for your submission to be included, please send all details at least one day in advance of the newsletter's publication.

The next edition of INSIDE OKANAGAN COLLEGE will be issued on June 9, 2020.