

# Falkland fun, facts and community events

Falkland is happily situated at the junction of Bolean Creek and the Salmon River. The small community is between Vernon (42 km), Salmon Arm (50 km), Armstrong (48 km) and Kamloops (87 km). They have the convenience of big centres close by but live a quiet, laid back, ranch home style kind of life. Because they're guarded by Tuktakamin (5811 ft or 1771 m) and Estekawalan (5960 ft or 1817 m) mountains they enjoy warm dry summers and mild winters.

Most of Falkland's population of about 700 people make their living by logging, ranching and manufacturing.

Despite its small population, Falkland has an impressive amount of clubs and services including a Community Association (with a large hall, and rodeo grounds), a Sunday Morner's social group, a Chamber of Commerce, a seniors' group, a curling club, a snowmobile club and a Historical Society with a large park and museum.

Part of the charm of Falkland is getting there. Whatever direction you come from you will enjoy the quiet peaceful ranch land and the town itself is known as being a great place to raise a family.

There are a few other things you need to know about Falkland. It has one of the oldest stampedes in Canada and has one of the largest Canadian flags in the country on Gyp Mountain (it can be seen up to 7 kms away). There is great fishing (rainbow trout), hiking (a couple of them a good challenge for the athletic) and miles of snowmobiling trails.



Falkland Museum and flag on hillside

## Falkland events

May to Sept. Falkland Country Market  
Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May 22-24: Falkland Stampede - Falkland Rodeo grounds. Rodeo, parade, dance & more.

May 25-26: Blue Grass Jamboree at the rodeo grounds

May 30: Ride up the mountain start @ Falkland Community Hall- Light parade down the mountain

July 1: Parade of flags, pancake breakfast, community market, games

July 12: Annual Picnic in the Park Falkland Heritage Park, strawberry shortcake, hamburgers, hot dogs, coffee.

## IPE Exhibition

The 111th Armstrong Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) is a long-time favourite family outing. Running September 1 - 5 in 2010 the theme this year is "Let's Beef it up at the IPE!" Visit the beef area and check out all the exhibits, as well as enjoy everything else the fair has to offer, including learning about the area's agricultural roots and enjoying the entertainment, displays and exciting rides. For more info go to [www.armstrongipe.com](http://www.armstrongipe.com)

## Stand up and paddle

Surf's up. Or rather, you're up, on the surfboard.

There's a new sport in the Shuswap: Stand Up Paddle Boarding.

It's gaining popularity where surfing is common, but this sport doesn't need the high ocean waves; it can be done on calm lakes and fast running rivers.

"I love surfing but I'm so far away from the ocean," says Kevin O'Brien. "This is an inland way to feel connected to the sport."

O'Brien opened Kalavida Surf Shop across from Kalamaka Beach in Vernon. They rent and sell stand up paddle boards and you really have to try this crazy looking sport.

The best part about it, anyone can do it. It doesn't matter how old you are or what your physical fitness level, this is an all-inclusive family sport.

O'Brien says anyone can paddle in about two minutes. It gives your core muscles a work out, but you can take it nice and slow and enjoy the scenery.



O'Brien said he's taken his board (which resembles a long surf board) to the States and to Europe and he has found the best place is right here in the Shuswap/Okanagan.

So if you're looking to add a little something different to your summer vacation go to Kalavida Surf Shop. Call 1-778-930-0505. Or check them out online at [oksup.com](http://oksup.com) or [kalavidasurfshop.com](http://kalavidasurfshop.com).



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