

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Harmony Tree

Little hands and old hands worked together for three months this year in an intergenerational, and artistic way .

'Harmony Tree', a mosaic of brilliant colours, love and caring, was presented to the District of Peachland on behalf of Grade 1 students and local seniors who worked together on the project.

"Little kids that are six-years-old can work side by side with people who are 70 or 80," said Wendy Howard, who organized the project through the Peachland Wellness Centre's Aging in Place program.

Starting in February, seven seniors trekked to the school each week and work with 21 Grade 1 students in teacher Gail Thiesmann's class, along with Wendy Howard and teacher's assistant Akiko Ogata.

On a large piece of wood, Akiko Ogata drew an Okanagan landscape and then the wood was cut in four so small groups could work on different parts of the project. "We broke up a lot of tiles," said Howard.

The bits and pieces of tile were glued to the wood backing and, after three months, the result was unveiled: a colourful mosaic of a fruit tree in the foreground, a mountain representing Okanagan Mountain, the sun, the sky and the grass.



When school starts in the fall, 'The Harmony Tree' will take up permanent residence on the wall of the Peachland Elementary School library as a reminder of the cooperative effort between a group of local children and a handful of Peachland seniors