

# Farewell to City of Kelowna, Mayor & Council Script for Kelowna 2009 Ambassadors

**Pooja:** Hello and Good Afternoon Your Worship, City of Kelowna Councilors, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
My name is Pooja Anand and I am Miss Kelowna lady of the lake 2009-2010

**Caitlin:** ...and my name is Caitlin Hansum Kelowna's Princess 2009/2010

**Pooja:** As we are in the year 2010, our journey is ending soon, however this experience has opened so many doors for us to leap through!

This year has made such an impact on Caitlin and I, and we couldn't have done it without Kelowna's support. We are so happy to call Kelowna our home, because that it is. It truly is the most beautiful place to live on earth, not only because of the scenery, lake, mountains, parks, and wildlife, but because of the open hearts and love of the people. I am so proud to have been involved this year, and owe it to City Council for the sponsorship, endless comfort, and belief in the youth.

**Caitlin:** Our journey as Kelowna's Ambassadors of 2009/2010 began a year ago on that exciting, emotional, and incredible night called pageant. We quickly learned how lucky and blessed we were to take part in this program as we rushed around that first week selecting outfits and meeting fellow ambassadors, members of society, and citizens of Kelowna, such as yourselves, that would change our lives forever.

**Pooja:** On to our first road trip and pageant; Lytton! Which now seems so long ago, but was such a special start to our year. A few days following the Lytton pageant, I was privileged to meet with my Candidate Sponsors, the Kelowna Business Ambassadors and share with them my thank you's and adventures so far!

Within 2 weeks we attended our second pageant! White rock; a true eye opener. It was Caitlin's and my VERY FIRST PARADE, and a nighttime parade too! We managed to score second place!

**Caitlin:** The year began in August with one of our busiest weekends as we traveled from Kelowna to Penticton to Omak, Washington. In Kelowna we offered our golfing expertise at the Cops for Kids Golf Tournament. Later that day in Penticton, we attended the Penticton Pageant and danced the night away with the new ambassadors. The following morning the dancing continued as we rode the float in the Penticton Peach Festival. Finally, after waking up at 3AM, we arrived at the Omak Stampede and showed the USA that Kelowna can sing and dance country too!

**Pooja:** The Viva Musica Gala was next in our year! This was our first theatrical adventure we went on experiencing the High School Musical production. Caitlin and I really enjoyed meeting and greeting with the Local Kelowna citizens.

Next was the grand unveiling of Sage Creek in West Kelowna! What a joy that was! This is where Caitlin and I got to ride golf carts and be chauffeurs! This is also where our first radio interviews were! We felt SO good representing Kelowna through the media as well as in person! There was also lots of GREAT cake there...

That same day, we were privileged and honoured to have watched the BC Ambassadors pageant in Merritt, which was an absolute delight for Caitlin and I because it was great to keep in mind for the future!

Following that week, our next training was very beneficial for our trip to Kasugai! Ken and Yoshiko, Mr. And Mrs. Ken Fix gave us training on Japanese Etiquette! This helped Caitlin and I so very much during our stay in Kasugai, and also gave us a view of the true Japanese culture in SO much detail. I highly recommend them to you all for your planned trip this year!

**Caitlin:** Next, Pooja and I were able to experience a weekend in the town of North Thompson, Barriere for the Fall Fair and Rodeo Pageant. We had a day full of scavenger hunts, a talent and fashion show, crowning of the new royalty and a pancake breakfast the next morning! Later in Kelowna, we participated in the Heritage Tea Fall Fair at the Guichigan House and performed our talents from Speech and Talent night! We also had the chance to sing O' Canada with counselor Michele Rule's talented son at the Terry Fox Run.

Pooja: As Caitlin mentioned, we had enjoyed the North Thompson, Barrier pageant so much we off course came back for the parade! This was a great turn out, since we managed to get SECOND PLACE! After the parade, we spent some time with the new Ambassadors, and got to go to the petting zoo and rodeo!

The next event was very exciting! This was the day Caitlin and I had our official Ambassador Photo shoot with Neil Slattery on top on Knox Mountain! We truly felt like Ambassadors of Kelowna on top of there!

After this, I was able to go to the Peach land Pageant and represent Kelowna by giving a speech, bond with the ambassadors, and say goodbye to Zachary, the Peach land ambassador.

This next road trip was the second time Caitlin and I had gone across the border to Washington! In Leavenworth we felt like we were in a Bavarian town!! The Parade was SUCH a hit! We got FIRST PLACE, met all sorts of lovely individuals, and got to be tourists!

**Caitlin:** In late September, we had the opportunity to wake up early and help out at the United Way Drive-Thru Breakfast. It was amazing to see the community working hard and supporting one another. I also had the opportunity that month to travel to Summerland for the Seniors Village High Tea and meet with some of the people who have impacted the rest of the beautiful Okanagan. Finally, it reached the month of October where we got to travel to Kasugai, Japan! After insightful tips on etiquette and culture by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Fix, we hopped on a plane to begin our 6 day journey in the gorgeous scenery and friendly smiles of Japan.

Pooja: Our first event back from Japan, after the jetlag and rest was the Little Goblins Halloween Family Party at the Parkinson recreation Centre! We enjoyed bonding with the children of Kelowna! They were SO cute!

In November, we attended The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Osteoporosis Bone China Tea which was an educating and moving event. It was extra fun with Robert Fine entertaining!

The next week, Caitlin and I volunteered to decorate the Evergreen for the Rotary Centre of the Arts in preparation for the Wish upon a Star fundraiser! The Wish upon a star fundraiser was a huge success and was one of the first "chi chi" events we were privileged to volunteer at!

Around that time, we had our FIRST Candidate Information night, which was touching, but so exciting to see that it was just us one year ago.

**Caitlin:** In November, the Far West clothing store was once again extremely kind as they donated warm, red winter jackets for Pooja and I. We had the chance to wear these jackets as we walked in the Remembrance Day Parade and took part in the service.

Pooja: Near the Christmas season, Caitlin and I were hostesses for the Homes for the Holidays and loved the décor and meeting new people!

I was lucky enough to be a part of the taste of Japan Kasugai Sister City fashion show fundraiser with Councilor Luke Stack! I was show cased in a beautiful Kimono and a traditional Japanese Wedding gown.

Then came our next parade which was very cold, media filled, popular, but SO FUN! The Christmas parade held in Vancouver was a foreshadow to the 2010 Olympics! We danced the whole way and loved the energy in everyone's faces!

**Caitlin:** Later that month, I travelled with my family to meet the float in Kamloops their Santa Claus Parade. It was a lot of fun as my entire family was able to walk with me beside the float! In December, we met with her worship to share our experience in Japan and present a gift from Kasugai's Mayor Ito. Later that day, we rang our Christmas bells as we volunteered for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. Then, after a Christmas break with our families, Pooja and I began the New Year by walking to center ice at the Midget Hockey Tournament Ceremonies.

**Pooja:** Now for the event that was the highlight of Canada as a nation! The 2010 Winter Olympics! I was so proud to witness the spirit of Kelowna as the torch came through lit up everyone's hearts!

The Vernon Proclamation came next...the pageant, dance, and dinner were all complete treasures! The Vernon Winter Parade was our last out of town parade too; it was a memorable and great experience in itself! We said our Goodbyes to old Ogie.

The Candidate Orientation night brought back memories, and Caitlin and I met with all the future candidates! It was a grand night, and will be cherished.

**Caitlin:** February began with the Ballet Kelowna Pirouette Gala where we were able to meet and chat with many influential people of Kelowna.

**Pooja:** I was able to attend the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Purple Ladies Organization which was such an exquisite and lovely event. There were people from all over Canada and I really enjoyed it!

Then came our first lady of the lake event for the new candidates, Sponsor Night. I loved watching the candidates speak and knew it was the start to a beautiful journey of growth and experience for them all.

Moving forward...came The Gala of Hope training and Gala of hope which was an amazing night! Fundraising for such an outstanding cause, and seeing the passion in peoples' eyes was a great thing. Not to mention I got to show case a \$10,000 necklace that night...

**Caitlin:** In the month of March, we visited the Children's Ward at the Kelowna General Hospital on St. Patrick's Day! It was an experience we won't forget because we learned the importance of a simple smile and how much joy it can bring! Later that month, our candidates presented their historical speeches on Kelowna at the Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake Historical Tea. Pooja and I were able to serve tea and treats as well as cheer on the candidates!

**Pooja:** The Kelowna Civics Awards was so great because we got to see all of the talent here locally, it was mind boggling! Kelowna is a definite gem. I really enjoyed presenting the plaques with Mayor Sharon Shepherd.

Now to...Fashion Show, our second Lady of the Lake event, was a time of relaxation and a time for fun! The candidates got to strut their stuff, and Caitlin and I even got to model gowns! It was GREAT!

**Caitlin:** In May, we drove to Summerland to attend their pageant and once again share with another community about Kelowna's fun and beautiful qualities! At the end of May, Pooja and I emceed the Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake Speech and Talent Night; which allowed us to hear what the candidates are passionate about and learn what they love to do through their talents!

**Pooja:** The Lower Nicola Indian Band Pageant which I was able to attend was one of true culture, and so brand new! It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL pageant, and I absolutely LOVED it.

Recently, the candidates, Caitlin, and I were models in The Welcome Wagon Bridal Fashion Show! The gowns were absolutely stunning, and we all felt so beautiful, it was a great social experience.

Coming near the end, the fat cats parade and festival, our very last parade, I was so happy it was a local one! Oggy served us well, and he will never be forgotten!

**Caitlin:** In this previous month of June, I was able to attend the Hospital Auxiliary Volunteer Luncheon which was so encouraging to see all the men and women who devote their time to help out at our hospital! Later in the month, Pooja and I traveled on our last trip together to the Nakusp Pageant where we said goodbye to many of the ambassadors who are now our good friends!

Lastly, in June, Pooja and I emceed the Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake Etiquette Dinner and were able to enjoy an exquisite meal by the Manteo Resort Restaurant

**Pooja:** July 1<sup>st</sup>, Canada day. Being a part of the Citizenship Ceremonies having 17 different countries and 60 new citizens was an emotional and wonderful time. It brought memories for me personally, and reminded me how outstanding and welcoming our country is. The opening ceremonies were also a hit!

Here comes my last pageant...Kamloops. I know it was hard to say goodbye, but it's just the beginning. I know I will keep in touch with everyone, and really enjoyed my year.

Now, here we are at our Farewell to City Council, giving our presentation, for the last time as Miss Kelowna and Kelowna's Princess. I would like to thank each and every one of you here for the astounding support. You are the backbone to Kelowna and to our year! Just know, you have made SUCH a difference in these two girls' lives. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we will ALWAYS be involved with Kelowna.

Please accept our invitation to join us at the 80th anniversary of the Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake pageant on July 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Kelowna community theatre at 6:30pm. Where the magic all started, and where it will be given to be shared!

**And now as Miss Kelowna Lady of the Lake and as Miss Kelowna's Princess, WE THANK YOU, CITY OF KELOWNA.**