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# 6 Kelowna residents who made it big

BY VANCITY BUZZ

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Image: Friday Night Lights / Screenshot

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Every hometown has them – kids raised by the community who made it big. In Kelowna, they're proud of the athletes, actors, politicians and others who have come out of the community to make their mark in the world.

Who knew the geeky kid in the back row of your Social Studies class would ever end up on your television one day? And how often does an early morning – every early morning – spent on the ice with a hockey puck and a stick result in an NHL career?

Here are a few of Kelowna's brightest lights.

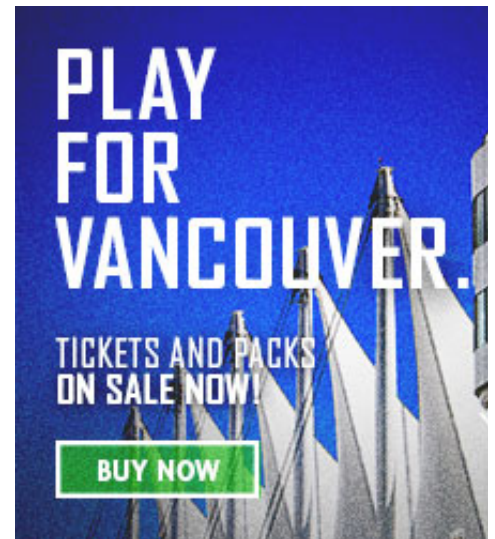
## Taylor Kitsch



Image: [Eva Rinaldi](#)

Best-known for his portrayal of high school football star Tim Riggins on NBC's *Friday Night Lights*, actor Taylor Kitsch has scored big with audiences and critics in such movies as *The Covenant*, *John Tucker Must Die*, *Snakes on a Plane*, *Battleship* and *John Carter*. He now shares the lead (with Colin Farrell and Vince Vaughn) in HBO's *True Detective*. Taylor was born in Kelowna, before moving to Vancouver and eventually New York City, where he got his big break.

## Evangeline Lilly



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Image: Gage Skidmore

This actress is mostly known for her role as Kate Austen in the series *Lost*. Though she was born in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, she moved to Kelowna with her mother when she was a young girl. She is also known for her roles in *The Hobbit* trilogy and *The Hurt Locker*.

## Josh Gorges



Image: Elliot/Wikipedia

A number of National Hockey League players were born in Kelowna, including defenseman Josh Gorges, who has played

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more than 600 NHL games. Most of these games were played with the Montreal Canadiens, along with a brief stint with San Jose and Buffalo Sabres. Gorges started with the hometown Rockets and captained the team to a 2004 Memorial Cup championship.

## Justin Schultz



Image: Connor Mah

The Edmonton Oilers' Justin Schultz, who also plays defense, has three solid NHL seasons under his belt. He started with the local Westside Warriors before moving to collegiate hockey in the United States at the University of Wisconsin.

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Image: Kelowna Rockets

The Kelowna Rockets deliver exciting WHL hockey to an appreciative Okanagan audience, winning the Memorial Cup in 2004. More than three-dozen Rockets have graduated to the NHL, including Shea Weber, Sheldon Souray, Luke Schenn, Chuck Kobasew, Duncan Keith, Scott Hannan and Todd Fedoruk.

## W.A.C. Bennett

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Image: Library and Archives Canada

William Bennett was leader of the provincial Social Credit party and the 25th Premier of British Columbia. With 20 years in office, he's the longest-serving premier. Under his leadership, the Social Credit won seven consecutive elections. After losing the 1972 election to Dave Barrett and the New Democratic Party, Bennett retired from politics. He passed away in 1979 at the age of 78.

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**Dan** • 2 months ago

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