THE CAMELOT HERALD

Editor: Ryan Bayer

November 2024

Dates to Remember

. Nov 11: Remembrance Day

Birthdays!!

. Nov 12: Sheila Moss

. Nov 17: Barbara Whitney

. Nov 19: Doug Seeley

. Nov 22: Roberta Robertson

. Nov 25: Diana McNeil



Camelot ACTIVITIES

- SUNDAY: Bingo at 1pm! Drop in for Bingo in the dining room; includes a special treat from our Chef.
- Birthday Dinner on the last Sunday of each month to celebrate Residents who have had a birthday that month.
- MONDAY: 09:30 am— Tai-Chi in the lounge.
- WEDNESDAY: 09:30 am

 Chair Exercises in the lounge.
- FRIDAY: 09:30 am— Tai-Chi in the lounge.
- 03:00 pm

 Trivia in the lounge.
- SATURDAY: 09:30 am

 Chair exercises in the lounge

07:15 pm— Movie night in the lounge.

03: 30 pm- Happy Hour! in the Lounge

SERVICE REMINDERS

- Elevator maintenance : Every 2nd Thursday of the month.
- Fire Alarm: Pacific Coast Fire conducts the Fire alarm test on the last Thursday of every month.
- Garbage/ Recycling: Garbage is picked up every second Thursday. Please remember to segregate the garbage and place in them in their delegated bins. Do not put garbage or plastics into the CARDBOARD bin. PLEASE pass on

MISCELLANEOUS

- Please note, residents are requested to not use their scooters in the Main Floor, Elevators, and your suites. Request you to kindly park the scooter in the basement before proceeding to the main floor and your suites.
- Reminder! We are a "No Scent" building. For the comfort of residents and visitors who have allergies, please refrain from wearing strong perfumes and colognes.

PERSONAL CARE

 Foot Care: If you would like an appointment with Denise for foot care, please provide your name to Mikki in Suite 305. The cost is \$45.00 per person.

FOOD SERVICE

• Extra Tray/ Guest in Dining Room: Please notify the office/ kitchen **48 hours in advance** for an extra guest meal.

What's Happening Around Town

- Nov 01 & 03: Strawberry Vale Christmas Craft Fair, Time: Nov 01– 05:00 pm, Nov 03– 04:00 pm, Location: 11 High Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 02: 2024 Greater Victoria MILITARIA Fair & Sale, Time: 10:00 am to 04:00 pm, Location: Bay Street Armoury National Historic Site & Federal Heritage Building, 715 Bay Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 02– 07: Victoria International Jewish Film Festival, Time: 07:00 pm, Location: Vic Theatre, 808 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 03: Russell Peters, Time: 03:00, Location: Save—On—Memorial Centre, 1925 Blashard Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 07: Stonehenge at the Royal BC Museum, Time: 10:00 am, Location: Royal BC museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 08 & 09: i-Land fest Tabanca, Time: 09:00 pm, Location: Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 3277 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 15 thru Jan 05, 2025: Festival of Trees, Location: Bay Centre, 1150 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 16: Handmade Village Craft Market, Time: 10:00 am to 04:00 pm, Location: North Douglas Church,
 675 Jolly Place, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 16: Rockin Around the Vintage Christmas Tree Holiday Fair, Time: 11:00 am to 08:00 pm, Location: Da Vinci Centre, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 21: Sarah McLachlan
 – Fumbling towards Ecstasy 30th Anniversary Tour, Time: 03:30, Location:
 Save
 – On
 – Foods Memorial Centre, 1925 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 22 thru Jan 05, 2025: Habitat Victoria's 16th Annual Gingerbread Showcase, Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 24: Night of Lights, Time: 06:00– 09:00 pm, Location: Hillside Shopping Centre, 1644 Hillside Ave, #21, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 29

 Dec 01: Winter Bazaar, Time: Nov 29

 05:00 to 09:00 pm, Nov 30 & Dec 01

 10:00 to 05:00 pm, Location: The Gorge Park Pavilion, 1070 Tillicum Road, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 30 & Dc 01: Winter Fest, Time: 10:00 am to 05:00 pm, Location: Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC.
- Nov 30: 42nd Peninsula Co-op Santa Claus Parade, Time: 05:00 pm, Location: Starting at Belleville and Government Street, Victoria, BC.

Stories of War: Lest We forget

John Shiwak was born in 1889 in Cul-de-Sac, a tiny settlement near Rigolet, Labrador. He was the eldest son of John and Sarah Oliver Shiwak. The family's surname was originally Sikoak, which means "relating to thin ice" in the Inuk language. Its spelling was later changed when it was recorded by a local doctor.

John got his first taste of military life as a young man. He took part in exercises organized by the Legion of Frontiersmen. This organization was founded after the South African War to help defend the British Empire. Curious and adventurous, John wanted to explore the world. The First World War provided him the opportunity to travel overseas.

During the early 1900s, news travelled slowly in remote areas. Radio and telephones were not common. It was weeks before most people in Labrador even knew the First World War had begun. John and a few friends travelled the long distance to St. John's to sign-up with the Newfoundland Regiment. He enlisted in July 1915. According to John's military records, he was 26 years old, 5' 5" (165 centimeters) tall, single and was working as a trapper. He named his mother, Sarah, as his next-of-kin. His service number was 1735.

John and a group of fellow new recruits left St. John's on 27 October 1915. They travelled by train and boat to Quebec City. There, they joined a large group of Canadian soldiers waiting to leave for Europe.

Their convoy of ships set sail a few days later for Devonport, England. They safely made the trip across the Atlantic Ocean, arriving in the United Kingdom on November 9.



John trained for several months in Ayr, Scotland. He finally joined the Newfoundland Regiment on the front lines in France on 24 July 1916. John's long experience in hunting and trapping made him an excellent scout. He quickly became known as a gifted sniper. He was the best in his regiment and perhaps even in the whole British 29th Division. But the Western Front was a tough place to stay healthy. John required treatment for an infection in his head in early October 1916 and needed three weeks to recover. He was promoted to Lance Corporal in April 1917.

The Allies went on the offensive on the Western Front in the fall of 1917. They targeted Cambrai, France, which was a major German supply center. The 29th British Division, including soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment, were assigned to capture a part of the St. Quentin Canal, near the village of Masnières. Their mission was part of a larger assault on the enemy's Hindenburg Line.

The 29th Division advance started the morning of 20 November 1917. The Newfoundlanders encountered some resistance but reached their first battlefield objective by 1:30 p.m. At dusk, the Newfoundlanders had made it to the outskirts of Masnières. The fighting to free the village continued through the night.

The next morning, John and his fellow members of the Newfoundland Regiment were ordered to take up a position on the other side of Masnières. Their goal was to secure a sugar factory for use as a Battalion head-quarters. Unfortunately, a German artillery shell hit a group of Newfoundlanders as they moved along the canal bank. Seven of them were killed by the explosion—including John Shiwak.

John's comrades quickly buried John in a temporary grave close to where he had died. However, fighting in the area continued. Ongoing artillery shelling re-shaped the local landscape. It erased all traces of his grave. Military efforts after the war to find it were unsuccessful. As a result, <u>Shiwak's</u> name was engraved on the bronze plaques at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. The names of more than 800 other Newfoundlanders who died in the First World War and have no known grave are on the memorial.

But Shiwak's history continued. Using archival research, modern historians located where John and the six other soldiers killed by an artillery shell that day are buried. Researchers determined their final resting place is likely under the site of a present day school in Masnières. John Shiwak's story lives on in the hearts of his family, his province and the people of Masnières. Together, they are making sure he is never forgotten.

Reference: https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/john-shiwak

Chilcotin Ramblings

People have asked me how to promote a book they have written. I will tell you what I did to sell my book, Chilcotin Ramblings. I initially wrote this book for grandchildren to show them a past way of life. To my amazement, other people wanted a copy, so I started selling some. Interest in the story grew, so I invested money, effort and energy into the project. I spent \$12,000 on books, \$700 on a scan-



ner and \$350 on a large leather purse that held a few books. I tried to make a \$5.00 profit on each book. When I had sold \$15,000 worth of books, I gave half of my profit to Toosey First Nations Band (now called Tsihqot'in) and stopped travelling to promote Chilcotin Ramblings. It was so much fun to meet people, listen to their experiences and travel to different communities. A surprise was that most people wanted to discuss their experiences and memories that my story triggered, but not discuss my book.

First, I considered who would be interested in the subject and where I could reach them. I went in person to many libraries, colleges, universities, museums, bookstores, craft sales, fairs, First Nation communities, rodeos, and Cowboy Poetry Gatherings to sell books. Small-town libraries get grants for local authors' writings and were receptive to buying my book. Still, the extensive city libraries like Vancouver's library turned me down. Colleges and universities budget for regional books, so they usually buy a few. Chilcotin Ramblings describes growing up in the 1940s and 50s in the Chilcotin with First Nation Peoples, ranchers, cowboys, hunters, and trappers. My market was readers interested in history, ranching, hunting and rural living.

Fortunately, the media and press supported my book greatly. It was terrific when the Kamloops newspaper featured a full-page, front-of-entertainment section spread about my book and included some of my paintings and photographs. The Williams Lake Tribune published three articles about my book and life growing up at Riske Creek in the Chilcotin. I also contacted local TV and radio stations, which then broadcasted their interviews with me. I had book signings at five bookstores, two cowboy poetry events, a rodeo, and two western wear stores.

When I travelled to various communities around the province, I researched the local museums, libraries, and organizations. I offered free speaking presentations and slide shows if I could sell books. It was a win-win situation: The organization made money with an admission fee or a donation basket, and I sold books. Often, the organization paid my travel expenses. I was fortunate to have done previous presentations promoting refugee sponsorship, so I had the contacts and skills to succeed.

I chose a self-publishing company, where I edited content, configuration, and fonts to showcase my photos, paintings, and stories. I loved working with text and images and found it a creative process.

I suggest anyone writing a book find the market interested in their subject, work hard to promote it and enjoy the ride!



