



HAPPY CANADA DAY

THE CAMELOT HERALD

Editor: Ryan Bayer

July 2025

Dates to Remember

- July 01: Canada Day
- July 04-13: Calgary Stampede
- July 9: Nunavut Day
- July 19: Canada Parks Day

July Birthdays!!

- July 06: Gail Powell
- July 12: Vivian Holt



Camelot **ACTIVITIES**

- ♦ **SUNDAY:** Bingo at 1pm! Drop in for Bingo in the dining room; includes a special treat from our Chef.
- ♦ **WEDNESDAY:** 09:30 am– Chair Exercises in the lounge.
- ♦ **FRIDAY:** 03:00 pm– Trivia in the lounge.
- ♦ **SATURDAY:** 09:30 am– Chair exercises in the lounge
03: 30 pm– **Happy Hour!** in the Lounge. Please bring your refreshments.
07:15 pm– Movie night in the lounge.
- ♦ **Birthday Dinner** on the last Sunday of each month to celebrate Residents who have had a birthday that month.

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 the information to your Personal Care Aid Worker.**

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.

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

- July 01: Canada Day Celebrations @ **DOWNTOWN VICTORIA**, Locations: Legislative Precinct and Inner Harbour. Time: 11 a.m. Drumming, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Family Zone, 11 a.m. To 10:30 p.m. International Food Village, 3 p.m. Welcome, 3:15 p.m. Traditional Dancers, 3:35 p.m. National Anthem – The Fates, 3:55 p.m. Blasé Blasé, 4:40 p.m. Yvonne Kushe, 5:25 p.m. Posh Coat, 6:25 p.m. Cities, 7:30 p.m. Mauvey, 8:30 p.m. Hey Ocean!, 9:30 p.m. DJ Shub, 10:15 p.m. Drone Show, 10:22 p.m. Fireworks.
- July 01: Gorge Canada Day Picnic, Time: 08:30 am to 04:00 pm, Location: The Length of Gorge Rd West.
- July 01: Canada Day Parade, Time: 11:30 am , Location: **DOWNTOWN SIDNEY**, Resthaven Drive, Beacon Ave, Second Street and Ocean Ave. Canada Day FIREWORKS at 10:15 pm @ Sidney Waterfront.
- July 01: Family Fun Day, Time; 12:30 to 04:00 pm, Location: Iroquois Park, 2295 Ocean Ave, Sidney, BC.
- July 04– 06: Philips Backyard Music Festival, Time: 02:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Location: 2010 Government Street, Victoria, BC.
- July 06: Saanich Strawberry Festival, Time: 11:00 am to 04:00 pm, Location: Beaver Lake Regional Park, 728 Beaver Lake Road, Victoria, BC.
- July 06: Victoria Pride Parade, Time: 11:00 am, Location: Starts at Pandora/ Government street, Humboldt Street, Belleville Street, and Menzies and Kingston Street, ends with a festival at MacDonald Park.
- July 08, 15, 22 & 29: Memorial Park Music Festival, Time: 06:00 pm to 08:00 pm, Location: Memorial Park, 1200 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC.
- July 13: Oak Bay Collector Car Festival, Time: 10:00 am to 03:00 pm, Location: Oak Bay Ave, BC.
- July 17-20: Northwest Deuce Days, Time: TBA, Location: Downtown Victoria, BC.
- July 26 & 27: ArtisTREE Festival 2025, Time: 10:00 am to 07:00 pm, Location: Government House Gardens, 1401 Rockland Ave, Victoria, BC.
- July 24: Victoria Symphony in the Summer, *VS and Pacific Opera Symphony* is being held outdoors at the beautiful Butchart Gardens starting at 8:00 pm.
- July 25: Victoria Symphony at Christ Church Cathedral, Time: 07:30 pm, Location: Christ church Cathedral, 930 Burdett Ave, Victoria, BC.
- July 27th, 2025 – *VS at Qualicum Beach* will be held at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre. The show starts at 7:00 pm.

Say Hello to the Newest Residents at 'The Camelot',

Lynda Lawrie @ 304

&

Ruth Clements @ 305

Make sure you do give them a “**BIG**” Camelot Hi”.



Early Pioneers of Victoria : The Lidgate Legacy and Beyond

Being a fifth-generation descendant of pioneers who settled in Victoria, and having been schooled by my mother on the stories and events of those early times through her research, I developed an interest at an early age. I kept notes and, fortunately, have a good long-term memory (though a poor short-term one). I've now started putting those notes into something of a readable order. Of course, I have the help of spell check—but my grammar and pronunciation still leave something to be desired.



I learned early in my research that all information must be double-checked, as people tend to tell stories that suit their social standing, often adjusting facts to cast their history in a better light. I even checked my mother's notes for accuracy. For the most part, they stood up well. I never wanted to be a writer who altered history for effect.

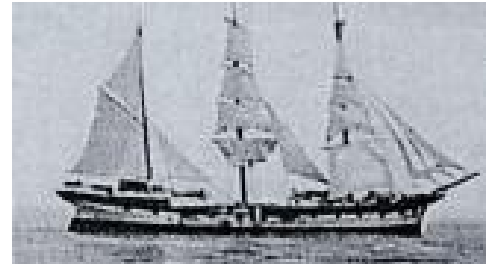
I've documented stories of Indigenous peoples from Brentwood, the first Black man in Victoria, and a former mayor of Rossland who moved to Victoria. He worked as a real estate appraiser, built a home in Esquimalt, and purchased land in Central Saanich that later became a provincial park—and there are others.

When I decided to put these narratives into print, the first challenge I faced was: *Who do I write about first?* Should it be the true Indigenous people of the area or someone else?

Upon reflection, I decided to start with the name I knew best—that of a Scotsman who, with his wife and three children, left Scotland in 1853 for Victoria. I will also touch on other family members who, through marriage, became part of the Lidgate family—two of whom arrived in Canada even earlier.

The Lidgate Legacy

Duncan Lidgate, my great-great-grandfather, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1820. A carpenter by trade, he joined the Hudson's Bay Company (remember them?) and set sail in July 1852 aboard the *Norman Morison*, a three-masted schooner headed for Victoria. The voyage took them around Cape Horn and up the Pacific coast, finally arriving in Victoria on January 16, 1853—a six-month journey. The vessel was later lost in the South Pacific with no explanation as to what happened.



Aboard the ship with the Lidgate family were approximately 43 children, 20 single men, 5 single women, and 37 married couples—all on a 120-foot vessel powered solely by wind.

I've read many stories of ships rounding Cape Flattery, only to be pushed back out to sea by strong winds and tides—imagine the anguish after six months at sea.

Most passengers were indebted to the Hudson's Bay Company for their steerage passage to Victoria and had to work off that debt—sometimes up to five years. Duncan was sent to Craigflower to help build the farm, school, and other infrastructure. Many were unhappy with the living conditions; they had been promised accommodations but ended up living in an open barn. One story tells of Duncan and another fellow having a few too many drinks and firing rifle shots through the Factor's building. They spent a couple of nights in the brig for that.

Eventually, they completed their indenture. Duncan bought land in South Saanich (now Central Saanich), on Mount Newton Cross Road—legal description: Section 5, South Range 1 East, South Saanich. To add insult to injury, he had to purchase the land from none other than the Hudson's Bay Company. At that time, there was no homesteading government or Indigenous land—you bought it through the good graces of Sir James Douglas, the HBC's representative and colonial governor.

The Lidgates built a home—parts of which are still standing—and cleared the land using oxen (I could find no record of where the oxen came from). They engaged in mixed farming on the fertile land. Today, grain is grown on adjacent fields used by a local brewery, and the Lidgate farm even produced kiwi fruit.

Visitors driving along Mount Newton Cross Road can see a roadside cairn commemorating the first home-
stead in South Saanich. My mother, my sons Mark and Greg, and I commissioned the cairn and held the
unveiling on February 20, 1995.

Duncan, classified as a joiner, along with two other settlers, built St. Stephen's Anglican Church—also on
Mount Newton Cross Road—which was completed in June 1862. The church is still in active use and is a
federally designated heritage site. It is the oldest church in British Columbia still on its original site and con-
tinuously used as a place of worship. Construction took three months; since there were no sawmills, they
ordered California redwood shipped to Victoria.

I have a story about my involvement with the church in the early 1950s, which I will save for another article.
Duncan passed away in April 1874 at the age of 63. His wife, Helen, died in 1889 at age 79. Both are buried
near the front steps of the church Duncan helped build.

I have a complete record of the Lidgate family, down to my four great-granddaughters, who represent the
eighth generation. I hope to be around to welcome the ninth. As of 1995, the record includes over 500 direct
descendants of Duncan and Helen Lidgate, many of whom still live on Vancouver Island or the B.C. main-
land.

Other Pioneer Lineages

Over the years, there have been many marriages into the Lidgate family. I would like to acknowledge three
notable additions:

James Goudie, born in 1810 in the Orkney Islands, went to sea at an early age. He began on a whaling
ship in the Davis Strait, then joined the HBC, sailing around Cape Horn to San Francisco and then to Fort
Colville, Washington (now Spokane) in 1829. He married a Native woman, had a large family, and worked in
the Colville grist mill to pay off his passage debt.

When the 49th parallel was being negotiated, James realized he might end up on American soil. He traveled
to Fort Vancouver, gathered his belongings, and headed north to Victoria. At Nisqually, Washington, he
hired Indigenous guides to take his family to Victoria in dugout canoes—passing by Whidbey Island.

A grandson of James and Margaret—**James Jr.**—was hired by Sir James Douglas as a surveyor to scout a
route to the Barkerville gold fields via Bute Inlet. He was killed by members of the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) Na-
tion during the Chilcotin War, a conflict documented in many volumes.

The *Daily Colonist*, April 26, 1887, reported James Goudie's death at age 77 at his residence on Blanshard
Street, noting that he had built the first flour mill in Oregon for the HBC 60 years prior.

John Greig, another Scotsman from the Orkney Islands, was born in 1825. A tall, red-haired man, he joined
the HBC, crossed the Atlantic, and spent his first winter in Hudson's Bay living with French Canadians. He
built a violin by hand and taught himself to play. He later walked to Fort Colville and married Margaret Goud-
ie in 1848.

Eventually, they moved to Victoria, where John worked as a lime burner. He first set up operations in what
is now Thetis Lake Park, then later in Todd Inlet, where he found a larger lime deposit. His sons sold the
property after his death in 1892, and it eventually became the site of the Butchart Gardens. Greig Avenue
near the gardens is named after him.

The *Colonist*, October 22, 1892, wrote:

"By the death of John Greig of Saanich a few days ago [Oct. 15], B.C. lost one of those old-timers who
helped make her what she is."

In 1956, I accompanied my mother—John Greig’s great-granddaughter—on a visit to meet John Thompson, who had worked for John Greig. He shared stories of farming, fiddle playing, and the nightly Scotch given to his farmhands.


The Whitlaw Family

Lastly, I mention my grandfather, **Laurence Whitlaw**, born in England in 1875 to Capt. Alexander and Kate Whitlaw. Captain Whitlaw brought his wife to Victoria on a freight ship. She loathed sea travel and refused to leave Victoria afterward. Her husband was later lost at sea somewhere in the West Indies. Their two sons were sent to Canada and worked as farmhands for neighbors of my mother’s family. Kate set up a millinery shop on 35 Fort Street. My grandfather served overseas in WWI and was gassed, spending time in a large military hospital in England. Sadly, while he was away, his wife died from an infection not long after childbirth. He returned to Canada aboard a hospital ship and spent years in and out of care at Tranquille Sanatorium in Kamloops. He passed away in 1937, not long after my birth.

Prologue

I realize this may be confusing in places—who’s who, how they’re related—but this was written primarily for my family. At their request, I decided to share it in *The Camelot*. I’ve left out many fascinating stories, but everything included has been double-checked with records from the Provincial Archives, the Saanich Pioneer Society, and *The Colonist* newspaper archives. I hope you’ve enjoyed reading.

Till next time,
Larry Churchill

	
<p>Conundrum</p> <p>I am in a conundrum about this country’s birth-day. Not wanting to dishonour the first people’s way I want to celebrate Canada’s 150 years of life. But how do I rejoice while recalling past strife? Do I acknowledge the past customs and cultures And forget how Europeans were land vultures? Pioneers’ stories and bravery should be enhanced By remembering the powwows where people danced. School taught us Mackenzie, Vancouver and Champlain Sailed and traversed North America and claimed New territory, but the existing society was not respected So, it was to be smothered and rejected. Turtle Island heroes like Tecumseh, Riel and Crazy Horse Had no recognition of being great leaders of course. First Nation chiefs forgotten in past textbooks and omitted Along with the atrocities that were committed.</p>	<p>We formed three countries on the back of the turtle With great cost to the first peoples’ desperate hurtle We now love Canada, United States and Mexico But Chilcotin, Okanagan, Shuswap and Navajo Lost their territories, rituals and rights. Canadians must recognize the past plights. As we stand by grieving graves or hear the Last Post Think of the First People’s suffering, laments and cost. Remembering all the histories of our great enclaves We must rejoice in our glorious land’s anniversary While we include all peoples’ sagas and diversity. With goals for all to flourish and fly with birds Let every heart soar with Chief Dan George’s words: “The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass, they speak to me. And my heart soars.”</p> <p><i>Felicity Klassen April 2017</i></p> <p><i>“The beauty of the trees, the softness of the air, the fragrance of the grass, they speak to me. The summit of the mountain, the thunder of the sky, the rhythm of the sea, speaks to me. The faintness of the stars, the freshness of the morning, the dewdrop on the flower, speaks to me. The strength of the fire, the taste of the salmon, the trail of the sun, and the life that never goes away, they speak to me. And my heart soars.</i></p> <p><i>Chief Dan George 1974</i></p>

The CAMELOT camaraderie

Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day at The Camelot

On June 21st, residents at The Camelot gathered to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day with a meaningful and educational activity — a board game session led by Judi Morin and Fliss Klassen.

Seven participants played “**Truth in Truth and Reconciliation**,” an insightful board game created by Indigenous educator James Darin Corbiere. Originally designed as a teaching tool for his students, the game explores Canadian history from an Indigenous perspective. Encouraged by his students, Darin published the game last year to make it more widely accessible.

The session was both engaging and thought-provoking, sparking meaningful discussion and reflection among players. Judi purchased the game directly from Darin and is happy to facilitate future sessions for groups of 4 to 7 people. If you're interested, just ask **Judi Morin**!



James Darin Corbiere developed the game as a way to make the complex and often painful truths of Canadian history more accessible, especially for younger learners. By turning learning into an interactive experience, the game supports reconciliation through awareness, empathy, and dialogue. Some of the Key Features of the Game:

Educational Focus: The game is a teaching tool that presents facts, survivor stories, and historical events tied to the residential school legacy in Canada.

Interactive Learning: Players move through the game by answering questions and completing activities that promote discussion and reflection about reconciliation and Indigenous history.

Cultural Respect and Awareness: Created by an Indigenous educator, the game is grounded in lived experience and cultural sensitivity, making it a powerful tool for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous players.

Classroom & Community Use: It is widely used in schools, professional development workshops, and community settings to help participants engage with the TRC's 94 Calls to Action in a meaningful way.

July '25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 <p>1</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>2</p>		<p>Trivia 03:00 p.m</p>  <p>4</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>5</p> 
 <p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>9</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>Trivia 03:00 p.m</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>12</p>  
<p>13</p> 	 <p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Trivia 03:00 p.m</p> <p>18</p> 	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>19</p> 
<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Trivia 03:00 p.m</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>26</p> 
 <p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Exercise 9:30 a.m</p> <p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		