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| **STEVENSON PLACE** SHANGRI-LA | |
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| August Memories  Labour day is upon us, which means that August is behind us. I don’t remember another month that was so packed with parties and celebrations. It all began on August 4, when we celebrated our beautiful province with our traditional blueberry muffins, which Sue whipped up for us with freshly picked blueberries. We continued our activities with Brain Gym on August 6th, and after missing our monthly Bingo game in July, we happily made up for it with two games in August! August 9th was our first game, with twelve attendees, and five winners. Congratulations to Joan, Laurine, Sally and Jim. Penny was the big winner taking home two prizes! August 14th, we celebrated Stevenson Place’s 28th anniversary with a Country Club themed party. Tereza Tomek and her bandmates entertained us with live music and she even had a banjo player! We followed this with a delicious dinner, complete with wine and toasts to our continued good health and happiness. August 20th, Gary and Lucy, along with their family, shared their triple crown celebration with us by hosting a BBQ. August 23rd we played Bingo again, with thirteen attendees, and two double winners. Congratulations to Henry, Louise, Summer, Tineke and Laurine. | **What’s Happening this Month:**  September 1: Labour Day  Muffins @ 11 am  September 3: Magi returns for Mini  Moves! 10 am  September 9: ***Window Washing 8 am***  September 9: Live Music 1 pm  September 10: *Happy Birthday Terry*  September 11: *Happy Birthday Grace L*  September 16: Residents Coffee Meeting  10:30 am  September 20: BINGO! 1:30 pm  September 28: Wine with Dinner  September 30: National Day for Truth  and Reconciliation  maxine, bones funny, funny quotes  There are flowers enough in the summertime,  More flowers than I can remember-  But none with the purple, gold, and red  That dye the flowers of September!  -Mary Howitt 1799 - 1888 |
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| **No White after Labour Day**  Ever wonder where this old-fashioned rule came from? Wearing white in the summer makes perfect sense, but no white pants or white shoes after labour day? Who started this crazy trend? We can still have hot weather in September, right? No one is sure exactly when or even why this fashion rule came into effect, but the best guess is it had to do with snobbery in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. The wives of the super rich ruled high society with a velvet glove and an iron fist, and as the world changed, and more people became millionaires, it was increasingly difficult to tell the difference between respectable old money families and those who had only vulgar new money. By the 1880’s, in order to tell who was who, the women with the oldest bloodlines began to create dozens of bizarre fashion rules that everyone acceptable had to adhere to. Following these rules showed that you were part of the ‘in-crowd’ and knew the ins and outs of proper etiquette. According to this, if a woman showed up at the theatre in a dress that cost more than most made in a year, but had the wrong sleeve length, the others would know not to give her the time of day. Lack of knowledge of the rules was a clear giveaway that you were new to the scene or, heaven forbid, a social climber. | Floriography  Communication is a cornerstone to all relationships, and before the invention of the telephone and the launch of e-mail and texting, the language of flowers was a popular way of corresponding in the 18th and 19th centuries. During Victorian times, gifts of plants, blooms and specific floral arrangements were used as a means of sending coded messages. This allowed the sender to express feelings that could not be spoken aloud in polite society. Imagine receiving flowers and then trying to translate what the person who sent them was saying! Each month has birth flowers, and all blooms have a unique meaning. Septembers’ birth flowers are the Aster and the Morning Glory. Asters are also known as starworts or frost flowers and they symbolize faith, valor, wisdom, affection, daintiness and love. The blooms, which can vary in colour, convey different messages. In Greek mythology, it is said that the Aster was created by the tears of the Greek goddess, Astraea, (meaning star maiden or starry night). The Morning Glory is a flower of duality, in Victorian times, its meaning was love in vain, love or mortality. Today, it represents unrequited love. So, before you send anyone flowers, think about what you might be saying, without words. |
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| ***Astronomical or Meteorological?***  No matter what is happening around the world, the seasons will change. Summer is coming to an end, and depending on how you view it, Autumn is nipping at your heels or-has it already arrived? There are two schools of thought about when the seasons officially change. In astronomical terms, the seasons are determined by the axis of the Earth’s tilt, a 23-degree slant, which enables the Sun to appear above the horizon for different lengths of time, marking Spring & Fall equinox and Summer & Winter solstice. So, the astronomers, guided by the Earth’s tilt from the Sun, designate Fall beginning with the autumnal equinox, usually between September 21st – 23rd, when the Sun’s rays are aiming directly at the equator. This is when day and night are of equal length. The Winter solstice occurs around December 21st or 22nd and is the shortest day of the year, when we have the least amount of daylight, and marks the first day of winter. At this time, the Sun’s rays are aiming directly at southern latitudes. The Vernal equinox, about March 21st, is the first day of Spring, when day and night are of equal | length again. The longest day of the year occurs June 20th or 21st when we have the maximum amount of daylight. This is the summer solstice, and according to the astronomers, this is the official start of summer. In the meteorological seasons, fall begins September 1 and ends November 30. Winter begins December 1 and ends on the last day of February. Spring begins March 1 and ends May 31. The seasons begin and end based on the annual temperature cycle. So, following this thought process, summer begins on June 1st, and runs through until the end of August, which really makes sense, as these are the months that we traditionally think of as “summer vacation time”. There are also four seasons and twelve months in the year, and this is a fair way of dividing up the calendar. But it also means Autumn has arrived as of September 1st.  Today’s lawn and garden tip: If you haven’t found the hedge trimmer yet, forget it. It’s almost time to lose the leaf rake. The snow shovel won’t be far behind. |
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| LABOUR DAY  What evolved into just another long weekend started as a massive demonstration of the working class in the streets of Toronto in 1872.  In 1869, the union, acting on behalf of its members from the Toronto Globe and the Toronto Mail, sent a petition to their employers requesting a reduction of weekly work hours to 58. A nine-hour workday, one hour less a day. That’s all the printers of the Toronto Typographical Union wanted.  The publishers refused, stating that the request was ‘foolish, absurd and unreasonable.’ The unions stand hardened to a demand, then a threat to strike. The publishers dismissed the threat and in a show of solidarity, the printers walked off the job on March 25, 1872.  Undaunted, the publishers hired replacement workers from rural Ontario, dubbed ‘*country mice*’ by the pro-labour press.  On April 15, 1872, on the northeast corner of Queen’s Park Crescent east and Grosvenor Street in Toronto, a crowd of 10,000 supporters marched in a show of camaraderie for their fellow city workers.  Globe publisher, George Brown, the main antagonist of the union, launched legal action that resulted in 24 strike members being arrested and jailed for criminal conspiracy the following day. This led to the shocking discovery that according to a Canadian law, dating back to 1792, union activity was illegal. Angry crowds gathered after the arrests to denounce Brown, who defended his actions by claiming that it was the only way for the publishers to retain control of their businesses.  Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald, sensing an opportunity to embarrass his political rival and gain support from the workers, introduced the Trade Union Act on June 14, 1872. The act legalized and protected unions. Although the strike failed in the short term and resulted in the loss of jobs for many, forcing them to leave Toronto, the long-term effects of the movement were positive. Through the 1880’s, the pressure to declare a national labour holiday grew.  On July 23, 1894, the government of Prime Minister John Thompson passed a law, making Labour Day official. The Toronto printers were pioneers, and their actions spawned changes that we still benefit from today. | |
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