

THE CAMELOT HERALD

Editor: Ryan Bayer

October 2026

Dates to Remember

- Oct 12: Thanksgiving
- Oct 31: Halloween

Birthdays!!

- Oct 11: Shirley Canon
- Oct 19: Joan Hanneson



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. To resume in fall.
- ♦ **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.**

COFFEE MEETING

- ♦ The next coffee meeting will be on October 21, 2026 .

What's Happening Around Town

- Oct 01: Women of the Fur Trade, Time: 07:30 pm, Location: Belfry Theatre, 1291 Gladstone Ave, Victoria, BC.
- Oct 02: Luxton Fall Fair, Time: 03:00 pm, Location: 1067– 1019 Marwood Ave, Victoria, BC.
- Oct 03: Apple Harvest Festival, Time: 10:00 am, Location: Ross Bay Villa, 1490 Fairfield Road, Victoria, BC. Hosted at the Ross Bay Villa Historic House Museum, featuring garden tea, fresh-baked pie, live music, and apple identification by the BC Fruit Growers Association.
- Oct 03: Monster Mash Halloween Vintage Fair & Makers Market, Time: 09:00 am, Location: Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay Street, Victoria, BC. A one-day market at the da Vinci Centre featuring 70+ vendors, food trucks, psychic readings, and a costume contest
- Oct 03: Oktober Fest at Oaklands, Time: 05:30 pm, Location: Oaklands Community Centre & Association, 2827 Belmont Ave, Victoria, BC. A 19+ community celebration at the Oaklands Community Centre with Hoyne Brewing beer, bratwurst, and live karaoke band music .
- Oct 03: In Concert with Internationally renowned Organist Jan Libermann, Time: 07:30 pm, Location: Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, BC. Cost from \$11.98.
- Oct 11: Royal Victoria Marathon, Time: 08:15 am, Location: Downtown Victoria.
- Oct 15: Springridge Music Bingo, Time: 06:00 pm, Location: The Fernwood Inn, 1302 Gladstone Ave, Victoria, BC.
- Oct 17: Grand Slam of Curling– Draw 17, Time: 08:00 am, Location: Save On Foods Memorial, 1925 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC. Professional curling competition taking place at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre.
- Oct 25: Parameswaran & Liu– Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 1, Time: 02:30 pm, Location: Royal Theatre, 805 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC. Tickets starting from \$38.00.

Chilcotin Racism in the 1940s and 1950s

-Felicity Klassen



I am ashamed to say that I was oblivious to the racism that was all around me as I grew up in the Chilcotin. White people had a superiority that contributed to the unfair treatment of people who did not look like them. If someone had a mixed ethnicity, they might be accepted into the mainstream white society but could never acknowledge the other part of their heritage.

Many ranches had a Chinese gardener or cook, but they were not treated like the other employees. They were separated from the cowboys and ranch hands bunkhouses and lived alone in small individual cabins. While these men would be the first up in the morning to light the wood-burning cook stoves, they did not eat with the crew or the ranch families. Chew Fook, who maintained the irrigation ditches on the Cotton Ranch was ridiculed for his accent and monthly Chinese newspaper. It was a solitary and lonely life for those hardworking men.

Japanese-Canadians in the Cariboo were treated disgracefully. After having their home and business confiscated, a mandatory move from Vancouver made one family come to the Cariboo in the 1940s. These city folk were forced to live a new rugged life in a small log cabin in the bush as they faced daily suspicion and prejudice. When they quietly started attending the United Church, an article appeared on the front page of the Williams Lake Tribune with the headline "The Vermin Are Sneaking In The Back Door" by going to a local church. Some people treated these new neighbours respectfully but others did despicable things to them. It has always astounded me how Canadian families of Japanese ethnicity have had such grace and forgiveness after this terrible treatment.

The most blatant racial prejudice was imposed upon the First Nation Tsilhqot'ins. They were not allowed to vote, go to public schools, leave the Reserve to get any training or attend social events such as community dances or gatherings. The Tsilhqot'in beliefs and culture were ridiculed and mocked. I, too, imitated First Nation people's accents, not realizing it was a subtle form of disrespect. The greatest wrongdoing was the taking of Tsilhqot'in children from their families and forcing them to go to residential school. These schools segregated boys from girls and even prevented children from speaking to their siblings of a different sex. Native language, dancing and drumming were banned while some of these children were dressed in Scottish kilts, taught to play bagpipes, and marched in the Williams Lake Stampede parade. The sorrow and anguish of these kids penetrated my world one September when the priest took Billy Johnny from his family. Billy was nine and I was ten when he was waiting in Father Brown's truck outside our lodge and store. He was sobbing uncontrollably and when this small boy would not stop crying, I snuck into our store, stole an Oh Henry chocolate bar and shoved it into his hand before the priest came out of the lodge and drove away with him. When Billy came home for Christmas, he was very quiet. He returned to "The Mission" school soon after and was not home until July. Each year he and the other children from Toosey reserve followed the same migration. I never talked to Billy alone again but I have never forgotten the fear and pain of that little boy.

The racism and prejudice that occurred in the Chilcotin all those years ago seem so stupid and obvious now, but they were insidious, brazen and intentional during my early years. It is easy to judge from this distance of years, but the people then were products of their time. **It does not make it right.** Let us hope that we can learn from the past and try to right some of the wrongs occurring in today's world.

A Table of Gratitude: The Thanksgiving that almost Wasn't

- Ryan Bayer

Thanksgiving in Canada is a time when the beauty of autumn meets the warmth of togetherness. The streets are lined with golden maple leaves, kitchens are filled with the aroma of roasted turkey and pumpkin pie, and families gather to give thanks for the blessings of the year. But sometimes, the most memorable Thanksgiving celebrations are the ones that don't go according to plan.

In a quiet Canadian neighbourhood, a family was preparing to celebrate its first Thanksgiving in Canada. Having moved from another country, they were excited to experience this special tradition. The mother had prepared a delicious meal, the father had carefully arranged the dining table, and their young son had made a handmade sign that read, "Happy Thanksgiving!"

Just as they were about to sit down for dinner, the doorbell rang. It was their elderly neighbour, Margaret, holding a dish covered with a tea towel. "My oven has stopped working, and I was hoping to bake a pumpkin pie for my grandchildren," she explained with a smile. Would you mind letting me use yours? "Of course!" the family replied warmly.

Soon, the kitchen was filled with the comforting smell of cinnamon and the sound of cheerful conversation. As Margaret settled in, she shared stories of how her family had celebrated Thanksgiving over the years.

A little while later, another knock came at the door. It was a young couple from down the street who had recently moved to Canada. With no family nearby, they were spending the holiday on their own. "We were wondering if we could borrow some sugar," they said.

"Come on in!" the mother replied. "We're just getting ready for dinner. Why don't you join us?" The couple hesitated at first, but the warmth of the invitation soon put them at ease.

Before long, the dining table had grown to accommodate more chairs. Margaret brought her freshly baked pumpkin pie, the young couple shared a dish they had prepared, and the family served their traditional meal.

As everyone gathered around the table, the father looked around at the unexpected company and smiled.

"This isn't quite how we planned our first Thanksgiving," he said, but I think it's turning out to be something even more special. Margaret nodded and raised her glass of apple cider. "That's what Thanksgiving is all about," she said. "It's not about having the perfect meal or the biggest gathering. It's about being grateful for what we have and sharing it with others."

The evening unfolded with laughter, stories, and memories. Some spoke of loved ones living far away, others shared their experiences of starting a new life in Canada, and everyone found something to be thankful for.

When the guests finally prepared to leave, the little boy looked at his handmade sign and added a few words beneath the greeting:

"Happy Thanksgiving! There's always room for one more."

And perhaps that was the greatest lesson of the evening. Thanksgiving is not just about the food on the table or the traditions we follow. It is about opening our hearts and homes, appreciating the people around us, and remembering that even the smallest act of kindness can make someone feel they belong.

A Thanksgiving Reflection

As Canadians celebrate Thanksgiving this year, may we remember that gratitude is best expressed through kindness. A shared meal, a friendly conversation, or a simple invitation can make a world of difference to someone who feels alone.

May our homes be filled with warmth, our tables with generosity, and our hearts with gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving!

