



# **FIVE STAR NEWS**

**Barrhead & District Social Housing Association**



**November, December 2023 - January 2024**

**FREE**



## **RESPECT EARNED**

**Soldiers camp in trenches deep  
Exhausted, but too tense to sleep,  
Darkness fades and brings first light  
Another day, another fight.**

**Invisible wounds that they carry  
Grow deeper as they help to bury  
Another comrade, once a friend  
As they pray, that this war will end.**

**Holidays missed with family and friends  
Relationships we hope will mend  
We listen to injured cry and moan,  
As loved ones wait alone at home.**

**As you arise to start your day  
Remember those who paved the way  
For freedom, that we all share,  
Honour them, and a poppy wear.**

**Dedicated to all who served, and their families.**

**Jacqueline Black - 2023  
Wife of Sgt W.P. Black (deceased)**

## **The White Cliffs of Dover**

**There'll be bluebirds over**

**The white cliffs of dover**

**Tomorrow**

**Just you wait and see**

**I'll never forget the people I met**

**Braving those angry skies**

**I remember well as the shadows fell**

**The light of hope in their eyes**

**And though I'm far away**

**I still can hear them say**

**Bombs up**

**But when the dawn comes up**

**There'll be bluebirds over**

**The white cliffs of dover**

**Tomorrow**

**Just you wait and see**

**There'll be love and laughter**

**And peace ever after**

**Tomorrow**

**When the world is free**

**The shepherd will tend his sheep  
The valley will bloom again  
And Jimmy will go to sleep  
In his own little room again**

**There'll be bluebirds over  
The white cliffs of dover  
Tomorrow  
Just you wait and see**

**There'll be bluebirds over  
The white cliffs of dover  
Tomorrow  
Just you wait and see**



### **Historical Significance**

**"The White Cliffs of Dover" was released during a crucial point in history, during the Second World War in 1942. The song provided comfort and hope to many people across Britain and the Allied nations.**

### **Popularity**

**Although the song was primarily famous in the UK, its influence did cross over the Atlantic. It was immensely popular among the American Armed Forces and citizens during World War II.**

### **Lyrics**

**The lyrics of the song allude to a future time when the world is free from the shadows of war. This imagery resonated with many people going through the harsh realities of the conflict.**

### **Artist**

**Vera Lynn, known as the "Forces' Sweetheart", became a symbol of hope for British soldiers and the public during World War II. Her rendition of "The White Cliffs of Dover" became one of her signature songs.**

### **Composition**

**The song was composed by Walter Kent to lyrics by Nat Burton. Despite its association with the UK, both Kent and Burton are American.**

### **Iconic Location**

**The White Cliffs of Dover are an iconic symbol of Britain, perceived as a signifier of home to returning servicemen. The song's title and lyrics amplified this sense of national pride and longing for peace.**

### Album

It was featured on Vera Lynn's album 'Sincerely Yours' which enjoyed immense popularity following its release.

### Cultural Influence

Over the years, the song has been covered by numerous artists and bands, including The Righteous Brothers, The Blue Jays, and Jim Reeves which speaks to its enduring resonance and appeal.

### Legacy

"The White Cliffs of Dover" was chosen as the final song in the 2009 remembrance service to mark 70 years since the declaration of World War II.

### Honoring Vera Lynn

After Lynn passed away on 18 June 2020, at the age of 103, a Spitfire plane flew over her home in Ditchling, Sussex, and over the White Cliffs of Dover, as a tribute to her.





## Letters to Santa....

**I will trade you my sister for an elf.**

**“Dear Santa and helpers, I have been very good this year. I am expecting a little sister. I don’t want her. Mommy says her will be fun. I heard girl’s stink. I will trade you my sister when she comes from the stork for a elf. I want a race car and a Garage set for Christmas. There will be sugar cookies and burritos waiting for you. Thank you, Santa.**

**Craig.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear Santa Claus,**

**I am a little girl 10 years old and I have three little sisters and one little brother. I would like you to bring me a nice new cape, new shoes, a nice big doll, sulky doll, pocketbook, and fix up my wheel, some hair ribbons, and anything else you think I would like. My little sister Edith is 5 ½, she would like a velocipede and some paper dolls, a new doll and anything else you would like to bring her. My sister Lucille wants the same as Edith, but she wants a cape also and little Naomi is just 2 years old she wants a doll that will say mamma, and she wants a broom, and lots of pretty things and Ambrose is just 1 year old you can bring him some blocks, a monkey, ball, dog, and a little sweater suit from Smith’s baby store. Please bring plenty of oranges, nuts, apples, bananas, candy tangerines, some horns for us all.**

**From one of your little girls,**

**Mary Estell Colee**

**52 Central Ave.**

**P.S. Dear Santa don't forget that I do not live at the same place anymore. I live at 52 Central. I will leave the front door open for you.**



**Dear Santa,**

**Mother says it has been one year since I wrote you, a long time for little boys to be good (we've tried to be). So please Santa bring us each a cowboy suit, a fire truck, a Sandy Andy, several storybooks, some marbles, a ball, a knife, some games, and anything else you think we might like. Our brother James wants only an electric train and bring our little sister several dolls and Oh! Santa I can't begin to tell you all she wants, so just bring her everything a little girls should have.**

**Your little boys,**

**Jack and Paul Capo**





**Dear Santa Claus,**

**My name is Mary Catherine Murphy and I am 5 years old. I have a little sister and her name is Virginia Murphy and she is 3 years old. I can't read or write so I asked my dada to write what I say. We are trying so hard to be good and if you have room on your sleigh, please bring us a wagon for spud, he's a goat; a yellow ribbon for Moses, our dog; and a blue ribbon for Joe the cat. I would like a doll if you please, one with a white dress, a clown doll and a jumping Jack. Virginia would like a monkey, a dog, a toy house. We both like candy. Mama and Dada will put the tree in the library and we will have everything ready for you we know you are in a hurry and want to remember all good children so please take some toys to all the little boys and girls who have no one to write for them. Thank you, dear Santa, God bless you.**

**Mary Catherine and Virginia Murphy 114 San Marco Ave.**





## **“Some Assembly Required”**

**'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house**

**I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.**

**Instructions were studied, and we were inspired,**

**In hopes, we could manage "some assembly required."**

**The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds,**

**While Dad and I faced the evening with dread:**

**A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's townhouse to boot!**

**And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot!**

**We opened the boxes; my heart skipped a beat . . .**

**Let no parts be missing or parts incomplete!**

**Too late for last-minute returns or replacement.**

**If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement!**

**When what to my worrying eyes should appear,**

**But 50 sheets of directions, concise but not clear,**

**With each part numbered and every slot named,**

**So if we failed, only we could be blamed.**

**More rapid than eagles, the parts then fell out,**

**All over the carpet, they were scattered about.**

**"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there!**

**Slide on the seats and staple the stair!**

**Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."**

**"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."**

**And then, in a twinkling, I knew for a fact.**

**That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact**

**To keep parents, busy all Christmas Eve night**

**With "assembly required" till morning's first light.**

**We spoke not a word but kept bent at our work,**

**Till our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt.**

**The coffee went cold, and the night, it wore thin.**

**Before we attached the last rod and last pin.**

**Then laying the tools away in the chest,**

**We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.**

**But I said to my husband just before I passed out,**

**"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.**

**Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring,**

**And not have to run to the store for a thing!**

**We did it! We did it! The toys are all set.**

**For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"**

**Then off to dreamland and sweet repose, I gratefully went,**

**Though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded...**

**I'd forgotten that BATTERIES are never included!**





## **Let Everyday Be Christmas**

**Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving are not to be put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do for yourself.**

**~Norman Wesley Brooks**





NICE  
TO MEET  
YOU

## Getting to know your Neighbor.



**Name: Judy Cartwright**

**Birthday: August 4, 1950**

**Years living at BDSHA: 3 Years**

**What so you like best about living here: The friendliness of the people and staff.**

**Hobbies: Judy enjoys playing games on her iPad.**

**Something you might not know about me: Judy was married for 49 years to Calvin. Judy has a granddaughter named Maggie who is 13 years old and is in second place for pro barrel racing association. When asking Judy something about herself, she wanted to mention Florence. A very special friend and stepsister “She has made my life a lot more pleasant. She takes me places and lifts my spirits” Judy said.**



**Name: John Denholm**

**Birthday: July 27, 1936**

**Years living at BDSHA: 3 or 4 years**

**What do you like best about living here: Everything is okay, but the worst is having to go to the dining room for lunch.**

**Hobbies: John enjoys spending his time watching movies, specifically 70's movies. When not doing that, you can find him cooking, or working on an art piece, as he is an artist.**

**Something you might not know about me: John has lived a very interested life. He says people tell him all the time that he should write a book on his life. His parents passed away when he was young, on a ship that sunk, which led to him being a young child constantly moving. He says he had new parents and a new home, sometimes in a new town, at least every 9 months. John was a child in the Canadian Childrens Aid Society. At just 9 years old John was given two options, to start a job, or learn a trade. John didn't have much of an education to fall back on, he only had up to grade 5 schooling because he was constantly moving. He joined the Navy and did that for about a year. John has always been a hard worker, he worked until he was 85 years old. John was also on the Canadian Marine service, which at that time, 1966, the borders on the Canadian flag were blue not red he says. Lastly, John was also an antique restorer. We worked on paintings, furniture, and all other kinds of things. He has surely got a story to tell that would make a good read.**

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**Name: Rose Petruchik**

**Birthday: January 17, 1939**

**Years living at BDSHA: About half a year**

**What do you like best about living here: The people, all of them. "I love it here" Rose says.**

**Hobbies: You can find Rose spending her time knitting, crocheting, and reading**

**Something you might not know about me: Rose was a stay-at-home mom to her three children. She now has seven grandchildren, and three great grand children. Rose has been married to her husband, Frank, for 63 years this**

**November. They're both from the Barrhead area, and have spent majority of their life around here. Most of Rose and Franks family live in the Barrhead area so it has always been home for them.**

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# REPORTS



## **Administration**

### **Ongoing Projects**

**The summer months saw the completion of the Hillcrest Landscaping. It looks amazing! Furnishings are being purchased to be installed in the Spring. We are already looking forward to the warmer months where everyone can enjoy this space.**

**The new library is nearing completion. The cabinets are now finished, and we are only waiting for furnishings and some other small items before it can be opened and used. We are eagerly awaiting the opening of this space, as there will be a few new recreational opportunities available.**

**Over the winter months, more projects may be occurring. These will likely be cosmetic repairs such as painting, but we will keep you posted.**

## **Capital Maintenance and Renewal Funding**

**CMR funding is normally provided by the government to upgrade, renovate, and maintain government owned properties. BDSHA submits budget requests every year for different CMR projects. This past year, cabinets were replaced in one Golden Crest Manor Suite, and two Barrhead Community Housing Units. A sidewalk was also replaced at Pembina Court Manor.**

**It has been made fairly clear the CMR funding is only being granted to keep units operational at this point in time. Since the properties BDSHA maintains are in decent condition, it is unlikely that much funding will be granted for improvements this year. It is very unfortunate, but we will continue to maintain the properties to our best abilities, and hope that more funds are available next year.**

## **Housing Needs Assessment**

**BDSHA just finished a Housing Needs Assessment for the area that we requisition from. This assessment will be used to determine future strategic planning for growth of the organization to suit the needs of the area better.**

**Some of the highlights from the report include the indications of:**

- **A need for more affordable family and single housing units.**
- **A need for a rental subsidy program in the area.**
- **A need for a level of care (SL3) that is missing in this area.**

**If you wish to read the report, a copy can be made available by contacting the office.**

## **AGM**

**The AGM was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 PM. There were many residents from the connecting properties present. The Auditor was present, and he reviewed the financials, and then there was a Q&A period where residents could ask questions to the Auditor, CAO, or the Board. The event went very well, and we thank all of those who were in attendance.**

**Those that wish to see the financial reports may obtain a copy from the office.**

### **SHAR**

**Some are aware of this from the Teas and Topics Sessions, but there have been changes to the Alberta Housing Act, specifically the Social Housing Accommodation Regulation. The requirement for tenants to be 65 years and older has been removed. This means that BDSHA cannot discriminate between those individuals that meet the criteria for housing based on age. It ensures that housing is accessible for many more people, but it also means that the demographic in the Self-Contained Buildings (Manors) may change as people move out. This isn't a choice that is left to BDSHA, but a decision made by the government that our organization will need to accommodate moving forward.**

### **New Facilities Manager**

**Darrell Schonknecht has been filling in as the Facilities Manager for the past two years. He has decided to step down from the Facilities Manager position. Darrell has been a valued member of the leadership group during this time and we appreciate his efforts and dedication during the transitional period. Darrell will continue to work in the maintenance department moving forward.**

**We are excited to welcome a new member to our Maintenance Department and Leadership team. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, John McLeod will be joining BDSHA as the new Facilities Manager. He is coming to our organization after several years working with Homeland Housing and Chartwell. Please welcome John when you meet him!**

**If you have any questions, or just want to stop in for a visit, my door is always open!**

**Tyler Batdorf  
CAO**



**\*Thank you, Diane and Carol, for painting the pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch. We hope you had an opportunity to see the “Patch” before it was put away. Thanks to ALL who made Halloween a whole lot of fun! We could not have done it without you!**

**\*Thank you for saving your recyclable bottles for us! It helps with hiring entertainment for events, buying decorative items and keeping our treats stocked up for (Bingo, prizes etc.)**

**\*Everyone is WELCOME to participate in everything they can or wish to. When we have events/parties we serve refreshments, everyone who attends is welcome to these refreshments.**

**\*Please come to activities and events on time. Sometimes we have a limited amount of time (afternoon events must be finished by 4pm) we need time to clean and put tables/chairs back for supper. Please get into the habit of arriving on time. If you come late, you may not have a place to sit until we have time to find you a place.**

**\*Please come to the Center Rec Room to check the Activity Bulletin Board! Go for a walk and meet new and old friends.**

**Shelley Oswald – Activity Manager**



"How may I help you?"



## **Resident Services**



**The last couple months have just flown by. We welcomed a new staff member, Mira, our new receptionist. Mira comes with lots of customer service background and really wants to make a difference in the community.**

**We now have a Tuck Shop at the front desk. We have a variety of different treats you can purchase. If you have suggestions for something to be brought in let the girls know and we will see what we can do. The Tuck Shop is cash only.**

**We did have some fire drills throughout the buildings. If you have concerns about where to go or how to get there in an emergency, please reach out so we can make sure you are comfortable with what needs to be done.**

**As we fill more rooms, please take the time to meet the new residents and make them feel welcomed. It is an easier transition for all when we feel included.**

**On Wednesday November 1, 2023, we will hold Tea & Topics for Jubilee Manor at 9:30AM and Golden Crest Manor at 2PM. On November 6, 2023, Tea & Topics for Hillcrest Lodge at 9AM and Klondike Place at 2PM.**

**We may not all agree on everything, but we do have to be respectful of others. Any concerns please talk to a supervisor.**

**Dawn Price**

**Resident Services Manager**

YOU...



...have a GREAT day!



## **Housekeeping & Laundry Department**

**Hello Everyone,**

**What did the toilet say to the plunger?**

**You are such a good friend; you always know how to get me out of a crappy situation! 😊**

**Our annual cleans (Hillcrest and Klondike Place) are continuing to take place, we have completed all of Hillcrest and are now working our way through Klondike Place. Due to the colder weather, we will not be cleaning any more balconies and will revisit those in the spring. When we do our annual cleans, we will also be defrosting refrigerators to clean them out, a reminder will be sent out with your 24-hour notice. Please make sure to give our team room to move around and complete your clean.**

**Flip and Strip for October has been completed and the next round will be taking place in January.**

**We purchased a brand-new dryer last month and it is turning out to be a spectacular addition to the laundry department, much more efficient and very pretty!**

**Let's talk about recycling! Recycling Joe comes out twice a month to empty the recycling and take away what we have collected. The time in between, it is up to us to keep that area clean. While housekeeping does tend to it daily, we also need help from our residents. By following these guidelines, you can help us make this an easier process.**

- 1. We do not recycle glass, no pickle jars, jam jars, peanut/nut jars, or cheese whiz jars, it goes in with your garbage please.**

- 2. Cardboard needs to be put with your garbage, we do not have a recycling program for it.**
- 3. Please recycle plastic only if it has a number 1-7 and the recycling symbol on the bottom, any other plastic is garbage. We do not recycle plastic bags, clamshells, plastic cups, plates, or cutlery. If it does not have a number, please throw it in the garbage.**
- 4. We do not recycle Styrofoam.**
- 5. Please do not throw food aluminum cans (tuna, beans, canned meat) in with the pop cans. They are not recyclable, they are garbage.**
- 6. No garbage of any kind should be put in the recycling. The recycling gets sorted through by Recycling Joe and it can be a messy job. Please throw out your garbage in your room and housekeeping will pick it up.**

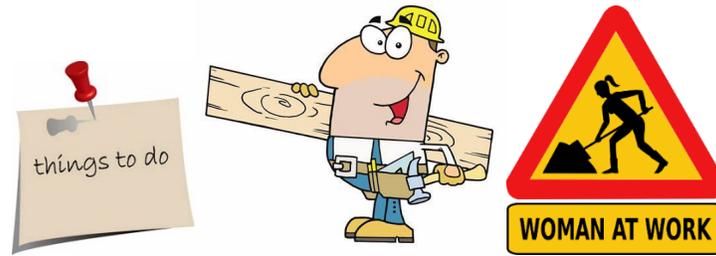
**This is what the symbol on the bottom of your plastic container will look like, if it does not have one of these symbols, it is garbage.**

**Thank you for your  
cooperation!**



**Jennifer Danielson**

**Housekeeping Supervisor**



## **Maintenance and Grounds Department**

**Fall is now upon us, and we are hoping that all residents were able to take advantage of some of the beautiful weather. Many new projects were completed over the last few months, and you probably noticed the addition of several new planters, landscaping and outdoor maintenance being done.**

**One project that was earlier completed for use was the scooter shed bordering the Hillcrest courtyard. After working out some remote-control issues, we were able to provide all residents with working remotes. One problem we have discovered in this time is that the door does not automatically close behind residents as it would with a commercial garage door. Because of this, the door is sometimes being left ajar which could increase the chances of theft and damage as well as heat loss. We are currently working on a solution to ensure the door is always closed when not in use. In the meantime, we would like to remind all residents using this building to please try to remember to close the door behind you for the security of everyone.**

**Almost all Fire Drills have been completed in the Lodges and Manors and we would like to again say thank you for your participation in these drills. Although they seem like a bit of a nuisance, they are a necessary evil that help staff as well as residents with emergency preparedness.**

**Many residents have already begun having us remove their Air Conditioning units as the evenings begin to get cooler. If you have not already done so, please call the office or Maintenance directly to have**

**this taken care of. We would also like to remind everyone at this time that once the snow flies and temperatures start dropping below freezing, all windows in suites should be closed and properly latched to prevent heating lines from freezing as well.**

**As we now move into our province's longest season (cold, colder and coldest), we hope everyone is able to stay safe, comfortable and warm. If you notice any heating issues in your suite, please do not hesitate to call the office so we can get to it as soon as possible.**

**We are always happy to address any questions or concerns you may have.**

**Wishing everyone a beautiful and colorful Fall season!**

**The Maintenance Department**





## **Dietary Services**

**I am happy to bring forward our developments, by talking and helping our residents with their diets we are learning more about our residents, my staff and I are working on a new concept, we are giving our residents a more buffet dining experience. Residents will get more protein options with a full breakfast buffet. We are working on having a cereal, and yogurt bar for the morning, lunch will have different entrees with a steam or sauteed veggie option and a salad bar we want our residents to build their own plates. The supper meal; we will focus on the soup with a creamy and a broth option accompanied by a cheese and cold cut and veggies bar, as soon as we get approved we will launch our fall menu featuring the buffet.**

**Events have been a pleasure; I look forward on planning our monthly events with Activities department.**

**Just a reminder: The snacks on the counter and in the fridge by the coffee center in Hillcrest is for Lodge Residents only (Hillcrest and Klondike Place). Guests and tenants are welcome to come to the kitchen window to purchase snack items if they wish. Everyone is welcome to have coffee/tea or juice at anytime.**

**Gus Ortiz**

**Dietary Manager**



## Getting to Know BDSHA Staff

\*\*\*\*\*



Name: **Mel Clasper**

Birthday: **July 23, 1966**

Years at BDSHA: **Started March 2020**

What do you like best about working here: **When residents tell nice stories, it makes my day!**

Hobbies: **Gardening & cooking**

Something you might not know about me: **I LOVE to shop!**



**Name: Deb Grayson**

**Birthday: February 10**

**Years at BDSHA: June 2021**

**What do you like best about working here: I love the people!**

**Hobbies: Riding my motorbike, spending time with my grand babies and gardening.**

**Something you might not know about me: I love to dance in my kitchen!**

\*\*\*\*\*



**Name: Jodi Arnell**

**Birthday: March 25, 1967**

**Years at BDSHA: 9 years**

**What do you like best about working here: I love the residents and the busy steady pace in the laundry department.**

**Hobbies: I like to knit, do crafts and refurnish furniture.**

**Something you might not know about me: I am a total Greek, I love science fiction and only read fantasy books!**

\*\*\*\*\*

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of Actions.**

**Its like a new Day.. of Energy, of Strength, of  
Ideas.**

**Its like a bunch of whole new things.. of prayers,  
of friends, and of Love.**

