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AVENS Celebrates Valentine's Day

Happy Valentine's Day! These past weeks, our campus was bursting with love and creativity as we celebrated this special day. Here's a delightful glimpse into the heartwarming activities we created for our residents:

"Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do."

David Wilkerson

Making Woolly Teddy Bears

Our crafty residents were channeling their inner child memories by creating adorable woolly teddy bears. These cuddly companions are sure to bring a smile to everyone's face!



Valentine's Day Cards from Local Students

We were thrilled to receive beautiful Valentine's Day cards crafted by local school children. Their thoughtful messages and colorful designs were a wonderful reminder of the joy that connections across generations can bring.



"I Love You" Collage

Residents and recreation staff decided to participate in an "I Love You" collage project. This creative endeavor showcased the unique qualities that make our community so special. Thank you Prince, one of our Recreation Coordinators for the wonderful idea.



Rose Napkins

In a charming twist, our recreation team were teaching residents how to fold rose-shaped napkins. These elegant additions added a festive flair to our Valentine's Day table set up!



Rose-Shaped Pastries

As if that wasn't enough, our recreation team decided to showcase how to make delicious rose-shaped pastries! The sweet-baked aroma alone was enough to warm any heart.



Bannock and Dry Meat Delights

A special treat awaited for our Aven Manor residents on Friday February 13th, 2026, when 4 students from Mrs. HR Mildred Hall grade 8 class joined us and shared their cooking skills. These wonderful students provided traditional bannock and dry meat, adding a unique cultural experience to our Valentine's festivities.

We're so excited to share these moments of joy and connection with our residents. Each activity not only celebrates the love we have for this community but also fosters unique spirit and creativity. Thank you to everyone who

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contributed to making this Valentine's Day truly special!



(L to R) Jacqueline, AVENS Recreation Coordinator, members of Mildred Hall grade 8 class, Sheila their teacher aid, and myself

On behalf of everyone at AVENS, we wish you and your loved ones a day filled with caring and happiness.

Aurora Dreams: Our Northern Heartbeat- With Wilfred Joey Klein

This month, we're excited to highlight an extraordinary individual—Wilfred Joey Klein. Based in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Wilfred, who goes by Joey, is an artist whose breathtaking paintings of the Aurora Borealis capture the magic of the Northern lights, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who experiences his work.



Artist Wilfred Joey Klein, providing a teaching moment for our budding AVENS artists



Joey, taking time to provide guidance to our Chief People Officer, Lindsey Dwojak

Born in Inuvik, Joey spent much of his childhood traveling between Edmonton and the Northwest Territories. Now, he resides in Yellowknife with his wife and son, close to his sister and her family. His journey has not been without its challenges; by the age of 40, he faced the profound loss of his father, step-father, mother, and two sisters. These experiences have deeply influenced his artistic path, allowing him to transform pain into beauty through his art.

Starting with pencil sketches in his youth, Joey began experimenting with oil paints in 2004. Over the years, he has developed his skills as a self-taught artist, creating unique pieces that reflect his personal journey. Each stroke of his brush is not only a testament to his talent but also a way for him to find peace and counsel himself in difficult times. He often marvels at how his mind can translate emotions onto canvas, remaining humble as he lets his artwork speak for itself. (Reference www.nwtarts.com)

Joey is no stranger to our AVENS community. He has generously shared his talents with us, including the design and building of our beloved Tim Hortons travel cart, which brings delightful treats to our residents nearly every week. Recently, he hosted a painting tutorial for our residents and staff, where he guided them in capturing the beauty of the Aurora Borealis. The joy and creativity he brings to our AVENS community are truly inspiring.

We extend a sincere thank you to Wilfred Joey Klein for sharing his talent and warmth with us. His artwork not only beautifies our world but also enriches the lives of our residents.

We look forward to more collaborations in the future, come back anytime Joey!



One of our AVENS residents truly being inspired by the wonderful patterns of the aurora

Lights, Camera, Celebration- Ribbon Cutting Of The Sutherland's Drug Movie Theatre

What a fantastic last week! On **February 12, 2026**, we celebrated the grand opening of the **Sutherland's Drugs Ltd Movie Theatre** at our

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Aven Pavilion, and let me tell you, it was an event to remember!



This was full red-carpet event!



A full catering experience under the watchful eye of Food Services Supervisor, Lawrence Malaque

A Special Room for Special Moments

This state-of-the-art theatre has quickly become a beloved gathering spot for our residents. It's not just a place to watch movies; it's a hub for fun, relaxation, and connection. From feature films to major sporting events, and even private bookings, this room has it all! Plus, it has the unique ability to be converted for future non-denominational church Sunday services. Talk about versatility!

Thank You, Aaron!

We owe a huge thank you to **Aaron LaBorde**, owner of Sutherland's Drugs Ltd, for his generous sponsorship of this incredible space. Aaron and I go way back to when I was the owner of Shopper's Drug Mart. Though we were competitors, our professional respect blossomed into a friendship that has truly enriched our relationship with AVENS.

This event is part of our **Homes for Seniors - Choice Matters!** fundraising initiative, which has raised over **\$568,000** since its launch! Together, we're creating a community that truly values and enhances the lives of our seniors.



(L to R) Daryl Dolynny, AVENS President/CEO, Aaron LaBorde, Sutherland's Drugs pharmacist/owner, and Taig Connell, AVENS Board member, performing the official ribbon cutting

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Community Collaboration

A big shoutout to **Dylan and his crew from Silver Lining Construction** for their hard work in bringing this theatre to life, and to **Charlotte Henry Designs** for the beautiful decor. And let's not forget the incredible sound and picture technology provided by **Robin Williams and Williams Electronics**. This project is a shining example of northern talent coming together!

Sutherland's Corner

Let's also take a moment to appreciate the fantastic pharmaceutical work that Aaron and his team do for our long-term care and dementia clients. Their professionalism has been outstanding for many decades! And let's not forget about **Sutherland's Corner**! Thanks to Aaron's earlier support, we've transformed our lounge area at Aven Manor into a mini-theatre that many residents have enjoyed since its inception during the COVID period. It remains a warm and welcoming environment, just like the service we receive when Aaron and his team visit from their downtown location.



Even Tom Cruise made an appearance to show off his thunderous jet engines in a show demo

A Celebration

Today, we celebrate not just the theatre, but the spirit of community and partnership that makes AVENS special. We are grateful for Aaron's

continued support and the positive impact it has on our residents' lives.

Community Corner

