

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Resident Christmas Banquets
- Holiday Hours
- Christmas Trees
- From the Desk of Linda Hygard
- Resident Snapshots
- New Finance Manager
- Chinook's Got Talent Neighbourfest
- Chaplain Bob/Christmas In Heaven
- Maintenance Messages
- Remembrance Day
- New Residents
- In Remembrance
- Message from Melanie
- Library News
- Marg Telke: The Best of Christmas
- Handmade With Heart
- Upcoming Holidays & Events
- Door Prize Donations

Holiday Spirit Shines at Christmas Banquets



The Terrace Room was filled with Christmas cheer on Thursday, December 11th, as over 150 residents, family members, and friends came together to enjoy night four of the Resident Christmas Banquets.

For five joyful nights each December, Chinook Village shines bright with holiday spirit during our annual Resident Christmas Banquets. Now in their 33rd year, these much-loved evenings are a true reflection of the heart of our Village. Every staff department, along with residents and volunteers, play an important role in bringing this treasured tradition to life.

The magic begins months in advance. Entertainment is booked well ahead of time by Executive Assistant Gail, while Managing Director Linda signals the start of the season by putting out the call for door prize donations. As December draws near, the excitement builds as Jaelene at Reception designs festive posters and invitations, and coordinates attendance lists and ticket sales with the help of Helen.



Neal Siedlecki had the crowd singing along with classic and upbeat Christmas favourites.

The Terrace Room is transformed into a winter wonderland by Cara, Karla, Liana, and Jocelyn of the Recreation department, with residents lending a hand to craft centerpieces.

When banquet week finally arrives, Maintenance Manager John and his crew set the stage, and Food Services Manager Mark and his team deliver an incredible holiday feast – preparing five turkey dinners complete with all the trimmings. Over the week, they cook 24 turkeys, 8 huge hams, 350 pounds of potatoes, 850 homemade buns, and an endless assortment of desserts.

Behind the scenes, Donna and Margaret in Laundry work tirelessly washing and pressing tablecloths and napkins after each night, ensuring fresh linens are ready for the next evening.

Care staff help residents arrive comfortably, resident volunteers greet guests with smiles, and the entertainment and emcees keep the celebrations flowing.

Together, these many hands and caring hearts create more than a just meal – they create cherished Christmas memories filled with teamwork, generosity, laughter, and community. And once the last plate is cleared and the decorations are packed away, planning quietly begins once again for next year's celebrations.



HOLIDAY HOURS

Reception

Dec 25: 10am-2pm

Dec 26: 10am-4pm

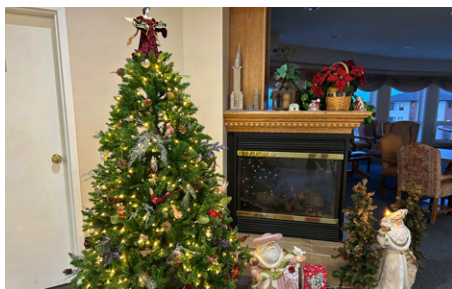
Jan 1: 10am-4pm

Regular hours all other days

Admin Office

Closed:

Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1

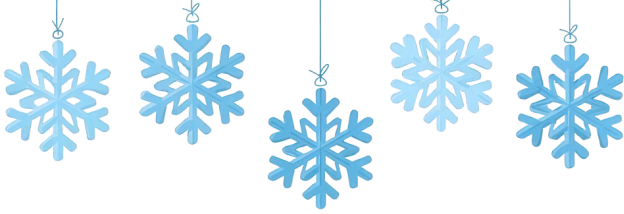


Christmas Trees Light Up the Village

2025 may go down as a record-breaking year for Christmas trees at Chinook Village! With over 10 trees in CV Center alone – plus many more throughout the building – the Village is literally glowing with holiday cheer. These are just some of the beautiful trees lovingly decorated by residents, staff & volunteers!

From the Desk of

Linda Hygard, Managing Director



Christmas at Chinook Village is a season of joy and togetherness. Our halls sparkle with beautifully decorated trees, resident ornaments, and unique displays that capture the spirit of each area. This season is filled with cheer – the Christmas Market, the Choir Christmas Cantata, annual Resident Christmas Banquets, and the many activities across Supportive and Assisted Living – all complemented by the exceptional holiday dining.

This celebration is deeply rooted in the Christian values that inspired Chinook Village's founding. A small group of Christian leaders envisioned a community offering quality accommodation, services, and care for seniors at affordable prices. This vision continues today as we share kindness, compassion, and genuine care for one another.

Currently, 388 residents call Chinook Village home, including 88 new friends welcomed this year. We extended to them the warmth of our community and look forward to building meaningful connections with them in the year ahead.

Looking to 2026, we're excited about improvements that will make Chinook Village even more inviting:

- Park enhancements in early spring.
- Main Entrance and Terrace Room updates.
- Essential upgrades such as HVAC replacements and hot water storage tanks.
- New furniture for the Atrium.

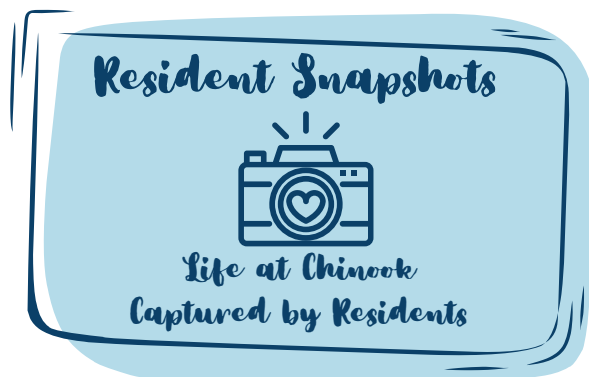
These investments ensure Chinook Village remains the choice for "living your best life now".



From all of the Board, Management, and Staff, may your Christmas be filled with peace and joy, and may the New Year bring warmth, happiness, and fulfillment.



"Memories of Fall"
Submitted by Marlene Wigemyr



Send your photos to info@chinookvillage.com & they just might be featured in the next newsletter!



"Winter Wonderland"
Submitted by Darlene Adolf



Welcome
TO THE TEAM



APRIL ROSCOE
Finance Manager

Welcome to Our New Finance Manager

Meet April - our new Finance Manager!

"I am coming to Chinook Village after spending 15 years in the trades industry. I am pretty much born and raised in Medicine Hat. I moved around a bit in my younger years, but moved back here to raise my kids. I come from a big family - we are close-knit and maybe a little loud and boisterous.

I am enjoying the transition into this position here at Chinook and am loving working with such a diverse and welcoming team. I am looking forward to getting to know the residents more as time goes on and I love that when I come to work, I feel that I am being welcomed into another Home."

"Chinook's Got Talent" Neighbourfest A Huge Success

*A Message from the Neighbourfest
Planning Committee*

On November 19th, about 140 folks came together to enjoy a special Neighbourfest. The highlight of the evening was a first ever Talent Show, "Chinook's Got Talent". And what a show it was, as seven Chinook Village residents took to the stage to share their varied gifts of recitation, comedy, vocal solo, piano duet, and instrumental performances. All this amazing talent, plus the vibrant interaction from the audience made for an evening of great fun and unforgettable memories! All the performers were overwhelmed when they received a 1st Place ribbon award of appreciation at the end of the evening. It is very evident that there are other residents in the Village with various hidden talents and we look forward to them sharing their gifts with us in next year's "Chinook's Got Talent" Neighbourfest!

May everyone enjoy a very blessed Christmas & see you at the next Neighbourfest!



Performers were presented with ribbons (pictured below) courtesy of Gord Nott of the Neighbourfest Planning Committee to thank them for sharing their talents!



Upcoming Neighbourfest Dates:

January 14th

February 18th

March 25th

**Tickets go on sale two
weeks prior*

A Season of Light, Love & Remembrance

By Chaplain Bob Church



Christmas is always a special time of year at Chinook Village. But if you were to ask the Villagers what makes this time of year special, you'd probably get a variety of answers. Most would say that it is the season when we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. And with that birth came the message of God's love for the whole world. Jesus came to save mankind from their sin and the penalty for that sin. He came to show us the truth about what God is like, and to enrich our lives as we invite him into our hearts to guide us. These are all things we can celebrate together! But each individual sees Christmas through the lens of their own lives as well.

Some residents are excited to spend time with friends and family. To enjoy a warm meal, to give gifts, and enjoy the company of others. But not everyone has the opportunity to do this. Loved ones live far away, or maybe worst of all, a loved one has passed away. The fact of the matter is that this time of year can be a cold and dark season, but it doesn't have to be spent alone entirely. The understanding ear of a fellow resident or a staff member could be what is needed - someone else who either knows or understands the pain of this kind of loss.

Every year, Chinook Village arranges for shared grief to lessen the pain of losing a loved one. We will be holding a Memorial Service in honor of any residents who passed away while living at Chinook Village. Everyone is invited to gather with others for this purpose at our upcoming **Memorial Service** on the following date:

Monday, January 12th

2:00 PM - Chapel (4th Floor, CV Center)

My First Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
with tiny lights like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear,
for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas
choir up here. For I have no words to tell you, the joy their
voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the angels
sing.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your
heart, but I am not so far away. We really aren't apart.
So be happy for me, dear ones. You know I hold you dear,
and be glad I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this
year.

I send you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.
I send you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,
for I can't count the blessings or the love He has for you.
So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this
year.

~Poem by Wanda Bencke



Sunday Chapel Services

All Residents

2:00 PM

Chapel (4th Floor, CV Center)

Wednesday Prayer Meetings

Assisted & Supportive Living

10:40 AM

3rd Floor CV Center Lounge

Bible Studies

Independent Living
Tuesdays @ 9:30 AM
Garden Lounge

Assisted & Supportive Living
Thursdays @ 9:30 AM
3rd Floor CV Center Lounge

Maintenance Messages



WINTER TIPS

With winter upon us, here are some simple tips to keep your suite warm and cozy during these chilly months:

- Make sure your windows are closed and latched. If windows are left open when it's cold, the heating pipes can freeze and burst.
- Always turn your thermostat all the way up to test that you are getting heat. If not, please contact Reception to put in a Maintenance Request.
- Make sure you own a portable heater in the event of heat loss in your suite or for supplemental heat during those colder nights.

Thank You ☺

Thank you to all East Building residents for your patience and understanding while we worked through the recent domestic boiler problems. Our supplier has also asked us to pass on their apologies for the delays.

MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

The best and most efficient way to submit a Maintenance Request is by contacting Reception, either at the desk or by calling 403-526-6951. While it may seem like a good idea to go directly to the source by telling Maintenance staff in person, this results in us having no written record of your request. By going through Reception, your request is logged in our Maintenance Care program. Maintenance staff can then keep track of requests and mark them as "closed" once completed. Similarly, please do not fill out a pink 'Your Comments Matter' card for basic Maintenance Requests - the fastest way to have your issue addressed is by contacting Reception.

PARKING REMINDERS

A couple of reminders to take note of regarding parking this winter:

- To residents who park outside: Please help us out by moving your vehicles to a plowed area to easily allow for snow clearing. You can return to your spot once it is cleared.
- Please make sure your vehicle licence plate is registered with Reception, so that staff can get a hold of owners if necessary.

Remembrance Day 2025

On Tuesday, November 11th, we had the honour of hosting our annual Remembrance Day Service. We remembered the brave men and women - including many past and present Chinook Village residents - who served and sacrificed for our country. This important event wouldn't be possible without the hard work of the Remembrance Day Planning Committee, made up of the following residents & staff: Anne Opp, Bob Church (Chaplain), Donna Robinson & Doug Heine.





Message from Melanie

Lifestyle Consultant

As the official “Key Fob Lady,” I’m excited to say that the rollout of our new Key Fob entry system is now complete! Assisted, Supportive & Independent Living residents have all received Key Fobs. If you or your family members still have old entrance keys, we ask that you please return them to me as soon as you’re able. Once returned, you’ll receive a cheque in your mailbox for your deposit amount. If needed, extra Key Fobs for family members can be purchased for \$10 through Reception, but please note there’s a limit of two extra Key Fobs per suite. As we look to further improve the safety & security of our buildings, all of the locks will be changed in the near future, making the old magnetic entrance keys obsolete. Less keys floating around equals less chances of them getting into the wrong hands! Thank you for your patience & understanding during this transition to the new system!



Library News

from Anne Opp



HOURS:

Mon, Wed, Fri | 2:00 - 3:30 PM

UNWRAP A GOOD BOOK AT THE LIBRARY THIS CHRISTMAS!

I need to apologize for the lateness of this Medicine Hat Public Library exchange. Our contact at the library had an accident, so the exchange happened over a week late. Thanks for your patience.

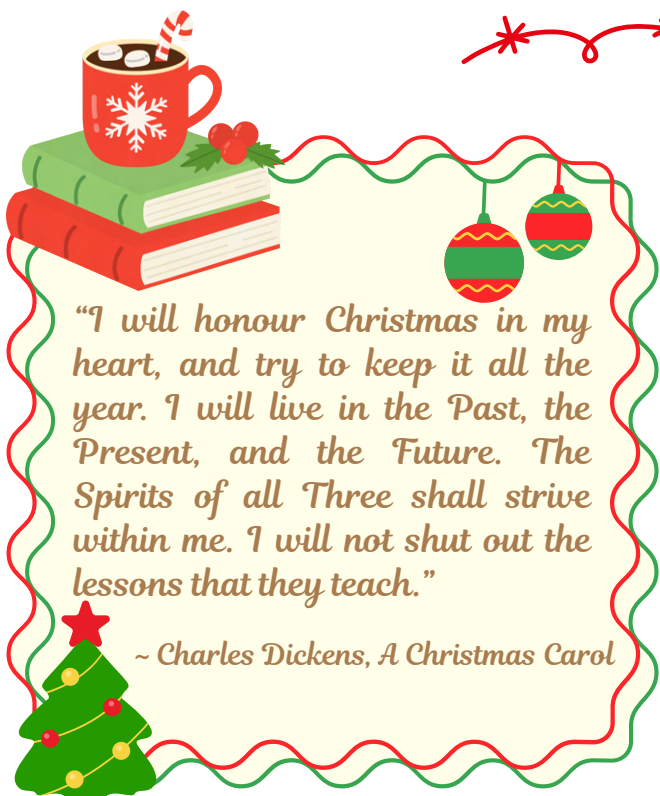
Some of the Audio books are *Jingle All the Way* by Debbie Macomber, *A Rumpole Christmas* by John Mortimer, *The Family Lawyer* by James Patterson, *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult, and *Mother, Can You Not?* by Kate Siegel.

A couple of interesting Biographies are *Softly, As I Leave You* by Priscilla Presley and *Rock Star* by Jennifer Jones.

Some other titles are *A Sparkle of Silver* and *Meddling with Mistletoe* both by Liz Johnson, *Christmas in Peppercorn Street* by Anna Jacobs, *The Strange Case of Jane O* by Karen T Walker, *Fast Ride to Boot Hill* by Lee Martin, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston, and *Before We Were Us* by Denise Hunter.

The Library will be CLOSED for two weeks for the holidays. The last day open will be Friday, December 19th and the first day open in the New Year will be Monday, January 5th.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACE-FILLED 2026!



Library Walls Come Alive With New Mural



Thanks to a donation, we were able to recruit Christy the Paintergirl to bring a splash of colour & creativity to our Library with a custom designed mural. Pictures don't do it justice, so be sure to stop by the Library to check in out in person!

THE BEST OF CHRISTMAS

By Marg Telke, CV Resident



The beautiful season of Christmas lies just ahead of us, including the host of memories of Christmases past. We all recall some of the best gifts we received through the many Christmases we've lived through:

"My best gift would be if my daughter could someday come for the holidays. She did!"

"My Mom always wanted a mouth organ (harmonica) for Christmas. She got one and learned to play it well. Trouble was, when she played it after tucking us into bed, the melancholy tones were so sweet and tender, we began to weep. Mom quit 'playing us to sleep' – she didn't want a sobbing little tribe of kids."

"My friend gave me a promissory note for babysitting for free, for a year!"

"My big sister told me a big 'secret' of hers, which I can't tell – because it's a secret."

A favourite gift of mine came when I was told on Christmas Eve, after opening gifts, that I had one more gift under my bed. There I found a shoebox full of chocolate treats! I recalled that I had a dream as a child, to reach under my bed and grasp a chocolate bar, and to slowly eat and relish it in bed! Never did I expect that dream to come true!

But my very best Christmas gift ever, I have in my living room to this day. It's a mini doll crib my father built for me 85 years ago, when I was just seven. It's complete with rungs, fancy corner posts, and all. I found it in storage and LeRoy here at Chinook repaired it for me. It still has the blankets and pillow my mom made for it. However, the Eaton's Beauty Doll that came with it didn't survive. Instead, it holds three homemade dolls, also from my past. Each complete with a hand crocheted outfit and accessories. I've renamed them after my three little great-granddaughters, born this fall within weeks of each other. Raine is the blonde one, Cora is the reddish-haired one, and Mila is the brunette.



Last of all, Merry Christmas to each of you. And remember to give yourself a gift, such as choosing JOY over bitterness – in all situations.

♥ HANDMADE WITH HEART ♥



Independent Living resident Esther Riegel knitted 125 cozy toques, which she gifted to the Youth Group at Hillcrest Church.





ADDRESS:

2801 – 13 AVENUE SE
MEDICINE HAT, AB
T1A 3R1

PHONE:

403-526-6951

FAX:

403-526-8404

EMAIL:

info@chinookvillage.com

**CHINOOK VILLAGE NEWS
& VIEWS IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY:**

Fall Edition – Sept
Winter Edition – Dec
Spring Edition – Mar
Summer Edition – June

*For Independent Living residents,
the newsletter is posted to our
website, bulletin boards &
CondoGenie. If you would like to
receive a paper copy in your
mailbox, please call Reception to
be put on the list!*

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.chinookvillage.com

CHECK US OUT ON:

Facebook & Instagram



Advice From A
SNOWMAN

**BE A JOLLY, HAPPY SOUL
SPEND TIME OUTDOORS
STAY COOL
IT'S OK TO BE A LITTLE BOTTOM HEAVY
AVOID MELTDOWNS
BE WELL-ROUNDED
LIVE WELL, LIFE IS SHORT!**

Upcoming Holidays & Events

December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Boxing Day
January 1: New Year's Day
January 14: Neighbourfest
February 14: Valentine's Day
February 16: Family Day
February 18: Neighbourfest
March 25: Neighbourfest



Thank You!

**TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS FOR GENEROUSLY DONATING
DOOR PRIZES FOR OUR 2025 RESIDENT CHRISTMAS BANQUETS:**

A-1 Contracting
A-Phase Electrical
Berger's Plumbing & Co.
Brost Developments
Chisholm Lighting Ltd.
Ducan Industries
EBT Chartered
Accountants LLP
Ecolab
George Courey Inc.
Gordon Demke
Gord & Sherry Nott
Icy Mountain Water Co.
Kleenway Services

Main Floor Carpets
MaryAnn Westgard
Medicine Hat News
Paint In General
Pattison Media
Royal Bank of Canada
Sandstone
Pharmacies
Schindel Law Office
Set In Stone
South Country Co-op
South Country Glass
Waste Connections