

LAC STE. ANNE FOUNDATION

January 2026 Newsletter

CHATEAU LAC STE. ANNE

Tracy Nkonge
Site Manager



Onoway

Happy New Year from Chateau Lac Ste. Anne Lodge!

The holiday season has come and gone, and we are now welcoming a brand-new year with new adventures. As we look back at 2025 there were many memories made at the Chateau; we welcomed a few new residents, added a few new staff all while celebrating 50+ birthdays, countless BINGO winners, and trying and testing all new activities and crafts.

I want to thank everyone who supported us through 2025 – your support for our teams, and our residents, does not go unnoticed and we couldn't provide the services we do without you.

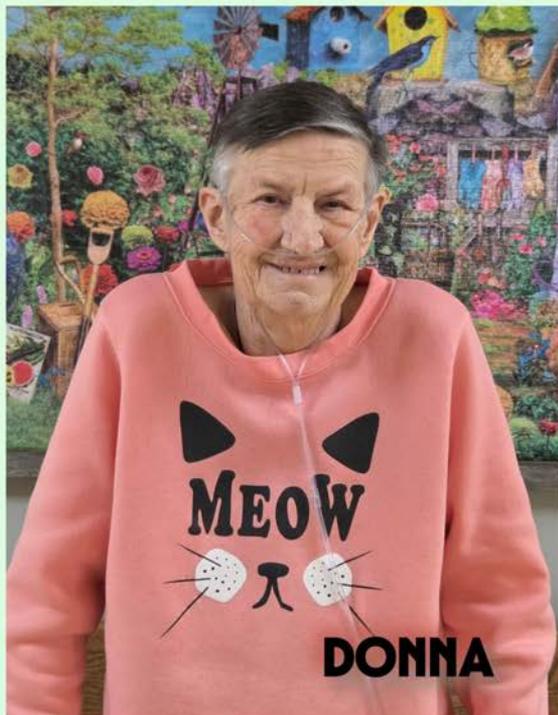
As we welcome in a New Year of new possibilities, we look forward to continuously sharing our excitement, growth, and endeavours with you.

Next Proposed Resident Meeting: February 4th, 2026.

Next Proposed Staff Meeting: February 25th, 2026.

Tracy Nkonge
Site Manager - CLSA

CLSA RESIDENT



Born in Calgary in 1947 and raised in the Peace River County. At 21, she married the love of her life, and together they shared 57 wonderful years. Donna is the proud mother of two boys and a loving grandmother to two grandchildren, all of whom have been the heart of her world.

She began her career as a nurse's aide at the Misericordia Hospital, where she worked for five years before embracing her favorite role, being a stay-at-home mom. Alongside raising her boys, she also babysat young children between the ages of two and four, offering them a warm, nurturing place to grow and play.

At the age of 50, Donna retired and moved to her cozy cabin in Alberta Beach, a place filled with family memories. She and her family loved camping adventures. Donna's hobbies include crafting, gardening, and welcoming company.

She has always enjoyed having visitors drop by, making everyone feel at home with her warmth and hospitality.

We are thrilled to have Donna join us at the Chateau; we are sure you will love it here!

CLSA STAFF



Hello! My name is Sarah; I grew up in B.C. for most of my life and have lived in Alberta for about two years now.

Some things that I really enjoy doing are hiking and especially winter hiking with my friends in McBride BC. I enjoy all outdoor activities and have really taken up fishing as a hobby.

Other hobbies that I have are playing the violin and flute. I also play with Irish tin whistles and really enjoy art; drawing, crocheting, painting and sewing. I have really enjoyed moving out here and living in the country, being able to garden more and appreciate the outdoors.

I started working here in October and I am really enjoying it here with all the friendly faces.

CLSA ACTIVITIES

Shauna Londeau- Activities Coordinator

Onoway

January arrives quietly, reminding us that even the smallest new beginning can change the shape of a whole year.

December 3rd, we welcomed the Grade 7 class from Onoway Elementary School for an afternoon of fun. Our residents enjoyed friendly games of Crib, UNO, Kerplunk, Air Hockey, and Arnie's famous metal puzzles. It was a wonderful visit and a meaningful way to bridge the gap between generations.

The evening of December 3rd, we were treated to a beautiful Christmas performance by the Lac Ste. Anne Community Choir. Their harmonies filled the lodge with an angelic sound that brought joy and a touch of magic to the season. Residents and staff alike were moved by the music, making it a truly memorable evening.

December 4th, we welcomed the Little Village Daycare for a visit. Residents and children spent time reading books to one another and coloring together. The room was filled with giggles and curiosity.

December 5th, we welcomed the Onoway Homeschool children for a heartfelt Christmas performance. It was truly beautiful to see families gather, watching their proud children share music and joy with our residents. The room was filled with warmth, smiles, and the spirit of the season, an afternoon that touched everyone who attended.

December 8th, we welcomed the Darwell Elementary School Choir for their joyful Christmas performance. Their choir was big, bright, and all wearing red; they filled the lodge with festive music that lifted everyone's spirits. It was a wonderful afternoon that left residents smiling long after the final note.

On the evening of December 8th, we welcomed the Onoway Scouts for a cheerful Christmas visit. They brought thoughtful little gifts for each of our residents, adding a touch of kindness and adding to the holiday spirit in the Lodge.

December 9th, the Little Village Daycare returned for an adorable Christmas performance from their little ones. Their songs and sweet personalities brought many smiles.

CLSA ACTIVITIES

December 11th, we gathered to get some crafts going and created the cutest rustic wooden snowmen. Residents enjoyed painting, decorating, and adding their own personal touches. It was a fun, hands on activity, that brought out plenty of creativity.

December 12th, residents enjoyed a warm cup of coffee with Baileys, or Baileys poured over ice cream, for an extra festive treat while listening to Christmas music.

December 15th, the Onoway Elementary School made the trek over to deliver anonymous Christmas gifts from the community. Each class sponsored one resident, thoughtfully choosing, wrapping, and personally delivering their gifts. It was truly an honor to welcome them and to witness such kindness in action. The amount of Christmas spirit in Onoway is nothing short of astonishing.

December 16th, we enjoyed a lovely morning of card-making with Bonnie. Residents had fun creating the last of their handmade Christmas cards.

Unfortunately, on December 16th we were declared on outbreak, which meant some of our planned Christmas festivities had to be cancelled. While it was disappointing to pause a few of our celebrations, our residents and staff handled the change with understanding and resilience; staff and residents worked together to stop the spread. Instead of having outside groups come in, our own staff members acted as Santas (yes plural) and Santa's Elves, while delivering gifts to all the residents on December 19th. It was so nice to be a part of that experience and do what we could to lift the spirits in the Lodge.

December 31st, we celebrated being off outbreak with a wonderful New Year's Eve party. The lodge was filled with music, laughter, and a renewed sense of togetherness as we welcomed the year ahead. We also celebrated the birthdays of Fernande, Georgina, Carol, and Marina, adding even more cheer to an already festive afternoon. It was the perfect way to end the year on a high note.

Thank you to all the residents who took part in our Christmas photo shoot. The portraits turned out stunning. It was a joy capturing these festive moments and seeing everyone shine.

Congratulations to Audrey for winning the afternoon progressive bingo! She took home \$37.50.

CLSA ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Eileen for winning our Christmas raffle basket on Christmas Eve! A big thank you to everyone who purchased tickets, together, we raised \$431, all of which will go directly back into supporting our activity department.

On behalf of all the residents here at the Chateau, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the incredible generosity that poured into the lodge during the Christmas season; a special thank-you goes to Lisa Fbitke, who leads the organization C.A.N. (Communities of Alberta Networking for Seniors), for organizing the Christmas Wishlist Program. Thanks to Lisa's efforts (along with the kindness of our community), every resident was taken care of this Christmas.

Another notable mention of gratitude is to Ava and Carter from Spruce Boring who also donated several gifts to our residents and of course the Lac Ste Anne County who sponsored our Christmas Eve Party – we are overwhelmed by appreciation to everyone who went out of their way to support us; your thoughtfulness brought joy, comfort, and holiday magic to our home, and we are truly thankful.



CLSA ACTIVITIES



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PLEASANT VIEW LODGE

Pamela Lacaille – Site Manager

Mayerthorpe

January is here, following a very snowy and icy Christmas. With colder temperatures and icy conditions please be mindful when going out. I hope everyone enjoyed some time with family and friends over the Christmas holidays whether it be over the phone or in person.

Winter Weather Safety

Snow and ice remain a concern during January. Please continue to take extra care.

- Wipe shoes on mats to help keep floors dry
- Use walkers and handrails as needed
- Wear winter footwear with good traction
- Report icy or slippery areas near entrances to staff so they can be sanded

Vehicle Safety Reminder for Residents Who Drive

For those who continue to drive during the winter months.

- Take care during snow and ice removal around your vehicle
- Watch for pedestrians and other vehicles in the parking lot
- Let staff, family, or friends know your travel plans when going out
- It is your responsibility to move your vehicle when the contractors are here clearing the parking lot to allow for snow removal.

Cold Weather Window Reminder

Please keep windows closed overnight and during very cold days to help prevent frozen pipes. If you need help adjusting your room temperature or closing a window, please let staff know.

Cold, Flu & COVID-19 Season

Respiratory illnesses are common at this time of year. Please report symptoms to staff as soon as possible, including cough, fever, sore throat, or fatigue.

Helpful reminders.

- Wash hands frequently
- Use hand sanitizer before and after meals and activities
- Stay hydrated and get enough rest

Please speak with your pharmacist if you have questions about COVID-19, influenza, RSV and pneumococcal vaccines.

PLEASANT VIEW LODGE

Doctor Days

The doctor will be here January 14, 21 and 28.

There will be no Doctor days in February. Please make an appointment at the clinic if you need to see a doctor.

Sewing Club

The Sewing Club will meet January 17th in the Community Centre.

A note for February: the Sewing Club will be here on the 28th instead of the 21st.

Welcome New Residents

A warm welcome to Rose who moved in at the end of December. Welcome Freda and Erin who joined us in January. We are happy to have you here and hope you feel at home.

Meetings

- Friendship Club January 13th at 10am
- Staff Meeting January 20th at 1:30pm
- Resident Council January 26th at 10:15 am.

Seniors Taxi Service

Call 780-284-8937 to schedule a ride for Tuesdays or Fridays.

Banking

ATB will be onsite on January 28th from 9:30am-10:30am in the Family Dining Room.

Church Services

St. Agnes Church continues to hold Sunday morning services in the Community Centre.

All are welcome.



PVL STAFF



Congratulations to our December

Make Others Great Award Winner

Gordon Shupac!

PVL ACTIVITIES

Dallys Crossland - Activities Coordinator

Mayerthorpe

Well, Christmas is behind us for another year. January is always so quiet compared to the busyness of December. Now to finish taking down the decorations and get them stored away until next time

We would like The Friendship Club for putting on a Christmas turkey Dinner for all the residents. This is an annual event they put on each year, and we very much appreciate it! We had a wonderful Tim Horton's event this past month, which was donated by the family of our resident, Ingrid. We always appreciate when people donate a Tim Horton's day here at PVL as it's always a crowd pleaser!

Dixie and The Dancing Chicks have been coming here to dance on Thursday evenings and the residents have been enjoying going down to watch them. Sometimes they even get up and shake a leg with them!

Thank you so much to Darlene and her group of friends for coming by to sing carols for us over Christmas. It was very much enjoyed.

We had a lovely Hot Chocolate and treats event on Christmas Eve while we handed out Christmas gifts and visited. It was a lot of fun! This event had been donated by Lac Ste Anne County, thank you for your continued support!

We would like to give a very special thank you to our local library as well as to an anonymous donor who donated gifts to all our residents who are without families this holiday season. This is something they do year after year to make a difference in the lives of seniors in our community. Thank you so much!

And of course we had a lovely time at our December Birthday Party. Thank you to Edward Pimm for coming to perform for it. Its funny, no matter how many times we get him to come and put on a show for us we never get tired of it.

Congratulations to Victor L. who was the winner of our Christmas Raffle Basket. Victor was so happy he ripped the basket open right then and there and shared with everyone around at the time. How nice!

PVL ACTIVITIES

We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Sharon and Gerald, Gordon, Delia and Linda. S who all celebrated Birthdays in December! Happy Birthday!!

Linda and Leonard also celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in December. Happy Anniversary to you two love birds!



PVL ACTIVITIES



PVL ACTIVITIES



ADMINISTRATION

Sylvia Bonnett - Operations Manager

WE'RE DOING
MORE WITH YOUR
SUPPORT

thank you

..... FOR YOUR
DONATION

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**TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS & SPONSORS FROM 2025
WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT
IT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WE
SERVE!**

ROTARY CLUB OF WHITECOURT, CANFOR, ANNA CIERNY, BRANDI & DENNIS CLOKE, FRIENDS OF LAC STE. ANNE FOUNDATION, LORI BUTLER, APRIL BIRKBECK, JUDY SKINNER, FIND THOMSEN, CAPITAL ESTATE PLANNING CORPORATION, ASHLEY FAST, KIM KINGDON, MARIE STEEL, PETALS PLUS, CARRIE ANDERSON, HONEY'S GREENHOUSE, TAP-CHA BUBBLE TEA/LUCKY MART, EAGLE RIVER TAXI LIMITED, MARGARET REGLIN & FAMILY, TORR'S TRUCKING LIMITED, MAYERTHORPE FRIENDSHIP CLUB, MOUNTAIN STEAK & PIZZA, 2337836 AB LTD. GOLDEN DELIGHT, SERVUS CREDIT UNION, MONIQUE KERNS, DONNA McCULLOUGH, KATHY KLEMP, JOYCE HAHNEKAMP, Continued.....

ADMINISTRATION

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SPRUCE VIEW LODGE

Clarissa Titong - Activities Coordinator

Whitecourt

December was filled with memorable events that brought people together and made them feel happy.

December 10th, we kicked off the month with a hot chocolate bar with all the toppings, served with a croissant. It was a warm and tasty treat that everyone enjoyed. December 12th, Eagle River Casino provided a delicious meal to residents and staff, we are very grateful for their unwavering support. That afternoon, St. Anne's students joined us for a fun game of floor curling, while others worked on resident nails, it was a truly unique and interactive experience.

December 18th, we had another fantastic meal this time sponsored by Mountain Steak & Pizza and Joanne Belke. Their delicious pizza was a hit with everyone and has become a much-anticipated tradition.

For our birthday party we had Edward Pimm entertain our residents, his performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all; Mayor Ray joined us to personally greet our birthday celebrants, Cecilia and Find. Congratulations to Heidi for being "Make Others Great" for the month of December and to Karen for winning our Quilt blanket.

December 22nd, a special Bingo event sponsored by Pembina Pipeline which provided excitement and prizes. Residents won \$25 gift cards donated by Pembina, it was a fun and rewarding afternoon for all.

December 23rd, staff went from room to room singing Christmas carols. Huge thanks to Super 8 for donating a wonderful meal and coffee. Followed by the Gifts for Seniors event, during which all residents received gifts from the community. We were delighted to welcome Payton and her grandmother Brenda, and a special thanks to Melissa Baker and Sue Chauvet for making this event this memorable and meaningful.

Our Christmas party on December 24th was a truly heartwarming occasion. The resident choir performed five beautiful songs, and the staff entertained with a lively balloon dance, adding to the festive and joyful atmosphere that everyone enjoyed. On December 30th, our cooking show featured a delicious wonton soup that delighted everyone who tried it- another memorable flavor.

SVL RESIDENT



John Hawkins

Born and raised in Cooking Lake, Alberta, on June 14, John values his rural roots, where he developed a strong interest in carpentry. He takes great pride in his craftsmanship, which shows his dedication and skill.

John is a father of three children, two of whom live nearby in Whitecourt. He considers himself fortunate to have them close by and he enjoys their visits.

Since moving to Whitecourt in 1964, John has spent 55 years working in the oil industry. His job can be demanding but he found the work rewarding and well-paid, emphasizing the importance of staying healthy and focused in such a difficult field.

Outside of work, John enjoys traveling, golfing, fishing, and dancing with his wife and he welcomes life's pleasures with enthusiasm.

John's simple yet profound life philosophy reflects his integrity and dedication, and it provides wisdom that inspires us all. We are pleased to welcome him into our family.

SVL ACTIVITIES



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