



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

November 17, 2021

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"Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer as a fire opal carries the colour of moon rise." *Gladys Taber*

Mid-November to mid-December:
The last days of fall - a time to
"Love the trees until their leaves fall off,
then encourage them to try again next
year." *Chad Sugg*



Starting this week, there are many interesting things to see and do to 'Celebrate the Season!' Check out the following links for information about Light Festivals and other seasonal events in and around the Edmonton area.

<https://www.todocanada.ca/christmas-lights-edmonton/> OR
<https://www.edmonton.family/blog/20-christmas-lights-displays-you-have-to-see-in-edmonton-this-year>

November 2 - December 23: The Festival of Trees - guests are invited to 'Share the joy of the Holiday Season' both outdoors and online this year. For details visit
<https://givetouhf.ca/festival-of-trees-share-the-joy/>

November 18: Feast Day of St. Constant: St. Constant was an 8th century missionary in Ireland. He became a martyr for his faith.

"It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon." *Sarah Addison Allen*

November 19: International Men's Day: It is sponsored by the Dads4kids Fatherhood Foundation to honour male role models, focus on men's health, gender issues and to celebrate male achievements.

November 19: November's Full Moon, the Beaver Moon: It is called the Beaver Moon as it was observed to be approximately the time beavers took shelter in their lodges. If it is a clear sky, you should be able to observe a near total (98%) lunar eclipse.

*"The moon is a loyal companion. It never leaves.
It's always there, watching, steadfast, knowing us in our light and dark moments, changing forever just as we do. Every day it's a different version of itself. Sometimes weak and wan, sometimes strong and full of light. The moon understands what it means to be human.
Uncertain. Alone. Cratered by imperfections." Tahereh Mafi*

November 20: Children's Day: This year's theme is "Investing in our future means investing in our children." The underlying idea is the protection of children and their rights, including the right to family life, the right to education, the right to health and the right to play.

"But there is always a November space after the leaves have fallen when she felt it was almost indecent to intrude on the woods for their glory terrestrial had departed and their glory celestial of spirit and purity and whiteness had not yet come upon them." L.M. Montgomery



ENJOY the FREE 2021 Edmonton Christmas Light Up Festivals this month!
Starting on **November 20, 2021** Check light up dates, times and addresses here:

<https://www.edmonton.family/blog/2021-edmonton-holiday-light-up-festivals-free>

November 24, 2021 – January 2, 2022: Glow Edmonton – Holiday Festival of Lights at the Edmonton Expo Centre (purchase online tickets)
<https://www.todocanada.ca/city/edmonton/event/christmas-glow/>

November 24 STARTA **“Countdown to Christmas!”**

Kick off the festive season with us one month before Christmas – just in time to start experiencing and enjoying the season!

Join us for a

FESTIVE BONFIRE
on Wednesday, November 24th
at 2:00 pm (until about 3:30 pm)
in St. Albert’s beautiful Lions Park

We will provide the ambiance, the bonfire, and the opportunity for participants to enter a draw for a prize.

Dress for the weather, and bring your own beverage, snack, and a mask in case you need to get close to someone to hear them or speak to them. If you want to roast marshmallows bring your own ‘mallows and a hot dog stick’. Feel free to bring your own chair if you wish, or you may choose to stand for this event. Drop in for a short visit or stay for an hour! The draw for a prize will be made at 3:00 pm. The winner will be notified if no longer in attendance. We hope to see many members there.

If we need to cancel because of ‘impossible’ weather, a ‘Cancellation email notice’ will be sent to all members the morning of Nov. 24, 2021. Be sure to check your email before heading over to Lions Park!

We are excited about seeing people in 3D again!

November 27 & 28: St. Albert Christmas Market at the Enjoy Centre.
And ‘Lite the Nite’ Winterfest in Morinville.

November 27 - January 5: LUMINARIA AT THE U. OF A. BOTANIC GARDENS
(near Devon) – *A review by Wendy Poirier*

A Covid-safe and truly joyful experience was walking through Luminaria on a snowy evening last December. The candle-lit pathways through the Japanese Gardens were spectacular. I particularly enjoyed the snow sculptures, snow fairies, and decorated trees along the hour-long walk. At one point, we were handed a cup of warm apple cider, which we drank while listening to a small choir singing Christmas carols. Our larger group of about 20 people was split into smaller groups to walk through the lights. This is a wonderful, family friendly, outdoor activity. Book your tickets online for a time-specific entry. For details go to . <https://luminaria.ualberta.ca/>

November 30: St. Andrew's Day: This is Scotland's National day and it is also a national holiday in Romania. It is in honour of Andrew, one of the apostles.

December 2 – 5: Craft Sale at the Butterdome (U of A. Campus)
<https://10times.com/butterdome-craft-sale>

December 3: STARTA Zoom Christmas Social. Details are given later in this bulletin.

December 4: Wildlife Conservation Day: This years theme, "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet."

December 6: St. Nicholas Day: Celebrated on this day in many western churches; it focuses on St. Nicholas as a bearer of gifts. Eastern Churches celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 19th.

December 10: First Night of Hannukah

December 10: Human Rights Day

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

Eleanor Roosevelt

December 12: Gingerbread House Day: Make a fabulous decoration and dessert and while you are at it, feast on sweets. Yum!



December 12: Candle Lighting Day: This is not part of Christmas Festivities, but is a day to show compassion to those families who are grieving the loss of a child. It is believed to be the world's largest candle lighting event.

December 12: World Choral Day: There is a vast amount of beautiful choral music on the internet. Use this day to indulge in some.

December 14: Bouillabaisse Day: Bouillabaisse is a lovely dish to make and consume on a winter's day.



December 16: Chocolate Covered Anything Day: Let your imagination soar- if you love chocolate no second invitation is required to make merry with chocolate.

Review of Coffee Zoom and Chat- Nov. 5th:

A small group of us met on Zoom. We discussed the weather, vaccine passports, \$10 a day daycare, clock changes and some ideas about how to meet in person. There was a book recommendation, "The President's Daughter is Missing" and a movie recommendation, "The Man Who Invented Christmas". Another great visit!

Our 'first Friday in December' Event:

Join us on Zoom on December third at 10:30 am

for a time to socialize, and an opportunity to participate in Scavenger Hunt, complete with a Winner's PRIZE! We encourage you to wear something 'Christmassy', possibly a hat, a sweater, a scarf – something other participants can see on Zoom!

PS. You do not need the Zoom app. Simply click on the following link to join.

Time: Dec. 3, 2021 10:30 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82277422135?pwd=OWhkVm9NeXh4MDNiSHJpanppTkdaUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 7742 2135

Passcode: 980513

Phone access: 1-587-328-1099 (May mean long distance charges.)

**To have the telephone access information, contact mroberg@telusplanet.net
Truth and Reconciliation**

We recognize, acknowledge and honour the ancestral, traditional First Nations territories on which we live and the contributions of all Indigenous People to our community and to our nation.

Here are some interesting stories from the news of late.

<https://montecristomagazine.com/community/century-coast-salish-pit-cook-rekindles-tradition-food-reconciliation>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/ashling-sweeny-thompson-deputy-fire-chief-1.6243397>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/interactive/2021/climate-change-chief-dana-tizya-tramm/>

<https://apple.news/ALSzXEH7kThqJxoq3slSTDQ>

https://apple.news/A_n4Q2L4yQvu3H1P-6_gF7Q

Watch the News Bulletin in mid-December for information about our January meeting!

We encourage you to contribute to your News Bulletin in two ways this month...

- 1) Many residents of St. Albert put forth a great deal of effort to 'decorate' home, yards and streets for the season, I and others like me love to drive around and enjoy the effort of neighbours and community members. When you see some beautifully decorated homes and yards (when you are out and about), please share with members by sending the address information to pbergmann@shaw.ca on or before Dec. 12th.
- 2) Do you have a short funny story to tell from Christmases past? Send us your anecdotes about amusing Christmas happenings.

These can be very short. We could all use the injection of a little humour or amusement. Here are two examples.

- 1) We had a request for a “phone book” one Christmas. We quickly realized that this was really a request for an address book. Nevertheless, we enclosed the address book within the pages of a very large phone book. The surprise and puzzlement when the phone book was unwrapped was truly funny, adding to the delight at discovering the address book tucked inside!

- 2) The three kids had an annoying habit of prodding, poking, and shaking packages and most often successfully determining the contents. We decided to wrap the gifts as usual, but include a note that said, “Hand this gift to...”. We then wrapped each gift a second time, labelling it this time with the name of a sibling. This obscured the nature of each gift and brought some confusion and excitement as gifts were re-exchanged around the Christmas tree.

We look forward to reading your anecdotes and including them in our next bulletin. Please send your anecdotes or short Christmas stories to Peggy Bergmann (pbergmann@shaw.ca) by December 12th.

*Thank you to everyone who
contributed to this News Bulletin!*