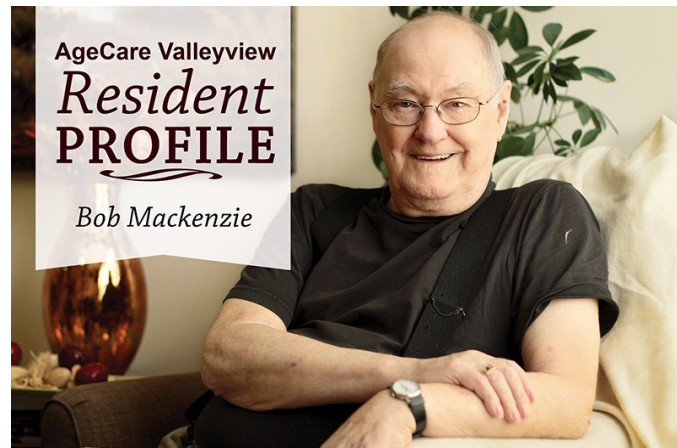


## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS



At 77 Bob has plenty to be thankful for, but like most, his good fortune did not come without some bumps along the road. When Bob shares the stories of his youth, he fondly recalls his love of farming, and he also details the struggles that undoubtedly build his strong character and enduring will.

Born in Skiff, Alberta, Bob was an only child to parents whom, when he was young, inherited their parents' farm near Del Bonita, Alberta. Relocating the family to adopt the farmstead near the Alberta-Montana border came with many challenges for his parents, but Bob did appreciate the lifestyle it afforded him as a young boy.

"I loved the farm – we raised cattle and pigs," he said with nostalgia. "I would run after my father who was on the tractor working the fields. We would blow the straw from the thrasher into stacks near the barn. The sows would burrow into the stacks and have their young. I loved playing with these piglets."

Sadly Bob's parents were less than enchanted with the ups and downs of farming life, and Bob indicates that this put a lot of strain on the family.

"They disliked dealing with the harsh weather conditions and the inconsistencies of

income," he said. Their struggles would only get worse, when at age 14, Bob's family lost their farm house to a fire and had to find the means to rebuild their home.

When they had had enough, Bob's parents sold the farm and moved to Edmonton where Bob's father got work in the oil and gas industry. This marked a sad end to the farming life that Bob knew and loved.

In Edmonton Bob got work as a courier for the Alberta Legislature and was paid \$35 per week. Having not quite completed his high school education, Bob finished his last two subjects by correspondence, mailing in modules weekly and successfully challenging his final exams. Though he might have liked to go on with his schooling, higher education was not in the cards for Bob as there were no funds to send him. Instead, he landed himself a prosperous career in the oilfields.

It was also in Edmonton that Bob met and married Gladys. The couple had a son and a daughter and enjoyed many years of family life and hobbies including bingo, golf and trips to their timeshare in Fairmont, California. At age 60 Bob retired and enjoyed many sunny days on the golf course.

Eventually, Bob and Gladys parted ways but still today they remain good friends. Bob met Donna and he enjoyed spending six years with her before cancer claimed her life.

Grateful for his lot in life and blessed with a boisterous sense of humour, Bob tried his luck with the ladies one more time, proposing to Angela – the receptionist at the residence. The two carried on the joke with a mock ceremony – a reflection of the fun Bob still enjoys having and his unrelenting spirit of optimism.

~ Bob always the Gentlemen.



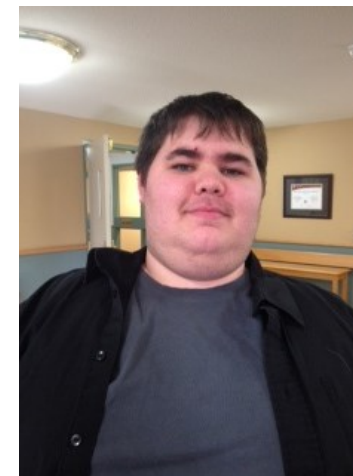
## THE VALLEYVIEW VOICE

FEBRUARY 2016

AgeCare Valleyview | 65 Valleyview Drive SW, Medicine Hat | (403) 526-7000

Happy Valentine's Day

### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Ethan



February employee of the month is **Ethan!**

Working for Aramark staff as a dietary aide, **Ethan** has been here for a year and a half.

When **Ethan** is in the building, you can be sure of a "Good Morning", "How is your

day?" or a smile and a "Hello". This is appreciated by all residents and staff. He is very dependable and works hard.

Thank you **Ethan!** You definitely are "Making a Difference...Everyday".

3 things about **Ethan** you need to know:

- 1.Likes to read a good book
- 2.Enjoys the residents company
- 3.Short story author



Happy  
Birthday!

Irene B.— February 11th

Margaret K. .— February 13th

Mildred R.— February 28th

**FEBRUARY 29th**

This year, 2016, is a leap year!

What does that mean?

Every four years, we have an extra day added to the calendar, making the length of the year 366 days, instead of the normal 365.

Why does this need to happen?

The calendar is supposed to match the solar year (length of time it takes for Earth to orbit the Sun once). But it takes Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to complete its orbit (about 365 1/4 days). Those extra hours add up and after four years, the calendar is out of step by about one day. So by adding a day every four years allows the calendar to match up to the solar year again.

**Did You Know?**

There is a tradition that women are allowed to propose marriage to men on leap days. One day in the 5th century, St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about the unfairness of the system which only allowed men to propose, so he decided to let women do the asking once every four years!



**VALENTINE'S Day BRUNCH**  
 Saturday, February 6, 2016  
 11:00 am & 12:45 pm

SPACE IS LIMITED  
 RSVP by FEB. 3rd  
 Ticket at Reception  
 (403) 526-7000

*In Memory*

**Evelyn T.**  
 January 11, 1936 -  
 December 30, 2015

**Hilma B.**  
 November 1, 1916 -  
 January 22, 2016

**RECREATION NEWS**



Not a day or a week, but a whole month. The month of February is designated by Health Canada to recognize and promote Recreation Therapy. Come and see the display and take part in some special events to celebrate National Recreation Therapy Month!!!



Remember Folks, the Tuck Shop is open weekly Monday/Wednesday/ Friday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

*Baby be my love bug*



Recreation will be hosting a Valentine's Day Tea on February 12 at 2:00 pm in the main floor dining room. Don't Forget to Wear Pink or Red!!!



Special Programs/Events

- Recreation Therapy Month
- Sing-a-long with Bonnie & Jodi
- Celebrating Alberta Winter Games-February 12-16<sup>th</sup>
- Valentine Tea Party
- "Beaver" Little Boy Scout Visit
- GX Dance Group
- Hat Harmonette Singers



Please feel free to stop by our recreation room or office anytime. Our door is always open and we love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

- Debbie Jesse-Recreation Therapist
- Sheila Schwab-Recreation Coordinator
- Mary Anne Janzen-Recreation Aide

