

TRINITY LODGE RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.12 JANUARY 2022 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PG 1 Staff Appreciation and the newsletter's first anniversary.

PG. 2. Sophie's story.

PG.3 Pictures of some of Sophie's pupils.

PG.4. Eileen's Christmas memories.



For Residents. By Residents.

A very Happy New Year to all residents, family members, staff, management, and friends of Trinity Lodge. I'm sure 2022 will be a better year for all of us.

Our monthly newsletter is one year old. We've read some interesting stories from our residents and family members. A big thank you to every contributor. Please help me. If we're going to keep the newsletter viable, we need your input.

I'm gobsmacked.

Yes, I'm really gobsmacked. I'm using an informal English word that means that I am truly amazed, utterly astonished, pleasantly astounded.

Why?

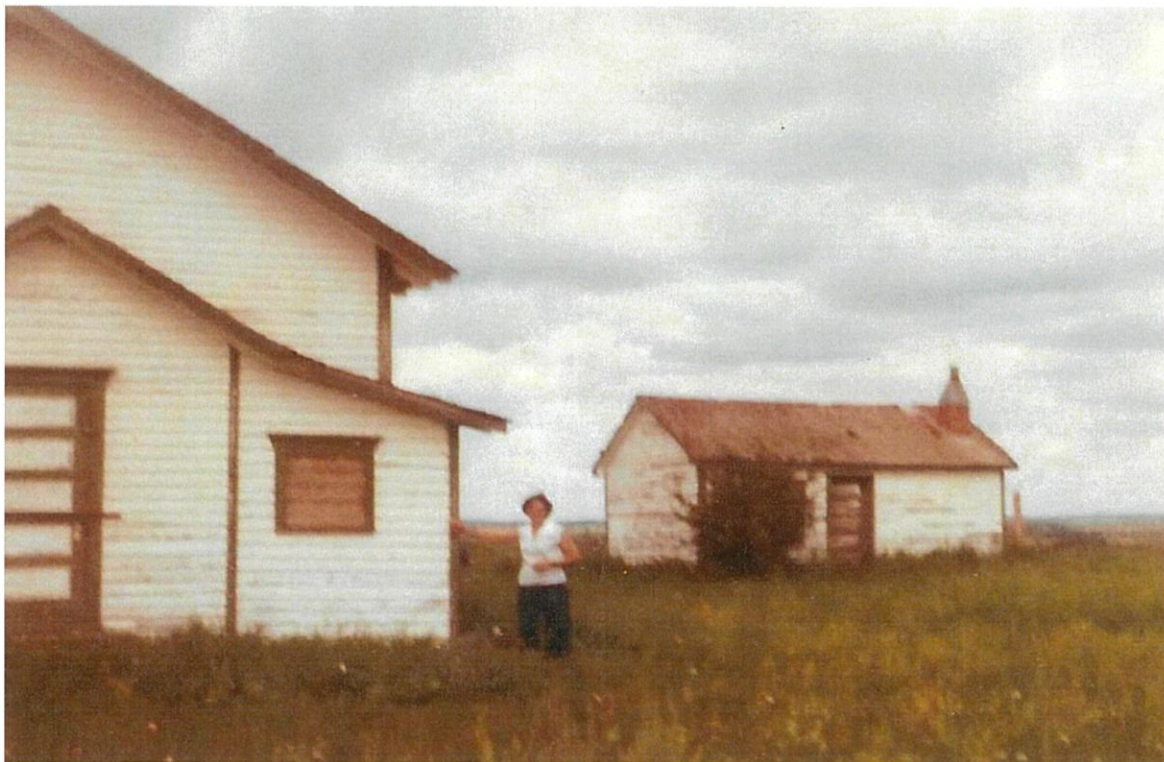
The response that the Resident Council received from our request for donations for the Trinity Lodge Staff Appreciation Fund was fantastic. Thank you all for your generosity. Thank you. Thank you for allowing me and the other council members to convert your donations into a substantial gift for every member of our wonderful staff. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to distribute your gift. Thank you for giving me my best week of the year. The thanks, the expressions of joy, and the gratitude we received when we distributed the gifts were so uplifting.

Sophie Halwa, who later became Sophie Hamer was born in Leduc, Alberta in 1923. She was one of ten children born to Polish immigrants. Sophie has had a very rewarding and fulfilling life as a teacher. Her teaching career lasted thirty-seven years. At the age of nineteen, after only three months of training, she was teaching grades one to ten in a one room schoolhouse in Northern Alberta. After a year, she moved to another school in the same area. She stayed there for three years. Later she taught in various, one room schoolhouses in the small communities in the Grand Prairie region, including a five-year contract with what used to be called Indian Affairs. She has some lovely memories of teaching children of the Blood Tribe.

Sophie laughed as she told me of those early years. At one school, she had the extra (unpaid) job as caretaker. She has vivid memories of the harsh Northern Alberta winters. Always, the need for hot water bottles in her bed. When they fell on the floor and they often did, they froze. She remembers the pail of water that was always frozen in the mornings. She had to chop her own kindling. She says that's what made her a strong woman.

Large class sizes were the norm in those days. Twenty-five to forty children of all grades in the class. Another memory she has of the early days was having a student that was older than she was! Her favourite memory is when her class wrote letters Canada's first astronaut, Chris Hadfield.

Sophie joined the Catholic school system in Calgary, in 1966 and taught in different Catholic schools within the city until her retirement in 1987



Sophie's first schoolhouse. She lived in the "house" in the background

What wonderful memories Sophie must have of all the children she taught. The top picture is from 1947/48 in High Prairie. The second is from 1946/47. Sophie taught the children of the Siksika Nation. The third picture was taken in 1943/45 at the Scenic Heights school near High Prairie.



A Christmas Memory



Resident, Eileen Chechento has a wonderful miniature village set up in her suite. Eileen has installed the display each Christmas for many years. The village consisting of lots of ornate, highly detailed buildings, churches, a school, shops, and homes with lots of village people and their pets. The stagecoach is so detailed, it even has people sitting inside. The village used to be much bigger prior to Eileen moving into Trinity Lodge. Eileen and her husband collected more than a hundred pieces over many years when they vacationed in the US and different parts of Canada.

