

JANUARY 2018

RICHMOND TERRACE

AMHERSTBURG * 89 RANKIN * P 519-736-5571 * F 519-736-1169



Celebrating January

WELCOME TO RICHMOND TERRACE.....

Mehahatollah. L
Michelle. C
Shirley. K
Anna. D
Roy. G
Robert. B

IN MEMORY OF.....

Rosalina. D
Janette. D
Myrtle. R
Maureen. N
Lucille. B

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of the family and friends who came out to our "Jingle & Mingle" Open House. Your participation helped make the event a success!

WORDS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.....

Happy New Year to You! Happy New Year to you!

May every great new day, Bring you sweet surprises—

A happiness buffet.

And when the New Year's done, may the next year be even better,

Full of pleasure, joy and fun!

Working together to make 2018 at Richmond Terrace simply EPIC!

Laura Scott

ATTENTION

Richmond Terrace has implemented a new automated voice messaging system. This system will allow us to contact families with messages regarding Richmond Terrace in a timely manner. Please listen to the full message for pertinent information. Emergency calls will be made by our staff directly regarding your loved one. Not by our automated messaging system.

GIFT SHOP HOURS!!

MONDAY 9-1
WEDNESDAY 12-4
FRIDAY 9-1

An American Original



Stephen Foster has been called America's first pop artist, thanks to the musical artistry he put into penning some of the 19th century's most memorable songs. You may not be familiar with all 200 of his hits, but his classics "Oh! Susanna," "Camptown Races," "Old Folks at Home" (known as "Swanee River"), and "My Old Kentucky Home," have earned their rightful place in America's national songbook. Don't be surprised to find yourself humming some of these tunes on January 13, Stephen Foster Memorial Day.

Long before the technology was available to record music, Foster was a professional songwriter. He was born near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in a community of immigrants from Italy, Scotland, Ireland, and Germany. His own musical compositions would eventually reflect the influence of European musical traditions as well as church hymns. Living in an era before formal public schooling, Foster taught himself how to play the clarinet, violin, guitar, flute, and piano. He likely wrote his first hit, "Oh! Susanna," as a teenaged member of a secret society known as the "Knights of the S.T." (Square Table). "Oh! Susanna" became so popular that it was the anthem of the California Gold Rush.

Foster may today be lauded as an American icon, but in 1855 his life took a bad turn. His parents and best friend died, he separated from his wife, and he became heavily indebted to his publishers. It may come as no surprise that it was during this time in his life that he wrote "Hard Times Come Again No More." Sadly, with no copyright laws to protect his songwriting, Foster did not reap much financial reward for this or any other of his most popular compositions. By the early 1860s, his life was a daily struggle, and he was forced to move in and out of hotels in New York City. He died on January 13, 1864, with just 38 cents in his wallet. Although he died a pauper, he has achieved legendary status at the forefront of America's artistic elite.

The Dirt on Farming

January 10–13 brings No-Tillage Week, an awareness campaign aimed at spreading the word about the benefits of no-till farming. Farmers have tilled soil for thousands of years, agitating and turning over dirt in preparation for planting. This practice, however common, may not create the healthiest soil. By leaving soil untilled, it absorbs more water, retains the organic matter of previously planted crops, improves the cycling of nutrients, retains beneficial microorganisms in the soil, and reduces erosion and runoff. No-tillage also reduces labor, fuel, irrigation, and machinery costs, while reaping comparable harvests. In this way, no-till farming has been shown to be very profitable, if managed correctly. As in all things, change comes slowly. Transforming a farm from till to no-till is a daunting task. The promise of higher yields, drought-resistance, and lower costs need to be proven before farmers hop on the no-tillage bandwagon, and that is what this week is all about.

Totally Tubular



Spend January 3 celebrating the totally tubular invention of the drinking straw. On this day in 1888, Marvin Stone was issued the patent for his paper drinking straw. Prior to Stone's invention, people used straws made from blades of rye grass, but the rye imparted a grassy taste to the drink. His invention was a welcome improvement, but hardly original. Drinking straws were in use 5,000 years ago by the Sumerians, who employed straws that doubled as sieves. These drinking tubes were used to drink beer and would filter out solid particulates that were the by-product of fermentation. A gold straw inlaid with blue jewels was even discovered in a Sumerian tomb. Of course, most straws today are made of plastic, but the careless tossing of these single-use straws into the garbage has created an environmental mess. It seems that Stone's patent of a recyclable paper straw is more important than ever.

The Twelfth Day of Christmas



The last day of the Twelve Days of Christmas falls on January 6, and in Ireland it doesn't end with twelve drummers drumming, but with *Nollaig na mBan*, or Women's Christmas, or Little Christmas,

as it's also known. This is the day the Christmas decorations come down and (finally) the women of the house get a much-deserved rest after catering to guests during the busy holiday season. In 1998, an article published in the *Irish Times* newspaper noted that while even God rested on the seventh day, Irish women didn't get to rest until the twelfth!

The holiday is especially common in southern Ireland's counties of Cork and Kerry, where families celebrate a yearly reminder of the strength and importance of Irish women, especially mothers, who have long been considered the backbone of the Irish family. In Ireland's olden times, the women would save the turf, cut the hay, and paint the barn, all while raising the children and feeding the family—no small task considering how large traditional Irish families were. While a woman's role in Irish society has evolved over the years—they have moved far beyond the boundaries of the home and into the community, business, and politics—women are no less revered.

On January 6, it is common for children to give their mothers and grandmothers presents or cook them breakfast. The men take over the household duties for the day while women gather socially in the pubs and restaurants for a little well-deserved girl time. In fact, it is the one time of year when restaurants and bars are filled entirely with women.

Luckily, the notion of Women's Christmas is becoming popular for Irish women beyond Cork and Kerry. And the celebration is becoming more than just a night out at the pubs. Modern Women's Christmas celebrations are including discussions about women's health, political involvement, and most any other women's issues: less food, and more food for thought.

Flying High

Save the eagles! You'll get your chance on January 10, Save the Eagles Day. There are more than 70 species of eagles around the world, some of which are listed as endangered species, but fortunately most of these majestic birds are large and powerful enough to survive in most any condition. Eagles may not be the fastest or most agile of raptors, but compared to hawks and falcons, they stand out as the largest. Stellar's sea eagle from the northeastern coast of Asia is the heaviest at 20 pounds, but the Philippine eagle, at 3.35 feet tall and with a more than seven-foot wingspan, is considered the largest. This eagle, the national bird of the Philippines, is the world's rarest and most powerful eagle. At the other end of the spectrum is the South Nicobar serpent eagle, considered the world's smallest. Found only on India's Great Nicobar Island, this eagle is barely 1.5 feet tall and, as the name suggests, eats mainly snakes and lizards. Eagles tend to be loners and fly at high altitudes, sometimes up to 10,000 feet. They can hunt from such high altitudes because they can see clearly up to 50 miles away with their "eagle eyes."

Little Man with Big Success



Charles Sherwood Stratton was born on January 4, 1838, as a large baby, at 9 pounds 8 ounces, but by six months of age, he had largely stopped growing. In 1842, legendary showman P.T. Barnum stopped in Stratton's

hometown and discovered the two-foot-tall four-year-old boy. Barnum hired the child and made Stratton an international star, impersonating Napoleon Bonaparte and performing as Cupid. Renamed as General Tom Thumb, Stratton traveled to England and won an appearance before Queen Victoria. When Tom Thumb married a woman of similar restricted growth, he made the cover of the *New York Times*, beating out coverage of America's Civil War. Indeed, even President Abraham Lincoln hosted their honeymoon.

Electric Ahead of Its Time



In this era of electric vehicles, it seems that technology knows no boundaries. But on January 10, 1985, when inventor Sir Clive Sinclair

unveiled his newest invention, the Sinclair C5 electric vehicle, it was immediately dismissed as a failure. However, without the C5, who knows where electric vehicles and all their high-tech trappings would be today?

Clive Sinclair made his fortune inventing pocket calculators in the 1970s and home computers in the 1980s. He was such an important personality in England that he was knighted in 1983, the very same year he founded Sinclair Vehicles. Inventing an electric-powered vehicle had been Sinclair's passion since the 1950s. Interestingly, in America in 1912, electric cars outnumbered vehicles run by an internal combustion engine. But as the internal combustion engine became more efficient, electric model cars were rendered obsolete. Clive hoped to flip this trend with his C5, which was less a car and more of an electrically assisted pedal vehicle—kind of a souped-up recumbent tricycle with a battery-powered engine that went 15 mph and had a polypropylene shell. It was marketed as an alternative to both cars and bicycles, but it never took off. Out of the 14,000 manufactured, only 5,000 sold. Sinclair's invention became a notorious flop.

Fast-forward 32 years, and it seems the world may finally be ready for the C5. Sir Clive Sinclair's nephew Grant Sinclair has brought his revamped C5, called the Iris E-Trike, to a world full of bicycle lanes and environmental-awareness campaigns. Better yet, its top speed is 30 mph and it has a more powerful motor. Once again, it seems as if the target consumer is someone who wants the earth-friendliness of a bicycle wrapped in the comfort of an enclosed car. So is the world finally ready for the C5? Only time will tell. The first models of the C5 were made available at the end of 2017.

January Birthdays

In astrology, those born between January 1–19 are Capricorn's Goats. Goats are practical, determined, and focused on ambitious goals. They follow a straightforward, well-planned path and persevere with grit and honesty. Those born between January 20–31 are Water Bearers of Aquarius. Water Bearers are creative and intellectual philosophers at heart, getting to the root of problems and using their energy and passion for the benefit of others.

Marilyn C – January 2nd

Anna P – January 3rd

Ross B – January 7th

Bim M – January 9th

Genny W – January 9th

Florence C – January 15th

Angelique R – January 22nd

Lucille S – January 25th

Gone for Good



Every year, Lake Superior State University reveals its list of overused words or phrases that it feels *must* be banished from use forever. Which words made the cut? As you can imagine, a few choice words from

the American political sphere, namely: *bigly*, meaning “a swelling or blustering manner,” and *post-truth*, meaning “a society where facts matter less than impressions.” There are also plenty of words related to social media and the Internet: *ghost*, which is “to abruptly end communication on social media,” and *listicle*, which is “a numbered or bulleted list created to attract views over the Internet.” Judges are ready to choose the worst of the lot come New Year's Day, and a likely winner (or loser?) is the word *disruption*, a term used to describe the radical change experienced as the result of a social movement or innovation.