

SILVERA TIMES

NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE



WWII veteran, Ernest Jones, shares his story

Every life is made up of stories. Long-time Queens Court resident and proud veteran, Ernest

Jones, can tell a few especially interesting ones from his time as a young teenage naval officer during WWII.

Showing a keen interest in the radio operations, Ernest was eventually promoted to First Radio Officer two years into his service. At age 16 (his superiors were by this time aware of his real age), he was one of the youngest sailors to make rank of Merchant Naval Officer during WWII.

At age 14, Ernest Jones ran away from a difficult home life in North Wales and made his way to Liverpool, England. There, he lied about his age to join the crew on a Merchant Navy freighter, a job for which the minimum age was 16.

It was 1940 and a young Ernest – nicknamed Jonesy by his crew mates – would spend the remainder of World War II ferrying food, raw materials, supplies and troops between North America and Europe in support of the Allied war effort. In his estimation, he made the North Atlantic crossing more than 100 times.



The Merchant Navy is made up of civilian sailors and the types of freighters Ernest worked aboard during the war were unarmed vessels. But crossing the North Atlantic during the war was not only vital to the war effort, it was also extremely dangerous. Merchant boats were prime targets for enemy action, more than half of the British Merchant fleet was sunk by German U-Boats, and 32,000 British merchant sailors' lives were lost. In

1992, Merchant Navy sailors employed in support of UK military operations were legally recognized with the title of UK Merchant Seafaring Veterans.

About this time of his life, Ernest says, “I was simply one of the incredibly lucky ones. And I saw it as a grand adventure. It was great fun.”

Some of his fond memories include times when he was on leave. He attended concerts in Great Britain and loved to dance. One very memorable moment was meeting Queen Elizabeth II when she was a young princess driving an ambulance in

the British Army corps. “I didn’t know who she was and thought I’d ask her on a date. I was so close to the queen’s court, and then ironically ended up in Queens Court after all!”

Ernest stayed on with the Merchant Navy until 1951, when he immigrated to Canada at age 23, eventually making his home in Calgary. Ernest has lived with Silvera for nearly 30 years.

If you have a story you’d like to share, email us at SilveraTimes@silvera.ca.

Knitting is not just a hobby, it’s helping the community

Silvera residents Edith, Janice, Pat, Marie, Phyllis and Freeda regularly gather to knit and crochet. And with the help of Shouldice employees who arrange delivery, they donate many of their creations to local charitable organizations.

They make hats and blankets that comfort newborn babies, single parents, animals and individuals experiencing homelessness.



They also knit poppies – a lot of them! For Remembrance Day last year, Silvera communities competed to see which community could make the most poppies. The Shouldice crew proudly won that challenge by creating 903 poppies! Check out this year's Remembrance Day display outside Shouldice, featuring the hand-created poppies.

These creative residents are supplied with yarn from Silvera and donations from the broader Calgary community. If you have extra yarn you don’t need, these needle wizards would love any full or partial balls of any type of yarn. You can drop yarn donations anytime at Shouldice community, 4730 – 19 Ave NW.

Here we grow again! An update on new construction and renovations at Silvera

Our Capital Development team is working hard to create beautiful new communities for current and future residents to call home. Here's an update on the projects under development.

Vista Residence is a former all-suites hotel in Calgary's northeast community of Horizon. Silvera is transforming it into a beautiful independent living seniors' apartment building. It will feature 120 one and two-bedroom rent geared to income apartments, including kitchens with fridge, cooktop (2 bedroom apartments also include an oven), convection microwave and dishwasher. The building features shared laundry facilities, at-grade parking and an on-site sports court. The renovations are now in the final stages and Vista Residence is scheduled to open around the end of 2021.



Gilchrist Community is an independent living with enhanced services building located in the northeast Calgary community of Pineridge. The addition of this new building will create our new Silvera in Pineridge campus, which is comprised of Gilchrist Manor and Gilchrist Gardens. Together they will uniquely support residents as they age in place,



while remaining in this one location. This new building will feature 114 apartments, multipurpose rooms, two dining rooms, a hair salon, corner store, grab-and-go bistro, multiple outdoor balconies, patios, and heated underground parkade. Construction began in 2018 and the focus is now on completing construction of the interiors and exterior paving. Gilchrist Community is scheduled to open in late Spring of 2022.

Westview Residence West is a new seniors independent living apartment building currently under construction adjacent to Silvera’s Westview Community. The building is in the southwest Calgary community of Glamorgan. Along with newly renovated Westview Community and soon-to-be-built Westview Residence East, Westview Residence West (formerly called Building 3000) will round out the trio of buildings being called Silvera in Glamorgan.

The new building includes 82 one- and two-bedroom apartments, common areas for residents, bike and scooter storage, a heated underground parkade, an outdoor patio, and a courtyard. The building’s exterior is nearly complete, and work is progressing on the interior. Westview Residence West is scheduled for opening early in 2022.



Silvera Games 2021



Congratulations to all participants in the annual Silvera Games! Residents from across our communities really got in the spirit as they competed in mini golf, Washu toss, ping pong, frisbee toss and bowling knock-down. Because we couldn't all gather in one place to compete, results from each community were compiled to determine the winners. The overall points leader was the team from Beaverdam! But the most important thing is, everyone had a lot of fun!