

# Fiddick's Forum

Fiddick's Nursing Home and Retirement Home 437 First Ave, Petrolia ON (PH) 519-882-0370



## Celebrating October

**Country Music Month**

**Global Diversity  
Awareness Month**

**Emotional Wellness Month**

**World Smile Day**  
*October 2*

**World Teachers Day**  
*October 5*

**Indigenous Peoples Day**  
*October 12*

**Character Counts Week**  
*October 18–24*

**International Chefs Day**  
*October 20*

**International Artist Day**  
*October 25*

**Halloween**  
*October 31*

## October Is a Hoot

In October, the black of night is deep and dark. Chill winds blow away the veil of clouds shrouding the crescent moon so that it casts faint shadows in the forest. A deep hoot echoes, sending a shiver down your spine. October is considered Owl Month for good reason. This is the time of year that many great horned owls are active. They begin to set up territory and look for a mate. Hooting, screeching, and other vocalizations are integral to these rituals. For this reason, October is sometimes called the hooting season.

For millennia, humankind has shared myths that depict owls as emissaries of doom, death, and evil magic. The ancient Greeks and Romans believed that witches could transform themselves into owls. The Hopis of North America believe that burrowing owls, which nest and roost underground, are associated with Maasaw, the god of the dead and the night. During the Gaelic festival of Samhain, which takes place on the night of October 31, the barrier between the living and the dead thins so that the spirits of deceased relatives can find their way home. Owls, it was believed, could snatch those wandering souls and eat them. Is it any wonder then that owls, with their midnight hooting and hunting on silent wings, are associated with Halloween? As creatures of the night, they are the perfect symbols for a festival that reveres all things spooky.

Not all cultures have feared the owl. The Greek goddess Athena, fed up with the trickster crow, adopted the owl as her companion animal thanks to its perceived wisdom and seriousness. Some Australian aboriginal groups believe that owls are the sacred spirits of women and are revered. In Afghanistan, it is said that the owl brought humans the gifts of flint and iron, tools to make fire. In return, humans gave owls their feathers. Owls are unique amongst birds. Their unusual characteristics—nocturnal nature, hooting calls, large eyes, and their uncanny ability to rotate their necks—all have captured our imaginations and, in many ways, let our fears get the better of us. Thankfully, most cultures have learned to share these myths while preserving the species, ensuring the survival of these magnificent animals for generations to come.

## Message From Michael Fiddick, Owner/Administrator

To My Beloved Residents, Team, Families, Community and to my own Family,

Many of you are aware of OUR story. My Mother, Maxine Fiddick Ducharme. My Mother, without a plan or an intention began Fiddicks Nursing Home. It was not a plan for a business, but a desire to fill a need that was barren in the community. The care of my own grandmother for one, but also the mentally ill that had no where to go in 1962. One of my mothers first residents was a 16 year old girl that had been hospitalized in London. On discharge her family would not allow her to come home, her doctor knew my mother and knew the care she was providing in Strathroy and so it began.

The drive was service and care. A care and devotion that we have also expressed to the men and women that have joined our team over the years. For 53 years we have provided and assisted with education to many, supported their ambitions in career whether they stayed with us or not. Care of all has been our goal, all inclusive, without prejudice.

We have learned irreplaceable lessons from our residents; Holocaust survivors, Residential School survivors, Veterans of war, Politicians, Teachers, Doctors, Lawyers, My Grandmother, Your Grandmother and now, My own Mother, The Matriarch of our facility has resided first in the Retirement Home and now in The Nursing Home, Maxine Fiddick Ducharme, My Mother, whom I work for every single day.

It is my mothers legacy that is held within these walls. A history in totality of 58 years of loving this community. Loving our Residents and having the finest employees anywhere. My Old Girls, that are younger then myself that call my Mother, Mother. As Fiddicks Nursing home is and always will be a family. Maxine at head, myself by her side.

Team, You have been extraordinary and I know each of you are weary but your devotion carries you through these days. We have more difficult times ahead. We will remain united, strong, devoted to our Residents, their families and our community.

Let your Autumn be filled with Thanksgiving. Stay well, Stay safe and always remember our drive in unity is to provide the most loving and safe environment for our Residents.

I remain humbly yours. I am always a phone call away to each and everyone of you.

Residents come first!

Michael Fiddick



## Fiddicks Nursing Home and

## Retirement Welcomes....

Erma Mailloux

Lorna Huggett

Rodriguez Bellavance

## Mourns the Loss of...

Lola Casey

I'm so glad  
I live in a  
world where  
there are  
Octobers.

Anne of Green Gables.



## Fun Facts About Pumpkins:

- › Pumpkins are a fruit that originated in Central America.
  - › 90% of the pumpkin is made up of water.
- › Illinois grows more pumpkins than any other state in the country. It harvests nearly 12,300 acres of fruit.
- › Using pumpkins as lanterns at Halloween is based on an ancient Celtic custom brought to America by European immigrants.

## October Special Events

The following programs will take place on each unit in the month of October! Please Refer to the designated floor calendar for dates!

**Halloween Party!**

**Tarts and Apple Cider**

**Puumpkin Photobooth!**

**Pumpkin Spice Lates**

**Painting Pumpkins**

**Residents Council : October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Family Council : October 28<sup>th</sup>**

### Family Council Update

Although family council is not meeting "face-to-face", we are holding monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm via Zoom**. For more information, please contact one of the following members:

Tami Langstaff: 519-918-0052

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Marje Crowe: 519-671-2029

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Susan Carnegie: 519-402-1948

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## A Home for the "Gentle Giants"

The massive redwood trees have graced the coast of California for thousands of years, yet it wasn't until October 2, 1968, that Redwood National Park was founded to protect these "gentle giants" as national treasures. After the discovery of gold along the Trinity River in 1850, Northern California experienced a mini-gold rush, and many miners turned to logging, which decimated the redwood population. Various conservation groups attempted to save the old-growth forests, and many stands of trees were saved. The outbreak of World War II led to a construction boom, and once again the trees were eyed as a rich source of lumber. It was not easy for President Lyndon Johnson to sign legislation establishing Redwood National Park, especially in the face of opposition from timber companies. But thankfully, 58,000 acres of forest were set aside for preservation. Today that number has grown to over 130,000 acres, providing a vast coastal shelter for the tallest trees in the world. Nurtured by the dense fog of the coast, some of these trees soar more than 300 feet into the sky. Even the smallest specimens are wondrous to behold.

## Attention Families!

For every negative COVID test you show MAA when you come to visit, you will receive a ballot towards a Turkey Dinner! Draw will happen on October 7<sup>th</sup>! Included in the basket are the following items;

**Turkey**  
**Ham**  
**Stuffing**  
**Potatoes**  
**Carrots**  
**Green Bean Casserole**  
**Corn**  
**Dinner Rolls**  
**Cranberry Sauce**  
**Gravy**



## October Birthdays

### Barclay

Helen McRae – Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Fairbanks

Jackolyn Delaurier- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>

Mary Koziol- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>

### Retirement Home

Maxine Moore- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Leone Dean- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

Betty Rigby- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>

### Victoria Way

Doreen Snelgrove- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>

Donna Morningstar- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

Beatrice Hands- Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>

Alice Mills- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

Rita Cote- Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

### Ruby Hall

Harold Clark- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>



## October Birthdays

In astrology, those born between October 1–22 balance the scales of Libra. Libras have strong intellects and keen minds and so need constant stimulation. Libras are also masters of compromise and diplomacy, acting as wise mediators between friends and colleagues. Those born from October 23–31 are Scorpio's scorpions. Scorpions are passionate and intense, yet you may never know given their calm demeanors. They value truth, loyalty, and justice in friends and family.

Julie Andrews (actress) – October 1, 1935  
Desmond Tutu (cleric) – October 7, 1931  
Chevy Chase (comedian) – October 8, 1943  
Dick Gregory (comedian) – October 12, 1932  
Mae Jemison (astronaut) – October 17, 1956  
Chuck Berry (musician) – October 18, 1926  
Dizzy Gillespie (musician) – October 21, 1917  
Pelé (soccer star) – October 23, 1940  
Mahalia Jackson (singer) – October 26, 1911  
Bill Gates (engineer) – October 28, 1955

## Catalan's Towering Culture



Every two years for the past two centuries, the first weekend in October has brought the *Concurs de Castells*, or Human Tower Competition, in Tarragona, in the Catalonia region of Spain. In a stadium filled with 6,000 spectators, 25 teams compete to see who can build the most elaborate human tower. Teammates dressed in colorful costumes climb atop one another's shoulders, building tier upon tier, rising as high as 40 feet above the ground. The building is not complete until a child ascends to the summit and raises their hand. The tradition is a fierce source of regional pride and a central aspect of Catalan culture. Building human towers is a tradition that dates back to the *Balls de Valencians* of the 15th century, dances that incorporated the building of human towers. The event is so spectacular that UNESCO has preserved it as a unique cultural heritage.