

THE

GOLDEN

TIMES

Vol. 4

DECEMBER 5, 2025

BIRD FLU

HONG KONG FIRES

HALLOWEEN FOR
HUNGER

REMEMBRANCE
DAY

INSTALLATION DINNER

THE POWER IS THE PEOPLE

We dare not forget
that we are the
heirs of the first
revolution

I WRITE ONLY BECAUSE THERE
IS A VOICE WITHIN ME THAT
WILL NOT BE STILLED

A WORD AFTER A WORD AFTER A
WORD IS POWER.

—Margaret Atwood

WORDS ARE POWERFUL.
THEY CAN CREATE OR
THEY CAN DESTROY. SO
CHOOSE YOUR WORDS
WISELY.

DESCRIPTION BEGINS IN THE
WRITER'S IMAGINATION BUT
SHOULD FINISH IN THE
READER'S

—Stephen King.

GIVE ME

LIBERTY

OR GIVE ME DEATH



School Community

12.03.25

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Friday

REMEMBRANCE DAY

BY: EDEN BEN DAVID

On November 10th, our school held two Remembrance Day ceremonies to honour the sacrifices of those who served Canada in times of war and peace. Each ceremony was respectfully led by student emcees: Elaina Chan and Eden Bendavid hosted the first assembly, while Juana Kaadan and Macy Kerr led the second.

The ceremonies began with a land acknowledgement, followed by the introduction of our honoured guest, Mr. Peter Mitchell—a local veteran, legion director, and ANAF holding company director adding a meaningful presence to the morning. Students then stood for the flag parade and the singing of O Canada, led by grade 9 student Zeah Castillo and accompanied by the senior concert band. Principal Jeff Johnstone delivered opening remarks, making his first Remembrance Day speech in his new role. His message emphasized unity, gratitude, and the importance of remembering those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Throughout the ceremony, student emcees guided the audience through the history and significance of Remembrance Day, explaining the origin of the armistice on November 11th, 1919, and the symbolism of the poppy. A video created by Mr. Chan's Video Production class was shown, offering a thoughtful reflection on sacrifice and peace. The assembly continued with a poem titled "The Unnamed Soldier" written and read by student Maya Flores.

After that, the Senior Concert Band performed A Hymn for Band, adding a reflective moment to the ceremony. Kai followed with a reading from John F. Kennedy's 1962 Address. To close the assembly, Zon Phan played The Last Post, leading into a moment of silence, followed by Reveille.

This tradition has been a part of our school since 1960, and this year's ceremonies stood out as especially successful thanks to the cooperation of staff and students. Much of the event was organized, set up, and monitored by the leadership students, whose work helped ensure the day ran smoothly. As Remembrance Day approached, the school was encouraged to pause, reflect, and honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who served. Lest we forget.



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INSTALLATION DINNER

BY: MACY KERR

Last Thursday, the Hugh Boyd Interact Club hosted its annual Installation Dinner, a night dedicated to celebrating our members, welcoming new leaders, and strengthening our connection with the Richmond Sunset Rotary Club. The evening was filled with great food, fun activities, and meaningful moments that brought our club together. Guests enjoyed an amazing spread, including Chipotle burritos, Yummy Slice pizza, chips, drinks, and a variety of desserts that kept everyone energized throughout the event. We were joined by several Rotarians from the Richmond Sunset Rotary Club, who came to support our club and take part in the celebration.

After dinner, the evening kicked off with games and prizes, highlighted by our competitive round of human bingo. Members had to search the room for people who matched the categories in each bingo square, making it the perfect icebreaker and a great way for everyone to meet new people and bond.

One of the most important parts of the night was the formal installation of our new Interact executive team. Each executive member was officially inducted into their role, marking the beginning of a new chapter of leadership for our club. It was a meaningful moment that recognized all the hard work, commitment, and passion they bring to Interact. Above all, the Installation Dinner was a chance to thank our volunteers for everything they've accomplished so far this year. From helping at the RAPS animal shelter, to setting up Winter Wonderland, to organizing Halloween for Hunger, our members have already made a huge impact in our community. We have so much to be grateful for, and this dinner was a perfect way to celebrate the effort, teamwork, and heart that make the Hugh Boyd Interact Club so special.



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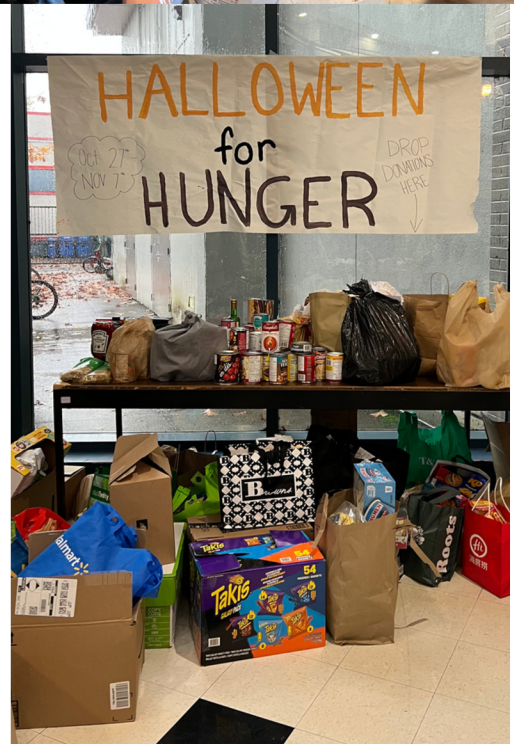
HALLOWEEN FOR HUNGER

BY: ANNA ZUO

Halloween for Hunger, also known as WE Scare Hunger, was created by Dr. Jonathan White and began as a school campaign at St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School in 1999. It has since become a yearly tradition where volunteers go door-to-door collecting non-perishable food items for local food banks. Starting on October 27th, the Interact Club at Hugh Boyd Secondary School began gathering donations of non-perishable food items and money. By November 7th, and with support from Jessie Wowk Elementary, Blundell Elementary, and Westwind Elementary, the club collected over 1500 food items and more than \$200 which were all donated to the Richmond Food Bank. Volunteers also handed out flyers during Halloween to spread awareness and encourage more people to contribute.

The purpose of Halloween for Hunger is to raise awareness about food insecurity locally and globally. About one in ten households in B.C. experience some level of food insecurity. Across Canada, approximately 10 million people struggle to access enough food. Worldwide, around 295 million people in 53 countries face severe hunger and starvation. Halloween for Hunger is not just about collecting donations, it's a reminder that many families cannot depend on three regular meals a day.

This tradition empowers participants to recognize their ability to help and encourages communities to act with empathy, raise awareness, and support those who need it most.



HONG KONG FIRES

BY: PAUL DELOS REYES

On November 26 at 2:51 p.m., the residential buildings in Wang Fuk Court in Hong Kong were engulfed in flames, leaving at least forty-four people dead. The fire was classified as a level 5 (the highest level) by the local fire department within hours. It was the worst fire in Hong Kong since the 1996 Garley Building fire. Wang Fuk Court housed around 4,600 residents, many of whom were senior citizens. Seven of the eight thirty-one-storey towers were affected as the fire rapidly spread through the bamboo scaffolding and netting used for ongoing renovations between the buildings.

As of the time of writing, firefighters have managed to bring four of the buildings under control. The intense heat and falling debris made rescue efforts extremely difficult. Firefighter Ho Wai Ho lost contact during the operation and was later found collapsed, becoming one of the casualties. The height of the buildings added even more danger, making evacuation especially challenging. Three men from the construction company responsible for the renovations were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. Authorities report that negligence in the construction process played a major role in the severity of the disaster. At this time, the fire department continues to battle the remaining flames.



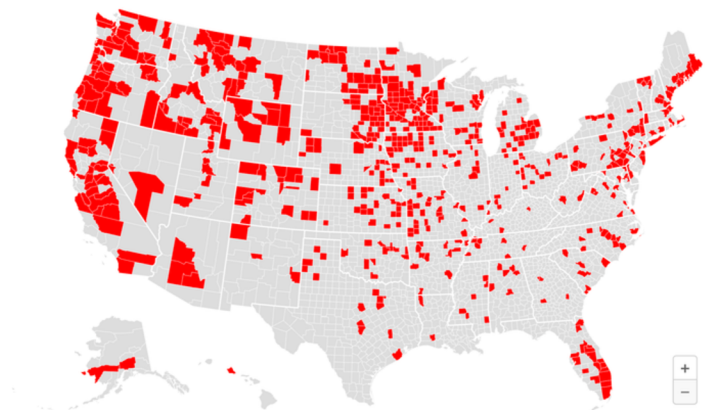
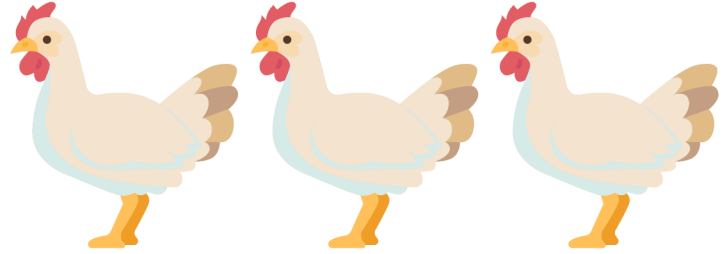
BIRD FLU

BY: JUANA KAADAN

The recent bird flu outbreak at an ostrich farm near Red Deer, Alberta, on November 18, 2025, has caused worry among farmers, veterinarians, and nearby residents. Earlier this week, routine tests confirmed that several ostriches had been infected with a serious strain of avian influenza, leading officials to quarantine the farm right away. The farm, which raises ostriches for meat and feathers, has paused all operations while experts try to find out how the virus arrived and how to stop it from spreading to other farms.

Bird flu outbreaks happen from time to time, but seeing it in ostriches makes the situation more complicated. These birds are tough and often don't show clear symptoms at first, which can delay early detection. Health officials say the risk to the public is still low, but they are asking people to avoid touching wild birds and to report any unusual bird deaths in the area.

For the farmers, the outbreak is both emotionally and financially painful. Many say it feels heartbreaking to lose birds they have raised for years, and it threatens their livelihood. As the containment efforts continue, the focus is on supporting the affected farmers, keeping nearby poultry safe, and rebuilding trust in the area's farming industry. More updates are expected in the coming days as testing and monitoring continue.



A map of the United States shows which counties have been affected by bird flu outbreaks in poultry flocks since 2022. In total, 136,327,394 birds have been infected as of January 23, 2025.
Newsweek Map: Tom Howarth • Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture's • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper