



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

MEMBERS ENJOY ANNUAL BANQUET

On September 25/15, over 120 members gathered at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond for our annual Gourmet Dinner and Anniversary Celebration. While waiting for the first course (of the twelve course meal!) members enjoyed a drink, social time, and renewed old acquaintances. Members enjoyed a slide show, featuring photos of club events over the past several years, running continuously on the numerous screens in the restaurant. They also took time to purchase raffle and 50/50 tickets as well as advance ticket sales for a draw for BC Lions memorabilia, including a signed helmet and jersey by quarterback Travis Lulay. This draw will take place at the Christmas Luncheon on December 8th.

During the meal, conversations continued accompanied by anticipation for each arriving dish. Throughout the evening, brief messages were delivered by Al Miller, updating the group on his work in Zimbabwe and the use of money that we raise for him. We are fortunate that 100% of what we give goes to the children and none to administration or even to Al's travel costs.

Lisa Hansen from Johnson Insurance, MEDOC was present and reminded members of the tremendous benefits we can access for travel insurance. Many members took advantage of her presence to discuss personal questions regarding eligibility and benefits.

Jim Stevenson emceed the evening and gave updates throughout. Awards were given to Donna Simon for her work each year setting up a Santa letter writing site at the Polar Express event, held each year for three weekends in December at the West Coast railway Park in Squamish. following the weekend events, Donna answers all of the letters to Santa that originate at the Polar Express. Other awards went to Garry Chapple for his many years of coordinating Santa letters in Abbotsford and to Ann Dobrilla for coordinating the Santa letters in the Delta area.

(continued on Page 2)



Awards were presented to (front row/left to right) Donna Simon, Garry Chapple and Anne Dobrilla by (back row left to right) Jim Stevenson, Peter Darvill and Fred Danells.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gala Banquet	2
Washington State U-Drive	3
Wedding Hit Flu Shot Volunteers	4
Santa Letter Prep Thank You Johnson Insurance	5
Attention BC Lions Fans Looking to Share Postmasters' Tour	6
Christmas Luncheon Hey Snowbirds!	7
Travel Opportunities	8

ANNUAL BANQUET (continued from Page 1)

There were over fifty prizes donated for the raffle, creating immense excitement as winning numbers were drawn. The pot for the 50/50 draw was \$220.00 and the lucky winner was Ladi Melanio. Bottles of wine, purchased from Intrigue Winery in Kelowna when our bus group were there for lunch and wine tasting on the way to Banff last spring, were sold and the profits from wine sales added to our fundraising total.

Overall, over \$1000.00 was raised for our ongoing support of Al Miller's work in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to all those members who helped with organization, ticket sales, arranging table groups of ten, donating prizes, and making the effort to attend. It is always rewarding to see so many members having such a good time and contributing to our fundraising causes.



Rene Brissett (left) presents 50/50 winner Ladi Melanio his winnings.

Mark you calendar for next years Gala Banquet on September 23/16.



Former Directors (left to right) Peter Darvill, VMPP, Bob Sanders, Human Resources, Fred Danells, VMPP and John Brady, VMPP, come together for a group photo.



Carol Burchett (left) presents a prize to another lucky raffle winner Eileen Axword.

WASHINGTON U-DRIVE ENJOYED BY ALL

A great time was had by all at the annual U drive trip to Washington State. This year the event was held at the newly renovated Red Lion Inn Columbia in Kennewick, about a five hour drive from Vancouver.

The rooms were very comfortable with sliding glass doors leading out to the pool area where the group met each day for Happy Hours and snacks. The variety of four local golf courses, with most reasonable

rates provided lots of fun for the golfers.

There were numerous wineries near the hotel offering tastings and wines for sale, which

were purchased and enjoyed at the poolside gatherings. On two of the evenings, the group picked up groceries from the supermarket and had relaxing BBQs by the pool. In

between dining, pool time, wine tasting, sightseeing and golf, a few people managed to find some bargains at the near by malls.



U Drive Coordinator, Ken Cornish (left) with the winners of the Best Ball Tournament.



Weary travelers relaxing poolside after a day of driving.

On the final night, a vote was taken regarding the venue for U Drive 2016 and the decision was to go back to Yakima next year (four hour drive) starting on Sept 11/16 for five nights. Other options that were considered were Kelowna, Kamloops and Wenatchee. All agreed that even with the declining Canadian dollar, the cost of the hotel, golf, food and gas in Yakima is so much lower that we do not lose value because of our dollar.

Mark your calendar now, so that you don't miss this fun event.

ANTIQUE STREET LETTER BOX A WEDDING HIT

When planning was underway for the wedding of Matt Sanders, his father, retired Director of Human Resources Bob Sanders, knew just where to look for a unique item to add a special touch to the celebration. He contacted the Van-Fraser Heritage Club and borrowed an antique Pole Mounted Street Letter Box.

The SLB was placed on a table covered in postcards from locations that the couple had visited. Guests were invited to select a postcard, write a congratulatory message and deposit the card in the box.

In a note of thanks Bob included the following message.

"Many folks commented on it and asked about it while others reminisced about seeing these boxes in the old days. The one picture shows the newly married Anna and Matt Sanders. They as well as Jane and I were very pleased with the box. Thanks for your help. Bob"

The Van-Fraser Heritage Club maintains a large collection of Postal Memorabilia and we are always seeking items to expand our collection.



Anna and Matt Sanders.

VAN-FRASER VOLUNTEERS AID WITH FLU SHOTS



Van-Fraser Flu Shot Volunteers (left to right) Kelly and Paul Solecki and Linda Hinkleman

Van-Fraser members have a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer their service and assistance. Most recently members volunteered to aid in the administration of Flu Shots at the Pacific Mail Processing Facility in Richmond.

Volunteers included Kelly and Paul Solecki, Linda Hinkleman, Sharon Svensrud, Bonnie Wong, and Jenna Kwan. The volunteers managed the necessary administrative paperwork and organized the flu shot recipients in preparation for receiving their injections.

The Van-Fraser Heritage Club supports a number of activities that require the assistance of volunteers. This includes the Literacy activities and our signature activity, the Santa Letter Writing Campaign.

When you receive your Membership Renewal Form you will find a number of activities listed that require volunteers. Please take the time to peruse the list and see if any will fit into your schedule.

SANTA'S ELVES PREPPED FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

On October 14th a group of Santa Letter Writing Volunteers gathered for a briefing on this year's program by coordinator Fred Danells.

The session included a review of procedures to be utilized in responding to letters this year. Also included was an extensive question and answer session to address any concerns the volunteers may have.

The session was followed by a light lunch and a tour of the new Mail Processing Facility

If you are interested in participating in the Santa Letter Writing Program there is still time to volunteer. Please contact the office at 604 482-4311 to volunteer your services.



Santa Coordinator Fred Danells briefs Santa Letter Volunteers on operations for 2015.

THANK YOU JOHNSON INSURANCE



Lisa Hansen, from the Johnson Insurance Office in Langley attended Van-Fraser's Annual Banquet.

She provided brochures for the Johnson Insurance Program and was available throughout the evening to respond to the questions and concerns of individual members.

Many Van-Fraser members take advantage of the benefits provided by the annual MEDOC plan finding them to be one of the best plans for those who travel out of British Columbia.

She also reminded us that some members are still holding the old MEDOC cards from ten years ago and they should be replaced with new ones.

Make sure your Travel Policy is up to date and you have the correct phone numbers for MEDOC benefits before leaving on your trip.

Thanks to Lisa and Johnson Insurance for the prizes she contributed to our raffle.

Johnson Insurance Rep Lisa Hansen

ATTENTION BC LIONS FANS!



Ticket sales opened at our Annual Banquet for a number of BC Lions memorabilia.

Items include a Game Worn Helmet and a Jersey signed by Quarterback Travis Lulay, a commemorative plaque of Geroy Simon, arguably the Lions all time best receiver, and a number of First Day Covers featuring the Lions.

Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00. They will continue to be on sale at the Pacific Mail Facility and Heritage Club events. The draw will be at our Christmas Luncheon on December 18th.

All proceeds go to our support of Al Millers work in Zimbabwe.

LOOKING TO SHARE



The Voyage Of The Viking's is only nine months away! The tour promises to be so exciting the 38 members who have already signed up can hardly wait to set sail!

It will be an adventure of a life time! The tour begins on July 20, 2016 from Boston and is a 35 day return voyage via Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland, the Arctic Circle, Iceland, Norway, Rotterdam, Ireland and Halifax.

We have a gentleman member and a lady member who are looking for someone to share an ocean view cabin for this memorable journey and holiday.

If you or know someone who might be interested in sharing a cabin with another member please call the Van-Fraser office at 604 482-4311 to obtain all the details.

POSTMASTERS' TOUR

On October 7th a group of B.C. Postmasters met at the Pacific Mail Facility in Richmond. A special offer to all those attending was a tour of the plant conducted by Van-Fraser volunteer guides.

The guides explained the mail flow to the Postmasters as they toured through the facility. In addition to highlighting features of the new plant, volunteers were able to update Postmaster on the Santa Letter Writing program for 2015.

Volunteer Guide Ron Reyes commented, *"It's also fun to meet a lots of folks from around B.C. that I haven't seen for years"*.

Thanks to those who volunteered their time.

We need additional tour guides and if you are interested contact the Van-Fraser Office at 604 482-4311.

You will be provided an orientation session and tour dates can be arranged to accommodate your schedule.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Van-Fraser Heritage Club Christmas Luncheon 2015

11:30 am

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Green Acres Golf Course

5040 No. 6 Road, Richmond BC

No. 6 Road & Hwy 91, just east of Knight,
between Westminster Hwy & Cambie Road

\$24.95 per person

Festive Christmas luncheon with appetizers, salads, turkey with gravy and stuffing, salmon, pasta potatoes, vegetables, desserts, coffee and tea.

Cash bar

Wildlife photos for sale

50/50 Draw.

Special visit from Santa with lots of door prizes!!

Photos with Santa.

Lots of fun, lots of room to visit, lots of free parking. Bring your family and friends for this luncheon to celebrate the season in stunning surroundings.

Mark your calendar. A Registration Form accompanies this newsletter.



HEY SNOWBIRDS!



Snowbirds - don't forget all your fellow Heritage Club members up here in Great White North.

Keep us up to date on your activities and send us a few photos of your

adventures.

Whether you're playing golf in Arizona, lounging on the beaches of Florida or cruising in warm Caribbean waters take a few moments to send us a short note on how you're doing. If you happen to have a few photos, send them too!

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Van-Fraser News

Until is published by the

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to edit
any/all submissions
in whole or part
for use in this publication

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2015 CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

October 29, 2015: 10 night cruise on the Star Princess, Vancouver return-- no flights! Visit Los Angeles, Catalina Island, Santa Barbara and San Francisco overnight. Celebrate Hallowe'en on board and look for Christmas gifts in all the ports. Only deluxe suites left starting at \$1571.00 plus tax CAD pp. Call Heritage Club to book ASAP and join approximately 30 members who are already booked.

November 29, 2015: 3 day bus trip to Tulalip Casino Resort for shopping, gambling or relaxation in the spa resort. \$260.00 CAD pp based on double occupancy, includes, bus, hotel, one dinner, two breakfasts, \$20.00 for \$30.00 slot play, driver gratuities, USD conversion.

TWO SEATS AVAILABLE.

February 8, 2016: 21 day Southern Caribbean cruise on the MS Oosterdam, Fort Lauderdale return. Visit St Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, St. Kitts, St Thomas, Turks and Caicos, Dominican Republic, Bonaire, Aruba, Curacao. Inside cabins starting at \$3303.00 pp CAD including all taxes. Air extra.

February 29, 2016: 11 day Southern Caribbean cruise on the MS Oosterdam, Fort Lauderdale return. Inside cabins starting at \$1739.00 CAD plus taxes \$177.00. Air is extra. This cruise can be combined with the February 8 voyage for those who prefer more time in the Caribbean.

APRIL 2016: Spring bus trip. Details are still being finalized, watch for news on the new itinerary for 2016.

APRIL 27, 2016: 18 days Hawaii, Vancouver return on the MS Zaandam. Visit, Hilo, Kona, Lahaina, Kauai and 2 days in Honolulu. Inside cabins start at \$2560.00 CAD with all taxes included. No flights!

July 20, 2016: 35 day Voyage of the Vikings MS Rotterdam. Boston return. Itinerary: Boston, Bar Harbour, Maine; Sydney, Nova Scotia; Corner Brook, Newfoundland; Red Bay, Labrador; Qaqortoq, Greenland; Cruising Prince Christians Sound; Rekeyavik, Iceland (2 days); Alesund, Norway; cruising Hardangerfjord; Eidfjord, Norway; Rotterdam, Netherlands (2 days); Dublin, Ireland; Douglas, Isle of Man, UK; Belfast, Northern Ireland; Akureyri, Iceland; Cruising Eyjafjord; Isafjordur, Iceland; cruising Isafjardjur; cruising Prince Christian Sund; Nanortalik, Greenland; St. John's, Newfoundland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Boston. Inside cabins starting from \$8,048.00; Outside cabins starting from \$9,199.00; Veranda cabins starting from \$16,098.00. Taxes and fees are an additional \$710.17 CAD p.p. A number of members have already booked this cruise. We have several solo travelers looking for roommates for this trip.

REMINDER: Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and that it is in effect before you pay for your trip. For those with MEDOC, ensure you have renewed your Heritage Club Membership for 2015 and paid your dues to be covered.

Van Fraser Heritage Club 604 482-4311

