



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

ELVES DELIVER FOR SANTA

Santa's elves began reporting for duty in a number of Santa's workshops around the Lower Mainland on November 23/15. Many are still working in January finishing all those letters that arrived after Christmas.

This year the volume was even higher than previous years, with responses sent to over 100,000 young letter writers.

While the main Santa workshop is in Richmond at the Pacific Processing Centre, there are satellite workshops in Surrey, North Vancouver, Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack. Other elves prefer to work from home. Some coming into the



A group of Elves at the Pacific Processing Facility



Santa's Workshop in Langley

workshop to pick up bundles of mail to work on and have a visit with fellow elves. Others have Santa's Mail delivered to their home.

This year the mail began to arrive much earlier and the deadline for school classes was advanced to early December. This all helped the elves get a good handle on the mail and to be current well before the peak period just before Christmas.

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ELVES DELIVER (Continued from Page 1)

Recruitment for Santa's Elves begins early in Autumn and includes employees of at the Pacific Processing Centre. In November a display was placed in the lobby of the Pacific Processing Centre encouraging employees to join the program. Heritage Club members were on hand to explain the program and respond to questions on participation.

It was pleasing to have so many experienced elves return and to give a very happy welcome to a number of new elves this year. Some of the new elves brought language skills necessary to respond to letters written in languages other than English or French.



Lobby Display in the Pacific Processing Centre.



By Christmas Day this thermometer showing letters answered had burst through the top!

Santa needs lots of help and we always need more elves. This is Santa's first reminder for volunteers for the Santa Letter Program 2016. Your Autumn edition of Van-Fraser News will contain instructions on how to volunteer for this rewarding program.

In addition to the bags of local mail to Santa, letters also arrives from other countries where many children learn about Santa for the first time and take great delight writing to Santa and awaiting his reply. One teacher wrote Santa to say;

"Dear Santa:

I am an English teacher from Taiwan. This year, I guided junior high students to write you a letter. Although my students all know there's no Santa they can realize their dreams. They still work hard to finish the letter in their unskilled English! Thank you for giving my students the chance to use English in the real world and may you have a wonderful Christmas with my sincere blessings!

Wendy"

ELVES THANK YOU LUNCHEON

On January 12, the Van-Fraser Heritage Club provided a lunch at the Greka Taverna Restaurant to thank members who volunteered to be Santa's Elves this year.

We were pleased that 80 Heritage Club Elves from the Lower Mainland were able to attend. Elves enjoyed meeting others and sharing their experiences. Santa Coordinator Fred Danells pointed out the thermometer that had been on display each day in the lobby of the Pacific



Santa's Elves pose for one last photo after the luncheon.

Processing Centre in Richmond. It showed the number of letters completed week by week culminating with over 100,000 letters answered by volunteer members and breaking through the top of the thermometer. One new elf responded, *"we will break the record next year!"*

Fred complimented the elves for not only doing more volume than ever before but also

completing the letters in a very timely manner, getting responses to the children within a few days of writing,



Jim Stevenson and Carol Burchett congratulate 50/50 Draw winner Bill Walks.

Fun continued with prize draws and a 50/50 draw. It was a wonderful day and opportunity to appreciate all of the elves, including; our eldest elf of 94 years; a new elf who came to the PPC workshop seven days a week throughout the period; one who worked at home ten hours a day until January 11th.

To all the elves, experienced and first timers, a very large and well deserved THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON A HOLIDAY TREAT

On December 8th one hundred and twenty Van-Fraser members and families enjoyed our Annual Christmas Luncheon at Greenacres Golf Course in Richmond.

The meal was delicious and plentiful. Members viewed Linda Elko's display of the jewelry she makes and Eric Roccissi's display of his wild life photography.

A large collection of new toys were donated by members and very much appreciated by the families who received hampers from the Salvation Army family program. During lunch, Fred presented appreciation plaques to Linda Fisher and Don Campbell for their ongoing work in the Santa Letter



Santa and his elves handing out Christmas gifts to attendees.



Jim Stevenson (right) presents Mike Wong with a gift honouring his ongoing work on behalf of the Van-Fraser Heritage Club.

Writing Program. Jim Stevenson presented an award to Mike Wong, our club photographer who attends every event documenting our history. Of course, the highlight was the arrival of Santa and his elves who must have been very pleased with Van Fraser because he had a nice gift for each person.

The Quarterly Van-Fraser Luncheons are a great way to reunite with old friends and colleagues, catch up on what's happening and enjoy a great meal.

Attached is an order form for the next luncheon, March 16 at the River Rock Casino. Look forward to seeing you there.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS- A 100 YEAR TRADITION

Each Christmas Season volunteers from the Van Fraser Heritage Club and the Pacific Processing Centre prepare hampers for families in the Greater Vancouver Area.

This preparation of Christmas Food Hampers by Canada Post employees and volunteers can trace its origin to the creation of the Women's Branch, an association of female Public Service employees established in 1914. The first president was Miss Mary D. Doyle from Head Office

With the outbreak of War in September 1914 the Women's Branch undertook a number of activities in support of the War effort. One of these activities included working with other volunteer groups in the preparation of hampers for Canadian Prisoners of War. A Federal Government publication of 1916 notes the following. *"For instance, eighty-three women in the Post Office Department alone are busily engaged in work for the Magdalene de Vercheres Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire."* Canadian Prisoners of War who benefited from these efforts included; Alfred Doyle, Postal Clerk, Vancouver, Harold Good, Postal Clerk, Saskatoon, Herbert Hardy, Postal Clerk, Saskatoon, Daniel A. Simons, Postal Clerk, Charlottetown, and Richard Walter, Letter Carrier, Ottawa. Doyle acknowledged receipt of his Christmas hamper in a 1915 Christmas card to his mother in Dublin, Ireland.

For Van Fraser volunteers responding to Letters to Santa and Thomas the Tank Engine there is also a precedence to be found in activities of the Women's Branch. A group of Women's Branch volunteers dedicated evenings to writing, stamping, and mailing letters to wounded Canadian soldiers offering to help assist them in their recovery efforts.



REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Van Fraser Members have received a Membership Renewal Form for 2016 and a questionnaire asking what types of activities you are interested in participating in.

Please ensure you complete and return your Membership Renewal Form as soon as possible. In order to retain or purchase Travel Insurance from Johnson Insurance or any of their other products you must be a paid up member of the Heritage Club.



There is a space on the form that indicates if you wish to receive our newsletter, Van Fraser News via email or regular mail. In order to avoid any delays please print your address clearly.

In order to better plan Van Fraser events, trips, luncheons, etc. we request you review all the activities listed and indicate your choices for participation. If you have any suggestions for additional events or activities please include your comments so your Executive can work to fully meet the needs of our members.

If you have not received a membership for please contact the office at 604 482-4311

Thank You for prompt attention.

HONOURING OUR OWN

On November 10 at 11 am a large group of members of the Van-Fraser Heritage Club and employees of the Pacific Processing Facility gathered in a Remembrance Day Service for British Columbia Canada Post employees lost in World War I and II. Twenty three were lost in WWI and three in WWII.

One of the most popular and touching moments of the service is the reading of each name of the fallen including a brief outline of each individual. Once again Van-Fraser member John More, bugler with the British Columbia Regiment was on hand to play Last Post and Rouse.

Following the service Van-Fraser members came together for a brief social gathering.

Van-Fraser member Jim Bain has conducted extensive research on Canada Post employees who served in WWI and has confirmed 1314 served during the conflict. Of those 129 died in the service.



Ken Cornish, representing the Royal Canadian Legion (left), Jim Bain, Coordinator (centre) and John More, Bugler (right) following the Remembrance Service.



Remembrance Day Lobby Display

This research has provided considerable information on each employee from British Columbia and a Lobby Display was created for the Pacific Processing Facility employees.

Van-Fraser looks forward to the increased participation from our members at the Ceremony on November 10, 2016. Particularly members who wish to read the name of one of the Honoured.

This is your opportunity to honour Canada Post employees who served in World War I and II.

VAN FRASER MEMBERS ENJOY FALL CRUISE

In late October and early November a large group of Heritage Club members, family, and Posties could be found aboard the Star Princess Fall Cruise to California.

This proved to be a very popular cruise as the left from and returned to Vancouver eliminating the need for connecting flights and extra travel. The 10 day Cruise left Vancouver on October 10 with stops in Los Angeles, Catalina, Santa Barbara and two days in San Francisco. The weather cooperated with warm sunny skies and calm seas for the whole voyage. The travelers celebrated Halloween aboard ship and particularly enjoyed the "All You Can Eat" Crab Feast. During the voyage Joe and Cindy Wong celebrated their Wedding Anniversary and received congratulations from the ship's Captain.



Joe and Cindy Wong were congratulated on their Wedding Anniversary by the ship's Captain.

If you are interested in taking this Fall Cruise in 2016 details are available on the Travel Page.

TULALIP BUS TRIP FUN FOR SHOPPERS

Fifty-seven Van-Fraser members enjoyed the Annual Three Day Bus Trip to the Tulalip Casino Resort in Washington State.

The trip began on a very happy note with everyone catching up on news all interspersed with Bonnie's quizzes based on a Christmas theme.

On route to Tulalip the bus stopped at Whyte's Christmas Wonderland where everyone enjoyed acres of Christmas

decorations. The Alderwood Mall was just around the corner from Whyte's and provided some serious Outlet Mall shopping. As usual everyone was thrilled with their rooms at the resort and enjoyed the casino, buffets, shopping at the Premium Outlets, pool times and Happy Hour. The bus was somewhat heavier on the way home.



The group getting ready to board the bus en route to Christmas shopping.

Now's the time to sign up for the 2016 trip leaving Vancouver on November 23, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM 2015 VAN-FRASER MEMBERS

George Ayles

Gordon R. Bussey

Shirley Fisher

Jim Goldie

A Harms

Brian Howie

Mary Monkman

Harold Shea

Arnold Ulmer

Kenneth Bennett

David Charters

Gordon Force

John Gow

Leslie Hancox

Dick Keill

Art Priest

Catherine Skimming

Terry Bullion

Brian Farar

Al Gerding

Jean Guinness

Joyce Heldman

Norm Liggins

Warren Rohn

Sheila Tynan



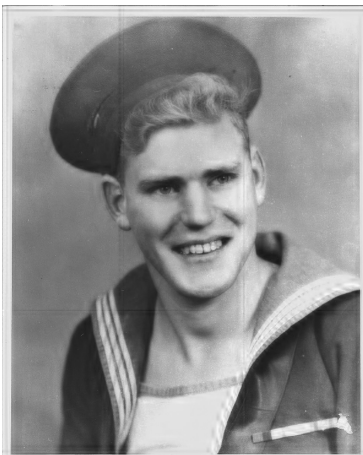
Gordon Robert Bussey



Shirley Fisher



Mary Monkman. Mary was one of the



Art Priest circa 1939. Art's ashes were spread in Halifax Harbour his wartime Base.



Warren Rohn



Sheila Tynan

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Now's the time to mark your calendar for the upcoming year and get ready to enjoy some great travel adventures and Quarterly Luncheons with friends.

March 16/16: Spring Luncheon at River Rock Casino Buffet

March 30/16: Spring Bus Trip to Reno, Death Valley, Las Vegas, Zion National Park, Salt Lake City and more.

June 15/16: Summer Luncheon TBA

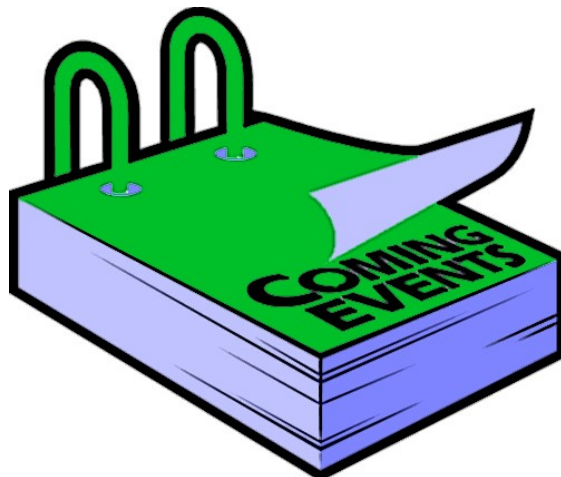
September 11/16: Annual U Drive trip to Yakima ,Washington

September 30/16: Annual Gala Banquet at Continental Seafood Restaurant

November 23/16: Tulalip Casino Resort 3 Day Black Friday bus trip

December 6/16: Christmas Luncheon at Greenacres Golf Course

More details on travel on Page 10. Watch future editions of Van-Fraser News for information on the Quarterly Luncheons.



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Van-Fraser News

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TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2016 CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

March 30, 2016 13 day Spring bus trip, \$1220.00 CAD/pp, based on double, includes hotels, bus, taxes, driver tips, national park fees and currency conversion. Visit Portland, Canyonville, Reno, 2 nights, Virginia City, Death Valley, Las Vegas, 3 nights, Zion National Park, Mesquite, Wendover, 2 nights, Salt Lake City area, Pendleton.

APRIL 27, 2016 18 day Hawaii, Vancouver return on the MS Zaandam Visit, Hilo, Kona, Lahaina, Kauai and 2 days in Honolulu. Inside cabins start at \$2639.00 CAD plus taxes \$292.00 pp. No flights! (prices subject to change)

June 15/16 7 day Alaska cruise on the MS Volendam, Vancouver return, visit Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Tracy Arm and Glacier Bay Inside cabins from \$1199.00 CAD and Window cabin from \$1439.00 plus taxes \$268.00 pp. (can vary)

June 20, 2015 14 day Alaska cruise on the MS Maasdam, Seattle return. Visit Ketchikan, Tracy Arm, Juneau, Hoonah, Anchorage, Homer, Kodiak, Sitka, Victoria. Inside cabins start at \$2315.00 plus taxes \$477.00 CAD pp (subject to change)

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 Christianson Sound; Reykjavik, 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.

We have several solo travelers looking for roommates for this trip.

September 17, 2016 7 day New England cruise on the Rotterdam. Montreal to Boston (or back to back 14 days Montreal return) Visit Quebec City, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbour, Boston. Inside cabins start at \$1679.00 plus taxes \$311.00 CAD pp

October 9, 2016 10 day cruise to California, Vancouver return on the Star Princess. Visit Los Angeles, Catalina Island, Santa Barbara and 2 days in San Francisco. No flights! This cruise was a highlight for members last year. Inside cabins starting at \$1349.00 plus taxes \$270.00 CAD pp.

*******Call about Princess promotion with reduced deposit of \$135.00 pp and shipboard credit \$100.00 USD pp Available til mid February)*******

November 23-25, 2016 3 day Tulalip Bus trip, Enjoy Black Friday Shopping, casino, spa, sightseeing. Only one bus and it sells out quickly. Book now.

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

