



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

MEMBERS ENJOY SPRING LUNCHEON

More than eighty Van-Fraser members enjoyed our Spring Luncheon at the River Rock Casino March 16th. It was great to see a number of new members in attendance as well as some long time members we haven't seen for some time. Of course it was great to see the regulars as well.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the view of the Fraser River and surrounding areas from the Dining Room was spectacular.

The buffet was abundant with a huge array of food and lots of choices for everyone. Many were commenting that they certainly would not need dinner that evening.



Van-Fraser Members enjoying the day at the River Rock Casino.



Happy Casino Winners celebrating their success?

Some members tried their luck in the casino before and after the luncheon.

The level and quantity of the conversation was so intense that Fred and Jim decided to forgo any speeches and go directly to the door prize draw.

It was good to see so many enthusiastic members eager to meet and mingle with their colleagues. Hope to see everyone at the next luncheon.

Special thanks to all who donate door prizes.

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2016 BUS TRIP EXCITING FOR ALL!

Blessed with beautiful weather every day another exciting time was had by all on the Annual Van-Fraser Bus Trip to Las Vegas.

This year the 13 day Bus Trip visited Portland, Clackamas, Crater Lake National Park, Reno, Boomtown, Virginia City, Death Valley National Park, Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon, Mesquite, Zion National Park, Wendover, Salt Lake City, and Pendleton.

Members were mesmerized by the beauty of national parks as in a matter of days they visited Crater Lake and Death Valley. At Crater Lake passed by snow banks higher than the bus and viewed crystal clear deep blue waters and then a few days later travelled through the dry barren landscape of Death Valley where temperatures soared to 101 degrees Fahrenheit.



A trolley ride prior to a Walking Tour of Virginia City.

The golfers enjoyed playing at the Las Vegas Golf Club, Sky Mountain Golf Club in Mesquite and Toana Vista Golf Course in Wendover. Each course offered different challenges and dramatic landscapes.



How many lobsters did William Pang eat in Boomtown?

While some were playing golf in Wendover, others opted for an excursion to Salt Lake City where many visited Temple Square and took in the free organ concert in the Tabernacle. It was a moving experience for all, hearing the range and variety of music from inspirational music to the Monty Python theme song. All this way enjoyed while taking in the incredible architecture of the tabernacle. Afterwards, some had a home cooked meal in the Lion House Pantr Historic Home where Brigham Young grew up. Others checked out the shops in the huge Creek Center Mall.

Other took advantage of the side trip that was offered to the Hill Aerospace Museum, about half an hour from Salt Lake City. At the museum everyone took pictures of the huge number of planes and aircraft artifacts on display.

The Friday night seafood buffet and Saturday night steak buffet in Wendover were included in our package and a lot of crab and New York steaks were consumed!

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BUS TRIP (Continued from Page 2)

While in Reno for two nights, there were more choices from relaxing around the hotel or a tour to historic Virginia City, complete with amazing scenery through the mountains. Prior to a walking tour of the small, rustic cowboy town, everyone hopped on the trolley for a guided informative tour of the town. After walking about, taking in all the history, some were found in places like the Bucket of Blood Saloon, the Delta Saloon, Red Dog Saloon or Mark Twain lodge having a drink or some lunch. What a fun place



The group visiting Crater Lake.

After Reno, the bus travelled through Death Valley National Park, certainly challenging Ian our driver, with some very high and narrow turns all against breathtaking scenery. We went across the entire park west to east exiting, just a short distance from our destination for the night, the Nugget Hotel in Pahrump, Nevada. Members enjoyed the visitor information Center in Death Valley with lots of informative displays, brochures and pictures. Most had their photo taken beside the huge thermometer registering at 101 degrees, fortunately down from 107 degrees earlier in the day! Later in the evening a cold drink and a complimentary buffet were a welcome sight.

After a "sleep in" the next morning it was a short ride to Las Vegas via the always spectacular Red Rock Canyon with the huge cliffs and distinct red colour through the rock. Before checking into Harrahs for the next three nights, there was a super Walmart stop for drinks and supplies and lunch in the old town, Freemont St., where there were lots of "sights" to be seen!

In Vegas, people settled in for a break from driving and scattered each day visiting the hotels, shows, dining and shopping---- and of course, some gambling!

In spite of the Canadian dollar being so low, the trip was a very good value. In fact, one member said "this is the least expensive vacation, I have had!" It helped that our price was in Canadian dollars and on route a number of meals, both breakfasts and dinners and drink coupons were included, plus play money for the casinos.



Fred Danells congratulates Horse Race winner Janice Whiting.

On the bus, were the many activities to make it fun, pass the time and to raise funds for our charity. Each day on the road, there was the daily quiz, bingo, raffles, movies and for some sleep! On the way from Pendleton, the highly anticipated horse race was held with many costumes and decorations. This years horse owner winner was Janice Whiting. Many thanks to Annaliese, Pauline and Sharon, our crafters who made beautiful handicrafts for our raffles and all those who donated other items and gift card for prizes. We raised over \$1300.00 to support our colleague and fellow member, Al Miller, in his work with orphans in Zimbabwe.

Now the planning begins for next year's trip!

ZIMBABWE ORPHANAGE LETTER

Al Miller sent Van-Fraser President Fred Danells a letter updating how our donations to the Zimbabwe Orphanage have been utilized.

Hi Fred,

The money received from the Heritage Club last year was directed towards two Projects.

The first project was the fencing of a garden area at Musana. Musana is an orphanage that has previously received support from the Heritage Club. In previous years funds have been provided for a well and a generator. This is a rural orphanage that cares for 214 orphans. The garden is used to grow food for the orphans as well as sales to the local villagers. In the rural area farm animals (goats, cows) are allowed to roam free and they were regularly invading the garden and eating the produce. The fencing has made the garden much more productive.

The second project that Heritage club funds were used for was the partial cost of constructing a greenhouse at Mbare. This is an inner city orphanage that cares for 29 orphans. The produce from the greenhouse will be used to feed the orphans as well as sales to local markets. The sales will allow them to generate funds for clothes and school fees.

This coming year the Heritage Club Funds will be directed towards projects at these two orphan centers again. The plan is to install a drip irrigation system at Musana. This will make the garden area far more productive as well as conserve water. Water has become a major concern in Zimbabwe again. After several years of improved rainfall they are back into a drought situation.



Growing seedlings to transplant to the greenhouse.



Orphans lining up for lunch at Musana.

At Mbare the funds will be used to drill a new well. The current well at the site has run dry. The new well will be drilled at least 15 meters (approx. 50 feet) deeper and in a different location on the property. A geological water survey has already been conducted and the best site to drill has been identified. The water will be utilized by the orphan center, the surrounding community and to support the greenhouse operation.

I am attaching a couple of pictures from these sites.

Al



Scholarship Program 2016

OPEN: APRIL 1, 2016

Johnson Inc. is proud to offer **50 scholarships, valued at \$1000 each**, to students completing high school in 2016 and starting post-secondary education in the fall.

Application Deadline: August 31, 2016

For eligibility criteria visit johnson.ca/scholarship

scholarshipfund@johnson.ca
1-866-544-2673



Johnson has awarded over 1500 scholarships valued at more than \$1 million to support young Canadians across Canada in pursuit of their post-secondary education.

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2017 ANTARCTICA CRUISE SALE

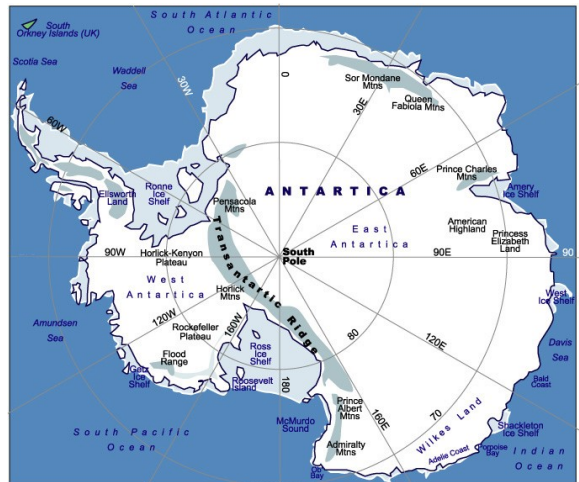
Many members have expressed an interest in a cruise to Antarctica, especially since it is expected that the days of large cruise ships visiting the area are numbered.

In 2017 Holland America has scheduled two trips by the Zaandam to the area. Both are for 21 days.

January 10/17: Buenos Aires to Valparaíso
21 days including Antarctica

January 31/17: Valparaíso to Buenos Aires
21 days including Antarctica

There is also a cruise, **February 21/17:**
Buenos Aires to Valparaíso
14 days *not including* Antarctica



Experienced travelers will recognize the benefits of combining the first two above trips, back to back, and having two visits to Antarctica or combining the last two cruises for a 35 day cruise including Antarctica.

There is an **Anniversary Sale** in effect until June 1, 2016. Bookings made before June 1, 2016 will include reduced cabin deposit, gratuities (\$12.55 pp) per day and two \$50 beverage cards. Also a reduced price for third and fourth persons in the cabin.

Sale Prices:

January 10/17 -21 days from \$4587.00 plus \$720.00 taxes CAD pp
Deposit \$780.00 per cabin

January 31/17 -21 days from \$4977.00 plus \$616.00 taxes CAD pp
Deposit \$780.00 per cabin

February 21/17 -14 days from \$1948.00 plus \$667.00 taxes CAD pp
Deposit \$520.00 per cabin

If interested call the Van-Fraser Heritage Club at 604 482-4322 or email fwdanells@hotmail.com for a detailed itinerary and more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 28, 2016, 11:30AM: Summer Luncheon, Greka Taverna Restaurant, New Westminster, \$15.99 per person. Send your cheque to the Heritage Club Office.

May 21-23, 2016 and May 28-29, 2016: Thomas the Tank and friends will be at the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish. A great outing for your family and children.

September 11-16, 2016: U-Drive trip to Yakima. Call Heritage Club to reserve hotel room.

September 30, 2016, 5:30PM: Annual Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Send your cheque to the Heritage Club Office for individual tickets or for a table of 10. \$35.00 pp or \$350.00 for a table for 10 people.

October 4 2016, 10am: Orientation/ training for Santa Elves regarding the 2016 program and materials.

November 10, 2016. 10AM: *Honouring Our Own Remembrance Ceremony*, Richmond PPC (by airport) followed by light lunch

November 23-25 2016: Annual 3 day Tulalip Bus trip/Tulalip Casino Resort Hotel

December 6, 2016: Christmas Luncheon, Greenacres Golf Course, Richmond

November 28, 2016 to January 13, 2017: Santa letter Writing Program



HONOURING OUR OWN: VIMY

April 9th marked the 99th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, a historic landmark in Canadian History. Canada Post employees were present including eight who were lost.

Charles Tweed Blaney, Postal Clerk, Ottawa ON
 Ernest Frederick Goodman, Postal Clerk, Port Arthur ON
 Albert Kennedy, Postal Clerk, Toronto ON
 Frederick McAvay, Letter Carrier, Fort William ON
 Albert Reginald Tingley, Letter Carrier, Edmonton AB
 Ernest Messenger Wilkinson, Postal Clerk, Victoria BC
 Thomas Arnold Williams, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg MB
 Francis Wenman Wright, Postal Clerk, Vancouver BC

Also, the following were reported seriously wounded.

Oscar Frederick Beckwith, Postal Clerk, Saint John NB
 Edward Dale, Letter Carrier, Toronto ON
 John Ebenezer Hamblin, Postal Clerk, Calgary AB
 James Hammond, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg MB

Van-Fraser News

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TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2016 HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

June 15, 2016 7 day Alaska cruise, Vancouver return on the Volendam. Visit Tracy Arm, Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan. Limited number of cabins left starting at \$998.00 CAD plus taxes \$291.00 pp. Payment in full required at time of booking.

July 20, 2016 35 day Voyage of the Vikings MS Rotterdam. Boston return. 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. (Only a few cabins left)

September 11-16, 2016 U-Drive trip to Yakima Washington. You drive to Yakima in your vehicle or with friends and meet the group in the Howard Johnson Hotel for 5 nights. Each day golfing, sightseeing, shopping, pool time and BBQs available. Travel at your own pace. Really low prices for hotel and meals compensate for our dollar value.

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 \$1439.00 plus taxes \$305.00 CAD pp. (Limited availability)

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.

November 23-25, 2016 3 day Tulalip Bus trip, Enjoy Black Friday Shopping, casino, spa, sightseeing. Only one bus and it sells out quickly. \$279.00 CAD pp includes bus, resort accommodation, some meals, taxes, driver gratuities. Book now.

January 10, 2017 21 day cruise to ANTARCTICA on the Zaandam, Buenos Aires, Argentina to Valparaiso, Chile. Cabins starting at \$5199.00 plus taxes \$720.00 CAD pp.

January 31, 2017 21 day cruise to ANTARCTICA on the Zaandam, Valparaiso to Buenos Aires. Cabins starting at \$5199.00 plus taxes \$616.00 CAD pp.

February 21, 2017 14 day cruise from Buenos Aires to Valparaiso. Cabins starting at \$2469.00 plus taxes \$667.00 CAD pp.

NOTE: You can combine these cruises for more time in South America. Call the Heritage Club for detailed itineraries and information.

*****BONUS:** Call the Heritage Club for special sale with reduced prices and benefits, if booked before June 1/16!!

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REMINDER: Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and that it is active before any cancellation penalty fees are in effect for your trip. For those with MEDOC, ensure you have renewed your Heritage Club Membership for 2016 and paid your dues to be covered. Contact the Heritage Club office for info on MEDOC and a registration package.
