



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## A GREAT WEEKEND FOR THOMAS

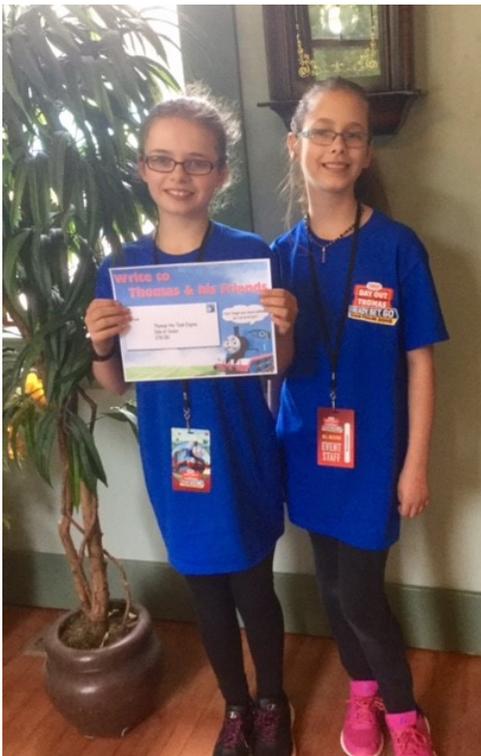
For five days, over two weekends in May, Heritage Club volunteers worked at the West Coast Railway Park helping with the Thomas the Tank event.

The letter writing component of this event was established by Van Fraser a number of years ago to support children's literacy.

It was amazingly watching young families arrive at the park, most with baby buggies, young children and toddlers in tow. The sense of anticipation in the children's eyes as they crossed the entry way and the screams of glee when they heard



Volunteers help young writers prepare their Letters to Thomas.



Young volunteers guide visitors.

someone say "Thomas is just around the corner" were just so fun to see. Over 9800 children and adults attended and 4800 letters were written to Thomas and his friends.

Thomas the Tank was the engine that was in full view, all polished up and smiling and would tow the other trains on the brief ride through the park for the kids and their families.

Our members set up a room for the children to write a letter to Thomas and his friends while they were volunteers. With stationery and envelopes to give the child and were available to help with the letter writing, making sure a return address and postal code was included.

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## A THOMAS WEEKEND (Continued from Page 1)

Once the letter was completed, other volunteers escorted the children the few steps to the railway mail car where a sortation station was available for the child to sort his letter to the specific character he wrote to.

Before sorting, the volunteers put a special Thomas stamp on the letter. After the letter was duly sorted into the correct slot, volunteers directed the child and family through the RMC mail train where they could see a piece of history and how the mail was delivered "back in the day!"

Other volunteers are answering all of the letters so that each child received a personal note from Thomas, himself, or one of his many friends, including Percy and Sir Topham.

Jim Bain, our editor, reported that his young grandson Max, from Toronto, visited Thomas with his mum. Jim said, "My grandson tells me he sent a letter to Thomas and one to Percy. A great feat considering he can't write yet!"

Many thanks to all our volunteers who made the Thomas letter writing such a great success



Max gets ready to give his Mum a tour of the Mail Car.

## INDOOR GOLF TOURNAMENT FUND RAISER



Van-Fraser happily participated in the 2016 Indoor Golf Tournament at the Pacific Processing Centre, a fund raiser for the United Way Campaign.

Employee groups sponsor each hole and are very creative in developing creative layouts with many different decorations creating lots of fun and challenges for the golfers.

Each golfer pays \$15 to play the course, enjoy a pizza lunch, has lots of fun competing with fellow employees and supports a great cause.

Many of the holes contained items borrowed from the Van-Fraser Artifact Collection. These included the Walking Mail Box, antique Mail Boxes and even Postie Bear.

This unique event was started by Jim Bain back when the Regional Office was at 1010 Howe Street. The old hickory shaft and brass head putters, that came from the Stanley Park Pitch and Putt Course, are still being used today.

## RAILWAY MAIL CAR RESTORATION CONTINUES

On June 4th, 7th and 8th ten volunteers put in long hours doing continuing maintenance on the Railway Mail Car on display at the West Coast Railway Museum in Squamish. The car has been on display at the park for over ten years, is fully restored and presents the history of the Railway Mail Service in Canada as well as other Postal Memorabilia. Amongst the regular working group were four first time participants; Frank Sanders, Anna Bentley, Betty Tyson and Bruce McClacherty.



Carol Burchett, Donna Simon, Jeremy Davy and Betty Tyson having a water break as Anna Bentley continues to paint the black under casing

During the three days the exterior of the 90 foot long car was scrubbed, power washed and prepared for painting. Further preparation included sanding, filling holes and cracks, prepared and painted the doors and trims, taped as well as painted the undercarriage. Unfortunately, on the final day, as the cans of Tuscan Red paint were ready to be applied, the skies opened and poured rain, eliminating any chance of finishing the job. A trip is being planned for the near future to complete the painting.



Bruce McClacherty and Carol Burchett installing the glass shelves and doors in the new display cabinets.

Meanwhile, inside the train, another group scrubbed and cleaned. All of the mail bags, 60 in total, were removed from the bag racks and taken outside to shake and air. The floors below the bag racks were vacuumed and washed. All of the sample mail from the display sorting stations was removed, dusted and the cabinets were thoroughly washed before replacing the mail. Two display cabinets were replaced with much larger ones and artifacts were added to them. All of the other display cabinets were cleaned and polished. Photos were removed from the walls, rematted and hung up. Windows were cleaned and entire inside vacuumed and dusted.

Besides the hard work there was lots of fun as well. There were breaks when volunteers rested in their garden chairs, enjoyed snacks and sodas, and picnic lunch. For those who stayed overnight there was dinner at the pub filled with great camaraderie and laughter. One volunteer commented that the group was laughing so loud there might be a

complaint! It was a busy but rewarding time and many thanks to all who worked so hard over the three days making our railway mail car museum so interesting and educational and appreciated by the thousands of guests who tour the West Coast Railway Park each year. If you are interested and willing to help next time, call the Heritage Club office to volunteer.

## VAN-FRASER MEMBER FOLLOWS HIS PASSION

Eric Rossicci, an active Van-Fraser member, who regularly joins his fellow members on bus trips, cruises and luncheons has successfully followed his passion—photography.

This is the guy who always has the huge camera with him and is constantly surprising fellow members with his candid shots.

In recent years he has specialized in



wildlife photography and has developed a truly amazing collection of photos. He has displayed his cards, book marks and photos for us to purchase at the Annual Christmas Luncheon. Eric will have a display table again this year at our Christmas luncheon on December 8th. Just in time for Christmas!

To see his collection on line go to

<https://www.flickr.com/photos>.

To see or purchase Eric's new book on Eagles go to <http://www.blurb.ca/b/7041927-bald-eagles>.

Eric's work is also on CNN at <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs-DOC-964399> and <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs-DOC-779928>.

This year's Summer Edition of Photos News features a photo of one of his eagles.

Congratulations Eric!



## BYTOWN JOINS VAN-FRASER FOR ALASKA TOUR

A group of members and friends enjoyed an Alaska cruise, setting sail on June 15, 2016.

It was a beautiful sunny day at Glacier Bay where everyone spent hours on deck watching the glaciers calving and the many birds in the area that filled the skies every day.

On other days, some visited the newly renovated museum in Juneau, a flight over the glaciers, bus tour to a glacier, train ride on the White Pass and the Yukon Railway, the Lumberman Show in Ketchikan, fresh cooked crab at Tracy's Shack and much much more.



Bytown Chapter visitors (l-r) Annemarie (surname not available), Eleanor Hughes, Bob Hughes and Jean Banting.

We were happy that Bob Hughes from the Bytown Chapter and his group came west and joined with Van-Fraser members for a great experience.

## SANTA LETTER VOLUNTEERS

Even though Santa is enjoying some rest time, he is still thinking about all the letters he will receive from the children in 2016 and the huge number of elves needed to help answer them.



He does plan to have an Orientation Session in the Pacific Processing Centre for all the elves in the Lower Mainland. He especially welcomes any new elves who have never helped before to come and hear about the program as well as all the experienced elves to learn about any changes for 2016. Please call the Heritage Club office to register for the orientation on October 4th from 10am to 1pm.

## VAN-FRASER AWARDED SPECIAL PLAQUE

At the recent National Convention of the Heritage Club in Windsor ON, Van-Fraser was awarded a special plaque for fostering Chapter Camaraderie.

The award recognizes the efforts of Van-Fraser in organizing a multiple variety of activities for our members including; Bus Trips, Quarterly Luncheons, Annual Benefits, Golf Trips and Remembrance Ceremonies.



Congratulations and Thank You to the Chapter Executive and members who make all these events both possible and successful.

## POST OFFICE AT COURTENAY RECORD SALE

On Wednesday, May 25 the painting by Vancouver Island artist, Edward John Hughes, sold for a record price of \$1.593 million at the Heffel Spring Auction in Vancouver.

The price surpassed the previous high for a Hughes painting of \$1.14 million for his painting entitled *Coastal Boats near Sidney*.

Hughes was born in North Vancouver in 1913 and studied at the Vancouver School of Applied Art. During WWII he served as one of Canada's Official War Artists. Following the War he returned to Vancouver Island living primarily in the Nanaimo area.



*The Post Office At Courtenay* by Edward John Hughes.

The painting, *The Post Office At Courtenay*, is typical of Hughes painting style known for bold colours and brush strokes. The individual leaving the Post Office is often referred to as Hughes himself.

## RICHMOND RENDEVOUS

Van-Fraser members who live in Richmond have been meeting at the Steveston Hotel Pub on Monday Nights for a drink and appetizers. Anyone in the area on Mondays 5 pm is welcome to drop in and join the gang and enjoy the fun. Over the past few months the group is steadily increasing and 14 members recently enjoyed a barbecue at Fred Danell's on one Monday in lieu of the Pub.



If you know of any other community groups who meet, let us know and we will promote in our newsletter. Also, if you would like to set up a meeting place for your community let us know so we can promote it in the newsletter.

## TAX DEFERRAL

Excerpt from article by Brant Taylor, Financial Planner, Assante Financial

*"It's the time of the year where we are dealing with our property taxes. But there exists an interesting opportunity that if you are over the age of 55 you can choose to defer your property taxes for only 0.7% interest per year.*

*Even if you are not over 55 I thought it might be helpful for you to see this for a parent or older friend or relative as it is such a great opportunity in my opinion. Now the rates can go up after September but for now at least that is the current rate.*

*The Province of BC is the only place I know in Canada where we can get such a low rate to access funds so it might be worth considering. If you sell your home later it must be paid back obviously or the estate would have to if you pass on.*

*But many retiree's in mid to later years do a reverse mortgages as inflation eats into their income and reduces their spending power. To me this would be a better way to go by investing the savings of the property taxes in a TFSA or open account and growing it over the next number of years then when needed turn it into an annuity or an income flow."*



## 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.

September 11-16, 2016. U-Drive trip to Yakima. Drive at your own pace to Yakima in Washington State. Enjoy sightseeing, golf, shopping, pool time and BBQs with the group. 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. Tickets \$35.00 pp or \$350.00 for a table for 10 people.

October 4, 2016, 10am Orientation/ training for new and experienced Santa Elves regarding the 2106 program and materials. Call the Heritage Club to register. No experience needed

November 10, 2016. 10 AM Honouring Our Own Remembrance Ceremony, Richmond PPC (by airport) followed by light lunch. Volunteers needed. Contact office at 604 482-4311.

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

# SECURE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Fred Danells recently attended a presentation by a Police Officer regarding the security of Personal Information, Identity Theft and Fraud.

The presentation outlined the importance of safeguarding your Personal Information and offered hints for everyone to follow.



1. Do you carry your SIN card on your person? This is a no /no, as it can easily be stolen along with your personal identiy and become a nightmare
2. Only use the Bank full official logon id( www.----) when you log on each and every time to do your on line banking.
3. Conceal your pin # even with an overhead protector, when using an ATM to do your banking or drawing cash. Use an inside bank ATM where ever possible.
4. Credit Card with a tap feature is more secure when you use the tap as your card info is not recorded and stored on the interact reader. (Alstroemerias, Tap feature if your card is stolen only has a small limit on it for security.)
5. Do not use stand alone ATM's
6. Use a chip protector case on your credit card to prevent scanning from a thief. At the present time a thief has to be at approximately 6 inches away from your card to scan your card number.
7. Only use reputable companies for electronic purchases.
8. Obtain an annual Credit report to protect yourself.
9. Check your Card transactions on line frequently, don't wait till month end.
10. Change your password regularly and do not use birthdates or 1234 or any obvious numbers that might be easily guessed by a thief with lots of time.
11. Do not use Facebook for anything personal!!!!!!

# ANTARCTIC CRUISE-ACT NOW!

## STILL UNSURE ABOUT TAKING THE ANTARCTIC CRUISE?

Members John and Susan Uzupis sent us these pictures taken on their cruise to Antarctica in January. The scenery is described as "Simply Awesome"!

Check out the travel page for details and call the Heritage Club Office for current promotion prices. Remember, only a few cruise ships are allowed to visit Antarctica



and they may lose that privilege in the next few years.

If a visit to Antarctica is on your Bucket List - now is the time to act! Call 604 482-4311.

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Message from Ian Heath re Spring Bus trip.

*It wasn't till after seeing the last newsletter and reading the GLOWING DESCRIPTION of our TOTALLY AWESOME BUS TRIP that I realized that I hadn't written a HEART-FELT THANK YOU !!! to all of those who participated.*

*IT WAS TRULY A GREAT TRIP !!! And You were ALL so GREAT !!!*

*It was a lot of fun, and will no doubt create food for further discussions of future trips !!!*

*Best wishes*

*Ian Heath,  
Driver, Universal Coach*

### *Van-Fraser News*

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to edit  
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## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2016/17 HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**September 11-16, 2016 U-Drive trip to Yakima Washington.** You drive to Yakima in your own 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.

**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.

**October 30, 2016 12 day Caribbean cruise,** Boston to Fort Lauderdale on the Serenade of the Seas. Inside cabins starting at \$1292.00 CAD per person plus taxes 170.00 pp. Visit St. Thomas, St. Maarten, St. Lucia, Curaçao and Aruba ,plus some relaxing days at sea enjoying a break from the November rain.

**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, a few seats left

**January 10, 2017 21 day cruise to ANTARTICA** on the Zaandam, Buenos Aires, Argentina to Valparaiso, Chile. Cabins starting at \$3900.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$616.00CAD pp

**January 31, 2017 21day cruise to ANTARTICA** from Valparaiso, Chile to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cabin starting at \$3900.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$667.00 CAD pp. Airfare is extra.

**Note:** You can combine these two cruises for more time in South America, making it a 42 day cruise. Quite a few Heritage Club members have already booked. Join our group!



**April 15/17** Tentative date for Spring Vegas bus trip. Check the next newsletter for details.

**REMINDER:** Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and be sure 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.

Van Fraser Heritage Club 604 482-4311

