



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## SURPRISE HONOURS AT QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Over 150 people attended the Van-Fraser Spring Luncheon at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in March. Typical for our luncheons, conversation was at a high level. Everyone present enjoyed the ten course set menu with a variety of dim sum and traditional Chinese dishes. Throughout the afternoon there were raffle prizes and a very nice 50/50 draw resulting in significant dollars for our charity fund. Some surprise guests included Karen Sharpe and Jim Sharpe, President Van-Isle Chapter and "fly-in" Peter Darvill,

The highlight of the event was a surprise tribute to Fred Danells for his years of dedication and service to Canada Post and the Heritage Club. It was quite a feat for 150 plus people to keep the tribute a secret. Thanks to everyone who got the "Don't Tell Fred" Notice and kept the secret! Your diligence and discretion in keeping a secret ensured Fred was very much surprised when the award was presented.

Sandra Lucarino, Director of Human Resources for the Pacific Division spoke on behalf of the Pacific management team about Fred's work over the years and that of Van Fraser Heritage Club. She referenced the great charity work that is done, the preservation of the Railway Mail Car Museum, the Santa Letter Writing Program, and the many travel opportunities for all the members. Sandra also spoke of the history that is being preserved, the displays that are created to showcase the history and people of Canada Post as well as the numerous other projects Fred has led.

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Van-Fraser President Fred Danells with the Award presented by Doug Matsumo and Sandra Lucarino. With Fred, as always, is Leslie.

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## QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Sandra was followed by Doug Matsumoto, Director of the Pacific Processing Centre who also thanked Fred for all of his service and spoke of Fred's visibility in the plant and how his great laugh can be heard throughout the entire building. He too is impressed with the level of activity within the club and thanked Fred for his leadership.

Doug presented a plaque to Fred recognizing his service to the Heritage Club and Canada Post. He also presented a bouquet of roses to Fred's wife, Leslie.

This was followed by a beautifully decorated cake. More tributes were given by a number of members expressing their gratitude for Fred's work on their behalf.

Fred was humbled by the tribute and of course wanted to include all the members in the recognition, thanking all in Canada Post and in the club for their tremendous support, concluding that he was proud of Canada Post, the Heritage Club with a great opportunity to serve and pride in being a Canadian.



Fred left with surprise visitors Karen and Jim Sharpe from Victoria

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



Swapping stories (left to right) Fred Danells, Jim Stevenson Jr., Jim Stevenson Sr. and William Loveday.

One of the most thoughtful things we can do for our fellow members, especially those who have trouble getting around, is to give them a call or pay them a visit.

Recently Van-Fraser members Fred Danells, William Loveday, and Jim Stevenson recently met up with Jim's father, Jim Stevenson Sr. at a luncheon.

Jim Sr. worked in the Chilliwack Post Office for 36 years and is one of our most senior retirees having retired 33 years ago. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting with fellow Canada Post retirees and was happy to share a swap stories.

For those of you who regularly attend luncheons and other activities and may be able to offer a ride to a fellow member in your area, please contact the Van-Fraser Office and we'll try and match you up with a passenger.

Canada Post Heritage Club: People Helping People.



## SANTA'S ELVES THANK YOU LUNCHEONS

Santa's Elves, in a number of locations across the Lower Mainland, were busy from early November through the end of January responding to 100,000 Letters to Santa.

In appreciation to all the Heritage Club Elves Thank You Luncheons were held in New Westminster and Chilliwack. The New Westminster Luncheon hosted 50 Elves from Greater Vancouver and the Chilliwack Luncheon 30 Elves from the Abbotsford and Chilliwack area.

The luncheons featured great food lively conversation, and presenting ideas on



Chilliwack Santa Letter Coordinator, Bill Loveday (left) received a Plaque in recognition of his efforts From Fred Danells.



Vancouver Coordinator Peter Kozakevich (standing with Langley elves (left to right) Bruce Mavis, Blanche Lucyk and Sharon Svensrud.

how to make next year's program better. Thanks was offered to all the elves and special acknowledgement was given to those who worked seven days a week responding to over 5,000 letters. The events were topped off with prize draws adding to the fun.

Each year the volume of Letters to Santa increases and more volunteers are required to help respond to the children who send them. If you would like to join these Happy Bands of Elves, who bring happiness to thousands of children, there is room for you.

Training for Elves is set for November 14th at the Pacific Processing Facility in Richmond. Look forward to seeing you there!







## Scholarship Program

**2017** OPEN: APRIL 1, 2017

## Programme de bourses d'études

**2017** LANCEMENT : 1<sup>ER</sup> AVRIL 2017

Johnson Inc. is proud to offer **50 scholarships, valued at \$1000 each**, to students completing high school in 2017 and starting post-secondary education in the fall.

**Application Deadline:**  
**August 31, 2017**

C'est avec fierté que Johnson Inc. offre **50 bourses d'études, d'une valeur de 1 000 \$ chacune**, aux étudiants et étudiantes qui terminent leurs études secondaires en 2017 et commencent leurs études postsecondaires à l'automne suivant.

**Échéance pour demandes de bourses :**  
**31 août 2017**

For eligibility criteria visit  
**[johnson.ca/scholarship](http://johnson.ca/scholarship)**

Visitez **[johnson.ca/scholarship](http://johnson.ca/scholarship)** pour  
les critères d'admissibilité

[scholarshipfund@johnson.ca](mailto:scholarshipfund@johnson.ca)  
1 866 544-2673

**JOHNSON** 

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.

Soucieuse d'aider les jeunes Canadiens et Canadiennes d'un coin à l'autre du pays à poursuivre leurs études postsecondaires, Johnson a décerné plus de 1 500 bourses d'études totalisant au-delà de 1 M\$.

Johnson Inc. is a licensed insurance intermediary.

Johnson Inc. est un intermédiaire d'assurance agréé.

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**Retirees/Employees who are active (Paid Dues) members of the Heritage Club are also eligible.**

## CANADA POST AT VIMY RIDGE

Recently, Van-Fraser member Jim Bain, who has been working to identify Canada Post employees who served in World War I, created a presentation entitled "Canada Post Employees At The Battle of Vimy Ridge. April 9-12, 1917". The 10 page presentation was prepared to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle and contains photos, a brief history of the battle and a short tribute to each Post Office employees who killed or wounded during the battle.

The presentation was made available to Heritage Club members across the country via email on April 9th. Messages of thanks and appreciation were received from across Canada.

*"Thanks for sending the info. I looked at every soldier and appreciated what they sacrificed for our country."*

*"Jim-this is beautiful-thank you for sharing this very important memorial to Post Office employees lost in this significant battle."*

*"Thanks Jim. It is very important to preserve this history."*

*"Please pass on our thanks to Jim for the wonderful job he has done on this project. I will certainly be passing this on to all our members on the 100th Anniversary, April 9th"*

*"Very informative and appreciated."*

For the past several years Jim has done extensive research through historical records and has identified over 1500 Canada Post employees who served in World War I. By contacting family members, particularly in British Columbia, he has gathered stories, documents and photos creating a large, and continually growing, archive.

Each year Jim organizes the Honouring Our Own Remembrance Ceremony on November 10th for Pacific Processing Centre employees and Van-Fraser members. This Ceremony honours the 186 Canada Post employees from British Columbia who served in World War I, the 26 who were lost, as well as three Vancouver Post Office employees lost in World War II.

F.W. Danells  
President, Van-Fraser Heritage Club.



Frank Sanders (left) and Stan Wong view the Van-Fraser Vimy Display set up the lobby of the Pacific Processing Plant. Thanks to Bruce Horn for enlarging and printing the material.



# CANADA POST AT VIMY RIDGE

April 9, 2017 marked the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, an event considered by many historians to be an iconic moment in Canadian history. It marked the first and only time in World War I the Four Divisions of the Canadian Corps participated together in one engagement.

Both British and French Armies had previously attempted to take Vimy Ridge and the assignment was given to the Canadian Corps as part of a large offensive in the Arras area of France.

Following months of preparation and a week long bombardment Canadian Forces began the attack at 5:30 am on April 9, 1917. The battle to capture Vimy Ridge lasted from April 9th to 12th and cost the lives of 3,598 Canadian soldiers and a further 7,004 wounded.

Following the end of World War I a Commission created by the Government of Canada selected Vimy as the site of the National War Memorial. The design selected for the memorial was submitted by Toronto artist Walter Alward. Construction of the memorial took 11 years to complete and was opened on July 26, 1936 by King Edward VII with 6,200 Canadians present, in a crowd of over 50,000.



Retired Oakville ON Letter Carrier, Garth Wetheral lays the Canada Post Wreath at the Vimy Memorial.

## KILLED AT VIMY RIDGE

Charles Tweed Blaney	Postal Clerk, Ottawa ON	Private, 21st Battalion
Ira Hyde Glasgow	Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg MB	Lieutenant, 78th Battalion
Ernest Frederick Goodman	Postal Clerk, Port Arthur ON	Private, 94th Battalion
John Arthur Huntley	Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg MB	Private, 222nd Battalion
Albert Kennedy	Postal Clerk, Toronto ON	Private, 70th Battalion
Frederick McAvay	Letter Carrier, Fort William ON	Private, 94th Battalion
William Robert McKay	Railway Mail Clerk, Moose Jaw SK	Private, 50th Battalion
Alfred Reginald Tinsley	Postal Clerk, Edmonton AB	Private, 138th Battalion
Thomas Arnold Williams	Letter Carrier, Winnipeg MB	Private, 179th Battalion
Frances Wenman Wright	Letter Carrier, Vancouver BC	Private, 72nd Battalion

## WOUNDED AT VIMY RIDGE

Arthur Frederick Beckwith	Postal Clerk, St. John NB	Private, 140th Battalion
Edward Dale	Letter Carrier, Toronto ON	Sergeant, 75th Battalion
John Ebenezer Hamblin	Postal Clerk, Calgary AB	Private, 82nd Battalion
James Hammond	Letter Carrier, Winnipeg MB	Private, 78th Battalion
Charles Frederick Jones	Postal Clerk, Toronto ON	Private, 95th Battalion
James McMurtrie	Letter Carrier, Vancouver BC	Private, 72nd Battalion

Editor's Note: The listing of "Wounded" is not complete as Library and Archives Canada has only uploaded individual file information up to the letter "N" on their website. The listing on Vimy Ridge on the Van-Fraser Website is updated as further information is made available. The information on our Website is more extensive as it includes activity prior to the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

## MEMBERS ENJOY ANNUAL SPRING BUS TRIP

On Easter Sunday 56 Van-Fraser members and friends left for an eleven day bus trip to Las Vegas, visiting La Grande Oregon, Wendover, Nevada, Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada, and Pendleton Oregon.

As usual, the trip was action packed with lots of fun with new friendships made and old ones renewed. While travelling each day members enjoyed trivia quizzes testing their memory, bingo games, raffles, movies and lots of chatter and laughter. Over \$1600.00 was raised for our club's charities from the raffles, bingo and personal donations

On route to Las Vegas we visited the famous Area 51, travelling on the Extraterrestrial Highway and seeing the Alien Reseach Center. The United States Air Force facility, commonly known as Area 51 is a highly classified remote detachment of Edwards Air Force Base, within the Nevada Test and Training Range. It is a site of many documentaries and movies and because of the unique terrain, its highly secretive nature, the area with the most UFO sightings it is an interesting place to visit. During the stopover the group bought numerous souvenirs at the local tourist shop.



Possible hikers trying to decide what path to take on Mount Charleston (left to right) Patrick Chang, Kathy Chiang, Leona Owen and Linda Jang.

While staying in Las Vegas for two days members took several excursions including a visit to the Grand Canyon where some took the helicopter tour into the canyon and Red Rock Canyon. A side trip from Vegas around the Spring mountain scenic drive was a refreshing break from the glitz and glamour of the city. Breath taking views were appreciated as our bus ascended into the mountain, just 45 minutes from the city.

Our first stop was the new Visitor Center located in a beautiful area with many hiking trails and gorgeous scenery. Several members people hiked while others enjoyed the scenery and quiet atmosphere from the Interpretive Centre. On the way to the peak and the base of the Mount Charleston ski area, we pulled off at several other scenic overlook and short walking trails.



Members enjoying an Organ Recital in the Mormon Tabernacle.

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# SPRING BUS TRIP

Las Vegas, as usual, offered a wide variety of activities for our travelers. Some visited the Factory Outlet shops, others enjoyed great shows, excellent dining, and few said they did very well in the casinos. On the final day in Vegas a large group visited the nearby City of Henderson and the Green Valley Ranch Casino with the remainder enjoyed a few hours at the Lion Habitat, home to many lions and their cubs that were formerly part of the MGM Lion Show.

At the stopover in Laughlin the golfers in group enjoyed 18 holes at the Mojave Golf Course with the others chose a tour of the Wild West Town of Oatman, Arizona, where wild burrows roam the streets and cowboys shoot it out every day. Upon arrival in Oatman the bus was boarded by

"robbers" who demanded, not cash or jewelry, but candy! Fortunately a Sheriff arrived and chased them off. However, she produced two wanted posters for our members, Della Kaminsky and John Uzipus. Once off the bus there was private show for the group followed by a stroll around Oatman interacting with all the resident characters.



"Robbers" board the bus in Oatman.



Kathy Chiang presents her "horse" prior to the Fundraising Event.

During the two night stop over in Wendover the golfers were out again, this time to the course Toana Vista. Most of the group took advantage of the excursion to Salt Lake City, with a tour of the Aerospace Museum with acres of historical aircraft, an Organ Concert at the Mormon Tabernacle, and a "home style" meal at the Lion House, the former home of Brigham Young. A highlight was the visit to the Genealogy Center where people were excited at the resources and assistance available to find their ancestry. One couple was amazed at how much information they found linking to their Russian ancestry and some documents they had not been able to locate elsewhere. Interpreters were on hand to help translate from Russian to English.

The whole trip passed quickly and was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to those who donated their homemade crafts and gifts for the raffles and draws. Also to those who bought and sold tickets, and participated in the games and activities. Comments at the conclusion of the trip included; *"this was our first trip and we sure had a good time, we felt cared for all the way; it was a pleasure, it sure was fun time seeing different parts of the USA; a great organized trip' can't say enough about how much enjoyed the trip, it was pleasurable and memorable; this was our first bus trip but won't be our last"*.

Check out Page 10 for more fun travel events.



## DATES TO REMEMBER 2017

**May 10 –11: Annual Maintenance of our Railway Car Museum.** Join our work party for one or both days and help with cleaning, dusting, washing, polishing, painting, sanding, and rearrange and add archival material to the display. Also enjoy some time with your fellow Van-Fraser Members.f

**June 20: Summer Luncheon at the River Rock Casino.** Notice and ticket form attached.

**July 1st, Canada Day Celebrations.** Take some photos as you celebrate our Nation's 150th Birthday and send them to the Heritage Club at vanfrasernews@gmail.com.

September 9 –14: Annual U-Drive to Yakima WA. See Page 8 for details.

**September 15: Annual Gala Banquet,** Continental Seafood House, Richmond. Doors open 5:30 pm. Book a table of 10 with your friends and colleagues. Watch upcoming newsletters for further details.

### NEW THIS YEAR! AT MEMBERS SUGGESTION

**September 21:** 3 Day Bus Trip to Portland OR for tax free shopping, sightseeing and relaxing. \$290 CAD per person includes bus fare, 2 nights at Monarch Hotel, breakfast, taxes, and driver's gratuity. Form accompanies this mailing.

**November 10, "Honouring Our Own" Remembrance Ceremony,** 10 am, Pacific Mail Processing Facility, Richmond. Light refreshment will follow.

**November 14, Santa Elf Orientation** at the Pacific Mail Processing Facility, Richmond starting at 10 an, Light lunch to follow.

**November 19 –22, Four Day Tulalip Casino Resort Shopping Trip.** This trip is very popular and sells out quickly

**December 8: Christmas with Santa Luncheon** at Greenacres Golf Club, Richmond.

# THANK YOU!

*I wanted to express my thanks to members who booked Cruises through our group. Whether as an independent or group cruise it is a big benefits to our Charities and members who receive the group pricing and the benefits we receive on board.*

*Through your booking through us the Van-Fraser Heritage Club in 2016 received a cheque for our Charities for \$6,429.49. This cheque, thanks to you, is very much appreciated.*

*Fred Danells  
President, Van-Fraser*

*Van-Fraser News*

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## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES 2017 CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**August 14, 2017 14 day Alaska cruise on the Norwegian Sun** from Vancouver return. Inside cabins from \$2530.00 CAD pp including all taxes.

**August 14, 2017 14 day Alaska Cruise, Seattle return, Amsterdam;** Visit Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Icy Strait, Homer, Kodiak and Anchorage. This ship sails further north visiting some more remote Alaskan communities. Inside cabins starting at \$2454.00 CA pp including taxes.

**August 29, 2017 12 day British Isles, Southampton return, Caribbean Princess.** Visit Southampton, Guernsey, Dublin, Belfast, Orkney Islands, Invergordon, Scotland, Edinburgh, Le Havre(Paris). Inside cabins begin at \$1525.00 Cad pp plus taxes \$249.00. Airfare extra.

**September 9-14, 2017 Washington State U Drive trip,** 5 nights. Drive your own car and meet the group in Yakima for sightseeing, golf, shopping, BBQs and dinners together. Travel at your own pace.

### NEW THIS YEAR AS MEMBERS SUGGESTED!

**September 21-23, 2017 3 day bus trip to Portland, Oregon** for tax free shopping, sight seeing and relaxing. This is a new trip based on numerous requests from members in their 2017 registration check list. Call the Heritage Club office for a registration form. \$290.00 CAD per pp.

**September 26, 2017 5 day repositioning cruise Vancouver to San Diego on the Amsterdam.** Visit Victoria and San Francisco and fly home from San Diego after free time in southern California. Inside cabins from \$454.00 Cad pp plus taxes \$311.00. This is also an option for people going on the October 1 Grand Voyage in lieu of flying to San Diego.

**October 1, 2017 30 day cruise San Diego to Hong Kong, on the Amsterdam** visiting Dutch Harbour, 5 cities in Japan, 2 ports in South Korea, overnight in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Insides starting at \$7642.00 including taxes. Air extra.

**October 1, 2017 80 day Grand Voyage from San Diego return** on the Amsterdam. Visit Dutch Harbour, 5 cities in Japan, South Korea, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Darwin, Cairns, Sydney, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and Honolulu. Call the Heritage Club Office for detailed itinerary and prices. This cruise can also be done in 53 days from San Diego to Sydney Australia.

**October 8, 2017 10 day Pacific Coast cruise, on the Star Princess,** Vancouver return, visiting Santa Barbara, Catalina Island, Los Angeles and overnight in San Francisco. Inside cabins start at \$1429.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$253.00 pp.

**November 4, 2017 7 days Mexican Riviera Cruise, on the Carnival Miracle,** Los Angeles return, visiting Cabo San Lucas (2 days) , Puerto Vallarta and 3 fun at sea days. Inside cabins \$789.00 plus \$140.00 taxes Cad pp. Ocean view \$857.00 plus taxes, Balcony \$910.00 plus taxes pp.

**November 19-22, 2017 3 nights (4 days) bus trip to Tulalip Resort and Casino.**

**REMINDER:** Be sure you have out of country travel insurance for any trip you book and that it is in 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 2017 and paid your dues to be covered. Contact the Heritage Club office for info on MEDOC and a registration package or for information on any trips.

Van Fraser Heritage Club 604 482-4311 or email: fwdanells@hotmail.com

