



Van-Fraser Nexus

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

VAN-FRASER EXECUTIVE PLANNING

The Van-Fraser Club Executive met on August 22nd to review club activities for 2017 and discuss activities for 2018. The Executive reviewed each activity and discussed changes for 2018 activities.

It will be a very busy Autumn with a long list of activities; Yakima U Drive, our Annual Gala Banquet, the first ever Portland Bus Trip, 12 Day California Coast and Mexico Cruise, 30 and 80 Day Asian Cruise, Honouring Our Own Ceremony, Santa Elf Orientation, 4 Day Tulalip Bus Trip, Christmas Greenacres Luncheon, Santa Letter Program, Santa Parade in New Westminster, Vancouver Festival of Lights, Rogers Santa Claus Parade, and Polar Express event at the West Coast Railway Park.



Van-Fraser Executive Meeting (left to right) Taka Nukina, Treasurer, Rene Brissette, Vice President, Jim Bain, Communications, Fred Danells, President, Jeremy Davey, 2nd Vice President, Donna Simon, Polar Express, Carol Burchett, 3rd Vice President, Ken Cornish, Goff and Activities coordinator.
Absent: Jim Stevenson, Secretary and Stan Wong, Fitness Centre Manager and Banquet Coordinator.

Jim Bain was commended for his extensive research into Canada Post Employees who served in World War I. It is expected the detailed information on each of the 1,775 employees will be finalized in 2018. The partial information is currently listed on line and we regularly receive notes of appreciation from other clubs across Canada as well as enquiries and comments from researchers in Canada and other countries. In addition Jim was thanked for the excellent work he does in producing our six newsletters a year along with any updates.

Kudos to Taka Nukina who labels and stuffs the envelopes for each newsletter mailing. She noted that we now have 975 electronic newsletter recipients thus reducing the cost of mailing hard copies. Taka also reported we now have over one thousand active paid members. *(Continued on Page 3)*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|----|
| Banquet Tickets Executive Planning | 2 |
| Mexican Vacation Draw | 3 |
| Jim Wong Chu Kidney Walk Fundraising | 4 |
| Spring Bus Trip Planning: 2018 | 5 |
| Mark Your Calendar Santa Needs You | 6 |
| Orpheus Choir Calendar | 7 |
| Honouring Our Own | 8 |
| Big Thank You | 9 |
| Travel Opportunities | 10 |

LAST CALL FOR BANQUET TICKETS

LAST CALL for tickets for our Annual Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond on Friday, September 15th. Don't miss this fun evening with an eleven course meal followed by a special cake, all served to you at your table by the wonderful team of servers at the Continental. Bottles of wine will be available for purchase at cost and the bar will be open for other drinks.



Meet colleagues you haven't seen for some time and mingle amongst the tables talking with new and old friends pre dinner. The doors open at 5:30 pm. We will have 50/50 draws and a raffle of many lovely prizes with all the proceeds going to Al Millar and his dedicated work with the orphans in Zimbabwe. There will also be the drawing of the winner for the raffle of the seven days at the Villa Star Resort in Mexico, kindly donated by our colleague, Jedd a Derry. All proceeds from this raffle will be donated to Children's Hospital.

Tickets for the banquet are \$35.00 per person and \$350.00 for a table of ten. This price includes tax and gratuities. Send your cheque for tickets to the Heritage Club office with the form included in the newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you and your family/friends at the banquet and another great evening with good people, good food and of course, a good time.

LAST CALL! COMPLETE AND SEND IN YOUR TICKET FORM IMMEDIATELY!

EXECUTIVE PLANNING—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fred reported that there will be a number of changes in the Santa Letter Writing Program and the extreme importance for all Elves, new and experienced, to attend the Orientation Workshop on November 14th at the Richmond Plant (PPC).

Rene provided a positive report on 2017 Thomas Letter Writing Program and noted that it is unique to Vancouver. None of the other Thomas venues around North America offer this program for kids.

Jeremy reported that the management of the West Coast Railway appreciate the efforts of Van Fraser Letter Writing Programs for both Thomas and the Polar Express Events held annually at the park in Squamish.

Unfortunately, Stan Wong was not able to attend the meeting, but he submitted reports on the Gala Banquet, which should be another amazing evening this year. He also submitted his report on recommendation for a scholarship program using as a basis, the funds the club receives for managing the Richmond plant employees Wellness Center.

Leslie reported that the Portland Bus is almost full with 51 members/family and the Tulalip bus has been full (56 members) for some time. Considerable research has been done for the 2018 Spring Bus Trip. Details on the 14 days to Las Vegas and New Mexico including hotels and pricing will soon be confirmed.

"Many thanks to your executive who dedicate endless hours planning and organizing our activities and are passionate about bringing the best opportunities and information to all members. They look forward to seeing you at every event and are always open to your ideas for new activities." Fred Danells, President, Van-Fraser Heritage Club

VAN-FRASER CHARITY DRAW

7 DAY MEXICO VILLA STAR OF THE SEA RESORT

Villa Star Of The Sea
6 Night (7 Days) Stay For two Adults
One Luxury Bedroom Suite On The Pacific Ocean
Including Living Room, Kitchen & Private Bath.
Transportation to & From Manzanillo (ZLO) International
Airport Included

(Airfare is NOT included)

Activities Ideas For Guest in & around The Villa Of The
Sea;

1. Relaxing in the quaint and peaceful surroundings of The
Villa Star Of The Sea Resort.

Enjoy The appetizers, wine and beer on the beach or de-
compress in the pool or ocean.

Visit the nearby Pueblito of Cotimilla with several local
seafood restaurants and traditional Mexican flair beach side.

Enjoy seeing the local fisherman out in the Bay. Visit the quaint shops in Barra de Navidad and
more restaurants to enjoy.

2. Horseback Riding on the beach.

3. Golfing:

Nine, 18 and 27 Hole Golfing in this beautiful beach front location will be a beautiful rewarding
magnificent experience of a life time.

4. Beach Exploring:

There are so many beaches to explore including Playa de Cocos, Boca de Lguanas, Tenacatita,
La Manzanilla and Careyes to name a few.

5. Visit Historic and beautiful, breathtaking Playa de Oro.

6. Scuba Diving

7. Sport Fishing

8. Eco Tours

Getting there;

There are many airlines connecting (Mostly through LAX) to |Manzanillo including Alaska,
Continental, Delta, American West & Westjet and on non peak period sales.

You can also get local flight between Puerto Vallarta, Mexico City and Guadalajara.

Get your willing ticket today. Don't delay. \$20.00 Each or 6 for \$100.00

Deadline is Sept 14th.

Call 604-482-4311 Heritage Club Office

All proceeds to Vancouver Children's Hospital.



JIM WONG CHU: COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, AUTHOR, PHOTOGRAPHER, HISTORIAN, MENTOR

To say that Jim Wong Chu was multi talented and multi faceted is simply an understatement.

Following his passing on July 11th tributes have been received from a great many individuals praising his work as a community activist, photographer, author, and mentor of many now famous Asian authors.

As a Community Activist he worked with the community movement to stop freeway construction that would have destroyed Vancouver's Chinatown. As an author his work chronicles both his experience and that of the Chinese Community in British Columbia. The publication of his collection of poems, *Chinatown Ghosts*, is seen as the first commercial publication by a Chinese-Canadian Author. His collection of photographs of Vancouver's Chinatown in the 1970's detail a way of life that is slowly disappearing.



The Late Jim Wong Chu

Jim may best be remembered as a mentor of Asian-Canadian authors. He was a founder of the Asian Canadian Writers Workshop whose newsletter later became the Ricepaper. Through this medium he helped Asian Canadian writers develop their skills. The Asian Canadian Writers Workshop created an award program to introduce new authors to publishers. The Award will now be named in his honour.

As a tribute from everyone at Canada Post who worked with him, Letter Carrier Donna Cho, sums it up best when she refers to Jim as *"my amazing friend and co-worker"*.

WALKING IN SUPPORT OF KIDNEY FOUNDATION

On Sunday, September 24th, Van-Fraser Member, Dennis McCann will be walking in the Annual Kidney Foundation Walk for Life. Dennis, a Kidney Transplant Recipient and member of the Kidney Foundation, BC Branch, Board of Director, is walking to raise funds to help alleviate the challenges faced by chronic Kidney Patients.

The Vancouver Walk, where Dennis will be walking starts at 11:00 am at the Athletes Village on False Creek, Vancouver.

"I appreciate your past generosity in helping me raise more than \$9,400 and I feel it worthwhile to continue your support. A contribution to support my 8th Kidney Walk can be made by accessing my web page at @ <https://kidney.akaraisin.com/pledge/Participant/Home.aspx?seid=14231&mid=9&pid=1414320&sgid=3469>.



Dennis McCann

In appreciation of receiving my own recycled kidney and in honour of the donor and donor's family, I ask everyone to consider signing up to register as organ donors. To register, link to the BC Transplant site via <http://www.transplant.bc.ca/Pages/Register-your-Decision.aspx>.

2018 SPRING BUS TRIP PLANNING UNDERWAY

Planning is well underway for the 2018 Spring Bus Trip. This event has proven to be one of the most popular Van-Fraser trips of the year and sells out very quickly.

Plans call for the trip to leave the Lower Mainland and tour through Washington, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada over 14 days.



PROPOSED ITINERARY

Leave the Lower Mainland, April 9, 2018

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Day 1 | Drive to Baker City, Oregon and visit the Old Town before dinner |
| Day 2 | Drive to Salt Lake City, Utah, and visit Temple Square, City Creek, or Gateway Mall |
| Day 3 | Drive to Durango, Colorado or Moab, Utah and visit Canyonlands National Park and other scenic areas not covered during our on 2014 Monument Valley tour. |
| Day 4 | Drive to Santa Fe, New Mexico where we will stay for three nights and visit the famous Aztec ruins, enjoy several guided or self guided walking tours of Santa Fe historical and cultural sites, book a hot air balloon ride (for those who have it on their bucket list), take a train ride to Albuquerque with all day pass for \$6.00, visit Bandelier National Park and other sites. |
| Day 7 | Drive to Flagstaff, Arizona (or a lodge in Grand Canyon) and visit more famous parks on route and stop at the Jack Rabbit Trading Post. |
| Day 8 | Drive through Grand Canyon National Park on the way to Las Vegas, stopping at many scenic overlooks. |
| Day 8-11 | Enjoy Las Vegas with free time and optional mystery tour and Factory Outlets |
| Day 12 | Drive to Wendover, Nevada --- enjoy the seafood buffet |
| Day 13 | Drive to Pendleton, Oregon |
| Day 13 | Drive to Vancouver, stopping at the Duty Free shops. |

NOTE:

This is the tentative itinerary, depending on availability of hotels and final pricing depending on number of passengers. It will definitely be a memorable trip with lots of new national parks and historical places.

In order to ensure your place please pre-register with the Heritage Club office if you are interested and available on these dates.

Phone: 604 482-4311 or email: vanfrasernews@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 15, 2017: Annual Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Plan to book a table for ten for your colleagues, family and friends or purchase an individual ticket/tickets for yourself. Gourmet meal with a great variety of food, raffles, draws, displays and lots of opportunity to mingle and visit. Tickets are \$35.00 each or \$350.00 for a table of ten.



September 21-23, 2017: First ever bus trip to Portland Oregon. There will be time for sightseeing, duty free shopping, or just relaxing at the Monarch Hotel. Price per person for double occupancy is \$290.00 and includes bus transportation, 2 nights' hotel, breakfast each day, taxes and gratuities. Call the Heritage Club Office for availability.

November 10, 2017: Honouring Our Own Ceremony. 10 am at the PPC in Richmond. Join us with PPC employees for a brief remembrance service for posties who were lost during the world wars. Light lunch provided. No charge, just call the Heritage Club to advise that you will be attending.

November 14, 2017: Orientation for Santa's Elves at 10 am in the PPC in Richmond. A short overview of the Santa letter writing program and the changes/ materials that will be used this year. This is a good session for both first time elves and experienced elves. Light lunch provided. Call the Heritage Club office to register.

November 19, 2017: Annual Bus Trip to Tulalip. This year's trip has been expanded to three nights/four days.

November 27, 2017 to January 10, 2017: Santa Letter Writing Program. Daily-7 days a week in Santa's workshop in the PPC and satellite offices throughout the Lower Mainland. Please mark your calendar now for as many days as you can spare to help Santa to reply to letters to the children or other tasks that need to be done each day. We especially need extra help during the peak period of December 10- 29th. New Elves needed! Call the Heritage Club office to register for the orientation and learn all about how you can help.

December 6, 2017: Christmas with Santa Luncheon. Green Acres Golf Course, Richmond. All members, family and friends welcome. This is always a beautiful meal

SANTA LETTER PROGRAM

The Santa Letter Program is the largest community program undertaken by Canada Post. It has a world wide reach and brings incredible happiness to thousands and thousands of children. Members who volunteer for this program comment on the great satisfaction that comes with knowing you have made a child happy at Christmas.

Elves have the opportunity to work at the Pacific Mail Processing Centre in Richmond or from Satellite Sites around the Lower Mainland. All the details are provided in the above article.

REMEMBER: SANTA NEEDS YOU!



ORPHEUS MEN'S CHOIR 2017-2018 SCHEDULE

The Orpheus Men's Choir, which includes several members of the Van-Fraser Heritage Club, released its schedule of concerts for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. Their concerts are always well attended and enjoyed by everyone.



Saturday, September 16, 2017
"Re-Sounding Ryerson" Concert

5:15 pm 7:30 pm
 Dunbar-Ryerson United Church,
 2195 W. 45th Ave. at Yew Street
 Vancouver

Friday, December 8, 2017
Orpheus Christmas Concert

TBA 7:30 pm
 St. Andrew's Anglican Church
 20955 Old Yale Road
 Langley

Sunday, December 10, 2017
Orpheus Christmas Concert

TBA 3:00 pm
 Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
 2350 148th Street
 Surrey (White Rock)

Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Joint Christmas with St. Thomas Aquinas School

TBA 7:30 pm
 Mount Seymour United Church
 1200 Parkgate Avenue
 North Vancouver

Saturday, December 16, 2017
Orpheus Christmas Concert

TBA 7:30 pm
 West Point Grey United Church
 4595 West 8th Avenue
 Vancouver

SPRING 2018

Monday, January 8, 2018
auditions for prospective members

Location to be announced

Saturday, April 14, 2018
Joint Concert with Harmony Women's Choir

TBA 7:30 pm
 Vancouver Alpen Club
 4875 Victoria Drive
 Vancouver

Saturday May 5, 2018
Orpheus Twenty Fifth Anniversary

TBA 7:30 pm
 St. Mark's Anglican Church (tentative)
 12953 20th Avenue
 Surrey (White Rock)

HONOURING OUR OWN: THE FOSTER FAMILY

The story of Vancouver Letter Carrier James Hamilton Foster and his family is one that was all too common in World War I, including tragic loss and safe return

In 1910 J.H. Foster and his brothers William Frederick Foster and Robert Henry (Harry) Foster came to Vancouver from Clitheroe, Lancashire, England. Remaining in England were their mother Mrs. Parke and brother Charles Parke. Accompanying the brothers to Vancouver were James' wife Anne, Anne's brother Robert J.S. Flack and his wife Maud, and William's wife Rose.

Just prior to the outbreak of War in 1914 Robert returned to England and as a reservist he was called up to serve with the 2nd Battalion, Machine Gun Company of the Manchester Regiment. Brother Charles volunteered with the British Army's 9th Queen's Royal Lancers. Brother in law Robert returned to England for service in the British Army. William volunteered on March 16, 1915 with the 47th Battalion, Westminster Regiment. He subsequently transferred to the 7th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment. James would volunteer with the Canadian Engineers Regiment on October 26, 1916 following the death of his wife Anne the preceding July.

Brother Robert was captured during the early stages of the War at the Battle of La Cateau in August 1914 and endured 14 months of captivity before being repatriated in a Prisoner Exchange. He suffered badly during captivity, losing over 60 pounds and contracting Tuberculosis. Upon his return he was hospitalized, but sadly took his own life in August 1917 suffering from what we now know is Post Traumatic Stress. His name is listed on the Roll of Honour, St. Paul's Church, Low Moore, Clitheroe.

William arrived in France early in 1916. The War Diary of the BC Regiment notes that there was no major activity on July 25, 1916 when he was first listed as missing. The historian for the BC Regiment believes that William was most likely on a Night Patrol in No Mans Land when he was killed and his remains never recovered or never identified. His name is listed on the Menin Gate, Iper, Belgium and the Vimy Memorial.

Mrs. Parke, enduring the loss of two sons. suffered additional anguish when youngest son Charles was captured in early 1918. For several months there was no report of him and she feared he would be lost to her in much the same manner as Robert. Finally a letter arrived from Charles confirming his captivity and good health. They were reunited following the end of the War.

Brother in law Robert Flack was wounded, returned to Vancouver in 1918. He was awarded an Imperial Gratuity for his service as a Canadian in the British Army. His family resides the Vancouver area.

James returned to Vancouver in 1919, came back to work at the Vancouver Post Office as a Letter Carrier, retiring in 1943. He remarried and his family remains in Vancouver.

William's wife, Rose Foster, remained in Vancouver raising their daughter Elizabeth Rose. Her family resides in the Kitsilano area of Vancouver.



William F. Foster, wife Rose and daughter Elizabeth Rose in 1915. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Rose's daughter, P.L. Bolton.

A BIG THANK YOU TO FRED DANELLS

Vancouver Talmud Torah School

Often, we hear stories of letter carriers talking to school children on their route ,especially during Santa letter writing time. Recently, one of our letter carriers was asked to make a presentation to a class of children at the Vancouver Talmud Torah School and he agreed, but as the date approached, circumstances arouse requiring him to cancel.In order to not disappoint the children, a request was made that a volunteer from The Heritage Club talk with the children. While this is not something the club usually does , we did respond and the children and teachers were delighted.The following message was received from the school.

"We wanted to thanks you for making the effort and coming to our school . It was wonderful to have you here. Your presentation was engaging interesting and at the same time very informative. I'm sure our students learn a lot about our mail system here in Canada and around the world.

It was also fun to hear about your adventures.

*Thanks so much ,
Looking forward to seeing you again in our school for another great presentation on one of the best post system in the world .*

*Michal
Sent from my iPad*

HERE TO HELP

Many Van-Fraser members donate their time and skills to a number of Community and Charitable organizations and events. They help organize, promote, and participate in fund raising for a variety of groups and causes.



The Van-Fraser Heritage Club recognizes these members and invites them to use Van-Fraser News as a means of promoting their organization and events.

Contact Van-Fraser News at vanfrasernews@gmail.com for further information.

Van-Fraser News

Until is published by the

Van-Fraser Heritage Club
Unit 160 - 5940 Ferguson Road
Richmond BC V7B 0B1
email
vanfrasernews@gmail.com
Phone
604 482-4311

The editor reserves the right
to edit
any/all submissions
in whole or part
for use in this publication

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUBS MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

September 9-14, 2017 Washington State U- Drive, 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.

September 21-23, 2017 3 Day Bus Trip to Portland, Oregon, for tax free shopping, sightseeing 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. 8 Seats Available!

September 25, 2017 12 day Cruise depart from Vancouver to San Diego and Mexico on the Oosterdam. Visit Victoria, Astoria, San Diego, Cabo San Luca, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta and fly or train home from San Diego. Inside cabins from \$1104.00 CAD plus taxes \$273.00 pp and Window cabins from \$1169.00 plus taxes CAD pp.

October 1, 2017 16 Day Cruise, Vancouver to Vancouver , visiting Honolulu(overnight) , Hilo, Lahaina, Kauai on the Eurodam. Inside cabins from \$2339.00 plus taxes \$243.00 CAD pp and \$2838.00 plus taxes CAD pp.

November 4, 2017 7 Day 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.
(Waitlist)

February 4, 2018 21 Day Caribbean Cruise, on the Rotterdam, Tampa return, visiting Key West, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Maya Mexico, Puerto Rico St. Thomas, Antigua, Saint Lucia, Curacao, Aruba, Cayman Islands. Inside cabins from \$2352.00 plus taxes \$408.00CAD pp and windows from \$2573.00 plus taxes CAD pp.

April 18, 2018 19 Day Panama Canal, Repositioning Cruise on the Eurodam. Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver. Visit Cartagna, Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Huatalco, Mexico, Puerto Chiapa Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, San Francisco. Inside cabins starting \$2079.00 plus .

April 25, 2018 10 day Pacific Coastal Cruise, Vancouver to Vancouver on the Star Princess. Visit Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, San Francisco (overnight). Inside cabins from \$1429.00 plus taxes \$241.00CAD pp and balconies from \$1559.00 plus taxes CAD pp.

May 6, 2018, 7 day Alaska Cruise, Vancouver to Vancouver, on the Noordam, visiting Tracy Arm(or Endicot)Juneau(overnight) and Ketchikan. Inside cabins Limited special \$779.00 plus \$214.00 CAD taxes pp. Windows from \$909.00 CAD pp and balconies from \$1299.00 CAD pp. These rates will go quickly.

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 2017 and paid your dues to be covered. Contact the Heritage Club office for info on MEDOC and for more information on any trip.

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

