



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## VAN-FRASER MEMBERS WELCOME THE HOLIDAYS

The beautiful Green Acres Golf Course in Richmond once again played host to 100 Van-Fraser members at the Christmas Luncheon on December 6th.

Everyone took advantage of the opportunity to catch up with old friends, renew acquaintances, and enjoy the great surroundings. Several members noted that the noise level demonstrated how much fun everybody was having.

The luncheon was a delicious and scrumptious affair with a full turkey dinner, baked salmon, chicken and salad. This was followed by some excellent dessert.

Just as everyone was relaxing over coffee and tea the sound of jingle bells rang out to announce the arrival of Santa himself. As he always does, Old Saint Nick provided lots of fun with his gifts for the nice and one or two lumps of coal for the naughty. But once his elves arrived he confirmed he had a gift for everyone once again. He expressed his pleasure at the number of toys members had generously donated for the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

Once again Eric Rossicci set up a display of his amazing wildlife photos and offered many prints, cards and bookmarks for sale.

Special thanks to Linda Briand and Judy Sakiyama for their work in making the the 50/50 Draw a great success which raised \$200 for our Zimbabwe Fund. Congratulations to the 50/50 Winner, Eileen Axford.

As everyone departed the comments were extremely positive on the venue, the quality of the food and the service. All were very happy to have the opportunity to meet with old friends and colleagues and start the holidays on a great note.

**Mark your Calendars for next year's Christmas Luncheon!**

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Ken Cornish (standing) visited the tables bringing Holiday Greetings to all the attendees.

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## TULALIP BUS TRIP KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON

Fifty-six Van-Fraser members began their Holiday Season on November 19th with the Annual Tulallip Bus Trip.

This trip, one of the most popular of the year, sells out within a few days of opening for reservations. At the request of members the trip added an extra night's stay becoming a full four days.

On the first day the group travelled to Downtown Seattle where many enjoyed Pike Place Market while other headed for the Ross Dress for Less to do some bargain shopping. It was a mild pleasant day and just right for walking and touring around the city.

The hotel, with its newly renovated rooms continues to impress visitors and many of our members commented it's the best hotel they have visited. One member even commented, "I could live in the bathroom, it's as big as my apartment."

Throughout the stay shoppers headed for the Premium Outlets such as Walmart and Capella. Others enjoyed time in the Casino, some the Cultural Center Museum, while others simply relaxed beside the beautiful pool or in the Spa/Fitness area.



Happy Hour at the Tulalip Resort.



Fran Mattson leads the way to the bus with all her purchases.

Everyone remarked how much they appreciated the extra day which made for a more relaxing trip. As Yuriko commented; "time to sit in the beautiful decorated lounge to visit with friends and enjoy a glass of wine". This year's trip proved to be a perfect balance for the Power Shoppers, the Casino Crowd, and those who simply relax and enjoy the sights. Pat was overheard to say; "I'll be there next year! I didn't realize how much there was for me to do myself because I don't shop."

Watch the newsletter early in 2018 to book your place for the 2018 Tulalip Trip. Don't miss out on one of the best events of the year!

## HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE

Once again, we are coming to the end of a very busy but successful year for our club. This year, we were happy to have over 1000 paid/active members participating in our activities. Our office which is located in the PPC in Richmond is the hub for our planning and on most days of the year, members of our executive and others can be seen busily working on projects and interacting with employees both in the plant and in the cafeteria, always eager to respond to employee and member/spouses questions. Without fail, as we walk through the plant picking up mail or sit in the cafeteria, employees approach us with questions about joining the Heritage Club, applying for MEDOC or questions about retirement.

Jim Bain continues his extensive research into Canada Post employees who served in WW1 and WW2 and were killed or injured. He currently has a document of over 300 pages and daily can be heard contacting families, agencies and checking the web for more detailed information on each employee. Every November, he facilitates a very moving ceremony to remember these posties.

Stan Wong can also be found in the office as he administers the Employee Fitness Center and makes sure the facility is equipped with the latest equipment and is run in a safe and efficient manner. Stan also organizes our annual banquet each year.

Taka Nukina manages our finances and make sure all the accounting is in order and bills are paid. Jim Steveston hosts our lunches and other events. Rene Brissette oversees the Thomas letter writing and our participation in the New West Santa parade, while Carol Burchett and Ken Cornish arrange the U Drive trip, golfing events and a variety of club activities. Jeremy Davy is our contact for the West Coast Railway Park and the maintenance of our postal history artifacts and display in the RMC 3704.

Our quarterly luncheons, banquet, bus trips and, cruises provide opportunities for many members to get together and have a good time. We continue to explore new options as members suggest them and this year, based on requests, we had our first Portland bus trip and expanded the popular Tulalip trip to 4 days. The Santa Letter Writing program consumes most of November to January as hundreds of members help Santa to answer all his mail. Special thanks to those members who coordinate satellite workshops throughout the lower mainland so that volunteers can work on Santa mail close to their home. We had many fund raising activities and made contributions to Al Miller's work in Zimbabwe, Children's Hospital, Salvation Army Toy Drive, CPC Employee Assn Family Hampers.

Those of us in the office get lots of calls from members and employees regarding travel, MEDOC Insurance, benefits, pension, retirement planning and more and we are always happy to chat with people and answer their questions.

I am looking forward to 2018 when we will continue to offer lots of activities. Be sure to fill out the check list that is included with your membership renewal form and let us know your interests and be sure to write in any other ideas or suggestions you might have that you and other members would enjoy.

At our Christmas luncheon, as the room filled with chatter and excitement from members seeing old friends and colleagues, Jim Steveston commented about how much people enjoy being together and encouraged everyone to think of other members who live nearby and to offer rides to people who might otherwise not attend.

On behalf of your executive, I thank all of you for making our club so vibrant and we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. We truly do hope to see you at many events in 2018.

*Fred Danells, Rene Brissette, Jeremy Davy, Carol Burchett, Taka Nukina, Stan Wong, Jim Bain and Jim Stevenson.*

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON (CONTINUED)



One of the highlights of the Annual Christmas Luncheon is the donation of toys to the Salvation Army Toy Drive.

Once again Van-Fraser members were very generous in their donations and will bring happiness to very many children during the Holiday Season.

Thank you very much to all who donated.

Van-Fraser members shower donated presents on Santa.



Photo above (left to right) Sharon Svensrud, Sylvia and Ben Mancinelli and Dave Good catch up before lunch,.

Photo left: the Wildlife Photo display by Eric Rossicci.

# CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY



Above: Everybody commented on the selection of great food.



Right: As always, Santa was the most popular person in the room!



(left to right) Phil Vector, Nena Carpenter, Sharon Boykovich, Gloria Carpenter and Ritchie Wong celebrating the coming Christmas Season.

## BUSY OPENING WEEKEND TO HOLIDAY SEASON

The start to the Holiday Season during the first week of December was a very busy one for Van-Fraser members.

It started Friday night with members setting up a tent in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery to help children write their Letters to Santa and mail them in the special Santa Mail Box. It was a beautiful night in spite of the rain and culminated with the lighting of a giant Christmas Tree.



Van-Fraser members and Canada Post employees at the New Westminister Christmas Parade.

Saturday was an extremely busy day with Santa Clause Parades in both New Westminister and Abbotsford. Heritage Club members and employees were on hand for both events with a Santa Letter Writing Station and the collection of Letters to Santa along the route.



Another starts on its way to Santa.

On Sunday it was the Telus Santa Clause Parade in Vancouver with another Santa Letter Writing Tent and letters collected from over 1000 children along the route.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who came out to these events to make the Holiday Season enjoyable to children who wrote Letters to Santa.



## ANNUAL *HONOURING OUR OWN* CEREMONY

On November 10th the Van-Fraser Heritage Club hosted the Annual *Honouring Our Own* Remembrance Ceremony for employees at the Pacific Mail Processing Centre.

During the week prior to the Ceremony Van-Fraser sets up a display in the lobby of the Processing Centre providing information on the 238 Post Office employees from British Columbia who served in World War I including the 23 who were lost. Information on three Vancouver Post Office employees who were lost in WWII is also on display.

During the Ceremony Jim Bain related a number of stories regarding those who served. The stories were poignant, humorous and some outlined a legacy left by some who served.

Vancouver Letter Carrier James Hamilton Foster along with brothers Charles, Jack and William volunteered for service. Only James would survive the War.

Railway Mail Clerk, Harry Painter, along with brothers Harry, Joe and Cornelius played lacrosse with the Vancouver Athletic Club and won the Mann Cup Championship in Senior Lacrosse in 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914. The competition was suspended during the War and resumed in 1920. The Painter brothers returned to defend their championship but lost it to the New Westminster Salmonbellies captained by New Westminster Postal Clerk, Thure Storme.

New Westminster Postal Clerk, serving with the 47th Battalion, Royal Westminster Regiment, was wounded twice. He suffered a gunshot wound to the face and left arm on April 3, 1917 and a shrapnel wound to the right cheek on October 4, 1918. Following the end of the War he returned to New Westminster and married Gloria Morgan. One of his sons, Stu Leggat, would serve as an Alderman in Port Coquitlam, as a Member of the Legislature in Victoria and as a Member of Parliament in Ottawa. He would complete his distinguished career serving as a member of the British Columbia Supreme Court.

Following these stories the name of all the BC Posties, along with a brief memorial for each, was read aloud. The information compiled through Jim's research has become a resource for other researchers, nationally and internationally, as well for family members of those who served.



Bugler John More



Jim Bain relating stories of Post Office employees who served in World War I.

The presentation of these stories was followed by the reading of Flanders Fields by John McCartney and the playing of Last Post and Rouse by bugler John More.

Following the Ceremony the Van-Fraser Heritage Club provided a light lunch a social hour for our members and employees who did not have to return to work immediately.

Thank you again Jim for your efforts.

## IN MEMORIAM

The following Van-Fraser Members passed away in 2017

Raymond Andrus

Don McEwan

Olga Boytzun

Shirley McIvar

Joseph Burke

Alexander McMillan

Gordon Bussey

Howard Miller

Young Man Chow

Stanley Mish

Rinalda J. Cundia

Peter Mohan

Koljeet Deensaw

Donald Peters

Neal Escalante

Robert Pickett

Molly Fukui

William Price

William House

Richard Shorten

Howard Hunter

Mona Vassos

Peggy Madokoro

Jim Wong-Chu

Robert McDonnell



Van-Fraser Founding Member  
Bill Birkett

## ELF ORIENTATION SESSION

On November 14th an enthusiastic group of elves gathered at the Pacific Mail Processing Centre to hear the changes and updates to the Santa Letter Writing Program. Program coordinator (aka Heal Elf) explained all the changes

Some of the elves be managing off site locations responding to letters from thousands of children.

No gathering of Santa's Elves would be complete without a good lunch followed by a great cake.

The elves are now up to date and ready to respond to all the letters now on their way.



Head Elf Fred Danells outlines changes and updates to the Santa Letter Writing Program.

# DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2018

January 17/18 Santa Elf and Santa Letter Writing Program Wrap Up

March 28/18 Spring Luncheon, River Rock Casino Buffet. \$21.99 pp

April 9-22/18 Spring 14 Day Bus Trip

May 6- 12/18 Western Canada Heritage Club Alaska Cruise

May 9-10/18 Railway Mail Car Museum Annual Maintenance

May 19-21&26-27 Thomas Even Letter Writing at West Coast Railway Park

June 20/18 Summer Luncheon

September 9-14/18 Annual U Drive trip, Yakima, Washington

September 21/18 Annual Gala Banquet, Continental Seafood Restaurant

September TBA Portland, Oregon 4 day bus trip

November 9/18 Honouring Our Own Ceremony PPC

November 14/18 Santa Elf Orientation, PPC

November 18-21/18 Tulalip Casino Resort 4 day bus trip

November 28/18 Christmas Luncheon, Greenacres Golf Course



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

You will shortly receive in the mail your Membership Renewal Form. Please read through it very carefully to ensure you are aware of the all the activities and benefits available through membership in the Heritage Club.



This your opportunity to express to your Executive activities which are important to you. It is only through your comments and participation that the Executive is able to hold activities which you enjoy.

When completed please return it promptly so you are eligible for club benefits.

Thank You

Van-Fraser Heritage Club Executive.

### *Van-Fraser News*

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## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**February 4, 2018** 21 days Caribbean Cruise, on the Eurodam, Fort Lauderdale return, visiting Nassau, Turks and Caicos, Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba, St Maarten, St. Lucia, Barbados, Martinique, Antigua, St. Thomas, Half Moon Cays. Inside cabins from \$2600.00 CAD plus taxes \$366.00pp. 10 days on same ship with inside cabins starting at \$1299.00 CAD plus taxes \$180.00.

**April 9, 2018 14 day Spring Bus Trip** visiting Oregon, Salt Lake City, Moab, Utah; Santa Fe, New Mexico (3 nights); Grand Canyon, overnight in park, Las Vegas, 4 nights, Wendover and Pendleton. \$1659.00 CAD per person, based on two sharing a room.

**April 18, 2018 21 day Panama Canal Repositioning cruise** on the Nieuw Amsterdam, Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver, visiting Cartagena, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Puerto Chiapas, Huatulco, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego, and Victoria. Inside cabins from \$2209.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$630.00.

**April 25, 2018 10 day Pacific Coastal cruise**, Vancouver to Vancouver on the Star Princess. Visit Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco (overnight). Inside cabins from \$1249.00 plus taxes \$231.00 CAD pp and balconies from \$1999.00 plus taxes CAD pp.

April 13, 2018 40 day Sydney, Australia to Vancouver, visit Tasmania, 7 ports in New Zealand - Milford Sound, Dunedin, Christchurch, Picton, Wellington, Rotorua, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji, American Samoa, Honolulu, Lahaina, Kauai, Vancouver. Inside cabins from \$6044.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$816.00pp.

**May 6, 2018, 7 day/6 night Alaska cruise**, Vancouver to Vancouver, on the Noordam, visiting Tracy Arm (or Endicott) Juneau (overnight) and Ketchikan. Inside cabins -- **Limited special** \$700.00 plus \$214.00 CAD taxes pp. Balconies from \$1065.00 CAD pp. These rates will go quickly.

**September 9-14, 2018 5 day U Drive trip** to Yakima, Washington. Drive your own vehicle and join the group for sightseeing, golfing, shopping, hiking, BBQs and lots of fun

**September 2018 4 day Portland Bus trip.** Watch for dates and pricing.

**November 2018 4 Day Tulalip Bus Trip.** Watch for exact date and pricing.

**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 2018 and paid your dues to be covered. Contact the Heritage Club office for info on MEDOC and for more information on any trips.

Van Fraser Heritage Club 604 482-4311 or email: [vanfrasernews@gmail.com](mailto:vanfrasernews@gmail.com)

