



# Van- Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## SANTA'S ELVES CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL SEASON

On January 18th Van Fraser hosted a lovely luncheon at the Greka Taverna Restaurant in New Westminster to thank Heritage Club members who volunteered to answer Santa letters.

Approximately, 60 of the elves were able to enjoy the lunch and share stories with each other and provide feedback for next year.

Names were drawn from the box of forms that elves completed for every 20 letters answered and there were ten winners of the corporate logo gym / overnight bags, followed by a number of other prizes.



Vancouver Santa Letter Coordinator Peter Kozakevich and Jim Stevenson draw for prizes.



Elves Sophie Weremchuk and Jim Ball.

This year 104 members volunteered and completed 64,942 individual letters to children and 1,962 class letters. One change this year was the introduction of a huge poster with a letter from Santa and a "nice list" for names of all the students in the class. Also, a package of mini sunflower seeds was included for each class and should provide lots of fun and conversation as these beautiful flowers blossom in classrooms around the country.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Santa Letter Writing Program a success and contributed to every child who wrote to Santa getting a timely reply.

*(Photo Album on Pages 3 and 4)*

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## ABBOTSFORD/CHILLIWACK ELVES CELEBRATE

Dukes Pub in Chilliwack was the venue for the Abbotsford and Chilliwack Elves Thank You Luncheon. Elves enjoyed the nice lunch and the opportunity to chat about their experiences and suggestions for next year.

Bill Loveday coordinated the Abbotsford satellite workshop and reported that his group started answering letters on November 18/17 and just finished on January 23/18 and commented it was a long time but they loved every single-minute of it.

Gary Chapple coordinates the Chilliwack satellite workshop and provided lots of suggestions. One of his elves told a story of a letter she read from a little boy complaining that his dad snores too much and what can Santa do about it! In Abbotsford, a cute story was the little boy who told Santa he loves his mum so much, he wants to marry her when he grows up! Winners of the elf draw received the Canada Post logo bag.



Van-Fraser President Fred Danells (back row) joins with Chilliwack Elves to celebrate their hard work answering Letters to Santa.

## VANCOUVER FAMILIES RECEIVE HAMPERS



Fred Danells (front left), Bonnie Wong (front centre) and Latta Travers (front right) help Christmas Bureau drivers load Christmas hampers.

Once again Van-Fraser members and Pacific Mail Processing Centre employees have donated food, clothes, and toys to help six families in the Vancouver area celebrate Christmas.

The donations were collected and sorted over several weeks prior to Christmas eventually filling two conference rooms.

Special thanks to Bonnie Wong who spent weeks wrapping all the items and to Latta Travers for coordinating efforts of the Processing Centre Staff.

The tradition of employees of the Vancouver Post Office, Vancouver Mail Processing Plant, and now the Pacific Mail Processing Centre is a long standing and generous one. This generosity can be traced all the way back to 1916 when employees of the Vancouver Post Office prepared a hamper for Postal Clerk Alfred Doyle who was in a Prisoner of War Camp in Germany.

Thanks to all who donated. You have made Christmas a little brighter for six families.

# SANTA'S ELVES (continued from Page 1)



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## SANTA SENDS HIS THANKS

Best wishes to Santa himself, who was spotted at the end of January arriving at an Outrigger Hotel in Hawaii for a well deserved rest.

Best wishes also to all of our dedicated elves who worked so diligently from mid November to mid January, ensuring that every single letter written to Santa that had a return address received a reply, many of whom are also heading to warmer climates for a break.

In the Pacific region, 104 members volunteered to answer letters. Some of them worked every day, including Saturday and Sunday replying to more than 7000 letters a person. This is a tremendous contribution and support to the Canada Post Santa Letter Writing Program.

Thanks to all!



## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

Thanks to all our who have submitted their 2018 Registration Form and Dues. By the end of January we had received a great many forms with the dues for 2018. Special thanks to all the members who have paid more than the minimum amount for dues.

If you haven't returned your form yet, please do so right away. As you know, membership offers many benefits to you including our bi-monthly newsletter with information on all the upcoming events and items and access to Johnson MEDOC Travel Insurance and special rates on Home Insurance.

Our office in the Pacific Processing Centre maintains a data base with all members entered as well as members of the Van-Fraser Executive available to answer questions about your CPC benefits .

Group travel, luncheons, banquet, and opportunities to give back such as the maintenance of our huge archival collection, the Railway Mail Car and museum, Letter Writing for Santa and for the Thomas Program are organized. We are always ready to plan other activities of interest to our members. All of the activities boxes ticked by members on the Registration Form are categorized and contribute to our plans for the next two years. Make sure you tick all the boxes of interest so we can contact you regarding specifics of events.

Hope to see you at many of the upcoming events for 2018.



# VAN-FRASER SUPPORTS KIDSPORTS GALA

The Van-Fraser Heritage this year sponsored a table at the 2018 Annual Richmond Kidsport Gala held February 16th at the Vancouver Airport Hilton.

Kidsport Richmond is one of 43 Kidsport Chapters in British Columbia and 170 across Canada. Their goal is to raise funds to help remove financial obstacles for kids who wish to participate in sports. Since their founding in 1993 Kidsport has helped 57,000 children across Canada participate in 65 different sports.



Van-Fraser attendees (left to right); Alan Sung, William and Alice Pang, Peter and Donna Kozakevich, Carol Burchett, Janice Whiting and Ken Cornish. Photo courtesy Florence Sung.



BC Lions Quarterback Travis Lulay (centre) with Peter and Donna Kozaevich (left) and Alice and William Pang (right)

The banquet featured 16 tables with nine individuals at each table and an athlete host. Hosts were from the BC Lions, Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Canadians and other sports organizations. Van-Fraser members were hosted by BC Lions quarterback Travis Lulay.

Master of Ceremonies was Vancouver Canadian Announcer Rob Fai with Keynote Speaker Charmaine Crooks, five time Olympian and Olympic Silver Medalist.

BC Lions Alumni Bobby Singh, who is Honourary Chairman of the event, and Marco Ianuzzi provided some fun with an entertaining and very successful auction.





KidSport Richmond 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala  
**Creating Community Champions**  
February 16, 2018 – Hilton Vancouver Airport hotel

Dear Canada Post Heritage Club,

It is with much gratitude that we send this thank you letter for your generous support and Sponsorship of our KidSport Richmond 5<sup>th</sup> Annual, "Creating Community Champions" Gala, held on Friday February 16, 2018.

Our goal was to raise \$50,000 for KidSport Richmond. We are incredibly excited to announce that we raised nearly \$60,000 this year! This will allow KidSport Richmond to provide grants to more than 200 children from financially challenged families. Giving them access to the positive experience of sport and physical activity!

None of this success would have been possible without the generous Sponsorships from individuals and companies like yours.

We want to share our heartfelt gratitude to our Presenting Sponsor, Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, for donating the wonderful venue, delicious food and tremendous service. Due their generosity, 100% of the funds raised at the Gala will go directly back into the community to those in need.

We would also like to thank all our host athletes, youth athletes, volunteers and committee members for their time and efforts.

There is an old African proverb that "It takes a village to raise a child". Together we can make a difference in many children's lives by giving them the opportunity to benefit from playing organized sport.

Thank you again and if you have any comments about the evening please let us know.

We hope to have your continued support next year for our KidSport Richmond 6<sup>th</sup> Annual, "Creating Community Champions" Gala.

Sincerely,

Kathy Nakhleh  
KidSport Richmond - Director of Fundraising  
[kathy.nakhleh15@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.nakhleh15@gmail.com) – 604.618.3227

KidSport Richmond / PO Box 162 #185 9040 Blundell Rd, Richmond BC, V6Y 1K3 /  
[KidSportRichmond@gmail.com](mailto:KidSportRichmond@gmail.com)

## HONOURING OUR OWN: THURE STORME- OVERCOMING INJURY AND ADVERSITY

New Westminster Postal Clerk Thure Storme was renowned as an athlete who excelled in a variety of sports including Field Lacrosse, Box Lacrosse, Basketball, Baseball and Soccer. In high school he was active in track and field and held records in the Quarter Mile Relay, High Jump and Hop-Step-Jump (now known as the Triple Jump). In 1910 he joined the New Westminster Junior Lacrosse Team and in 1913 joined the Senior team playing until he volunteered for service in World War I.

On February 21, 1916 Storme volunteered with the 131st Battalion, Royal Westminster Regiment and arrived in France on November 28, 1916. On May 10, 1917 he was wounded by multiple gunshots that fractured his right forearm and damaged his left shoulder and elbow. The wounds left him a marked loss of strength in his right hand and were serious enough for him to be returned to Canada for further treatment and discharged as Medically Unfit.

Despite his severe wounds and subsequent disability he persevered with his rehabilitation and in 1919 joined the New Westminster Salmonbellies. In 1920 Storme led New Westminster to a Mann Cup victory over the Vancouver Athletics whose star players were Railway Mail Clerk Harry Painter and his brothers Cornelius and Joe.

He also resumed his soccer career in 1919 but a broken leg in 1920 ended that comeback.

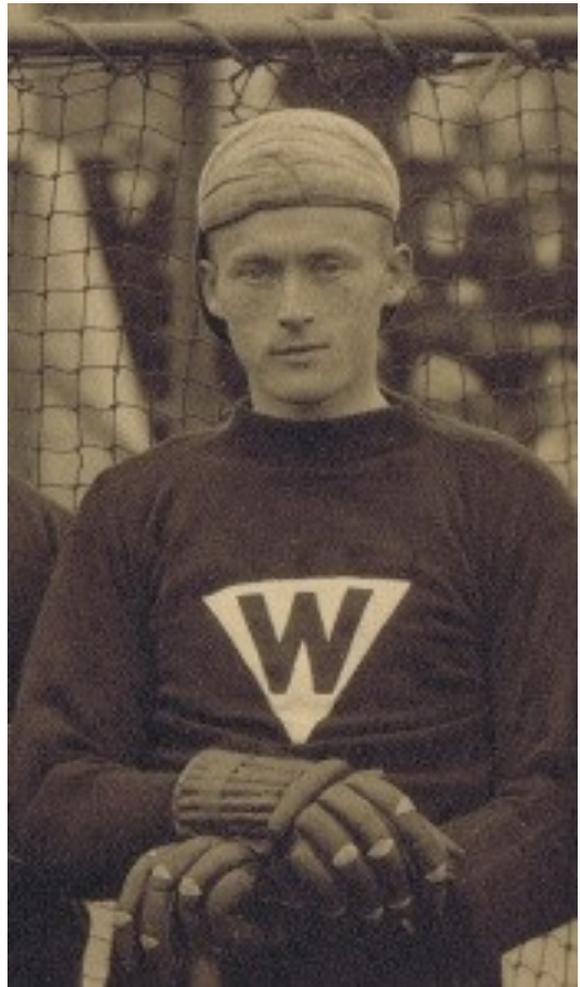
In 1921 Storme became one of the first professional lacrosse players with New Westminster in the BC Lacrosse Association where he played until his retirement in 1924. He did however make a brief

return to play in the new

Box Lacrosse League in 1934 with New Westminster where he scored seven goals in six games.

Not letting his War injuries hold him back, in 1926 he landed a position with a semi-profession baseball team in San Francisco as a left handed pitcher.

Although his lacrosse career was short he made such an impact that in 1971 Thure Storme was inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.



Thure Storme, New Westminster Salmonbellies



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Mark these dates on your calendar to enjoy time with your fellow Van-Fraser Members.

**March 28/18** Spring Luncheon River Rock Casino Resort

**April 9-22/18** Spring 14 day Bus Trip

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

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

**June 20/18** Summer Luncheon

**June/18** Annual Railway Mail Car maintenance TBA

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

**September 21/18** Annual Gala Banquet, Continental Seafood Restaurant

**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



## HEY SNOWBIRDS!

Attention all you Van-Fraser Snowbirds who receive your Newsletter on a Laptop in a warm and sunny climate somewhere well south of here.

Please take a moment to drop us a note and send a photo or two to let us know how you are doing and share your experiences.



The same message goes out to all you travelers driving, flying or cruising. It only takes a moment to let us know how you are faring in your adventures.

### *Van-Fraser News*

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

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## 2018 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**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 14, 2018 21 day Panama Canal Repositioning cruise** on the Nieuw Amsterdam, Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver, visiting Cartengena, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Puerto Chiapas, Huatulco, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego, and Victoria. Inside cabins from \$2079.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$630.00; Window cabins from \$2339.00 and verandahs from 3639.00 CAD pp plus taxes.

**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). Window cabins from \$1374.00 plus taxes \$231.00 CAD pp and balconies from \$2100.00 taxes CAD pp.

**April 25, 2018 8 day Honolulu to Vancouver** cruise on the Noordam. Visit Honolulu, Maui and Kauai. Window cabins from \$1325.00 CAD pp plus taxes \$115.00 (Limited inventory)

**May 6, 2018, 7 day/6 night Alaska cruise**, Vancouver to Vancouver, on the Noordam, visiting Tracy Arm (or Endicot) Juneau (overnight) and Ketchikan. Inside cabins--from \$805.00 plus \$214.00 CAD taxes pp., Balconies from \$1039.00 CAD pp. (Limited Inventory). A large group of Heritage Club members have already booked this cruise.

**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.

**September 26, 2018 CRUISE PORT SAMPLER on the Volendam, 23 day cruise** departing from Vancouver to Fort Lauderdale with stops along the Pacific Coast, Mexico, Panama Canal and the Caribbean –explore all four areas in one cruise! Visit San Francisco, 2 days/ over night, San Diego, Puerto Vallarta, Puerto Chiapas, Guatemala, Nicaragua ,Panama Canal, Aruba, Curacao and fly home from Fort Lauderdale. Insides from \$3400.00 plus taxes \$812.00.

**November 18-21, 2018 4 Day Tulalip Bus Trip.** \$415.00 CAD pp includes bus, hotel room for 3 nights, breakfast each day, one dinner and \$20.00 casino money. Registration form is attached.

**ALERT!! Cunard Cruise Line, the elegant and traditional Queen Elizabeth ship is coming to Vancouver** for 4- ten day Alaska cruises in 2019!!! A great opportunity for all who have had a Cunard Cruise on the bucket list but didn't want the flight or transatlantic cruise trip to Europe. The Heritage Club has a group of people already booked on the June 20/19 sailing and there are still a few cabins left. There are sailings leaving Vancouver also on May 21/18; May 31/18 and June 10/18. The Queen E. will depart and return to Vancouver visiting on route Ketchikan, Tracy Arm, Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait Point, Sitka and Victoria. Call or email the Heritage Club office for availability 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)

