



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

THOMAS WOWS YOUNGSTERS

The Railway Museum in Squamish was the scene of intense excitement for two weekends in May as they hosted thousands of children who had come to see one of their favourite characters, Thomas the Tank Engine. There was a buzz of excitement from groups of 2–5 year old youngsters each time Thomas pulled into the station.

Activities during the day included a 20 minute ride on the train pulled by Thomas, rides around the park on mini-trains, story telling, an Imagination Centre, and of course the opportunity to write a letter to Thomas and his many friends in the Letter Writing Room. After writing their letter the children and their parents toured the Railway Mail Car that has been restored and is maintained by the Heritage Club.



Volunteers were on hand to help children with their letters.



Each time Thomas arrives at the station youngsters cheer in celebration.

Eighteen volunteers from the Heritage Club travelled to Squamish to help the children write, address and sort their letters into the special Thomas the Tank Sortation Case. Other volunteers, working from home, read and responded to each letter.

Volunteers commented on how rewarding the experience of working with Thomas was for them. Just seeing the delight in young faces as Thomas came in to view was a great treat. The children had seen Thomas and Friends on television but their reaction of seeing him in person was heartwarming.

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SUMMER LUNCHEON ENJOYED BY EVERYONE

The Van Fraser Summer Luncheon, held June 20th at the New Westminster Old Spaghetti Factory, was a great success and featured a big number of first time attendees. Always nice to see fresh faces at our events! A special attendee was retired South Burnaby Letter Carrier Robert Jones who celebrated his 90th birthday.

The Quarterly Luncheons are held at various locations across the Lower Mainland giving everyone the opportunity for short travel. This site proved a great location being immediately adjacent to a Skytrain Station and lots of parking at \$2.00 an hour within easy walking distance.



Robert Jones celebrating his 90th birthday.



Left: John and Hortensia More

Below right: Recently retired Bruce Horn attends his first luncheon.



Above: Eleanor and Bill Wong

Bottom left: Susie Cardas, Linda Hinkleman, Sharon Boykowich and Gloria Carpenter.



Bottom right: JJ Jones and John McCartney



THOMAS (Continued from Page 1)

Each time Thomas arrived at the station, steam spewing from the stack and whistle blowing was too much for some the children and a buzz of excitement, completed with squeals of delight, would spread throughout the crowd waiting for their turn to ride.

Volunteers relayed a number of stories from their time working with the children. After sorting her letter into the Thomas Sortation Case turned and asked the volunteer, "Can Thomas read?" A young boy notice while sorting his letter to Thomas noticed that Whiff, one of Thomas friends had not received a letter. He promptly returned and wrote another letter especially for Whiff. One youngster's letter, obviously written with assistance of Mom, noted, *"This is the first time I've written to you. Last year I was in Mommy's tummy. My older brother who is 3.5 years old loves you."*

Rene Brissette, who coordinates the Heritage Club involvement in the event, reported that over 8,000 visitors attended the event and 1,250 children wrote letters to Thomas and Friends and each child has received a special reply. This event is one of the biggest fund raiser for Railway Park. For Heritage Club members it is a rewarding opportunity to volunteer in the community and the satisfaction it provides. For the club it brings visibility to our efforts for Literacy and our efforts to maintain our history and heritage. Van-Fraser News Editor Jim Bain reports that his neighbours took their three year old twin boys to see Thomas on a Sunday and were impressed that the reply arrived the very next day! Special thanks to Rene and team for all their efforts.



Proud mother and grandmother watch the preparation a letter.



STREAMKEEPERS 10th ANNUAL FRY RELEASE

On April 21st the Eagle Creek Streamkeepers released 50,000 Salmon Fry into Burnaby's Eagle Creek marking the 10th Anniversary of the release.

The Eagle Creek Streamkeepers are a dedicated group of volunteers, who promote Salmon and Wildlife enhancements of our creek. We welcome any Heritage retirees who want to volunteer, to clean up the creek, plant trees, monitor the health of the creek, and count returning Spawning Samon in the fall.

Eagle Creek begins its journey on Burnaby Mountain where it is fed by a large watershed. It flows down through the Burnaby Mountain Golf course into Squint Lake where it combines with flows from other tributaries. Joined by other tributaries it continues under Broadway and the Lougheed highway just west of the Lake City Skytrain Station. It then flows into the Government Road area, crosses under Winston Street, then the railway tracks, and finally into Burnaby Lake. Burnaby Lake flows east to a fish ladder into the Brunette River which then flows into the Fraser River.



Eagle Creek Streamkeepers President Nick Kvenich and Van Fraser member Alan Sung at the Fry Release.

The event was well attended by young and old with several Canada Post employees and Heritage Club members attending. we always welcome more. There were displays teaching the salmon

life cycle, games for the young ones to play, and hot dogs feeding hungry volunteers



A young Streamkeeper gets some help releasing his bag of Salmon Fry.

This year Raymund Valliero, a Canada Post Employee come an Video the event. He did a nine minute video, which is on Youtube. Take the tour with Raymund and hope to see you next year.

Here is the link enjoy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2dA1QM48cg&t=14s>

Contact info to volunteer
Nick Kvenich Ph: 604 420
5651 Email nkven-
ich@telus.net
President Eagle Creek
Streamkeepers.

ANNOUNCING VAN-FRASER SCHOLARSHIP

We are proud to announce the launch of Van Fraser Heritage Club Scholarship.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to recognize, support and reward children and grandchildren of Van Frase Heritage Club active members who are in British Columbia and in their preparatory educational development years, i.e. between grade 8-12 and ages 13-18.

Our goal is to encourage children to take on leadership roles, to prepare them for higher educational opportunities and other career aspirations.



Our thanks to Stan Wong for his innovative idea. Our Scholarship Committee includes Fred Danells, Stan Wong, Alan Sung, Jean Wong, and Patricia Medforth. Please help us welcome them.

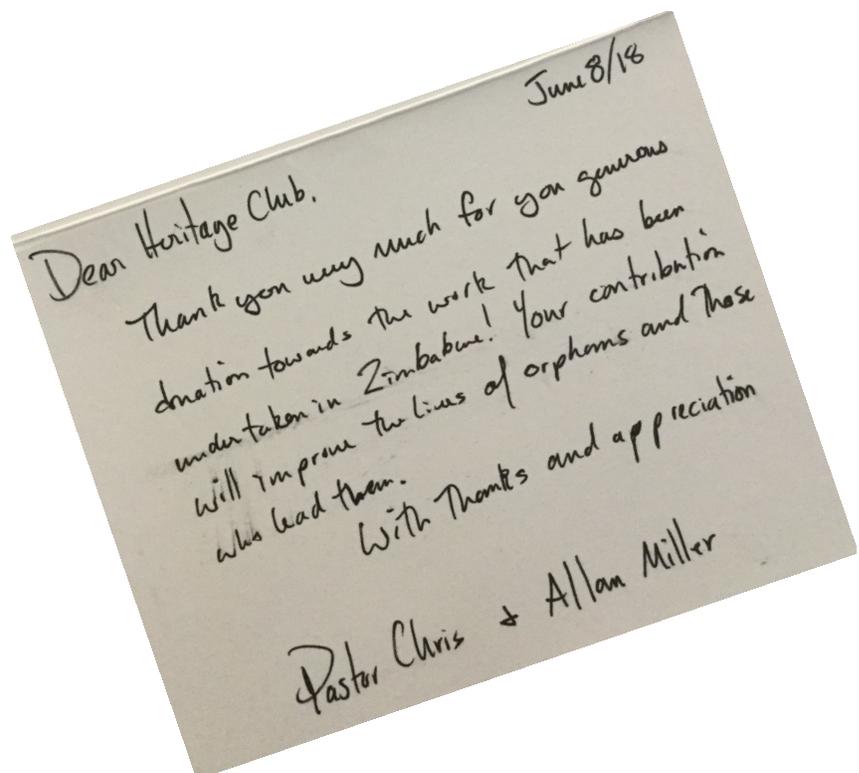
Our Scholarship application deadline is June 30, 2018. If you are interested, please contact Van Fraser Heritage Club office at (604) 482-4311 for an application form.

THANK YOU VAN FRASER MEMBERS

Thanks to Van Fraser Heritage Club Members for their generosity and efforts in all the various creative ways you created to raise funds for donation to various causes. You have continued and honoured the Heritage Club tradition of supporting the community.

This is a list of the donations made in 2017.

VANCOUVER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	\$2,800.00
BC RED CROSS EMERGENCY FIRE RELIEF	\$1,000.00
VAN-FRASER SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$2,000.00
AL MILLER'S ORPHAN CARE WORK	\$5,924.82
RAILWAY MAIL CAR RESTORATION	\$1,548.02
TOTAL	\$13,182.84



TRAVEL NOTES FROM A VAN FRASER MEMBER

Van Fraser Member Winston Tong sent this note from his recent trip to Hawaii.

The Moana breeze off the Pacific filtering the aroma of freshly roasted Macademia nuts creates an euphoric ambience on the Kalakaua Avenue, the rest seem Malihini to me in Waikiki. No doubt, my first visit to the Aloha State since my honeymoon on Sept 11, 1983 was filled with mixed emotions.

The International Market Place would look half buried if not minimized, massively overshadowed by a new horizon full of modern infrastructure if it kept its original address. Had the Honolulu municipality kowtow to the aggressive land developers, the spectacular view of the Waikiki beach lined with surfboard rental grass huts in between swaying palm trees would be hindered by towering concrete blocks that resemble resort condos. Mahalo to the State politicians for waking up to their senses. As I sauntered on Kaiulani Ave towards Mauka (mountain) in between Kalakaua and Ala Wei Blvd, I saw significant transition in that neighbourhood. Hotels like Ohana Waikiki Outrigger has become a major chain owned by foreigner.



Winston and Luce on a Hawaiian Beach for their 2nd Honeymoon.

I managed changes/transformation well in my whole career with Canada Post, constantly seeking derivatives to attain work quality as well as in life. However, overzealous transition precipitated by commercialization induced by the Malihini is a different ball of wax. Oahu is getting her share of big city fallout, an estimate of 500 homeless people have migrated from the mainland (majority from NYC and Chicago) since 2015. Park benches were the first to go followed by Starbucks removing its outside seating capacity. If it wasn't for the improved vision, I would have tripped over a panhandler on Kalakaua at 07hr30 on a Saturday in Waikiki where I was once frequently greeted with the sweet sound of aloha and mahalo and now looking almost invisible to the young generation too preoccupied with their smartphones.

Aloha

Winston

LET US KNOW

On the road? On a long vacation? A Snowbird? Got a favourite vacation spot others might enjoy?

Drop us a line and a few photos to let us know how you're doing.

If you have a vacation or tourist spot you'd like to recommend to your fellow members just let us know.

Van Fraser members are always looking for places to visit and enjoy and would appreciate any suggestions or recommendations you may have.

Just email your notes to vanfrasernews@gmail.com.



AMAZON MOVING INTO 349 WEST GEORGIA

On Monday, April 30th, Amazon announced it was becoming a participant in the redevelopment of the Post Office building at 349 West Georgia.

Amazon will occupy 35% of the total space and will house 3,000 employees.

The redevelopment of *The Post*, the new name for the building, is expected to be completed by 2023. The building will feature 200,000 square feet of retail space. The original façade of the building will be retained and reflect the buildings history as the Main Vancouver Post Office. Additions to the building will include two office towers. The residential component included in the original redevelopment proposal has been removed.

Included in the building will be energy saving features such as waste heat recovery, passive solar shading and light shelves.

The building is currently owned by British Columbia Investment Management (BCI) with project management under the direction of QuadReal Property Group. The architects for the project are Musson Cattell Mackey (MCM)



Partnership Architects. Development Managers for *The Post* are Bentall Kennedy with construction and renovation by Poole Construction Limited (PCL).

QuadReal Property Group has created a website specifically for this project that will be updated on a regular basis.

To follow the progress log into the QuadReal Website:
<https://www.quadreal.com/p>

HONOURING OUR OWN: THE SINKING OF THE LLANDOVERY CASTLE

June 27th marked the 100th Anniversary of the torpedoing and sinking of the Canadian Hospital Ship H.M.H.S. Llandoverly Castle. The sinking and subsequent actions resulted in the largest loss of Canadian lives at sea in World War I.

The Llandoverly Castle was originally built as a cruise ship for the Union-Castle Line and was launched in January 1914. She primarily sailed between London, England, and ports in East Africa. On July 26, 1916 H.M.H.S. Llandoverly Castle was commissioned as a Hospital Ship and assigned to the Canadian Army Medical Corps. She was equipped with 662 beds and a Medical Staff of 102.

The Hague Convention of 1907 outlined International Rules regarding hospital ships. They could be stopped and searched by belligerents but were not to be attacked or sunk. Both the Royal Navy and the German Imperial Navy in 1914 had issued orders that this was to be strictly observed. However these orders were not always followed. Twenty-six Hospital Ships were sunk in World War I. Some were accidental, either from mines or misidentification, while some were from torpedoes or shelling.

What highlights the sinking and loss of life with the H.M.H.S. Llandoverly is the actions taken by a U-Boat commander after the ship was torpedoed.



Vancouver Letter Carrier, Matthew Henry Harlock

On June 27, 1918 H.M.H.S. Llandoverly Castle was on a return voyage to England having discharged 644 wounded Canadian Soldiers in Halifax. On board were a crew of 164 men and 80 officers of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and 14 Canadian Nursing Sisters. Serving with the Canadian Army Medical Corps was London ON Postal Clerk Willie Howard Gemmel and Vancouver Letter Carrier Matthew Henry Harlock. The ship was unarmed and running with full lights to identify it as a Hospital Ship. At approximately 9:30 pm it was struck by a torpedo and began sinking. The evacuation was orderly and all on board made it into the lifeboats.

Following the sinking SM U-86, the submarine that fired to the torpedoed surface amongst the life boats. The Captain, Helmut Patzig, questioned individuals in the lifeboats claiming an American flying officer was on board and the ship was carrying ammunition. When this was proven not to be the case Patzig ordered the crew below with the exception of two officers and a bosun's mate. He then proceeded to ram and sink all of the lifeboats and order the machine gunning of survivors in the water.

One of the lifeboats had drifted some distance from the submarine and were not attacked. The 24 individuals in this lifeboat were the only ones to survive and were rescued the following day by the British ship H.M.S. Lysander. All of the Nursing Sisters were among the lost as well as Gemmel and Harlock.

The sinking of the H.M.H.S. Llandoverly Castle and subsequent actions were brought forward by British Officials as one of the items for War Crimes Trials. The Captain of SM U-86 and two officers were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. All three escaped approximately four months into their sentences and there is no record about their recapture.

Toronto composer and York University Professor T.F. Martin has written an opera regarding the Nursing Sisters lost with the sinking to be performed on the 100th Anniversary of the sinking.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Post these dates on your calendar for fun times with fellow members.



June 20/18	Summer Luncheon, Spaghetti Factory, New Westminster
July 14-15/18	Work party to sort and clean historic uniform and artifacts
July 25/18	Heritage Club executive planning meeting (let executive know any suggestions for coming year)
August 28-29/18	Work party maintenance Railway Mail Car /Museum
September 9-14/18	U-Drive trip to Yakima Washington
September 21/18	Annual Gala Banquet ,Continental Seafood Restaurant
November 9/18	Honouring Our Own Ceremony. Family members of posties who served in WW1 will attend as special guests
November 14/18	Santa Elf Orientation and review of changes for 2018
November 18-21/18	Annual 4 day Tulalip Bus Trip
November 28/18	Christmas luncheon and toy drive
November 26/18 to January 15/18	Santa Workshop at PPC and satellite sites open for Santa Letter Writing.

Contact the Heritage Club office for information on any of these events

JEWELLRY BY LINDA

Van Fraser member, Linda Elko (right) was spotted at the Steveston Sunday market in June, selling the beautiful jewellery that she crafts. Linda has been an active member of Van Fraser since her retirement. She is an industrious Santa Elf, helps with Letter Writing, enters membership data, travels on Club Bus Trips and Cruises and is always willing to lend a hand. In her spare time she has been making jewellery which she sells at local Community Markets and Craft Fairs. If you would like to catch up with Linda and see her fine work, we hear she will be at the Steveston Market again on July 15/18



Van-Fraser News

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The editor reserves the right
to edit
any/all submissions
in whole or part
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2018 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

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. Call to book your hotel room.

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 \$2600.00 CAD plus taxes \$812.00 p.p.

October 4, 2018 15 Day Cruise on the Emerald Princess to Hawaii, Vancouver return. Inside cabins from \$2249.00 CAD pp plus taxes. Visit Four Hawaiian Islands. No flights required.

October 8/18 12 Day Cruise on the Norwegian Gem, from Quebec City to New York .Enjoy the fall foliage ,visiting Quebec City, Saguenay, Charlottetown, Saint John, Sydney, Halifax, Portland, Bar Harbour, Boston and New York. Call for current low rates from several promotions.

October 13, 2018 15 Day Canada/New England cruise on the Rotterdam, Quebec City to Tampa, visiting Charlottetown, Halifax, Sydney, Bar Harbour, Boston, Martha's Vineyard, New York, Charleston, Key West and Tampa, Florida. Experience the Fall foliage, quaint towns as well as big cities. Inside cabins from \$2338.00 CAD pp plus taxes per person.

October 14/18 11 Day Cruise, San Francisco return on the Grand Princess, visiting San Diego, Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas. Inside cabins starting at \$1124.00 plus taxes per person.

October 17/18 11 Day Cruise, Vancouver to San Diego, on the Eurodam, visiting Astoria, Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas. Insides starting at \$1039.00 CAD plus taxes per person.

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. Call for availability

November 22/18 15 day Cruise, Sydney Australia return on the Noordam. Visit Sydney, Port Arthur, 2 days Hobart, 2 days Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln, 2 days Melbourne, Burnie, and Eden. Balcony cabins \$2625.00 plus taxes \$421.00. Insides from \$2040.00 CAD plus taxes. Air Vancouver to Sydney return from \$1200.00. Plan to stay a few days pre or post cruise to explore Sydney.

May 14/19, 4 night Alaska cruise to Ketchikan and return on the Golden Princess. A great trip for new cruisers. Insides starting at \$561.00 CAD plus taxes per person. Great Mother's Day gift.

June 20/19 10 day Alaska Cruise ,Cunard Cruise Line, the elegant and traditional Queen Elizabeth ship is coming to Vancouver 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 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.co