



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ENJOYED BY ALL

On November 28th one hundred and sixteen Van Fraser members gathered at Greenacres Golf Club in Richmond for the Annual Christmas Luncheon.

The social hour prior to lunch was filled with happy conversations, joyful reunions, and catching up with long lost friends and colleagues.

As in the past everyone attending brought a toy to be donated to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Following the luncheon the toys were delivered to volunteers at the Salvation Army who were thrilled with the amount of gifts received and thanked Van Fraser members for the generosity

Attendees also helped support Al Miller's Zimbabwe project working with orphans in that nation. The 50/50 draw, with Linda Briand selling the tickets, raised \$470 for the project. The winner, Bob Jasmindse, generously donated his winnings to the Club charities.



Above: Santa gives last minute instructions to elves who distributed gifts to all in attendance. Below: Jim Stevenson (right) presented Bob Jasmindse with his 59/50 winnings who then donated them to the Van Fraser Charities.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



The winner of the seven nights in a Mexico Resort, generously donated by Jed Derry and Eileen Hoeter, was drawn with the proceeds of \$2000 given to Children's Hospital

As with all gathering such as this everybody lingered well past an excellent lunch recalling and creating memories and of course, having their picture taken with Santa.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season From the Van-Fraser Executive.

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TULALIP BUS TRIP A GREAT EXCURSION

Once again eager Van Fraser Members and shoppers sold out the Annual Tulalip Pre Christmas Bus Trip. The trip, which always sells out and always exceeds the expectations of the participants, was a huge success.



Wally and Eleanor share a laugh in the sunshine and Christmas decorations in Seattle.



Happy Hour at the Tulalip Resort

The group left Vancouver early November 18th travelling first to downtown Seattle for lunch, sightseeing and shopping. Beautiful mild sunny weather, present for the whole trip, made walking around Seattle very enjoyable. Some of the group went to the famous Pike Place Market, others visited the Ross Dress for Less Outlet and some found great places for lunch amongst the many restaurants in the area.

Mid afternoon the bus dropped everybody at the beautiful Tulalip Resort for a three night stay filled with fun and friendship. The resort always impresses first time visitors who commented on the spacious rooms, fine amenities and the bathrooms— straight out of a designer magazine.

Everyone took advantage of the opportunities the trip presented to them. Many took the shuttle to the Hibulb Cultural Centre to learn about local history, some relaxed at the pool and spa, and others went to find great bargains at local outlet stores. Most arrived back in time for Happy Hour to enjoy the companionship of their fellow travelers.

The last day and the trip home revealed who did well at the Casino and who found the best shopping deals.

This excursion is extremely popular and sells out quickly Watch for notices in the Van Fraser newsletter regarding the 2019 Tulalip Pre Christmas Trip.



All packed up and ready to head back to Vancouver.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY



Fred Danells and Rene Brissette hosting a table.



Santa brought gifts for everyone attending.



Ben Mancinelli checking out the gifts donated by members.



Marion Ryan (left) and Bill Pike (right) catching up with news..



A Salvation Army volunteer taking in all the gifts donated by our members.



(left to right) Phil Vechtor, Neil Sharpham and Doug Childress enjoying the day.,

HONOURING OUR OWN: A *HOMECOMING*

On November 9th the Van Fraser Heritage Club hosted the Annual Honouring Our Own Ceremony in Remembrance of Canada Post employees who served World War I and II. As this year marked the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice ending World War I the ceremony became a *Homecoming* with families of those who employees who served invited to attend as guests. Nineteen guests representing the families of nine Post Office employees who served attended.



The grandchildren of Percy H. Hole a Vancouver Letter Carrier who served in the Canadian Engineers.. They brought his medals and Pay Book for the display.

The grandchildren and great grandchildren of Vancouver Letter Carrier Charles V.C. Kilbank who served with the 69th Battery, Canadian Artillery.

Prior to the service guests, along with employees, browsed the exhibits on display in the lobby of the Pacific Processing Centre. Exhibits included a book listing all of the 1764 Post Office employees who served in World War I, another book with a detailed page outlining the service of each of the 128 Post Office employees who served in World War I, a plaque for each of the 24 BC employees lost in World War I and the three lost in World War II. Also on display were artifacts and memorabilia brought by the guests. The centre piece of the display was the bronze plaque first cast in 1919 in honour of eleven Vancouver Post Office employees.

The ceremony was hosted by Jim Bain, Communications Director for Van Fraser, Researcher and editor of Van Fraser News. Featured speaker was Captain Donald Lamb of the 39th Brigade who recognizing the service of veterans of previous conflicts and relating his own experiences. A letter from Minister of Defence The Honourable Harjit Sajjan expressing his regrets at being unable to attend and offering greetings and recognizing the twenty four employees lost in World War I. The memory of those lost in both Wars was honoured by a reading each name and brief outline of each person.

(Continued on Page 5)

HONOURING OUR OWN: A *HOMECOMING*



The granddaughter and great granddaughter of Vancouver Postal Clerk William A. Galloway, a Sergeant in the Canadian Medical Corps. Galloway was awarded a "Mentioned in Despatches for service in the Gallipoli Campaign.

Following the Ceremony Van Fraser hosted a luncheon for all of the guests and to hear some their stories and see the memorabilia they brought. The guests expressed their appreciation for including them in the Ceremony and for all the information they received from Jim Bain who is so instrumental in bringing this touching event to our members, employees and this year to our guests.

A number of the guests provided memorabilia for the display. The family of William A. Galloway, a Vancouver Postal Clerk and Sergeant in the Medical Corps, brought is medals, some photos, and a letter from King George V awarding him a "Mentioned in Despatches". Galloway received the award for his service in a field hospital in Salonika, Greece during the Gallipoli Campaign.

To view the complete document Honouring Our Own listing all Canada Post employees who served in World War I go online to heritageclub.ca and click on the link at the top of the page- HONOURING OUR OWN.



The family of Vancouver Postal Clerks Erminio Gasperdone and cousin Herbert Sciarini checking out detailed information on each. Gasperdone served with the Field Artillery and Sciarini with the BC Regiment.



Van Fraser President Fred Danells (2nd left) with the grandchildren of William Press, a New Westminster Letter Carrier who served with the Forestry Corps.

KIDS FLOCK TO VAN FRASER'S SANTA TENT

December 2nd was an exciting day in Downtown Vancouver as thousands of families gathered for the Annual Santa Claus Parade.

For a few hours prior to the Parade Van Fraser, in partnership with YVR, set up a huge tent where children could write and mail a Letter to Santa. Van Fraser volunteers were on hand to help the little prepare their letters and envelopes and mail them in an antique pole mount bright red mail box. The mail box proved to be a hit with both the kids and their parents.

Volunteers reported that the tent was filled with excited families the entire time, from opening right up until the start of the Parade.

Following the parade the letters were taken to the Pacific Processing Centre, Richmond, where volunteers were waiting to read and respond to all the letters.

This event is certainly magical and one that is enjoyed by the volunteers and especially the children and their families.,



The mail box proved to be a hit with both kids and their parents.



Children were busy all morning writing their Letters to Santa



The joint Van Fraser/YVR tent was filled with families from the time it opened right up till the beginning of the parade.

ELF VOLUNTEERS GET UPDATES FOR 2018

In November to Information and Training Sessions for Santa Letter Elves were held. One at the Pacific Processing in Richmond and one at Dukes Pub in Abbotsford. The two sessions provided this year's guidelines and procedures.

All the elves received a copy of the Elf's Handbook (otherwise known as the guide book) as well as stationery and other supplies necessary to reply to all the Letters to Santa.



Above left:
Left to right: Jim Ball, Winston Tong and Sophie Weremchuck

Above right:
Following the session at the Pacific Processing Centre the Elves enjoyed a light lunch.

Left: Elf volunteers from the Abbotsford, Chilliwack area at Duke's Pub for their session.

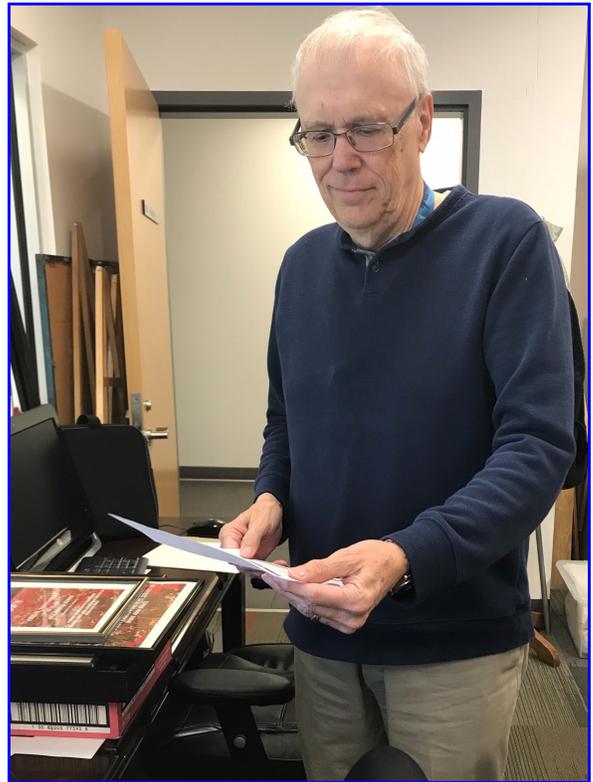
VAN FRASER MEMBER EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

In November Jim Bain was recognized for his contribution and work on behalf of the Van Fraser Heritage Club by Canada Post Chief Operating Officer, Mary Traversy. The letter cited Jim's work on compiling a work entitled, *Honouring Our Own*, a listing of all Canada Post employees who served in World War I.

Research began in 2010 when a bronze plaque bearing the names of eleven Vancouver Post Office employees lost in World War I and three from World War II was uncovered during renovations to the Retail Lobby at 349 West Georgia. Research continued over the years as Library and Archives Canada gradually increased the amount and detail of information from scanned personal files on individual servicemen available on line.

The he last detailed file became available in September 2018 allowing for the completion of the project which located 1,764 Post Office employees who served in World War I. Of those 165 died in or as a result of service. The completion of the project was timely as some of the information was used as part of the unveiling of the Armistice Stamp on October 23rd.

In her letter Traversy said; *"The Heritage Club was established, in part, as a means of recognizing employees' contribution to Canada's postal services. Mission accomplished, Jim"*



Jim reading the Letter of Recognition from Mary Traversy, COO, Canada Post.

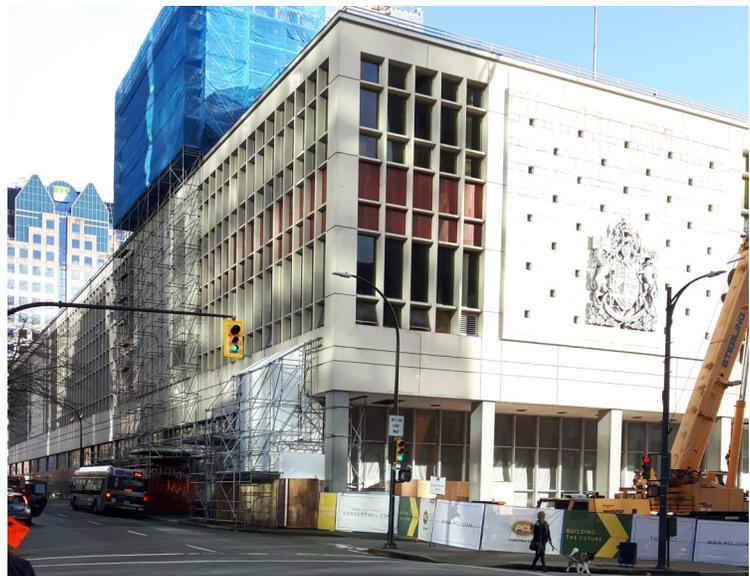
FORMER VMPP REDEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

Redevelopment of the former Vancouver Mail Processing Plant is now well underway. The old first floor has all walls removed and lobby has had all the walls and fixtures removed.

The Redevelopment Plan calls for two offices towers added to the existing building; one at the Georgia Street south end of the building and one at the Dunsmuir Street north end.

As part of the sales agreement the developers agreed to leave the Letter Carrier carving on the Homer Street side of the building in tact and have enclosed the area to avoid damage. The two crests on the Georgia Street side are also to be left intact.

If anyone is in the area of the old Plant take a photo if you can and send it to us to keep everyone up to date.



The engraving of the Letter Carrier on the former VMPP is protected by a covering during redevelopment.

DO YOU HAVE OLD PHOTOS TUCKED AWAY?

The Van-Fraser Heritage Club maintains an extensive collection of photographs and we are always looking to expand our inventory.

If you have photos tucked away that you are willing to share please let us know. We will scan the photos and return them to you.

If you have some photos just sitting in drawers that remain unseen and need a permanent home we would like to add them to our collection.

A series of photos showing the first Pacific Region Community Mail Box Team were recently found in a drawer and will be added to our inventory.

So take a look around. You may have some photos that would fit into the Van-Fraser Collection that chronicles our history and our heritage. Our records will include details on who donated the photos.



The original Community Mail Box Team (standing left to right) Doug Matsumoto, Kevin Healey, Jim Bain, Ron Fox, Julie Zayac, Heniz Fanzke, Rick McEachern. (Kneeling) Frank Sartorio.

ATTENTION VANCOUVER CITY DIVISION CLERKS

The Van Fraser Heritage Club is looking for a diagram of the Vancouver City Primary Case prior to introduction of the Postal Code. This would be 1970 and earlier.

If you have a copy of the case diagram or can sketch one for us it would be very much appreciated.

If you are able to provide any additional information on the City Final Cases we appreciate that as well.

Also, if you have any documentation from the Vancouver City Division Sortation School we would like to add copies to our collection.

One of the goals of the Heritage Club is to maintain our history and the addition of information from the Vancouver City Division would be a great asset.

Contact the Heritage Club office at 604 482-4311 or at vanfrasernews@gmail.com.



TELUS SPECIAL OFFER

Another "perk" is now available to Active (dues paid) Heritage Club members—Telus Cell Phone Plans.

Active Heritage Club members have been enjoying the benefits of MEDOC Travel and Home Insurance with Johnson Insurance for a number of years. Recently, a partnership with Choice Hotels provided Heritage Club members with discounts at their hotels.

Another partnership is now available to Heritage Club members with Telus/Corporate who are offering promotional discounts for the Holiday Season. The offers include discounts on cell phones and plans.

Attached for our email readers is a copy of these offers and an order form. Recipients of the printed Van-Fraser news who are interested in finding out more about these special offers should contact the office at 604 482-4311.

To obtain this offer you will require your Heritage Club Number and proof of membership such as your membership card or a letter confirming membership.



SANTA'S ELVES HARD AT WORK

All across Greater Vancouver and in the Fraser Valley over 150 Van-Fraser members and a number of Canada Post employees are busily responding to Letters To Santa.

Working in the Pacific Processing Centre, Postal Stations and Depots, as well as



from home. these volunteers will respond to thousands of letters and have them in the hands of happy young letter writers before Christmas.

A group from Canada Post sales (picture left) volunteered their time and teamed with Van-Fraser members responding to letters. Many of the volunteers have been responding to letters for over 20 years and return each year to help out.

This activity is a very special opportunity to bring happiness to young children and all the volunteers are to be commended for their dedication and efforts.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—DATES TO REMEMBER



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| January 15/19 | Santa Elf Thank You Lunch |
| March 20/19 | Spring Luncheon River Rock |
| March 23/19 | 15 Day Spring Bus Trip to Arizona |
| June 2019 | Summer luncheon TBA |
| June 20/19 | Heritage Club Alaska Cruise on Queen Elizabeth |
| September 20/19 | Annual Gala Banquet Continental Seafood Restaurant |
| September 8-13/19 | U-Drive Trip to Yakima, WA |
| November 8/19 | Honouring Our Own Ceremony at PPC |
| November 13/19 | Santa Elf Orientation at PPC |
| November 17-20/19 | 4 day Tulalip Bus Trip |
| November 27/19 | Christmas Luncheon GreenAcres Golf Club |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In January Van Fraser members will receive the Annual Membership Renewal Form.

Please complete the form as soon as possible to ensure your ongoing membership. This will ensure you remain eligible for all the benefits of membership including items such as travel insurance..

The form also provides information that aids the Club Executive in planning activities for the upcoming year.

Please remember, especially when providing information such as an email address, to print neatly.

Your promptness is greatly appreciated.



Van-Fraser News

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2018 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

January 7, 2019 10 night Mexico cruise on Grand Princess visiting Mazatlan, Manzanillo, Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta, San Francisco Return. Insides from \$1116.00 CAD pp including taxes. Other categories and dates available.

February 2, 2019 7 night Mexico cruise on Carnival Splendour, visiting Cabo San Lucas and 2 night gets in Puerto Vallarta, Long Beach, California Return. Inside cabins from \$602.00 CAD pp plus taxes; Ocean view from \$668.00 CAD pp and balconies from \$1040.0 CAD pp. Taxes are additional \$147.00 pp. Airfare is extra.

March 31, 2019 15 day spring bus trip visiting Baker City, Oregon; Salt Lake City; Page, Arizona (2 nights); Sedona, Arizona (3 nights); Tempe, Arizona area (2 nights); Las Vegas (3 nights); Reno; Springfield, Oregon. Lots of optional side trips. \$1679.00 for double occupancy. \$2747.00 single occupancy. register now for this popular bus trip.
Sells out quickly. Application form accompanies this newsletter.

April 13/19 21 day cruise, Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver through the Panama Canal on the Oosterdam. Insides starting at \$2209.00 CAD pp plus taxes.

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.

May 5, 2019, 7 night cruise repositioning from Honolulu to Vancouver on the Noordam starting at \$913.00 pp including taxes. Fly to Honolulu for a few days pre cruise.

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. Only few cabins left.

June 30, 2019 7 nights Alaska Cruise, Vancouver to Anchorage on the Westerdam, visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway and Glacier Bay. Inside cabins from \$1249.00 plus taxes \$300.00 CAD pp. With this trip, you can fly home from Anchorage or continue on a land tour to Denali, etc before flying home or you can stay on the ship and cruise, 7 days, back to Vancouver with a full day in Seward for salmon/ halibut fishing or to explore the Kenai Fjords while in Seward. Call the Heritage Club for information on all these options.

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 2019 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

