



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

VAN FRASER ELVES CELEBRATE

On January 15th seventy-three of Santa's Elves gathered for a Celebration Luncheon at the Greek Taverna Restaurant in New Westminster.

The celebration marked the end of another successful year responding to Letters to Santa. This year's gathering included a number of "old hands" such as Vern Frick, Bruce Mavis and Tom Szendry. One old hand unable to attend was George Gruel. Also on hand were a number of familiar faces and some new individuals answering letters for the first time.

In the 2018 Holiday Season this hard working group respond to 98,409 Santa Letters in a variety of languages.

Everybody enjoyed their time together, sharing experiences



Celebrating Elves (above left to right) Dave Good, Linda Briand, Ruth Hawkings and Marilyn Costimak (below) Annn Dobrilla and Bill Walks

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

and renewing friendships.

It's now time to take a deep breath, relax and enjoy the other activities of Van Fraser. Check out Dates to Remember on Page 9—you may find an activity that interests you. Any questions, just call the office for further details.

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VANCOUVER ELVES CELEBRATE PHOTO ALBUM



P.P.C. ELVES POT LUCK WIND DOWN

On December 22nd, after responding to thousands of Letters to Santa, Elves at the Pacific Processing Centre took a deep breath, relaxed, and sat back to enjoy a Pot Luck Lunch.

The Pot Luck Lunch has become a tradition marking the end of the pre-Christmas period for responding to Santa Letters. It's a great way to wind down from a very busy time.

This does not mark the end of responding to Santa Letters as many arrive too late to receive a reply prior to Christmas. These letters receive a special response from Santa explaining he returned home and found the letter waiting for him.



NEW WEST GOES RETRO FOR CHRISTMAS



For several years Van Fraser members and Canada Post employees in New Westminster have participated in the local Christmas Parade collecting Letters to Santa along the route.

Rene Brissette arranges for a Canada Post vehicle to be a part of the parade and draw attention to our Santa Letter Program.

This year Kevin Tay decided to go retro and borrowed an old 1950's uniform from the Van Fraser Collection for the Parade.

As a reminder— if you have any old pieces of uniform or Canada Post items that you're not quite sure what to do with—give us a call. We're also looking to add to our collection.

NOTES FROM SANTA

To: Van Fraser Members
From: An Undisclosed
Location

This past year 112 Van-Fraser members volunteered to help Santa with his mail from thousands of children around the world, each eagerly awaiting for their special reply.

As always, there were numerous colourful and creative letters from the children. One elf was heard to say she gets as much pleasure reading the cute letters as the children do receiving the replies.

Van Fraser members attended Special ELF Orientation Sessions in Chilliwack/Abbotsford and the Greater Vancouver area to learn about the program and any changes for the year as well as to receive all their supplies.

The elves were ready with much enthusiasm when Santa's Workshops opened on November 15/18 in the Richmond PPC and at post office sites throughout our area in Coquitlam, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Langley, Surrey, Cloverdale, North Vancouver, Ladner, New Westminster and Richmond. Many took the opportunity to work from home.

Thanks to all our local Heritage Club volunteer Elf coordinators and to Peter Kozakevich who coordinates the PPC operation. Santa's Richmond Workshop was open 7 days a week from Nov 15/18 to Jan 15/19 providing daily service to all our members replying to 98,409 letters received before and after Christmas.

It was a fantastic effort with a lot of fun reading the children's letters, crafting a special reply and enjoying the camaraderie with fellow members.

Following his big trip Santa noted:

"Each and every elf is priceless. The time they donate precious. The happiness and joy they bring to children is beyond any measure!"

Thank you one and all"

Santa



BLACK HISTORY MONTH DISPLAY

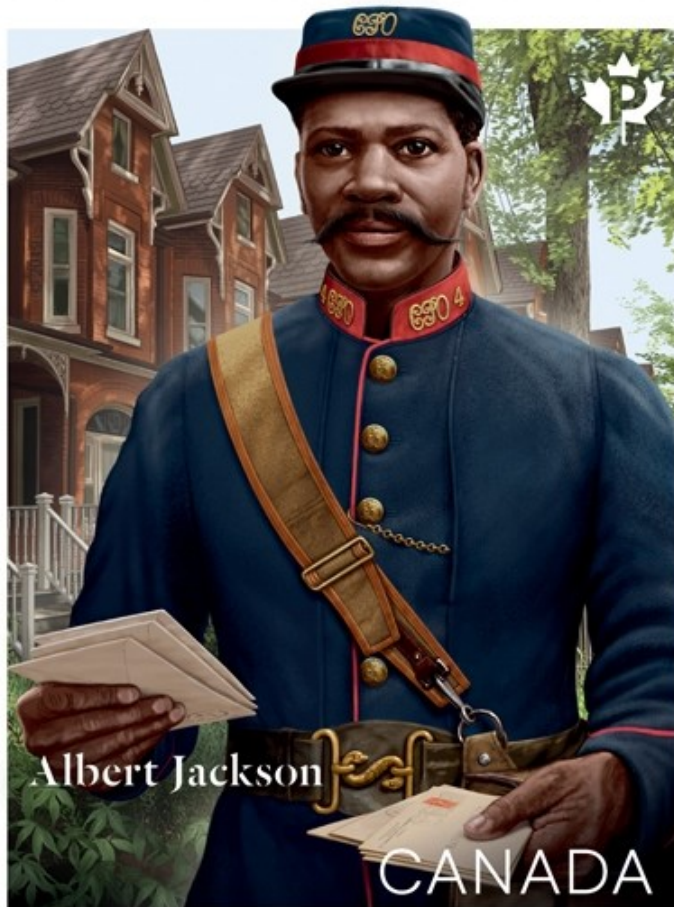
The Van Fraser Heritage Club assisted the CPC Employees Association with their display of Canada Post Stamps marking Black History Month by providing a number of presentation easels.

Through the efforts of CUPW Toronto Local this year's stamps honours Canada's first Black Letter Carrier, Albert Jackson.

Albert Jackson was born a slave in Delaware around 1856 into a family of nine children. Following the sale of two of her sons and the death of her husband, Ann Marie Jackson took her remaining children, including Albert, and fled to Philadelphia. There she was aided by African-American abolitionist William Still who ran a Station on the Underground Railroad helping fugitive slaves flee to Canada.

The family settled in Toronto and in 1882 Albert secured a government appointed position as a Letter Carrier. On his first day of work white carriers refused to train him because he was black and he was reassigned as a hall porter, a lower position.

On May 17th an article in the Evening Telegram describe Jackson as; *"the obnoxious coloured man"*, further stating he elicited *"intense disgust of the existing Post Office staff"*. Two days later an editorial appeared in the same paper stating; *"Objection to the young man on account of his colour is indefensible... Taxes are not made a penny less to a man because he happens to have dark skin."* Members of the Toronto Black Community protested this injustice and appealed to the Prime Minister John A. Macdonald who ultimately intervened to ensure Jackson received his proper position.



Albert Jackson worked as a Letter Carrier for 36 years until his death in 1918. During that time period pursued other opportunities and secured nine properties across Toronto.

Canada Post has issued stamps marking Black History Month since 2009 honouring several prominent Black Canadians and noting a number of Black Communities including Africville in Halifax and Hogan's Alley in Vancouver both of which were issued to 2014.

The display included all of the issued Black History Month Stamps, was well received by the employees and generated a great deal of comment.

WATCH FOR THIS LOGO!

The year 2019 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Canada Post Heritage Club and Van Fraser in particular.

Van Fraser membership has grown from 778 in 1989 and now there are over 1800 members across Canada and in distant locations around the globe.

The Heritage Club continues to serve its members in a wide variety of ways from social events, travel opportunities to accessibility to home and travel insurance. The club also supports a number of charities with individual members active in supporting several charitable organizations. And of course, members volunteer each year to help reply to Letters to Santa.

As this year marks the 30th Anniversary watch for this logo noting a number of special events. Hope to see you at some of them.

30th Anniversary



*Van Fraser
Heritage Club*

VAN FRASER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Van Fraser Heritage Club Scholarship Program was launched at our Annual Banquet in September 2018.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to recognize, support and reward children/grandchildren of Van Fraser Heritage Club active members who are in British Columbia and in their preparatory educational development years, i.e. between Grades 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.



Kindly help us pass on this information to your families and friends who may have children who are qualified. Please contact Van Fraser Heritage Club office at (604) 482-4311 for an application form.

The deadline for Scholarship Applications is June 30, 2019.

ARE YOU COVERED?

Before booking any travel, check your coverage for Out of Province/Country Medical and Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance. Even if you think you might possibly travel in the coming year, it is prudent to consider an insurance plan ahead of time. You may see some last minute deal for travel and your insurance will already be in place.

The Heritage Club has special partnership and rates with Johnson Insurance, check it out.

Reminder for those who have Johnson MEDOC

- Check your coverage before your trip
- If the trip will be over 40 days, contact Johnson to add coverage for the additional days. If you are already on a trip and decide to extend the number of days, call Johnson from your travel site to add the additional days. If you return home early, you can call Johnson to get a reduction in price for days not used.
- Make a copy of your confirmation letter from Johnson to carry with you on your trip.
- *When you receive your policy renewal letter in the fall, be sure to review it and have the additional days removed, otherwise, you will be charged for those additional days in the following year/s.*
- Your annual plan must be cancelled by October 5, otherwise it can't be cancelled until the end of the policy (September 1, each year)
- You must call for approval before obtaining any medical treatment while travelling.
- Check your policy book regarding coverage any pre existing conditions or upcoming medical assessments before travelling.
- If in doubt about a pre existing condition, contact Johnson before travelling to ensure you will be covered.



NOTE:

If you already Have MEDOC you qualify for a 5% reduction in your Home Insurance through Johnson.

For additional information or an Application Package contact the Van Fraser Office at 604 482-4311

PHOTOS IN A DRAWER

In the Nov/Dec 2018 Issue of Van Fraser News we asked our members to see if they had any old photos or memorabilia we could add to our collection.

In response to our request member John Cantello sent this photo of Vancouver Postal Station E from 1966 along with several other items.

If you recognize yourself or anyone in the photo please contact us and let us know. We'd like to put names to all the faces.



If you have any photos or items of interest for the Heritage Club, please contact us.

SPRING LUNCHEON RIVER ROCK CASINO BUFFET March 20, 2019 at 11:30 am

The Buffet at River Rock is always a highlight for our Van Fraser members. Once again, our Spring Luncheon will be there, on the second floor overlooking the Fraser River. Call your colleagues and friends and remind them to book their ticket. Last year, we had 150 people and sold out. Don't delay, get your ticket today. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.

There is easy access to the hotel on the Canada Line Sky Train and lots of free parking in the casino parking lot. Plan to stay and enjoy the slots or do some shopping in the nearby Premium Factory Outlets.



It's always a great time to meet with friends and some lucky members will walk away with some nice door prizes. We look forward to seeing you all.

IN MEMORIAM

The Van Fraser Heritage Club has received information on the passing of these club members. If you are aware of other club members who passed away in 2018 but are not shown here please let us know. It is important they be recognized and honoured.

Gloria Esperanza

Vincent Forwell

Alexander Freeland

Shigeru Nishimura

Kerry Pashak

Darryl Whiting



Gloria Esperanza



Shigeru Nishimura, known to many as Nish, Shig or Dad



Family members note Kerry Pashak's favourite activity was responding to Letters to Santa.



Darryl Whiting was very active in Van Fraser answering Santa Letters, Thomas Letters as well as a cheerful presence on many club bus trips.

DATES TO REMEMBER



February 26/19	Executive Planning Meeting
March 20/ 19	Spring Luncheon at River Rock Casino Hotel
March 23/19	15 Day Spring Bus Trip to Arizona and Las Vegas
May 18, 19, 20, 25 & 26/19	Children's Letters to Thomas, West Coast Railway Museum, Squamish
June 18/19	Summer Luncheon location TBA
June 20/19	Heritage Club Alaska Cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II
June 30/19	Heritage Club Alaska Cruise and Halibut Fishing.
August 20-21/19	Railway Mail Car Work Party, Squamish
September 8-13/19	Annual U Drive Trip to Yakima, Washington
September 20/19	30th Anniversary Gala Banquet, Continental Seafood Restaurant, Richmond
November 8/19	<i>Honouring Our Own</i> Remembrance Ceremony PPC
November 13/19	Santa Elf Orientation
November 17-20/19	4 Day Tulalip Bus Trip. Registration Form in next edition.
November 27/19	Christmas Luncheon, Greenacres Golf Club

Van Fraser activities provide opportunities for members to meet with former colleagues and friends, renew old acquaintances, and provide services to the community. Some activities simply require attendance while others need volunteer time. We look forward to seeing you at these events and/or working with you in 2019.

If you require information regarding any of these activities or would like to know how to volunteer some time please contact the Van Fraser Office at 604 482-4311 or via email at vanfrasernews@gmail.com.

GOT TOO MUCH STUFF?

One of the objectives of the Van Fraser Heritage Club is the preservation of Canada Post memorabilia, equipment and material. You can help us with this objective by donating any old Canada Post items.

If you are in the process of downsizing to a smaller home or just cleaning up and cannot store all the Canada Post items you have please don't hesitate to give them to us.

We have a large collection of items including a number of discontinued publications such The Mail Bag, published by the Vancouver Postal Club and Postmark, a national publication. Our collection of these publications is incomplete and we are always looking for copies. We also have a bound copy of the Postmaster General's Report of 1885.

We also have pieces of equipment ranging in size from old Street Letter Boxes to a small badge given to temporary Letter Carriers at Christmas and lead seals used on air mail bags. If you have any old badges, buttons, arm bands etc. we are interested in adding them to our collection.



Van Fraser has begun working with the BC Archives Society to catalogue and record the items we have in our collection.

We welcome all donations and you wish to donate items to us please contact the office at 604 482-4311 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

If you haven't completed and returned your Van-Fraser Membership Form please complete it and return it now.



Return of the form ensures your membership in the Heritage Club and eligibility for all the benefits that include Travel and Home Insurance.

You may also indicate you wish to receive information on travel opportunities and Van Fraser trips and excursions.

In order to maintain your membership in the Heritage Club and remain eligible for benefits you must complete and return the Membership Form.

Van-Fraser News

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2019 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

March 23,2019 15 day spring bus trip visiting Baker City, Oregon; Salt Lake City; Page, Arizona(2 nights); Sedona, Arizona (3 nights); Tempe, Arizona area (2nights);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. Call the Heritage Club Office.

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. Visit Cartagena, Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Puerto Chiapas, Huatculo, Manzenillo, Puerto Vallarta, San Diego, Victoria. Call for last minute prices .

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. Nice Mother's Day gift.

May 5,2019, 7 night cruise repositioning from Honolulu to Vancouver on the Noordam. Insides starting at \$958.00 pp , Windows from \$1001.00pp ,Balconies from \$1084.00 pp. These prices include cruise,air and taxes. You can fly to Honolulu for a few days pre cruise . (Hotel in Waikiki extra). Limited availability. Prices available at time of writing.

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. *This is the prime week of the season with the most daylight hours.*

June 30,2019 7 nights Alaska Cruise, Vancouver to Anchorage on the Westerdam, visit Ketchikan, Juneau ,Skagway and Glacier Bay. Inside cabins from \$974.00 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.

September 8-13/19 Yakima UDrive Trip. Watch for details in further editions.

October 6,2019 14 day Eastern Canada/New England Cruise, (including a port in Newfoundland) on the Norwegian Dawn, Quebec City to New York. Visit Quebec City (over night), la Baie, Saguenay; Corner Brook ,Newfoundland; Charlottetown; Sydney; Halifax; Saint John; Portland,Maine; Newport; New York (overnight on ship). Inside cabins start at \$1511.00 plus tax.Windows start at \$2006.00 plus taxes.Call for details and promotions.

November 17-20/19 4 day Tulalip Bus Trip. Save these days. Registration form in next edition. Complete and return immediately! This trip sells out quickly.

Advance notice : January 9/20 and January 31/20, 22 day cruise Antartica on the Zaandam. Call the Heritage Club office for details on a 22 day trip or 44 day back to back Trip.

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

