



Van- Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

RAILWAY MAIL CAR IN FEATURED IN VIDEO

There is a consensus of opinion, amongst volunteers and guests at the Westcoast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish, that Railway Mail Car 3704 is the best maintained and most interesting display in the Park. It achieved its stature from the dedicated efforts of members of the Van Fraser Heritage Club.

In July, Dayna Robinson, Manager Community Involvement and videographer Arn Chiste from HQ Ottawa, came to Squamish to prepare a video on the history of the Railway Mail Service and feature the work done by members of the Van Fraser Heritage Club to restore and preserve Railway Mail Car 3704. Commentary in the video explaining how the Railway Mail Car operated was provided in English by Fred Danells and in French by Danielle Ploude of CPC Commercial Sales, Pacific Region.



Fred Danells demonstrates the operation of a Catch Post.



Danielle Ploude provided the French Commentary for the video.

Railway Mail Car 3704 was built at the Canadian Car Foundry in Montreal in 1948 and was originally built as a combination Railway Mail Car and Baggage Car but was used only as a Railway Mail Car. It was used on a number of Railway Mail Services in Western Canada and in 1963 was put on the Vancouver/Calgary Service- the Van/Cal Railway Mail Service. The car made its last run in 1968 and was put in storage until 1988 when it was purchased, along with 50 other railway cars, by the Westcoast Railway Heritage Park.

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RAILWAY MAIL CAR (continue from Page 1)

One of the members of the Park was Nick Monkhouse, and CPC employee and Heritage Club member who brought forward the idea of the Heritage Club undertaking a restoration. Following fundraising by Van Fraser members restoration began in 1989. To ensure authenticity retired Railway Mail Clerks were asked for their input and expertise. Proper restoration to an authentic condition took several years with many hundreds of volunteer hours of labour and donation of needed materials. The Heritage Club searched for and found items such as cancelling hammers that were used at the time to ensure complete authenticity. The Official Opening Ceremony took place on August 26, 2001 with Railway Mail Clerks on hand to ensure everything in the car was as it should be and to be the ones to officially open the Car for display.

The maintenance of the Railway Mail Car is an ongoing project and for two days in August eleven Van Fraser members travelled to Squamish to clean and complete minor repairs. All the windows were sparkling clean after Anne Bentley climbed under bag racks and equipment to scrape and clean each window. Carol Burchett and Leslie Wilson cleaned all the display cabinets and display items then took a complete inventory, with photos, of all items in the Car. Brian St. Pierre finished repairs on storage closets while Rick Crompton, Ken Cornish, Brian Arnett, Mike Willems, Bruce McClacherty, Jeremy Davies and Fred Danells scraped, sanded, repaired and painted parts of the Car and the Catch Arm.

The work ensures that Railway Mail Car 3704 will remain the best exhibit in the Park. If you would like to contribute some time to this ongoing effort please contact the Van Fraser Office at 604 482-4311.



The Work Party at the end of two days effort. Left row (top to bottom) Brian McClacherty, Brent Arnett, Fred Danells, Rick Crompton. Right row (top to bottom) Brian St. Pierre, Carol Burchett, Ken Cornish.



Anna Bentley cleaning windows (Photo above). Repairing the "Rabbit Cages" in the Car. (Photo right)



TWIN SUMMER CRUISING

This summer, Van-Fraser Heritage Club members were presented the opportunity to enjoy two cruises to Alaska. Several members decided to enjoy them both!

The first cruise in June marked the arrival of the world renowned Cunard Liner, Queen Elizabeth II, for its initial voyage to Alaska. The QE II was on an *Around the World* Voyage and added several Vancouver to Alaska cruises to its schedule with stops in some of the less visited sites including Sitka and Icy Point Straight.

For all the Van Fraser Members this was their first cruise on a Cunard liner and it lived up to its reputation and tradition of exquisite service and elegant décor. "This is like cruising in the old days, much more traditional" was one of the comments regarding service, along with, *"I feel like I'm a Princess"*.



Van Fraser members enjoyed formal dining aboard the Queen Elizabeth II



Don and Gillian Cornish (seated) celebrate their Wedding Anniversary aboard ship with family (standing, left to right) Jim, Carol and Ken Cornish

Each evening there was formal dress for the restaurant with everyone looking elegant in their attire. For those who wished more relaxed dining they could choose between the Garden Lounge, the Garden Buffet or the Lion Pub to enjoy a meal and a drink.

Being a British ship, High Tea was served every day at 3 pm as classical music played in the background. There were a number of comfortable seating areas throughout the ship where travelers could pause and rest and enjoy music from one of the many bands playing a variety of music.

There was always an eight to ten piece band playing in the Main Lounge and classes for those who wished to learn to dance or refresh their skills. "I have never seen so many people dancing aboard ship", was a comment from one of the Van Fraser travelers.

A wide variety of excellent entertainment was available throughout the voyage and several lecturers provided information on a number of interesting topics. Those seeking a tranquil space visited the library with its mahogany finishing, a spiral staircase joining the two floor area, and a collection of hundreds of books.

It was a special cruise aboard a very special ship enjoyed by all. In fact, some enjoyed it so much they have already booked aboard the QE II when she returns to Vancouver next year. (Continued on Page 4)

TWIN SUMMER CRUISING (continued)

As the Westerdam cruised through Alaskan waters there was the always spectacular scenery to enjoy stops and visit ports along the way. Stops at Ketchikan and Juneau provided the opportunity to consume large quantities of Alaska King Crab. The stop at Icy Strait Point Dungeness Crab was the meal of choice.



Celebrating Canada Day aboard the Westerdam.

Once again, the highlight for many of the group was the opportunity for a Fishing Trip to Seward. Everyone caught their limit of Halibut followed by Red Snappers. The catch was processed, vacuum sealed and frozen then shipped home by air to be picked up and enjoyed throughout the year. Many of the group bought cases of salmon in Ketchikan and brought them home aboard ship.



Happy fishers with their catch (left to right) Fred Danells, Conan and Susi Hoy, and Terry Arinobou

The travelers have been asked, "which is better- Cunard or Holland America". The answer is straightforward- *Both are awesome! But with different touches!*

For anyone who is interested in the Alaska Cruise experience there is still one more cruise available.

The Noordam and Westerdam will be making a trip on September 22nd. Some Van Fraser members will be aboard taking advantage Last Minute Cruise Specials and Season Closing Sales in Alaska.

If you wish to find out what specials are still available call the Heritage Club office at 604 482-4311.

POST RETIREMENT SEMINAR WELL RECEIVED

On August 25th seventy Van Fraser members and spouses attended an all day seminar presented by the Heritage Club and conducted by member Neil Sharpham. Neil has been conducting seminars on the financial implications of retirement for Canada Post and other organizations for many years and we are fortunate to have him provide his expertise and knowledge to our members.



Neil Sharpham held the attention of seminar attendees throughout the presentation.

Attendees agreed it was valuable and useful information providing lots to think about. Neil began by saying we should not be thinking of "Retirement" but rather as a "Career Change". That Career Change includes travel, volunteer work, time with grandchildren a part time job and a myriad of other possibilities. However, Neil stressed, that whatever we choose to do in retirement it is important to have a plan in place.

Neil spoke about various component of a plan including pensions, and when to access them, investments, RRSPs, TFSA's, Taxes, Deferred Taxes, Estate Planning, Wills and many other relevant topics. He also provided a workbook for couples to review and discuss their future plans. Throughout the seminar Neil used Case Studies and Role Playing to reinforce his points.

Neil also asked participants to take the time to write a "Love Letter" to their spouses, close family member or friend which should include their wishes for activities following their death. The "Love Letter" should also include where the Will, Insurance Policies, Property Deeds, investment files and banking and credit card access information is located and finally how to contact Canada Post Pension.

Without doubt the trip home following the seminar would see seminar participants thinking and talking about the possible need to review Wills, split incomes, defer property taxes and check with CPP if they have money owing for child rearing years.

Many thanks to Neil who with his gentle humour and ability to keep people positive and focused provided everyone with the necessary information needed to make a plan. He had the group fully participating in discussions and raising excellent questions. We are fortunate to have Neil as a member who is willing to share all his knowledge and expertise.

EXECUTIVE PLANNING SESSION

On Thursday, August 15 members of the Van-Fraser Executive met at the home of Fred and Leslie Danells to complete the final details for the 30th Anniversary Banquet and review plans for other activities for the balance of the year.



Van Fraser Executive relaxing following the Planning Session,

A complete list of **Dates to Remember** is on Page 11.

Following the meeting Rene Brisette and Ken Cornish grilled up burgers and smokies for the attendees.

SANTA NEEDS YOU!



Summer is slowly coming to an end, twilight comes a little earlier and kids are getting ready to return to school.

Santa is also thinking about a return to responding to letters from

children around the world. It's a task he can't handle by himself and once again he will be looking for help.

Those of you have participated in the past know the satisfaction that comes with helping making a child's Christmas a little more special. For those who have not participated in the past this is a great opportunity to volunteer for an excellent community program.

The Refresher and Training Seminar for Elves will be held November 13th at the Pacific Processing Centre. Watch the newsletter for more information.

HONOURING OUR OWN

On Friday, November 8th the Van Fraser Heritage Club will host our Annual Honouring Our Own Ceremony. This ceremony recognizes the contribution of Post Office employees in World War I and II.



In 2018 we invited the families of Post Office employees who served in World War I to attend the ceremony. A number of family members attended and have expressed an interest to attend again this year. As a result of these requests we will be inviting families to attend once again.

This Ceremony is unique as all Post Office employees lost in both Wars are recognized on an individual basis with a short profile of each read aloud.

We hope to see many of our members in attendance and participating by reading a name or helping guide visitors. Contact the Heritage Club Office at 604 482-4311 for detailed information.

VAN FRASER ARCHIVES: *FINDING THINGS*

As the collection of items donated to and collected by the Van Fraser Heritage Club is reviewed and catalogued an interesting or unique item sometimes appears.

The letter to the right was found in a Letter Carrier Book 7 donated to our collection. It confirms a yearly raise for Letter Carrier Robert B. Park for 1949.

Also located was a near complete set of date stamps from the former Sub Post Offices network in Vancouver.

Our publication section has a full set of the *Mail Bag*, a publication of the Vancouver Postal Club that was published from 1947 to 1968. We have a near complete set of the *Postmark Magazine* but are missing editions from February 1949, October 1951, and April 1956. We are also looking for any editions of the *Canadian Postmaster* published by the Canadian Postmasters Association, the forerunner of CPAA. We also continue to look for any Regional Publications such as *Pacific Post* which was published by Corporate Communications, Pacific Division, in 1993.

Two particular areas where we have limited documentation and photos are the former Vancouver Annex in Burnaby and the Vancouver Parcel Distribution Centre in Richmond. If you have any documentation or photos you are willing to donate or share please contact the Van Fraser Office.

One of the more unique items we have received is a Memorial Plaque created to honour Clerks and Letter Carriers from the Victoria Post Office who were lost in World War I. In July the Ashton Armoury Museum, located in the Regimental Armoury of the Canadian Scottish

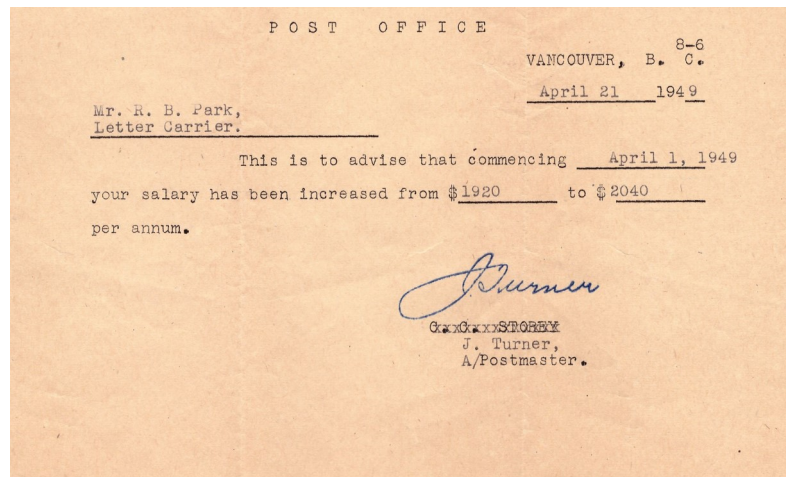


Regiment in Victoria, were cleaning out their storeroom and came across the plaque (photo below). They were looking for a suitable group to take charge of the plaque and searching on line found the Van Isle Chapter of the Heritage Club. Following contact by the Regimental Association Jim and Karen Sharpe, from Van Isle, contacted the Van Fraser Office to see if we would be interested in taking custody of the item.

The plaque is an excellent piece of woodwork, with carved inlay and lathe turned columns. It measure 24" wide and 30" high and shows the names of the six Victoria Post Office employees lost in WWI.

Unfortunately there are no markings or any indication of who made the plaque or where it was mounted. This will be a mystery to be investigated!

If you have any items, pieces of Postal memorabilia, publications or photos that you wish to donate to the Archives please call the office at 604 482-4311.



349 RENOVATIONS PHOTO UPDATE

Renovations of 349 West Georgia have now exposed almost all of the interior. You can stand on Georgia or Homer Streets and look straight through the building.

The photo right is the entrance to what was the Main Box Lobby off of Homer Street. The photo below is the south east corner of the building with the Queen Elizabeth Theatre behind.

The photo on Page 7 is the Georgia Street face of the building.

These photos were taken on Sunday, August 4, 2019.



349 RENOVATIONS PHOTO UPDATE



GREAT GOLF DAY AT THE WILLOWS

A new event, a Golf Day organized by Ken Cornish, was added to the list of summer activities available to Van Fraser Members.

The event was held August 14th at the Willows Golf Course in Surrey.

It was a great sunny day for golf and relaxing with fellow members after an enjoyable round. All the participants enjoyed the day and are ready for another round next year.

Van Fraser members enjoy a wide variety of activities and if you have an idea please let the Executive know at 604 482-4311.



Happy group of golfers at the end of a great day.

2020 SPRING BUS TRIP

A GREAT WAY TO WELCOME SPRING!

Make plans for a Spring adventure and join fellow Van Fraser members on a 14 day bus trip travelling from Vancouver to Rapid City, South Dakota, home of the famous Mount Rushmore Monument

On the way visit Spokane, Washington and Bozeman, Montana and the site of the Battle of Little Bighorn/Battle of the Greasy Grass and Custer's Last Stand.

Enjoy 5 nights in Rapid City with time to do as much or as little as you like. Each day, complimentary excursions will be offered to our travelers, visiting the "Great Eight" which make up some of the country's most iconic roadside stops, prettiest parks, quirkiest small towns, and legendary monuments.



From the scenic sweeping Missouri River, to the prairies and pinnacles of Badlands National Park, to the stony stern gaze of the Presidents at Mount Rushmore, the Great Eight is as quintessential a road trip as you will ever take. See the motorcycle capital, Sturgis, South Dakota, Mount Rushmore, the Wild West and casinos in Deadwood, Custer State Park and the Badlands, plus much much more. Travel on to Yellowstone National Park for two nights, and optional excursions throughout the park. Next, visit Cody, Wyoming and see Buffalo Bill museums and a Wild West show. Then, it is on to Boise, Oregon with a drive to the spectacular Shohane Falls and some shopping before going the next day, to Yakima, Washington, known for its apple orchards and wineries and destination for our annual UDrive trip in September for a final evening and farewell poolside reception.

The Registration Form and pricing will be available in September. To pre register and receive the form when available, call the Heritage Club Office at 604-482-4311 or email vanfrasernews@gmail.com

VAN FRASER MEMBERS WIN AWARD

Congratulations to Heritage Club Members, Jedd Derry and wife Eileen Hoster on receiving a prestigious award.

Their boutique hotel, Villa Star of the Sea, has won 2019 Award the Top Adult Only hotel in La Barra de Navidad, near Manzanillo, Mexico.

Recently, Van Fraser member Rene Brissette and his family stayed at the Villa Star of the Sea resort for a few days and had an enjoyable experience.

Jedd and Elizabeth offer the Website Price at Canadian dollars which results in a near 25% discount.

Check out the Villa Star of the Sea Website

<http://www.villastarofthesea.com/>
<http://www.lasirengadordita.com/>



LAST CALL FOR BANQUET TICKETS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This is the Last Call for tickets for the 30th Anniversary Banquet. Phone immediately before the Banquet is sold out!

30th Anniversary

TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!

All those who indicated on their Registration Form they would be attending the Banquet will have received an application for tickets is in the mail. Individuals who regularly book a table of 10 have also been sent an application in the mail. These forms should be completed and returned promptly in order to ensure space is reserved for you.

Demand for tickets for this 30th Anniversary is high, space is limited, so act quickly to guarantee your seat for this special event.



***Van Fraser
Heritage Club***

**A TICKET APPLICATION FORM
ACCOMPANIES THE NEWSLETTER.
COMPLETE AND RETURN
IMMEDIATELY!**

DATES TO REMEMBER



September 8, 2019	5 Night U-Drive to Yakima- \$55 per night
September 20, 2019	30th Anniversary Gala Banquet
October 6-19, 2019	13 Day Eastern Canada/New England Fall Foliage Cruise– Space still available
November 8, 2019	Honouring Our Own Ceremony, PPC Richmond
November 13, 2019	Santa Elf Orientation, PPC Richmond
November 17-20, 2019	3 night Tulalip Trip– <i>still a few seats left</i>
November 25, 2019	Santa Letter Writing begins at PPC and Satellite Sites
November 27, 2019	Christmas Luncheon, Green Acres Golf Course
TBA	Travel Show at the PPC with guest presenter from Collette Travel and an outline of future Cruising Opportunities.

Van-Fraser News

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in whole or part
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2019/20 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

September 8-13/19 Yakima U-Drive Trip. Drive your own vehicle or car pool with another member. Enjoy sightseeing, shopping, pool time, BBQ's, golf, shopping and more.

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 (overnight), la Baie, Saguenay; Corner Brook, Newfoundland; Charlottetown; Sydney; Halifax; Saint John; Portland, Maine; Newport; New York (overnight on ship). Inside cabins start at \$869.00 plus tax. Call for details and latest promotions. Join other members for this much requested Eastern Canada/USA tour. **Call for the latest discount prices!**

November 17-20/19 4 day Tulalip Bus Trip. Still a few seats available. Call for Registration form.

NEW!! March 15/20 48 day cruise, Repositioning Cruise. Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver, all around South America on the Koningsdam. Visit Barbados; French Guiana; 3 ports in Brazil; Uruguay; Buenos Aires, Argentina (overnight); 3 ports in Chile plus cruising the Chilean fjords; cruising through the Strait of Magellan; Peru; Costa Rica; Nicaragua; Guatemala; Puerto Vallarta; San Diego; Victoria and disembark in Vancouver! Inside cabins from \$5784.00 plus taxes. Call for a brochure and current promotions .

NEW!! PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLETTE TOURS

October 16-26, 2019 SHADES OF IRELAND , Visit Dublin, Kilkenny, Waterford, Blarney Castle, Killarney, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, and Galway. Call for current prices.

February 17-28, 2020 Sunny Portugal, Visit Portuguese Riviera, Lisbon, Sintra, Obidos, Fatima, Evora, Alentejo, Sagres, Lagos and more. \$4179.00 pp includes air, hotels and some meals.

April 14-20 , 2020 Reflections of Italy , visit Rome, Assisi, Florence and Venice. \$5664.00 pp includes air, hotels and some meals. Call the office for colourful information booklet including all the itinerary details and optional excursions with these fully guided tours with Collette.

June 22, 2020, 10day Cruise on the Queen Elizabeth, Vancouver Return. Visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka, Icy Strait, Victoria and both Hubbard and Glacier Bay. Inside cabins from \$1659.00 plus taxes.

July 13, 2020 14 day cruise on the Maasdam, "a classroom at sea". Visit Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Anchorage, Homer, Haines, Inian Islands, Valdez, Misty Fjords, Tracy Arm, Hubbard Glacier on this Vancouver Return Trip. A unique opportunity to explore the coast in depth with special lecturers, photography expert, local culinary experiences. Call the Heritage Club for detailed information sheets.

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

