



CENTRAL YUKOOTOK HERITAGE CLUB

Newsletter # 54, January 2023

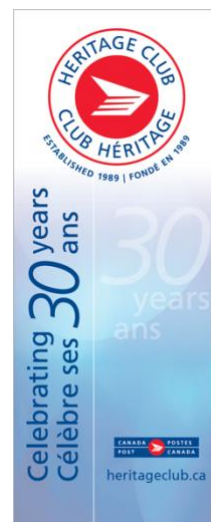
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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Welcome to 2023. Although the year is starting on a bit of a rocky road with inflation and high interest rates, hopefully things will improve and settle down and we will have a prosperous year.

To those of you who were not in attendance at our General Meeting and banquet lunch, you will not be aware that I announced that myself, as President and Wanda our secretary, allowed our names to stand for one final term ending in 2024. Please see the enclosed minutes from the general meeting.

We are now seeking people who would like to step forward in an interim capacity in order for them to become familiar with the operation of the heritage Club. It is now in the hands of the membership to decide if they wish the chapter to thrive or be shelved.

In the meantime, we look forward to some enjoyable get together over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Gary

Vernon Council; submitted by Wanda Fisher

We held our Christmas get together on December 19 at Asian avenue with thirteen people in attendance. Audrey Ewanchuk was the winner of the house draw.

Kelowna Council; submitted by Fred Jarvis.

Happy New Year everyone. We pray that the New Year finds you well and hope for a great year ahead for everyone.

The Kelowna Chapter held their annual Christmas luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion, and it was one of the best yet. There were 24 members in attendance including 5 from the North Okanagan area, a most welcome addition. We had members bring a small gift for a donation and we sold tickets for a draw. The only stipulation was that if a couple won a prize then they were not eligible for another one until all couples or singles in attendance had a gift. Then all the tickets were put back in for the remaining gifts to be given out. We raised \$110. For the Okanagan Food bank and \$35. For the Salvation army Christmas fund. Thanks everyone for supporting these two great Charities. It was much appreciated. Photo below:

On another note, it was decided at the Banquet held in Vernon in September that there would be a donation of \$500 for the Kelowna General Hospital foundation.. Fred Jarvis presented the cheque to KGH Foundation in October.

We plan to have a luncheon in April or May, but the date has not been finalized as yet. I will send out an email when that is set up.



The only other thing to mention is that a lot of people join the Heritage Club to have access to the great travel insurance through Johnson Inc., which is a tremendous benefit, but most chose not to partake in the local events being held and that is too bad. A get together once or twice a year for a luncheon is social and most welcome by those who attend. Maybe we'll see more people coming out this year.

On a sad note, Diane Adolph, who worked for a few years with Canada Post, passed away in late December. In 2014 Diane married Mike Nellaney, who worked for many years as a Supervisor in Kelowna. Mike and Diane's family had a memorial service on January 4, 2023, and it was a good tribute to Diane. Our Condolences to you Mike in the loss of your wife.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNCIL: - submitted by Gwen Murphy.

After meeting with Curator Maria Martens in the spring, we did pull off a Social, actually at the museum site on August 20th, with 12 members in attendance.

We were able to confirm and introduce interim council positions, Gary Schmidt President, Pat Rogers treasurer and Gwen Murphy Secretary. Thanks were given to those who have worked to keep this council alive, and we are delighted that Gary, Les Redding, Sheryl Hannam and Pat Kinsley have stepped up to inject new life and great support. We are also very grateful to those who have joined us in phoning and emailing

for our socials. We encourage others to come forward and lend a hand in sharing these tasks. Adding this support makes it all the more fun and less work for each.

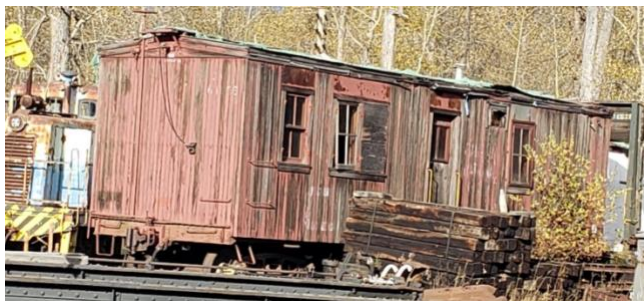
Gwen welcomed everyone and reported on the progress that has happened since our meeting in the spring regarding a rail mail boxcar, followed by a lively round table discussion. Pat Kinsley gave a talk on Volunteer hours and how vital to organizations these numbers were to our, and any club we belong to.

We were thrilled to pass along greetings from Trelle Morrow, a local historian and author, among other things: who had written a book called "100 years of Fort George Mail" and had given a fantastic presentation of this information at one of our socials, in a railway dining car, in 2011. He has very generously offered us access to his collection of information. We are thrilled and hope to get on that before too long.

The museum catered a gorgeous array of sandwiches, vegetable and fruit trays and beverages along with sweets provided by Pat Rogers. Some toured the site afterward. Among other door prizes, Elaine Langton won a Postie Bear which had been donated by our past president Noreen Stubley.

We did have an enjoyable social at the end of October held at Magnolia Gardens hosted by Pat Rogers and Faye Croft. We had 15 people out including a few new folks, which is encouraging. Gary Schmidt welcomed everyone, members and former posties, Doug Tedford, Rory Thorell and Shannon Doucette. Reports were given including the process in reactivating the previous bank account, and the recent meetings held with Curator Maria Martins at the Forestry and Railway Museum. Gwen Murphy brought several Albums containing a host of pictures and newspaper articles on the history of Prince George post office, and staff through the years. We all enjoyed the Chinese Buffet we had delivered. Coffee & an assortment of squares provided by Faye Croft. In house draw was won by Shannon Doucette, followed with door prizes provided by Pat Rogers; and Sheryl Hannam, who donated postal memorabilia.

As previously referred to, we did indeed, obtain a secure locked railway boxcar from the Railway & Forestry Museum, in which we have begun a collection for the Rail Mail Car future exhibit. We have now hauled an old metal faceup table, a large wooden sorting case, as well as numerous other items, to store in the car until we are ready to move further along. During one of our coldest blustery winter conditions this past year, we



had been given an antique letter sorting case made of heavy hardwood. Needing a truck and manpower to move it, the staff at the Museum came to our rescue and very efficiently secured our recent treasure in the locked boxcar. We must have a completed form for each item to be stored here. Each item will then be cataloged, giving the donor's name, whether donated or placed for display, description etc. This car will not be the actual one in which we hope to have a display.

The actual car which we have seen, (pictured here) is in very good shape foundationally but will need refurbishing from the frame up. We sincerely hope to be able to get together again before spring, and we would love to have a few more members to help with organizing, as well as with the collection and documentation of items for storage.

We are now on the downhill slide to the end of winter, so hang on everyone! Days are getting longer, and other than a week of cold weather, we have been spared a lot of winter troubles. So, let's keep our chin up & look for spring around the corner... albeit a long curve. I did have deer tracks on my sidewalk this morning, so they are already checking for my tulips to pop out under the window where the snow melts early..!

'Heard a rumor', that a social could be happening.



CHAPTER NEWS-



The Heritage Club exists to promote volunteerism within the community and ambassadors of the Corporation and promote the camaraderie and fellowship of long service and retired employees. The motto of the group is 'People Helping People'

It was a very quiet fall of 2022 with no activities or gatherings. This was due to the fact that the main organizer for most of the councils, Wanda Fisher, became very involved in a Vernon Fundraiser which took place on November 19 at Vernon's Heritage Town Cinema. Wanda personally created and organized the very successful fundraiser in support of Vernon's 'Caetani Cultural Centre'. The event consisted of a screening of Jim Elderton's documentary film, "Svena Imprisoned" musical entertainment, a raffle for business-donated gift baskets, as well as a month-long artist show and sale. The event raised close to \$6,000 for the Centre.

Gary and Wanda Fisher attended the annual Presidents' Meetings which was held in Quebec City in September. The chapter representatives from 23 of the 24 chapters all enjoyed the successful event and were especially happy to see each other for the first time since 2019. The minutes from those meetings are available to the Heritage Club members on the web site.

The main event for the Central Yukootok Chapter 29 was our general meeting and banquet on September 28 and 29. The desert Meet and Greet was well attended and everyone had a good time socializing and enjoyed the in-house draw. The general meeting was held on the morning of the 29th with only 16 members including the executive in attendance. The minutes follow later in this newsletter. The buffet lunch followed with 41 attending, all of whom had a good visit and enjoyed all the fun with the in-house draw and door prizes. Although the attendance was disappointing, there was good representation from most areas of our chapter, including Prince George, the Cariboo, Hope, the Okanagan, the Kootenays and Kamloops. It was hoped that there would be more members participating from the Okanagan and Kamloops.

Looking forward to 2023, we hope to hold some gatherings beginning in the early spring. We will have faith that more people will want to get together, although we understand that many folks are still leery of COVID and its related viruses. You will find enclosed in this newsletter a membership form for 2023. If you have already paid your dues, please disregard this form. Membership in the Heritage Club entitles you to Johnson Insurance (Medoc) travel and house insurance, 50% off regular club access rates with GoodLife Fitness, travel discounts with Collette Tours and opportunities to apply for Heritage Club scholarships for your children or

grandchildren valued at \$2000. As well as the remaining newsletter for the year. It has been decided that there will now be 3 newsletters instead of 4, so please pay close attention to the dates of events or gatherings so that you do not miss an important date.

- Also please, inform us of any address or email address changes and of any deaths.
- Don't forget to complete and send back your volunteer hours form.

CENTRAL YUKOOTOK CHAPTER 29
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Location: Prestige Hotel Vernon

The meeting opened at 9:53 a.m.

Present were ---President Gary Fisher, 1st Vice President John Barrowclough, Treasurer Ed Ewanchuk, Secretary Wanda Fisher and 12 members.

Ed reported that there was an account balance of \$11,114.89. This would change following the expenses from the General meeting and dinner. We had 212 active members and 129 associate members. Ed also reported that there were three uncashed donation cheques.

Gary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Gary outlined the situation with the three uncashed donation cheques to the Canada Post Community Foundation for \$700; the Kordyban Lodge for \$500; and the National Clinic in Vancouver for \$500. None of the cheques issued in November 2021 were ever cashed due to complications of COVID. Following a discussion, Sandra Postnicoff made a motion to disregard these donations and move on to the donations for 2022. All were in Favour.

Gary reported that we had donated several Canada Post framed prints still in our possession to the Junior Football Association for their use.

Gwen Murphy gave a great report from the Prince George Council. They have a new Council and have reactivated their bank account. They had held some socials and meetings. They had been in talks with the Central Railway and Forestry Museum to begin work on a future mail rail car. They now have storage at the museum to house donations that they have already received. So far, they have a small committee to organize work on the rail car. They are looking for more donations related to history of rail mail in the future. They also had participated in a Penny Days Festival, that is held annually at the Museum. Penny is located on the CN rail line East to Jasper. A Table was set up and with volunteer Heritage club members Les Redding, Gary Schmidt, Gwen Murphy, and Faye Croft. They gave information of Heritage Club, photo albums of the early years of the post office in Prince George, and the role that rail mail delivery played in the early years across Canada.

Gary reported that we had received our seed money from the National office of \$2000. This figure is based on the platinum group of chapters which have 200 +members.

There was a discussion regarding financial donations for the year. Fred Jarvis suggested the Kidney Dialysis at KGH. Several members suggested the hospital foundations. Marg Wernick made a motion to donate \$2,000. Each to the Kelowna General Hospital and the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation. John Barrowclough second the motion. All were in favour.

There was discussion regarding the bi-annual general meeting to be held in Prince George in 2024. This had been predetermined at an executive meeting in August. Some members felt that Prince George is out of the way, suggesting that there were more towns and cities clustered around the southern part of our area. However, it was noted that there are just as many towns and cities clustered around Prince George. Gary and Wanda both pointed out that the reason the executive had chosen Prince George for the location was due to the tremendous surge in activity within the Prince George council in the past several months, and they felt Prince George Council deserved the right to hold the event. Also, the General Meeting had never been held in the northern part of the Chapter's area.

Pam Dyrda asked why there could not be an annual general meeting. The reason for that is because of the chapters huge area which makes travelling annually for members onerous.

There was a discussion on why members do not participate in Chapter get togethers, meetings, etc. Fred Jarvis reported that he had tried several different events such as golf, bocce, bowling, and all were always poorly attended. No one seems to have an answer for the dilemma, but it was noted that most members only wanted to have membership in order to be eligible for Johnson Insurance travel insurance.

Gary introduced Frank Wernick to lead the election. Before the election was held, Gary Fisher announced that he as President and Wanda Fisher as Secretary would let their names stand for one more term only, ending in September 2024. At that time, it will be up to the membership to decide if they wish the Chapter to continue operation by electing new executive positions, or to allow the chapter to cease to exist. The election results were as follows:

President: Gary Fisher by acclamation

1st Vice President: John Barrowclough by acclamation

2nd Vice President: Gil Summerell by acclamation

Secretary: Wanda Fisher by acclamation

Treasurer: Ed Ewanchuk by acclamation

Meeting was then adjourned.





Many members spend hours volunteering within their communities. I would like for future issues of our newsletter, to receive from other councils, information of someone they feel is deserving of our recognition. I know we will not be able to do justice to all that are so deserving, and many of us go years quietly working in the background, always there to lend that helping hand, and to all of you that do, we 'salute' you. This is especially true of so many postal employees and associates, who give freely of their time and expertise. And so today, in need of an article to fill a space on this page and having recently attended this grand 'old English tea', I approached Pat Kinsley. To begin with, getting her consent and tracking her down, not an easy feat because as usual, Pat was volunteering at the senior centre that morning. Not many days she is not in one capacity or another, either transporting, getting those less fortunate to appointments, doctors, health agencies, etc.. If someone new moves into our city, you can rest assured an introduction to Pat, will answer any questions, ensure a warm welcome, and a personal tour and introduction in making the transition to their new home.

So today folks, we salute 'PAT KINSLEY'.

Family and friends gathered at the Hart Pioneer Centre for a Birthday tea to celebrate 'Pat's 75th Birthday'.



CONDOLENCES: (That we are aware of)

Condolences are extended to the family of Daniel Ernewein of Penticton who passed away in November. Dan joined Canada Post in Prince George after a successful career in the Canadian Armed Forces, as a letter carrier in 1984, retiring in 2008, later moving to Penticton with his family.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of May Scheumann (Hodgson) and extend sincere condolences to the family. May worked for Canada Post as a Letter Carrier in Prince George until retiring and leaves behind many friends and co-workers that cherish memories of May.

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Diane Adolph of Kelowna. Diane passed away in late December.



January 2023

Greetings,

Re- Railway-Postal -Boxcar,

We, as past and present postal workers, and associates, are proud to bring this great project forward with the help of the Central B.C. Railway & Forestry Museum.. They have provided a space for us to gather and itemize material with the expectations for a full display so that we can create a bit of history for the public. This will be a permanent display to show how vital the railway system was in reaching this vast disconnected country. The early mail was brought to towns and cities all across Canada by this railway system, Prince George and area was no exception.

We need help with this once-in-a-lifetime project, and we invite your participation and help with input, your knowledge, and a desire to get involved.

This is a worthwhile project, so we hope you will get as excited about this as we are. If you have items or artifacts of early postal history, or personal experience prior to 1980 and would like to share, 'PLEASE DO come forward.'

As of September, the Museum has provided a locked boxcar for storage that will fit items as a large table and sorting case. The Museum has also generously offered us access to a meeting room, as well as allowing Heritage members to add items at our convenience, and to work in the boxcar when there is staff on site. With great enthusiasm we look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to extend appreciation to Maria and the Museum staff for this historic opportunity.

Gratefully,

Les Redding

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Gary Schmidt, Interim President

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Central BC Railway & Forestry Museum

7 July 2022

Greetings Canada Post Heritage Club: Yukootok Chapter members,

This letter is to inform you of an exciting partnership opportunity between the Canada Post Heritage Club and the Central BC Railway & Forestry Museum in Prince George, BC. After internal deliberation, the museum has agreed to accept a collection of Canada Post artifacts with the intention of creating a permanent mail-car exhibition. The building of this space, the creation of the display, and fundraising for the endeavour would be undertaken in partnership between the museum and the club.

We need your help! Our partnership and project planning are still in a very early stage. Any input, knowledge, or skills you can share would be greatly appreciated. This project will take time and dedication to make reality, but it is more than worth it. The exhibition will provide a space for community members to learn about the development of Canada Post in the north, and the railway's central role in it.

As the museum's Curator, I wished to write this letter to show how grateful we are for this opportunity, and to express how serious our intentions are.

Sincerely,

Maria Martins

Curator