



NEWS

Chinook Chapter Heritage Club

Presidents Message

Hello All,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health.

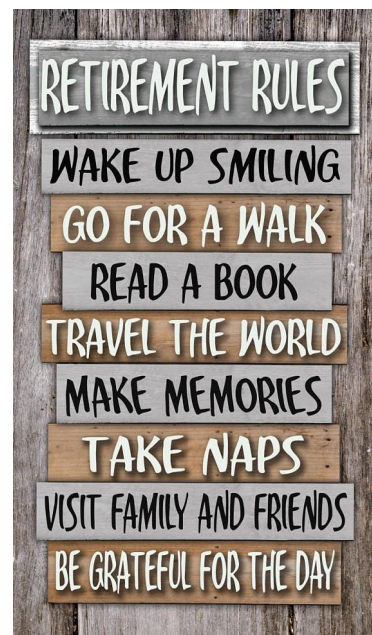
You will find your 2021 Membership renewal included in this newsletter. I am sure that a lot of our members are wondering whether to renew or not. You are probably not travelling as much as you were pre-pandemic and are not going to the gym. I would like you to consider that we will eventually be out of this pandemic and the world will be open to us again. The benefits that your membership provides will then be important to you. The Chinook Chapter needs your support now, please renew so that we are still here when you are ready to move forward and re-engage. To this end, we have re-instated our Travel section with Travel opportunities for 2021 from our friends in our Van-Fraser Chapter for the adventurous members among us.

As we mentioned in our Summer newsletter we have continued our luncheons as some of our members had requested us to do so and although our numbers are not back to pre-Covid the luncheons have been well received by attending members and we will continue them into the Fall with the current mandated Phase 2 requirements in place. With that in mind, we are going to try to hold our AGM this year after our October luncheon and are hoping that some of our usual attendees will be there. Information on the AGM can be found on page 3.

So, until we can get back to our regular routines, stay safe everyone and have a great Fall.

Laurie Reid
President
Chinook Chapter, Calgary

2020
Fall Edition
Issue #50



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WELCOME
THANKS FOR JOINING US

**Welcome to Members who recently registered with the
Heritage Club - National Office**

Dhammika Hewa Wellappulige - Calgary

Welcome to New Members of the Chinook Chapter

**Geoffrey Ball - Calgary
Annette Beisick - Red Deer
Fernand Dionne - Medicine Hat
Sandra Groves - Red Deer
Lyndon Isaac- Lethbridge**

**Our
Deepest
Condolences**



**The Chinook Chapter is pleased to advise that we
have no reported Deaths in this quarter.**



**CHINOOK CHAPTER
Luncheon and
Annual General Meeting**

Winston Golf Club
2502 - 6 Street NE
Calgary, AB

LUNCH (Roast Beef) commences at 12:00 PM - Meeting at
1:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Price: \$22.00

You may attend the meeting only, at no cost

Meeting Agenda:

- Review of October 29, 2019 AGM minutes
- Financial Status
- Executive Elections - positions up for Election are open to all active 2020 dues paid members
- Audit Volunteers for 2020
- Proposal of motion for 2020 Charity Benefactors and Donation amounts

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**Any member wishing to Renew their Membership may do so
before or after the AGM**

**RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY IF YOU ARE ATTENDING
LUNCH**

PLEASE call:

Katrina (Kathy) Duffin
Email: katrinaduffin@shaw.ca

Phone: 587-834-1622

Before 10:00 A.M. on the Friday before the luncheon



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020

We are hoping that we will be able to continue with the Remembrance Day activities during Covid -19. With that in mind would you consider volunteering to lay a wreath during services should they proceed. We need volunteers for the following locations:

Calgary - Lethbridge - Medicine Hat - Red Deer
Please email: heritagechinook@shaw.ca and include in the subject line "Wreath Volunteer".

Please reply no later than October 31,2020.

SANTA LETTER WRITING PROGRAM



Our Chapter really appreciates the numerous Chinook Chapter members who have lent their support over the years to the Santa Letter Writing Program.

If you are looking for a way to volunteer in your community this is a great way to start and helps to support the Heritage Club and Canada Post Corporation.

There could be possible changes to the program this year as a result of COVID-19. With that in mind, we will need to know how comfortable our members are in supporting the program this year.

We will be contacting all of our members, shortly, who indicated on their 2019 membership renewal forms that they were interested in answering Santa's letters. If you are not sure that you are on the list and want to volunteer for the program you can verify this information by contacting our Chapter at:

heritagechinook@shaw.ca

You may also, contact us at the above email address if you have any questions regarding the program.



VJ Day (Victory over Japan) and one of our own **Mr. Adam Houston**

Mr. Adam Houston was born in 1921 in Scotland; he is 99 years of age. He deserves to be acknowledged for the life he has lived and the journey that life has taken him through. He has been too frail to attend our Social functions but has always kept up with our club's business and a generous supporter of Simcoe Chapter charity causes.



In 1956 Mr. Houston immigrated to Canada. He started working in the Post Office in 1957 as a postal clerk. He studied to further himself over the course of nine years by taking evening classes after work. He attended all his management courses at Ryerson Polytech before it became a university. Mr. Houston worked his way to the position of Superintendent of Operations. He was one of the first management representatives that opened the South Central Letter Processing Plant in 1979; until he retired. Mr. Houston and his wife Agnes went to Taiwan in 2005, attended a week of remembrance events sponsored by the Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society there. They were able to visit the sites of the former camps where Adam was held as a POW and also attend a Remembrance Day service on the site of the old Kinkaseki Camp.

Mr. Houston served for Britain in World War II. He was captured in Singapore and sent on the hellship England Maru to Taiwan (part of the Japanese Empire back then) and held as a Prisoner of War in Taiwan for three years from 1942 to August 1945.

Here I am attaching a letter I which I received from Michael Hurst MBE Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society

Hello Anna,

Nice to hear from you and it is good that you are doing an article on Adam. He worked for the post office for many years and was instrumental in making changes and implementing new systems which are still in use today. We have been friends for many years, and I am currently in touch with his daughter as he is currently not well.

Yes, Adam and his wife Agnes visited Taiwan in November 2005 as part of our annual Remembrance Week program where we take former POWs and / or their family members on visits to the camps and hold memorial services in their honour.

A brief description of his time as a POW - Adam was captured at the fall of Singapore in February 1942 and spent the following nine months there as a prisoner at Changi and doing work for the Japanese - cleaning up bomb damage, repairing the infrastructure etc. Then in late October 1942, he was put on a 'hellship' with 1,100 other men and sent to Taiwan.

He was first sent to Kinkaseki (Japanese for Jinguashi) to work down the terrible copper mine in horrendous conditions. In some places the temperatures were over 40C and other places were very cold and damp. The men were required to produce so much output of ore in a day or they were beaten with the hardwood handles of mining hammers.

As in all the Japanese POW camps there was so little food and much sickness, and disease was rampant as the Japanese gave the POW doctors so little medicine to work with. Men died from starvation, overwork, diseases, and beatings from the guards. There were 14 Japanese-run POW camps in Taiwan, and in all over 10% of the more than 4,350 Taiwan POWs died.

Later Adam became too sick and weak to work down the mine, so he was transferred to another camp in Taipei (where I live) and forced to work at various hard labour jobs there as well. Finally, in March 1945, he was moved again to a sort of hospital camp in the southern part of the island, where he managed to regain some of his health and survived.

On the surrender of the Japanese in August 1945, the men in the camp were moved back to Taipei to await evacuation by American and British navy ships. They were first taken to Manila in the Philippines for medical care and treatment and then were sent on their way home again - most arriving back in the UK in November and December 1945. Some men however, who were too sick to send home right away were sent to Australia and New Zealand for further medical care and Adam was one of those sent to Australia. After several months there he returned home to Scotland in January 1946.

I hope this helps to fill you in a bit on Adam's story. As the 75th anniversary of VJ Day is coming on August 15th, this is certainly an appropriate time to do an article on a very brave and courageous man who later immigrated to Canada and served the country so well.

I am attaching a photo of Adam in WWII from our website. I suggest that you check out the site for more information. It is located at www.powtaiwan.org. If you click on the CAMPS page in the menu you will see a map of the POW camps in Taiwan. You can use that in your article if you wish. Then click on the names in the camps listing and a new page will open with details of the camp. You can look at Kinkaseki, Taihoku Camp #6 and Shirakawa.

OK, I hope that helps and if you have any further specific questions, let me know and I'll do my best to answer. Take care, stay safe in the virus and good luck with the article. When it is finished and published in your newsletter please send me a copy of the article or newsletter for our archives.

With best regards,

Michael Hurst MBE

Director, Taiwan POW Camps Memorial Society Please visit our website at:
www.powtaiwan.org

As published in the Simcoe Chapter June Newsletter



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

RAILWAY MAIL CAR TO BE PREMIER EXHIBIT

As with so many other tourist attractions, the Corona Virus Pandemic has closed the West Coast Railway Park in Squamish.

This closure has provided an opportunity to refurbish the exterior of the Railway Mail Car with a more permanent coat of paint. Since Van Fraser members assumed the responsibility for maintaining the Railway Mail Car in 1989 they have worked on the car twice a year. This often included climbing onto the roof of the car, at some risk, to sand and paint. The winter weather would beat away the paint on the process would need to be repeated each spring.



Van Fraser President Fred Danells (centre) thanks the Railway Mail Car painting crew David Walmsley, Dave Heine and Blaine Thompson.

This year's closure allowed the car to be moved into the CNR Workshop across from the park where it could be worked on inside. A volunteer team from the park consisting of David Wamsley and his helpers Dave Hein and Blaine Thompson undertook the task of sanding the entire car and dealing with the 55 decayed areas including some on the roof. The repaired areas were filled with industrial grade filler then sanded smooth. Extremely high quality undercoat and paint, supplied by Cloverdale Paints in Squamish, were applied in partnership with and under the guidance of D.A. Walmsley & Co.

The car was painted in Tuscan Red, the original colour, with a black undercoat and roof. A great job was done by Dave and his team and is now ready to go back on display. Gord Bell, Manager of the West Coast Railway Park, said "The mail car looks great and we are planning to house it in the Carshop going forward which will help with exterior preservation."

Railway Mail Car 3704 will now be on display in the Interior Hall alongside the fabled Royal Hudson.

(Continued on Page 2)

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RAILWAY MAIL CAR - continued

As with any restoration of this size each task revealed more work that had to be done before work could go on. One day Dave and Blaine removed a 150 pound brake beam from a derelict train car which they then mounted on the Railway Mail Car to provide a working handbrake. It was a challenging job but completed successfully.

Also, the north end door threshold and lower door jambs were replaced and covered with super epoxy primer. A new threshold was welded on the door.

Going forward Van Fraser volunteers can now focus on the museum exhibits inside the car continuing to add to the displays and to begin creating information placards for each artifact. Van Fraser is committed to ensuring our heritage is well presented to the public.

The West Coast Railway Park is scheduled to open to the public on July 1/20 and will only be open on following weekends. Staff are developing procedures to ensure a safe opening and experience for visitors.

The Thomas the Tank event has been rescheduled to October and as usual Van Fraser volunteers will be on hand to provide letter writing activity for the children. In December The Polar Express will go ahead on four consecutive weekends.

Many of us will be planning "staycations" close to home this year. An exciting trip could include a few nights in a Squamish hotel and visits to many of the attractions in the area including the West Coast Railway Museum,



Photo above— preparing the roof of the RMC for painting.

Photo left— the job completed.



The Britannia Beach Mining Museum, Shannon Falls, the Sea to Sky Gondola and a day at Whistler.

Watch the newsletter for notice of a One Day Trip to the West Coast Railway Park to see our refurbished Railway Mail Car and all the other Railway Cars on display.

We will provide this trip once it is safe to travel in a group.

RAILWAY MAIL CAR Cont'd

Following a very successful restoration project of what may be the only Railway Mail car left in Canada, the Van-Fraser Chapter of the Heritage Club has asked for our help in collecting any stories and experiences from former Railway Mail Clerks.

The information collected on the Railway Mail Service has primarily come down to us from old Canada Post publications. As the last Railway Mail Service ended in 1971, CPC employees who worked in this branch of the service are now getting on in years, and now would be the time to collect those stories and photos for posterity.

The first Railway Mail cars appeared on Canadian railways in 1854 and were the first to be used in North America. Railway Mail Service revolutionized traditional mail transportation by increasing processing and delivery speeds and reaching remote and isolated communities.

Vancouver- Fraser would appreciate if you could put the word out, if you know a former Railway Mail Clerk who would be kind enough to donate some anecdotes of their service or photos.

You can contact our Chapter (heritagechinook@shaw.ca) or Van-Fraser Chapter (vanfrasernews@gmail.com) directly if you prefer.

Any "Postie" or Rail fan visiting BC should not miss the West Coast Railway Park in Squamish, which houses this last remaining Railway Mail car, as well as other attractions like Canada's most beautiful steam locomotive, the Royal Hudson



We have included the latest information from our Friends in Van-Fraser Chapter's May/June newsletter below. Please be advised, however, that we can not guarantee the availability of any trips listed. Please ensure you contact the Van-Fraser Chapter immediately if you see something of interest to you as their occupancy for these trips is limited and is offered to their members first.

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May/June 2020

2020 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

November 15-18, 2020 4 Day Tulalip Bus Trip. Visit downtown Seattle and enjoy 3 nights in the deluxe Tulalip Resort for Pre Black Friday shopping, sightseeing, spa and pool time, casino, dining and lots of social time. \$435.00 per person based on double occupancy.

February 2, 2021 25 night Hawaii on the Koningsdam, San Diego return. Cruise from San Diego to Hawaii, visit Nawiliwili, Honolulu (overnight), Lahaina, Kona, Hilo and Kilauea Volcano. After Hawaii, visit Ensenada, Mexico, San Diego, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. Inside cabins from \$2690.00 plus taxes \$338.01 pp. Ask about price for package that includes all you can drink, specialty dinners and prepaid gratuities!

February 27, 2021 7 night Mexico Cruise, on the Koningsdam, San Diego return. Inside cabins from \$779.00 plus taxes \$136.00 pp. Join other members who will be on the ship arriving from Hawaii as you visit Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas.

May 2021 13 day Spring Bus visiting Rapid City, South Dakota for five days seeing all the parks in the area, including amount Rushmore, Custer, Badlands, Deadwood and 2 days in Yellowstone National Park. Call for availability. ****Watch for news about next year's trip****

June 14, 2021 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. Opportunities for fishing. Call the Heritage Club for detailed information sheets and for current price.

NOTE: This sailing has been rescheduled to 2021 and is available to book now. Inside cabins from \$2079.00 CAD pp plus taxes and windows from \$2599.00 CAD pp plus taxes. This offer includes a signature beverage package (up to 15 drinks a day), prepaid gratuities, \$75.00 OBC and a deposit refundable til March 2021. **Call for lower prices available without the amenities or with a non refundable deposit.**

July 2, 2021 10 day Alaska cruise on the Queen Elizabeth. Visit Glacier Bay, Skagway, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Icy Strait Point, Sitka, and Victoria. Inside cabins from \$1598.00 plus taxes and window cabins from \$1988.00 CAD pp plus taxes. Includes all the Cunard luxuries.

October 4, 2021 11 night/ 15 night/ 7 night New England and Caribbean cruises on the Empress of the Seas, Montreal to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Call for prices and details on these three itineraries or plan back to back cruises for 33 days!

January 5/22 and January 27/22 Two 22 day cruises around South America and Antarctica on the Westerdam. Cruise one segment or cruise back to back for 44 days and two Antarctica experiences. Call now for details and to reserve your cabin.

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 2021 and paid your dues to be covered. Contact the Heritage Club office for info on MEDOC and for more information on any trips. Also, information for MEDOC coverage for your family and friends. Van Fraser Heritage Club: 604 482-4311 or email:

NOTE: Cruise prices and air fares change regularly as new promotions are introduced. To be sure you have current information and best price call the office and be sure you have ticked the Travel Club box on your annual registration form. We frequently send emails with travel updates to those members on the Travel Club distribution list.



Membership

Annual Dues Renewal

Dues Structure

The Chinook Chapter will maintain our dues per member again at \$10.00 for 2021.

Please verify and correct any information required on your 2021 “Chinook Chapter Active Membership Information” Sheet (**orange attachment**) and return it along with your dues at your earliest convenience in the pre-addressed envelope which is also included. If you are paying dues for multiple years, please note that on your form. Should you choose a more generous fee for 2021 please note on the form what amount is beyond the basic due fee and indicate same as a donation. Thank You!

BECOME A MEMBER
What Are You Waiting For?
Join Today!

Not a current Member of the Chinook Chapter? Has your membership lapsed? Please join or rejoin us. Membership to the Chapter comes with perks such as reduced membership fees to Good Life Fitness and great rates for travel and home/auto insurance with Johnson insurance.

Membership is \$10.00 per year (Membership runs from January thru to December). Just send us your completed membership form (found on page 13) along with your dues.

2021

Chinook Chapter Heritage Club

(circle applicable case) NEW MEMBER - PREVIOUS MEMBER

Registration and Dues Form

Members Name (please print) _____

Name of significant other _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Start Date with CPC: _____ mo/day/year

Are you retired? _Y/N_ Date of Retirement _____ **Years of Service** _____

Any comments, suggestions and interests you would like to share with us:

TRAVEL CLUB _____ **SANTA LETTERS** _____ **GOLF** _____

COMMITTEE WORK (ASSIST CHAPTER EXECUTIVE) _____

LUNCH WITH OTHER MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA _____

CULTURAL _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS YOU HAVE DONATED IN 2020 _____

***Please make cheque (\$10.00) payable to:
Chinook Chapter, Heritage Club***

MAIL TO:

**ATTN: Kathy Cunningham, Treasurer
Chinook Chapter Heritage Club
PO BOX 36118 LAKEVIEW RPO
CALGARY AB T3E 7C6**

Membership Dues enclosed: \$ _____
(Membership year runs from January to December)

Thank you

Emailed notifications: If we have your correct email address on file, we will communicate with you by that means. One exception is our Fall Newsletter which is mailed to everyone.

If you prefer to receive our Spring/Summer/Year-end Newsletters via Canada Post please indicate (hardcopy) on the registration form beside the email address line.

However, it is beneficial for you to provide your email address, because we will have the means to quickly distribute information that is pertinent to the pensions or an event that may be of interest to you. Provide us with the email address but write (hardcopy) beside it so we know you are an exception for quarterly newsletters. Also, if you are on Facebook, keep an eye on our Chinook Chapter Heritage Club page for posts.

Contact Us:

Chinook Chapter
Heritage Club
PO BOX 36118 LAKEVIEW RPO
CALGARY, AB T3E 7C6

Phone: 587-998-9769

heritagechinook@shaw.ca

All contact with the Chapter may be handled through written correspondence to our address, by phone, email or via Facebook

Check out our Heritage Club National Website:
<http://heritageclub.ca/>

This is your Newsletter

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for activities, projects or even charitable contributions for our Club.

What's happening in your Town or City? Do you have an article you would like us to publish? Do you need help organizing a Luncheon or event in your area? Let us know. We can help.

This is your club, help us to give you what you want!



Your Executive:

President: Laurie Reid

1st Vice Pres.: Katrina Duffin

2nd Vice Pres.: Carolyn Paulson

Treasurer: Kathryn Cunningham

Secretary: Evelle Rock

