



SIMCOE CHAPTER– CANADA POST HERITAGE CLUB

72 Leuty Avenue Toronto, Ont. M4E 2R4

Newsletter – July 2020

Hello Everyone and hope we are all staying home and staying safe.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for May 29th to June 1st in Quebec City, Quebec for all Heritage Club chapters was cancelled. This is a first in the Club's thirty-one year's history. The AGM is a great opportunity for all Chapter presidents to meet and share ideas of what each chapter is doing for their members. There are **currently 28 Active Chapters with a total of 22,557 Members** across Canada. In Simcoe Chapter we have a total of **849 members with 105 paid members and 21 paid associate members**. A special thank you again to all of you for becoming paid members in 2020. The funding that we receive from the National Executive given out at the AGM is based on how many paid members we had during the previous year. This money helps us to be able to provide subsidized lunch prices for our members. We are always looking for new members and encourage you to promote the Simcoe Heritage Club to any of your friends or co-workers who meet the criteria of **25 years of service working or retired with Canada Post or 10 years of service retired**. Our Membership dues of ten dollars a year gives us access to discounted Goodlife membership fee and promotional rates for Johnson Insurance and Medoc Travel.

You could mail membership dues to 72 Leuty Avenue Toronto, Ontario M4E 2R4. We encourage you to use our Email Transfer option to simcoe.heritage2018@gmail.com; this will be easier for us during this pandemic .

At the 2019 Summer AGM meeting, Lea had informed the National Executives of Ann and her intention of stepping down from their positions and was told that the chapter could be dissolved and have members moved to any one of the two chapters in the area – Humber in Mississauga or Pineridge in Durham Region. Lea and Ann did not want this outcome so they decided to stay on and reached out to members for someone to take over the chapter. I did not want our chapter to be merged and lose its Identity, so I stepped up and took on the challenging role of Simcoe Chapter President and asked Blesilda Yap to take on Ann Boles role as Secretary/Treasurer. Both Lea and Ann dedicated their time running the chapter club and I hope Blesilda and I can count on your continued support as you have given Lea Maynard and Ann Boles over the past 7 years.

Some Simcoe Heritage Chapter Facts:

During the last 7 years, we have more than doubled our paid membership under Lea Maynard and Ann Boles' efforts; with some help from Members at Large Marcella Drover who took phone calls and money at our luncheons, Pat Byrne who has been our Santa Letter Writing Coordinator.

Lea Maynard led Simcoe Chapter and co-hosted the 2018 AGM here in Toronto, with Pineridge, Humber and Trent-Severn Chapters. Lea also worked with Canada Post's Santa Program and Sick Kids hospital for the past 3 years and we are the only Chapter across Canada involved in this extra program. Lea will continue to champion this Program.

Simcoe Chapter received 2019 Scorecard of 93% (this means the club is doing the right things!!)

In the past 3 years we have had 3 different members of our Chapter recognized with a \$50 prize for their involvement with writing Santa Letters.

Social Activities

We missed seeing you all during our normal scheduled friendly and relaxing luncheons, social activities and outings. Many of you also told us that you missed our social luncheons. Due to the uncertainty of the Pandemic and considerations for the health and safety of our members; there are no planned upcoming Events for 2020. We are asking that you continue to support and send your donation to The Daily Food Bank in Toronto. The **annual Charity Golf Tournament** that Trent Severn Chapter usually hosted was cancelled. **We are unable to confirm anything about our 2020 Christmas Banquet, hope to have a better idea by October.**

Santa Letter Writing

At this time we have no information on the program. Nonetheless, we are looking for members who would like to participate in this program again this year. This program usually runs from November 15 to January 15. I would most likely need to submit the names of our volunteers by the end of September so please email or call me of your intentions. Please contact Lea Maynard at 905 839 7439 to arrange to get Santa letters to answer in 2020. A Big thank you to our 2019 volunteers who helped Simcoe Chapter answer **7,301** Children's letters to Santa.

Web News

Please check out our Simcoe web page <http://heritageclub.ca/simcoe> as well as the other 27 Chapters to find out what activities Heritage members are involved in; especially Pineridge and Humber as you are welcome to participate in their activities. Simcoe Chapter Heritage Club also have a page on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/simcoecpc.heritageclub> Feel free to check out above 2 links for our event photos, upcoming events and special deals for 2020 as they are available or arranged.

Volunteering - Did you know?

The Canada Post Heritage Club motto is "People helping People". With that in mind, your Simcoe Chapter donates generously on your behalf to worthwhile charities every year

Our yearly funds from the National Executive are evaluated from the involvement of our members in Volunteer activities. I in turn, also do a year-end summary report of all the volunteer hours on behalf of Simcoe Chapter as recorded. I would ask that you keep a record of the hours that you spend this year doing volunteer work in your community and I thank you for helping me to collect your volunteer work hours. Please send this completed form / or information *by December 15, 2020* to Simcoe CPC Heritage Club, 72 Leuty Avenue Toronto, Ontario M4E 2R4. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me Anna Huang at 416-716-2898 or Email:ahuang0513@gmail.com

2020 MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOURS

Name: Address:

City: Prov.: Postal Code:

Please use this form to track your volunteer hours for 2020. Don't forget your knitting hours and Christmas hours and all your volunteer activities as a Heritage Club member. *Every hour counts!*

| ACTIVITY | ESTIMATED ANNUAL HOURS |
|--|------------------------|
| Church | |
| Community | |
| Knitting | |
| Literacy Program/School | |
| Santa Program | |
| Library/Museums | |
| Hospital | |
| Soup Kitchen/Food Bank/Meals on Wheels | |
| National Postal Curling | |
| Heritage Club | |
| Seniors Homes/Shut In Program | |
| Income Tax Form Prep./Festivals | |
| Fund Raising | |
| Christmas Hamper Program | |
| United Way | |
| Others - | |

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75th 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.

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.



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.

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

Welcoming our New members

New Members: Renato Bernardo , Lucy Batista and Candy Witcombe-Bancroft

New Associate Members: Naseer Farooqi

New Paid Members: Sanjay Paliwal and Susan Purtle

We are always recruiting for more new members. Applications to join Simcoe or any of the Heritage Clubs can be found on the CPC Heritage Club website. We would hope that you will share and encourage eligible Posties to join our Simcoe Chapter.

In Memorial

We have learned of the passing of: Milan Copovic , Joseph Farrugia, Fred Stevens, Maureen Robinson, Gale Edrienne, Edith Dermott and Margaret Armstrong. Our condolences go out to their family.

If you are aware of the passing of any of our members, we would ask that you please notify us.

Life Events

Have you had any life events you would like to share in our newsletter? Let me know so I can include your news. Contact Anna Huang at: ahuang0513@gmail.com

Your Benefits Contact Numbers:

Sun Life Insurance: 1-800-361-6212
Canada Post Pension Site: 1-877-480-9220
Govt. of Canada Superannuation: 1-800-561-7930
Canada Pension Plan/Old Age Security: 1-800-277-9914
Canada Life (formerly, Great West Life Assurance) : 1-866-249-5723
CPC Access HR (formerly known as Human Resources): 1-877-807-9090

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anna Huang, Chapter President, Newsletter Writer, Member's List, Recruitment
Email: ahuang0513@gmail.com Mobile 416-716-2898 Home 416-466-2595

Blesilda Yap, Treasurer / Secretary/ Editor ,
Email: babycua1@hotmail.com Home 905-457-4206
Email Transfers simcoe.heritage2018@gmail.com

Ms. Ann Boles, Editor

Members at Large:
Claire Andrews, Marcella Drover, Pat Byrne

Past President, Lea Maynard

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

Name: _____ Heritage Club National Membership #: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Effective Date: _____