



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## ALASKA CRUISING SET TO RESUME

Soon, the Alaska cruise season will be here and all indicators point to a successful season with our Canadian ports open to cruise ships once again. There are still discussions about the Canadian government Covid requirements regarding returns to Canada but we are positive there will be a workable solution and the Federal Government will have eased the Travel Advisory against Cruise Ships.

We have some good Alaska cruise options on our travel page and a number of members have already booked their Alaska cruise. Also, there are some great promotions with Canadian at par rates (at the time of writing).



A number of members have booked the two night cruise from Vancouver to Seattle return, getting together with friends and family for lots of fun, sightseeing in Seattle, gourmet meals, shows. See information on our travel page.

We also have lots of interest in our 7 day Alaska cruise, Vancouver return, departing on April 30/22 with inside cabins starting at \$399.00 Cad plus \$256.00 tax pp. To book your cabin, or to inquire about other categories, call or email the Heritage Club. Other rates are available plus rates for single occupancy or three or four in a cabin, but could be withdrawn at any time.

A small group of members have been sailing the Caribbean during February / March on the Rotterdam and as in November they report that the ship is very safe with rigorous sanitizing, hand washing stations, hand sanitizers, ventilation and masks worn except when eating, drinking or in outdoor spaces. Everyone on board is fully vaccinated and Covid tests are done on board regularly. The process at YVR continues to be smooth with COVID's tests available at YVR pre flight and results within 30 minutes. Just recently, Canada changed the policy regarding Covid tests to return to Canada approving the rapid antigen tests, which are much cheaper and quicker results. For those on the Rotterdam, the return to Canada tests are performed on board and are complimentary.

The food on board has been amazing and the buffets in the Lido offer such a variety of food served from 8 individual stations on either side of the Lido. All of the food is served to the passengers to keep everyone safe. Similarly, in the dining room and specialty restaurants.

Let's hope we have turned the corner and all of us will be comfortable travelling again.

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## 2022-23 PLANNING SESSION

The Van Fraser Executive will be meeting in person in mid March to review plans for 2022-23.

Thanks to all of the members who have completed and returned their Annual Membership Renewal Forms, dues and comments and requests regarding club activities. The Executive will review all the submissions and consider them when making plans for the upcoming year. We always welcome ideas and suggestions for club activities.



Van Fraser Executive (left to right) Jim Bain, Carol Burchette, Fred Danells, Rene Brissette, Taka Nukina, Jim Stevenson, Stan Wong. Absent from photo Jeremy Davey and Ken Cornish.

Unfortunately, many of our annual events and luncheons over the past two years were postponed due to Pandemic Protocols and Restrictions. As these rules change the Executive will begin to re-establish our popular "get togethers".

The River Rock Buffet has announced it has opened on weekends. This is a popular venue for our club lunches and hopefully they will soon reopen during the week to all us to organize our Spring Luncheon there. We have confirmed the Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in September and are hoping to return to the Green Acres Golf Course for our Christmas Luncheon. We are exploring alternate sites for the Christmas Luncheon should the Golf Course decide not to reopen. We welcome your input on new venues where can have our luncheons. The criteria for venues is space for 100+ attendees, parking and proximity to transit. If you are aware of a possible venue or you become aware of one please let the Executive know its location.

Ken is working on the Annual U Drive in August with a possible trip in the Chilliwack area. This is always a popular outing for both golfers and sightseers.

Watch the next newsletter for lots more information and updates.

All the best to your hard working Executive as they create our new calendar.



## SANTA'S POST CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Following another successful Christmas we were happy to hear that Santa and Mrs. Claus are happily vacationing in the Antarctic. They love watching the cute penguins porpoise through the seas and humungous whales breaching high out of the water. Many of our members have planned a trip to Antarctica in 2023 and appreciate the tips Santa has sent along to assist in their planning.

Seventy-three Van Fraser members volunteered to help Santa with his mail starting last November through to this past January. Each letter was carefully read and a response carefully crafted for each child that wrote a Letter to Santa. Again this past season, COVID protocols were in place and most of the volunteers worked from their homes, regularly coming to various Depots and Stations across the Lower Mainland to collect letters for response and return replies for despatch.

There was an overall increase in the number of letters from the previous year and a tremendous increase in the number of letters from Japan. Regardless of the numbers, our members are always vigilant about Canada Post's commitment that every single letter written to Santa will receive a reply. This includes letters received after Christmas and into January. Several volunteers responded to over 5,000 letters.

Thank You! Thank you to all dedicated volunteers who arrived at depots, taking trays of mail to work on safely at home and returning them within a few days of receipt. Thank you to all those who worked through January.

While their contributions to the children are endless, proving happiness, fantasy and values, especially in these stressful times, the volunteers are always quick to say how much pleasure they receive from working on the program.

We can always use more help so please mark your calendars for this coming Fall and be ready to respond to the request for volunteers.

## THOMAS AND FRIENDS TO RETURN



We have been advised that Thomas the Tank Engine and his many friends will return to the West Coast Railway Park for two weekends in the Spring; May 28/29 and June 4/5. It will be so exciting to see the little ones who missed Thomas the past two years during the pandemic.

We will be looking for volunteers to help the children at the park write their letters to Thomas and his friends on the days the exhibit is open. The volunteers will also write personal replies to the children both at the park and from home.

If you can volunteer some time at the park on any of these four days or work from home replying to the letters please leave a message at the Heritage Club Office.

You may also wish to mark these days on your calendar and make it a special event by taking your children and grandchildren for a great day of family fun.

We have also been advised the park will open officially for the summer on July 1st and subsequently on Saturdays from July 2nd through to September 17th; This affords a great opportunity to view the wide number of exhibits throughout the park and especially the Railway Mail Car restored and maintained by members of the Van Fraser Heritage Club.

Later in the year the Polar Express, another favourite of kids and adults, will return Saturday, November 27th and run on weekends through to December 17th/22.

For further information on the West Coast Railway Park and schedules for its many events go on line to [www.wcra.org](http://www.wcra.org) or call 604 898-9336.

## POPULAR TULALIP TRIP RETURNS

As Covid restriction begin to be eased the extremely popular November Shopping trip to Tulalip WA is returning,

The 4 day 3 night trip, which is a highlight of the year for Van Fraser members and friends and marks the beginning of the Christmas Holiday Season, is scheduled for November 20th to 23rd. This is great opportunity to get a head start on Christmas Shopping and enjoy a fun time as well,

The price is \$475.00 CAD (double occupancy) or \$873.00 CAD (single occupancy) and includes, among many other things, bus transportation hotel accommodation. The first day of the trip will feature a bus tour of downtown Seattle and the Pike Place market. There is a considerable amount of shopping available close to the hotel including a 24 hour Walmart and Cabela's Sporting Goods and various Factory Outlet stores.

This trip is extremely popular and sells out very quickly. Accompanying this edition of Van Fraser News is information on trip details and Registration Form.

If you plan to be on this trip fill out the form as soon as possible to ensure your place is reserved.



## FINAL ARRANGEMENTS GUIDE

### REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

This excellent guide created by Van Fraser member Linda Hinkelman is available to all members by contacting the office.

The guide outlines all the steps that must be undertaken to ensure the final arrangements for a family member or friend can be properly completed.

It is not only a useful guide to any of us who may be called upon to act as an Executor/Executrix but is also a document you should prepare now outlining your pertinent personal information.

This is one of the key points emphasized by member Neil Sharpham at his Retirement Seminars—we should have this information prepared in advance to assist our loved ones.

Feedback from members who have used the guide has been very positive and the invariably recommend its use.

Van Fraser Heritage Club

### A GUIDE TO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS



Many of us have been and/or will be, asked to act as an Executor/Executrix or serve as the Administrator of an Estate and execute the Final Arrangements for a family member or friend. This is an extremely serious undertaking and requires attention to detail.

The guide is designed to help assist in ensuring all the necessary details are dealt with and the Final Arrangements successfully completed.

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

In memory of friends and colleagues who passed away in 2021.

***Robert J. Atkinson***

***David Livingstone***

***Gerry Austin***

***Joe Mah***

***Kenneth Barron***

***Bob Otway***

***John Charters***

***Doris Oxley***

***Yung Cheng***

***Paul Roderick Paterson***

***Brian Depodesta***

***Frank Sadowsky***

***Emily Forster***

***Chuck Stewart***

***Rita Fung***

***Arthur Taylor***

***Donnie Gallacher***

***Lawrence Vibert***

***Dick Henderson***

***Grahame Welsh***

***Bill Hanula***

***Liz Au Young***

## **COMPLETE/RETURN REGISTRATION FORM**

In January a Registration Form was sent to all Active Members of the Van Fraser Heritage Club. A number have not yet been completed and returned.

These forms are important as it maintains your status as an Active Member and ensures the Club maintains an up to date mailing and contact list. The form also shows activities which may be of interest to members and provides input to the Club Executive.

Your status as an Active Member is extremely important as it determines your eligibility for Heritage Club benefits including Travel and Home Insurance. Failure to register as an active member may jeopardize your Insurance Coverage and prevent its renewal.

Also, please remember to sign and date your cheques or they will be returned to you.



# B.C. DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT 1884-1885

One of the Post Office Publications in the Van Fraser Archives is the Post Office Financial Report for 1884-1885.

Following are excerpts from that report. Please note that Vancouver was not incorporated until April 1886 and prior to that time the Post Office name was Granville.



Granville— 1884

The largest Post Office at the time was Victoria which had a revenue of over \$20K almost half of the total revenue for British Columbia.

## ANNUAL SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

	<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>Allowances</b>
E. Fletcher	Postal Inspector	\$2,000	\$500
W.H. Durman	2nd Class Clerk	\$1,200	---
J. Rooney	2nd Class Railway Mail Clerk	\$ 800	\$320

## REVENUE AND SALARY EXPENSES

	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Salary Expenses</b>
Granville	\$ 456.21	\$ 157.00
New Westminster	\$4,926.35	\$1,600.00

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Transportation	\$33,983.31
Mail Bag Servicing	\$ 145.64
Employee Travel	\$ 683.35

## LETTER CARRIER DELIVERY VANCOUVER

On Friday, February 1, 1895 four Letter Carriers set out to explore their new Letter Carrier Walks in preparation for the first Vancouver delivery by Letter Carrier on Saturday, February 2, 1895. Delivery in 1895 was six days a week. The event was featured twenty three years later in article in the Vancouver Sun that outlined what happened on that day and the reaction of customers.

The article began with a description Vancouver Postmaster and the Post Office staff gathered at the corner of Granville and Pender, then the location of the Post Office, to wish the four new Letter Carriers well. It was noted they did not carry mail on that day as they were simply to check out the new routes and familiarize themselves with their respective areas. The article notes, "*They came back at night somewhat bramble-torn and burr-covered but otherwise unscathed.*" Their appearance on the streets came as a surprise as residents mistook them for police officers and children assumed they were Truant Officers.

The delivery area was small by today's standard but reflected the size of Vancouver at the time. It was bounded on the west by Nicola Street, on the east by Campbell Avenue, on the north by Burrard Inlet and on the south by False Creek. While False Creek currently ends at Main Street in 1895 the creek and the surround mud flats extended all the way to Clark Drive.

Cornwall's Walk covered Hastings, Pender and Cordova Street west from 1 to 699 and east from 1 to 399, all of Water, Powell and Alexander Streets, the CPR Docks, Evans & Coleman Wharf, the Bell Irving Dock, Gore Avenue and Westminster Avenue (now Main Street) from 1 to 499.

Reid's Walk was Pender west from 200 to 699 and Granville, Seymour, Richards, Homer, Hamilton and Cambie Streets south of Pender Street.

Carr's Walk included all streets west of Granville from Burrard Inlet to False Creek.

Bolton's Walk was Alexander, Powell, Cordova, Hastings and Pender Streets from 400 to 899, Keefer, Harris, Burrard and Prior Streets from 1 to 899 and Westminster Avenue (now Main Street) from 500 to the bridge. At that time there was a bridge across False Creek joining the north and south sides of what now is Main Street.

The 1918 Sun Article notes a mixed reaction from the public. "*A few grumbles from housewives called from the wash tub to front door to get letters they could just as well have got when they went shopping on Saturday.*" The article also noted some complaints from residents who lived beyond the delivery area and could not see why it could not be extended. In 1895 residential developments were being constructed in the Mount Pleasant area on the south side of False Creek and in the Strathcona area of East Vancouver.

In 1918, twenty-five years after the first Letter Carrier delivery there were 143 Letter Carriers in Vancouver. Currently there are 361 Letter Carriers and 15 Mail Service Couriers operating from five delivery facilities providing delivery service in the City of Vancouver .



The first four Letter Carriers (left to right) G.P. Carr, S.C. Cornwall, D.R. Reid and M.E. Bolton. Note: Van Fraser has one of only two known original copies of this photo donated by G.P. Carr's great grandson Robert Carr. We also have a replica of these uniforms,



## OLD PHOTO REVEALS THE PAST

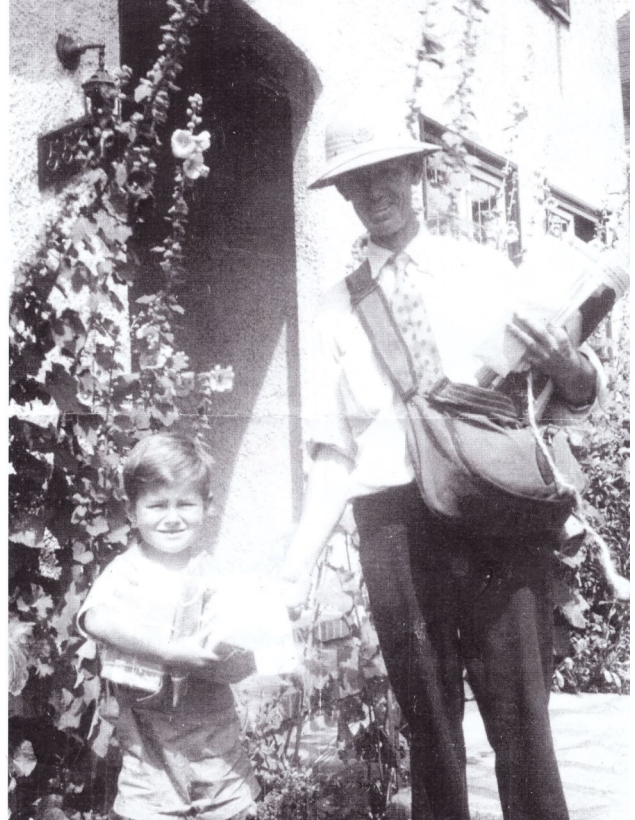
One of the old photos we have in the Van Fraser Collection is this one featuring a Letter Carrier delivering mail to a young boy at 5575 Angus Drive, Vancouver. The picture was taken in 1938 and is labeled "Delivery to 5575 Angus Drive".

The photo shows the Letter Carrier wearing a Pith Helmet. Van Fraser has one in our collection but we have been unable to determine an era when this type of headgear would be worn. With this photo we have been able to determine an approximate time frame. The tie is not a piece of uniform we have seen before and will require more research to determine if it was Post Office issue.

The residents at 5575 Angus Drive were William and Beatrice Banfield and their son John is the young boy in the photo.

John Banfield grew up the Point Grey area of Vancouver attended Prince of Wales High School and subsequently the University of British Columbia obtaining a Commerce Degree.

He was highly successful in the financial sector, working at various locations across Canada before returning to Vancouver. John Banfield passed away in 2013 and was survived by his wife, four children and their families.



We are continuing our research to try and determine the name of the Letter Carrier.

It's interesting what old photographs will reveal.

## THANK YOU VAN FRASER

The following was received from the Richmond Salvation Army.

*"Dear Vancouver Fraser Heritage Club (Canada Post)*

*Thank You for your generous donation of toys & financial donation. Your Generous Gift will make many children & families happy this season. Thank You for your continual support*

*Many Blessings*

*Richmond Salvation Army*

### *Van-Fraser News*

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## 2022/23 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

**April 28/22 2 nights on the Koningsdam, Vancouver return. \*\*** Bring your family or friends for 2 nights cruising to Seattle and back with time in Seattle for sightseeing and shopping! What a nice post Easter or pre Mothers Day gift or just an extended dinner and show cruise with friends. Inside cabins from \$134.00 CAD pp plus tax; balconies from \$201.00 plus tax. Taxes are additional \$125.00 pp. Lower rates for 3rd or 4th in cabin. This is great introduction for new cruisers or for a family/ friend reunion after a year of lockdowns!

**May 22,2022 7 days Alaska cruise, Vancouver return on Serenade of Seas.** Visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka, Tracy Arm and Hubbard Glacier. Balcony from \$1139.00; window from \$839.00, and insides from \$599.00 Taxes are \$260.00 pp. **WHAT A DEAL! Limited availability**

**June 14/22 10 days Alaska cruise, Vancouver return on Cunard's Queen Elizabeth.** The Heritage Club has a group for this sailing and already a large number of members have booked this trip knowing it will sell out. Call for current rates and promos.

**June 26/22 and July 6/22** There is still space on our Alaska cruise/Denali land tours. Call for details.

**September 30, 2022 9 night repositioning cruise on the Ovation of the Seas** (one of the largest cruise ships with lots of activities) from Vancouver to Honolulu with a day in Seattle and two days over night in Maui. Of course, plan to stay a few extra days at Waikiki or elsewhere before flying home from Honolulu **OR** stay on the ship and continue to Sydney, Australia! Inside cabins start at \$1449.00 plus tax. Call for more pricing and possibly lower rates and join those already booked.

**October 9/22 20 day repositioning cruise on the Ovation of the Seas** from Honolulu to Sydney, Australia. Visit the islands of Tahiti-Bora Bora, Papeete and Moorea , then Napier, Wellington and Picton, New Zealand before arriving in Sydney. Lots of fun seas days on route. Inside cabins from \$2646.00 and balconies from 4309.00 plus taxes \$250.00 pp. This trip can be combined with the September 30/22 cruise for 29 days from Vancouver to Sydney. **(limited space left)**

**November 20/22 3 night Tulalip bus trip.** Registration form available.

**January 11, 2023 22 Day Antarctica cruise on the Oosterdam** , departing Santiago, Chile around South America to Buenos Aries, Argentina. On route visit Antarctica for 4 days. Inside cabins from \$5074.00 CAD pp plus taxes.

**February 2,2023 22 Day Antarctica cruise on the Oosterdam**, departing Buenos Aries, Argentina to Santiago, Chile with 4 days in Antarctica. **Note:** these two cruises can be combined for a 44 day experience and double the time in Antarctica. Call for current prices and promotions and join other members who have already booked this trip.

**Note:** Be sure you have adequate out of country medical and trip cancellation insurance before confirming your trip. Call The Heritage Club office, 604-482-4311 for info on Medoc insurance. With the current Pandemic, cruise schedules and prices frequently change as sailings are cancelled and new itineraries and promos are introduced. Call or email the Heritage Club your preferences for travel and we will keep you advised of latest offers. Also, new options will be sent to the travel club list as available.

