



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

THOMAS THE TANK BACK ON TRACK

Following a two year hiatus during the pandemic, the little ones were thrilled to see the return of Thomas the Tank and his friends to the West Coast Railway Park in Squamish.

Rene Brissette and his team of volunteers were at the park for both of the weekends in May when Thomas was on site. They set up a letter writing station for the children outside the Railway Mail Car, that Van Fraser members restored and continue to maintain as an exhibit at the park.

The children were able to write a letter to Thomas or one of Thomas's friends with the help of our volunteers, after which they addressed an envelope to Thomas in the Island of Sodor, affixed a Thomas stamp. Once the letter is completed, the little one could then place their special letter into the sortation case ensuring their letter got into the proper slot.



Rene Brissette helps sort a Thomas Letter for young visitor.

Following this process, the kids and parents were able to walk through the Mail Car seeing how the mail was processed while the train was moving along the tracks in the early days and view all the displays and artifacts in the car.

Meanwhile, other members are busy at home replying to the boxes of letters from the children Rene sent them. Each letter was read and reply letters from Thomas or his friends were sent to the kids as they anxiously wait for their local letter carrier to deliver their special letter.

Besides the letter writing activities sponsored by our club, the park was a hub of excitement all weekend as the kids could go for a real train ride off site and return with Thomas the Tank pulling the cars, followed by a ride through the park on the mini train, participate in face painting, balloons and lots more fun. Be sure to watch our newsletter for the dates of Thomas's return next year and purchase tickets in advance for any of the little ones in your family.

Thanks to Rene and his team for their time and commitment continuing to make this a unique opportunity at the Thomas event.

(Photos on Page 2)

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THOMAS PHOTO GALLERY



How many of our members remember loading and unloading and pulling train trucks similar to this one around?



Sir Toppen Hat and a volunteer welcome the young visitors.



Van Fraser Volunteers at the Railway Mail Car assisting young visitors with their letter to Thomas and Friends.

BARBECUE BEFORE BOARDING

The evening before boarding the QEII for their Alaska Cruise several of the group got together for a barbecue at the home of Fred and Leslie.

It was a great way for the group to begin their adventure aboard one of the most famous Ocean Liners in the world.



Photo above— lots of chatter as the group enjoys the barbecue. Below left— David and Sony Leonard of the Edmonton Chapter. Below right— Joe Wong takes over grilling.



CRUISING ABOARD THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On June 14, a group of Heritage Club Members and family boarded the Queen Elizabeth II cruise ship in Vancouver for 10 days of fun in the ports of Alaska and enjoying all the scenery and wildlife en route.

The Queen Elizabeth II is a very beautiful ship with many comfortable spots to sit and visit or to watch the scenery glide by. The evening production shows were superb and as on our previous voyages there was so much music around the ship. The ship had two full-size Orchestras who would play in the evening accompanying some of the entertainment and providing music for the many who enjoy ballroom dancing. In addition, the numerous small venues had a variety of entertainment.

It was nice to once again be aboard ship but as with previous cruises in the past few months, the ship was at about 50%, or possibly less than 50% capacity. The passenger number on the QE II was capped at about 900 people which meant a number of our members who had hoped to go on the cruise, were not able to



Above: The travellers gather for Gala Night. Below: (left to right) Peter Kozakevich, William Pang and Fred Danells at the formal dinner evening,



join us if they hadn't booked at an earlier date.

The problem is not so much getting crew but getting the crew to the ship. Many of them are from foreign countries and often, it is difficult or impossible for them to get their visas to travel to the ship since the US embassies have still not opened in many countries. Also, there are still major delays with airline and even if the crew do get their visa. Crews have difficulty getting to the ship on time with many flights being cancelled and delayed on a regular basis.

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QE II CRUISING (CONTINUED)

However, we were happy to have a group of top-notch crew who were very efficient, very friendly and certainly looked after us. Chris, in the Commodore Lounge, would set up for our group every afternoon at 4 o'clock arranging chairs and making sure we had lots of snacks on the table and enough seating for everyone. With the reduced numbers of passengers, there was always lots of space for people and few lineups at any time. Everyone was impressed with the cleanliness of the ship and the constant cleaning and sanitizing.

One funny story we heard, while boarding the ship was a couple who arrived from New Jersey the day prior and were telling another couple how they had checked into the hotel near the pier and after having their Covid test, which we were all required to have within one day of sailing, they took off for a walk and came across a Tim Horton's coffee shop. They immediately went in and got a cup of coffee and said to each other; *"Now we are in Canada!"*

While on board we booked a group for the Heritage



Above: Mark and Linda Atkins aboard their first cruise with our club.

Left: Nick and Margaret Lee returning from a trip aboard the White Pass train ride in Skagway.

Club for next June and this will be Twelve Day Cruise starting on June 8, 2023 providing additional ports of call.

A block of space has been reserved for anyone who wants to join us next year on this spectacular and elegant ship. Call or email the Heritage Club for more details.

(More photos on Pages 6 and &7)

QE II PHOTO GALLERY



Left: Happy Hour in the Commodore Lounge.

Below left: Mark Atkins, David Leonard, Joe Wong, and William Pang on Roaring 20's Night.

Below right: Donna Kozakevich working on a fancy cocktail.



VAN FRASER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

The Van Fraser Heritage Club Grant Program is designed to recognize, support, and reward children, grandchildren, great grandchildren of active Van Fraser Heritage Club members in British Columbia and in their preparatory educational development years. This includes students in grades between 8-12 and ages 13-18.

The purpose of this program is to prepare students for their future post-secondary education including academic, technical, and trade educational opportunities.

Application deadline is August 31, 2022.

Please contact Van Fraser Heritage Club office at (604)482-4311 or email vfhcgrant@gmail.com for an application package.



QE II PHOTO GALLERY



Fred, Charlie and Janice viewing the glacier.



Queen Elizabeth II docked in Skagway.

VAN FRASER U-DRIVE GETAWAY: AUG 22-25

Once again members will get together to enjoy a few days of golf, sightseeing, relaxing, Happy Hours and BBQ Dinners. In the past, we have explored various sites in Washington, especially returning many times to the very popular, Yakima. However, with the safety issues related to the Pandemic, we relocated our trip to Penticton the past two years.

This year, still planning to stay in BC, we will meet in Chilliwack. This will provide the opportunity for members and family to stay in the hotel with the group for a few nights or for others drive for the day to take in some golf or lunches and dinners with us.

Please mark the dates in your calendar and let Ken Cornish know you intend to participate this year. Once the final details are finalized, Ken will send an information package to you.

Call the Heritage Club office at 6044824311 or email vanfrasernews@gmail.com to register.



LAST MINUTE TRAVEL UPDATES

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THERE ARE SOME LAST MINUTE TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING ANXIOUS TO TRAVEL.

7 day Alaska cruise on the Zuiderdam, Vancouver return. August 3, 2022 and Sept 7, 2022. Insides from \$448.00 plus taxes \$318.00 CAD per person and balconies from \$611.00 plus taxes \$318.00 CAD pp.

August 10, 2022 and August 17, 2022: Insides from \$399.00 plus taxes \$318.00 CAD per person and balconies from \$567.00 plus taxes \$318.00 CAD pp.

50 day cruise on the Zuiderdam, departing Vancouver and returning to San Diego. Visit San Francisco, San Diego, Hawaiian Islands, Fanning Island, Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands and French Polynesia. insides starting at \$6548.00 plus taxes \$656.00 CAD per person.



Viking Cruise 15 day European River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest, There are some discounted rates for the months of September to November, 2022 starting at approximately \$4000.00 CAD per person. If interested, email vanfrasernews@gmail.com with your dates for further information and pricing. Very limited SALE prices, so inquire asap.

POSTAL EMPLOYEE HISTORY ON A POSTCARD

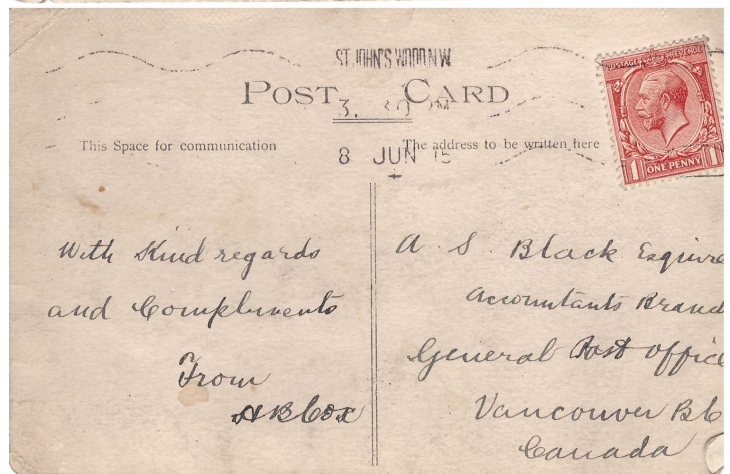
The photo on this postcard is of Hiram Barned Cox, a Vancouver Postal Clerk.

He volunteered for service with the Westminster Regiment on September 23, 1914. On April 15, 1915 he suffered gunshot wounds to his left arm and shoulder that left him with some mobility loss. The wound and mobility issue were sufficiently serious that Cox did not respond to treatment and he was discharged as Medically Unfit on June 24, 1916.

The item was mailed from the St. John's Wood NW Post Office in north London on June 8, 1915. The card was in response to some items that had been sent to Cox from Vancouver Post Office employees.

The card was addressed to Alexander S. Black, a clerk in the Accounting Branch of the Vancouver Post Office. The Accounting Branch was responsible for checking Short Paid Mail and staffing the Retail Area.

Hiram Cox retired to Victoria in 1946 after 33 years of service and passed away on February 5, 1965. He was survived by his son Bernard Cox whose family provided us with the postcard.



TULALIP TRIP REMINDER

A quick reminder to book your space for the Tulalip Trip November 20-23.

There are still some seats available on our ever popular Tulalip bus.



Send in your registration form now to reserve your seats. We will be at the Beautiful Tulalip Resort for three nights, plus a few hours in Seattle Downtown area and Pike Market before checking into the hotel. This is an excellent opportunity to do some Pre Black Friday shopping as well as rest and relaxation at the resort

Van-Fraser News

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2022/23 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

July and August 2022 There are some fantastic last minute deals to Alaska, Vancouver return. For example, Koningsdam, Aug 6, 13 and 20 /22 have insides from \$548.00 plus tax per person. Zuiderdam, August 10,17,24 and dates in September with insides from \$448.00 plus tax and balconies from \$611.00 plus taxes \$325.00 CAD per person.

September 11/22 14 day Alaska cruise on the Nieuw Amsterdam. Visit Anchorage, Kodiak, Valdez, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Skagway, Ketchikan and Prince Rupert. This is a special sailing with no repeat ports and many less visited ports. Book now, limited availability. Inside cabins from \$1699.00 plus \$481.00 taxes Cad per person!

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.

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. There are just a few cabins left on these sailings Call for current prices. We have a large group of members booked on the first segment and half of the group will disembarking Hawaii and while the rest will stay in the ship to Australia!

October 8/22 16 nights Hawaii cruise on the Koningsdam, Vancouver return— no flights! Visit Lahaina, Hilo, Honolulu (overnight) and Kauai with lots of sea days on route for rest and relaxation. Inside cabins starting at \$1780.00 CAD per person plus taxes \$244.00 pp.

November 20/22 3 night Tulalip bus trip. This popular trip is back again and starting to fill up- send in your registration form to secure your spot. Lots of fun with a visit to Seattle and Pike Market before settling into the spectacular Tulalip resort with pool, spa, lounges, casino and lots of Factory Outlet shops within a block of the hotel.

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 \$4059.00 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 starting at \$3409.00 plus taxes (non refundable). Join other members who have already booked this trip.

February 18/23 35 day South Pacific Cruise fSan Diego return. Visit a number of ports in Hawaii, Fanning Island, Raiatea (overnight); a number of ports in French Polynesian . Insides from \$5749.00 plus \$350.00 taxes and balconies from \$9000.00 plus tax per person.

June 8/23 12 night Alaska cruise on the Queen Elizabeth visiting Tracy Arm, Sitka, Haines, Icy Straight Point, Glacier Bay, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Ketchikan and Victoria-Vancouver return, from \$2397.00 plus taxes \$362.00 CAD per person.

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 all trips and 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.

