



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

SUMMER U-DRIVE RETURNS WITH SUCCESS

Thanks to Ken Cornish for once again organizing our u-drive trip. This year the group drove to Chilliwack, staying for two nights at the Rainbow Inn Motel. High prices in the Okanagan and a remaining reluctance by some to cross the border to Yakima contributed to the decision for the event to be in Chilliwack this year.

The weather was great and both golf courses, Meadowlands and Cultus Lake were in awesome shape. Prizes were awarded to Anne Young for both ladies longest drive and KP and to Mike Whillans in the same category for men.



U-Drivers relax over lunch at Cultus Lake.



Golfers (left to right) Ken Cornish, Anne Young, Jim Cornish and Gord Young.

Lunches were provided at the Club Houses following the games on both days and the golfers were joined by the non golfers for social time.

The decision was unanimous to return to Yakima in September 2023. Watch the newsletter for information in the new year and be sure to register your interest in the U Drive when you complete your annual registration and dues form in December.

(Photo Galley on Page 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VMPP Goes Neon	2
Summer Travels	3
Summer Travels	4
Summer Travels Gallery	5
Van Fraser Grant Program Tulalip Trip	6
Thank You Volunteers Santa Elf Program	7
U-Drive Gallery	8
Memorial Plaque Rescue In Memoriam	9
Christmas Luncheon Travel Opportunities	10

VMPP GOES NEON

On Wednesday, June 29th the Vancouver Museum closed its exhibit featuring neon signs that once lit up the Greater Vancouver area. Anyone who lived in the area or spent some time in Downtown Vancouver in the 50's, 60's and 70's will remember the incredible number of neon signs. These old signs bring back many memories of the era when all of Downtown Vancouver was aglow with neon. At its peak of popularity there were over nineteen thousand neon signs in the Greater Vancouver Area- more than Las Vegas at that time.

The Vancouver Museum arranged for 22 signs to be retrieved from the Neon Products Scrap Yard and restored by Concept Neon of Vancouver.

Fortunately, these signs will not be turned off forever as the Quadreal Development Group, the company redeveloping the former VMPP will provide space in the building to display 22 refurbished signs. The area is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2023.



SUMMER TRAVELS

We hope everyone has been enjoying the summer. It certainly has been a warm sunny one with lots of opportunity for being outside. As more and more of us have been vaccinated and had our boosters many members are feeling more comfortable about being outside with groups, whether for luncheons or dinners or for travel experiences. Quite a few members have taken advantage of the discounted Alaskan cruises so far this summer and others are booked through until the end of September. The ships have been sailing only slightly over half full which gives lots of space and makes for covid safety while being on the ships. People were happy in some cases to get on an Alaska cruise for just \$399 plus tax.

We always enjoy hearing from members once they return from their cruises as they send pictures and tell us about the highlights. This year a number of members went for some exotic excursions such as, Terry and Adrienne, who took a helicopter up over the Mendenhall Glacier and enjoyed a sleigh ride pulled by former and current Iditarod sled dogs. A few weeks, later Mike Whillans and Liz Drescher did the same thing with Liz hesitantly embarking on her first helicopter ride up above the glaciers and also landing amongst the Iditarod dogs and going for a sleigh ride then mingling with the dogs. Such lifetime memories



Pat and Adrienne readying for their ride with the Iditarod Sled Dog Team.



Liz, somewhat reluctantly, aboard her first helicopter ride for a view of the Glacier

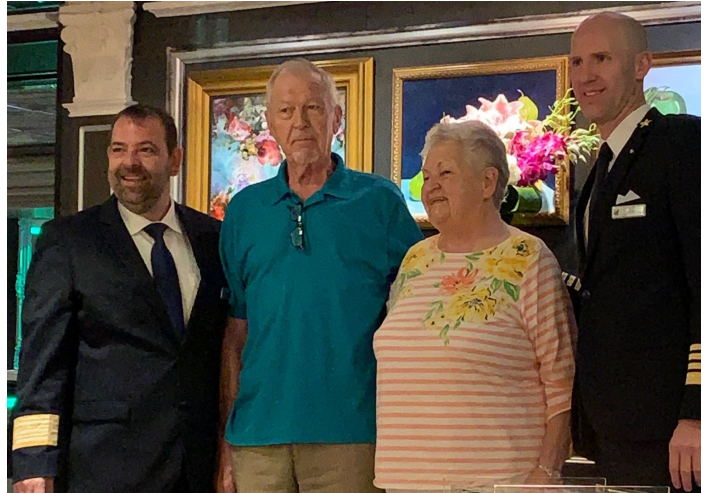
Other members experienced the Denali land tour for the first time cruising up to Whittier on a ship, then boarding a train to Anchorage for an overnight stay. This was followed by the nine hour trip on the McKinley Explorer Dome train to Denali for two nights at the famous McKinley Resort lodged amongst the beautiful mountains overlooking the river. The glass domed cars were fantastic with full views for all, comfortable seats, bar service, good narration and full dining service cars for breakfast and lunch.

(continued on Page 4)

SUMMER TRAVELS (continued for Page 3)

All were inspired by the awesome scenery viewed from the train between Anchorage and Denali, Alaska and from there going on "rickety" (but safe!) buses through the tundra wilderness, leaving the resort at 5 am to spot as much wild life as possible. The scenery was breathtaking, travelling along the narrow roads of the tundra stopping for all wildlife sightings. A special treat for the group was seeing Mt McKinley in its glory from all sides. The clear blue skies provided for full views of the white capped peaks. It is said this only happens 30% of the time.

There were about 400 passengers from the ship on the Denali land tour and all were amazed at the incredible organization from car and seat assignments on the bus, to extremely informative tour guides, information packages for each individual ready and distributed before arrival at the hotels— the luggage left in the morning, outside the room, labeled "see you tonight", then in place in the evening at the next hotel. Other bags labeled "see you on the ship" were stored somewhere during the week and magically appeared in the cabin of the ship as people arrived for the return cruise home. We will learn from this and incorporate some of the systems into our Heritage Club Bus Trips.



Mel and Bev Wildre recognized by the Captain and Hotel Manager.

We are always reminded about how fortunate we are and the need to keep active in our retirement. It's proven, of course, the more active, both physically and mentally we are the better health we generally have. This includes things like doing volunteer work, helping with



Joan Haws contemplating life on the glass domed train,

family, going to lunches dinners with friends/colleagues and travel. We were thrilled to see one of our members who will be soon be turning 95 while on board, book a 95 day cruise for next year from San Diego return throughout the South Pacific to celebrate his 95th birthday. He even got a cabin with the number 95 in it!

Also, another member, while on board, while talking to the captain said, *"You realize these dam ships are keeping me going! I have numerous health issues but I book a cruise> I'm on this one and now I've booked another 16 day cruise in October— having something to look forward to really is keeping me going"* It's the "carrot" theory, we all need something (carrot) to look forward to.

There are still Alaska cruises departing Vancouver through to the end of September and a number of members are booked on them. If you can fit in a seven or fourteen day cruise between now and then, there is some limited availability, mostly inside cabins but you can call the Heritage Club to see what there is. Otherwise, start checking your calendars for next year and look at taking in some of these wonderful experiences yourself

(Photo Gallery on Page 5)

SUMMER TRAVELS PHOTO GALLERY



Above left: Cathy Smith, Halifax Chapter, capturing the scenery in John Hopkins Inlet.

Above right: Mike and Liz with a new sled dog addition

Left: Charile Haws found the perfect observation spot aboard the River Cruise in Fairbanks

VAN FRASER EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

The Van Fraser Education Grant program is for children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of current active members.

Our program is designed to support children in their preparatory years, Grades 8-12, as they prepare for either a Post Secondary Academic Education OR a Post Secondary Education in a Technical Field, Skilled Trade or equivalent fields. The program is designed to assist students they continue their education leading to a career and employment.

To apply for assistance please contact the Van Fraser Office for an application or additional information at vfhc@gmail.com or call 604 482-4311.



LONGING FOR A NICE QUICK GETAWAY?

ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT for the extremely popular Annual Three Day Trip to the Tulalip Casino Resort in Washington State. It's a great opportunity for a nice quick getaway before the hectic Christmas Season

There is a visit to Downtown Seattle and the famous Pike Place Market.

For those looking for pre-Christmas bargains and the opportunity to shop till you drop you can visit the Factory Outlet stores that include Walmart and Capbella's.

For relaxation you can enjoy to pool and spa at the resort or relax with fellow travellers in the expansive lobby or one of lounges in the hotel. There is also an opportunity to try your luck in the casino. The local Cultural Centre is an excellent location to discover the local history of the area.



For dining there are a number of excellent restaurants in the immediate area.

The cost is \$475 cad per person (double occupancy) and includes three nights hotel accommodation, bus fare, driver gratuities, four meal vouchers and a \$20 dollar casino credit.

Before booking make sure your passport and travel insurance are up to date.

To book on the few remaining seats available contact the Heritage Club at 604-482-4311.

VAN FRASER VOLUNTEERS ARE PRICELESS!

CANADA POST FOUNDATION 2022

Van-Fraser members step up to help The Canada Post Foundation review and access all the submissions for Charity Grants to support the many children and youth programs throughout our Region.

Thank you for all your efforts and time you donated to such a worthwhile program.

CANADA POST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2022

Our members also volunteer to help review all the scholarship applications and select these years recipients to support the members children/grand children with their higher educational career path and future success.

Thank You

Fred Danells
President, Van Fraser Heritage Club



KEEP THE CHRISTMAS MAGIC ALIVE! BE A SPECIAL SANTA ELF

Santa says "I love those Heritage Club Postie Elves"

Hi Everyone!

Come and join us this year and help Santa out with all his mail, it is a lot of fun and you will enjoy the experience.

Santa's mail starts arriving at The North Pole Post Office in late November or early December and continuous through early to mid January. We want to keep our promise that every letter written to Santa will receive a reply .

Most of Santa's mail is received written in English but he also receives a large volume in Japanese, Simplified Chinese from China and Traditional from Taiwan and need special help from folks and can help with those letters and replies.

If you would like to volunteer this year and are available please let us know asap and we will send you a detailed information package for you to review before we start.

Call the office at 604-482-4311 or email (vanfrasernews@gmail.com or fwdanells@hotmail.com)



U DRIVE PHOTO GALLERY



Ken Cornish presents Anne Young with her prize for the Women's Longest Drive.



Mike Whillans receives his prize for the Men's Longest Drive.



A happy foursome (left to right) Brent Arnett, Barry Wilson, Fred Danells, Mike Whillans

THAMES HERITAGE CLUB PRESERVES PLAQUE

Following World War II employees of the London Post Office contributed funds for the creation of a Memorial Plaque honouring 39 fellow employees who served in that War. Of the 39 two did not return.

Mail Handler William W. Astles served as a Sergeant with the R.C.A.F. Heavy Conversion Unit after volunteering on February 21, 1942. He died June 8, 1944 and is buried in Harrogate Cemetery, England. He was survived by his father Charles Astles of London ON.

James Albert Weir volunteered February 5, 1943 with the Essex Scottish Regiment. He died July 24, 1944 during the Normandy Campaign and is buried in the Bretterville-sur-Laize Cemetery, Calvados, France. He was survived by his parents James and Leona Weir of West Monkton ON.

In 2021 the London Post Office underwent renovation and the Plaque was set aside for disposal. Fortunately, someone recognized the Heritage Value of the Plaque, gave it Corporate Communications who passed it on to the Thames Heritage Club in London. The plaque is now mounted on the wall of the Thames Heritage Club Office.

A number of plaques were purchased by employees of various Post Offices following both World Wars. Unfortunately, some have been lost or stored away in unknown location. The Heritage Club will continue to seek out any plaques or memorial items, hopefully find them, and return them to display.



IN MEMORIAM

The following members passed away during 2022.

Leo Rusky

Eberhard Bartsch

William Birkett

Germain Pittet

Robert Bloemhof

Michael Allen

Van-Fraser News

Is published by the
Van-Fraser Heritage Club
Unit 160 - 5940 Ferguson Road
Richmond BC V7B 0B1
email
vanfrasernews@gmail.com
Phone
604 482-4311

The editor reserves the right
to edit
any/all submissions
in whole or part
for use in this publication

SPECIAL NOTICE: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Important: Keep November 29, 2022 clear on your Calendar and ready for a Christmas Luncheon!

2022/23 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

October 8/22 18 night Hawaii Cruise on the Koningsdam, Vancouver return- no flights. Visit Lahaina, Hilo, Honolulu (overnight) and Kaua with lots of sea days on route for rest and relaxation. Inside cabins starting at \$1780.00 CAD per person plus taxes \$244.00.

November 20, 2022. 3 night Tulalip Bus Trip. This popular trip is back again and starting to up. Send in your Registration Form to secure your spot. Lots of fun with a visit to Seattle and Pike Place Market before settling into the spectacular Tulalip Resort with pool, spa, lounges, casino and lots of Factory Outlet shops with a block of the hotel.

January 11, 2023. 22 Day Antarctic Cruise on the Oosterdam, departing Santiago, Chile around South America to Bueno Aires, Argentina. On route visit Antarctica for 4 days. Inside cabins from \$3500.00 CAD pp plus taxes.

February 2, 2023 22 Day Antarctic Cruise on the Oosterdam, departing Bueno Aires, Argentina to Santiago 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).

February 18, 2023 35 Day South Pacific Cruise from San Diego return. Visit a number of ports in Hawaii, Fanning Island, Raiatea (overnight), and a number of ports in French Polynesia. Insides from \$4419.00 plus \$350.00 taxes and balconies from \$9000.00 plus tax per person.

June 8, 2023 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. Call about lower prices during Labour Day Sale til sept 6/22.

July 2, 2023 24 night cruise on the Nieuw Statendam Copenhagen, return. Visiting Sweden, Latvia, Germany, Finland, numerous ports throughout Norway, including cruising the North Cape and Sognefjord, the longest fjord in Norway. Call for a detailed itinerary. Prices begin at \$3632.00 plus taxes and airfare.

September 17, 2023 14 night Alaska cruise on the Noordam. Visit Kodiak, Anchor age, Valdez, Glacier Bay Sitka, Skagway and Prince Rupert. 14 day round trip, Vancouver to Vancouver,

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 information on all trips and Medoc Insurance.

Call or email the Heritage Club with your preferences for travel and we will keep you advised of the latest offers. Also, new options will be sent to Travel Club List as available.

