



# Van- Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## VAN FRASER HOSTS HERITAGE CLUB PRESIDENTS

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of Heritage Club Presidents was hosted by Van Fraser. The Club Representatives were greeted in Van Fraser West Coast Style.

The Presidents arrived on Friday, May 19th staying overnight at the Hampton YVR Hotel. That evening Van Fraser hosted the Presidents and their accompanying family members at banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond.

On hand to welcome the guests were Doug Matsumoto, Director Operations, Pacific Division and Rick Yakel, Director Human Resources, Pacific Region. Also present were members of the Van Fraser Executive.



Above- Heritage Club Representatives "at sea" for their Annual Conference.

Left: Pacific Division Operations Director, Doug Matsumoto welcomes the Delegates.



The next morning the group boarded the Koningsdam for a seven night Alaska Cruise. The group utilized the excellent conference facilities aboard ship to hold their meetings.

The unique surroundings and informal surroundings provided numerous opportunities for Club Presidents to share innovative ideas on fund raising, member social events, newsletters, travel and a number of other topics.

The formal agenda included topics of interest to our members and addressed their concerns on a number of important issues.

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# HERITAGE CLUB 2023 AGM

Items discussed during the Meetings included:

- Presentation by Bob Broomhall on an online Registration Form and dues payment system. This will be explored further and hopefully meet the request of many Van Fraser Members.
- Presentation by Mark Jacob and discussion on enhancing the National Web Site.
- Canada Post gave a presentation on their priorities and future goals.
- Johnson Insurance gave a video presentation on their products, including home and travel insurance.
- Group discussion sharing ideas on new member recruitment, succession planning for Club Executives and supporting and strengthening smaller clubs.
- Heritage Club involvement in the Santa Letter Program.



Above: Club Presidents from Newfoundland to BC and spouses gathered on deck for a Sailaway Party as the ship left Vancouver.

Bottom right: Lloyd, National Vice President Edmonton, and Doreen Ragowski getting a closer look at the glacier,

Upper Left: Van Fraser President Fred Danells and National President J,P, Legeurrier enjoying a hot coffee on a very cold deck,

Bottom Left: The final banquet aboard ship in the lovely Tamarind Restaurant,



The attendees all agreed it was a great experience in an atmosphere that prompted open discussion and also gave the visitors and chance to experience the Alaska Cruise.



# AGM RAILWAY MAIL CAR VISIT

A number of the attendees at the AGM arrived early stayed a few extra days in Vancouver following the meetings.

They were given a guided tour of RMC 3074 at the West Coast Railway Museum.

RMC 3074, a feature exhibit at the Museum has been carefully restored to excellent condition by Van Fraser volunteers features authentic equipment from the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

The visitors were impressed by the workmanship and attention to detail that went into the restoration.

Fred Danells explained how authenticity was achieved by input from retired Railway Mail Clerks.



Photos:

Top AGM attendees.

Centre: Fred Danells outlining all the work that went into the restoration.

Bottom: AGM visitors examining the interior of the Railway Mail Car.

## CRUISING ON THE QE II

The cruise ship Queen Elizabeth II returned to Vancouver this June for a few sailings to Alaska through the Inside Passage. On June 8th twenty Van Fraser members boarded for 12 days aboard this beautifully appointed ship.

The ship gave the travellers views of some spectacular scenery along the BC and Alaska coast including Tracy Arm, Icy Point Straits, Glacier Bay and the Hubbard Glacier.

On the trip the ship docked in Sitka, Juneau, Haines, Ketchikan and Victoria on the way home. These stops provided the opportunity to visit and enjoy the sights of each location. In Sitka some travellers visited the Fortress of the Bear, managed by a non profit society, and were greeted by rescued Black and Brown Bears. In Ketchikan the group sat down to enjoy an "all you can eat crab feast".



Ida Moore and Joe Lavery enjoy a morning stroll with great scenery to view,

Brought back by many of the group, besides some great memories and experiences, were cartons of canned salmon from the Hoonah Trading Post.

If a cruise aboard the QE II to Alaska interests you, check out the 2024 Travel Schedule on Page 12.

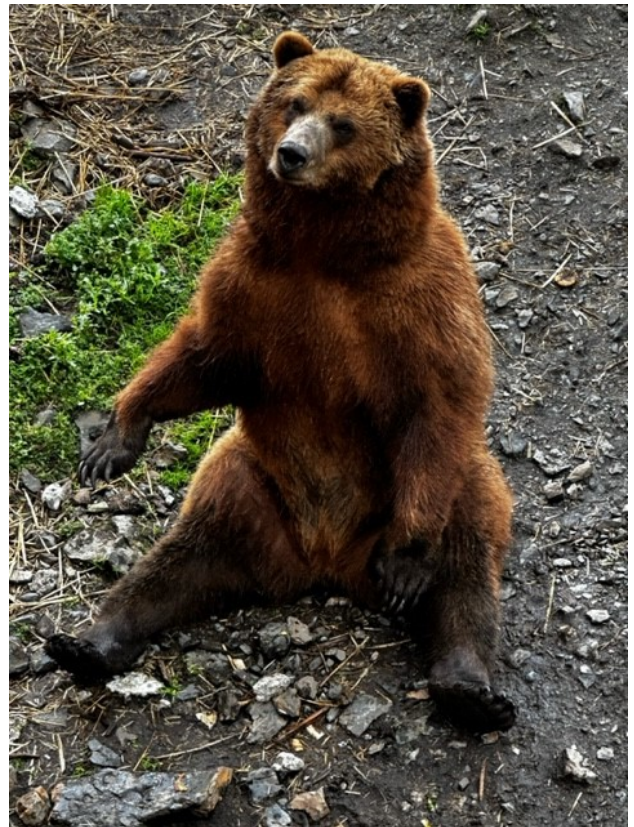


Above: (left to right) Sara and Alan Dodds and Al McTavish catching up on the news during Happy Hour in the Commodore Club.



Right: Cindy and Joe Wong relax in the Commodore Club.

# CRUISING ON THE QE II



Above left: Lyn and Cheuk Lam enjoying the Crab Feast.

Above right: A Rescued Bear welcomes to the Fortress of the Bear Rescue Centre and Sanctuary.

Left: William Pang, Lynn and Terry Feser enjoying an English Tradition, Afternoon Tea,

## TRAVEL SAFE

In February Kevin and Lorraine Kurtenbach had a travel experience that serves to remind us all of the problems that can be encountered and the necessity of having good travel insurance to cover any eventuality. See Kevin's Travel Tips on Page 12.

On February 2/23 Kevin and Lorraine Kurtenbach disembarked from the Antarctic Cruise in Buenos Aires and travelled downtown to purchase tickets for a Tango Show and then check in to the hotel. When the business selling the tickets opened they stopped to buy the tickets. They put down their luggage including their backpacks, Lorraine went in to buy tickets and Kevin waited outside to watch the luggage. *"As I was standing there, a man grabbed my backpack, which was less than 2 feet away, and ran with it into a waiting car a few feet away. Took 2 seconds and he was gone. In my backpack was my passport, cell phone, wedding ring and general items. Lucky for me, I had my wallet in my pocket with my drivers license."*

Kevin secured a video of the theft, went to the hotel, contacted the Canadian Consul, and enquired about getting a temporary passport. *"I was told it would take 3-5 days to get a replacement passport. I called Aeroplan to cancel my flight and book another one for the following week. In Argentina, you cannot go directly to the consulate. They only email the forms."* The hotel printed out the forms and Kevin and Lorraine completed the forms then got a photo for the passport. All by 5pm. *"It was crazy hectic."* At 4:30 pm the Consular Agents wanted to call Kevin's family and friends to vouch for him but the contact numbers were on his stolen cell phone. They had to phone Lorraine's friends to vouch for him. *"So lucky we had Lorraine's phone with their address and cell phone numbers."*



Kevin's new Cross Body Leather Pouch.

The next morning Kevin went to the Police Department to file a report and they told him this happens numerous times per day and that the thieves were taught how to steal from tourists. They even have a special section to handle thefts from tourists. *"This doesn't mean it was fast. We waited for a translator and then 3 hours for them to complete the forms"*

Kevin then called Medoc to start the claim process and Lorraine boarded her scheduled flight that afternoon. The new passport arrived on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and Kevin then called Medoc to start the insurance claim for my cell phone and expenses. My wife flew back on her regular scheduled flight that afternoon. On Monday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, the passport was ready, Kevin picked it up and flew back the following day Tues Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*"Medoc so far has covered the expenses for Air Canada, the Scala hotel extra days and the cost of applying for the temporary passport. That total was about \$1500. I have yet to be reimbursed for the cost of my wedding ring, and general items. Medoc nor Visa covered the cost of my Apple cell phone."*

The thieves tried to access his banking records through Kevin's cell phone but fortunately he has a 6-digit passcode and face ID enabled. *"They even sent the emergency contact people from my phone a spam email pretending to be Apple saying they had found my phone and click on the link to confirm the info. They were very well organized and tried for at least a week to get into my phone."* Kevin contacted Apple and invoked the "phone wipe" option that will wipe the phone clean and in a week he received an email from Apple the phone was wiped, much to his relief.

*"The one thing I noticed is everyone in Buenos Aires including the police carry a form of cross body leather pouch for their valuables to stop the thieves. I bought one as well while I was waiting. The one major change I have done is my cell phone, wallet, passport and important papers go into my new leather cross body case and only non important stuff goes into my backpack like clothes and books and stuff I can afford to lose. It was an experience I don't wish on anyone."*

## THOMAS THE TANK THRILLS LITTLE ONES

Once again two weekends in May featured the arrival of Thomas the Tank Engine at the West Coast Railway Museum in Squamish. The arrival of Thomas is an exciting event for his many young fans.

To add to the children's enjoyment Rene Brissette and volunteers Anna Bently, Michael Dias, Mattaeus Dias, Betty Tyson, Pat Medforth, Sharon Svensrud and Janice Whiting were on hand to help the children send their letters to Thomas.

A total of 654 letters were sent to Thomas and, much to the children's delight, all were answered.



Above: Thomas arrives to delight the children.



Below: Rene supervising sortation.

Rene reported; *"The count was down with a total of 654 letters to Thomas. The crowd appeared very young. My favorite story is of a young mom who came to the park with her son and told me that when her son received his last letter he was very exited. He carried the letter around all day long then slept with it."*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 28/23 Summer Luncheon  
Old Spaghetti Factory, New Westminster**

**September 10-14/23 U Drive Golf and  
Sightseeing Trip, Yakima, Washington**

**October 5/23 Annual Gala Banquet  
Continental Seafood Restaurant**

**November 10/23 Honouring Our Own.  
Location TBA**

**November 29/23 Christmas Luncheon,  
Location TBA**

**November 27/23-mid January Santa Letter Writing Program**



## VAN FRASER LOSES A STALWART MEMBER

The Van Fraser Heritage lost a long time stalwart member the sudden passing of Vern Frick on June 1st.

Vern joined Canada Post as a Letter Carrier and was featured in a 1964 video showing his work day. Later in his time with Canada Post he worked as a Postal Inspector and was a Safety Officer at his retirement.

Every Christmas Season Vern would be on hand to respond to Letters to Santa.

All through his time at Canada Post Vern was known to all he worked with for his friendly kind demeanor.

Vern also worked as an usher at Empire Stadium and was present for the Lions games and concerts, including the Beatles. He also worked in this capacity at the Pacific Coliseum and Rogers Arena. Both the PNE and the Canucks as well as many attendees to games and events expressed their gratitude and fondness for Vern's years of service and noted his friendly, kind and warm manner. Global TV ran a short feature during their new broadcast in memory of Vern and the Vancouver Sun and Province published articles praising his



## VAN FRASER GRANT APPLICATION

The Van Fraser Heritage Club Grant Program is open to children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of currently active members.

Children between the age of 13-18, residing in British Columbia, and attending between Grades 8-12 can apply.

The Grant is designed to assist students prepare for their future education or career aspiration in academic, technical, or trades. All applications must be received on or before August 31, 2023.

For application or information, please contact Alan Sung at (604)789-8662 or email him at [vfhcgrant@gmail.com](mailto:vfhcgrant@gmail.com).



You can also obtain information on the Van Fraser Grant Program and Scholarship Programs available to Van Fraser family members by contacting the office at 604 482-4311 or email [vanfrasernews@gmail.com](mailto:vanfrasernews@gmail.com).



# FOUR DAY TULALIP CASINO/SHOPPING TRIP NOVEMBER 19-22, 2023

Join us for our Annual Van Fraser Bus Trip to Tulalip for 3 nights and 4 days of fun, shopping, dining, sightseeing, happy hours, spa, pool time and casino play.

Price per person based on double occupancy: \$475.00 CAD pp.

Price includes:

- Bus Transportation
- 3 nights deluxe hotel room and taxes
- 3 breakfasts
- \$20.00 gaming credit
- Bus driver gratuities



This trip is always a highlight for members and friends and sells out quickly! We will do a Day Trip to Seattle, visiting the historic Pike Street Market and downtown area on the first day and provide more time for shopping and enjoying Tulalip Casino Resort, Near the hotel are the Cabela's Sports Store, the 24 Hour Walmart and numerous Factory Outlets, The hotel provides a free shuttle to each of these places as well as to the area across the highway with additional shops and restaurants. You can also take the shuttle to visit the Hibbud Cultural Centre on one of the days or the local bus to other areas.

As usual the hotel will be very festive with seasonal decoration, Christmas Shops and several nice lounges and restaurants to meet and enjoy time with other members and friends.

To book a seat complete the attached form and mail it with your cheque payable to the Van Fraser Heritage Club. Seats will be confirmed upon payment. (Note: the company reserves the right to modify the price if the USD Currency Rate changes significantly).

There is no cancellation after September 1, 2023 but changes are welcome if other people are available to fill your seat. This trip sells out fast so complete the form and send it in quickly!



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Phone: 604 482-4311



## DUNDEE POSTAL WORKERS TIME CAPSULE

In 1921 the employees of the Dundee, Scotland Post Office assembled The Postal War Memorial Shrine in memory of the 240 Dundee Post Office employees who served WWI and the 36 who died in the conflict.

The shrine was small lead lined oak casket with a brass plaque noting its purpose. A plaque on the front of casket stated that it was to be opened by the Dundee Postmaster in the presence of the Lord Provost on August 4, 2014. The date marked the 100th Anniversary of Great Britain's entry in WWI. The box was held in



The time capsule is currently on display, along with its contents, at The McManus, the Dundee Art Gallery and Museum.



Above: Annie Keir Lamont, Telegraphist, Dundee Post Office.

Below: Dundee Letter Carrier Volunteers



the custody of Dundee Postal Workers in the Dundee Postal Facility until the prescribed opening date.

On the prescribed date the box was opened by Debra Rodger, the Director of Collection and Delivery with the assistance of Bob Duncan, Lord Provost of Dundee, Dr. John Halliday of the High School of Dundee, the site of the 1921 Dundee Post Office and amateur historian Janice Kennedy whose family research brought the item to public attention.

Contents of the box included sealed letters from the Lord Provost of Dundee and the Dundee Postmaster addressed to their 2014 counterparts. Also included were the 1921 Instruction Booklet of the Dundee Swimming Club, the Royal Mail Magazine of 1921, match reports for the Hibernians Football team, a copy of the Dundee Courier newspaper of the day, and a number of personal letters from the staff.

One of the letters was from Annie Keir Lamont a Junior Telegraphist in the Dundee Post Office. In her letter she expressed the hope that Great Britain would one day have a female Prime Minister and women would have attained pay equity with their male counterparts.

# WORLD WAR ONE FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEERS

As World War I continued on there was a need for additional volunteers to perform a number of tasks in support of the War Effort, To fill this need the Women's Volunteers Detachment were formed to provide a number of tasks as noted in the poster.

Eleven women from Canada Post volunteered for service and were trained by the St John's Ambulance to assist in hospitals and convalescent homes.

They filled a vital role in assisting Medical Staff in caring for wounded patients and assisting in the recovery of badly wounded soldiers in Canada and Great Britain.

Desire Breton, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 Lillian F. Crocker, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 Mary D. Doyle, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 E. Georgette Dufour, Postal Stores, Ottawa  
 Mary Fraser, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 Millicent Hogg, Admin Clerk, Rlwy Mail Svc, Calgary  
 Alice Houston, Clerk, Annuities Branch, Ottawa  
 Louis Murray, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 Annie H. McNichol, Admin Clerk, Head Office, Ottawa  
 Clair Riffin, Admin Clerk, London District  
 Evelyn M. Sheppard, Admin Clerk, Toronto District



## 1st AMERICAN POST OFFICE

On November 6, 1693 the Massachusetts General Court authorized the opening of the first Post Office in what was ultimately to become the United States of America. The premises for the Post Office, located on Water Street in Boston, was owned by Richard Fairbanks and also served as the local tavern.



It seems unusual today to associate a tavern with a Post Office but in was a long established practice in Europe as the local taverns were a common meeting location for the community.

Fairbanks was licensed sell "wine and strong water" as well as receive "all letters which are brought from beyond the seas". Fairbanks was paid one penny for every item he handled.

### *Van-Fraser News*

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 to edit  
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## 2023/2024 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

**September 17, 2023 14 Day Alaska Night Cruise on the Noordam.** Visit Kodiak, Anchorage, Valdez, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Skagway and Prince Rupert. 14 Day Round Trip Vancouver to Vancouver, Call for prices.

**October 6, 2023 8 Night Cruise on the Ovation of the Seas,** Vancouver to Honolulu visiting Lahaina (overnight) and the Napoli Coast, plus five amazing days on the Resort at Seas with numerous pools, activities lounges, dining venues, roller derby cars, surf pool and sky diving.

**October 15, 2023 18 nights cruising the South Pacific to Sydney Australia on the Ovation of the Seas.** You can combine this cruise with the one above departing from Vancouver for a 26 Night Cruise, Vancouver to Sydney. Call for itinerary and pricing.

**October 7, 2023 17 Night Cruise to Hawaii, Vancouver return on the Koningsdam.** Insides from \$2307.00 or Have It All from \$3535.00 plus tax pp. No flights required.

**October 19, 2023 12 nights cruising New England from Quebec City to Fort Lauderdale on the Caribbean Princess** visiting Quebec City, Halifax, Portland, Rhode Island, Boston, and New York City. Inside cabins from \$600.00 pp plus taxes or from \$1350.00 plus taxes "All In" drinks, Wifi, gratuities, and more. Enjoy!

**February 3, 2024 21 Night Caribbean Cruise Fort Lauderdale return on the Eurodam.** Visit St. Maarten, St. John's, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Kitts, St. Thomas, Moon Cays, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Belize, Cozumel and Key West. Insides \$3012.00 CAD pp or "Have It All" included \$4588.00 CAD pp. Taxes \$520.00 pp and Air Fare are extra.

**April 6, 2024 22 Night Panama Canal, Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver on the Nieuw Amsterdam.** Visit the Turks and Caicos, Aruba, Caragna, transit the Canal, Puntarena, Nicaragua, Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Victoria. Insides from \$2481.00 or "Have It All" from \$4042.00 plus taxes \$845.00 CAD pp and air fare fro Vancouver to San Diego.

**July 11, 2024 11 nights curising Alaska on the Queen Elizabeth II.** Visiit Icy Strait Point (9Hoonah), Glacier Bay National Park, Hubbard Glacier, Haines, Juneau, Wrangel, Misty Fjord, and Ketchikan as well as cruising the Inside Passage, FOR THOSE WHO MISSED THE CUNARD EXPERIENCE- back again next summer! Book now to get choice of cabin and dining time and enjoy traditional cruising. Insides begin at \$2099.00 plus tax,.

Note: "Have It All" includes Drink Packages (up 10 15 drinks per day), 1 Specialty Dining Restaurant and 1-2 Shore Excursions.

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 for all trips and Johnson Medoc Insurance,

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

### Kevin's Travel Tips

- Always keep your passport, wallet, travel documents and jewellery in a cross body bag
- Keep a paper record of your emergency contacts with you as well as on your cell phone
- Never travel without insurance

