



Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

BOISTEROUS VAN FRASER SUMMER LUNCHEON



Ken Cornish MCing from the Street Car.

A happy boisterous crowd of over 70 Van Fraser members filled the reserved area of the Old Spaghetti Factory in New Westminster.

Several members were attending a luncheon for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of sharing camaraderie and memories with their friends and colleagues.

Once again Ken Cornish handled the MC duties of “keeping the noise down to a dull roar” and ensuring everything moved along smoothly. The noise level increased markedly every time a door prize winner was announced.

The Old Spaghetti Factory has proven to be an excellent location for these luncheons with a capacity of 100 in the reserved space. It is also adjacent to the New Westminster Skytrain Station, a number of bus routes pass through the vicinity and plenty of parking is available.

Watch the newsletter for upcoming luncheons and

other events. Each one of these events presents an opportunity to get together with old friends. Check out the listing on Page 9 for events that are in the planning stage or are ready to go.

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SANTA CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

It's getting close to the time when hundreds of thousands of children mail their Letter To Santa.

Once again Heritage Club volunteers from coast to coast will gather in groups or work individually from their homes ensuring every letter received is answered.

For all of you returning "veterans" we look forward to working with you once again.

Those members who are thinking about volunteering for the first time- don't hesitate. The veterans of the Santa Letter Writing Program will tell you it can be a rewarding experience.



Training/Refresher Sessions will be conducted to ensure all participants are fully aware of the processes involved.

So, answer Santa's Call and volunteer for the program by contacting the Heritage Club Office at 604 482-4311 or email vanfrasernews@gmail.com.

2023 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON- NOVEMBER 29th

SANTA HAS MARKED NOVEMBER 29th AND SENDS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

HO HO HO— I've marked November 29 th on my calendar to visit all of the Van Fraser members for their Christmas Luncheon—I hope YOU will be there.

Lots of good food, prizes and I might have some gifts for you.

Mark you calendar now and contact your colleagues and family to join you.

Registration forms and other information will be sent out in September.

Santa



CELEBRATING CANADA DAY

About 25 of the Richmond Group congregated for a Canada Day Celebration BBQ on July 1st.

All arrived dressed smartly in red and white and contributed to the pot luck meal with decorated items— a great meal held by all.

The Richmond Group of members / families has been meeting for many years enjoying happy hours in local pubs or at members home. We encourage any other members in Richmond to join the group as we continue to encourage other communities to supplement our club activities.

Fred and Alan carefully grilled a delicious pork roast



Above: Alan and Fred prepared the roast pork. Below left: Don Pao displaying this barbecue technique on a big salmon. Below right: Florence and Alan Sung with their Canada Day Salad.



RICHMOND AUSTRIA CLUB REVIEWED

The Van Fraser Executive is constantly seeking for locales for our luncheons. The criteria for selection includes space to accommodate 100+ attendees, have adequate parking, are on transit routes and have a price range reasonable for our members.

We learned about the Austria club and took advantage of their Garden Fest to check it out as a possible venue for one of our club's luncheons. In August, a group of eight Van Fraser members attended the Summer Garden Fest at the Austria Club in Richmond.

All of the group that attended were impressed with the club, the spaciousness and their flexibility. As you can see in the photos the Austria Club has sufficient space inside to meet our requirements and has outdoor space for a barbecue. They also have sufficient parking available and are on a regular transit route,

Unfortunately, we were not able to arrange our Christmas Luncheon there but we are hoping in the new year that we could possibly organize our Spring or Summer Luncheons and enjoy their Bavarian menu with delicious Bratwurst and Schnitzel meals.

If you are aware of locations in your community that would meet our requirements please contact any member of the Executive.



SURPLUS MATERIAL ASSISTS RAILWAY PARK

On July 2nd Van Fraser members paid an impromptu visit the Railway Museum and Park in Squamish to deliver materials for use in the park and the Railway Mail Car.

The material included over 600 pounds of discarded belting from the Processing Facility. The belting is used as a carpet in the Railway Mail Car to make it more comfortable for th visitors and reduce the wear on the floor. It was also used to provide baffles to reduce damage from inclement weather. The Railway Park Manager thanked Van Fraser and remarked, "Fred the conveyer belting is amazing! Not only will it be useful providing bellows (to improve air circulation) it will be used in the Roundhouse to protect the floor as some of the locomotives leak oil and it will protect the floor was a most timely gift".

Also donated several cartons of used Safety Vests and Hard Hats. They will be used by volunteers at the park.

Photo right: Jeremy and Fred lay down some surplus matting. Photo below: surplus belting helping seal the entrance to the Railway Mail Car.



A problem with impromptu visits is that sometimes no one is around. In this case the park was locked when the Van Fraser members arrived. Thankfully, a park volunteer was on site, opened the gates and helped with unloading the heavy items.

The Railway Mail Car remains one of the most popular attractions on the site with thousands of visitors passing through. The car is authentic in detail as a Cal & Van RPO including letter sortation, bag and parcel racks. It is one of a very few Railway Mail Cars remaining in Canada. It also serves as a great centerpiece for the Thomas the Tank event.

If you are looking for a place to visit in the summer check the on line schedule of the Railway Park and Museum. It provides a great look back at the Golden Age of Rail and the Mail Car in particular is a superb display of history, heritage and legacy.

VAN FRASER EXECUTIVE MEETING

in August, your Van Fraser executive convened for a planning meeting and bbq.

A written update summarizing all our activities to date was sent to each of the executive prior to the meeting to enable them to focus on plans and issues for the coming year.

Items discussed included 2023 Santa letter program, enhancing our participation in the Thomas the Tank Program for 2024, the 20th Anniversary of Thomas coming to the Railway Park in Squamish, the November 10th Honouring our Own Ceremony, Gala Banquet, locations and pricing for future luncheons. Pricing for events has been impacted by the large increase in cost of restaurant/ banquet meals. At the Christmas Luncheon a questionnaire will be distributed to get input from members, promoting scholarship program, archives and more.



(Left to right– Rene Brissette, Fred Danells and Stan Wong relaxing following the meeting.)

VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB EXECUTIVE

President:	Fred Danells	
1st Vice:	Rene Brissette	Thomas the Tank Engine Program, General Planning
2nd Vice:	Jeremy Davy	Liaison West Coast Railway Museum, Polar Express
3rd Vice:	Carol Burchett	Social Events, Santa Letters
Director:	Stan Wong	Fitness Centre, Banquets
Director:	Taka Nukina	Treasurer
Director:	Jim Stevenson	Secretary
Director:	Jim Bain	Newsletter, Archives/Museum, Honouring Our Own
Member at Large:	Ken Cornish	Golf, U-Drive, Travel, Honouring Our Own
Member at Large:	Alan Sung	Scholarship Programs
Member at Large:	William Pang	General Ambassador, Recruitment, Santa Letters
Assistant:	Peter Wong	Fitness Centre Administration

VAN FRASER ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Van Fraser Banquet will be held October 5th at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. This is always a well attended event with the opportunity to enjoy the conversation and company of long time colleagues and friends.

The restaurant always provides excellent food with excellent service and provides a great atmosphere for our members to relax and enjoy the ambiance.

There will, of course, be a birthday cake!.

As in the past there will be a prize draw and a silent auction of items.

Accompanying the newsletter is the Ticket Order form. As it takes time to plan a banquet of this size please complete the form and return it as soon as possible.

If you are able to help a fellow member attend please take the opportunity to ensure they too are able to come and enjoy the evening.

See you on October 5th.



OPS SUPPORT– SLIM HARPO FESTIVAL

Once again Ken and Louise Yee hosted the annual gathering of retired and present staff of the Pacific Region Ops Support Group.

Approximately 20 individuals attended the gathering known for its nickname, The Slim Harpo Festival. Everybody had a great time enjoying pleasant conversation and a pot luck dinner provided by the attendees.

For those of you not familiar with Slim Harpo he was an American blues musician and proponent of the "Swamp Blues" sound. He was primarily active in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area in the 1950's and 60's and his style still resonates with American and British blues musicians today.

When asked why Slim Harpo was chosen as a name for the gathering the originators will simply say it was a good name or shrug their shoulders and say "whatever".

Here's to a great yet underappreciated great musician, Slim Harpo!



TULALIP BUS EXCURSION REMINDER

Don't miss the Annual Tulalip Bus Excursion to Tulalip WA.

The bus departs Sunday, November 19, 2023 for three fabulous nights in the beautiful Tulalip Resort. Members always love this trip and look forward to it every year.

Lots of activities with sightseeing, shopping and lunch in Seattle on the first day. Travelers have time to relax at the resort, enjoy the spacious pool and hot tubs, take advantage of the spa and try their luck at the casino.

Ardent shoppers always take advantage of the pre Black Friday sales at the Factory Outlets and the opportunity to do some early Christmas gift shopping.

It's an ideal vacation for all with time to do as little or as much as you like. There are a variety of nice restaurants for meals and of course join the group pre dinner for Happy Hour and lots of conversation.

Space is limited! Reserve your seat now!



MEDOC ASSISTANCE SERVICES

If you need assistance before or while travelling, help is one call away. The MEDOC Claims Assistance Centre provides the following services whenever possible.

PRE TRIP ASSISTANCE

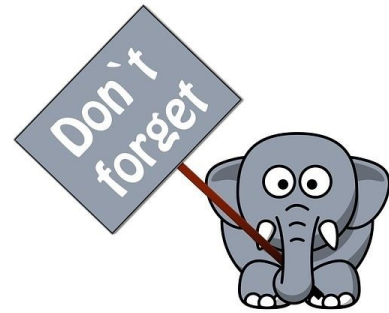
The MEDOC Claims Assistance Centre will provide you with pertinent travel information

- Travel Advisories for the area you will be visiting
- Required Inoculations
- Local Currencies
- Visa Requirements
- The MEDOC Claims Assistance Centre's Emergency Contact Phone Numbers for the different countries you will be visiting, and
- How to make a phone call from the country you are visiting including the required country codes

EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE

No matter where you travel assistance personnel are ready to take your call. You can call the MEDOC Claims Assistance Centre toll free at 1 800 709 3420 if in Canada or the United States or 800.514.7983 if in Mexico. Or call collect +819.566.1002 from anywhere else in the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS— NOT TO BE MISSED!



September 10-14/23 U Drive Trip,
Baymont Hotel, Yakima WA

October 5/23 Annual Gala Banquet, Continental Seafood
Restaurant. Richmond

November 19-22/23 Annual Tulalip Washington Bus Trip,
\$475.00 pp

**November 10/23 Honouring Our Own Remembrance
Ceremony,** Pacific Mail Processing Facility, Richmond

November 29/23 Christmas Luncheon, Continental Seafood
Restaurant, Richmond

November 27/23-January 10/23 SANTA LETTERS
Please volunteer to help answer letters. Call the office 604 482 4311.

MULE TRAIN MAIL DELIVERY

The hamlet of Supai is located 3,000 feet below the rim of the Grand Canyon and is home to approximately 200 people of the Havasupai Tribe. Access to the hamlet is accessible with a 8 mail walk down an old footpath with a mule.



Each day a United States Postal Service employee drives 67 miles from the nearest Post Office in Peach Springs AZ and takes the mail by mule to Supai. They also bring in food and other supplies for the general store using several other mules in a "Mule Train". Lettermail delivered this way bears the unique Postmark "Mule Train"

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2023-24 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

October 7, 2023 17 night cruise to Hawaii, Vancouver return on the Koningsdam.

Insides from \$2311.00 plus tax, balconies from \$4321.00 plus tax. Enjoy relaxing days at sea and visits to Kauai, Kona, Hilo, Lahaina and Honolulu. No flights!

January 4, 2024 22 night South America/Antarctic cruise on the Oosterdam, from

Santiago, Chile to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fred Danells, Van Fraser Heritage Club will be hosting and sharing his experience from already doing this cruise 6 times! Visit Santiago, Puerto Montt and Port Chacabuco, Chile; cruise Chilean Fjords, Strait Magellan, visit Puerto Montt, Chile; Punta Arenas, cruise the Cockburn, Beagle Channels, Glacier Alley, Ushuaia, Argentina, be amazed as you cruise through Antarctic for 4 days before heading up to the Falkland Islands, Port Madryn, punts Este and Montevideo, Uruguay and overnight on the ship in Buenos Aires. Fly from Manitoba to Santiago, Chile and return from Buenos Aires.

If interested, give Fred a call to discuss add on options pre and post cruise. Inside cabins start at \$3200.00 plus taxes \$591.00 cad per person. Air and add ons extra.

February 3/24 21 nights Caribbean Fort Lauderdale return on the Eurodam. Visit Saint Maarten, St. Johns, Saint Lucia, Dominica, St. Kitts, St Thomas, Half Moon Cays, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Belize, Cozumel and Key West. Insides from \$3345.00 plus taxes \$585.00 cad pp.

Note: you can also do this cruise for just 10 days if you want less time away. Call for prices.

April 13/24 20 nights Panama Canal Cruise Fort Lauderdale to Vancouver on the

Eurodam. Visit Cartagena, Columbia; transit Panama Canal; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Nicaragua; Guatemala; Huatulco, Mexico; Puerto Vallarta; San Diego; Santa Barbara; San Francisco and disembark in Vancouver. Inside cabins from \$2604.00 plus taxes \$897.00 CAD per person. Air one way to Fort Lauderdale extra.

July 11/24 11 nights cruising Alaska on the Queen Elizabeth.

Visit Icy Strait point (Hoonah), Glacier Bay National Park, Hubbard Glacier, Haines, Juneau, Wrangell!, Misty Fjord!, and Ketchikan as well as cruising 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 \$1873.00 plus tax \$345.00 cad pp. Fred Danells will be hosting this cruise.

June 8/25 28 nights "Cross the Arctic Circle" on the Westerdam, Seattle return. Visit Ketchikan, Sitka, Hubbard Glacier, Valdez, College Fjord, Seward, Dutch Harbour, Nome, cross the Arctic Circle during the summer solstice, Kodiak, Anchorage (overnight), Homer, Clacier Bay, Haines, Juneau, Wrangell, cruise Tracy Arm, Prince Rupert and end in Seattle. Fred Danells will be hosting this one. Insides from \$6450.00 plus taxes \$933.00 CAD per person. Only one trip a season!

Note: Be sure you have adequate out of country medical and trip cancellation insurance before confirming your trip. Call your Heritage Club office, for info on Johnson Medoc insurance. Prices available at time of printing and may change at any time. Call: 604-482-4311 or email Van Fraser Heritage Club: vanfrasernews@gmail.com for more info, detailed itineraries and pricing on other categories of cabins.

