



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## ANNUAL GALA A MAJOR SUCCESS

It was a jubilant and thrilling evening as 152 members and family attended the Annual Van-Fraser Gala Banquet in October at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond.

People began arriving at 5 pm with the energy and decibel levels in the room steadily rising and remaining high til well after 9 pm. We heard so many comments like; *"I chatted with people I haven't seen in years."*

More and more members are contacting their former colleagues and friends to make tables of 10. We encourage everyone to continue to do so for future luncheons and banquets.

Joining us for the evening were Mel and Bev Wilde and Bryan Hunt who came from Kelowna for the occasion.

During the evening, we recognized the two grandchildren of members who were recipients of the 2023 scholarships. There were lots of door prizes, a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

All these were interspersed between the sumptuous courses of a fantastic meal ending, as is



Former colleagues Sharon Jones (left) and Pam Rosengran meet up at the Gala.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



Mel Wilde was surprised to see his former secretary, Cheryl Oliver, at the gala.

our tradition, with the huge anniversary cake.

Thank you to Stan Wong for organizing a great meal and Ken Cornish as MC who tried very hard to keep the evening running smoothly.

More banquet photos on Pages 2 and 3.

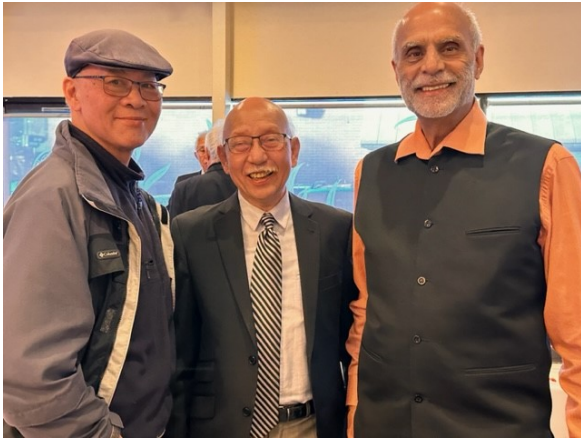
Gala Photo Gallery	2-3
Yakima U-Drive	4
Van Fraser Scholarship Recipients Yakima U-Drive Photos	5
National Heritage Club Scholarship Recipients	6
Van Fraser Scholarship Recipient Christmas Donations	7
September Alaska Cruise	8-9
Honouring Our Own	10
Remembrance Ceremony Van Fraser Christmas Luncheon	11
Travel Opportunities	12

# GALA BANQUET PHOTOS



A very surprised 50/50 Winner

# GALA BANQUET PHOTOS



# VAN FRASER MEMBERS RETURN TO YAKIMA

In mid-September, Van Fraser members were thrilled with the return of the Yakima U-drive trip after two years of pandemic restrictions limiting cross border travel. While everyone enjoyed our U-drive to Penticton the previous two years, it was nice to be back in the Yakima area.

This year we found a new hotel, the Baymont Inn. Everyone enjoyed the new locations which is on the Yakima River with each room having a balcony overlooking the river. An elaborate, hot and cold breakfast is served complementary each morning, and the hotel offers the flexibility for us to have our outdoor barbeques and picnics by the pool overlooking the river. The rates for the hotel are very reasonable making it a budget trip for all.



Dinner served poolside



Michael and Michelle Hiew and Ken Newfeld tasting wines at the Freeland Winery.

Each day some of the group played golf at a variety of local courses while others enjoyed sightseeing, shopping, hiking and just relaxing by the pool. On the final evening, the group travelled together to the nearby Freeland Winery for a wine tasting and to relax in the beautiful setting, high up in the hill overlooking the countryside.

All in all it was a fun trip, the price was right and we have already booked the hotel for next year ,September 8-13/24. Mark it on you calendar now and watch the next newsletter for registration information.

Now that we have established the facility in Yakima we are hoping that a lot more people will join us next yea, knowing how comfortable is to drive in your own car at your own pace, staying all or some of the days and meeting old and new friends. Also, joining in as many or as little activities as you choose to each day . Drive your self or arrange to car pool with a few others



Relaxing poolside at the end of the day



Ken Cornish, Terry and Brent Arnett, and Carol Burchette enjoying Happy Hour.

# VAN FRASER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Grandchildren of two of our members were recipients of scholarships/grants this year and we were honoured to recognize them at our banquet.

Christian Shimmin, grandson of June Steves and Jessica Cho, granddaughter of Robert Woo were the two recipients.

Each year, There are three scholarship opportunities for children/ grandchildren of active Heritage Club members, provided by (1)National Heritage Club, (2)Van Fraser Heritage Club and (3)Johnson Insurance. If you have children in high school, be sure to check the qualifications for all three scholarships and help them apply for 2024. Call the Heritage Club office for details and application forms.



Above: Fred Danells with June Steeves and husband, grandparents of National Heritage Club Scholarship, Christian Shimmin.

Below: Alan Sung, Jean Wnng (left) and Stan Wong (right) with Van-Fraser recipient Jerssica Cho and family.

Thanks to Alan Sung, Chairperson of our Scholarship Committee with committee members Pat Medforth, Jean Wong and Stan Wong for all their work

Full details on Pages 6 and 7.

# YAKIMA U-DRIVE PHOTOS



Carol Burchett serving dinner and making sure everybody has enough to eat.



Fred Danells, Mike Williams, Linda Cardinal and Michael Nahimy pause for a selfie before driving onto the challenging Apple Hole 17 at the Apple Tree Golf Course.

## 2023 HERITAGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Canada Post Heritage Club is proud to offer a Scholarship Program to the depend of our members (in good standing). We are now in the sixth year with this program, and with this years class we have presented scholarships to nineteen fine young people. The qualifications of the applicants are always impressive, making it a difficult choice for our evaluators. We thank them for their thoughtful deliberations. Congratulations the 2023 winners and we wish them every success in their future endeavours. They are all talented, hardworking individuals and will surely do well in their studies and chosen careers. The future is in good hands, if the caliber of our applicants is any indication.

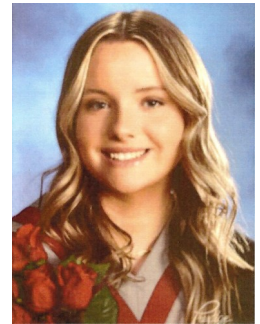
### **ABBYGALE DAVIDSON**

Abbygale is the granddaughter of Humber Chapter member Bruce Fleming. Abby has maintained an excellent academic average while fully participating in her school and community. As Secretary of the School Council she received high praise for her work ethic and initiative. Drama Club, cross country running and skiing, and participation in a school exchange program show a well rounded individual, while her activities in wetland protection prove her to be highly motivated to improve her world, We wish her good luck as she begins her studies in Biomedical Science at the University of Guelph.



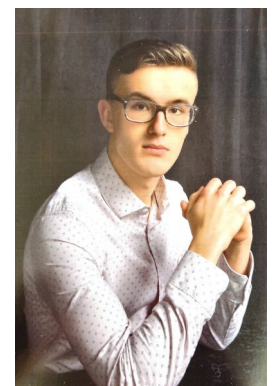
### **MARGARET FALLSCHEER**

Margaret is the granddaughter of Parkland Chapter member Sandra Fallscheer. Margaret participates in many school and extra curricular activities. 4H Club president, SPCA volunteer, Student Leadership Council, she finds time to volunteer with Canadian Parents for French and the parish Bebe project. If that wasn't enough Margaret baby sits, tutors, and is a trail guide program leader. Her high academic level is reflected in the designation Academic Great Distinction-French Immersion. Congratulations Margaret, and good luck with your studies in Biological Science at the University of Calgary.



### **CHRISTIAN SIMMIN**

Christian is the grandson of Van Fraser member June Steeves. Christian's commitment to his studies is reflected in his 97% academic average and this is balanced by his enthusiastic participation in school and parish activities. A skilled track athlete, he is also a Sunday school teacher, camp counselor and area lead in his job at MacDonalds. His interest in physics has earned him the Exemplary Student Achievement Award for the past two years. Christian will be working towards a science degree at Simon Fraser University, with a goal of medicine, possibly research. We wish him the very best of luck in this very worthwhile career.



## VAN FRASER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER 2023

### JESSICA CHO

Jessica is the granddaughter of Van Fraser member Robert (Bobby) Woo. Jessica is excelling academically as a Straight A student entering her final year of high school at Eric Hamber Secondary School. Having successfully completed her English First People 12 Course she demonstrates a strong dedication to her studies and deep appreciation for Indigenous Culture.

In addition to her academic achievements, Jessica generously dedicates her time as a peer tutor at her school, assisting her fellow students in their educational endeavours. Beyond the classroom, she is a dynamic individual who thrives on the sports field. Jessica has been an avid soccer player for an impressive decade, showcasing her athletic prowess as a member of the Vancouver Athletic Football Club.

Inspired by a passion for health science and a desire to make a meaningful impact on the world, Jessica aspires to attend medical school in the near future. Her commitment to academic excellence, coupled with her love for sports and dedication to community service, exemplifies her well-rounded character and hints at a bright and promising future in the medical field. We look forward to witnessing Jessica's journey towards her goal.



## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

This drawing was published in the Vancouver Province in December 1918 as part of an appeal to provide Christmas gifts for children who lost their fathers in World War I.

Circumstances have changed but there is still a need to provide gifts to the children whose families cannot them.

There are a number of church, charitable and other organizations that each year accept the donation of toys or cash to provide Christmas gifts. Please take a moment to donate and support their efforts.

For those attending the Annual Van Fraser Luncheon it is requested you bring an unwrapped toy for the Salvation Army. The accompanying poster provides the details.

Your generosity will make a child's Christmas an enjoyable day. *"Don't let the Postman pass them on Christmas"*



## SEPTEMBER ALASKA CRUISE

In mid September, a group of 22 Van Fraser members enjoyed 14 days on board the Noordam, cruising from Vancouver all the way up to Kodiak, Alaska and returning to Vancouver.

Ports visited included Ketchikan, Sitka, Kodiak, Prince Rupert, Valdez, Skagway, and beautiful Glacier Bay .

Each afternoon, the group gathered for happy hour in the beautiful Ocean Bar to enjoy the half price drinks and conversation and lots of laughs. Small clusters enjoyed dinner in the formal dining room, and on two of the nights we had a group dinner for everybody in the dining room.



Happy Hour on the Noordam.

Some of the highlights were walking through the town of Kodiak, visiting the local museum, surviving a huge rain and wind storm in Sitka ,yet still managing to visit the Bear habitat, the Russian Orthodox Cathedral and all of the shops in downtown Sitka; walking through that small, beautiful town of Valdez, seeing the local, museums, the wildlife and breathing, the fresh, clean air; taking a local bus on a scenic tour in Ketchikan, ending up at a resort on the water with a feast of all you can eat crab, along with salads and cheesecake.

On board, people participated in the various game and trivia shows, evening entertainment, and art auctions. Some went to the various nightclubs on board or walked on the outside decks, viewing the spectacular scenery en route and particularly at the Margaree Glacier in Glacier Bay.



A great time was had by all with calm seas and good weather for almost all of the trip, which is not always expected in mid to end September.

Watch the newsletters for upcoming cruises in 2024 and 2025

More photos on Page 9



# ALASKA CRUISE PHOTOS



Photo Gallery

Left Upper- Jim Cornish and Katie Calvert

Middle Left- Margaret Lee sampling a seafood bowl.

Bottom Left- Shopping for the Orange Night Party

Center Upper-Cheuk and Lynn Lam Checking their Photos.

Right Upper- Mike Williams and Liz Drescher enjoyed the Art Auctions.

# HONOURING OUR OWN CEREMONY

On Friday, November 10th at 10:30 am the Van Fraser Heritage will host the Honouring Our Own Ceremony at the Pacific Processing Facility in Richmond, With COVID restrictions eased our members are once again invited to attend. For those who do not attend Remembrance Day Services on the 11th this is an excellent opportunity to honour the following Post Office employees from British Columbia who died in service or as a result of service.

As in previous ceremonies members and guests will be asked to participate with reading of each name and a brief outline of their history.



the

## WORLD WAR I

**Herbert Norman Canning**  
Letter Carrier, Victoria

**Frank Edward Carr**  
Postal Clerk, Vancouver

**Joseph White Cornick**  
Postal Clerk, Victoria

**Alfred James Dailey**  
Letter Carrier, New Westminster

**Arthur Gibson**  
Postmaster, 150 Mile House

**Arthur Frederick Goffin**  
Railway Mail Clerk, Haney

**Samuel Livingston Haegert**  
Letter Carrier, Victoria

**Matthew Henry Harlock**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**James Hayes**  
Railway Mail clerk, Vancouver

**Henry Harry Jackson**  
Postal Clerk, Vancouver

**John Jamieson**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**Douglas John Lamborn**  
Letter Carrier, Victoria

**Rae Bruce McCallum**  
Postal Clerk, Victoria

**Thomas Charles Morris-White**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**William John Murray**  
PM Britcola Sub, Vancouver

**Clarence Roy Palmer**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**Charles Herbert Peart**  
Postal Clerk, Vancouver

**James R. Pender**  
Postal Clerk, Vancouver

**Marshal Wilder Pineo**  
Postmaster, Fort Fraser

**Alexander Filmore Quinn**  
Postal Clerk, Vancouver

**James Oliver Randle**  
Postal Clerk, Nanaimo

**Joseph Richardson**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**Archie Blackwood Russell**  
Railway Mail Clerk, Prince Rupert

**James Eliot Stephen**  
Postal Clerk, Prince Rupert

**Ernest Messenger Wilkinson**  
Letter Carrier, Victoria

**Charles Wenman Wright**  
Letter Carrier, Victoria

## WORLD WAR II

**Hedley William Ashbery**  
Postmaster, Okanagan Mission

**Russell Haig Clapperton**  
Postal Clerk, Kamloops

**Randolph Percy Day**  
Letter Carrier, New Westminster

**Melvin Ralph Derrick**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**Richard Godfrey East**  
Rural Mail Courier, Keremeos

**John Gibson**  
Letter Carrier, Vancouver

**William Pyle Thomas**  
Postal Clerk, Victoria

## HONOURING OUR OWN: AN INVITATION

Now that COVID restrictions have been eased the Van Fraser Heritage Club will once again host the annual Honouring Our Own Remembrance Ceremony. Ongoing research has expanded the list of those to be honoured to thirty-three. One of the new individuals to be remembered is William John Murray, the Postmaster of the Vancouver Britcola Sub Post Office. Britcola, located in the area of Renfrew and Kingsway, was a stop on the Inter Urban Tram Line. Murray served with the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders.

This year Van Fraser will be presenting two new acquisitions to our collection. We recently obtained the Memorial Plaque and Medals for Alfred Francis Goffin, a Railway Mail Clerk who served with the Canadian Army Postal Corps and died in 1921 from Tuberculosis contracted while serving in France. The family of each member of British and Commonwealth forces who died in service or as a result of service received a plaque embossed with the soldier's name.

We will also be putting on display a Royal Canadian Army Postal Corps uniform dating from the 1950's and 60's.

The ceremony is interactive and attendees are asked to participate by reading the name and brief history of one of the thirty-three honourees.

The ceremony will be held at 10:30 am on Friday, November 10th and Pacific Mail Processing Centre in Richmond. We urge our members to attend and honour these thirty-three individuals. Please contact the office at 604 482-4311 if you will be attending.



## VAN FRASER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**Wednesday, November 29th  
Continental Seafood Restaurant  
Richmond**

**Remember to bring an  
unwrapped toy or cash  
donation to the Salvation  
Army Toy Drive.**

**See attached poster for  
details and Ticket Order  
Form.**

### *Van-Fraser News*

Until 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

## 2024-25 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

**January 4 / 24 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 having already done 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, Punta Este and Montevideo, Uruguay and overnight on the ship in Buenos Aires. Fly from Vancouver to Santiago, Chile and return from Buenos Aires. Inside cabins start at \$3200.00 plus taxes \$591.00 cad per person. Air and pre-cruise hotel are extra. January 29/24 22 night South America/Antarctic cruise on Oosterdam, from Buenos Aires to Santiago, Chile— reverse itinerary of above cruise. You can do either of the 22 day cruises or stay on board for 44 days.

**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.

**October 1/24 13 nights on the Quantum of the Seas, cruising from Vancouver to Honolulu**, visit Victoria, Seattle, overnight in San Francisco, overnight in Maui and arrive Honolulu. Fly home direct from Honolulu or stay a few nights in a hotel. You can also stay on board and cruise an additional 18 days to Sydney, Australia. Call the Heritage Club office for details.

**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, Glacier 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 information on Johnson (soon to be Belair) 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 for more information, detailed itineraries and pricing on other categories of cabins.

