



Van- Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

VAN FRASER MEMBERS WELCOME CHRISTMAS

Our Annual Christmas luncheon was a huge success once again as a boisterous happy holiday attendees group filled the room with high energy. Prior to lunch everyone circulated from table to table around the room and caught up with old friends and colleagues. A ten course meal was then served including dim sum delicacies, beef and broccoli, boneless chicken, sweet and sour pork, vegetables, fish, noodles, special rice and ending with a refreshing mango dessert.

Donations of new toys or cash for the Salvation Army toy drive were accepted during the luncheon. We were thrilled to see such a huge display of brand new exciting toys and cash donations totaling \$460. The toys and cash were delivered to the Salvation Army immediately following the luncheon. The overwhelming response of the staff to receiving the gifts and cash was humbling for us all. I'm sure we have made a great difference to some of the needy families, especially the children, who will be the recipient of our donations.



Santa visited every table bringing joy and goodies.



MC Ken Cornish in his special Christmas attire at the Donation Table.

The Continental Restaurant has a huge screen at the front of the dining room, along with other smaller screens positioned throughout the room. Members were delighted to see a continuous stream of photos of our club activities from over the past 10+ years and loved seeing themselves and reminiscing about all of our activities.

Following the video stream of club photos, we were able to show another set of photos with wonderful pictures of the old Woodward's Department Store Christmas Window displays. Thanks to Alan Sung for bringing that video stream.

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CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Of course, no Christmas luncheon would be complete without a visit from Santa, and to that end, he did not disappoint even though he had to come through very heavy fog conditions to join us on this day. He and his two elves arrived with Santa bells jingling and bags full of goodies. Santa circulated the room visiting each table while the elves presented a gift from Santa to every guest. Numerous photos with Santa were taken as people loved having pictures to show their families. Thank you Santa for joining us along with Mike and Liz, his special elves of the day.



(Left to right) Ritchie, Henry Wong and Eddie Lee meet up at the Luncheon.

Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes and thank you to all of those members who donate prizes for our draws.

Make sure you watch the upcoming events section of our newsletter and mark you calendar with our 2024 luncheons and banquet.



The generosity of Van Fraser members filled 3 tables overflowing with gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PHOTO GALLERY



HONOURING OUR OWN REMEMBRANCE

On Friday, November 10th the Van Fraser Heritage Club held our Honouring Our Own Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony honours the twenty-three Post Office employees from British Columbia who died either in service or as a result of service in World Wars I and II.

As in the past Flanders Fields is read and in one of the most poignant moments off the ceremony each name is read and their picture, if available, is shown on the presentation screen.

This year members were shown the latest acquisitions for the Archive that included the Memorial Plaque for Arthur Frederick Goffin, Railway Mail Clerk and a uniform tunic and cap from the Royal Canadian Postal Corps, circa 1950/60. The plaque was part of a package sent to the family of each individual who died in service or as a result of service. The package included, as well as the plaque, a letter from King George V and a Commemorative Scroll. Over 3 million of these packages were issued to families of British and British Empire/Commonwealth Forces.

A member of the Toronto Heritage Club saw the medals and plaque on eBay and contacted us about acquiring these items.


The following is from a posting on Facebook by Tim Miller, retired from the Royal Canadian Postal Corps and working on a book regarding the Postal Corps in WWI. Van Fraser has shared our research into Post Office employees who served in World War I.




The presentation of the Poem, Flanders Fields is one of the touching moments of the ceremony



Ken Cornish with an attendee from the Pacific Mail Processing Centre.



CF Postal Service



Timothy W Miller

Admin · September 26 at 10:54 AM · 🌐

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The Medals of Pte A.F. Goffin, Canadian Postal Corps

I was contacted over the summer by Mr. Jim Bain of the Van Fraser Branch of the Canada Post Heritage Club, who often shares historical info with me regarding the CFPS.

One of his latest projects was a Canadian Postal Corps/Royal Canadian Postal Corps "Roll of Honour", which lists a number of CPC personnel who died as a result of service in conflicts since WWI.

During his research and work he discovered the decorations of one of those posties listed. Pte Arthur Fredrick Goffin's medals were found for sale on EBay. Jim and his fellow Heritage Club members made the decision to purchase the medals to ensure they would be properly and respectfully cared for.

I believe this to be a most honourable deed and wanted to share this gem of a story with the CFPS family. Thank you to the Van Fraser Branch of the Canada Post Heritage Club!

HONOURING OUR OWN NEW ACQUISITIONS

As previously mentioned the Van Fraser Archives has added some new items to our inventory.



This is the Commemorative Plaque presented to the family of Railway Mail Clerk Arthur Frederick Goffin. This was part of a package presented to his family in 1921 after his death from Tuberculosis. He volunteered in 1914 and served in the Postal Corps in the United Kingdom, Belgium and France. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis while serving in Belgium.

The plaque contains a great deal of symbolism. It shows the figure of Britannia and the British Lion. The dolphins are representing the Royal Navy. At the bottom of the plaque is a representation of the British Lion triumphant over the German Eagle. There is no display of rank with the name as the policy was that all deceased would receive equal treatment. As it bore a resemblance to the British Penny it earned the nickname *The Dead Man's Penny*.



The 1914-15 Star was issued to all individuals who served in Europe during these two years. Goffin's name and unit are engraved on the reverse



The 1918 Victory Medal was issued to all individuals serving in British and British Empire/ Commonwealth in 1918



A Royal Canadian Postal Corps uniform tunic circa 1950/60. The shoulder flash would have been issued post 1951 when the Royal designation was conferred on the Corps.

The red square on the shoulder indicates the First Division, the Chevron a Lance Corporal and the buttons on the sleeve the Trade and level.

Notes inside the tunic show it would fit an individual 5 feet 7 inches tall

The Cap Badge is Royal Canadian Postal Corps featuring the traditional Mail Coach Trumpet. Until the designation Royal was granted the Postal Corps Cap badge was the same as a Letter Carrier's Cap Badge.



The ribbon over the breast pocket shows service in a Canadian Forces PO in support of the United Nations.

RICHMOND LIBRARY CHRISTMAS EVENT



Van Fraser members Alan and Florence Sung, working in cooperation with the Richmond Public Library, hosted a Santa Letter Writing Event.

The children were delighted to visit the display and write their letters to Santa.



Photo above– Pole Mount Antique Mail Box arrives with Letters at the PPC.

Left top- Florence Sung watches as children and parent prepare their Letters to Santa.

Left bottom; A young letter writer mails her Letter to Santa.



Once the letter was finished and the envelope correctly addressed, they deposited their letters in a restored antique Pole Mount Street Letter Box from the Van Fraser Archives. The SLB proved to be a huge highlight and arrived at the Richmond Processing Centre filled with letters and turned over to Santa's support Group

Thank you Alan and Florence for organizing this event in support of the Santa Letter Program and the Heritage Club's ongoing commitment to Literacy.



VAN FRASER SPRING LUNCHEON

The Van Fraser Heritage Club will welcome the coming of Spring and first event of 2024.

The event will be held on March 27, 2024 at the Cascades Gateway Casino in Delta. It's a great way to start the yearly events, meet once again with colleagues and friends, enjoy a sumptuous buffet, and, perhaps, check out the casino.

The luncheon will include the buffet, a cash bar and door prizes, for \$30.00 person. Get a group of colleagues together for a great meal and fun.

A ticket order form accompanies this newsletter. Make sure you order your tickets early as there is limited space.

Thanks to Rene Brisette for organizing this event.

TULALIP PRE CHRISTMAS TRIP

Early in the morning on Nov 19/23, just as the sun was peeking above the horizon members began to arrive at the River Rock Casino to board the bus for our annual pre Black Friday trip to Seattle and Tulalip, WA. Once everyone was on board, we headed to the border picking up the rest of the group at the Campbell River Store. Proudly, we were all settled on the bus and cleared the USA border before 8 am, heading down the highway to Seattle.

Although rain had been projected for the day, we arrived in downtown Seattle in sunshine, where everybody disembarked the bus and enjoyed several hours exploring the famous Pike Street Market, shopping at our favourite *Ross Dress For Less* store and having lunch in one of numerous places available in the area.



4 pm Happy Hour each day was an enjoyable time to highlight the day's experiences of shopping for bargains and showing casino winnings.

Back on the bus, we headed north again, arriving at the Tulalip casino resort at 2 PM where they had our keys and room packages ready for us. People scurried off to their rooms and made plans for the next several days. At 4 PM, each day, the group met in the lobby lounge where we had lots of laughs, shared the experiences of the day, competed for the best buy of the day at the outlets, and enjoyed a drink together.

Each morning a hot complimentary breakfast was served to us in the Cedars Cafe Restaurant. We also had one complimentary dinner voucher which people used in a variety of restaurants available in the resort. The free shuttle took every one from the hotel to the factory outlets to the Walmart, Cabelas, Home Depot, to the Cultural Center, and other locations in the area. The shuttle was readily used by all of our group and most people got to do lots of shopping, sightseeing, and some may have even done well in the casino.



Sadly, time to return home with one more stop at Bellis Fair.

It was a delight to go out for a walk in the evening, amongst the spectacular light display with so many coloured lights on the pathway between the hotel and the factory outlets. A skating rink was erected and was available for the three days around Black Friday. It was really quite magical setting. Wonderful for pictures and just walking around and they tell us next year will be even bigger and better.

We returned home on the 22nd, stopping at Bellis Fair for lunch and more Black Friday bargains. As usual, the comment remarks were—“*we need one more day next year*”. Watch the newsletters and don't miss next year's trip

TULALIP TRIP PHOTO GALLERY



The Elvis Show at the Resort Hotel proved popular with the group



Ron Plankeel and Elaine Galley enjoying the Elvis Show.



(left to right) Nick Kvenich, Fred Danells, Ron Plankeel and Larry Whitty chatting the Lobby Lounge>



Lots of photos were taken of the fabulous light show which featured 6 million lights with the resort planning to expand next year. A great experience to look forward to.

HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Your Van Fraser Heritage Club Membership Renewal Forms will be mailed to you at the end of December and early January.

Please complete the forms and return to us as soon as possible along with your cheque for your annual dues. Remember that failure to return the form and a cheque for membership dues can jeopardize travel insurance purchase through the Heritage Club.. Only paid up members are covered by this policy.

We appreciate your completing the lower half of the form as well, indicating to us what activities you plan to participate in which will help us with our planning. Also, we welcome any suggestions you may have and you can write them on the back of your form



CHECK (AND CHEQUE) LIST

- **Have you included all the contact information including address, phone number and email?**
- **Have you indicated all the events you are considering attending?**
- **Have you indicated volunteer activity?**
- **Is your cheque correctly completed including signature and correct dated?**

FINDING “STUFF”

Recently, a box arrived at the Van Fraser Office containing a number of bound books. They proved to be copies of the Postal Guide Part I dating from 1928, copies of the Postmaster General's Report from the 1930's and a copy of the Postal Guide Part II.

Several of the books had date stamps on the inside cover including one from Lardeau BC, a long closed Post Office, dated 1931. Lardeau is located on the western shore of the Arrow Lakes and is served out of Castlegar.

There is also and 1947 Postal Guide Part II date stamped with the Postmaster's date stamp and signed by Arthur J.P. Guthrie, Postmaster at the time.

The Van Fraser Heritage Club Archives is always searching for items pertaining to Postal History. This includes magazines, documents, photos, and equipment. If you have a box of “stuff” sitting around and would like to donate it to the Archives please contact the office at 604 482-4311.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Whether your calendar is on your cell phone, laptop, tablet, ipad, or just an old fashioned paper copy, time to mark the 2024 Van Fraser Events. More information will be included in future newsletters.

January 24/24

Help Santa finish all his mail

March 27/24

Spring Luncheon, Cascades Casino, Delta
A ticket application accompanies this newsletter

June 27/24

Summer Luncheon

September 8-12/24

Yakima U-Drive trip

September 26/24

Gala Banquet Continental Seafood Restaurant

November 8/24

Honouring Our Own Ceremony and Reception at the PPC

November 27/24

Christmas Luncheon

December 24

Santa letters



Mark Your Calendar!

CORRECTION

The caption for the photo on Page 1 of the September/October edition of Van Fraser News incorrectly identified Nancy Carter as Sharon Jones.

Our apologies to both individuals for this error.



Van-Fraser News

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2024-25 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

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 \$2654.00 plus taxes \$952.00 CAD per person. Air one way to Fort Lauderdale extra.

April 30/24 Introductory 5 day cruise on the Noordam, Vancouver retur; visit two ports Ketchikan and Prince Rupert along with two scenic days at sea. Inside cabins from \$408.00 and balconies from \$640.00 plus taxes \$343.00 per person .This is a great little cruise for first timers or those wanting a quick break with friends and colleagues.

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 \$1470.00 plus tax \$345.00 cad pp. Fred Danells will be hosting this cruise. Call for new promos!

August 20/24 11 nights on the Volendam, Boston to Montreal visiting Portland, Saint John, Halifax, Charlottetown, Corner Brook, NF, Saquenay, Quebec City and Montreal. Inside cabins from \$1750.00 plus taxes \$350.00 CAD per person. Flights to Boston and return from Montreal extra.

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. This is an action packed ship with bumper cars, roller blading, sports courts, simulated sky diving, surf pool, rock climbing , numerous pools including the quiet adult only Solarium pools! Lots of dining options. Don't miss this one— a great break before winter rolls in. Inside from \$1139.00 cad plus tax pp. October 1/24 17 nights on the Koningsdam, Vancouver return ,visiting Honolulu overnight; Kauai, overnight; Kona and Hilo, lots of sea days to relax and enjoy the ship. Insides start at \$2254.00 cad pp plus taxes \$278.00.No flights!

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 Artic Circle during the summer solstice, Kodiak, Anchorage (overnight), Homer, Glacier Bay, Haines, Juneau, Wrangell, cruise Tracy Arm, Prince Rupert abd 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 (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 info , detailed itineraries and pricing on other categories of cabins.

