



# Van-Fraser News

VAN - FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

## ANTARCTIC VOYAGERS 22 DAY CRUISE



Postal wherever we go! Calgary Heritage Club Member, Diane Flynn, oversees the transfer of mail for delivery to the Palmer Station in Antarctica.

In January a small group of Heritage Club members made another trip to Antarctica. For some it was their first trip, for others it was their eighth.

The 22 day voyage began in Punta Arenas Chile, down the coast of South America, round Cape Horn, through the Antarctic Sea, on to the Falkland Islands and ending in Buenos Aires. Travelers witnessed wild and rugged scenery as well as the urban delights of Buenos Aires. A number of the travelers stayed aboard ship for the return trip to Santiago.

The trip began on a very friendly note when the Van Fraser Group, while dining in Santiago prior to going to board the ship, met a group of fellow travelers. The group were Chileans returning home following two weeks in Cancun Mexico. After the initial greetings Joe Wong gave a short speech explaining that we were Canadians, where the group was going and expressed our pleasure at meeting them.

The group assembled in Santiago at the beginning of the trip and some enjoyed shopping in the local markets and enjoyed a Parrilla Lunch prior to boarding. The lunch consists of variety of meats grilled on an open pit.

The Captain was able to manoeuvre the ship into many tight corners providing excellent viewing for the travelers. Everyone was excited by the cooperating clear weather allowing every very close access to Cape Wilde on Elephant Island and provided a marvelous view of the Elephant Island Memorial surrounded and well guarded by seals and penguins.

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Fred gets a close up view of the Cape Horn Lighthouse on Drake Passage.

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# ANARCTIC VOYAGE

The memorial honours Luis Pardo, commanding the sea tug Yelcho, who returned with Shackleton to rescue the crew British Explorer Ernest Shackleton who were marooned for four and half months on the Island. The 22 men remained on the island. The men remained on the island while Shackleton sailed to South Georgia to arrange their rescue.

The trip through Antarctic waters featured the wildlife of the area including the wide variety of seals and penguins that populate the area. As the ship moved through Antarctic waters it was common to have ice flows move by the ship covered with seals and penguins.

During the trip there was a transfer of mail to the Cruise Ship for delivery to scientific staff at the United States Palmer Research Station. The station's staff had not received any mail since just before Christmas. The mail included much needed batteries. Being "Postal Where Ever We Go", the group turned out to ensure the transfer was done properly! The station volunteers were extremely happy to receive the mail and fresh food and quickly came out in their inflatables to transfer it all ashore.



Elephant Island Memorial featuring the bust of Luis Pardo.



The British Antarctic Station. They don't have to go far to start counting penguins.



Lots of fun watching penguin floating on icebergs

The Captain got very close for us to see the British Research Station and of course the most southern Post Office in the world. The volunteer staff who work there not only process the mail that comes from it to the ships, but maintains the regular inventory of the penguins on the island (other related duties). Fred checked on any Santa mail that might have been delivered to the South Pole by mistake.

The voyage continue on to Buenos Aries and provided great views of scenery and wildlife along the way.

The group took the time to socialize along the way with shopping trip ashore in the market places, Happy Hour in the evening, and fine dining aboard ship.

One celebration was for Alice Pang's Birthday.

If you would like to participate in an Antarctic Voyage watch the newsletter for opportunities in 2025 and 2026.

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Alice Pang celebrating her birthday aboard ship.



# ANTARCTIC VOYAGE



Joe Wong welcomed and spontaneously made a speech to a group of 15 Chileans in our Santiago Hotel at the pre cruise Dinner.

William and Fred wore the matching alpaca sweaters they bought at the market in Chile and enjoyed in Punta Arenas with a local Parrilla lunch ( variety of meats grilled on open fire pits)



Everyone was on deck for cruising the Chilean Fjords and Glacier Alley.

# ***THE TRADITION CONTINUES***

## **VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB COMMUNITY SERVICE 2023**

A huge THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS to all Van Fraser members who organized and volunteered our Club Fund Raising Activities and Events throughout 2023.

"Kudos" to all our members supporting our events with donations, purchases and personal donations. Club members are not only invaluable but also PRICELESS!

Our members are "Ambassadors" from the Heritage Club to the Community.

### **COMMUNITY DONATIONS 2023**

BC Children's Hospital Foundation	\$3,000.00
BC Cancer Foundation	\$3,000.00
CPC Community Foundation	\$3,000.00
Richmond Hospital Foundation	\$3,000.00
Al Millar Orphan Care Project	\$3,000.00
Kidsport Program Richmond	\$2,700.00
Van Fraser Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Kidsport AGM*	\$4,335.00

*\*Thirteen Chapters of the Canada Post Heritage Club and our National Office provided Support to our Kidsport Charity at the Annual General Meeting May 2023.*

### **VAN FRASER SPONSORED VOLUNTEER AND ACTIVITIES IN 2023**

Thank You to everyone who volunteered or attended.

Maintaining Railway Mail Car 3704 at the Squamish Railway Museum  
 Sponsoring Thomas the Tank Letter Writing Program  
 Polar Express Event  
 Canada Post Santa Letter Writing Program  
 Canada Post Community Foundation Submissions Review  
 Canada Post Scholarship Submissions Review  
 Van Fraser Heritage Club Scholarship Submissions Review  
 BC Cancer Society Used Stamp Collection Project  
 Van Fraser Heritage Club Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive  
 Honouring Our Own Ceremony  
 Quarterly Luncheons and Annual Banquet Fund Raisers

Please join us and become an Ambassador for  
 the Van Fraser Heritage Club  
 to our Community

## ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR FUNDRAISER

Van Fraser members put their display of musical talents with the Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir.

The Choir was formed in 1992 and welcomes men of all ages who enjoy singing. The Choir Repertoire features popular songs from many lands and times, including Broadway Show tunes, Sea Shanties, Spirituals, and many male choir rousing songs.

In addition to those shown in the photo (right) Van Fraser member John McBain is also a choir member.

Upcoming concerts include;

Sunday, April 7th, 3pm  
Lutheran United Church  
4960 48th Avenue  
Delta

Friday, April 19th. evening  
Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra  
9201 Corbould Street  
Chilliwack



Van Fraser members at the Orpheus Choir Fundraiser. Back row (l-r) John McCartney, Alan Sung (visitor), Dennis Coles and John Hawkes. Front row Ron Featherstone.

Saturday, April 27 with the Harmony Women's Ensemble  
Portuguese Cultural Centre  
5455 Imperial Street  
Burnaby

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Van Fraser is announcing a name change for our Scholarship Program to the *Van Fraser Educational Grant Program*.**

The name change will better articulate the scope and inclusiveness of all educational opportunities that students can take to a future career and employment.

Applications may include Educational Programs and courses in Academic, Technical, Vocational and Health & Sciences that lead to a future career and employment opportunities.

Open to children/grandchildren of current active members. Applications will be received April 1, 2024 and August 31, 2024.

Inquiries and requests for information and Application Forms should be directed to 604 482-4311.

### **A significant number of members have yet to return their Membership Renewal Forms or pay their Annual Dues!**

In order to maintain your MEDOC Travel Insurance and have family members eligible for scholarships and educational grants you must be a member with paid up dues.

Do not delay—do it today!

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the office at 604 482-4311 or by email at [vanfrasernews@gmail.com](mailto:vanfrasernews@gmail.com).



**IN MEMORY  
OF OUR MEMBERS AND COLLEAGUES WHO PASSED AWAY**

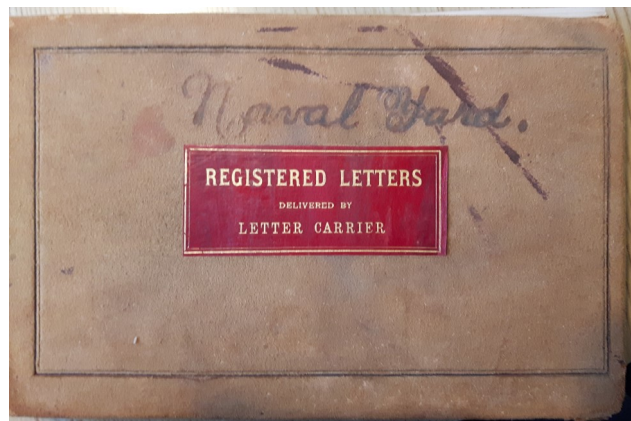


*Patricia Aesop  
Michael Allen  
Norma Andrus  
Mel Austin  
Garry Buchanan  
Lorenda Hartwell  
Emily Hendricks  
Jim Hoy  
Max Jacobsen  
Austin Kean  
Marvin Koroll  
Bing Suen Leung  
Dennis McCann  
Alexander Minnis  
Davis Sinclair  
Ken Spani  
Lai Loi Tam  
Lilly Tseng  
Blanche Wanner*

## VAN FRASER ARCHIVES– A UNIQUE FIND

On January 27, 1898, Lt. C.R. Morant, serving aboard HMS Phaeton, received a Registered Parcel from the United Kingdom. We know this because a box containing a variety of old Postal and Sortation Guides, information pamphlets and other items recently arrived at the Van Fraser Office. Included with the material was a rather unique item– The Record of Registered Items delivered to the Royal Naval Dockyard at Esquimalt in 1898.

At that time Esquimalt was the base for the Royal Navy Pacific Station with ships that patrolled the west coast of North and South America and supplied vessels for the China Sea. Mail from the families of crew members as well as Royal Navy Headquarters received at Victoria for delivery to the Naval Dockyard, the Naval Hospital and ships assigned to the Pacific Station.



**REGISTERED LETTERS DELIVERED BY LETTER CARRIER.**  
 THE UNDERSIGNED hereby acknowledge having received from the Postmaster of Registered Letters as per signatures.

Who given to Carrier for delivery.	No.	WHERE POSTED.	PERSON ADDRESSED.	SIGNATURE OF PERSON TO WHOM DELIVERED.
	1305	✓	P. M. Spar	HMS Pheasant
	1	✓	J. H. Kirby	Phaeton
	2	✓	Lt. C. R. Morant	
	8	✓	W. A. Hamlin	RN Hospital
	9	✓	W. A. Lobb	RN Dockyard
21 parcels				

VICTORIA  
 JAN 27  
 98  
 CANADA

The ships assigned to the Pacific Station in 1898 included; HMS Amphion; HMS Egeria; HMS Icarus; HMS Imperieuse; HMS Leander; HMS Phaeton; HMS Pheasant; HMS Sparrowhawk; HMS Virago; HMS Wild Swan.

HMS Egeria is best known for her extensive survey work of the coastal waters of Australia and British Columbia.

HMS Egeria arrived in British Columbia in 1898 following her survey work in Australia. She focused primarily on the developed areas of the coast creating modern and larger charts for shipping. Her last survey assignment was in Welcome Pass off the Sunshine Coast.

In 1910 Coastal Surveying was transferred to the Canadian Hydrographic Service and the Egeria was transferred replacing the SS Beaver.

HMS Egeria is commemorated, along with seven other ships from BC History, in a memorial tile in Vancouver's Burrard Building. Also, the galley and mess of HMCS Quadra at the Comox CFB is named Egeria Hall. Carved into the rock face of a cliff in Poets Cove on Pender Island is the inscription: 1905 HMS EGERIA.

In 1914 she was sold for breaking up and towed from Esquimalt to Vancouver. After all salvageable material was removed her remaining hulk was beached in Burrard Inlet, set on fire and burned.



HMS Egeria

## YAKIMA U DRIVE– AN AUTUMN GETAWAY SEPTEMBER 8th—12th

The Wyndham Baymont Hotel will host our Annual U-Drive trip in September. All the rooms have a balcony overlooking the pool and patio area along the babbling Yakima River. A complimentary full breakfast is included each day.

In the mornings, you can play golf at a variety of courses or every day or as many days as you like. A fun tournament will be held for all who want to play on the Wednesday.

Others will enjoy checking out the bargains at the local shops and markets or hiking along the river.



Afternoons provide time for broader sightseeing the area, fishing the Yakima River ,visiting local orchards and vineyards, followed by time to relax in the pool and hot tub as well as join the group for Happy Hours, conversation and games poolside. You can drive up the hill to the Cowiche Creek Brewing Co. for a local brew. Or visit a local winery for tasting and snacks. Check out ,Los Hernandez for the " best tamales". Henry suggests visiting Fiesta Foods for a large variety of Mexican delicacies. Hike the Yakima River in either direction from the Baymont and enjoy the scenery.

A group dinner will be provided poolside for two of the nights and there are numerous restaurants close by for other nights including the Yakima Steakhouse (formerly Black Angus) and the Mexican El Mirador adjacent to our hotel.

To book a room, call the hotel, 1 509 457 4444 and tell them you are with the Heritage Club group. Room with one Queen Bed for 1 or 2 adults: \$89.00 plus tax. Room with two Queen Beds for 1 or 2 adults: \$102.00 plus tax. Studio Room with Kitchenette for 1or 2 adults: \$115.00 plus tax

You will be asked to provide your credit card to guaranty the room but do not pay til you arrive. Once you book, please advise Ken Cornish so he can send you additional information and directions. Also, let Ken know if you plan to golf any or all of the days. Book now to be sure you get your room at these rates and plan for lots of fun times and good food!

Ken Cornish phone: 604 881 1282  
Email: [kccornish@telus.net](mailto:kccornish@telus.net)  
Van Fraser Heritage Club : 604 482 4311



# IMPORTANT NOTICE SPRING LUNCHEON DATE CHANGE

**THE DATE FOR THE  
SPRING LUNCHEON AT  
THE CASCADE CASINO  
DELTA HAS BEEN  
CHANGED TO:**



**THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024**

Tickets are available at \$30.00 each. A ticket order form is attached. This an excellent opportunity to get together with long time friends and colleagues. Get a group together and join in the welcoming of Spring.

Tickets previously ordered will show the new date. There is no need to complete a new Ticket Order Form. If you have any concerns please contact the Van Fraser Office at 604 4824311.

See you at the luncheon!

## THANK YOU ELVES

Santa's Workshop has gone quiet and dark and he has gone incognito for a brief rest before work begins for Christmas 2024.

Before he left Santa sent his thanks and best wishes fo all the elves that helped out this past season.

He looks forward to seeing you, and perhaps some new volunteers this year.

Thank You  
*Santa*



ArtFromBeyond

### *Van-Fraser News*

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to edit  
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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. Call the Heritage Club for last minute availability and prices. one way air to Fort Lauderdale is additional.

**April 30/24 Introductory 5 day cruise on the Noordam, Vancouver return,** visit two ports Ketchikan and Prince Rupert along with two scenic days at sea. Call for last minute availability and prices. At time of printing , window cabins started at \$740.00 CAD plus tax pp.

**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 this summer. 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, Nfld., Saguenay, Quebec City and Montreal.** Inside cabins from \$1750.00 plus taxes \$350.00 CAD per person. Flights to Boston and return from Montreal extra. Call for other promos for this sailing.

**October 1/24 13 nights on the Quantum of the Seas, cruising from Vancouver to Honolulu, CANCELLED —RCCL cancelled this trip and members rebooked on the Hawaii Koningsdam trip below.**

**October 5/24 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!

**November 16/24** Mark Your Calendars and watch for information for the revamped Fall Bus Trip. Two nights in Lincoln City OR and two nights in th Tulalip Casino. Plans include a visit to the Christmas Cottage and Factory Outlets in Lincoln City, a scenic drive along the Oregon coast and perhaps a stop for local seafood. Visit the Tulamook Cheese Factory on the way back to Tulalip. Watch the newsletter for details on pricing. Registration forms will be available shortly.

**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 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.com](mailto:vanfrasernews@gmail.com) for more information , detailed itineraries and pricing on other categories of cabins.

