



May June 2024

VAN-FRASER NEWS

Van-Fraser Heritage Club

Thomas the Tank returns to West Coast Railway Park in Squamish, 2004-2024

Once again in 2024, Rene Brissette brought the fantasy of Thomas alive to so many little ones providing the opportunity to sit down with Heritage Club volunteers and write a letter to Thomas or one of his friends , then sorting the letter on the Railway Mail Train directly into the slot for the intended recipient.

Rene reported that he and his two grandsons along with Heritage Club members were on site for 4 days over the two weekends.



There were 620 letters written by the children and responded to by Volunteers. Thomas the tank Engine came to Canada for the first time in 2004. Rene says "Now 20 years later we reflect in a few different ways. First remembering the 2004 executive members, Roy Nukina,

Bob Shaw, and Ray Goon, as well as our Thomas volunteers Norm and Shirley Mclvor (photo) who are all no longer with us. How time passes so quickly. I have attached a few photos from 2004".



Rene always remembers the mother who described the excitement of her little three year old ,when his reply from Thomas was delivered by their letter carrier and how he kept the letter with him all day, even taking it to bed at night. Janice talked with a lady who was at the park for a 10th year having first brought her son when he was four years old and subsequently his

two siblings as they were born and at the age where Thomas is such a highlight for them.

Be sure to watch for information on next years "Day out with Thomas". We can always use volunteers to help at the park and to answer letters from your home. As ever, it is a great outing, at anytime, to take the family, friends or just yourself for a drive to Squamish and visit the Park along with our Railway car museum .



Cruising the Panama Canal



HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERS TRANSIT THE PANAMA CANAL

In April, a group enjoyed a few days in Fort Lauderdale before boarding the Eurodam to cruise through the Panama Canal back through ports in Central America, Mexico and the coast back to Vancouver.

The National Heritage Club presidents met in Ottawa for three days in May, hosted by the Ottawa ,ByTown Chapter. The National AGM is held once a year hosted by local clubs across the country Currently, there are 24 Heritage Clubs throughout Canada with about 20,000 members.



The president of each chapter attends meetings along with the national executive and the spouses join the social events.

JP Leguerrier, National President, presented Van Fraser with the Community a service award which Fred happily accepted for the club.



CPC reps Lindsay Armstrong and Marianne Soucy, represented Canada Post .They are with the Community Investment program and responsibilities include the Canada Post Foundation grants and the Santa letter writing program. They addressed the AGM and were pleased to accept a \$3000.00 donation for the Foundation from Van Fraser presented by Fred.They also expressed their thanks to all the VAn Fraser volunteers who help with assessing the applications for grants from the foundation and of course for the thousands of hours donated to the Santa program from Van Fraser and all the clubs across the country.

Mark your calendar



July 11, 2024 Bon Voyage to the group of 45 members and family departing from Vancouver on the Queen Elizabeth for an eleven night cruise to Alaska. Have fun on the outer decks viewing wildlife and the spectacular scenery!

September 8-13, 2024 Yakima UDrive trip. Call the Wyndham, Bayside Hotel in Yakima, 1-509-457-4444 and tell them you are with the Heritage Club group to reserve a room start at \$89.00 per night plus tax. Call Ken Cornish or leave a message at the Heritage club office to let them know you are booked and to receive more information about the trip.

September 28, 2024 Annual Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Arrange a table for ten of your colleagues, friends and family. Registration form will be sent soon. Tickets are \$50.00 a person and \$500.00 for a table of 10. Send in your cheques now to hold your spots. Call the office if you need contact numbers for former colleagues.

November 8, 2024 Honouring our Own ceremony at the Richmond plant. Plan to attend the ceremony to remember our fallen posties and if you like participate in reading one of their names. Reception following. Please RSVP to the Heritage Club office if you can attend. 604-482-4311

November 16-20, 2024 4 night bus trip to Oregon and Washington, staying 2 nights in Clackamas and 2 nights at the Tulalip Casino Resort. Tax free shopping in Oregon mall across the road from our hotel and duty free shopping at the Premium outlets in Tulalip., Optional trips to the Oregon Coast and Squalhomie Falls in Washington., This trip is popular but still few seats left. Call for registration form and send with your cheque to the Heritage Club office.

November 27, 2024 Annual Christmas Lunch. Continental Seafood Restaurant.

November 27, 2024 Santa letters. Please call the Heritage Club office to volunteer to help with Santa's mail through December and early January. We need lots of help. Reminder: 2024 annual dues. Thanks for all who have paid for 2024. There is still time for others to submit their dues and updated renewal form.



Our summer luncheon was back at the Cascades Casino Buffet in Delta. People enjoyed the location, just a 35 minute drive from Langley and Vancouver, making it a nice midway spot for those from the eastern and western part of our area. Unfortunately, with all the construction around the tunnel, a few people made numerous trips through the tunnel within a stones throw from the casino attempting to get the correct turnoff. It made for some good laughter and we even produced a prize for the two members who transited back and forth through the tunnel 4 times before catching the casino road! All were in good humour. The venue provides lots of space to mingle and chat with each other making for a relaxed setting. Congratulations to all the door prize winners.

Our next gathering will be our annual Gala Banquet at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Book your table for ten now or individual tickets. As usual, this will be a scrumptious ten course meal served at the tables.





Heritage Club members receive 30% off on-line registration with a (paid-up) current membership.
There are 7 membership types to choose from.

To learn more about this corporate offer visit corporate.goodlifefitness.com
OR
Call the corporate membership experience #
1 - 800 - 387 - 2524

You will require your (paid-up) Heritage Club membership number and current address to get information on this offer.

Reminder:
Any GoodLife applications or renewals will be denied if current membership dues are not paid.



THE POST, GEORGIA ST.

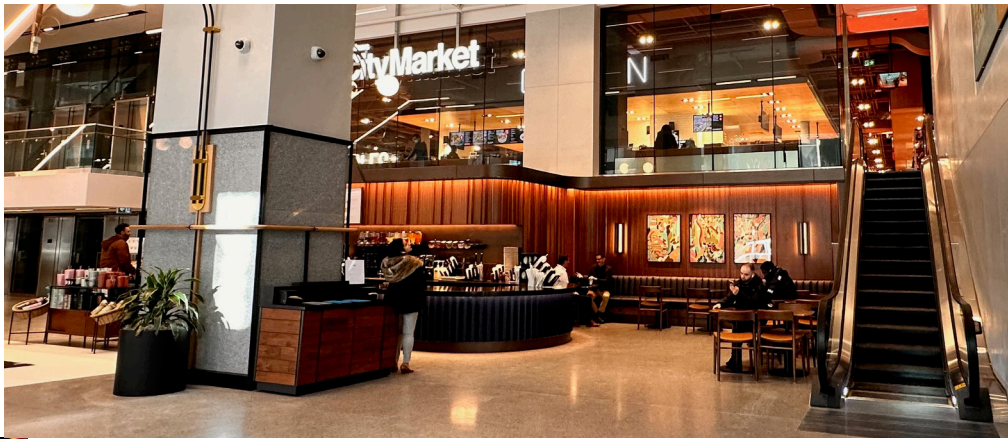
Covering a full city block, the Post on Georgia is the largest heritage revitalization project in British Columbia. The former Main Post Office building, an International Style landmark in Vancouver, is reimagined as a centerpiece for the growing downtown community with high tech office space, restaurants, retail, and a new public plaza. Two new office towers create a contemporary extension of the existing building while being respectful of the existing heritage.

Spotted outside the former VMPP, in June were Terry and Adrienne Arinobu, enjoying a drink on the patio. For all those members who enjoyed many years of working at the plant on Georgia St, you must visit the newly completed structure, The Post.

The developers did an amazing job preserving the facade of our plant while making massive structural changes. On a recent visit, we were thrilled to see they had saved the wonderful Nairne & Partners, artworks that were commissioned in 1955-56 : a 4.9-metre carved granite postman bas-relief on its façade and tile mural of a woman and child in the postal hall, both by Paul Huba (1956); a stone inscription on the southwest corner of the building (1955); and a large painted mural near the Homer Street entrance showing early postal transportation methods in BC by Orville Fisher. When you visit, be sure to walk around and locate these memorable pieces of art as well as display cases with archives.

While Amazon has leased most of the office space in the two high rise building addition, the lower floors are an amazing array of restaurants, cafes and retail space. There is an enormous Loblaws City Market. You need to walk around and view the historic mementos and art works on display.





NOTES FROM NEIL!

If you defer your property taxes it is wise to stay informed regarding interest rates. The rates are set twice a year, April 1 and October 1. A phone call to the toll free number below confirmed that the interest rate for the Regular program, as of April 1, 2024, is 5.2%. Further information is available at www2.gov.bc.ca On the website use the search tool and type in Property tax deferment. This results in numerous links providing information on interest rate history, how to repay your deferred property taxes, and other pertinent information.

Contact information regarding questions about deferring property taxes:
Toll Free: 1-888-355-2700
(Office) 1-250-387-0555.

Thanks to Neil Sharpham, retired CPC HR manager and well known for his retirement planning sessions.

Letter from a member

“Thanks so much for the package. It has been so helpful. We did not know where to start. As his widow, do I still have access to the Heritage Club?”

As a result of the above message from a spouse regarding the death of her husband, one of our members, we sent a message of condolence and also offered a copy of our Document, A Guide to Final Arrangements ,which contains valuable information for families having to cope with the many papers and details after the death of a loved one.

Please remember we have copies of this document available to you, just call or email the office. Also, we strongly recommend you get a copy yourself, if you haven't already done so and complete as much information as possible ahead of time for the family.

This document was prepared several years ago by two of our members and has been greatly appreciated by many families.

A GUIDE TO FINAL ARRANGEMENTS



If you have been asked to act as an Executor/Trustee or serve as the administrator of an estate and require the final arrangements for a family member or friend. This is an extremely serious undertaking and requires attention to detail. This guide is designed to help assist in ensuring all the necessary details are dealt with and that arrangements successfully completed.

And yes, your spouse is welcome to be an ongoing associate member of the Heritage Club and participate in all our activities and travel. Contact the Heritage Club office for a registration form.

belairdirect.


Scholarship Program 2024

OPEN: May 15, 2024




With a belairdirect scholarship behind you, you have everything in front of you.

This year, belairdirect will award 50 scholarships each valued at \$1,000, to eligible students completing high school in 2024 and starting post-secondary education in Canada in the fall of 2024.

 **Open: May 15, 2024**
Deadline: July 31, 2024

 To learn more visit belairdirect.com/scholarship
scholarshipfund@belairdirect.com

 Universities Canada Toll Free: **1.844.567.1237**

Certain conditions, restrictions and exclusions apply to all offers. Offers may change without notice. ©2024 Belair Insurance Company Inc. All rights reserved.

HERITAGE CLUB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - 2024

The Heritage Club is planning to award three (3) scholarships to children or grand children of all dues paying members of the Heritage Club. The scholarships are valued at \$2000 each for university or college studies. The scholarships will be awarded to students starting, for the first time, their first year of full time studies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Dependent children, including adopted children and stepchildren, grandchildren, wards in legal guardianship of all active members (dues paying member for the last 2 years) of a Heritage Club Chapter. Applicants who have previously received a Heritage Club scholarship are not eligible.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

These scholarships are applicable to all Canadian educational institutions which have provincial degree-granting powers or their affiliates and at Canadian colleges or CEGEPs.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS

Applicants must have completed the requirements for admission into the first year of an undergraduate degree program or college diploma program at a recognized educational institution. Applicants must have obtained an average or 75% (or equivalent) on the best 5 academic courses (see list of academic courses below) in the final year of secondary school or CEGEP (pre-university education). If applicants interrupt their schooling, the maximum period permitted between the completion of secondary school or CEGEP (pre-university education) and the commencement of an undergraduate university degree program or college diploma program is 1 year. During this period, students may NOT have undertaken post secondary courses.

ACADEMIC COURSES - GRADE 12/CEGEP

Language Arts, Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Social Studies, Geography, History, Literature, Accounting, Computer Graphics, Law. French, English or any one language.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The jury is comprised of the Heritage Club executive committee members. The evaluation will be based on scholastic ability, character and leadership qualities at school and in the community. Decisions of the jury are final and without appeal.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Submissions must be postmarked on or before June 30, 2024

HOW TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION PACKAGE

Please visit the Heritage Club website at heritageclub.ca or contact Eldred Holmes at holmese@nl.rogers.com

Van-Fraser Heritage Club scholarship opportunities

Van-Fraser scholarship applications can include educational programs and course in academic, technical trades, vocational and health sciences that lead to a career and employment opportunities.

Open to children/grand children of current active members. Applications can be received between April 1-August 31 2024. Inquiries & information call 604-482-4311

Forget about all the fun you'll have, your membership also has great benefits!

Here are just a few of the exclusive offerings you'll enjoy as a Heritage Club Member.

- Access to Johnson Travel Insurance discounts (MEDOC)
- Access to Belairdirect Home and Automobile special deals
- GoodLife Fitness discounts (Gym)
- Énergie Cardio (Gym)
- Scholarships for children and grandchildren of members
- Collette Tour discounts

2024-25 VAN FRASER HERITAGE CLUB

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. Flights to Boston and return from Montreal extra. Call for other promos for this sailing. Just a few cabins left.

September 14/24 7 nights Alaska on the Koningsdam, Vancouver return, visit Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Glacier Bay. Limited availability, call for last minute prices.

September 15/24 14 nights Alaska on the Noordam, Vancouver return, visiting Anchorage (overnight), Kodiak, Valdez, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Skagway, Ketchikan, Prince Rupert. Inside cabins from \$1472.00 plus tax pp (or even less with non refundable deposit).

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!

January 6/25 and January 28/25 Two twenty two South America cruises including Antarctica experience on the a Oosterdam, Santiago Chile, to Buenos Aires and return to Santiago. You can cruise 22 or 44 days. This trip is always awesome and a highlight. Call the Heritage Club for info.

February 15/25 35 nights on the Koningsdam, San Diego return, visiting Kona, Maui, Honolulu (overnight) Kauai, Raiatea, Papeete (overnight), Moorea, (overnight), Fakarava, Taiohae, French Polynesia. Call the Heritage Club for current pricing.

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!

October 4/25 9 nights Vancouver to Honolulu on the action packed Anthem of the Seas. This is a fun ship experience on route to Hawaii where you can stay on land for as many days as you like before flying home. Leave from the port of Vancouver, stay on board overnight in Seattle and then settle in to enjoy all the action on the ship— bumper cars, rock climbing, simulated sky diving, surf experiences, breathtaking 360 degree views from the North Star over 15 specialty / theme restaurants, cafes, theatres, kids pools, adult pools in the tranquilly Solarium and more. Balcony cabins from \$1250.00 plus tax pp. Insides and windows lower prices.

***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: vanfrasernews01@gmail.com for more info, detailed itineraries and pricing on other categories of cabins.*