



FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2011



2010 - 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive:

President: Lynne Duigou [Contact Lynne](#)

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Communications: Donna and Larry Wyatt

[Contact Donna and Larry](#)

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Social: Kathleen Harper

Publicity: Lou Duigou

History & Archives: Linda Georgy

Fellowship: Maria Feist

Exchanges: Marj Eckert

Please visit our website at:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org/

President's Message by Lynne Duigou

National Conference in Quebec May 2011– Our club has been asked to be part of a panel on the topic “Growing a Strong, Active and Dynamic FF Club”. Lou and I will be attending the Conference so I will be making the presentation on behalf of the club.

Inbound Exchanges –We had two excellent exchanges and I participated in bringing greetings at the Welcome dinners, attending the Farewell events, day hosting and dinner hosting during the exchanges.

International Conference in Hamburg, Germany – August 26-29, 2011

The Executive Committee of the Board appointed Doug and Isabelle Southam to represent our club at the International Conference.

St. Albert Farmer's Market Booth - Lou arranged for our club to have a free booth at the market August 6, 2011. We manned the booth in the morning and Jessie and Frank Parker manned it in the afternoon. We met a lot of nice people and raised the profile of FF Edmonton and Area and perhaps got a couple of new people interested in joining.

I continue to prepare a weekly President's Report for the Monday Mailout, which includes both updates and information about changes in policy and information about upcoming events in the club.



MEMBER PROFILE *by Brenda Kane*



Donna Wyatt, President elect

I have the great pleasure to introduce you to Donna Wyatt, the Vice-President of the Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area. Donna and Larry Wyatt have been members of our club since 2004 and have enjoyed outbounds to Costa Rica, Mexico, Ireland, and Colombia. They have also been hosted in New York and Hamilton, Ont. Donna and Larry first heard about Friendship Force from American cousins who had been involved in a California club since the early 1980's. Donna enjoys traveling and meeting new people, and has really enjoyed hosting all their visitors over the years. She also really enjoys the people in our own club. She likes the opportunity to meet a variety of people from different walks of life.

Donna is a true Albertan, born in Hanna and educated in the same town. Donna's father was a railroad engineer and her mother, a housewife. Encouraged by her mom to go to university, Donna had the choice of going into Computer Science at University of Alberta in Edmonton or studying Education at the University of Calgary. Although she was fascinated with computers, Donna chose the U of C since a teacher's diploma only took two years, and she began earning a salary teaching in Calgary at the tender age of 19. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Education in summer school, and later her Masters at the U of A. Donna jokes that her brother and sister went into the oil industry, becoming prosperous Calgarians, while she chose to be a "poor" teacher in Edmonton.

Donna met Larry one Halloween while dressed up as a witch. Larry, an electrician working for Calgary Power at the time, was instantly attracted. They were married and moved to St. Albert where they raised two sons, Trevor and Dan. Larry eventually traded electricity for teaching, and this allowed them both to have summers off with their boys. One of Donna's favorite family memories is of their trip across Canada in the 70's, driving a Volkswagon camper van, with their two-year-old. They also spent many happy summers at a family cabin at Gull Lake and camping in Western Canada.

Donna worked part time after Trevor was born and then went back to teaching for Edmonton Public Schools when Dan was two. Her full time work began after Larry was diagnosed with Diabetes. Donna knew she needed to have a career and pension to help support her family. She went on to work for Edmonton Public for thirty-three years – as a teacher of grades one to six, and later as a consultant in language arts, and finally as an assistant-principal. Donna also acted as a supervisor of Education with St. Albert Protestant School Board for one year, and as a Project Manager for Alberta Education. After retiring from Edmonton Public Schools, Donna was a sessional lecturer at U of A for eight years where she shared her expertise as a reading specialist with Education students.

Donna has always had a passion for learning. Following university, she continued to study, read, and attend as many conferences and courses as she could to learn about the latest theories and practices involved in language arts and literacy. She took the best ideas from the various experts and applied them in her own way. She felt that no single theory was the complete answer for every student, and that a wide variety of techniques were needed to help everyone become literate and successful. Donna enjoyed sharing her knowledge and experience first with the children in her classes, and later with other teachers as a consultant and organizer of teacher support groups.

Donna and Larry are both retired now, and when not working on FF projects, Donna enjoys playing bridge, reading, and working out at the gym. She continues to take an interest in literacy and belongs to a book club as well as the St. Albert and Area Retired Teachers Association.

Family has always been a very important part of Donna's life. Last year Larry and Donna became grandparents for the first time, when Dan and his wife Kelly presented them with a grandson. One-year-old, Brady is a real joy and we get regular updates on his progress. As well as traveling with FF, Donna and Larry often travel with Donna's sister, and also visit son, Trevor, who is in the film industry in Vancouver.

When asked about her aims as future president of the Edmonton FF club, Donna emphasized the need to continue the good work that has been done by the presidents who have gone before her. She would like to see all members actively involved in the club, and feels that it is important to continually check to see that everyone has an opportunity to work on Inbounds, Outbounds, and club functions so they feel a sense of belonging. As well, Donna would like to revisit some of the club policies, changing them as needed to fit changing needs of the club.

We have seen Donna demonstrate her excellent organizational talents and creativity as she organized a system of tickets for Inbound functions, arranged outbound travel, and worked on the Board in her various capacities of Membership, Communications, and Vice President. I am sure she will make an enthusiastic and very capable President in the years to come.



We welcome your involvement! *A message from Donna Wyatt, Vice President Elect*

Whether you are a new member of the Friendship Force of Edmonton and area or a long-time member, we welcome your involvement. There are many jobs in our active club plus we get to know one another better through working together.

Sometimes, members feel that they are not "home" enough to be active or they feel that they live too far away to join committees. The board understands that our members love to travel and may be away from home for long periods of time. If we have several members on each committee, then it is possible to share the workload with other committee members. We will use your ideas and abilities to good advantage whenever you can be available.

There will be some changes in the executive and committees following the Annual General Meeting on October 15. Please consider joining a committee to offer your time and talents during the next year or two. There are several areas that you may want to consider: social, membership, communication, newsletter, history and archives, publicity, fellowship, inbound planning and outbound planning.

Please contact me if you'd like more information.



History And Archives by Linda Georgie

I am looking for pictures for the Archives for the following:

- 2010 Zealand Inbound Exchange
- March 26 2011 Spaghetti Dinner
- 2011 Netherlands and New Zealand Inbound Exchange

Also if you have any pictures from any events I would appreciate them. You can email me or send them via snail mail.

Social Committee *by Kathleen Harper*

On June 10th a group of twelve Friendship Force members spent a wonderful day walking Wagner Bog. Along the way, we were able to spot four different kinds of orchids as well as numerous species of plants and birds. A picnic lunch in a picnic shelter was enjoyed by all.

On a beautiful sunny, August 4, 22 enthusiastic golfers arrived in Mulhurst Bay at the Pigeon Lake Golf Course for a fun day of golf. The format was a best ball foursome. Prizes were awarded to the teams with the lowest scores and to the Most Honest team. In reality, scores were all quite close. There were also competitions for closest to the pin on Hole 7 and longest drive on Hole 6. Marg & Carl Eckert and Doug & Isabelle Southam were the organizers for the day. After the golf, everyone returned to the Southam cottage on Silver Beach where they were joined by 4 non-golfers to enjoy a pot luck meal. Friendship Force events are famous for the delicious food and this was no exception. *(submitted by Doug Southam)*

The tour of the women's prison is being planned for some time in November. More details will be sent out as soon as they are available.



Communications *by Donna and Larry Wyatt*

The communications position has involved the creation and maintenance of the Friendship Force website and the maintaining e-mail contact with members on a weekly basis. We are now sending the Monday messages to 91 members, which keeps everyone informed about our club's activities as well as what is happening with FF International.

The membership list is also maintained, with a new list sent out as an attachment whenever updates are needed. This enables easy contact between our

members as it includes phone numbers, e-mail and home addresses.

Our joint-ownership agreement regarding the use of the data projector continues with the St. Albert and Area Retired Teachers' organization. A back-up bulb has now been purchased at a cost of \$382.90, shared between the two organizations.



Reminder of Book Sale - October 15 *by Frank & Jessie Parker*

A special feature of our AGM (apart from the actual meeting, election, announcements and lunch, of course) will be a giant book sale! Bring all your gently read books for the sale, and pick up some new ones for your winter reading. Tables will be set up along the side of the hall so there is plenty of room for setting out books and browsing. Containers will be strategically placed among the books for your monetary contributions.

Funds from this sale will be given to an orphanage in Bujumbura, Burundi, and designated for food. The 30 or so children who live there are of all ages and all go to school. They work together at the home and are responsible for all the cleaning, cooking and other activities necessary to keep the home running. The old building is kept very clean; furnishings are minimal as the children have very few possessions. Attending school is considered a privilege and everyone appreciates the opportunity. The orphanage is on the outskirts of the city and does not have electricity, so the children do their homework by candlelight. Our funds will help provide food security.

If further information is needed about the sale, call the Parkers at 458-8772. If anyone has questions about the orphanage, Diana McIntyre (469-4140) would be able to help as she has visited there.

**Friendship Force International 2011
World Conference, Hamburg, Germany.
By Doug Southam**



Our ambassadors

The 34th World Conference of FFI, Aug. 26-30, attracted 285 delegates from 23 countries and of these 13 were from Canada. The three members from our club were Theresa Sarnecki and Doug and Isabelle Southam.

We particularly enjoyed being in Hamburg because we hosted members of that club in 2001. Now we had the opportunity of seeing some of our guests again as well as getting to see their city.



The Southams with their hosts

The Hamburg club had done an excellent job of planning this conference. There was a good mix of

social and sight-seeing events along with the more serious business of FFI. The accommodations were excellent.

It was interesting to hear about the exchanges of other clubs as well as the direction FFI hopes to take in the future. Clubs around the world had some novel experiences to share.

46 delegates from Japan were at the conference and after the announcement of Hiroshima as the host club for the 2012 World Conference, the entire group serenaded us with a song - an invitation for all to attend.

Following the conference home stays were offered with several German clubs. Theresa enjoyed her visit with a Lubeck FF member.



**Whangarei, New Zealand Inbound June
25 – July 2, 2011 by Brenda Kane, ED**

The NZ exchange went well and we had very positive feedback from the ambassadors. They were positive, enthusiastic, and interested in everything we planned. Because it was a reciprocal exchange, many of the hosts and ambassadors had met before in NZ, so they were very excited to meet again. Twenty-three ambassadors arrived although we had expected 25. Two ambassadors had to stay behind in Washington due to illness. Fourteen host homes were used, and the exchange involved twenty-two home hosts and many day hosts and dinner hosts.

We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the NZ EDs, Marg and Colin Wrack. They were very easy to host and we worked well together during the week. We tried some new activities this year, and I think our members enjoyed the variety.

Our joint inbound committee of 18 people planned the NZ and Netherlands Inbounds together over a period of about 6 months. This process has worked well for us for the past two years. Although the

programs for the two inbounds were slightly different, due to different interests of the ambassadors, we were able to have the same people book all the venues and tours for both inbounds, so it saved on manpower and allowed us to share our ideas.



The Metis dancers with Brenda and Marj

We had several changes from former years that worked well. Our welcome dinner was a catered buffet held at a nice hotel in Edmonton, with excellent food and service. The entertainment was a group of enthusiastic Metis dancers, much enjoyed by our guests. The appetizer and dessert farewell party was inexpensive and very relaxed. As well as visiting traditional spots in Edmonton, we also added a few new items to our program. The mayor of Edmonton welcomed our guests in a question and answer session at City Hall, we had an ETS historic bus tour of Edmonton, and we had a tour of the Reynolds Alberta Museum at Wetaskiwin.



At Fort Edmonton, tasting bannock made the traditional way

Our free day came on Canada Day, which resulted in many interesting special activities being taken in by our guests and hosts – the Ponoka Stampede, Grain Elevator demonstrations, Ukrainian Village, Holes Enjoy Center and Greenhouses, picnics, barbeques, West Edmonton Mall and of course – fireworks.



“Wow! That's one big cake!”

The donation from the Friends of the Royal Alberta Museum which paid for entry fees and guides for the museum was much appreciated.

Thank you to all the club members who helped with planning, hosting, and organizing this inbound.



Netherlands Oost and Noord Inbound July 17 – July 24, 2011 by Diana Steele. ED

Eighteen ambassadors arrived from the Netherlands. Ten host homes were used, and the exchange involved nineteen home hosts and day hosts and dinner hosts.

The exchange went extremely well. The Netherlands ambassadors were positive and enthusiastic, and were interested in everything we planned. We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Netherlands EDs, Jan and Julia de Bont. They were very easy to host and we worked well together during the week. We tried some new activities this year, and our members enjoyed the variety.

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a) Our welcome dinner at the hotel had an enthusiastic opera singer for entertainment. He was much enjoyed by our guests. Our farewell, which is usually a banquet, was a pot-luck appetizer and dessert party held at a party room of a member's condo. It was inexpensive, easy to set up, and very relaxed. The format allowed everyone to mingle freely. The members and visitors really enjoyed this format for a farewell. The ambassadors from Netherlands entertained us with some robust singing after which they presented their hosts with scarves from their country with a wooden shoe as a fastener. One of the ambassadors composed a wonderful song, which summarized the week's activities and was very enjoyable! (***The words to the song appear at the end of the newsletter.***) The piano accompaniment had us all bouncing to the lively tunes.



The group singing a friendship song at the farewell

b) As well as visiting the Legislature, Ukrainian Village, Fort Edmonton and Royal Alberta Museum, we also added a few new items to our program. The mayor of Edmonton welcomed our guests in a question and answer session at City Hall and our guests were invited to a session in the chambers where they were once again greeted and introduced to council members. We had an ETS historic bus tour of Edmonton, did a walking tour at Jurassic Forest (dinosaurs in their natural setting) and we had a tour of the Breevliet Dairy Farm and Reynolds Alberta Museum at Wetaskiwin.



The group at Jurassic Forest



Realistic dinosaurs, complete with sounds and movement, were enjoyed by all, but the hoards of mosquitoes were not!

c) Our free day came at the end of the week on Saturday. Some of the events that day were: Strathcona and St. Albert Farmer's Market, Edmonton Art Gallery, Taste of Edmonton, West Edmonton Mall and a tour of Fantasyland Hotel.



World Friendship Day Habitat for Humanity Build *by Elaine Kirschner*

The Edmonton and Area FF celebrated 2011 World Friendship Day by participating in a Habitat for Humanity build on May 6th, 2011. We enjoyed a beautiful spring day working varied positions in several almost completed homes in the Anderson Gardens community, north east Edmonton. This year was especially gratifying as we contributed our volunteer hours as a “partner family helper” towards the mandatory 500 hours required for home ownership.

The volunteers prepared a delicious lunch for all regular workers and volunteers working on the site that day. Several club members met post build at Saccomanno’s for an evening of Italian food and fun.



The group taking a break from their duties.



Sam & Deanna just hanging around before getting back to work.

The 2011 World Friendship Day theme was “Making a Difference” and all who volunteered that day served their community and the people in their community with their time and effort. We did make a difference on May 6th. Thank you to all who volunteered their time.



Four men (hard at work???) on the construction of part of a house



Heading home after a hard day's work...well done!



A Message from the Chair of Exchanges

by Marjorie Eckert

We are beginning to plan a themed inbound for 2013 and would encourage any interested members to sign up to work on that committee. A sign up sheet will be available at the annual general meeting.

We held an orientation for anyone interested in being an exchange director in the future. Applications for exchange directors for the upcoming 2012 exchanges were received and reviewed. The following are the successful applicants for our 2012 exchanges:

- For Peru (June, 2012) – John Yule and Angela Seery
- For Michigan (July, 2012) – Frank & Jessie Parker
- For the outbound to England and Belgium (September, 2012) – Donna & Larry Wyatt

We thank all who applied for these positions.

There will be a second orientation session for the chosen Exchange Directors on Nov. 8th, 2011. However, any other members who are interested in being Exchange Directors in the future are welcome to attend. If you are interested, please contact Marj at 780-476-8218.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CALENDAR

2011

October 15 – Annual General Meeting 10:00 a.m.
St. Albert United Church located at: 20 Green Grove Drive, St. Albert, Alberta,

Please note above: Correction on time to **10:00 a.m.**

November - Tour of Women's Prison

November 21 - Board Meeting

December 1, 2011 - Christmas Party at the German Canadian Cultural Association at 8310 Roper Road, Edmonton, AB

2012

May 16-18 - Friendship Force Canadian Conference – Quebec City

June/July – Peru and Western Michigan visit

September - Outbound to Oxfordshire, England and Leuven, Belgium

Humor is Good for the Soul

Four worms and a lesson to be learned!!!!

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol...Dead.
The second worm in cigarette smoke...Dead.
Third worm in chocolate syrup...Dead.
Fourth worm in good clean soil...**Alive** .

So the Minister asked the congregation, What did you learn from this demonstration?

Maxine, who was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said, 'As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!'

That pretty much ended the service!

The Love Affair Between a Senior and Gadgets.....

I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying, rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes, she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then if I made a right turn instead. Well, it was not a good relationship.

When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and, while she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, at least she loves me.

To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them in with me.

Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-saksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, No, but I do toot a lot."

P.S. . We senior citizens don't need anymore gadgets. The tv remote and the garage door remote are about all we can handle.

Lipstick in a Catholic School

According to a news report, a certain private Catholic school in Brisbane was recently faced with a unique problem.

A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine provided it was of a natural or neutral skin tone, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Every night the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back.

Finally the principal, Sister Paschal, decided that something had to be done.

She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little princesses).

To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, Sister Paschal asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required.

He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it.

Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers.... and then there are educators.

(Netherlands song on last page)

Netherlands' Song
Written by Klaasje en Bernard

Chorus:

We believe in Friendship Force.
And we all may hope of course,
Peace and understanding will survive
In every human life.

Verse #1

We arrived in Edmonton
Sunday afternoon,
Not now in the usual way,
Some had a delay,
We reached our hosts at last
And were satisfied.
We were looking forward
To the next day.

Verse #2

Monday was a busy day,
We went on our way.
Frank brought us to Edmonton,
Much was going on...yeah, yeah, yeah
There they learned us a lot
About policy:
Progressive Conservative...
Possible or not.

Verse #3

Tuesday was a lovely day,
The weather was perfect.
We went to the Ukrainians
Interesting too ... yeah, yeah, yeah.
We saw how those people lived
How they settled there.
After lunch Jurassic Park,
It was amazing there.

Verse #4

Wednesday we went on our way
To the Breevliet Farm.
There they showed their bright new life
That they built up there.....yeah, yeah, yeah.
And also Reynolds' cars
Impressed us very much,
And the dinner at Duigou's
Really amazing for the Dutch.

Verse #5

Thursday to Fort Edmonton
Sun was shining bright.
We enjoyed the atmosphere
Brought us back in time, ... Yeah, yeah, yeah.
We could hardly leave that place
But we had to race
To Edmonton's shopping mall
And that amazed us all!

Verse #6

Friday morning did it rain!
It was holding on.
Cancelled was our bike ride then,
A real pity, man! Yeah, yeah, yeah.
The museum really was
Quite a substitute.
We were really in the mood,
Yes, it was very good.

Verse #7

On behalf of North and East
We are very pleased.
Here we saw a lot of things
And we made new friends. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Thank you for the lovely meals
And hospitality.
We invite you to come
Soon to the Netherlands.

Verse #8

Now there is another thing
For we have to sing,
Forty-five years ago
Lynne & Lou said "yes"....oh, oh, oh!
So this is a special day
And we hope they may
Still have a happy life
As man and wife.Lang zullen ze leven.

