



FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER

September, 2010



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Please visit our website at:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org/

President's Message by Marilyn Caskey

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer with an opportunity for some rest and relaxation. This is the last time I will be writing this column for our newsletter. At the AGM on October 13th, I pass the torch to our President Elect Lynne Duigou. It has been an interesting two years. I thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and for the support you have given to me and to our Board during this period.

There are a number of things I believe that were accomplished over the period: a very successful Festival in 2009 along with a celebration of our 10th anniversary in Friendship Force International; two successful Inbounds this year and although we had no Outbound this year, we were able to accommodate those wishing to go to Japan by having Marjorie Eckert (V.P. Exchanges) arrange for travel with FF Penticton. A successful Exchange to Berlin and Turkey took place in October, 2008 and many members look forward to traveling to Sarasota, Florida and Bogotá, Colombia for the 2011 Outbound Exchange.

There are many individuals to thank and at the risk of leaving anyone out, I will simply say "Thank you." I was fortunate to have a very valuable V.P. in Lynne Duigou and, with many thanks, I wish her great success. Hopefully she will receive the same support you have given to me as she takes on the task of President of this wonderful club and membership.

As you prepare to sign on for another year with our Friendship Force club at the AGM on October 13th, I ask that you consider what you plan to do in the next year to contribute to the operation of the club, including your active participation in the upcoming Exchanges for 2011. (New Zealand in June and the Netherlands in the latter part of July).

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM.

Report on Exchanges

by Mary Ann Wichmann

Marj Eckert, our V.P. of Exchanges, is in Burundi. We are updated on all the great experiences that she is enjoying by her emails to the club. Good job, Marj!

Outbound 2011

Jessie and Frank Parker are the ED's for the Sarasota, Florida and Bogotá, Columbia exchange. Plans are well under way for this exchange.

Inbounds 2011

Brenda Kane is our ED for our Whangarei and Wanganui, New Zealand exchange. As we visited New Zealand on our outbound in 2009, many of the club members are excited about this exchange. The last update indicates that they are coming the last week in June.

Netherlands East and Noord are to come the last half of July. We are in need of an ED for this exchange. Please consider having a wonderful experience in being an Inbound ED. Requests for members to apply will be sent out in the near future.

Outbound 2012

Remember to send your Outbound Exchange requests to Marilynn Caskey. The due date is October 1st.

It has been my pleasure to serve as VP of Exchanges for the past two years.

Thank you to all for your support in making this position a truly great experience!



Outbound 2011

by Jessie Parker

February is a good month to escape our winter, so we are off to Sarasota, Florida and Bogota, Colombia. Interest in this exchange was high, so a waiting list was established. As so often happens, though, people have dropped out for various

reasons, and now everyone who wanted to go is on the list! There are 24 for Florida. They will be joined by 12 more for Colombia as that club is larger and can take more ambassadors. This arrangement has worked out well, as some of the 12 are joining from their winter destinations in the southern USA.

A stop between home stays is planned for Cartagena, a UNESCO world site on the Colombian Caribbean coast. It has lots of sunshine and an historical old town center. A post tour will include Quito, Equador.

A Different Friendship Pin

My home hostess (following the conference last year in Niagara Falls) gave me a lovely gift of friendship - a beautiful pin depicting stylized joyous dancers, symbolizing friendship among all people. It is meant to be worn as a piece of jewelry on a lapel or jacket. It came with a warm message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and was sold as a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis foundation, which supports those with HIV/AIDS in Africa. We now have these pins available here. They make beautiful gifts. They come in gold, silver and black, are easy to carry, and are only \$10 each. Profits will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation in Canada for its work in Africa which is a good cause .

Many of the Outbound group will take one of these friendship pins as a hostess gift. They will also be available at our AGM on October 13th, a good time to do some early Christmas shopping!

A Little Tidbit

On our winter trip to warmer places, we spent a few days in Tasmania with Ken and Helen Roberts, who attended our Festival in August. Ken and Helen remember their time here with much pleasure and send greetings to everyone. Ken is now the president of their club. We (the Parkers) also visited with Joe and Barbara Procter in New Zealand, who were here with their club a few years ago. Climbing their nearby mountain is a daily fitness regime for both Barbara and Joe, but the Parkers were puffing along behind. Renewing friendships around the world is wonderful!

It's a Small World

by *Larry and Donna Wyatt*

Hosting is always a pleasant experience, but our visit with the Friendship Force group from Zeeland, Netherlands had some additional benefits. We hosted Tineke from The Hague and Christine from Middelburg. Some time before the exchange, we received a phone call from Tineke telling us of her plans and stating that she had lived in Canada for a period of time and that one of her friends' parents lived on Salisbury Avenue in St. Albert. We didn't think too much about this until the friend phoned from Evansburg.. Her name is also Tineke!

In talking with "Canadian" Tineke, we discovered that we had known her parents for more than thirty years when our sons went to St. Albert Creative Playschool. Mrs. Opderheyde was their teacher and Larry served on the "building committee" for the playschool. The playschool was located later at Sir George Simpson School where Larry was assistant principal and then at the United Church where we attend. Mr. and Mrs. Opderheyde invited us all over for coffee and goodies including the special "speculaas" cookies. Later, the Dutch Tineke and Christine went to Evansburg to see where the Canadian Tineke and her husband were building a new home.

We feel so fortunate to have hosted Tineke and renewed our friendship with the Opderheyde's and are reminded again that "Isn't it a small world?"



This photo, taken by Christine shows Tineke, Larry and Donna unloading the bread that we take from Cobs Bakery to Hope Mission, a service project that we did with Tineke and Christine.

Notice of Membership Fee Modification for 2011

In February, 2010 at the General Membership meeting, it was agreed to adopt a single membership fee for the Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area. This single fee would replace the \$35 charged to singles and \$45 charged for a household. At the May, 2010 General Membership meeting, it was agreed that the membership fee for 2011 would be set at:

\$35 per person.

The treasurer and her assistant will be accepting your cheques for 2011 membership fees at the AGM on October 13th from 6 to 7 p.m. 2011 Membership fees are due no later than October 31, 2010.



In-Bound: Zeeland, June 2010-09-18

Our Edmonton and Area Club hosted 15 ambassadors from Zeeland, Netherlands. It was a very memorable week for which our Club received very positive feedback. Highlights for our ambassadors included the evening potlucks, and the various picnic outings that we had, in particular the day at the Royal Alberta Museum. The entire program was well received and our Zeeland friends felt that they had received a true Taste of Edmonton. The weather was a great ally during their visit. They were very appreciative of the efforts that our Club made in providing the opportunities for the Zeeland members to meet so many of our club members. Just to keep the bike tour a bit shorter the next time!

For the first time, a joint committee was organized to deal with the two in-bounds. This turned out to be a very positive way to plan for the two groups.



Missoula Inbound

By Lynne and Lou Duigou, Exchange Directors.

The Missoula contingent arrived in Edmonton and was met at the Gateway Visitors Centre on Highway 2 South on Monday, July 26, 2010. Five ladies drove together from Missoula while Roger and Carolyn Olson arrived from Addy, Washington via Jasper in a separate vehicle. We enjoyed a Welcome Dinner at the United Church followed by pictures with the RCMP member and entertainment by local Canadian folk fiddler Anita Kaminsky. As usual the food was superb and the chance to make new friends always enjoyable.



The Missoula & Washington ambassadors with the member of the RCMP

The week was a busy one and included visits to Ft. Edmonton, Stony Plain Cultural Centre, Edmonton City Hall, Taste of Edmonton, Art Gallery of Alberta, Royal Alberta Museum with a picnic in the park, and Heritage Days. We were also treated to Neighborhood Dinners/BBQ's, as well as a visit to a Bison Farm and dinner at the Lertz farm nearby. Several of our guests had difficulty getting around so we took several driving tours of downtown Edmonton, Historic Murals and sites in Stony Plain, St. Albert and Morinville. Individual members also visited the St. Albert Botanic Garden, Elk Island Park and the Ukrainian Cultural Centre with their Ambassadors.

Our Farewell Dinner held Saturday, July 31, 2010 at the Cajun House Restaurant in St. Albert was well attended by our members so a number of members got to meet and visit with this small group of Ambassadors. The group headed home to Montana and Washington on August 1, 2010.

Our thanks to the Inbound Exchange committee for a job well done.



On the wagon ride at Ft. Edmonton



At the bison farm



**Arequipa – Peru Friendship Force
Family Immigrate To Victoria, BC**
by Marion Boutillier & Marilyn Caskey

In 2004, on an exchange to Arequipa, I stayed with a couple (Alfredo & Martha) and their two children, Alfredito and Nicole. As ED, Marion was supposed to stay with the family but due to illness had to return to Edmonton. We have both corresponded with the family as well as Alfredo's parents, who still live in Peru.

Before the Exchange, Alfredo had applied to immigrate to Canada with his family. Finally their wish was granted in the spring of 2009. Alfredo came in July, 2009 and Marion and I spent a day with him in Banff. He was on his way to Victoria to find a job, accommodation etc. for his family, who was due to arrive in mid-October. During our visit with Alfredo, who was staying with childhood friends who had settled in Canada many years ago, he indicated that Martha had chosen Victoria as their destination because of the climate. They were moving from Arequipa, where the weather and daytime temperature is constant throughout the year at approximately 25-27 degrees Celsius. We guessed the snow and cold of the other areas of Canada lacked appeal.

The family is now settling in, and Marion and I decided we must go this year to see them, as Alfredo's parents, who were expected to come for a visit, had a change of plan due to health issues. They will visit in 2011 for sure.

We spent the afternoon and evening with the whole family including little Alice, born in April, 2005, Alfredito, now 14, and Nicole – 12. What a reunion! Martha made us a special cheesecake, and because it was a beautiful day, we were able to eat outside on their deck.

The family is renting half a duplex in Esquimalt. Currently Alfredo is working two jobs just to keep up with the expenses of supporting his family. Martha takes English classes in the hopes of finding a job soon. They are not having an easy time and

were surprised at how expensive everything is, even though they had done considerable research in advance of the move. Also, we suspect that Victoria is not the easiest place to find work when you have limited Canadian experience. It is unfortunate that their arrival in Canada coincided with the recession etc. But they are determined and Martha made positive references to their new home with furniture etc. that Alfredo was able to obtain at various organizations and second hand stores. The two oldest children settled into school nicely and Alice will attend kindergarten, as her mother continues with English classes.

While we were at their home, Alfredo's Mother called from Arequipa after having a computer malfunction that would not allow her to access Skype. Nevertheless, we enjoyed visiting with her on the telephone.

We know the family will continue to have challenges as Alfredo tries to find the one job that will allow him to support his family and give him more time to spend with them. If any of our members are visiting Victoria, do call on them. They would be happy to see you, especially if you had visited their home country.



Marion & Marilyn with Alfredo, Martha and their children

Membership Committee

With the two in-bounds this summer, the activities of the membership committee were put on hold. The next information night is scheduled for ***Wednesday September 29*** at the Woodcroft Library. The session will be from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. The address is 13420 - 114 Avenue Edmonton.



Outbound Exchange with the Friendship Force National Capital Area (Washington, DC)

Helen Arnott applied for and has been accepted on the Outbound Exchange with the Friendship Force National Capital Area (Washington, DC) group, which is spending 3 weeks in November touring India, both north and south. She will be spending 6 weeks in India altogether, and would be honoured if you would consider coming to a powerpoint presentation of her experiences following her return at the end of November.



FRIENDSHIP FORCE CALENDAR - 2010

October 13 – 6:30 pm. AGM/ General Membership Meeting

October 16, 17, 18 – FFI International Conference, Washington, D.C.

September TBA – Danish Cultural Centre & Stephenson House

November TBA - LEO

December 2 – Christmas Party at the Northgate Lions Centre



Humor is Good for the Soul

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition, because this prescription is marked "NO REFILLS".



An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."



Two old guys are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide. The first old guy says to the second guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The second old guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too...I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The first old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her. What does she look like?"

The second old guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"

To which the first old guy says, "Doesn't matter, --- let's look for yours."

Food for Thought

"If you have two loaves of bread, sell one and buy a lily". (Ancient Chinese Proverb)

