



FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finally, I think spring has arrived and what better way to celebrate this new season but with a party. Oh, I spoke too soon!

I hope all of you in attendance on April 23rd enjoyed the celebration, visiting with fellow members and with some of our former club members as well. Our thanks go out to Mike & Joyce Anhorn and their committee members, who made the event possible. The food was good, the company was great and Joyce & Mike did a wonderful job as MC's for the evening. Clare, thanks for all your work on the decorations, especially the lovely table centre pieces. Thanks, also, to those who so generously donated door prizes.

Our Charter President, Diana McIntyre, gave a short address on the history of our club as well as the formation of Friendship Force International.

We can look forward to seeing lots of pictures of this event, as several photographers were on hand to capture the 'moments,' including Jean Anderson with the video camera. When I mentioned to Jean something about having a presentation ready for the Festival, there was considerable discussion of how time consuming editing can be. We agreed to have the screening at our 15th anniversary!

We are planning some activities, socials etc. prior to our Festival in August. The Larsen's Annual Golf Tournament will be held June 18 and Aboriginal Day at Metis Crossing near Smoky Lake on June 21st. Further details will be sent out as they become available.

We will also be holding our next General Membership Meeting on Saturday May 30th at

the Norwood Legion. It will be a Luncheon/Business meeting. Details concerning reservations will be sent to all members in early May.

We will not have another newsletter issued before the AGM scheduled for September 22nd, so I would ask that you give some thought to what position you wish to let your name stand for, in the upcoming elections. Many of the Board positions will be available this year for election of a 2-year term. The maximum term for any elected position is 2, 2-year terms or 4 years. Many choose to resign their positions after two years to give others a chance. We will have more information about available positions as time goes on and well before the Nomination Committee starts its telephone campaign.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer and that you will be well rested in order to greet our Festival guests starting August 19th.

Marilyn Caskey

ARCHIVES

The History and Archives Albums are now up to date. They were at our 10th Anniversary Dinner and those who reviewed them seemed to be pleased. I would like to ask anyone, who took some pictures that evening, if they could e-mail them so I can keep up to date by putting them in the a book right away. Also, I would like to get in touch with whoever took the pictures for the trip to Australia and New Zealand. Please get in touch with me ASAP.

Theresa Sarnecki

FESTIVAL UPDATE APRIL 2009

As of April 17, we have 66 paid registrations for the Festival August 19 to 28 – 6 from the Pacific Region, 10 from Europe, and the remainder from North America. We still have some inquiries that may materialize into registrations and we will also make one final advertising blitz at the Northern Rockies Regional Conference in Calgary. The deadline may be extended to May 15, but no extensions are anticipated after that time.

The Home Host matching will begin shortly and, if all those who have volunteered to date are still available to home host, we will have enough to handle the current registrations. However, we would encourage you to keep in contact with friends and relatives for “standby” assistance - if not for home hosting then certainly for day hosting. If you know of any former Home Hosts planning to attend the Festival and you wish to host particular Festival Ambassadors, please advise Brenda Kane: bgkane@telus.net . Also, please let Brenda know if you would like to add your name to the list of home hosts, or if there are any changes in your hosting details.

One of the activities we are considering for the Festival (not on the current Itinerary) is a visit to Metis Crossing near Smoky Lake for Voyager Days

2009. However, before we plan the activity for our Ambassadors, we want to check out the venue first. Sunday, June 21st is Aboriginal Day and we are waiting for the program to be announced and may plan a club social for the members. As soon as information becomes available, we will provide details and the plan for the club social.

We will be sending out regular e-mail updates regarding the Festival starting in May. There will be workshops in June, July and August for all members and we will do our absolute best to arrange the workshops so that all members will be around to attend at least one. There will be food at the workshops. Interested?

Many of you have volunteered to work on the Festival and everyone’s help will be needed, from acting as tour guides at some venues, assembling welcome gift bags, day hosting or making lunches for day trips etc. Every member available will be called upon to help in some capacity before and during the Festival. Thanks so much for all your support in helping make this a truly memorable Festival to celebrate our 10th Anniversary. Please stay tuned for regular updates starting in May.

Submitted by Marilyn Caskey and Brenda Kane

NATIONAL ROCKIES REGIONAL CONFERENCE

FF Edmonton & Area will have a great representation at the NRRC in Calgary this weekend. I am very pleased, as I am sure it will be very inspiring.

Marjorie Eckert

OUTBOUND WEST MICHIGAN AND THE CANADIAN FF CONFERENCE, NIAGARA FALLS

A small but enthusiastic group of Ambassadors will be traveling to Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 7th to 14th, 2009, for an exchange with the West Michigan Friendship Force Club. This Club is somewhat like our own in that its members live in several communities along the state's western boundary. We look forward to the activities they have planned for us. Most of our group will then travel on to Niagara Falls to be joined by others from our Edmonton Club for the Canadian F.F. National Conference on October 14th to 16th. As well as the conference, there will be an optional home stay in the Hamilton and Niagara areas and an Ottawa home stay after the conference. There is still time to add your name to the list of participants. If you are interested contact Doug & Isabelle Southam, Exchange Directors, at 780-987-0052 or dougsoutham@yahoo.ca.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

On April 23rd our club celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a party at the Woodvale Community Centre.

After a lovely buffet, MC's and principle organizers, Joyce and Mike Anhorn, presented a thoughtful and entertaining program, complete with an anniversary cake and numerous door prizes, many donated by our own members.

Each of the still active original Charter members were presented with a single yellow rose signifying Friendship. Charter President, Diana McIntyre, was presented with a bouquet of 10 roses, representing the club's 10-year existence, a suitably engraved Cross-pen, as well as a Life Time membership for our Friendship Force club.



Following this, Diana gave a short review of the club's origin as well as a history of Friendship Force International (FFI). Originally there were 20 member households who signed on in December, 1998. The club was granted its charter by FFI in January, 1999. Currently, there are 12 original Charter members still active in the club. Eight of the 12 were present to receive their roses: Myra Avey, Marilyn Caskey, Cathy Doyle, Marj & Carl Eckert, Laura Larsen, Lil Limberger and Diana McIntyre. Neil Larsen, Rose Marie Limberger and Jessie & Frank Parker, also Charter members, were unable to be in attendance for the celebration. Approximately 80 members, former members and guests were in attendance. Members who have passed away over the last

ten years were also acknowledged: Pearl James, Ken McIntyre, Frank Doyle, Con Sarnecki and Ed Feist.



While several people were involved in the presentation of this event, our very special thanks go to the Anhorns, fairly new members to the club, who graciously accepted the task of planning and organizing the celebration. Clare Scott designed and created the table decorations and was in charge of decorating. Since FFI does not actually issue Charters, the task of creating a Charter was left to Donna Wyatt, who also designed the Life Time Membership Certificate for Diana. Her Charter design has been sent to FFI, as they requested, in the hope that future clubs will be issued their own when joining the FFI family.

Before the evening ended, Brenda Kane gave an update on the Festival planned for August which will welcome the world of Friendship Force members to join us as we continue to celebrate our 10th Anniversary.

Our thanks to all who assisted the Anhorns in making this anniversary a memorable one and to all who attended, making this event the success that it truly was. A very special thank you to you, Diana, for getting the ball rolling ten years ago.

Marilyn Caskey

SOCIAL EVENTS

All golfers, mark your calendars for Thursday, June 18th, for our annual golf tournament and potluck supper at the Larsen's at Miquelon Lake. Please bring a dish for the meal, either a cold item or something in a croak pot that can be plugged in for heating. Please advise Laura at lnlarsen@telus.net if you plan to attend.

All walkers, please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 11th. Kay and Roy Harper have invited us to gather at their house (9742 - 89 Avenue) at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 11th to walk the South Mill Creek Ravine. This would take about 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Please bring your sandwich and water bottle.

After the walk, we will have our lunch in their back yard. They will provide cookies and drinks.

Lil Limberger, Social Convenor

OUTBOUND NEW ZEALAND / AUSTRALIA 2009

Twenty-two intrepid travelers from our club traveled down under and escaped much of Edmonton's harsh winter. We were welcomed royally by the clubs of Whangarei and Wellington, New Zealand and Newcastle and Gold Coast, Australia. This was an unprecedented four home stay event! We dined on seafood and lamb and whiled away the evenings with fine wines. We swam, fished, sailed, shopped and visited many historic sites. We saw colourful birds fly in the rainforests and beautiful shells and fish in the oceans. The scenery was beautiful and our hosts were warm, friendly and gracious.

Our rousing entertainment consisted of the singing of "This land.", wonderfully directed by Barb Olynyk; a reading of Robert Service by Lyle Erga (ably introduced by Hazel); and a PowerPoint of Canada accompanied by our mixed choir singing " You Call it Canada" directed by Eryl Jones. We made new friends, renewed old friendships and each returned with memories enough to last... until our next

outbound. At the website below, you will see pictures that the Gold Coast club has posted

www.friendshipforcegoldcoast.org.au

Respectfully submitted, *Barbara Ashmore, ED*

FRIENDSHIP FORCE CALENDAR 2009

May

1-3 Northern Rockies Conference – Calgary

11 – Board Meeting

30 – General Meeting

June

June 11 – Ravine Walk

June 18 – Golf at Larsen's

June 21 - Aboriginal Day - Metis Crossing

July – nothing scheduled

August

19-28 – Festival

September

14 – Board Meeting

TBA - Racing at Northlands

22 – Annual General Meeting

October

14 - 17 FFI National Conference – Niagara

November

19 - 22 FFI International Conference Japan

TBA – Mayfield Dinner Theatre

December

3 – Christmas Party

Please visit our website at:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS IN ATLANTA IN MARCH 2009

The March 2009 meeting saw five newcomers replacing retiring members and starting a four year term. The board represents clubs world wide with members from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, New Zealand and the USA.

Board meetings typically include a report on operations by the president (George Brown) and his staff and then focus on specific the challenges facing us. All agree the “re-branding” and new image has gone well. Exchanges with special themes are underway and the website is being used more and more; offering new ways to help members communicate with FFI and each other.

Special attention was paid to diversifying the funding base for Friendship Force, to solicit gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals. Board members personally committed substantial sums to kick off this effort.

The economic downturn and its impact on Friendship Force was also discussed at length. We have seen a substantial number of cancellations in 2009, leading to \$100,000.00 in reduced income to cover the costs of keeping the network running. This is a very serious situation for Friendship force members. Operating costs in Atlanta have been reduced by staff reductions and other economies. The priority for Friendship Force is to fill every exchange and the various ways of doing this were discussed. These include the new Global Exchange program, e-flyers to advertise unfilled spaces within regions, deposits payable when exchanges are awarded and others.

The board meets twice each year. In between meetings, an executive committee meets by teleconference as needed and six subcommittees meet by phone to bring forward proposals on critical areas such as finance, program, and policies.



Working group



Chair and President