

# FRIENDSHIP LINKS

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF EDMONTON AND AREA NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

As summer turns to fall, it is time for us to reflect on an exciting term behind us, featuring the Festival and our own 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in April.

We have many new members who have joined us in recent months who helped with the hosting, etc., for the Festival and played other key roles to make our club flourish. Since we have had no real opportunity to present the new members for 2009 at recent meetings, etc., we will have a special ceremony at the **AGM** to introduce them and finally give the new members the welcome they deserve into the Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area. It will also serve as an opportunity for all members to reaffirm their commitment to the goals and ideals of Friendship Force International, which has made the organization so successful over the past 32 years.

At the **AGM** on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have elections to fill key vacancies on our Board and on our Executive. This seems like an opportune time to thank those members who are leaving their chairmanships to make room for new Board members. Myra Avey and Clare Scott have done an outstanding job in bringing new and keen members into our club over the last two years. Theresa Sarnecki will turn over the History and Archives to a new chair and committee after four years, as will Laura Larsen in Publicity and Lil Limberger in Social. Other members are also indicating they will not seek a further term in their positions.

It will be the work of the nominating committee to present a slate of nominations at the **AGM** for the members to choose from. I hope that some of our newer members may consider allowing their names to stand for one of those positions of interest to them. To all Board members leaving and those continuing, on behalf of all members, we thank you for your valued service. To those of you leaving, we will miss you, but we welcome your contributions in other areas of club activities.

At the **AGM** you will also be asked to consider some changes (mostly cosmetic) to our by-laws and policies. Once the Board at their meeting in mid-September has considered these changes, an outline of the changes will be sent to the members for review prior to the **AGM**.

Our **V.P.'S** Exchanges are continuing to line up the Inbound and Outbound Exchange arrangements for 2010. We are now being asked to finalize our selections for 2011. You will be sent the information you will need to make a selection. This is an easier task this year because our Outbound to Bogota, Colombia for Feb./March, 2011, has already been confirmed. It will be a matter of selecting another location perhaps in the vicinity for a second home stay. We can look at another location in Colombia, a club in Central or South America or one located in the USA. A list of all US clubs will be made available to the membership when you are asked to make this selection. While the final choices are not required by **FFI** until November 1<sup>st</sup>, with the Western Michigan Outbound and the Canadian Conference in October and then the snowbirds leaving soon afterwards, this is a decision we will be asking you to provide your input by the first week in October.

We also have had a request for a reciprocal visit from the FF of Whangarae in New Zealand where our members visited in February. We will indicate to **FFI** our desire for the reciprocal visit at the same time we reaffirm our wish for our reciprocal visit to Bogota. The Club selection for **FFI** Exchanges 2011 is an activity that the **V.P.'S** Exchanges now has written into the position's job description. The **V.P.'s** will be coordinating and presenting our final submission to **FFI** for the first time.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the summer that seemed would never arrive and that you are looking forward to some travels with FF and on your own over the next several months.

Thanks again for a great year.

Marilyn

#### **Edmonton and Area Friendship Force Festival – Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Club**

We have had a wonderful 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and overall, we had really enthusiastic ambassadors. A total of 63 ambassadors arrived from seven different countries – 2 from Kenya, 4 from the Netherlands, 4 from Germany, 4 from Australia, 5 from Canada, 2 from the UK, and the remainder from seven states in the USA.

The theme of Celebrating our Cultural Diversity worked well – we included a tour of Chinatown complete with a dim sum lunch and a lion dance; tour and lunch at a Hutterite Colony; tour of a Ukrainian Village and Ukrainian dinner in a country church; were serenaded by a Scottish piper; and had a tour of the Aboriginal gallery at the Royal Alberta Museum by a local Metis guide. Of course, we also highlighted our local history and culture with tours of the Tyrell Museum, our Fringe Festival, Fort Edmonton, etc. We enjoyed the neighbourhood potluck dinners around the city, and had time to go out to dinner at a local dinner theatre one night as well, so there was lots of socializing. We were lucky enough to have great weather everyday.

I know the ambassadors and hosts also enjoyed meeting FF Board Member Andrew Sterling and his wife, Eileen, and we appreciated their participation in the Festival activities. We will hold our final committee meeting this week to discuss the evaluations and make recommendations for future exchanges. We will be posting pictures in the near future on the website.

Thanks again to all the club members who participated in the festival as committee members, home hosts, day hosts, and dinner hosts. Almost our entire membership was involved in some way..... an awesome way to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a club.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairs: Marilyn Caskey and Brenda Kane

## **EXCHANGES**

The Brussels-Pajot Club is being hosted by our Friendship Force of Edmonton and Area Club for a mini three day exchange. This exchange is in connection with Friendship Force of Hay River, NWT. The dates of this exchange are September 25<sup>th</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>. Check the Monday mail out for the meet and greet meal we have planned.

### **OUTBOUNDS for 2010**

**Japan** – One week with the Nara Club and one week with the Oita Club. This is to take place at the end of April and the first week of May. PLEASE APPLY TO BE AN EXCHANGE DIRECTOR FOR THIS OUTBOUND.

### **INBOUNDS for 2010**

#1. **Western Montana - Missoula** – Congratulations to Lynn and Lou Duigou, who will be the ED's. This exchange will take place the first week of August.

#2. **Glenkerchen, Germany** – This inbound is to be coordinated with the Ottawa club in late May or the first of June. PLEASE APPLY TO BE AN EXCHANGE DIRECTOR FOR THIS INBOUND.

### **OUTBOUNDS FOR 2011**

**FFI** has given us our last year's choice of **Bogota, Colombia**, February, 2011. We will survey your suggestions on the other week, choosing a club in Central or South America or another club in Colombia that would fit into the travel plans.

**SUBMISSIONS TO FFI MUST BE IN BY NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2009.** Check the Monday mail out for survey details and how to get your choice recorded.

We give special thanks to all of you who are hosting the Belgium Ambassadors. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Marj Eckert and Mary Ann Wichmann

## **SOCIAL CLUB REPORT**

Board Meeting – Monday, September 14, 2009

1. The South Mill Creek walk, hosted by the Harper's, was held on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 15 people attended.
2. The Golf Tournament, hosted by Neil and Laura Larsen, was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> at Miquelon and 23 people attended.
3. The Aboriginal Days at the Victoria Settlement on June 21<sup>st</sup> was attended by quite a number of our members.
4. The Rundle Park walk, hosted by the Limberger's, was held on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 10 people attended.
5. The Thoroughbred Horse racing at Northlands has been booked for Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Hosting new members for coffee. Now that summer activities are over, I will be sending out an e-mail to see who would be interested in hosting new members for coffee.

Lil Limberger  
Social Convenor

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

\$35.00 (single) - \$45.00 (household)

Please bring your cheque to the AGM on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

Or mail to treasurer:  
Barbara Harvey  
34 Grandin Village  
St. Albert, AB T8N 1R9

Cheques payable to *The Friendship Force of Edmonton & Area*

Post dated cheques accepted