



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

As we begin 2012, I want to wish all of you a happy and peaceful New Year.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the past Executive for all their hard work over the last couple of years. Our new Executive and Committee Chairpersons are looking forward to a busy 2012 and welcome your input and ideas. We are still looking for someone to help out with Activities/Fund Raising Committee. We have lots of helpers but no Chairperson.

The plans for our Outbound Exchange led by Exchange Director Debbie Spracklin and Assistant Margaret Birk to Big Canoe, Georgia and Orlando, Florida from Feb 22 to Mar 7 are well underway.

Although March 1 is World Friendship Day, the Board is suggesting another International Pot Luck Dinner to be held on Sunday, March 18 at the Bourkevale Community Centre for all members, their families and their friends. On our Outbound Exchanges to other countries we have noticed that many clubs involve their families in their social activities.

On May 30, our Club is hosting Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK. ED Nancy Clendenan and Assistant ED Bob Kury and their committee are hard at work planning a memorable experience for them. Please get involved by volunteering where needed.

We await more information about the Inbound Exchange from Lima, Peru in August/September.

In Friendship
Paul Havixbeck

Dinner Meetings Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM

The Holiday Inn has increased the fee for dinner by \$1 per person. Starting Jan 11, the meeting/meal cost will increase by 50 cents to \$24.00 with the club making up the difference. The hotel fee includes a 15% service charge and taxes (GST & PST). The hotel also provides and sets up the room for our meeting.

January 11 The Year In Review – Slide Show

February 8 Valentines

March 14 Cancelled. Replaced by World Friendship Day celebration on **March 18**, Bourkevale Community Centre, see announcement below.

A picnic is planned for the **June 13** meeting with details to follow.

Introducing our Board of Directors For 2012-2013



Your Executive - From Left To Right
Paul Havixbeck – President;
Val Keenan – Vice President
Shirley Schellenberg - Treasurer
Lorraine Franz - Secretary

Standing Committees Chairpersons

Newsletter: Jim Kubas
Communications: Elizabeth Grover
Website: Joe Keenan
Historian: Herb Schellenberg
Exchange Coordinator: Norma Warecki
Telephone: Jim McMurtrie
Activities: ??

We still need one or more members to help organize meeting activities and fundraising for the club. Volunteering is a great way to get more out of your club membership and you can always count on help from the executive and other committee and club members. Speak to any executive member to find out what's involved.

2012 FFW Membership Renewal

56 Members have renewed (18 family; 20 single)
If your membership dues for 2012 are still outstanding, you can pay them at the next meeting or mail them directly to: Val Keenan, 53 Blossom Bay Wpg.
R3R 2W1 - \$30/single or \$50/family.

Thank-You

The **Christmas Cheer Board** has acknowledged our donation with thanks. Thank-you to all members who contributed a tin-for-the-bin at our Christmas meeting.

Karen Wokes thanks the members for her gift received at the December dinner meeting.

Get Well Wishes

All the best to Bessie-Marie Hill and Elizabeth Grover as they recover from surgery. Hope that each day you are feeling better.

Happy Birthday – January Celebrants

Paul Havixbeck
Bonnie Vivier
Sachitha Attawar
Bob Kury
Mary McQueen



Participation Reports

A few members haven't completed their participation reports for 2011. Forms will be available at the next meeting. Return the completed forms to Val Keenan.

Upcoming Events

World Friendship Day Celebration

The next World Friendship Day is March 1, 2012. This will mark the 35th anniversary of the Friendship Force. The Board decided that we should celebrate the event on **Sunday March 18, 2012** starting at 5 pm at the **Bourkevale Community Centre**; 100 Ferry Rd, St. James. The theme is International and the members will be asked to bring international food dishes and wear any international clothing that they may have. Family members and friends are welcome. Bring your favorite treasures from previous exchanges for display.

Exchanges - Inbound

Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK, May 30 - June 6, 2012

ED: Nancy Clendenan, Assistant ED: Bob Kury. We will be hosting up to 20 ambassadors; 12 members have volunteered to host (which should be sufficient). We are expecting these ambassadors to arrive on May 30th evening with activities planned for the following week ending with a Farewell Banquet. A few more volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee. You can call Nancy at 489-7366 for more information on getting involved in creating great memories for our guests and yourself.

Lima, Peru, September, 2012

ED: Elizabeth Grover. The ambassadors from Lima will be visiting Canada in early September. FF Calgary will be hosting from Sept. 5-12. We will be hosting from Sept. 12-19.

Exchanges - Outbound

Big Canoe - North Georgia, February 22-29, and Greater Orlando, Florida, February 29-March 7, 2012

ED: Debbie Spracklin, Assistant ED: Margaret Birk.

Detailed programming is well underway and it looks like this will be a very enjoyable exchange. However, there is room for more ambassadors and the Exchange is being promoted across Canada through CANFFEX and in the USA by FF International. There is still time to sign-up if you are interested. Registration forms should be provided to Debbie along with the sign-up fee of \$30.

Undersubscribed Canadian Outbound Exchanges

In addition to our exchange to FF Big Canoe, Georgia, and FF Greater Orlando, Florida, CANFFEX currently lists two additional undersubscribed exchanges by Canadian Clubs. These are as follows:

Metro Vancouver, Canada to Murray Bridge, Tamworth and Blue Mountains, Australia, #10843. This exchange departs Vancouver on March 1, 2012 and will visit 3 Clubs.

Calgary Region, Canada to Southern New Jersey and Lake Hartwell, USA – #10835.

This exchange runs April 23 - May 7, 2012.

There are spaces for 5 or 6 ambassadors.

See the Canadian Friendship Force Exchange Site at <http://canffex.ca/> for more information.

Conferences

6th Friendship Force Canadian Conference, Quebec City, May 16-19, 2012

All Canadian FF Clubs are invited to participate. More Information and registration forms are available at www.forceamitieregionquebec.com/. Registrations must be returned no later than January 31, 2012, along with the conference fee of \$225/person and the applicable home stay fees. All Conference activities will take place in the Hotel Manoir Victoria located in the heart of Old Québec. Three-day home stays are offered by the FF Clubs of Ottawa, Canadian Capital Region, Quebec Region, Sherbrooke and Montreal.

Interested in getting a group together for Festival du Voyageur?

The Festival is again offering a Group Tent for groups of eight or more on Saturday February 18th and Sunday February 19th. The cost this year is \$37 per person which includes a Day Pass to the Festival Park, Entertainment and Group Seating, Traditional French Canadian Meal, Optional Tour of Fort Gibraltar and a Souvenir. Friendship Force Winnipeg has participated in the past two years and have been invited to attend again this year. If you would like to enjoy an evening at the Festival without the crush of people in the general public tents this may be for you. Contact Val Keenan if you are interested in getting a group together.



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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