



# The Friendly Echo

## FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 11, Issue 3

March 2011

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends:

*I am visiting with family in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The snow is abundant, and the sky is brilliant. All members of our two Winnipeg clubs are relaxing after the fun and activity of our very successful Global Exchange. There is much to reflect on. I think we are the best; no clubs can top us. Participation was excellent and I extend thanks all around.*

*Looking forward, we have no dinner meeting in March. We do meet with family and friends on March 20<sup>th</sup> for World Friendship Day. The dessert card party on April 12<sup>th</sup> is a community event. As always, your participation and help will be much appreciated.*

*I look forward to our gathering on March 20<sup>th</sup>.*

In friendship KAREN

### Nomination Call for Vice-President

The Nominating Committee has received one nomination for the position of Vice-President. We are pleased to advise the membership that Paul Havixbeck has agreed to let his name stand for election. The election will take place at the April 13 Dinner Meeting. At that time, nominations may be made from the floor.

The Nominating Committee: Charliene Havixbeck, Marlene Friesen, Dolores Hebert, Val Keenan, Frances Lemieux

### Happy Birthday for March

Bev Shultz	Gladys Spracklin
Frances Lemieux	David Judge
Jill Saunders	Herb Schellenberg
Joan Smith	



### Upcoming Events

#### 2011 Dinner Meeting Dates:

Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 6 PM

**Reminder: March 9 Dinner Meeting has been cancelled.**

April 13	Money Bunny (Easter)
May 11	Manitoba Day, Book Sale
June 08	Picnic in the Park
September 14	Skit, Costa Rica Report
October 12	Harvest
November 9	Annual General Meeting, Japan Report
December 14	Christmas.

### World Friendship Day Celebration, Bourkevale Community Centre, March 20, 2011

The theme for World Friendship Day in 2011 is "Make a Difference." We will celebrate with a repeat of last year's enjoyable international pot luck supper. We will gather at 5:15 PM, with supper at 6:00 PM. Family and friends welcome. Bring your own dishes and cutlery. (Contact Norma Warecki, Activities Chairperson)

### FFW Dessert Card Party, April 12, 2011 Charleswood United Church, 4820 Roblin Blvd.

A committee has been set up for our Dessert Card Party, focusing on bridge. The committee members are Elizabeth Grover, Karen Wokes, Marlene Friesen, Val Keenan, Norma Padilla and Martha Klimack. We would like to see a push in ticket sales by the membership. Posters to advertise the event are ready. Perhaps you could put one up in your community! Tickets and posters will be available at the World Friendship Day celebration at Bourkevale Community Centre on March 20<sup>th</sup> from Joan Ostermann. Members are asked to volunteer in the kitchen, contribute a dessert (cake or torte preferred), assist with the clean-up, and/or donate a gift for the prize table. If you intend to donate a gift for the prize table, please bring it to the World Friendship Day event.

Joan Ostermann (Chairperson)

### Global Winter Exchange, February 17-24, 2011

Our Winter Wonderland Exchange to Winnipeg was wildly successful! I think we can all say that we had a wonderful week with our ambassadors and from their comments they had a wonderful week with us. Even Mother Nature cooperated with crisp cold days and a small blizzard thrown in for good measure!

The response we received from the media was unbelievable! Everyone in Winnipeg knew that our Australian and American ambassadors were in the city to experience winter and Friendship Force is now much better known around town. We were delighted also that some members from the Brandon Friendship Force Club could join us on Saturday.

Our program for the week was very well received by the ambassadors who participated fully in all the events planned.

Quoting from some of the Post Exchange Evaluations completed by ambassadors and hosts:

- "Exceeded our expectations. Hosts simply outstanding. Wonderful varied program. Highlights were tour of the Hydro Building and presentation by the Honourable George Hickey."

- "The entire itinerary was outstanding -- especially the cold weather. The two clubs welcomed us so warmly."
- "We've spent a week in "Narnia." Thank you so much. Dream of a lifetime fulfilled beyond expectations."
- "You are on a winner with a winter exchange such as this. Well done. Keep it going."
- "Ever since I learned to sing "Jingle Bells" I have longed for a horse drawn sleigh ride. All the activities were fantastic and more than met my expectations."
- "I loved that both clubs worked together - wonderful hosts."
- "Our guests (ambassadors) were wonderful, compatible, willing to participate in all activities, interested in our family, our cultures and our city. A great experience!"
- "It was great! One of the best ever! The Hon. Hickes was a hi-lite."
- "Excellent time spent with the two ambassadors. We were so alike and different, which proved to be very interesting and full of fun and laughter."



Our exchange was able to donate \$100 for Queensland flood relief.

A big THANK YOU to all the Exchange Committee members, Home, Day and Dinner Hosts, and to our general membership who participated in such great numbers for all the events.

Val Keenan, Exchange Director FFW

### Exchanges

#### Inbound

#### San Jose, Costa Rica, August 27-September 3, 2011

A planning committee has been established. San Jose will be visiting North Bay, Ontario prior to arriving here. (ED: Norma Warecki, Assistant ED: Elizabeth Grover)

#### Prague, Czech Republic and Hertfordshire, UK, 2012, April, 2012

We will seek to change dates to June or September.

#### Lima, Peru, August, 2012

#### Outbound

#### Yamaguchi and Tokyo, Japan, September 20-October 4, 2011

Fifteen ambassadors from our club and two from FFWManitoba have signed up. Since there is one more space available, the Exchange has been listed on the Canadian FF Exchange Site, [canffex.ca](http://canffex.ca). (ED: Charliene Havixbeck, Assistant ED: Dolores Tutkaluk)



Global exchange ambassadors in their winter clothing at Fort Whyte Alive.

Sleigh ride at Birds Hill Park. Photos by Stan Croall, FFM

### Big Canoe - North Georgia and Greater Orlando, USA, February, 2012

#### Conferences

#### World Conference Hamburg, Germany, August 26-30, 2011

The theme of "Leadership for Tomorrow" will be explored. Visit the Friendship Force 2011 World Conference website to learn more and to register. [www.regonline.com/2011worldconf](http://www.regonline.com/2011worldconf)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Friendship Force Canadian Conference, Quebec City, May 16-19, 2012

The Conference will be hosted by the Friendship Force of the Quebec Region. All Canadian FF Clubs are invited to join together and participate. Check <http://www.forceamitieregionquebec.com/> for details as they become available.



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