



The Friendly Echo

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



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HAPPY EASTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kudos to President Judy Single and the members of Friendship Force of Manitoba for hosting a wonderful evening celebrating World Friendship Day. The guest speaker, a Canadian Border Service officer, was very informative. She also enjoyed the evening and especially not having to eat her dinner out of a brown paper bag.

Susan Cormack has the card party well under way. Donations of prizes and food are needed. If you can help out, please contact Susan. Tickets are available from Susan, Maria Coutu and Shirley Schellenberg. Loretta Humeniuk is very busy with her committee getting ready for our inbound exchange group from Japan.

Our plans for the outbound exchange to Causeway Coast, N. Ireland, is pretty much complete. All sixteen ambassadors are looking forward to departure date. Looking ahead to 2017, plans are already getting under way for our WINTER exchange.

Please note that there will not be a dinner meeting this month. Looking forward to seeing all members on April 13 and to welcome back our members from their "HOT SPOTS".

I would like to wish all those members of Irish heritage and those who wish they were, a very "HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY".

In Friendship,
Norma Warecki



New Members

WELCOME to Heather Gusnowsky who recently joined our club. Let's make it our mission to meet our new members including **Susan Munroe and Jim Abra** who joined last month.

The club is always looking to expanding our numbers. Let's all try to bring a friend to the April or May meeting. I'm sure they will enjoy both the meal and the camaraderie of our FF Winnipeg club.

Get Well Wishes

We are all wishing Val Keenan a speedy recovery from her surgery.

Happy Birthday March Celebrants

Gladys Spracklin
Frances Lemieux
David Judge
Jill Saunders
Herb Schellenberg



Linda Robeson
Kathy Lesyk
Joe Daniel
Susan Munroe
Paul van Leeuwen

FFW Membership Renewals, 2016

The fees remain unchanged - \$35.00 for a single and \$60.00 for a family. Please remit payment to Linda Dart, our new Treasurer. Linda will be at the table at the April 13 evening dinner meeting.

Participation Reports

Participation reports should have been completed.

Phoners have a Request to Make

If you know you are going to be away for an outbound exchange or on holiday and will not be at the next dinner meeting, would you kindly phone or e-mail Janice Leckie and let her know. This would cut down on the many hours spent on phoning several times in order to find out your intentions re: attendance. Also, the phoners would like to THANK YOU VERY MUCH for calling them back when they leave messages (makes their work easier).

Meetings

Regular Evening Dinner Meetings are back!!
(2nd Wednesday of the month)

Regular dinner meetings at the Holiday Inn South will resume **April 13** and **May 11**. The Holiday Inn has advised that the cost of 2016 dinner meetings will increase by one dollar to \$28.00.

Activity Organizer – Nina Logan has plans for us. At the April meeting (2 Truths & a Lie). Be prepared to share short snippets of your life with us. Two sentences should be true statements about you and one sentence should be a lie. These will be shared at your table and the table detectives will try to figure out which of your statements is a lie. No prizes this time.



The May meeting will involve a auction and sale. Don't forget to bring books which you have read and donate them to our book sale. "Bring a book and buy a book."

Thank You

Thank you to Maria Coutu. Maria became activity organizer in Nina's absence at the February luncheon meeting. We had fun and learned a lot of new things while playing her Valentine Trivia game.

World Friendship Day

We celebrated World Friendship Day with the FF Manitoba Club on March 2, Wednesday at the Masonic Temple. Food was great and our club was responsible for the program. The presentation by Jill Hyatt of Canada Border Services (CBS) was extremely informative. In their job, CBS has to deal with the administration of over 90 Acts regarding security and immigration.

Jill stressed some very important things when travelling:

- a) Fill out the second page of your passport – next of kin, address, telephone no. etc. Add your e-mail and cell phone. In the event that you lose your passport at the airport, you can be contacted immediately by the finder or Security can send it back to you.
- b) Fill out the declaration card accurately – when in doubt leave a question blank and ask CBS for help in answering the question. If you don't declare something and you are searched, it does not look good on your record for next time. Better to ask questions if in doubt as to what to claim.
- c) You buy a rug, coat, art and get it sent home, it is still part of your personal exemption and should be recorded on your declaration form as goods to follow.
- d) Go to: travel.gc.ca – pick the country you wish to travel to and the web site gives you info on getting a visa, safety numbers, closest consulate, etc.
- e) Check your passport – you need 6 months validity on it before travelling out of Canada. Apply for a new one if you have less than 6 months left on it.
- f) If you travel with grandkids, always fill out a form and have a letter from their parents saying you have permission to take the children out of the country.
- g) Nexus Card – for \$50 for 5 years, you can apply for a Nexus card which allows you to pass through security via the shorter Nexus line. Go online, download the application, wait about 4 weeks. If you get accepted, you will then be asked to go for an interview. The Nexus card is for the honest citizen who knows and follows all the rules involved when travelling – does not bring back illegal cigarettes, no extra drink, no illegal skins or shells, no illegal plant or animal products, etc. You follow ALL the rules. Then the Nexus card will fast track you through security and past those long lines of people.
- h) Declaring Food – declaring you have food is legal and in most cases you might be allowed to bring food back to Canada. However, in stating you have food, then security may just wish to look at it to make sure it is legal. Apples – no. Oranges and grapefruit – yes. Poultry – no. If you don't declare, it's worse. If you declare and they have to throw it out, it's OK. You are not a criminal.
- i) Go to AIRS on the internet, to check out what food is legal & illegal.

AND DON'T FORGET TO:

Make a copy of your passport, visa card, bank card, health & travel insurance, family contacts and keep in a safe place away from originals. If you lose your documents, you have a ready copy for cancelling cards and reissuing a new temporary passport.

2016 Dessert Card Party

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Monday, May 2, 2016

Time: 12:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Place: Norberry - Glenlee Community Centre
26 Molgat Avenue

Volunteers are requested to provide prizes and baking (diabetic consideration to some food items please). Any member wishing to donate prizes should bring them to the April dinner meeting or call Maria Coutu 253-2115 or Elizabeth Grover 452-5299.

2016 Exchanges

Outbound:

May 18-25 - FF Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland
(Norma Warecki, ED) Plans for the trip include an optional add-on of 5 days in Ireland.

Sept. 6-13 - FF Northern Illinois

(Joe Keenan, ED) One more ambassador can be accommodated.

Date: TBA for 2017 – Kern County / Tahoe

An ED is required for this exchange. Please consider volunteering.

Inbound:

June 14-21 - FF Tokyo, Japan

(Loretta Humeniuk, ED) Tokyo has supplied us with their member list of 24 people attending. March 15 will be our third planning meeting. We still require cottages for the weekend wilderness experience and we still require another 4 home hosts and 4 dinner hosts.

Aug. 16-23 - FF Kern County, California, USA

(Norma Padilla, ED) No details available at this time.

February 2017 – FF Australia – Winter Exchange

(Val Keenan, ED) This will be a mid February event to include Festival du Voyageur events, tobogganing, sleigh ride and other winter activities. Contact Val if you are interested in helping on this committee. More details to follow.

Date: TBA – FF Costa Rica

(Paul Van Leeuwen, ED) More details to follow.

2017 Domestic Exchange – Date: TBA

Maria Coutu & Shirley Schellenberg have been appointed EDs for this exchange involving the Winnipeg and Saskatoon clubs. Discussions are in progress in organizing this exchange between our two provinces. The Canadian Council of FF Presidents is encouraging domestic exchanges in 2017 to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. Winnipeg and Saskatoon would each host Canadian ambassadors for 3-4 days. Attempts are being made to coordinate activities that will focus on the history of Louis Riel in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. 2017 will be an exciting year for both clubs.



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