



THE FRIENDLY ECHO
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Paul Van Leeuwen*

I would like to thank Jim Kubas and his team for the excellent, well organized inbound journey. I am convinced that our Brazilian ambassadors had a very good time in Winnipeg. Thanks to everyone who made this exchange a great one.

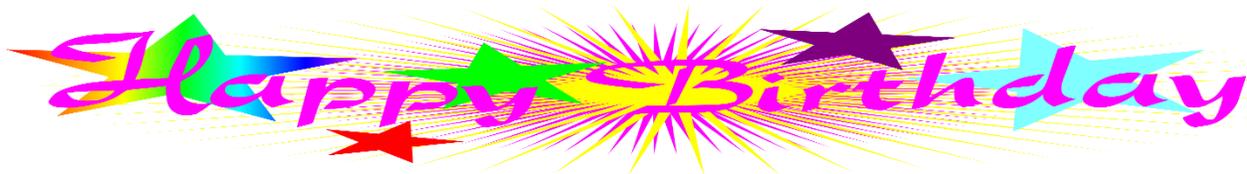
For myself, the Western Conference was quite an experience. The presidents' meeting, apart from getting to know the eleven representatives of Western Canada, had as a highlight the agreement that we should work more closely together and give opportunities to other Canadian Clubs. Alberta clubs initiated a domestic journey for 2019 where eastern clubs can participate in a rotation between Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton, each of these being a three-day journey. Winnipeg, being in the middle are for this reason allowed to participate.

Meeting the international group, especially CEO, Jeremi Snook, was an eye opener. In his opening speech he impressed us all with the cost effectiveness and positive changes he has created. He has eliminated the Head Office in Atlanta (\$65,000 yearly saving) as they are now operating out of their homes. As well, the introduction of field representatives, in different areas of the world, has created closer contact to their clients.

During the upcoming October 10th dinner meeting we will be voting for the 2020 journeys. To allow all members to participate, I will send a form to those who did not attend the meeting. On this form we will ask **those who are planning to travel** to vote for three destinations of their choice.

Finally, the time has come to address the discrepancies in the number of confirmed attendance and the actual number at our monthly dinner meetings at the Holiday Inn South. Effective this month, the hotel will only accept the numbers we give them. Hence, we have no alternative options; if you come without reserving we may not be able to accommodate you. As well, if you have confirmed your attendance and do not show up, we will be charging you as we are billed for the exact number that we booked. In the spirit of Friendship Force, thank you for your understanding in working together with the Holiday Inn.

October



Norma Padilla

Judy Schwarz

Happy thanksgiving to you and your family

Get Well wishes to Janet Campbell

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – *Susan Munroe*

Our presenter this month is Detective Catherine Doig of the Winnipeg Police Service. She is with the Fraud Division and will give us some information and strategies to ward off potential fraudulent practices.

PHONE COORDINATOR - *Joan Ostermann*

Email: ejosterm@mts.net

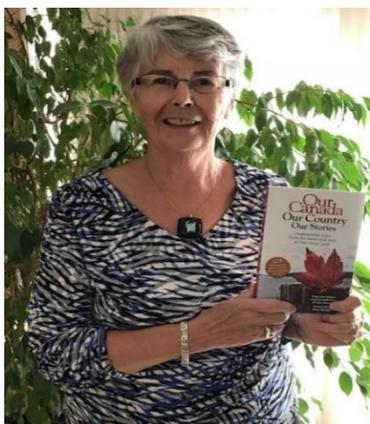
Phone Committee: Francis L., Shirley M., Gladys T. & Susan C.

Please respond to your phone call/email ASAP promptly. If cancelling your dinner, please call Joan (204)832-9294 by 10:00 a.m. Monday, Oct. 8th. **Also please do not show up at the dinner if you have not signed up!** It is important to cooperate to avoid the problems we have had in determining the number attending. This has caused much difficulty to the chagrin of both the organizing committee and the Holiday Inn South.

JOURNEY COORDINATOR'S REPORT – *Jim Ryan*

The Brazilian exchange was a great success! We are still looking for host coordinators for each of the inbound journeys - Vogtland, Germany visit in early June 2019 and Gold Coast, Australia group in late June 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VAL KEENAN



In an effort to get more exposure for Friendship Force in 2013, Val Keenan wrote and sent an article to the "Our Canada" magazine about Friendship Force. She wrote about our ambassadors' impressions of our country and how, through them, we had come to appreciate our wonderful country even more. This article was selected and appeared in the magazine in March 2013. This summer Val was asked for permission to reprint it again in the book "Our Canada Our Country Our Stories" which has now been published.

Congratulations Val, we are so proud of you. Copies of this book are available on Amazon for \$19.99.

A summary of our Brazilian exchange – Jim Kubas

From September 12th to 18th our club hosted 20 Brazilian ambassadors. They began their Canadian journey in mid-August with Toronto and Niagara Falls. From there they flew to Calgary where they experienced a vista filled train ride to Vancouver and Victoria. Next, they were hosted by Friendship Force Edmonton. Finally, they arrived in Winnipeg on a flight that was delayed by four hours due to an Edmonton snow storm!

The week's activities showcased Manitoba's diversity in culture, geography, history and architecture with lots of time for socializing especially around dining tables at various venues. One of our highlights was our day trip to Gimli and the barbeque at Maria Coutu's cottage on Lake Winnipeg. Another highlight was the Brazilians leading our group in dancing to the music of Carnival. We had fun.



The group in Gimli



Dancing to Carnival tunes at our Farewell.

I would like to thank all the club members who participated as home hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts, helpers and activity attendees. You made this exchange memorable especially for our new Brazilian friends. Thanks to our committee for your support, help and guidance: Nina Logan, Rita Cuhna, Lorraine Franz, Sharon Collister and Diane Kubas. Also, thank you to Maria Coutu, Larry Franz, Richard Grover and Susan Monroe and Loretta Humeniuk; your contributions were greatly appreciated. Thank you to my coordinator counterpart and club president, Sandra Moura of Friendship Force Sao Jose do Rio Preto for bringing Brazil to Canada.



friendship force
WINNIPEG

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