

Newsletter



December 2008

friendship force
LETHBRIDGE

***Patron: Senator Joyce
Fairbairn***

***Honorary Member:
Mayor Bob Tarleck***

www.friendshipforceoflethbridge.org

Vol. 14 No. 6

2008 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jan Smith

Vice President: Don Roelofs

Secretary: Sharon Prenevost

Treasurer: Kay Bailie

Past President: Jim Csabay

Activities: Linda/Dean Lien

*Communications: Herman
Gom*

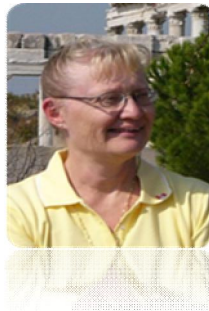
*Australia/NZ E.D.: Joyce
Fellner*

US E.D.: Isobel Schuler

*Germany/Austria E.D.: Erwin
Fellner*

Burundi E.D.: Teresa Grice

President's Message



David and I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and the good health and in 2009. May the year hold great experiences and many memory making opportunities and some warmer weather!

I am very pleased that we have a full complement for our new executive for the coming year and I want to wish them all the best in the decisions they will need to make on our behalf. I again want to thank the club and the executive for their ongoing support in the past year.

Your humble outgoing President,

Jan Smith

Somerset, UK Inbound Exchange

August 2009

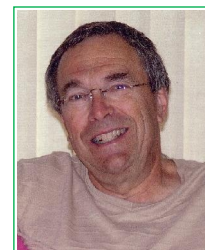
Ambassadors from England will be visiting Lethbridge in August next year. They plan to arrive August 12th and the exchange will therefore overlap with the start of Whoop-Up Days. Two of the ambassadors have already signed up to attend the Edmonton Festival starting August 19th. We expect to have a group of 20 or more, however only 10 are signed up so far. Exchange Director Ann Bradshaw already has two volunteers to help on the exchange committee however will need a few more. The first meeting will be early in the New Year.



Marlies Csabay is coordinating the Lethridge contingent going to Niagara. She is attempting to arrange for some additional hosting at an eastern club, hopefully prior to the Conference. If you are interested in going, please let Marlies know.

Baku, Azerbaijan to visit Lethbridge in June, 2009

Exchange Director Don Becklund will be looking for your help next June, both as hosts for our visitors and to serve on his Exchange Committee.



Canadian Conference of Friendship Force clubs

One of the premiere events of the Friendship Force Calendar is the **Canadian Conference of Friendship Force clubs**. The 2009 conference will be hosted by the Friendship Force of Niagara on October 14-16 followed by a home stay on October 17- 20.

Plan to send at least 2 delegates to the Presidents Workshops October 14, 2009 and encourage your members to attend this gathering of all Canadian Friendship Force Clubs "*Let Niagara Energize you!*"

The conference website is <http://ffc canadianconference09.org>, Co-conveners are Marilyn Weber and Mort Sider. There are plenty of interesting and historical sites around Niagara Falls, so be sure to allow enough time to do a little extra touring. Also consider a Domestic Exchange with some of our eastern clubs preceding the or following the conference. The club web site at www.ffniagara.org has great information about the Niagara area and club contacts.

Watch for the registration forms and plan now to attend this special event.

Barbara Main
Field Rep. for Western Canada
bjmaiun@shaw.ca
phone: 204 488 7645

Edmonton Festival August 19, 2009

Marilyn Caskey of the Edmonton club advises that if we want to attend this Festival, you must register before January 20. After this date applications will be accepted from outside Canada (there are 27 currently on a waiting list!)

This will certainly also be a great way to help the Edmonton club celebrate its 10th Anniversary!

Some of us may remember about 11 years ago when Dianna McIntyre from Edmonton joined us for an outbound to Germany and the Czech Republic. She must have liked the experience, because upon her return home, she chartered the club in Edmonton.

For more information, go to this website:

www.friendshipforceedmonton.org

Indonesia, anyone?

This is an invitation to join the Friendship Force of Manitoba in March/April 2009 on their exchange for one week each in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Tentative plans are to have stopovers of approximately 3 days each in Hong Kong on the way over and Bali, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore on the return.

Travel arrangements are in process right now with Canada One Travel Agency using Cathay Pacific or Singapore Airlines. Flight costs from Winnipeg, including stopovers are approximately \$2 600 (more or less depending on your departure location). Canadian travel will be on either West Jet or Air Canada.

Other costs are FFI fees, Ambassador fees and on the stopovers, hotels including tour packages to enable us to see as much as possible in a short time.. These will all be detailed to those interested in joining our exchange.

Please write to me to have your name on our preferred listing and get ready for the exchange of a lifetime with Indonesians who are friendly and rich in culture . We have only a few openings and the first ones on the list will join us for a wonderful experience.

Barbara Main
 Assistant Exchange Director
 Friendship Force of Manitoba
 Phone: 204-488-7645
 e-mail: bjmain@shaw.ca

Christmas Party

A very successful Christmas Party took place on December 9 at the Henderson Lake Golf Club House. A large number of club members enjoyed the meal and entertainment. Our very special thanks go to Linda Lien for organizing the event

Destination 2010 – Survey Results

Destination	Points awarded
Asia	23
Canada/US	42
Europe	54
Latin America	30
Middle East/Africa	17
South Pacific	3
Anywhere	26

2009 Overview

The next year promises to be a very busy one. The following is a partial listing of what may be in store for our club. Mark these dates on your 2009 calendar but remember they are tentative

late April (or early May)	Northern Rockies Mtg. In Calgary
early/mid May	U.K. /Germany Outbound Exchange
mid June	Mt. Gambier visit(2-3 days)
late June	Azerbaijan Inbound Exchange
August 12 - 19	U.K. Inbound Exchange
August 19 -	Edmonton FF Festival
early September	German Inbound Exchange
October 14 -	Canadian Conference in Niagara

2009 Northern Rockies Regional Meeting – FF of Calgary

This meeting will take place in late April or early May. It is an annual event and is an outgrowth of the former Montana State Regional Meeting which underwent a name change when Lethbridge applied to join the Region. This meeting now provides an excellent opportunity for clubs in Alberta, Montana, BC and Idaho/Eastern Washington State to meet to share their ideas and local concerns.

Our club historically has always been well represented at these meetings so we hope many of us will attend

2009 Slate of Officers

President:	Herman Gom
V. President:	Barb Clarke
P. President:	Jan Smith
Secretary:	Ken Lievers
Treasurer:	Barbara Beatty
Communications:	Joan Adams
Activities:	Enid Gom
German Inbound ED:	Luke Mouthaan
UK Inbound ED:	Ann Bradshaw
UK Outbound ED:	Fran Cofell
Azerbaijan Inbound ED:	Don Becklund

Empty Spots on and Outbound Exchange?

Andrew Stirling suggests that Canadian clubs could follow this model which has been successful in Australia:

The basic idea is that each ED who expects to have space in an exchange provides a brief summary of the opportunity to the national point persons for the e-flyer (A Volunteer will be needed for Canada). The summary should follow a standard format (Destination, departure city, dates, approximate air cost, add-on travel and cost if any, physical fitness level required, ED, ED phone & email, 4-5 lines of text promoting the destination and a picture). These are received by a standard (monthly) deadline and cut and pasted together in an MS Word file for transmission to FFI in Atlanta. Each Club, prior to the first e-flyer, would assemble a list of email addresses of the people wanting to receive the flyer. The easiest way is to use your membership list of those on e-mail, deleting those who do not wish to receive the e-flyer.

A person with computer skills and access to high speed internet could perform this task for Canadian clubs. Any volunteers?

Name Badges

– do we need new ones?

Barbara Main, Western Canada Field Representative, writes:

Many of you have been asking me about **Friendship Force name badges** and I have advised that Andrew Stirling was looking into having a Canadian supplier produce badges for us. The study is now complete and two suppliers have produced quality prototype products, one is **Awards Canada in Winnipeg**, the other is **Mark-It in Ottawa**.

Of course, I am recommending Awards Canada for our Western clubs as I have seen the finished product and I personally like the badges, it is smart looking with the new logo and colours. There is no obligation for people to buy new badges, although many may want to, to get in step with the new branding and for a consistent look. I suggest you discuss with your Board and also your members. However, you will now be able to order for all your new members....

Brandenburg, Germany to Lethbridge Early September 2009



Exchange Director Luke Mouthaan reports on a dilemma that has the Germans wanting to make Lethbridge their second week home stay while in North America, while the Spokane club wants them after the Labour Day weekend.

Negotiations are underway and Luke thinks we should know actual dates by mid-January.

Luke will shortly be looking for volunteers for his Exchange Committee and hosts for our German ambassadors.

U.K./Germany Outbound Exchange

May 2009



Exchange Director Fran Cofell reports that she has been in contact with the Causeway Coast club and they are eager to receive us sometime in early May (possibly the 8th) of 2009. The club is based in Coloraine, Londonderry County, about 60 miles from Belfast. They can host 21 ambassadors and Fran reports she has received that many applications already. People wishing to cancel should do so immediately to make room for those on the waiting list.

An unofficial visit to Varel, Germany, is also a possibility at this time, as that club has indicated they would definitely like to host us.

Fran is in the process of forming an Exchange Committee and will look for volunteers for this as well as potential ambassadors. If you are interested, please call her at 403 381 7882, or e-mail her at f1c7@telus.net

Destination 2010

Mexico has been submitted as our preferred destination for 2010

Friendship magazine ends publication:

FFI has decided to discontinue publication of *Friendship* magazine. With a declining number of subscribers and increased production costs we are now losing money on the magazine. Furthermore, more than 90% of current subscribers are in the USA, which means the magazine is not reaching most of our members around the world. In place of the printed magazine we will expand our email and website electronic publications, which will be available to all our members at no cost. Rather than lose more money by producing another magazine or two we will end publication now. This means our 2008 subscribers will receive two issues rather than the four that were originally promised. We hope they will understand the situation and will agree that they have received full value for their \$10 subscription. However, if anyone requests we will provide a \$5 refund. Over the next few weeks we will be sending written notification to all 2008 subscribers telling of this decision. For the 2009 subscriptions which we are beginning to receive, we will refund the entire payment. Some of these will be made directly to individuals, but in cases where we received the payments from a club we will send the refund to the club. If you have any questions regarding payments made by your members directly or by the club, please address your question to Rebecca Shaw: rshaw@thefriendshipforce.org

Future International Conferences

We are pleased to announce that the 2010 international conference will be held in Washington, DC in October 2010. The FFI staff will work with the Friendship Force of the National Capital Area to plan an excellent event. But first, we are looking forward to a very unique setting for 2009. As previously announced, next year's conference will be in Okinawa, Japan, November 19-22, 2009, with post conference hosting available throughout Japan.

RE: 2009 Exchanges to Europe and Japan

George Brown, President FFI

Dated: December 5, 2009

FFI is instituting new procedures for clubs that have been assigned hosting in Europe or Japan in 2009. As you may know, these assignments are in high demand. For every club that receives such an assignment, there are several other clubs that are turned down or put on the waiting list. If clubs that have been assigned these exchanges are not able to fill them, we would like to be able to reassign the unused hosting to a club that is waiting for the opportunity. In order to make this possible, we are introducing some new procedures for exchanges to Europe and Japan in 2009:

1. In order to give the members of the assigned club ample time to join these exchanges, we will ask that the ED be appointed and the dates of the exchange be confirmed at least six months prior to departure. If clubs haven't done this, it should become a top priority for the exchange. And if they think they will have difficulty filling the exchange, they should speak with their FFI coordinator to discuss solutions.
2. Three months before departure, the FFI program coordinator will ask for the list of ambassadors. These should be people who have made a firm commitment to participate-not just people who are interested. On exchanges with fewer than 10 names, the coordinator will work on the possibility that your exchange will be combined with another.
3. Two months before departure (not 45 days) the final list of ambassadors will be due at FFI, along with payment for the exchange. Our purpose in strengthening these deadlines is to ensure that as many members as possible can enjoy hosting experiences in Europe and Japan in 2009.

We appreciate your understanding and support in working with us to make our programs a success. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Services Coordinator.

Friendship Force Exchange to Australia & New Zealand

October – November, 2008

A group of 24 ambassadors from the Friendship Force of Lethbridge had the opportunity to travel to the "Land Down Under" As Joyce & Erwin Fellner were unable to travel due to Erwin's health issues, Herman Gom & myself undertook the duties of ED's

Those of us who had never been to that part of the world had a great treat in store for us. Most of the group travelled to Sydney on October 24th arriving there to spend three days acclimatizing and sightseeing, then it was onwards to the Port MacQuarie to renew acquaintances with the clubs in that area for two days. After an overnight visit in Adelaide we went on to our first official week of homestay at Mt. Gambier. As is always the case, the people made up for any shortfalls in weather or activities with their wonderful hospitality. New friendships were forged which I am sure will continue for a long time! After leaving Mt Gambier we travelled the Great Ocean Road to Melbourne, which was surely one of the highlights for me. Melbourne offered us a day of shopping and an unforgettable Tram Car lunch and a ride along Melbourne's boulevards. Next stop Auckland.

The next homestay was in a suburb of Auckland called Howick. While the age of the club members was quite a bit older, they nevertheless showed us much of their area including a LONG one day bus trip to Rotarua and a glimpse into the Maori culture which I found fascinating. As an extension of our time in New Zealand we flew to the South Island for five days of sightseeing on our own. For me the trip to Milford Sound stood out as it was a picture perfect day and the scenery was spectacular. We ended our trip in Christchurch with just a short glimpse of that lovely city. Oh well, perhaps there will be a next time!

All returned to Canada safe and sound with reams of pictures and wonderful memories. Many thanks again to Joyce for the endless hours and work which culminated in such a wonderful trip.

Marlies Csabay

Dissention in the Ranks?

You may be hearing from a gentleman by the name of Francis Leponge. He claims to be a long time member of Friendship Force and is using e-mail address obtained from websites etc. to incite rebellion throughout the Friendship Force world. Basically, he suggests that individual clubs should boycott FFI, and let him and his group of volunteers set up exchanges instead. His argument is that George Brown and his central office in Atlanta are only concerned about money, and that we could travel more cheaply on our own.

It should be noted:

- Mr Leponge has not presented his concerns at an international meeting or convention
- The "travel agency" approach that FFI is now promoting allows individuals and clubs to access areas where conventional one week home hosting blocks are simply not practical
- Mr Leponge has the perception that Friendship Force's past success has been due to it permitting "cheap vacations", and that this should continue to be its top priority

FFI will continue to need money to pay professional staff and promote outreach into newer parts of the world. Through its efforts the highest possible standards are maintained. Because of its unique international reputation it has credibility where diplomatic efforts often do not.

Anyone wishing a copy of Mr Leponge's tirade should contact Herman at 403 329 3893.

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE FACT SHEET (Updated January 2007)

- Why?** **The Friendship Force** believes that a “World of friends is a world of peace”. Its purpose is to create an environment in which seeds of friendship can be sown across the barriers that divide the people of the world.
- What?** **Friendship Force International (FFI)**, is a nonprofit non-denominational cultural exchange organization. The head office of the organization is:
Friendship Force International, 233 Peachtree St., Suite 2250, Atlanta, GA 30303 USA
Phone: 404-522-9490 Fax: 404-688-6148
Website: <http://www.thefriendshipforce.org>
- When?** **The Friendship Force** was first organized in 1977 and announced March 1st from the White House by former **President Jimmy Carter**, and for some 25 years **Mrs. Rosalynn Carter** was Honorary Chairperson. Founding president was President Carter’s friend , **Rev. Wayne Smith**. **Chip Carter** was the organization’s second president. He was succeeded by Rev. Wayne Smith’s daughter, **Susie Smith**, April 1, 2004. The current president and CEO is **Dr. George Brown**, who heads a **Board of Trustees**, and an office staff at F.F.I.’s Atlanta headquarters.
- Where?** The Friendship Force has chartered clubs in some 360 cities in almost 60 countries on 6 continents. The Friendship Force clubs are run by elected leaders and volunteer committees, who organize week-long inbound and outbound home stay “**exchanges**” for groups of “**ambassadors**”. Friendship Force International organizes an **International Conference** in November of each year, and **Regional Conferences** are held each spring. Lethbridge members attend the **Northern Rockies Regional Conference**, a region comprised of the clubs in Montana, Washington, Idaho, B.C. and Alberta. In Canada a **Canadian National Conference** is organized every two years. **The Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is a chartered member of FFInternational. The Lethbridge club was chartered in December 1994, and began operating January 1995. It was the first club to be chartered of almost 20 now in Canada. **Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is one of the four clubs in Alberta; the others are in Calgary, Edmonton, and Medicine Hat.
- How?** Each year **The Friendship Force of Lethbridge** is scheduled to conduct four “**exchanges**” with other clubs around the world or across Canada. An **inbound exchange** is when the Lethbridge club hosts a visiting group of ambassadors from another country or part of Canada for up to a week, and organizes a program which provides opportunities for cultural experiences, social interaction, plus some sight-seeing. On an **outbound exchange** a group of ambassadors from the club will travel to a host city for a one week home-hosting experience. The Friendship Force International program also provides opportunities to join other clubs on their exchanges, to participate in special cultural events or **festivals**, or to join specialized exchanges comprised of travellers from a certain **occupational or interest group**, or for a **humanitarian project**.
- For further information, or to join the **Friendship Force of Lethbridge**, or to participate as an ambassador or host, contact:
President Jan Smith (403) 381-2899 E-mail: cjdsmith@telusplanet.net
President-elect Herman Gom (403) 329-3893 E-mail: herenid@telus.net

Annual membership fee: \$25 Club name badge: \$8.

The Friendship Force of Lethbridge

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Friendship Force is a non-profit international citizen exchange organization not affiliated with any religious or political group.

The goals of The Friendship Force are attained through the travel of goodwill ambassadors from one country to another to share the lifestyle of a host family for a week or two. Diplomacy through home-hosting is the heart of the Friendship Force program.

Names of Applicants(please print): _____

Address(include postal code): _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone: Home: _____

Work: _____

Signature of Applicant)

Date of Application: _____