

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

FALL 2017



The New Flagpole at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

Photograph above courtesy of Roy Myhill



FCA September 2017 Reunion:
See page 3 for Highlights



Glen Dobson: President's Message

Hello all. I hope this December message finds you and yours in good health and good spirit. The holidays tend to promote thoughts for many of us of tradition, family, and holidays gone by. I'm sure this rings true for many of our Fairbridge family, and I hope your memories and present day holiday bring you peace and joy.

For those of you who attended the September reunion and AGA, you may recall conversations about the desire of several Fairbridgians to have Fairbridge Canada become recognized by the Canadian government, and receive an apology. Many of us have come to realize that, like Australia's Fairbridge, we need help in this endeavor. One of our membership has since put us in touch with a lawyer who has been involved with Canadian's First Nations in getting recognition from the government for their part in running the Indian Residential Schools. Members of our Board have been in contact with this lawyer and he is interested in working with us. What he has asked is that we put a request out to our membership asking that as many Fairbridgians (and next generation) as possible, video record yourself talking about your experience with Fairbridge. He also asked that you gather, photocopy, and send any documents you have that pertain to your time with Fairbridge. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Christina Dobson (250-612-8698 or Christina@sustainablehealth.com). We have members of our board who will come to you and record your stories if you are unable to do so. At most, these stories will support our attempt to have Canada recognize us. At least, we will have our stories recorded for future generations.

On behalf of the Fairbridge Canada Board of Directors, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2018.

Glen Dobson

Family Restoration Fund has been extended. £2 million in extra funding was announced July 7, 2017.

Contact the Child Migrants Trust for the application forms and more information.

<https://www.childmigrantstrust.com/news/2017/7/8/family-restoration-fund-extended>

2018 Membership Forms are included with this Gazette

FCA Fees of \$30.00 per year

REMINDER: memberships are due in January of each year.

Membership forms can be found on the FCA website at: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/>

*Or you can contact Ron Smith
FCA Treasurer, 4718 Fairbridge Drive,
Duncan, BC V9L 6N8*

*or email Pat Skidmore for a form: patskidmore@shaw.ca
(Note: my telus email has been retired)*

Fairbridge Canada Association Board 2017

President: Glen Dobson: kingdobber@me.com

Vice President: John Hardy: jkhardy@shaw.ca

Past President: Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.net

Treasurer: Ron Smith: rgwsmiths@hotmail.com

Secretary: Christina Dobson: cbrazzoni@telus.net

Gazette Editor: Pat Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca

International Liaison Officer: Christine McIver: kitt1062@googlemail.com

Director: Roy Myhill: royhill2016@outlook.com



Is this the start of the Annual Cross Country Race?

Photograph courtesy of Roy Myhill



Ron Smith sent in photos of the ongoing maintenance at the Fairbridge Chapel.



Fairbridge Canada Association September 2017 Reunion



It may have been a smaller group than usual but they were all happy to be together.

Christine and her daughter Francesca travelled over from England. (below left)

Ellen Duffy and her family in front of her former cottage. (above)

May (Bean) Goldie and her daughters. (above)



Saturday - Chapel Service and Banquet



Below: One of the Fairbridge Chapel's carved Angels Cowichan Station Train



A visit to the Mountain View Cemetery on Drinkwater Road, Duncan, to pay respects to the four Fairbridge Children buried there: John Reid Taylor (1937 -below) Dorothy Philips (1942,) Betty Lenton (1942) Ethel Anderson (1944).



Fairbridge Chapel News

Fall 2017

By Ron Smith

The Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society was really happy that members and friends of the Fairbridge Canada Association could get out to Fairbridge on Saturday September 16th. While we didn't have a formal tea we did had the Cowichan String Ensemble playing for the first hour of the visit.

As previously mentioned the Society is undertaking a number of project—improvements—to both the grounds and the two buildings at the historic site. Since many of you came in 2016 you may have noticed that the large plum tree in front of the main entrance has been removed. It had a disease called black knot and was throughout the entire tree. We plan on planting another flowering tree in more or less the same location in 2018.

Just prior to the reunion the Society has Armstrong Installations put new gutters on both buildings. These also have 'gutter guards' and there are three clean outs to remove any debris that may bypass the guards system such as needles from the various trees. In addition we had workers paint and install the facia boards. They also painted all the trim around the windows and louvers at the top of the clock tower, the school house porch and many other repairs that we just couldn't get to over the years due to limited funds. As far as the buildings are concerned they have never looked better.

Turning to the grounds, due to the severe drought in the Cowichan Valley we did not water

the lawns around the heritage site except for the front garden. There is a full irrigation system installed some years ago and we want to have it activated but used only when appropriate. This year we planned to have a new cement sidewalk put down to both buildings but this may be delayed until 2018. Due to the drought and restrictions to any logging we have not been able to get the large Douglas fir trees cut until just last week. As of September 23rd about 10 have been cut to the west of the heritage site and another 'test tree' was cut behind the chapel. The ones west of the site did not show any Laminated Root Rot (another disease that destroys the root balls of firs, balsams and cedar trees on the coast. Two firs fell over with one narrowly missing the chapel two years ago). The test tree was behind the chapel and the large centre portion was just saw dust. The trees in this entire area are going to be removed over the next week or so to protect not just the heritage site but also the strata's water reservoir and pump house. The site will look quite different but the trees are now about 80 years old and with one good wind storm could destroy much of what is needed and associated with the Fairbridge community.

With these trees removed we may be able to develop a very beautiful landscaped garden area behind the Chapel.

In the spring we will be looking to do additional improvements to both the grounds of the heritage site as well as other things needed to be fixed within the chapel and school house. We still want to get the washrooms up to a better standard and organize the basement (removing many things).

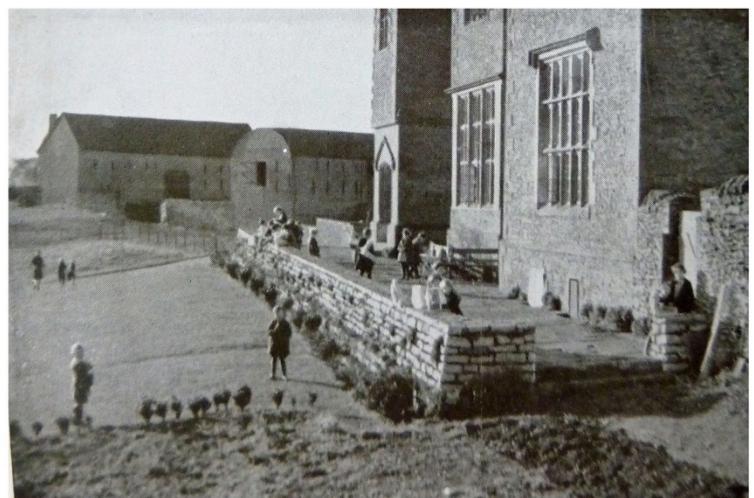
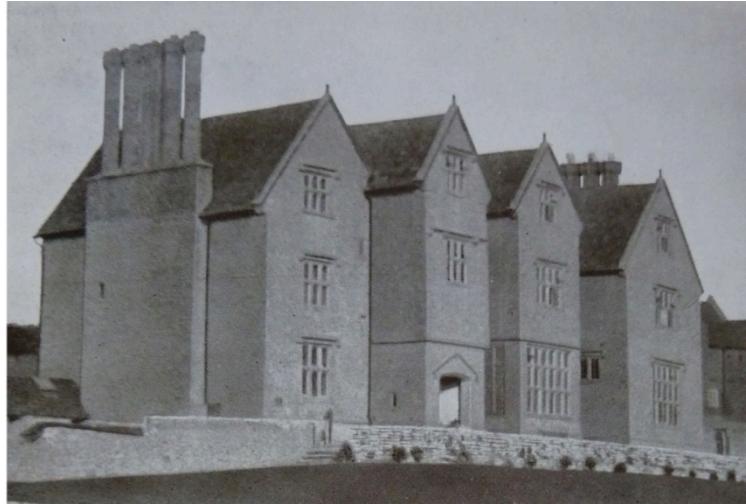


**The Fairbridge Chapel Website has been updated. Check it out:
<http://fairbridgechapel.com/>**

Look for updates on membership, the minutes from the 2017 AGM and the 2017 Board of Directors.

There is also a report on what is scheduled for this year's improvements to the heritage site.

Who spent time at Wilderhope while they were at the Middlemore Emigration Home?



Can you name any of the children here? The photo said Wilderhope but it might be Middlemore Homes.



Farm News

FAIRBRIDGE LIVESTOCK JULY, 1944

	600 CHICKENS (LAYING 300 EGGS/DAY) 800 SEXED BABY CHICKS
	70 DAIRY COWS (32 MILKING) 13 HEIFER CALVES
	54 PIGS (4 WITH LITTERS, 10 BACON HOGS, 8 SOWS, & SAMBO THE BOAR)

WANTED:
To know the whereabouts of the
Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School BELL.
Does anyone know?
Contact Ron Smith rgwsmiths@hotmail.com

WANTED:
Please send in the names of any Fairbridgians who served in
the Canadian Armed Forces after WWII. A new plaque will
be installed in the Fairbridge Chapel.
Contact Ron Smith rgwsmiths@hotmail.com

***FABS: Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society and the
Fairbridge Farm School Bursary***

A donation to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary can now be made directly from the *Fairbridge Bursary Page* on the Vancouver Foundation Website: www.vancouverfoundation.ca/fairbridge

Or you can make a donation to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary by contacting: Kerri Waite, Manager, Donor Services
Suite 200 - 475 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 4M9
D. 604.638.8738, C. 604.657.2729. Website: <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca>
For more information, contact Pat Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca

Fairbridge Canada Association 2018 Membership



Please send to: Ron Smith, FCA Treasurer, 4718 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC, V9L 6N8 Email: rgwsmiths@hotmail.com



Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Form 2018 Membership fee: \$30.00



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please send to: Ron Smith, FCA Treasurer, 4718 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC, V9L 6N8
rgwsmiths@hotmail.com