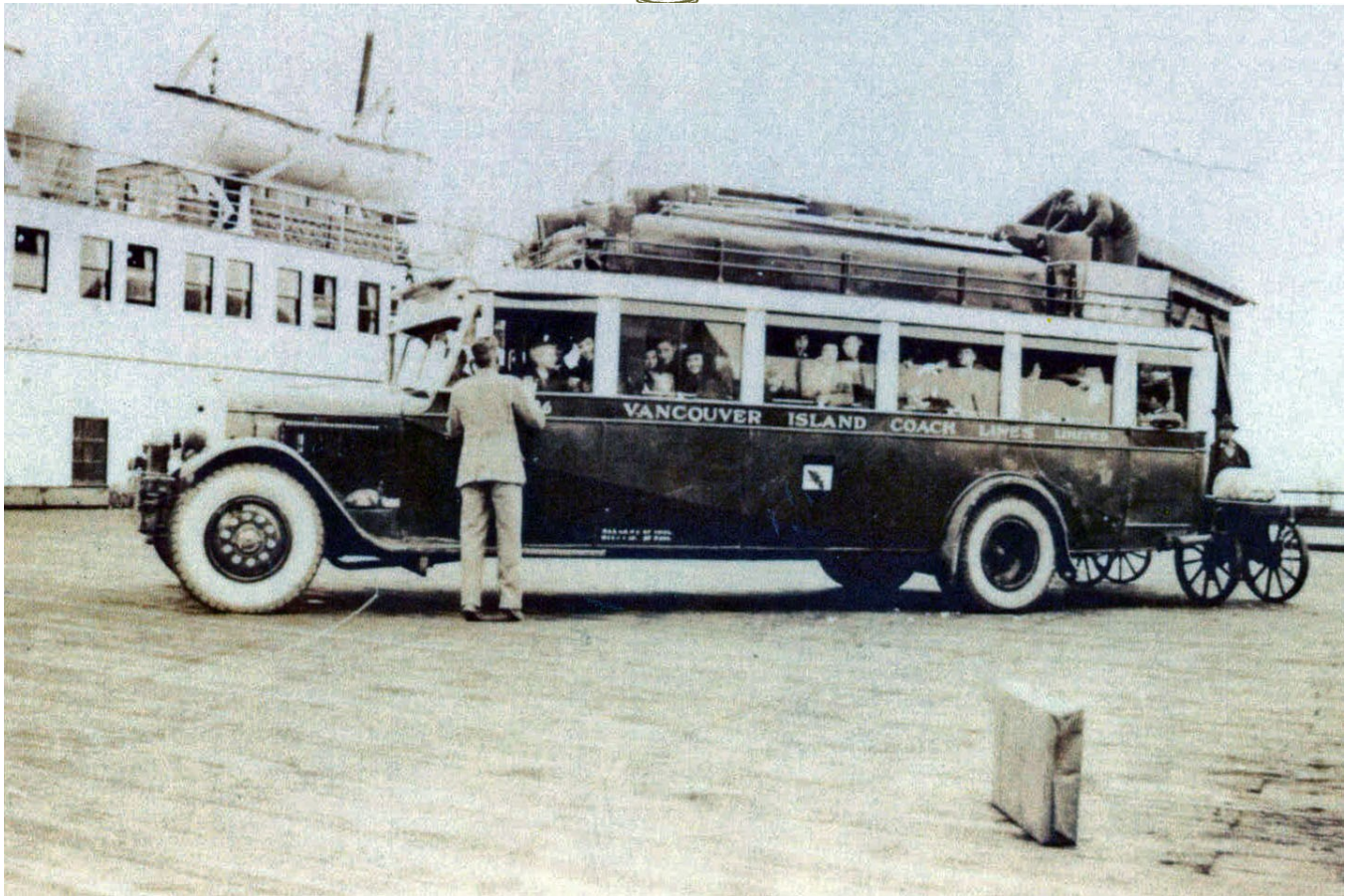


FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



The Vancouver Island Coach Lines were often used to transport the children from the Nanaimo ferry to the Fairbridge Farm School.

Photo courtesy of the Liverpool University Archives, Special Collections Branch

Summer 2007

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Thought of the season

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Now that I'm "older" (but refuse to grow up), here's what I've discovered:

- 1) I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
- 2) My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
- 3) I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
- 4) Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
- 5) Funny, I don't remember being absent minded...
- 6) What were we talking about?
- 7) It's easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- 8) Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
- 9) I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
- 10) Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
- 11) Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
- 12) It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- 13) The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
- 14) If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
- 15) When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else decide to play chess?
- 16) It's not hard to meet expenses... they're everywhere!
- 17) The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- 18) These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.
- 19) If all is not lost, then where is it?

Eric Lewis

Two ways to get your Gazette—

1) It is included with your Membership fees of \$25.00 a year = which also gives you Fairbridge Canada Association voting status, (Come to the next reunion and exercise your right to vote at the AGM) membership in the Fairbridge Chapel Society and you become a contributor to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society.

OR— if you want just the Gazette:

2) For a yearly Subscription fee of \$10.00—you can get the Gazette, mailed to you 3 times a year.

Committee Members

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| President | Ron Hancock | 604-732-1880 |
| Vice President | John Hardy | 250-701-0447 |
| Treasurer/Memberships | Barry Hagen 5549 Clipper Drive Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 5M7 dbhagen@shaw.ca | 250-751-2086 |
| Recording Secretary | Theresa Shelley 306 Roland Road Ladysmith, BC Canada, V9G 1X8 snugcove@shaw.ca | 250-245-3070 |
| Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter Editor: | Pat Skidmore 2707 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC, Canada V8T 3A3 patskidmore@shaw.ca | 250-595-7603 |
| Directors: | Bill Cockburn Jean Conlon | 604-796-3335 250-954-1814 |

Let's Keep Current

Please send in your change of addresses

Get Your Gazette In Colour—Receive It Via Email

Send us your email address.



Photo from the Brian Tibbles Collection

Please send Fairbridge Canada Membership Fees, yearly subscription fees, 2007 Reunion fees, questions and concerns to:

Doreen and Barry Hagen

5549 Clipper Drive

Nanaimo, BC,

Canada V9T 5M7

250-751-2086

dbhagen@shaw.ca



Send other correspondence to:

Pat Skidmore

2707 Fernwood Road

Victoria, BC

V8T 3A3

patskidmore@shaw.ca



The President Message

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

We mailed out over 200 questionnaires (with the gazette) and received only 10 replies. If we subtract the executive members, that becomes a pitiful few responses! Are you not interested in the preservation of the Fairbridge name or idea, into the future? Are you all totally uncaring, totally negative, or just lazy? We can't believe that most of you don't at least have an opinion, even if its negative- please let us know. You have another chance since the survey is being mailed out again with the gazette.

I have a number of O.F.s who are lifelong friends- they're like brothers to me. Some of these remain very negative regarding Fairbridge; they remember just the "bad: or unhappy things. Some won't even come to our reunions. I find this a definite "downer" and rather depressing- just as your lack of response is.

I was expanding about these things to my friend Stan Blake (an O.F.). Stan is a very bright, sardonic chap who is a qualified accountant (C.A.). I phoned to ask him to be on the nominating committee (we need some new executive members). He kindly agreed. However, the point here is that he launched into a lengthy description of his feeling about growing up at Fairbridge Farm School. He is totally positive. He feels that we were all given a new and better opportunity in life by being brought to B.C. and given chances we would not have had in Britain. He surprised me.

At the end of our conversation I felt totally different. I felt not "down" but very happy, almost euphoric. Here was an individual who felt not only grateful, but most proud to have gone to Fairbridge School. It made me feel, although I was quite appreciative of what was done for me, I really hadn't been grateful enough. For the most part, I had kept my childhood in an orphanage very quiet among non-O.F.s.

I have another reunion in Sept 2007- the 50th anniversary of the UBC medical class of 1957. We are all requested to write a summary of our lives, for a class memento. I realized that my classmates don't even know that I grew up in an orphanage. I have decided to tell them. I am neither proud nor ashamed of my orphan background. I feel I'm neutral to it and it's just another piece of my past life. Yet, I feel I "owe" for the opportunities I was granted.

It so happens that another O.F. friend, also like a brother, just phoned me. He and I talk often and long, and have argued about Fairbridge for decades! He has just retired from a very successful business, which he owned. He feels he is somewhat ambivalent about the school. I think that he is more negative than that, and has mostly bad memories. He feels "they" had no right to presume we would be farmers. Also, we had no training as how to be a member of, or run a family- no learning of social skills. We were raised with 15 "pseudo siblings" and a "cottage: mum". Some kids were bound to have emotional problems, some serious. He feels that there was no love or real affection, and no preparation for the "real world". As usual, he made some good points.

The "truth" is probably between these views. Kingsley basically wanted to give us a new start in a new country. Fairbridge wasn't perfect. Most of us ended up better off than if we had remained in poverty stricken, crowded circumstances. In most cases, we could work and study and become what we wanted. Growing up in an orphanage gave some people strong ambitions to become something. It also gave us the "common touch"- the ability to communicate with, and understand, people in all walks of life! It made us resilient.

So what's the point of all this? It is to do with whether we want the Fairbridge name and idea perpetuated. Essentially, it is our early history and ancestral home, and shouldn't be allowed to die. But, we need enough folk to take interest. The first step is for you O.F.s (and your issue & others) to fill out the survey forms. At least let us know what you want, even if its nothing. Our editor is mailing the survey out again, with this latest gazette. Fill it out and mail it in- please!

I hope you all have a great summer. See you at the reunion. Your executive just had a 5 hour meeting at John Hardy's gorgeous place at Cowichan Bay, and plans are going well.

Ron Hancock

P.S. the Australians are perpetuating the memory of their school in many ways- why shouldn't we?



Summer Greetings from Pat

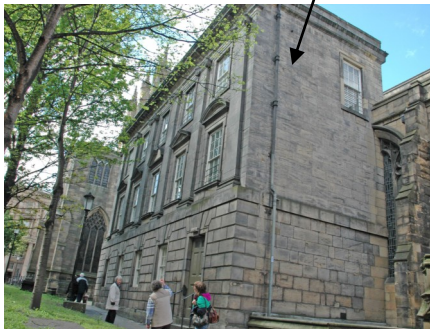
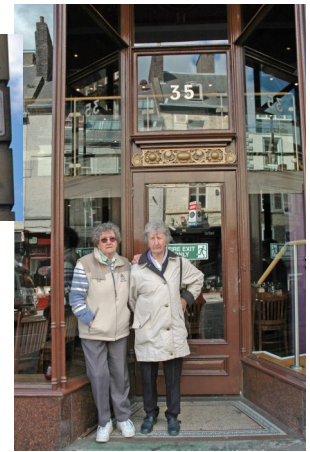
I hope your summer is being good to you, and that you have been sitting in the shade, sipping on something cool.

I had the great opportunity to visit England again this past April/May.

My first stop was Liverpool. Almost as soon as we landed—I headed up to the Liverpool University Archives. I spent two glorious days searching through some old records and the 800 odd photographs in their collection—2/3 of which seemed to relate directly to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. I also picked up a copy of the file they had on my mother (with her permission of course). My next chore—get my mother, Marjorie (Arnison) to come with me to Liverpool. (See page 18 for contact info)

We did meet in London though, and from there we travelled up to Whitley Bay—her place of birth. While we were there we took the train west to Newcastle upon Tyne and visited the former Fairbridge Society office—it was at 35 Dean Street.

We walked around the back of the building and explored the church yard. My mother and her sister Joyce seemed quite certain that this back section of the church could have been where they were kept for a couple of days after they left their home in Whitley Bay and before being sent to the Middlemore Emigration Home in Birmingham.



My sister Joan and I stopped just outside of York on our way back to London. We stayed with Mike and Clare McIvor. We had a wonderful evening—they wined and dined us like royalty! Clare took us into York the next day and gave us a tour around York Minster and the Little Shambles area. We had lunch in the famous Betty's Café. We said goodbye to Clare and jumped on the train to London. York is definitely on my list to visit again.



Marjorie and her sister Joyce
St Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay
May 2007



Newspaper article—Courtesy of the Liverpool University Archives, Special Collections Branch

One of the reasons the Tyneside and surrounding areas were targeted for the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School was because the high unemployment in Britain, especially in these areas, left families vulnerable. Of the 329 children sent to this farm school, only 5% were orphans.

Only 5% were orphans.

The continuing decline of the staple industries was in part responsible for the persistent high unemployment of the 1920's and '30's. Despite the fact that new industries began to develop, they were located mainly in the Midlands and the southern part of England and did not compensate for the problems of the declining industries in the 'distressed areas' - the old industrial heartlands of South Wales, the West of Scotland, Lancashire, Tyneside and West Yorkshire. Unemployment in these areas never fell below a million in the 1920s and remained at shockingly high levels of between 40% and 60% (even 80% in some of the most blighted regions) during the 1930s.

Unemployment was as high as 80%

WANTED COLUMN

Are there any readers of the Gazette who stayed at the Whinwell Childrens' Home, Stirling, Scotland during the war?

Please contact Gordon Dewhirst: gordon@dewhirst.ca

INTERNATIONAL FAIRBRIDGE GATHERING Fall 2008

The Fairbridgians down under (New Zealand/Australia) are working on organizing an international Fairbridge Reunion—with former members from all 5 Fairbridge School attending: Pinjara, Molong, Bacchus Marsh (Australia), Rhodesia (Africa), and Cowichan Station (Canada)

Corresponding Secretary's News

The past few months have been a quiet time as far as correspondence goes; what I receive more than anything, are emails.

1. April 2007— Evelyn Dobbs sent a card.
2. May 2007—Reay Buckingham—his mother was a cottage mother at the Fairbridge Farm School (1940-1941)
3. May 2007—Gordon Dewhirst and his son Eric—the three of us have sent numerous emails back and forth while we work on re-establishing the Fairbridge Canada website.
4. May/June 2007-Peter Gould—emails regarding the potential Fall 2008 International Fairbridge reunion in Pinjara
5. May 2007—Dick Speed—checking in with some editing advice—thanks Dick.
6. June 2007—Mary Pettit is writing the blurb for the Homechild play and has written a book about a home child, *Mary Janeway*. (see bottom of this page)
7. June 2007—Ron Smith—Chapel Society News and updates
8. July 2007—Dave Macfarlane visited the Farm School site—and talked to Ron Smith about living in the herdsman's cottage in the 1940s. I asked him to write about it for the Gazette.
9. Thanks for all your supportive emails and letters with your kind words and advice for the Gazette. Keep them coming—and your stories too!



I would like to extend a special thanks to Brian Strawbridge for proofreading the Gazette for me.

Thanks Brian!

Spring Gazette Mail Returns.
Does anyone have a current address for:
Robert Bennett of Coquitlam BC

September 18 – October 21, 2007

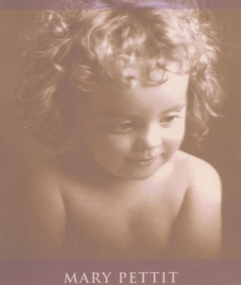
A play entitled *Homechild* by Joan MacLeod, is scheduled to open on September 18th 2007 at the Belfry Theatre on Fernwood Road in Victoria. For more information, see their website at:

<http://www.belfry.bc.ca/>

Or see their address and phone number below:
1291 Gladstone Avenue, Victoria, BC
(250) 385-6815

Mary Janeway, The Legacy of a Home Child chronicles eight years of a little girl's childhood while living on a farm in rural Ontario as a domestic servant in the late 1800's. The book was published in Nov. 2000, Natural Heritage Books in Toronto and is currently out of print. A 2nd. printing may be considered following the publication of the sequel. "Her Journey" begins when Mary climbs aboard a train bound for London on July 25th, 1900 and leaves her past behind. The story unravels her adult years living through two world wars, a depression and the Spanish influenza, a virus that hit one out of every four and killed almost 65,000 Canadians. The sequel is anticipated to be available fall/08 with Natural Heritage Books, part of the Dundurn Group.

MARY JANEWAY
The Legacy of a Home Child



MARY PETTIT

Editor's note: The book is out of print at the moment, but it can be found on-line at ABE Books: <http://www.abebooks.com/>

LETTER TO FAIRBRIDGE CANADA ASSOCIATION

ATTENTION: Ms. PAT SKIDMORE

Subject: Potential Legacy Funding – Questionnaire Input from Fairbridgians.

I am not fully aware of the terms that an unidentified philanthropist has attached to the offer of a potential contribution (that was mentioned in the Spring 2007 issue of the Fairbridge Gazette), or what specific Fairbridge organization that person has identified as a recipient for that potential contribution.

It is my general understanding that the unidentified person is interested in contributing a substantial amount of financial contribution toward a “legacy” centered around Canadian Fairbridgians, and that they must indicate support and involvement in that “legacy” initiative.

Presuming that my general understanding is more-or-less correct, I would like to offer my comments on the situation at hand, as follows:-

- *There are two Fairbridge Canada organizations,
 - i) the FCA – Fairbridge Canada Association, and
 - ii) FABS – The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society.

**There are two Fairbridge
Canada organizations in
place already**

*A “legacy” already exists in the form of an active Bursary Fund vested with the Vancouver Foundation through which annual bursaries are awarded to persons following a review of applications by the FABS Board of Directors.

*I was part of initial discussions as a member of the FABS Board when the Bursary Fund was established and vested with the Vancouver Foundation. I well remember the focus that we as a Board had at that time on the value of the Bursary Fund as a legacy that would both:

- i) honour the motivation of supporters of the establishment of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School for providing a hand-up to youngsters. That was a legacy left to us as Fairbridgians, and
- ii) leave a legacy by us Fairbridgians who were part of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School to continue with the provision of a hand-up to youngsters in perpetuity through the naming of the bursary fund as the Fairbridge Bursary Fund and vesting it with the Vancouver Foundation.

**FABS Bursary Fund is an
important legacy**

I strongly recommend that both the FCA and FABS communicate with the unidentified philanthropist in support of the FABS Bursary Fund as a legacy that will in perpetuity provide a helping hand to the youth of Canada.

The fact is that someone was motivated to help us Fairbridgians and we in return are motivated to carry on the helping hand to the young who follow us.

In closing, I wish to pay my highest compliments and express my respect to the unidentified philanthropist – and to stress that his/her wish to leave a legacy in the Fairbridge name meshes exceptionally well with the concepts that the original FABS Board held in establishing the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Fund.

Thank you

Phillip D. Field: Old Fairbridgian – 1941



Fairbridge Chapel in the 1940s



The Fairbridge Hostel London



The Fairbridge Hospital 1940s

Photos courtesy of the Liverpool University Archives, Special Collections Branch

Fascinating Financial Facts you should know about Reunion Costs

The Friday night's *Meet & Greet* and Saturday evening's *Banquet*—the cost for both events is \$50.00 per person. I thought it would be interesting for everyone to see how the costs add up.

Here are the statistics for the years 1993 – 2005. For the past 7 reunions, the costs have been greater than the money coming in from the registration fees.

1993-2005 Reunion Over-runs

| | |
|------|------------|
| 1993 | —\$427.00 |
| 1995 | —\$880.00 |
| 1997 | —\$217.00 |
| 1999 | —\$175.00 |
| 2001 | —\$682.00 |
| 2003 | —\$1027.81 |
| 2005 | —\$403.51 |



Photo Brian Tibbles Collection

For each of the past 7 reunions, the extra costs have been covered by the Fairbridge Canada Association's account.



Photo Brian Tibbles Collection

Breakdown of the 2007 Reunion Registration Fees:

Included in the \$50.00 per person cost are the unseen costs of:

- Room rentals for:
 - ◊ The Meet and Greet
 - ◊ The Saturday morning Fairbridge Canada Association General Meeting
 - ◊ The Saturday Evening Banquet
- As special recognition of the wonderful *Saturday Afternoon Tea*, hosted by the Fairbridge Strata Association at the former school grounds – we give out invitations to three strata couples to attend our Banquet.
- As a special recognition of the support the Cowichan Valley Museum gives to the Fairbridge Canada Association, we extend an invitation to the Director and a guest to attend our Banquet.
- Miscellaneous costs such as the printing the minutes, agenda, programs and name tags.
- GST and a 20% tip are included in the price.
- Also included in the overall price is the set up and the clean up of the rooms, and the hotel supplies such as the podium and microphone, as well as the Bartender services.

THE REUNION: At A Glance

- Friday September 21 from 6 to 10 am: Meet and Greet—wine and cheese... 50/50 tickets to be sold — draw to be held at the General Meeting Saturday morning.
- Saturday morning at 9:00—General Meeting and Discussion Forum. 50/50 draw/prizes
- Saturday, September 22, at 2 pm — Fairbridge Strata Tea. Reminisce on the old playground. Walk down *Memory Lane*. Many of the former Fairbridge buildings are identified with name plates. See your names on the plaque by the Chapel.
- Saturday September 22, from 6 pm to 12 — Banquet and Music night—bring your instruments, song sheets and voices. Good food, good friends, good music!
- Sunday, September 23, 10 am—Service at the Fairbridge Chapel, with John Cowans. Find your old pew or your old seat in the choir stall. Witness the unveiling of the Bronze Plaque, donated in memory of the two Fairbridge lads who lost their lives in WW II. It was relocated and returned to the Chapel in July 2007.

Reunion September 21, 22, 23, 2007

Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn
6474 Trans Canada Highway
Duncan, BC, V9L 6C6

Reserve early and quote group #1517

Phone: (250) 748-2722. Toll Free 1-800-927-6199

30 rooms have been set aside for
Fairbridge Members

These rooms will be held until August 15, 2007.

REGISTER EARLY with the Fairbridge Canada Association

NEW

Discussion Groups are planned for the General Meeting—Come and get involved.

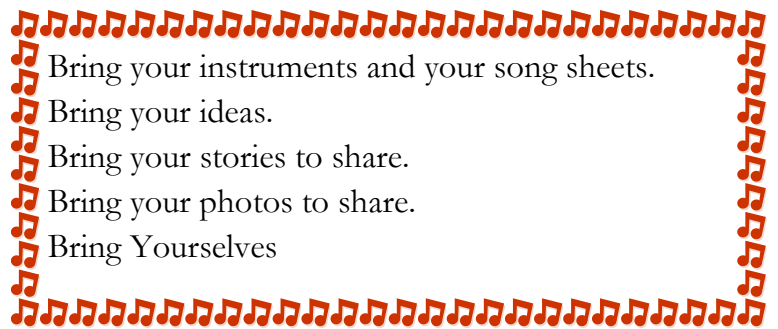
Have your say.

What direction do you want for the Fairbridge Canada Association?

What topics do you feel need to be discussed? Here's your chance to be heard.

DVD's of old Fairbridge videos, Chapel History and newspaper articles relating to the Fairbridge Years will be available at the reunion from Touy Smith.

For those not attending the reunion, but who wish to order a CD - contact Ron Smith. See the Chapel News on page 23 for contact information.



Bring your instruments and your song sheets.

Bring your ideas.

Bring your stories to share.

Bring your photos to share.

Bring Yourself

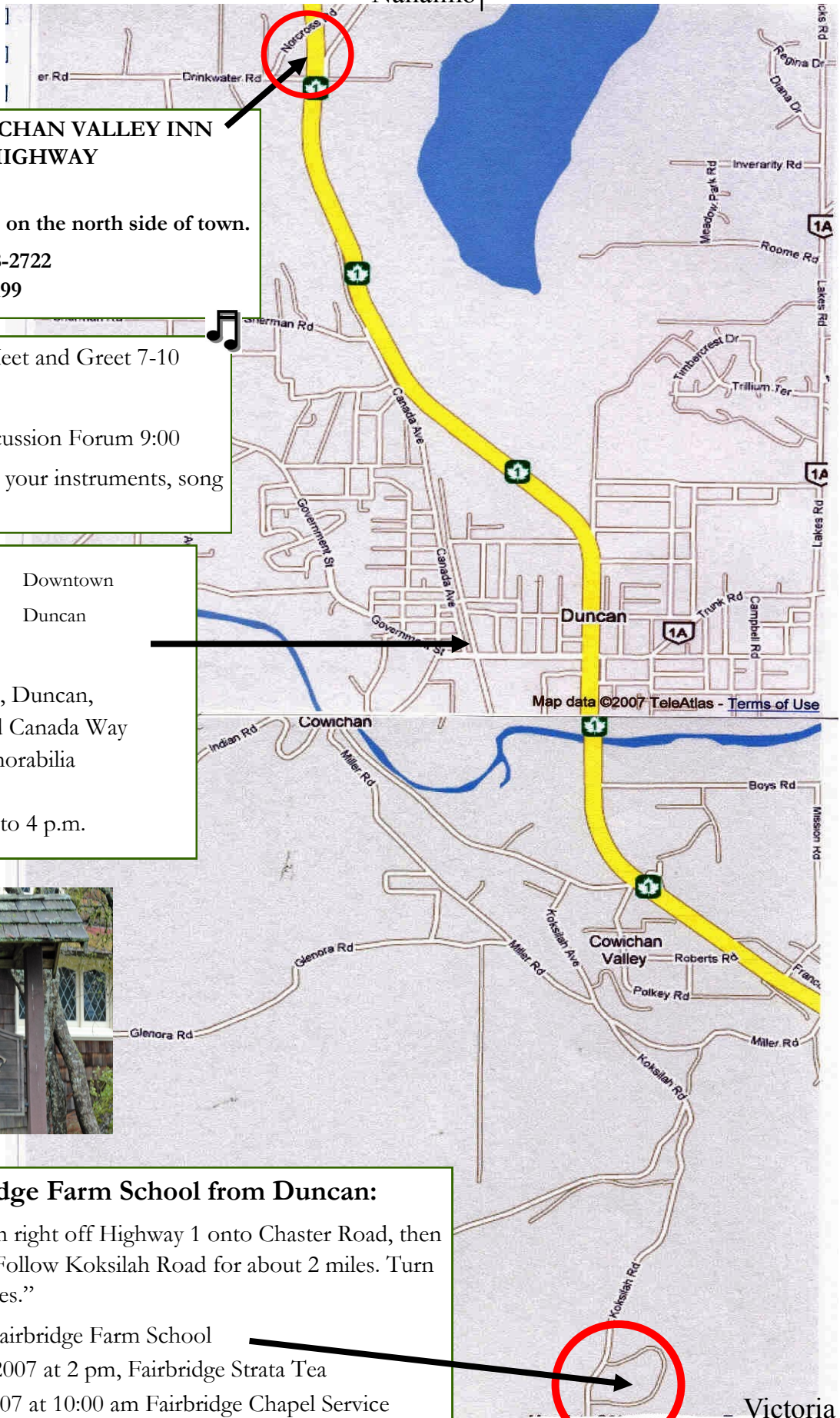
Here are some ideas for things to do in and around the Duncan area:

- **The Cowichan Valley Museum** is located in the Duncan train station in the Heart of Duncan B.C. The Archive has a small collection of Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School memorabilia.
- **Old Downtown:** Duncan features a number of heritage and vintage buildings and a large array of small, exquisite shops and restaurants catering to all tastes.
- **Tour the Totems :** Follow the yellow footprints through the Downtown core to discover the totems.
- **Russell Farms Market:** 2711 Mt Sicker Road, Chemainus or corner of Trans Can Hwy at Crofton turn-off (10 minutes north of the Cowichan Valley Inn). Family-run business since 1951, the only farm market in the Cowichan Valley that actually has a farm. Also, lunches & ice cream parlour.
- **Winery and Vineyards:** Tour the south Cowichan Valley wine and cider industry.
- **Hiking** is limitless. One of the favourites is the hike to the top of Mount Tzouhalem or Mount Prevost.
- **Scenic Drives:** Maple Bay Rd, Genoa Bay Rd., Cowichan Bay or the quiet village of Shawnigan Lake.
- **Pacific Northwest Raptors :** experience the thrill of falconry.
- **BC Forest Discovery Centre:** Located - north end of Duncan.
- **Judy Hill Gallery & Gifts**
- **Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre**
- **Bamberton Provincial Park**
- **Bright Angel Park**
- **Chemainus River Provincial Park**
- **Cowichan River Provincial Park**
- **Koksilah River Provincial Park**
- **Somenos Marsh Bird Sanctuary**
- **Quamichan Lake**
- **Chemainus BC** is 17 km (11 mi) north of Duncan. See the Murals and visit the quaint shops.
- **Cowichan Bay:** Visit the Old Butter Church—see the article in this Gazette on page 17.



The Butter Church
Mollie Preece Photo

Nanaimo ↑



BEST WESTERN COWICHAN VALLEY INN
 6474 TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY
 DUNCAN, BC, V9L 6C6

Go through Duncan—it is on the north side of town.

TELEPHONE: (250) 748-2722
TOLL FREE 1-800-927-6199

Friday September 21—Meet and Greet 7-10

Saturday September 22

- 1) General Meeting & Discussion Forum 9:00
- 2) Banquet - 6—12...bring your instruments, song sheets and voices.



Downtown
Duncan

Cowichan Valley Museum, Duncan,
 corner of Trunk Road and Canada Way
 Has some Fairbridge Memorabilia
 June-September:
 Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



To get to the Fairbridge Farm School from Duncan:

Just south of Duncan, turn right off Highway 1 onto Chaster Road, then left onto Koksilah Road. Follow Koksilah Road for about 2 miles. Turn left at the Fairbridge “Gates.”

Former Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

Saturday September 22, 2007 at 2 pm, Fairbridge Strata Tea

Sunday September 23, 2007 at 10:00 am Fairbridge Chapel Service

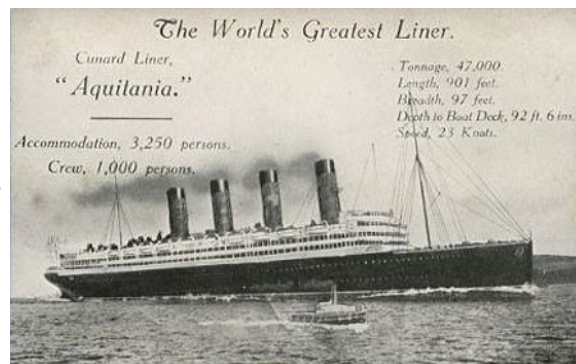
Victoria ↓

May 31, 1947

In May of 1947, twenty-eight children made the journey to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island. They travelled over the Atlantic on the RMS Aquitania.



The RMS Aquitania was a Cunard Line ocean liner that was built by the John Brown and Company shipyard near Clydebank, Scotland. She was launched on April 21, 1913, and sailed on her maiden voyage to New York in May 1914. The Aquitania was the third in Cunard Line's "grand trio" of express liners, preceded by the Mauretania of 1906 and the Lusitania of 1907. She was also the last of the four-stackers - like the RMS Titanic, and the Mauretania; however at the time, the Aquitania was considered the most beautiful of all four-stackers, earning her the nickname "Beautiful Ship".



Interior of the Aquitania

After the Titanic disaster, she was one of the first ships to carry enough lifeboats for all passengers and crew. As required by the British Admiralty, she was designed to be convertible into an armed merchant cruiser, and was reinforced to mount guns for service in that role. The Aquitania had the longest career of any express liner in the 20th century. In her 36 years of service, the Aquitania survived military duty in both world wars and was returned to passenger service after each war.

The following newspaper articles were written about their arrival:

- ♦ Vancouver Province, May 31, 1947: "Fairbridge Youngsters Arrive from England." p 43: " They arrived in special equipment over the CPR lines at 10:40 am and prepared for the ferry trip to

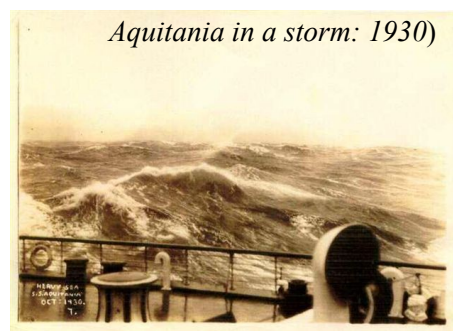
Fairbridge Youngsters Arrive from England

Nanaimo, and thence by bus to the picturesque farm at Cowichan Station...While the trip was officially 'uneventful' it provided a number of thrills and chills...Barbara Frankish...and her classmate, Patricia Lisle...shuddered at the memory of being sea-

sick aboard the Aquitania...Daniel Dobson...scoffed at the girls, saying he had not been seasick at all."

- ♦ Victoria Times: June 2, 1947: "Twenty-eight Fairbridge Farm Newcomers Busy Exploring Countryside." p 15 "Fitting into a Canadian way of life is proving no problem at all to the 28 children between the ages of 8 and 12 years who arrived at the Fairbridge Farm School near Duncan on Saturday."

They were the fifteenth group to travel over to the remote farm school. After this group, only one small group of six were sent the following year. That was the end of child emigration to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. The children sent in the late 1940's didn't really get a chance to settle in to the *Fairbridge ways* before the school closed down. Most of the children then found themselves placed in foster homes.



Foster care, as with the Farm School cottage system itself—was the luck of the draw...a rotten cottage mother at the Farm School was known to make your life miserable (Joe Jessop argued that: “If you were not liked by your cottage mother, your life was hell. She had complete control over us, she did not have to answer to anybody, she was our keeper.” p. 17 in *Lost Children of the Empire*, Philip Bean, and Joy Melville, London: Unwin Hyman, 1989)...while a good one could help ease the scary and lonely transition most of the children faced in this remote and unfamiliar Farm School. The same could be said for the foster homes. Some children were very fortunate and found themselves placed in loving, caring homes, but some were not so lucky and were unable to find the security they so desperately needed. Tom Isherwood was one Fairbridge boy whose experience in foster care did not give him what he felt was his right: a sense of family and belonging — to replace the one that was taken from him.

The wrong cottage mother could make your life miserable

The following is part of Tom Isherwood’s story:

Part of my life's story after I survived war-torn England and Middlemore Homes followed by my crossing of the North Atlantic in 1947 can be viewed at www.pier21.ca—or a direct link to the following:

(http://pier21.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/stories/childmigrants/Child_Migrant_Tom_Isherwood.pdf)

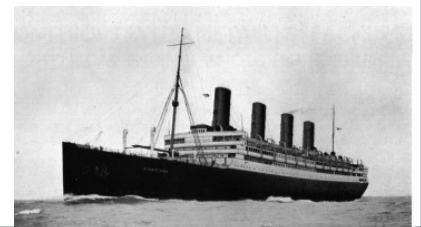
Memories for a child of war cooped up in child slavery emigration homes and then confined to 1000 acres that Fairbridge Farm School occupied was the only world I knew. With no Mother, Father Siblings or other family around, life got more lonely the more I learned and the older I got.

When the farm- farmed out the children it sucked a little more out of my life as all my friends I shared war and hell with were gone! The only brothers and sisters I shared in mind only, I would miss for many years to come. With no family to share memories or to reminisce about good or bad antics of my childhood with no photographs, love or anything to prove my existence- made life a lonely gauntlet to run. I can never forgive the people responsible for my separation from my entire family and loss of the gift of one childhood per child. My loveless trail with the only company a broken heart came to an end when I met my wife Sheryl 44 years ago. Many foster houses I was placed in - but never a house that was my home. Not all bad people but love to this child migrant was non-existent and my tears and religion went out the window when I was twelve years old as God never gave me the time of day.

*In a far off land across the sea, a baby boy was born, with no chance you see.
Rivers were raging and flowing in blood, bombs poured down from the skies above.
The lad was a veteran at three years old, living in bomb shelters trying to be bold.
There was no time during battle to scold, as one did not know when our home would explode.
The sounds of war were stamped in his brain, would he live to see the sun again.
The boy was taught to believe in God, holding the good book he started to nod.
Then one day there were no more sirens, fires or noise, children were searching for burnt out toys.
Boy ended up on a big ship one day, in the middle of the ocean he could play.
The Aquitania was the name of the ship; a battle scarred lady kept me safe on this trip.
Happy at the time but how could I know, the cruelty I would suffer from adults below.
Years have gone by and I do reflect, nobody wanted me, I thought by heck.
This is not entirely true, my wife of forty years might argue with you.*

Written By Tom Isherwood

Aquitania



It's In the Book: Notes of a Naïve Young Man, by Arthur Sager

CHAPTER IX DUTIES MASTER

During the day I was sometimes called upon to deal with misbehaviour involving groups of children, either to intervene in fights or to settle cases where the culprit was unknown. Food was stolen, windows broken, furniture damaged, the boys or girls in the cottage concerned claiming innocence and I'd be called over by the Mother to resolve the mystery. Getting the children together and employing Sherlock Holmes' tactics, I'd question each in turn, emphasizing that lying was worse than the crime. Eventually one or more would confess and the sooner they did the less severe the punishment. A lesson in honesty was seemingly learned by the boys in one cottage when half of a freshly-baked cake disappeared. While only one boy admitted to the theft I knew by the size of the missing portion that more than one were guilty but having no option I gave the lad six strokes on the bottom, telling him he was the best of the lot. Ten minutes later three of his mates came to my cottage, confessed they'd also taken some of the cake and pleaded for the running shoe. I obliged forcefully and they returned home heads high.

But the responsibilities of a Duties Master, particularly those of supervising boys in their work periods, were the most onerous and tiring. For three hours every weekday morning and two hours every afternoon, in the sweltering fields of the farm, I acted as the slave driver of protesting bands of nine to fourteen-year olds, cajoling and browbeating them in their tasks of hoeing, raking, weeding, picking peas and digging potatoes. I assigned areas of work to groups of them, keeping the rowdiest apart, tried to persuade them it was a competitive game to be rewarded by ten minute

The Duties Master's responsibilities were the most onerous and tiring.

breaks, or got them singing roundels, and these tactics helped. But sometimes fights broke out, onions or potatoes becoming ammunition in pitched battles, or groups joined forces to plan mutiny. I pleaded, threatened, pretended to lose my temper, all to no avail. It was only when I shamed them by getting down on my knees and started weeding myself that the revolutionaries would go grumbling back to work. By mid-afternoon I was wilted.

Work on the Homesite - cutting grass, tidying up and piling wood - was easier to handle, particularly the latter as singsongs speeded up the time, and in the orchard, when the Games Mistress allowed some of her girls to join in the picking, baskets of fruit were filled in record time in spite of some harmless dallying in the branches of the plum trees.

The best part of the day started at about three when play periods began and when I doffed the role of slave driver to become sports master. Before and after supper the boys played soccer rounders or cricket but with the arrival of hot weather swimming became the most popular form of recreation. In mid July a second Duties Master, Bill Allen, was appointed and in addition to helping in the fields he assumed responsibility for games while I concentrated on swimming.

**Let me try again, Sir!
I can do it, I know I can!**

A sizeable pool had been created on the river adjacent to the Homesite and here boys and girls, most often separately, were allowed to swim at specified times under supervision. Those who had passed the swimming test and wore the cherished white ribbon were permitted to swim anywhere in the pool and to dive from the high bank while those who had not passed the test were restricted to the shallow end; Competition between

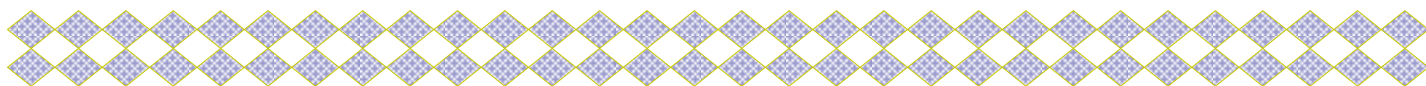
beginners for the ribbon was keen and at times frenetic. I taught them to swim underwater first and then overhand but accepted any kind of stroke that kept them afloat and gave forward motion. The test required the aspirant to plunge in from the shallow end, swim across and touch the bank on the deep side, turn and without stopping swim all the way back. Confidence often exceeded ability and I was constantly diving in to rescue those who began to sink. Failure didn't deter them however. Gasping for breath and spitting water, they'd yell, "Let me

try again, Sir! I can do it, I know I can!" They'd get the ribbon even if they drowned doing it.

Arthur Sager, author of: *It's In the Book: Notes of a Naïve Young Man*

Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2003, Chapter IX, Duties Master, page 167-177. ISBN 1-4120-0879-4

Arthur Sager was Duties Master at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School for two months during the summer of 1940.



Notes Re: Fairbridge Canada Association Survey 2007

While it would be nice to return the organ to the Chapel it is not a viable solution.

A pipe organ requires that there be constant heat in the chapel in order for it to operate efficiently. Unfortunately, because the chapel is a heritage site we have to maintain the heating system in its original state, namely a wood burning furnace. To maintain heat would require hiring someone on a 365 day basis to keep the furnace going. It would also require a huge outlay of funds to purchase the wood supply. The Chapel Heritage Society does not have such a source of funds for this as we struggle just to maintain sufficient funds to pay monthly bills and necessary maintenance.

Returning the organ is not a viable solution

I strongly support maintaining the Chapel as it is the only building left at the school in its original state. It also provides a focal point for Fairbridgians when visiting the school. We, the few members on the Executive, have managed to keep it maintained since we acquired ownership of it in the late 1980s.

I support maintaining the Chapel, the Bursary Fund, a Memorial Gardens and a Book

I also strongly support the Bursary Fund as it is a very worthwhile endeavour as well as perpetuating the Fairbridge name. The only reason that I have not personally donated to it is because I have had to devote my efforts to keeping the Chapel Society viable.

I would like to see a memorial garden established at the Chapel to provide a space for Fairbridgians to scatter their ashes as one or two have already done.

The writing of a book is a good idea, but I believe it should include stories from Fairbridgians rather than be an academic exposition such as Dr. Dunae did. The recent article in the Times/Colonist about Eric Lewis is an example of the kind of story that could be included in the book. I am sure that we could all tell similar stories.

John Cowans

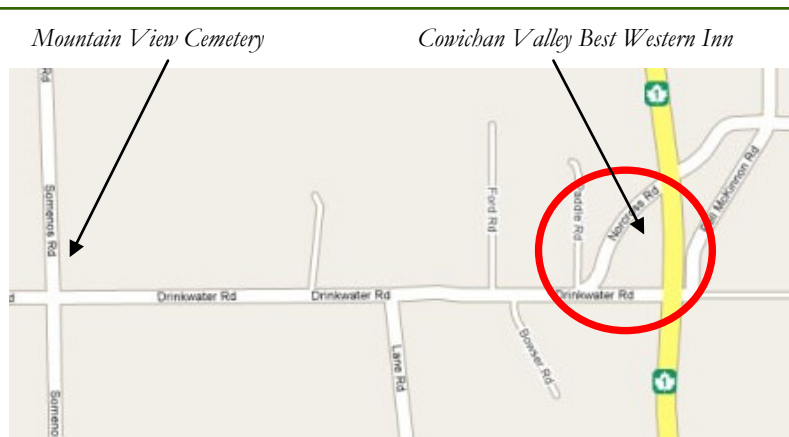
Let's not forget the Fairbridge kids buried at the Mountain View Cemetery in north Duncan



Pat Skidmore photos

The Mountain View Cemetery is located at the corner of Drinkwater and Somenos Road - just a two-minute drive from the Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn. To get to the cemetery from the hotel, drive through the Tim Horton's parking lot (the hotel parking lot and the Tim Horton's parking lot are connected at the south end of the hotel) to Drinkwater Road. Turn right onto Drinkwater and drive about 1 km to Somenos Road. Turn right onto Somenos Road and you will see the cemetery to your right. The area between the hotel and the cemetery is a lovely rural area and if the weather is nice, it would be a 15-minute walk

These plots are in the old section (OS) of the cemetery. Turn right through the first set of gates and proceed to the top of the hill where you will see a large grass walkway area to the left and right of the laneway. Turn right walking along the grassy area until you reach grave sites. (There will be 4 six-foot tall large concrete niches to your right). Turn left, and then immediately turn right down the first row. Plots 1-4 should be a about ten plots down this row on your left hand side.



Mary and David Barlow, associated with Victoria's Christ Church Cathedral, made a successful search for the Bronze Plaque that once hung in the Chapel —it commemorates Harold Kemp and Norman Alsop, “who gave their lives in the War of 1939-1945”—see Fairbridge Glimpses, page 78. The Plaque will be returned to the Chapel in July.

Don't miss the unveiling ceremony for the plaque during the September Reunion Sunday morning Service at the Chapel.



Pat Skidmore photo July 2007

The Sunday morning reunion routine includes a service held in the Fairbridge Chapel. This year will be special as it will include the second unveiling ceremony of the Bronze Tablet – just over 60 years after its first ceremony. It will not only commemorate the two young Fairbridge lives – lost in the last World War, but it will be symbolic for all the children, who gave up their lives in Britain to forge new lives in the remote fields of Cowichan Station in the 1930s and 1940s.

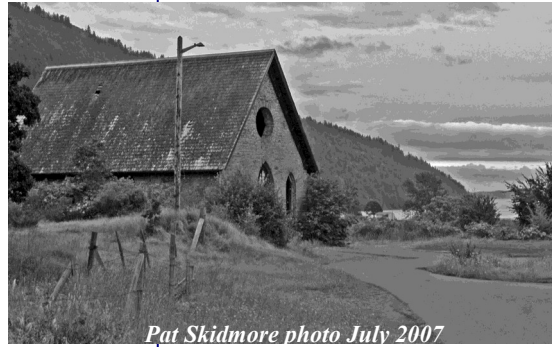
Butter Church adapted from the story at:
<http://ca.geocities.com/cowbaybook/church.html>

The Stone Church...

A.K.A. The Butter Church



Circa 1900



Pat Skidmore photo July 2007

The first church was a modest wooden structure and was dedicated in 1859. But, a more permanent stone church was needed.

Father Rondeault's small farm produced a good quantity of butter, which was sold to finance the new church.

This has led to the church also being named the "Butter Church". Comiakem Hill is largely limestone and large blocks were quarried. These in turn were broken with the aid of a cast iron cannon ball that had been previously fired from the Bay by the British in a show of force.

Local craftsmen built rather ornate doors and windows, but no pews. It was traditional for the local natives to sit on straw mats on the floor.

Surprisingly, the Diocese, represented by Bishop Demers, ordered the erection of a larger church down the road: it was named St. Ann's. That church was made of wood, consecrated in 1880, and burned to the ground in 1900. They rebuilt St. Ann's and it is largely the same today as it was back then. Pieces of the Stone Church have survived, the doors and windows in fact are installed in St. Paul's Church on Saltspring Island.

The Stone Church on top of Comiakem Hill can be seen from most of Cowichan Bay. It was built in 1870 by Father Peter Rondeault for the Cowichan First Nations located at the bottom of the hill. It has been told that Father Rondeault biked up the Saanich Peninsula from Victoria where he hired a native guide to take him across to Cowichan Bay (then referred to as Comiakem). He arrived in 1885 with not much more than a sack of flour.

Father Rondeault sold butter to fund his Stone Church

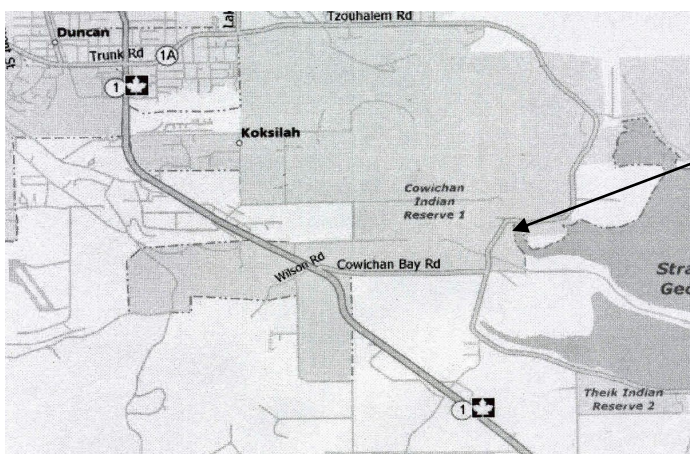
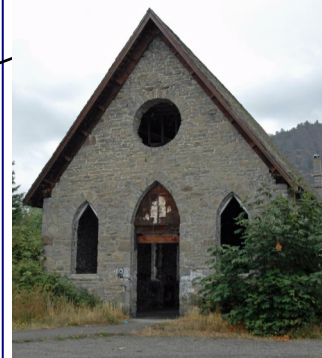
Being a rather affable fellow, Father Rondeault won the admiration of Chief Jean Baptiste of the local Cowichan First Nations. He founded what would eventually be a rather large and loyal congregation. One thing shouts through history: the fact that the Father was a fanatical worker. Before long he had built a house, cleared the land and established a grist mill and a small farm. So, naturally he would build a church!

The stones for the walls were broken with the aid of a cast iron cannon ball.

The Butter Church had a new roof in 1922 and in 1958 it was restored as part of BC's Centennial. Today, there are still folks who work to keep the building clean and it is still a safe place to visit.

It remains on top of the hill as a monument to Father Rondeault, who has been many times honoured for his dedication and work with the Cowichan First Nations Community.

Pat Skidmore photo July 2007



Survey results: put together by John Hardy

Preserve the chapel, top up the bursary fund.

Only nine people sent in the survey form that was mailed out with the Spring Gazette, a response too small to make too much out of it. The lack of response may have come from a lack of interest, poorly presented questions, or simply that people are busy. Who knows?

But if you missed the survey this time around, you can get another chance at the reunion. At the General Meeting we plan to have small groups formed to discuss a number of issues, among these, and most important, the legacy of Fairbridge.

**Preserve the chapel,
top up the bursary fund.**

The survey itself was prompted by a potential benefactor for the FCA who wants a reading on what the alumni would do with the money, what they consider important.

All nine were strong on preserving the Fairbridge name. And the best way to do that? Preserve the chapel. The chapel serves as a permanent memorial for all of us, a reminder that we were here.

Preserve the Fairbridge legacy through the bursary fund.

Currently there are two legacies, the FCA and the Bursary Society. People who have been working in both of these have a dream to top up the bursary fund so that a few decent size bursaries could be given each year. As well, one entrance scholarship a year would be nice of about \$5,000, subject to renewal for the duration of the person's courses.

That would be a great legacy.

If you haven't already done so, to find out if you or a family member has a file at the University of Liverpool, you can write to:

The Archives and Special Collections

Sydney Jones Library

The University of Liverpool

PO Box 123

Liverpool England L69 3DA

Or contact:

Adrian Allan

Email: ara@liv.ac.uk

Website: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/>

Poetry for the Gazette: *Sent in by Roddy Mackay*

Here's one for all the Scots who endured our Sassenach brothers and sisters at Fairbridge.

Then let us pray that come it may
(As come it will for a' that),
That Sense and Worth oe'r a' the earth
Shall bear the gree' an' a' that.

For a' that an' a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that
Robert Burns: National Bard of Scotland (1791)

Fairbridge Gazette information: List of Paid Memberships

Below is the list of people who have either kept their FCA memberships current or have taken a yearly subscription to the Fairbridge Gazette. If your name is not on there and it should be please contact out treasurer, Barry Hagen. His contact information is on page 3.

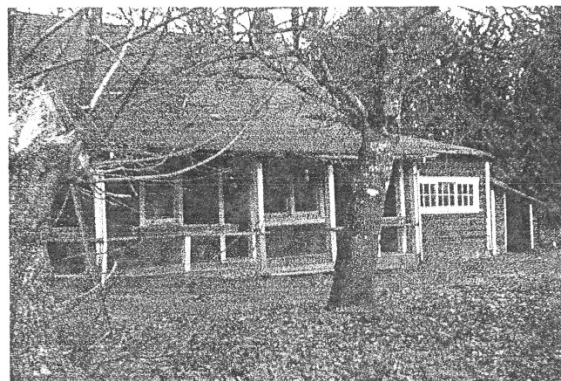
The costs to print and mail the Gazette go up every year—so if you are receiving the Gazette and do not have an active membership, please consider either sending our treasurer your membership fees or taking out a yearly subscription. This will ensure that we can continue to put out the Fairbridge Gazette each year.

The Gazette, which has a mailout of about 200 issues, costs approximately \$550.00 to print out and mail per issue. (about \$1,700.00 per year)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Atchison, Olive (deceased) | 37. Foster, Eric | 74. Myhill, Roy |
| 2. Ayer, John | 38. Frankish, Peter | 75. Naylor, Agnes |
| 3. Baker, Syd | 39. Glenworth, Cyprian | 76. Nelson, Edith |
| 4. Bennett, John | 40. Goldie, May | 77. Nevard, Michael |
| 5. Bennett, Kenneth | 41. Gray, Clement | 78. Nicholls, Eunice |
| 6. Bishop, Fred | 42. Hagen, Barry | 79. Nichols, Mary |
| 7. Blackburn, Thomas | 43. Hagen, Doreen | 80. Phillips, Raymond |
| 8. Blake, Stanley | 44. Hancock, Ronald | 81. Pollard, Enid |
| 9. Bordeleau, Nancy | 45. Hanson, Alfred | 82. Preece, Mollie |
| 10. Brown, Pam | 46. Harding, Alma | 83. Price, Ronald |
| 11. Bullcock, Fred | 47. Harding, Fred | 84. Reynolds, Pamela |
| 12. Bullcock, Jeff | 48. Hardy, John | 85. Richards, Norman |
| 13. Carver, Jessie | 49. Harmer, Dennis | 86. Roberts, John |
| 14. Clough, June | 50. Harris, James | 87. Robinson, Corinne |
| 15. Cockburn, William | 51. Harris, Molly | 88. Sager, Arthur |
| 16. Colley, Dianne | 52. Hewitt, Andrew | 89. Sharp, Harry |
| 17. Collins, Frank | 53. Hipp, Phyllis | 90. Shelley, Shirley |
| 18. Conlon, Jean | 54. Hodge, Ernie | 91. Shelley, Theresa |
| 19. Conlon, Margaret | 55. Howard, Katy | 92. Skidmore, Joan |
| 20. Conlon, Shirley | 56. Hughes, Alfred | 93. Skidmore, Marjorie |
| 21. Cowans, John | 57. Isherwood, Tom | 94. Skidmore, Pat |
| 22. Crellin (Clarke), Brenda | 58. James, David | 95. Smith, Rudolph |
| 23. Danks, Frank | 59. Kent, Cheryl | 96. Speed, Richard |
| 24. Davies, Kathleen | 60. Lisle, Tom | 97. Speed, Thomas |
| 25. Dean, Lilly | 61. Liverpool University | 98. Spence, Stanley |
| 26. DeMichael, Avril | 62. Lowe, John | 99. Stoker, William |
| 27. Dewhirst, Gordon | 63. Lowen, Andre Taylor | 100. Strawbridge, Brian |
| 28. Dobbs, Evelyn | 64. Mackay, Rod | 101. Taylor, Hugh |
| 29. Duffy, Ellen | 65. Martin, Joan | 102. Tibbles, Brian |
| 30. Dunae, Patrick | 66. McIver, Michael | 103. Todd, Ernest |
| 31. Emmerson, William | 67. Meers, Edward | 104. Turner, Jean |
| 32. Fairbridge Strata Corp, Cowichan Station | 68. Meers, Thomas | 105. Wallace, Ellinor |
| 33. Fenton, Joe | 69. Messer, Winnie | 106. West, Patricia |
| 34. Field, Phillip (Edith) | 70. Millman, Dennis | 107. Westdrop, Rosemary |
| 35. Ford, Irene | 71. Milne, Ronald | 108. Wheeldon, Celina |
| 36. Forrest, Peter | 72. Mornington, Joan | 109. Whittaker, Sybil |
| | 73. Morris, Frank | |



*The Vancouver Island Coach Lines delivering the children to the Fairbridge Farm School. "Herdsmen's Cottage" is in the background.
Photo courtesy of the Liverpool University Archives, Special Collections*



The schoolhouse prior to being moved to the historic site

THE COWICHAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

The following information has been prepared by the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society.

The Cowichan Public School and the adjacent Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Chapel are maintained by the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society. The Fairbridge Chapel is rented for a limited number of weddings, baptisms and other ecumenical church services each year for a nominal fee. The Chapel can accommodate approximately 300 people but there is limited parking. The schoolhouse can be rented for small public meetings. Both buildings are also open for public viewing upon request. For further information call: 250-746-7519.

Within the Cowichan Valley there are very few buildings that are over a century old. One that qualifies can be found at Fairbridge and is still being used for a variety of functions. Originally built as the Cowichan Public School, in 1885, and located on the first homestead in the Cowichan Station area---that of James Mearns Sr., it was also used as a residence for a great many years. It is also reputed to be the oldest framed building north of the Malahat on Vancouver Island.

The initial 100 settlers that arrived aboard the H.M.S. Hecate at Cowichan Bay on August 18, 1862 had more immediate and pressing concerns like building a shelter, clearing the land covered by the huge first growth trees and planting crops rather than constructing schools. This luxury would come later.

It would be another ten years-1872' before the first school, the original "Kokasailah" school, was built by the area settlers. James Fleming whose land straddled both the creek and a portion of the Koksilah River donated a one-acre parcel of land near the north bank of Kelvin Creek. This small, hand-squared log structure was the only school for all children living south of the Cowichan River to the Shawnigan District. The first teacher, W. H. Lomas, who lived beside Somenos Lake, walked from there to both this school and the Bench School located above Cowichan Bay on alternate days. The first year saw eleven students' ages 4 to 15 years attending the Kokasailah School.

Evidently, shortly after James Fleming died the new owner Joseph Tarlton found that the land had been improperly deeded and did not want the school on what was determined as his property. As a result, James and Mary Mearns, who, according to the 1881 census, had 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls ranging in age from 17 to 3 years old, and had acquired the west half of both Section 6 and 7 Range 7, Quamichan District, which was just south of Tarlton's land, donated a half acre site adjacent Koksilah Road for a new school called the Cowichan Public School. The small building was constructed by W.J. McMillan and cost a grand sum of \$475. This included the teacherage that was attached to the building. Supply costs were astronomical that first year---37 1/2 cents for a broom and another 37 1/2 cents for a pail! E. J. Campbell was the first teacher and received a princely salary of \$600 for his year's work.

By 1896 this one-room schoolhouse was finally closed in favour of a larger building that

could accommodate around fifty students at Cowichan Station. This small, inland community was established in 1885 thanks to the construction of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, and had by now grown to be the principle settlement serving the large agricultural area south of the Cowichan River. With the little school closed the land reverted to the original homestead now owned by Walter Ford. He also purchased the building for \$25. (Mearns sold the property in 1888 and moved to Koksilah where he and his second wife, Emma, operated a general store).

Ford sold the property a year later, in 1897, to F. B. Pemberton of Victoria, and the building became the farm manager's home. Mr. John (Jock) Brown was farm manager for "Pemberlea" from 1920 until the property once again changed hands in 1934. By this time the farm had over 1,000



1989 removal of the old roofing material

acres in fields and forest, and the Fairbridge Society of London, England set about establishing the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School which opened the following year with the arrival of the first forty-one children from England. Mr. Brown continued to manage the farm, and along with his wife (who evidently made great pies), moved into a new, more spacious residence on the west side of Koksilah Road in 1936. Then, for the next fifteen years it was the home for the farm school herdsman. Mr. Don Morton and his wife Gwen, lived in the house from January 1937 to August 1940 and again from 1945 to 1947, as did Mr. A. Macfarlane from 1940 to May 1944 when he assumed the same position at Fairbridge.

As the farm school gradually began to close, starting with the rental of the farm itself in 1950, the Canadian Pacific Railway's Department of Immigration and Colonization leased and managed the village site for the Fairbridge Society. The Department established the Canadian Colonization Association and under its auspices British farm families were brought to Fairbridge. Among those who resided in the old building were Dave and Agnes Crossfield. Mr. Crossfield eventually became the District Agriculturist for the Cowichan Valley. Later it was the home of Guy and Elsie Anttila for a number of years.

On January 1st, 1975, with the building now 90 years old, the Fairbridge Society sold it along with the entire village site to Bellamy Properties of Victoria. The 75 acres parcel included 27 buildings of which 20 were occupied. Original proposals called for the site to be subdivided into 120 lots and some of the buildings refurbished and sold. Many feared the old one-room schoolhouse would be demolished.

Both the Cowichan Historical Society and Prevost Native Sons of B.C. wrote the provincial government asking that the historic building be protected. By the summer, just before Bellamy Properties presented their initial proposal to the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD), provincial secretary, L. J. Wallace, indicated that the province would not allow the structure to be demolished and wanted it declared an historic site.

The Regional District also wanted to save other buildings at Fairbridge such as the larger school, the dining hall and most importantly the



1982 Interior view of the schoolhouse during renovations

Chapel. It was decided after many meetings with the developers that the one-room schoolhouse would be moved from its original location (lot 1 of the new plan of subdivision) near the present south entrance to Fairbridge village to the Chapel. By August 1977 the CVRD acquired a half-acre parcel of land that included both buildings.

Bellamy agreed to put it on a cement foundation, built a new porch and made other structural improvements. Bellamy was also able to purchase new wood siding that exactly matched the original material. Evidently the Dogwood Lumber Company of Sahtlam had purchased the old saws from Hillcrest Lumber Co. when the firm ceased operations at Mesachie Lake in 1968. Hillcrest initially was located at a site above Kelvin Creek and had cut the original siding for the building when it was upgraded sometime after the turn of the last century—thus the perfect match. Unfortunately the small teacherage and storage shed that were on the east

side of the school could not be moved.

On May 27th 1981 both the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Chapel and the original Cowichan Public School were finally designated historic buildings under the BC Heritage Conservation Act and are now included in the provincial registry of historic sites.

In 1982 the CVRD was provided federal assistance to improve the interior of the schoolhouse so it could be used for various local and area functions. However, during the mid 1980's the government was only allocating around \$500 per year to maintain the buildings and grounds, relying mainly on summer students to do the odd repair, gardening and cut the grass. By 1987 a number of residents within Fairbridge proposed that the historic site and buildings could be better managed by a society and the following year the CVRD turned the property over to the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society who now administer and maintain the property.



WELL DONE! OUR HATS ARE OFF TO THE CHAPEL SOCIETY

The Fairbridge Chapel and the Little Schoolhouse—AKA the Herdsman's Cottage—sporting their new roofs—June 2007
(Pat Skidmore photos)



FABS Corner: Bursary News

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society is pleased to announce that we have received seven bursaries applications for 2007. Look for the list of successful recipients in the Christmas Gazette.

FABS would also like to extend a grateful *THANK YOU* to all the people who sent in donations to the Bursary Society over the past year.

Your donations ensures that the Fairbridge Legacy will continue to exist. What a wonderful way to show the world—that out of the Fairbridge Farm School experience—good or bad—rose people who care about their communities and the future of the children—after all, they will be out there running this world one day.

*Pat Skidmore President
Theresa Shelley Financial
Joan Skidmore Director
Doreen Hagen Director*

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society
Registered Charity Number
89079 2047 RR0001
Incorporated October 17, 1989

KEEP THE FAIRBRIDGE LEGACY GOING—SUPPORT YOUR BURSARY SOCIETY

2007 Donors to date:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Audrey Lally (in memory of Jim Lally) | O. (Pam) Brown |
| Gordon Dewhirst | Mike McIvor |
| Richard Speed | Fairbridge Canada Association |

Chapel Society News

The roofing of the Chapel and the little Schoolhouse—aka the Herdsman’s cottage, have been completed. The Chapel Society has been working on the trim work, the eaves and refinishing the main doors.

The Organ: In 1938, when Mrs. W. N. Mitchell of Halsway Manor, Somerset, England, heard that the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School was building a Chapel, she decided to donate her Harrison and Harrison pipe organ. The pipe organ was commissioned in 1926. It was originally placed in the minstrel’s gallery at Halsway House.

The organ remained in the Chapel until 1976 at which time it was donated to the Christ Church Cathedral by the Fairbridge Society.

Harrison and Harrison organs are also found in Windsor Castle, Westminster Abby, Westminster Cathedral and St George’s Church (Toronto)

For more information about this organ—see: www.harrison-organs.co.uk/ and www.halswaymanor.co.uk/

John Cowans’ address:

#18—6000 St Ann’s Drive, Duncan BC, V9L 5T1

Ron Smith’s contact info

4718 Fairbridge Drive, RR 7, Duncan, BC V9L 6N8
rgwsmiths@hotmail.com 250-746-7519

The Fairbridge Chapel Organ

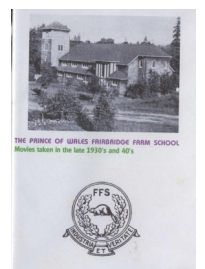
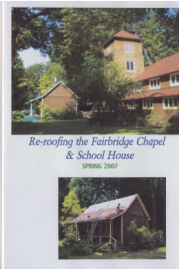
is being cared for by the Christ Church Cathedral in Victoria.

It is not realistic to try to reclaim the organ—as it requires an environment that is stable. The Chapel is heated only by a wood furnace, and it would not be feasible to keep the fires burning all fall, winter and spring to create a constant temperature for it.



Ron Smith and his son Touy, will have CD’s available at the reunion:

- 1) Reroofing photos and
- 2) old Fairbridge Farm School movies—now on DVD



Fairbridgians who passed away

Olive Atchison (Turner) passed away on January 27, 2007. Olive came to the Fairbridge Farm School in June 1936.



Olive Atchison
1926 - 2007



Olive at the Farm School. Late 1930s

Fairbridge Gazette

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*Fairbridge Farm School Children
Photo courtesy of the Liverpool University Archives
Special Collections Branch*

First published in 1939.

**Send in your stories for the
Christmas 2007 Issue**

Look for

- ◆ Special Reunion Issue in October
- ◆ The story about the “Return of the Bronze Plaque”
- ◆ Story from Dave Macfarlane who lived with his family in the Herdsman’s Cottage in the 1940’s (ie—the Old Schoolhouse)



Coming Soon: The restored Fairbridge Canada Website

- ◆ **Next Gazette: October—Special Reunion 2007 Issue—send in 2007 Reunion photos and stories for this issue. Deadline September 30, 2007**
- ◆ **December Issue — Christmas 2007**

Can anyone fill in the blanks?

*Top Row: _____, Eric Lewis, Ron Hancock, _____,
_____, _____, _____*

*Middle Row: _____, Dennis Cravte, _____, _____,
_____, _____*

*Bottom Row: _____, _____, Tommy Richards,
_____, _____*

Thanks Irene!
The boy 3rd from the left in the bottom row is my brother Tommy Richards. Irene Tetlock (Richards)

Here’s your chance to get your stories published in the Fairbridge Gazette.

Send in poems, adventures, Fairbridge tales, what you are doing now or whatever you would like to see in your Gazette. The deadline for submission for the Christmas issue is:

Nov. 1, 2007

Send them via snail mail:

Pat Skidmore, Editor
2707 Fernwood Road
Victoria BC V8T 3A3

Or email: patskidmore@shaw.ca

*Fintry Swimmers,
Lavinia Anderson &
Marjorie Arnison, 1939*



*Photo courtesy of the BC Archives
198711-5; 1-68501*

WANTED COLUMN

Are you looking for a long lost friend?
Confirmation of a Fairbridge Memory?
An old photograph? A forgotten recipe? Or?
Send in your requests to our
WANTED COLUMN.

AROUND TOWN

Do you have any news to report?
Send it in to the
Around Town column.