

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



2010: Year of the Home Child in Canada



Does anyone recognize the children in this group? *From the Birmingham City Archives*

Christmas 2010



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**CHECK OUT THE
NEW FAIRBRIDGE
WEBSITE
GO TO
www.fairbridgecanada.com**

Laugh of the season: Punsfuns sent in by John

- King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it." "But I paid a million dinars for it," the king protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."
- Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire, and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.
- A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."
- A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

 See page 4 for
2011 Reunion
News 

***Membership Fees are
due January 2011***

**Membership in the
Fairbridge Canada Association: \$30.00
The cost for just the Gazette: \$15.00**

**A Membership form is included with this
Gazette, and can also be found online at the
NEW FAIRBRIDGE WEBSITE AT:
www.fairbridgecanada.com**

FCA Committee Members

President	John Hardy	jkhardy@shaw.ca
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Seasons Greetings

Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter Editor:

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NOTE Change of Address

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*The Infamous Bell! Where is it?
Photo found at the Birmingham Archives
Does anyone recognize the children?*

FCA Directors:

Jock Bennett
Stan Blake
Bill Cockburn
Doreen Hagen
Eric Lewis

*Photo found at the
Birmingham
Archives*

*Does anyone
recognize
the children?*



Let's Keep Current

Send your change of address to Pat Skidmore

NOTE my change of address

NOTE: the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society and the Fairbridge Canada Association have two separate accounting systems. If you are sending a donation to the Bursary Society, please send them to Bill Cockburn, FABS Treasurer. If you are sending donations or FCA Membership fees, please send them to Barry Hagen, FCA Treasurer.

Send material for the Fairbridge Gazette and correspondence to:
Pat Skidmore
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Port Moody, BC
Canada V3H 0A1
patskidmore@shaw.ca

Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Fees should be sent to:
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DONATIONS to the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society should be sent to:
Bill Cockburn **NEW******
FABS Treasurer
5 -1548 Mackay Crescent
Agassiz, BC
V0M 1A3
billc@telus.net

DONATIONS to the Fairbridge Chapel should be sent to:
Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society
4791 Fairbridge Drive
Duncan, BC, V9L 6N9

Please include a return address so we can send you an income tax receipt.





**FCA President:
John Hardy**



Ron Hancock served you well as president, so well in fact that he kept getting re-elected, which caused him to

ask how long does a person stay on as president. It's a lifetime position, we told him.

The FCA is small in number and not many members have the time or the inclination to run for office, so you don't really have what you might call "hard fought elections." Besides, Ron was doing a good job.

But we do need more members, especially young people, and that's one good reason why the new Fairbridge web site we're introducing this month has so much value for all of us.

Publishing the Fairbridge web site is an important step forward in the life of our association. We want to attract children of Fairbridgians to join us, to tell the story of their parents, their life after the school.

We want to attract interested people who want to travel with us, keeping the history of the school alive.

You should consider running for office, or have your children join us. We have a number of great people you get to work with on the FCA board, top among them Pat who does so many things for us—editing this paper, running the Bursary Society, among them.

We all owe her a lot. Others making contributions include Barry Hagen, keeping the books, Roddy, always pushing at us to do more and sooner. Jean Conlon who has been ill but will be back with us, thank goodness, Bill Cockburn working with Pat on the Bursary, and, a person you may not be familiar with but an important part of our group, Ron Smith.

Ron is on the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society and he, more than anybody else, has looked after the chapel. We owe him much for his patient work on maintenance, booking events such as weddings, and keeping the chapel alive and well.

Our thanks to all who serve the FCA one way or the other. And a call for you to join us in the work. Have your children join to keep the memory of Fairbridge Farm School alive.

And, come to the reunion next September. Join us for a celebration and add your ideas into the future of the FCA.

John Hardy

Mark your calendars... planning for the 2011 reunion is underway!

2011 Reunion

When: September 16, 17, 18

Where: Silver Bridge Inn

140 Trans Canada Highway Duncan, B.C., V9L 3P7



Reunion updates and Registration Forms will be in the Spring Gazette and will also be found on the new website at www.fairbridgecanada.com

For more information contact your 2011 Reunion Committee:

- Doreen and Barry Hagen: dbhagen@shaw.ca
- John Hardy: jkhardy@shaw.ca
- Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.net



Plan to attend the:

- Friday evening *Meet and Greet*
- Saturday morning *Biannual General Meeting*
- Saturday *Afternoon Tea* at the Fairbridge grounds
- Saturday evening *Banquet*, and the
- *Sunday Service* in the Fairbridge Chapel.





FCA Vice President Roddy Mackay

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to all.

Your Reunion Committee jumped in early with the planning of our 2011 Biannual Reunion. Pat will publish full details in the Spring Gazette. (See also page 4) In a 2007 survey, our members indicated a strong interest in the preservation of the “Fairbridge” name. There was also strong indication our members wished to see the continuation of support for the (1) Fairbridge Chapel and (2) Fairbridge

Bursary Fund. A frightening fact is...as they say in Oklahoma, “*We ain’t gettin’ any younger.*” With that fact in mind, if we wish to see continued support for this organization and our worthy causes, I think you will agree we need to attract our younger generation to carry on with the mission. Most are aware that we are still part of a group called the “UK Child Migrants.” This group also includes “Canada’s Home Children” (approx 130,000) of which very few if any are still living. Fairbridgians as a group are the last survivors of the UK

Child Migrants. What we suggest is...lets follow the example set by “Canada’s Home Child.” That organization only exists today due to the ***involvement of their descendants.*** (See their web site at: British Home Children Descendants <http://www.britishhomechildren.org/>) Look within our own organization perfect example is our Gazette editor and President of the Fairbridge Bursary, Pat Skidmore, daughter of Marge..... A few more Pats and this FCA will carry on indefinitely.

At our last FCA board meeting, I proposed all of us make every effort to encourage members to invite a younger member of the family to attend this Reunion. I realise this is not easy for all; remind them it is not just about Fairbridge it is part of their own personal family history. Please do not give up, try your grand kids that is where I am having some success, you might be pleasantly surprised.

V. P. Roddy Mackay

PS Attention: the party of the *SS Bayano* 1941, nobody abandoned ship when our convoy was attacked November 1941, so let us not abandon the ship now, see you at the 2011 Reunion!



Past President’s Message

Greetings and best wishes to you all. Thank you for your kind words Mr. President. I agree 100% with your comments about Pat. We need a few more like her. I thought I was flying along

quietly under the radar, but one email from P.P. and here I am, scribbling inanely once more.

We need “new blood” to perpetuate the idea and the history of Fairbridge. We are all getting older and dying off! I’ve just celebrated my 80th birthday, a great party. I really didn’t expect to last that long (and some of you out there are even more surprising). As wise old George Burns said at age 100, “I am very pleased to be here. Let’s face it, at my age, I’m very pleased to be anywhere.” He knew and lived one of the secrets of survival—to stay active mentally and physically.

We need to work harder to involve our children. This is difficult I know, for I’ve tried it for years. They have their own busy lives. However, as John points out, once the web page is set up, this should help in this regard. They are all adept at computers, even our tiny grandchildren. Thinking of the latter, I believe Roddy had an excellent point. We should not forget to involve our grandchildren- they sometimes are more interested than their parents. I also like his

idea of inviting younger family members to the upcoming reunion next September. I have invited most of my six kids, and some grandkids, to the reunions in the past.

I’m taking the liberty to inform you that I have just made a CD. I have received mostly very good comments about it. Several people observed that it was remarkable for my age! That never occurred to me, besides it is said that baritones get better with age, while tenors and sopranos deteriorate (??) There are 14 songs with piano accompaniment, including old favorites like Danny Boy, Some Enchanted Evening, Ole Man River, Memory, etc. Most aren’t bad—some I could do better. If any of you out there want one, they are \$15.00 each. I plan to donate all proceeds to Fairbridge—bursary or chapel. (My phone # and email are below)

A couple of final items. Molly Harris is being admitted to hospital for major surgery, probably over by the time you read this. Molly is another person that we owe a lot to. She served us well for many many years. May fate smile upon you Molly—our thoughts (and prayers) are with you.

Fairbridge is a vital part of our ancestry and history. It should not be allowed to die—it will if we do nothing! Make it one of your projects in life.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Ron Hancock

Ph: 604-732-1880; Email: r.mhancock@telus.net



Pat at the Child Migrant Memorial: *Comings & Goings*, Darling Harbour, Sydney Australia

Christmas Greetings from Pat



FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE ATTEMPTS TO GO PAPERLESS

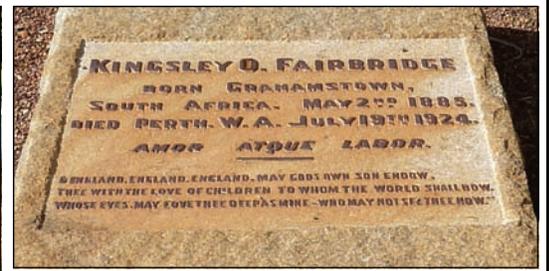
Hello all, you may have noticed the absence of the Summer edition of the Fairbridge Gazette—this is due to the Fairbridge Canada Association Directors' decision to hold off until everyone could meet and go over the Fairbridge finances. The Gazette is the single biggest cost we face and it is draining our resources. At our last meeting, September 2010, we

HELP US TO GO PAPERLESS

voted to get a website up where we can post the Gazette—thus a move towards saving on the printing and mailing costs. Our goal is to make a list of subscribers who would be willing to receive the Gazette on-line. We hope that many of you will be supportive of this change. Please let me know if you are willing to go paperless and receive your Gazette on-line.

Please email Pat Skidmore at patskidmore@shaw.ca if you are able to get your Gazette on-line and not mailed to you

I have been in a state of change these past few months—first selling my house in Victoria, storing my belongings for 6 months, and travelling around the world for 3 months—visiting Former Fairbridgians from every one of the other four Fairbridge Farm Schools: The Australian Farm Schools: the *Northcote Fairbridge Farm School*, the *Molong Fairbridge Farm School*, the *Pinjara Fairbridge Farm School* and the *Rhodesian Fairbridge Memorial College*—whose members are now living in New Zealand, Australia and Scotland. I also managed to visit the former Fairbridge Farm School property at Molong and at Pinjarra. See pages 16—17. I will put a report and photos on the new web site. See www.fairbridgecanada.com



Kingsley Fairbridge is buried not far from the Chapel on the Pinjara Farm School property. His 'stone' has been brought up to sit beside the Chapel for easy viewing. *Pat Skidmore Photos*

The Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra is now privately owned but the former cottages and other buildings have all been maintained and the new owners have allowed the use of a section of one of the buildings to house a *Fairbridge Museum and Archives*. It is well set up with many artefacts and photographs. I will include photographs of this on the new website for those who might be interested. Kingsley Fairbridge is buried on this property and his and memorial stone has been moved closer to the Chapel. The property also has a separate graveyard where Former Fairbridgians can chose to be buried. Kangaroos jumped ahead of us as we travelled along the dusty road to this site.

The Molong Fairbridge Farm School property was also sold and for a time the former cottages were used to house chickens. The majority of the buildings are quite derelict today, a distressing fact to some of the former Fairbridgians who recall working hard to keep the buildings and the grounds in top shape. Both the Farm Schools have a line of trees in the form of a Fairbridge Memorial Lane. Former Fairbridgians have donated the trees and have put their names on plaques at the base. It all helps to tell the story of Child Migration.



Child Migrant Memorial: *Comings & Goings*, Darling Harbour, Sydney Australia *Pat Skidmore Photo*



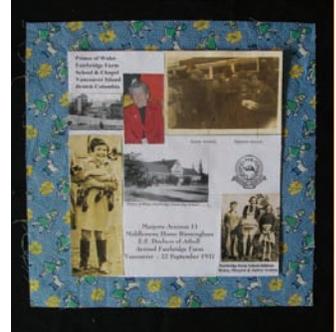
Corresponding Secretary News

After many years—I have finally removed the filing cabinet from Molly Harris' basement. It holds a complete record of the proceedings of the Fairbridge Canada Association for the 20 plus years that Molly was at the helm. Excellent record keeping Molly! I will sort through the cabinet and contact the Cowichan Valley Museum and Archives to see if they are interested in housing this piece of Fairbridge history.



- February 19: Bill Stoker re Apology (see page 12)
- March: Darlene Wise (see page 11)
- March: Gail Collins -the Home Children Quilt (see photo & more info on page 13)
- March 26: Syd Baker—re educating local politicians on Child Migration.
- March 31: Will Garnet—Bill Garnett's son has a request. (see page 20)
- April 8: Marion Crawford, President: Middlemore Atlantic Society with regard to their Middlemore Atlantic Society Newsletter April 2010
www.middlemoreatlanticsociety.com
- April 12: Ken Armstrong has a request. (see page 20)
- May 13: Margaret Humphreys, International Director, Child Migrants Trust, to Roddy Mackay—re meeting at the Apology and Roddy has put out an invitation for her to come to Canada.
- May 21: Peter Bennett—in the 1940 Australian party that came via Fairbridge in Duncan. (see page 21)
- June 13: John Stocker, re an Australian Northcote Fairbridgian's visit to the Duncan Fairbridge Farm School in the summer.
- June 17: Peter Gould, a former Rhodesian Fairbridge boy now living in Christchurch, contacted me with information on the upcoming November 2010 exhibition *On their own - Britain's child migrants*. The exhibition is being developed in partnership between the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) and National Museums Liverpool. See the website at: <http://www.britainschildmigrants.com/rememering/memorials.html>
- July 15: Find My Past—Fully indexed birth records are now on findmypast.co.uk. You can now search fully indexed birth records for 1837 to 2006.
- July 27: Kevin Farrell, British High Commissioner, Ottawa—re Child Migrant Family Restoration Fund launched. (see page 8 for details)
- July 29 Ed Janzen—re the Anthology IV book is to be published later on this year with Child Migrant stories. Ed Janzen is now including a Home Child page in his 'Canadian Stories' magazine which is published 6 times yearly. http://www.britishhomechildren.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=606:canstories-art&catid=17:bhc-news&Itemid=2
- August 10: Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism—with an invitation to a reception to mark *The Year of the British Home Child* on Thursday, September 9, 2010, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- August 11: (and November 29) Karen Cartwright, Birmingham Archives (see page 13—14)
- August 25: Hugh Taylor asked: *I seem to recall reading something about Kingsley Fairbridge addressing the Oxford Union, touting his idea of Farm Schools and that was in October 1910, so I am wondering if this is a 100th anniversary year for Fairbridge and if any celebrations are planned? The Prince of Wales made a large donation and that is how we got to be The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.*
- August 29: Councillor Reg Corns, Birmingham re Middlemore records. (see page 13—14)
- October 16: William Stoker: he gave a talk to the Peterborough Barnardo Society about Fairbridge.
- October 31: Steve Turnbull (Ken Turnbull's son) re the *Fairbridge Glimpses* (eds. Note: the committee is looking into getting the *Fairbridge Glimpses* copied—and I will scan it in and put it on the website.)
- October/November: Emails back and forth to Touy and Ron Smith re the progress of the Fairbridge website.
- November 27: Tom Lisle and Roddy Mackay with An Ass' Tale (see page 15)
- November 29: The Rhodesian Fairbridgians—regarding offspring having access or lack of access to—British Citizenship. I was told by British Immigration authorities that I cannot apply for a British Passport because the line goes through my mother—but my uncle's children can. It is archaic and unfair.

*Photo of Marjorie Skidmore's
Quilt Square sent by Gail Collins*



2010: Year of the Home Child in Canada

Australia's Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, gave all children in the country's care—which included British Child Migrants, an Apology on November 15, 2009.

Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, Gave British Child Migrants an Apology on February 24, 2010.

The Hansard Transcript of this Apology to all British Child Migrants can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100224/debtext/100224-0004.htm#10022460000003>

Child Migrant Family Restoration Fund was launched as a result of Gordon Brown's Apology: The £6 million Family Restoration Fund to help reunite former child migrants with their families. It was formally launched on July by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley following a meeting with child migrants and the Child Migrants' Trust. The fund was announced in February at the time of the Government's formal national apology to former child migrants. The funding, which will cover the practical costs of travel, will be available to any former child migrant who was sent under school-leaving age from Great Britain and Northern Ireland before 1970 to countries such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Zimbabwe (the former Rhodesia). The fund will be administered and supported by the Child Migrants' Trust, which has today also been awarded £450,000 in additional funding to expand its work in family tracing, social work and counselling services. The Family Restoration Fund is a significant and practical step in bringing families together and healing the deep wounds of separation." See the website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_117911

The Canadian Government held a 3-hour reception in Ottawa on September 9, 2010, to Commemorate the Canadian 2010 Year of the Home Child and to Honour Canada's estimated 100,000 Child Migrants sent to this country between 1833 and 1948.

1833: The Children's Friend Society, founded by Edward Brenton, sent a party of children to Toronto (Upper Canada) Ontario, in August of that year. Dr James William Fairbridge, the great-grandfather of Kingsley Fairbridge, helped set up the Children's Friend Society. (See the Australian Dictionary of Biography, On-line Edition at: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080485b.htm>)

1948: The final group of child migrants arrived at the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, BC.

Canada accepted children for 115 years of the estimated 350 years of British Child Migration.

The First—1618-1619: the Virginia Company took 100 street children from the City of London to Virginia in order to supply labour to the plantation owners. Some were as young as 10, deemed, like their 19th-century counterparts, a nuisance to the authorities and a burden to the taxpayers; moreover they were suspected of spreading the plague! This set a precedent and in 1622 the Council for New England also asked for poor children to be sent to them. And so the emigration of children to the colonies began...



Does anyone recognize these Fairbridge Boys?

Could this be—

- (1) Mr. Plows,
- (2) Col Logan
- (3) one of the Mein girls



A Group outside the Chapel

Photos Courtesy of Will Garnet

A Recap of our trip to hear Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown's Apology in London on Feb 24, 2010



Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Pat Skidmore Photo

On February 21, 2010, my mother, Marjorie (Arnison) Skidmore and I boarded the plane in Vancouver, British Columbia. We had been invited to hear Britain's Prime Minister, Gordon Brown present a Formal Apology to all British Child Migrants. When we arrived, we learned that there were over many former British Child Migrants present from Australia (representatives from every Australian province), one or two former 'Rhodesian' Fairbridgians, a few from New Zealand and only two Canadian Child.

There were seven Canadians present; however, only two were actual Child Migrants, both from the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Marjorie Skidmore (nee Arnison) was sent out in 1937, and Roddy Mackay was sent in 1941. The other five Canadians were offspring or their spouses. Together, the seven of us there to represent the 100,000 plus child migrants who were sent to Canada between 1833 and 1948. There were many more former Child Migrants in Canada who could have been invited, but Canada has not had a strong presence with the British organization, the Child Migrant Trust. The Trust, set up by Margaret Humphries, was instrumental in bringing the plight of the Australian Child Migrants to the attention of the British and Australian Governments and in bringing about the February 24, 2010 Apology.

The first event put on for the group took place on February 23, the evening before the Apology. It was a get-together held at the hotel where the Australian contingent was staying. It was a chance for everyone to introduce themselves, to talk to one another,



Margaret Humphries Pat Skidmore Photo

swap stories, and to meet Margaret Humphries. People seemed hesitant to mingle and sat quietly together in little groups. I tried to get to know some of their stories. It wasn't easy, as it was obvious that many were out of their comfort zone, as well as struggling with jet lag. For the Australians and the New Zealanders it took as long as 25 hours to make the trip to London.

I persisted as I passed out information on the Canadian Fairbridge Farm School and its present day programs. It broke the ice. I met some former child migrants who were sent to Tasmania in the 1970s. I didn't realize that they sent children to Tasmania. I was also surprised to learn that the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong only closed its doors to migrating children in 1972. By the end of the evening, people were a little more relaxed. We headed back to our hotel rooms early, so we could get a good rest before the *big day*.

The day of the Apology arrived with a bit of sun, brightening up the cool February morning. Our bus waited for us at the corner of our hotel. Reporters were in the lobby readying their equipment when we walked out of the elevator. They followed us down the street and as Marjorie reached the bus they asked a final question, "Marjorie, how are you feeling this morning?"

"I have butterflies," Marjorie replied as she quickly climbed onto the bus.

Once at Westminster, we were marched single file into Portcullis House, the office building associated with Westminster Palace. Here we had our photo taken, our bags checked, our bodies scanned, and they gave us tags with our photos on to wear around our necks, as proof that we had been thoroughly screened. The security was tighter than at the airport. We were ushered into a room set up with sandwiches and coffee. Most were hungry, but also nervous, so the food was not tucked into with any gusto. Once fed, they took the group on a tour of the Child Migrant Display at Westminster Palace, and then on to the House of Commons. It was a hasty tour, with little time to look at the display.

Next we were marched through the underground walkway back to Portcullis House and taken into the Boothroyd Room. Suddenly a screen at the front of the room sprang to life. It showed the House of Commons in Westminster Palace and there was Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Other business was discussed first and then, finally he was

talking about Britain’s Child Migrants. The room became silent as everyone listened intently. He is speaking about us, their silence seemed to say. Necks craned, ears strained, whispers. Shush! What did he say? Shush.

Gordon Brown walked into the Boothroyd Room, and the relief was palatable.

the Attlee Suite, just across the hallway. It was all set up. Cameras and camera operators, two large screens showing a photo of a group of child migrants leaving Britain, a podium and seats for all. Please find a seat, we were told. I wasn’t certain what would

Everyone present in the room bore witness as Gordon Brown went down in history saying: *To all those former child migrants and their families... we are truly sorry. They were let down... We are sorry they were allowed to be sent away at the time when they were most vulnerable. We are sorry that instead of caring for them, this country turned its back...And we are sorry that the voices of the children were not always heard, their voices not always heeded. And we are sorry that it has taken so long for this important day to come and for the full and unconditional apology that is justly deserved.*

When he was finished, everyone sat back; for the moment, silence permeated the room.

The screen off, show over, people began to talk, to move about the room, waiting. Gordon Brown’s next stop was to be at this very room. The tension in the room grew with each passing moment. I could feel the electricity mixed with anticipation.

Gordon Brown finally walked into the Boothroyd Room, and the relief was palatable. This part of the day – the Child Migrant’s moment for a personal word and handshake from the Prime Minister was the only unorganized event of the day. They should have the migrants lined up, but instead everyone pushed towards Brown to get their moment. It wasn’t frenzied, yet there was single-mindedness in the way they moved.

As Marjorie took Gordon Brown’s hand, I heard her scold, “Now don’t forget about Canada!” She needed to say this to him as his Apology was so heavily representative of the Australian migrants.

We were quickly ushered out of Boothroyd Room to

happen next.

Andy Burnham, British Secretary of State for Health, walked to the podium. He introduced himself and then welcomed everyone and spoke for a while. Next there was a short film showing photos of the Child Migrants leaving Britain. Then Gordon Brown took the stand, and gave his Apology *again*, but this time speaking directly to the child migrants seated in the room. It felt sincere. His face looked genuine. I believed his sincerity when he said “Sorry.”

Margaret Humphreys spoke next and the final speaker was Harold Haig, from the International Association of Former Child Migrants and their Families. Once the formal speeches were over, Gordon Brown walked over and signed the Commemorative Book. Next, we were all invited to include our signatures. All the Child Migrants were given a special House of Commons pen set.

With the formal part of the day over, it was time to mingle and make our way over to the food and wine. The chatter was louder and happier than earlier. Reporters were allowed in and people appeared more willing to speak. We were introduced to some of the dignitaries who attended. The Canadians were also welcomed by James Wright, the Canadian

High Commissioner in London. It was quickly arranged that we would be taken to James Wright’s Residence for a short visit before being driven back to our hotel.

I expected to go to Canada House, by Trafalgar Square, but we were taken to Macdonald House at Grosvenor Square, the former American Embassy, where the Canadian High Commissioner now resides. Mr. Wright explained that the room we were sitting in was a replica of the White House’s Oval Office in the United States. The visit was quite informal; we mainly discussed the history of child migration to Canada, especially to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School. *Pat Skidmore*

As Marjorie took Gordon Brown’s hand, she scolded, “Now don’t forget about Canada!”



Part of the Child Migrants Display at Westminster Palace. *Pat Skidmore Photo*

L-R Back—Pat Skidmore, Betty Mackay, Brian O’Malley, Dave Lorente, Joan O’Malley.
Front: Roddy Mackay, James Wright, Marjorie Skidmore
Pat Skidmore Photos



To Apologize or Not. The idea of an Apology given to British Child Migrants has sparked a lot of controversy. What are your feelings? Please send them in. Here is one daughter's reaction. See next page (12) for a Former Fairbridgian's response. In getting out the stories—I am constantly reminded that there is NOT JUST ONE story, but each Fairbridgian and their offspring have their own unique stories, and I believe that, only by telling them all, will a true picture of the experiences of the Child Migrants sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School begin to emerge.

Pat Skidmore

From a Fairbridge Offspring:

Some people feel that the child migrants are the only ones who deserve an apology... Well I feel I deserve an apology also... A mother traditionally nurtures her young and teaches them as they grow.

Those of us fortunate enough to be raised by a mother know we would not trade them for the world. A mother also teaches her daughter how to be a mother but if you did not experience that I guess you are on your own, and you better start reading and hope your friends and instinct is enough. That is what my mother had to do.

My mother was not an orphan but lived with that stigma. My mother tried her best for many years to go back home to England even went as far to join the Canadian Army hoping she would be shipped to England and she would see her Mother and her sisters again. As a child she ran away from the Fairbridge Farm School thinking if she could just get over the mountains her mother would be waiting there for her.

I, personally want the apology for never having the sense of belonging, my family was 4 people my mom dad and two brothers. We never had big Christmas dinners, we held no family reunions, we received no birthday presents from distant relatives. I never even knew what it was like to call someone Grandma or Grandpa. When I got married I was overwhelmed by my husband's family. Why did they always want to be around or get together??? Because that is what real families do. I still struggle with this at 55 years old. Yes my mother deserves the apology but there is always a ripple effect from these kind of things. I understand they thought they were doing good but when you know it didn't turn out quite like it was suppose to, it is important take the blame and apologize... Just like my mother taught me!

I grew up hearing a few stories from my mom about the Fairbridge Farm School, none of them truly favourable. It use to really hit me hard when she would talk about missing her mom and sisters I can remember being afraid someone could come and take me from my mom and dad because we were poor also. Most of all kids are very observant and I observed my mothers reaction to the word *Fairbridge*. I was not to speak of it to my friends etc. As I got older and mom was asked to

I want the apology for never having the sense of belonging.

go to a reunion, now and then she would tell her friends that "...there is nothing she wants to remember about that place." She told me stories about the wet sheets put on her brother,

Henry's head only to find out later Henry needed a kidney operation when he grew up. (he died of kidney failure.) She told me that the principle once slapped her across the face. She was probably more embarrassed than hurt. She talked about how they were so strict.

Now after many years she has the opposite opinion, and listening to her friends from the school, she says they needed to be strict with all those kids to look after and that she was a lazy child who did not like to work (what kid does) she feels they were the lucky children because they got three meals a day and clothes on their backs during war time etc. She says she was a rude child and talked back a lot so probably needed a smack now and then. Yes she did not care for one of the house ladies that cared for them but most of them were nice.

So it is weird growing up thinking one way, feeling horrible for what my mother went through and then being told something different as an adult. I am glad for mom that she has come to peace with all of it because it affected her for a long time.

I feel the need for the acknowledgement of our difficulties growing up without *Family*.

It does not change how I feel. I still feel cheated from many of life's normal joys and I feel all of us children need at least be acknowledged for our difficulties growing up with out Family. I understand some of these kids probably did get away from horrors back in England and maybe life would have turned around for their families eventually, (as it tends to do for all of us) my mother's sisters who were left behind seem to have survived well (except for dealing with the loss of their siblings, which must have been devastating) just like my mother did but they probably fared better because they had each other and their parents.

Sincerely Darlene (daughter of Irene (Robinson) Ford; Uncles—John and Henry Robinson, sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Oct 22, 1936.

Pat, I congratulate you and your colleagues on initiative and doggedness on the child immigration issue.

While I sympathise with and understand the feelings of those who despair of the treatment that many children experienced, I may be, personally, with an exceptional viewpoint on the issue.

I have never been ashamed of my Fairbridge experience. In fact I am quite proud of it! The British government owes me no apology and I thank it and all those generous people who made my journey to Canada and five years at FFS possible. Occasionally, over the years, I have encountered descendants of Barnardo child immigrants who had a most positive view of their relative's experience. Balanced views are difficult to achieve: particularly in the shadow of, undoubtedly true, heart-wrenching stories that have emerged.

Despite the negative aura that surrounds the child immigration schemes the results, for Canada, have been beneficial. The Canada Fairbridge Association demonstrates that!

Bill Stoker, Class of September 1937 ps I never looked back.

28 CHILDREN OFF TO VANCOUVER

PUPILS FOR FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL

A further 28 children, mostly from Tyneside, will leave England on Friday for the Prince of Wales's Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The party, which will consist of 19 boys and nine girls ranging from 6 to 12 years, will sail in the liner *Duchess of Atholl*, in the charge of Mr. E. S. Healey, headmaster of the Fairbridge State School in Western Australia, and Mrs. Healey, who are returning to Australia, via Canada, after leave in this country.

The farm school on Vancouver Island, the second one established under the Fairbridge scheme, was opened in September, 1935, and the arrival of this party will bring the total number of children to 126. The school was visited last month by Lord Kenilworth, vice-chairman of the executive committee of Fairbridge Farm Schools, Incorporated, and Mr. Gordon Green, the secretary. Both returned to England on Friday by the *Empress of Britain*. Arrangements are being made for another party of 28 children to leave for British Columbia next month.

The third Fairbridge Farm School will be opened in December at Molong, New South Wales, 186 miles west of Sydney. Mr. R. R. Beauchamp, of New Zealand, has been appointed principal.

London Times, September 7, 1937, p. 15

Bob Hocking sent this email: I have just returned from a memorial service for a prominent Chilliwack businessman and friend. While at the reception I encountered Chuck Strahl, the Conservative member of parliament for this area, and a member of cabinet. While I had him cornered I asked him about The Year of the British Home Children and whether he was in the house when the bill was passed. After a bit of bafflegab the answer was obviously, no. If you look back at the tape you can see that the house was almost empty. He said the bill was discussed in cabinet beforehand and would receive unanimous support so there was no need for every member to be present. I then asked him about the Conservative government's refusal to issue any sort of apology. His answer was that it happened a long time ago and the government couldn't (wouldn't) apologize for all the events of the past. Since he is the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs I pointed out to him that there were more British Home Children than native children sent to mission schools and that the government had apologized for their mistreatment even compensated them. He hummed and hawed and moved on. What was interesting is that his wife was there and pointed out that her grandmother was a BHC. That struck a nerve and she has promised to contact me about her grandmother of whom she knows very little. We'll see! If we can personalize it for one cabinet member maybe we can get him on our side.

Bob Hocking, Chilliwack, BC, Canada

Who had the largest family at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School?

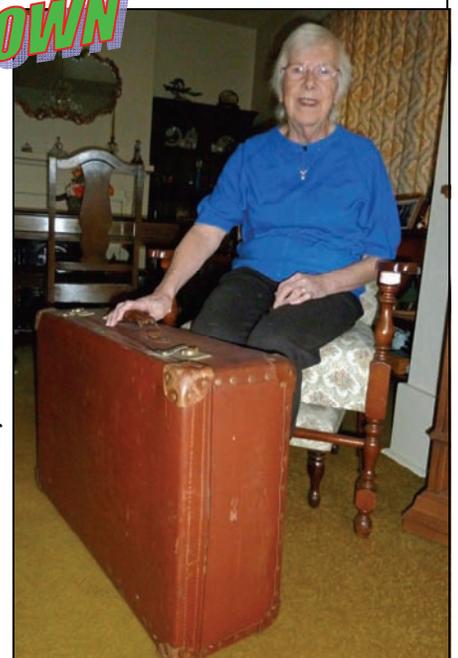
- Andersons—a total of 5: Andrew, Ethel, Kathleen, Lavinia, Robert—*were they all siblings?*
- Duffys—a total of 5: Agnes, Ellen, Joseph, Kathleen and Mary—these five were siblings
- Smiths—a total of 6: Christina, Ellen Christine, Hilda, Leonard, Rudolph & Victor—*were they all siblings?*
- Taylors—a total of 6: Agnes, Doris, Ena, Hugh, John and Katherine, but *were they all siblings?*

What about the children who were sent to Australia? Were there large numbers sent from the same family?

AROUND TOWN

I met up with Molly (White) Harris in November, and took this photograph of her with her Fairbridge suitcase. Molly arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the first group in September 1935.

Pat Skidmore Photo



2010: Year of the Home Child Canada Memorial Quilt

Legacies will live on because the only way people will remember the past, is by sharing it with future generations.

Designed & Prepared by: Gail Diane Collins, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada

Sewn by: Sylvia VanGeest, 'Seams Like Yesterday,' Grimsby, Ontario

Quilted by: Carol Cunningham, 'The Quilt Batt,' Beamsville, Ontario

See the web site at:
<http://www.britishhomechildren.org/>

I have reserved the Quilt to be displayed at the 2011 Fairbridge Reunion.

Attention Quilters

Perhaps we should look into putting a FCA quilt together to be housed in the Fairbridge Chapel?



Accessing Middlemore Emigration Homes Records

See page 14 for complete details.

If you were placed in the Middlemore Emigration Homes prior to being emigrated to the colonies, your personal file is housed at the Birmingham City Archives. (web site: www.birmingham.gov.uk/archivesandheritage) Please be aware that the amount of detail available in the records varies from child to child depending on the individual circumstances.

Write or email to one of the following:

- Karen Cartwright, Information Officer, Support After Adoption Team, Tamebridge House ,2nd Floor, Aldridge Rd, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2TX, Tel: 0121 464 1080—the contact person for Middlemore Records. Email: SCHAdoptSupportDutyTeam@birmingham.gov.uk
- Sian Roberts, Head of Collections Development Birmingham Archives and Heritage Central Library Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3HQ. Tel: 0121 303 4549 Fax: 0121 464 1176 Email: archives.heritage@birmingham.gov.uk



The dismantling of the Middlemore Emigration Homes, Weoley Park Road, Birmingham, UK. From the website at: <http://www.search.connectinghistories.org.uk/engine/theme/default.asp?theme=140&text=0>

Access to Middlemore Homes Records at Birmingham Archives

In August 2007 the records of Middlemore Homes were officially transferred to Birmingham Archives and Heritage which is the archives service of Birmingham City Council. The archives service is very keen to make as much of the Middlemore archive available as possible within the terms of British law relating to privacy and personal data.

Access to records and information

As a result of the transfer the Middlemore Charity Trust does not deal with any requests for information from the historical archive.

The records of the Middlemore Homes are subject to the following access provisions. These provisions are necessary because Birmingham Archives and Heritage has to comply with British law on access to the personal data of individuals who may still be alive, primarily the Data Protection Act 1998.

Records **less than 75 years old** (with the exception of annual reports and published materials) are closed to public viewing but child migrants and their family members can obtain information and in most cases copies from the records. The research is undertaken on the enquirer's behalf by Birmingham City Council Support After Adoption Team. Individuals should submit a written enquiry giving as much information as possible about the child by post or e-mail directly to the team at:

Support After Adoption Team
2nd floor Tamebridge House
Tamebridge Industrial Estate
Aldridge Road
Perry Barr
Birmingham B42 2TX
Tel: 0121 464 1080
Fax: 0121 675 2296
E-mail:
SCHAdoptSupportDutyTeam@birmingham.gov.uk

If the enquiry is received from the child migrant themselves the team will ask for proof of identity.

If the enquiry is from a descendant they will need to supply proof of the death of the original child migrant (i.e. a death certificate).

The Support After Adoption Team will then supply the

enquirer with the information from the records and, where possible, with copies of the records. This will include the names of any siblings included in the records. There is no charge for research undertaken from closed records by the Support After Adoption Team.

Records **over 75 years old** are open and can be consulted by members of the public under the same terms as other records held by Birmingham Archives and Heritage. Where records are over 75 years old or open the Archives staff will advise on the existence of relevant records and access to them. Enquirers will be invited to visit to consult the records or use a paid research or copying service. Archives and Heritage has a list of independent researchers who undertake research of this nature.

The majority of the Middlemore Homes archive was microfilmed some years ago and copies of these microfilms are held by the National Archives of Canada. Additional records which were not included in the original microfilming project were copied in Autumn 2010 by National Archives of Canada and these will be available on microfilm shortly (contact National Archives of Canada for details).

Research can also be undertaken for a fee by the Archives & Heritage Genealogist and information about this service can be found on www.birmingham.gov.uk/archivesandheritage by following the links for *Family History* and then *Genealogy and Family History*.

For further information contact
archives.heritage@birmingham.gov.uk

Does anyone recognize the girls on the steps at the Middlemore Emigration Homes, Weoley Park Road, Birmingham, ca 1938
Found at the Birmingham City Archives



An Ass' Tale

The setting was a Saturday morning in the spring of 1948 on the farm side of the road near the Kelvin Creek Bridge. The good reverend was homeward bound from his weekly walk to Duncan. As he neared the bridge, he could hear a commotion on the road ahead and, if you were nearby you would have heard him utter a short quiet plea, Please God, not the boys from J and K Cottage. As he crossed the bridge, he saw a couple of boys scrapping beside a dead animal on the road, and sure enough, it was Roddy Mackay and one of the Field Boys.

He approached them and yanked them apart while they shouted and screamed at each other. In a short lived and surprisingly restrained voice he asked them what the argument was about. Mackay said they were on their way home from Koksilah and he spotted the dead mule on the road and because he saw it first it was his, at which point Field yelled that he saw it first, and it was a donkey and it was his, and this started the donnybrook again. The good reverend again yanked them apart and with colour surging to his face and anger in his voice started yelling at them that the animal was an *ass* and if they had been listening to his church sermon the past Sunday rather than talking and carrying on, they would have known that.

They had never seen the good reverend so upset and they cowered together, partly out of fear, but also because there was a packet of cigarettes sticking out of Mackay's pants pockets. How would they explain why they had cigarettes, and where they got the money to buy them. When he yelled at them to get to the farm and get shovels and bury the animal before it started to decompose, they hied away as fast as they could. When they returned, the reverend had disappeared. They started to dig a hole near the edge of the road.

They were in such fear that he would return that they did not stop for lunch. About 2 pm in the afternoon, the school principal was out for his weekly walk and he came across the dead animal and a large hole. He looked in and saw Mackay very deep in the hole throwing dirt to a bench, and Field on the bench throwing it up to the surface. He yelled down to them and asked them if they were digging a man hole. Without interrupting his rhythm, Mackay yelled back, (Are you ready for this)?

"Not according to the Reverend"

Cheers, Tom Lisle

Roddy responded:

Thomas of Lisle, sir thou dost spin such a tale... We are duly impressed. So much so, with your permission I will add this childhood adventure to my shortly to be published memoir. While it is an anecdote of questionable veracity it will fit well in the story of my life. My publisher has prepared a press release for the publication of my memoir, "The Adventures & Trials of an Immigrant Child." title has a nice rhythmic quality methinks. He also tells me it will equal in popularity and sales of the book, "Extraordinary Popular Delusions & the Madness of Crowds" written by Charles Mackay, an earlier illustrious member of the Mackay family. No offense intended but there is one slight distortion in the tale, Mackay's response, "Not according to the Reverend." The school Principal, had always noted in his quarterly student reports, "This boy (Mackay) has a very pugnacious attitude and frequently uses unacceptable foul language." So truth be known, it is more likely Mackay's response was, "s'cuse me sir but this 'ere ole is a Frickin' ASS hole!"

Toodles, Delusional Roddy



THESE CHILDREN HAVE ALL PASSED THROUGH THE MIDDLEMORE HOMES.

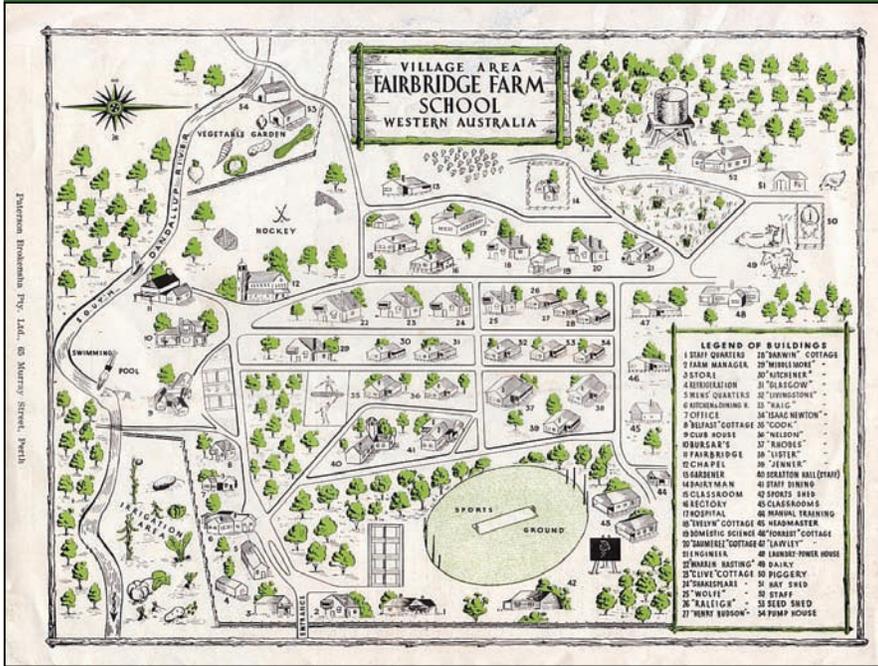
Does anyone recognize the children that have passed through the Middlemore Emigration Homes, Weoly Park Road, Birmingham

Found at the Birmingham City Archives

Child Migration:

1873: Children's Emigration Homes: children were emigrated from the various homes established by John T. Middlemore starting in 1873.

Fairbridge Farm Schools



Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, Western Australia

From the Fairbridge Booklet December 1951-58



Pam Wilson and Jan Churchill on the steps of the Fairbridge Museum, *Pat Skidmore Photos*

Left—interior museum photos

Below—Wall of photos showing the individual groups



Fairbridge Chapel—

interior →

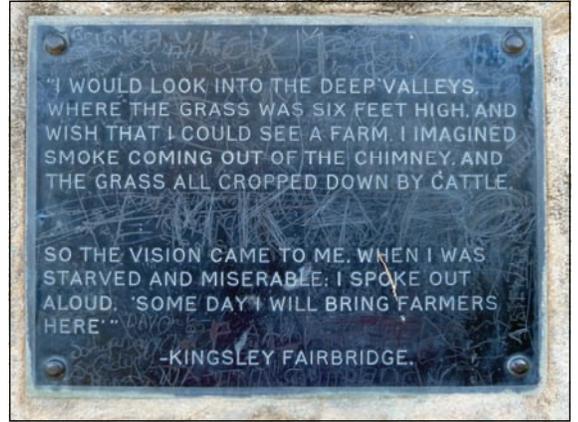
Pat Skidmore Photos





The Farm School Property—from the website at: <http://www.users.on.net/~quincejam/farm.html>

Dining Hall



"I WOULD LOOK INTO THE DEEP VALLEYS, WHERE THE GRASS WAS SIX FEET HIGH, AND WISH THAT I COULD SEE A FARM. I IMAGINED SMOKE COMING OUT OF THE CHIMNEY, AND THE GRASS ALL CROPPED DOWN BY CATTLE. SO THE VISION CAME TO ME, WHEN I WAS STARVED AND MISERABLE. I SPOKE OUT ALOUD. 'SOME DAY I WILL BRING FARMERS HERE'"
-KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE.



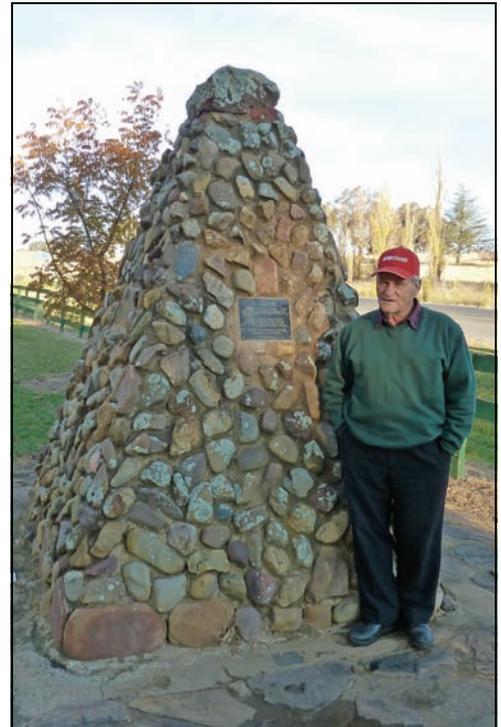
The Fairbridge Sign Post

Below left—the Fairbridge Remembrance Drive

Photos by Pat Skidmore

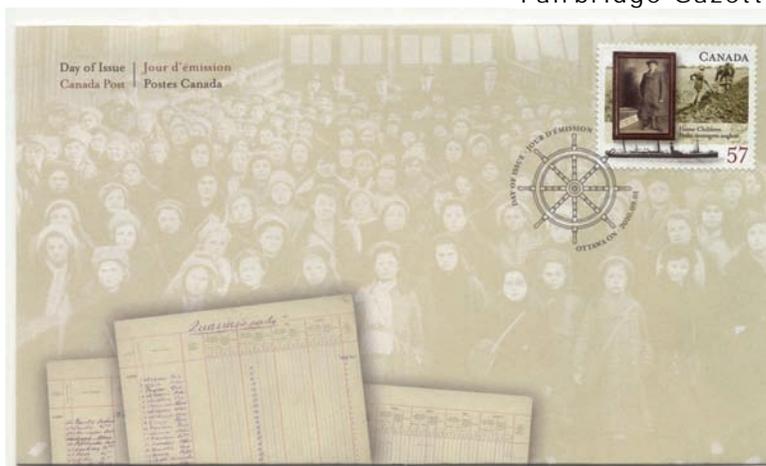


Former Molong Fairbridgian, Jim Reid—in his old cottage—below and at the Memorial Cairn—right.



DOOT
LAWSON
ON THIS 1500 ACRE FAIRBRIDGE FARM, FROM 1938 TO 1973, SOME 1200 BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN BOYS AND GIRLS WERE BROUGHT UP TO LOVE THE COUNTRY, AND TO LEARN COUNTRY SKILLS AND WAYS, IN KEEPING WITH IDEALS OF KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE, FOUNDER OF THE FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOLS OF AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

Home Children

Issued on the occasion of the
Year of the British Home Child.

The Home Children Stamp and Envelope

Did everyone get an opportunity to go to their local Canadian Post Office and pick up a Home Child Stamp? If not, they may still be available—you need to ask for them as they are kept under the counter or in a drawer.

Let's Keep the Gazette going.

I am in the process of putting together a complete package of Fairbridge Gazettes to include on the new website (www.fairbridgecanada.com)

To date I have copies of the following in the first 3 columns: (*With special thanks to Tich Harding, Molly Harris, Eunice Nicholls, Marjorie Skidmore, Ron Smith and others.*)

Fairbridge Gazettes that I have copies of:

Christmas 2010
Spring 2010
Christmas 2009
Summer 2009
Spring 2009
Christmas 2008
Summer 2008
Spring 2008
Christmas 2007
2007 Special Reunion Issue
Summer 2007
Spring 2007
Christmas 2006
Summer 2006
Spring 2006
Christmas 2005
Fall 2005
Spring 2005
Christmas 2004
Fall 2004
Spring 2004
Christmas 2003
Summer 2003
Spring 2003
Christmas 2002
Summer 2002
Spring 2002
Christmas 2001
Summer 2001

Spring 2001
Christmas 2000
Summer 2000
Spring 2000
Christmas 1999
Summer 1999
February 1999
December 1998
Vol. 98 Issue 1
Christmas 1997
Fall 1997
June 1997
Spring 1997
Christmas 1996
Summer 1996
Spring 1996
Christmas 1995
Spring 1995
Christmas 1994
Summer 1994
March 1994
Christmas 1993
Reunion 1993
June 1993
March 1993
Christmas 1992
September 1992
July 1992
April 1992
December 1991
June 1991

March 1991
October 1990
July 1990
April 1990
December 1989
July 1989
May 1989
February 1989
September 1988
May 1988
May 1987
March 1987
Fall 1986
July 1986
March 1986
November 1985
July 1985
May 1985
December 1984
August 1984
December 1983
Reunion 1983
February 1983
June 1942
Spring 1945
Summer 1946
Autumn 1946
Christmas Issue 1947

Fairbridge Gazettes: housed at the BC Archives

Gazettes 1950-54
Memorial Issue 1948
Christmas Issue 1947
First Party issue 1947
Old Fairbridgian Issue, 1947
Autumn 1946
Summer 1946
Christmas 1945
Fall 1945
Spring, 1945
Autumn 1944
Summer 1944
January 1944
December 1943
July, 1943
February 1943
November 1942
September 1942
July 1941
July 1941
April 1941
January 1941
August 1940
December 1939
August 1939
July 1939
May 1939
March 1939
February 1939

Does anyone have any issues not listed here that I can get copies of, especially from the early years—1939-1954? The BC Archives has copies of the earlier issues—but they are difficult to obtain, plus they charge a fee and come with restrictions about publishing them.

Pat Skidmore (patskidmore@shaw.ca)

FAIRBRIDGE CANADA ASSOCIATION ACTIVE PAID UP MEMBERS

Our Treasurer has asked me to include the list of Active Paid Up Members.

With rising printing and mailing costs, we are in danger of not being able to produce the *Fairbridge Gazette*. Please ensure your Fairbridge Canada Association Membership is up to date.

If you are receiving the Gazette and you do not have a membership and you can afford to pay—please send you fees to **Barry Hagen, FCA Treasurer**, 5549 Clipper Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 5M7

These members are paid up until December 2011

Armstrong, Ken
Bulcock, Fred
Fairbridge, Stephen
Gray, Clement
Hancock, Ronald
MacKay, Roddy
Millman, Dennis
Preece, Mollie
Sandwith, Sheila
(Hendrickson)
Wallace, Ellinor

These members are paid up until December 2010

Ayer, John
Bennett, John
Bishop, Fred
Blackmore, Thomas
Blake, Stanley
Bordeleau, Nancy
Brown, Pam (Morrison)
Bulcock, Jeff
Carver, Jessie (Newbold)
Ceriko, Grace
Cockburn, William
Collins, Frank
Conlon, Jean (Hanson)

Conlon, Margaret
Conlon, Shirley
Crellin, Brenda (Clarke)
Danks, Frank
Darrell, Michael
Dean, Lily (Clabby)
Dewhirst, Gordon
Duffy, Ellen
Emmerson, William (Robert)
Fenton, Joe
Field, Phillip
Frazer, Kerry
Friends of Fintry
Glentworth, Cyprian
Goldie, May (Bean)
Hagen, Barry (Sutton)
Hagen, Doreen
Hanson, Alfred (Ian)
Harding, Fred
Hardy, John
Harmer, Dennis
Harris, James
Harris, Molly (White)
Hewitt, Andrew
Hocking, Robert
Hodge, Ernie
Hughes, Alfred
Isherwood, Tom
Kent, Cheryl

Lisle, Tom
Martin, Joan (Vallentin)
Montgomery, Georgina
Myhill, Roy
Naylor, Agnes (Duffy)
Nelson, Edith (Phelps)
Nickolls, Eunice (Cockburn)
Phillips, Raymond
Price, Ronald
Reynolds, Pamela
Roberts, John
Sharp, Harry
Skidmore, Joan
Skidmore, Marjorie
(Arnison)
Skidmore, Pat
Smith, Rudy
Speed, Maureen
Speed, Richard
Stoker, William
Strawbridge, Brian
Taylor, Hugh
Todd, Ernest
Toms, Evelyn (Donelly)
West, Patricia
Westdorp, Rosemary
(Easton)
Wheeldon, Celina
Whittaker, Sybil

Classy Paper At Fairbridge

Worthy of note among school papers is the Fairbridge Gazette, organ of Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island near Duncan.

In a format of six lithographed pages The Gazette has a literary style worthy of many more ambitious publications, and offers a comprehensive coverage of recent events at the school. "Prince of Wales" is one of the world-wide "Fairbridge System" schools, giving pupils an intensive grounding in practical agriculture and farming.

Visitors to the school in April include such prominent names as His Excellency the Earl of Athlone, governor general of Canada; Her Royal Highness Princess Alice; Lady May Abel-Smith; Sir Howard d'Egville, secretary of British Parliamentary Association; Howard Ferguson, former Ontario premier; T. W. F. Norton of Toronto.

"Reporters" to the April edition include Jessie Newbold, J. Moore, R. Anderson, Jock Bennett, Eddie Phillips, Oliver Turner, and issues carry many letters and notes from past members of the school.

This newspaper article is from the Vancouver Sun, dated Tuesday, May 20, 1941. (page 8)



EN ROUTE—ACROSS CANADA.

*Photo found at the Birmingham Archives
Does anyone recognize the children?*

Having an up-to-date FCA Membership means you are helping to keep the FCA and its programs alive. It also gives you voting privileges at the Biannual General Election in September 2011.

COME OUT TO THE 2011 REUNION!

If anyone's name is not here and should be—please contact Barry Hagen. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the Gazette, contact Pat Skidmore. (see contact details on page 3 For Barry and Pat.)

Please respond to Pat Skidmore (patskidmore@shaw.ca) if you are able to access your Gazette on the new Fairbridge Website at: www.fairbridgecanada.com.

WANTED COLUMN

Ken Armstrong is looking for an old friend: Can anyone help? I wonder if you would put in the gazette that I am looking for a former friend, but not an OF. If someone had the time to do a search for me at Births, Death & Marriages for a Helen Bumstead born if I remember August 1933. She will be long married so the

name would change. I would like to get as much info as possible about her and If the cost is not too great I would reimburse for any cost if I knew in advance. I would like her married name and an email address if that is possible. Ken Armstrong [ken.34@bigpond.com]

Former Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Principal's Son Has a Request...

Old Fairbridgians may be interested to know that Will, one of Bill Garnett's sons, has suddenly appeared out of the woodwork! He's the second of Bill's 4 sons, born in Duncan in Nov 47, and he's given himself the task/pleasure of trying to write the book of Bill's life. Briefly, Bill was born to rich parents who had interests in the cotton business in North Lancashire. His father lost all his money in the 1926 crash and Bill was taken out of his private boarding school and sent to work (for 14 hours a day) on a farm in Ontario. Will has a photo of him 'scuffling potatoes' with a plough pulled by a dog team! From there he went to Guelph Agricultural College, got a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford Univ, back to Winnipeg to work for the Hudson Bay Co., Fairbridge from 1938, Canadian Navy in the War, back to Fairbridge till 49, and ended up as the Head of the School of Agriculture in Norfolk, England. He died in 1998 aged 89. So there's a lot to cover in the book - and he wants to do the job properly!

He writes:

'I was down in Liverpool on Tuesday looking at papers in the Research Archives - mainly letters from Bill to the London HQ of Fairbridge - but happened on the last 2 editions of your Old Fairbridgian Newsletter, including your own article talking of the 329 individual stories. I absolutely agree with you on that. In a way, I think what I'm hoping to achieve in the section of my book on Bill's time at Fairbridge is to add one extra story - what motivated Bill to want to join the school; what made him (and others) believe in Fairbridge's philosophy etc. From this distance (geographically and in time) I cannot possibly comment on what it was like for OF's at the Prince of Wales - except in the most general terms; and I am glad you and others are telling those stories. I am

very keen to hear/read as many of the stories as possible. I have my father's letters and therefore his perspective on events; but that's only one part of the story. And reading the books already published on the various Fairbridge schools, there seems to be very little on the P of Wales, Cowichan.

What I am working towards, in a rather long-winded way(!), is whether it would be possible for me to be allowed to join the Old Fairbridgians in some sort of way, so that I could read any of the stories that are printed and improve my understanding. I know my father used to get the Newsletter sent to him, because he kept them and I've got them sitting in a file upstairs, together with letters from OF's, which he used to love getting. I would, if possible, like to resurrect that contact between the school and the Garnett family.'

Will Garnett
80 Appleby Rd, Kendal,
Cumbria, LA9 6HF, UK
will_garnett@hotmail.com



Will Garnett sent in several photos, which I will scan in and include in future Gazettes and also on the new website.

*Does anyone recognize these two Fairbridge Boys below or the boy at Fintry above?
Photos Courtesy of Will Garnett*



Dear Pat,
 Thank you for the Spring Fairbridge Gazette. The front page photo is of interest to me, as Hugh Taylor, Peter Mein & Peter Bennett were put into Birmingham Hospital with ear problems at the same time, [see attachment bottom of page] maybe Nurse Hill would have known why. My sister Marie was listed for Canada in 1938, she failed the medical



The November 8, 1941 Party
 See front page of the Spring 2010 Gazette.
 Photo Courtesy of Hugh Taylor

check because she required tonsil removal. She was then listed for Pinjarra W. A. in 1939. The Suez Canal was closed due to the war, so they said they will hold her until I turned 6 years old in 1940 & then she could go to Molong N.S.W. with me via Canada. I often wonder if she had not failed the medical would we ever meet again?

I recall the Air Raid drill at Middlemore. We had to take a blanket off the bed, pick up a gas mask & run out to & down into the Air Raid shelters. The staff were to check that all children were gone before they left. When we got back two boys were still in bed.

My memories of the years at Middlemore are not good. I had a long history of sickness & admissions to hospital.

The photo on the rear page, the November 1938 Group, the man who brought the party to Canada, I believe is Mr. K.F.S. Woods. Ernie Hodge could probably confirm this. Mr Woods was assistant Principle from 1939 - 1942 & Principle from 1942-1966 at Fairbridge Molong. He did



November 1938 Group aboard the Duchess of Bedford. Photo courtesy of Ernie Hodge

bring a small party of boys to Molong in 1939. His term at Fairbridge has been the subject of many different opinions, and written in a number of books, (The Forgotten Children, by David Hill; The Long Way Home, by Ronnie Sabin, both ex Fairbridgians.) I remember him as a very good man who devoted most of his life to the development & welfare of children. I attended the School 1940 -1951 there were many good & very bad staff as in all institutions. In my early years at Fairbridge, I had health problems, bleeding chilblains on hands & feet without shoes or sufficient warm clothing. Molong can be very cold with heavy frosts in winter.

I was admitted to the Molong hospital on two occasions suffering from pneumonia. It wasn't until I reached my teens that I was able to compete with other boys of my own age. Life for me did get better especially

when the new party of children arrived after the war in 1947, because I was suddenly one of the big kids or seniors. I was made leave school at 14 years & 7 months to become a trainee. Children leaving school early & a shortage of school teachers during the war left a big whole in our education, the isolation from public schools & social activity made life very difficult to communicate, after leaving Fairbridge. Saddest thing I found in life after leaving Fairbridge is having no Identity, no family background, no family medical history, not even a birth certificate. A very poor introduction to the outside world.

Kindest Regards,
 Peter Bennett.

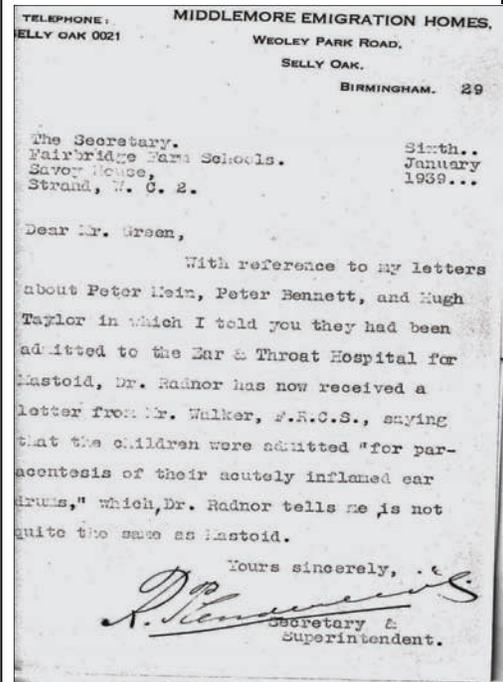


Photo found at the Birmingham Archives



Fairbridgians who passed away
Our sympathy to the families.

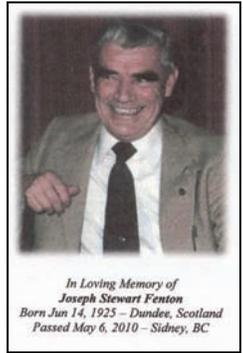
services, in Victoria. Joe came to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the sixth group arriving on August 23, 1938.

Bob Harris—Molly [White] Harris' husband, passed away on May 27, 2010 with cardiac complications. Molly wanted it known that Bob was supportive of her work for Fairbridge while she was treasurer and recording secretary.

Dorothy Lee Bulcock, age 96, passed away June 12, 2010.

Katherine [Taylor] Howard died July 29, 2010 (born June 11, 1924): Kate arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the third group on November 6, 1936. She married Ranald Howard and they settled in Ontario where they raised their son and daughter.

Keith Pritchard: passed away on August 24, 2010. Keith arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the very first group on September 25, 1935.



PRITCHARD, Captain Keith
 September 13, 1930 - August 24, 2010

After a courageous battle with cancer, it is with deepest sadness that we announce the passing of our dear husband and father. Keith will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of 50 years Patricia (Lisle) and sons Thomas (Kim), Robert (Evelyn), Robin (Marion) and grandchildren Travis, Trevor, Kyle and Jared. He also leaves to mourn nieces and nephews especially Allan (Barbara) Liska. Born in England, Keith spent his early years at Fairbridge Farm School in Duncan after which he embarked on a lengthy Master Mariner career retiring from Seaspain in 1995. A hi-light of Keith's career included skippering on the North Sea pipeline. Always enjoying an active lifestyle which involved many physical activities, Keith was happiest when working on a project or spending time with family and friends at their cottage in Youbou, Lake Cowichan. Special thanks to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Palliative Care Unit doctors, nurses, and volunteer staff.

At Keith's request only a private celebration of his life will be held. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Palliative Care Unit.

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NAYLOR, Agnes
 May 18, 1930 - Oct. 7, 2010

It is with considerable sadness and regret, that we announce the passing of Agnes Naylor, after a courageous and dignified battle with the scourge that is cancer. Left to grieve her passing is her husband of 60 years, Glenn and her sons Rob (Lori), Bill (Kim), Mike (Donal), and daughter, Sue (Bryen). She also leaves her grandchildren Hayden, Roshene, Katie, Meg, Dani, Raymond, Matt, and Liam, and her great grandchild, Heleena Rose, and her four sisters, Ellen (Art), Kay (Jim), Marge (Eric), and Doreen (Jim).

Aggie was born in Walls End, Newcastle, England and was sent to Canada as a five year old girl, along with four of her siblings, in the hopes of a better life. She was raised on a working farm outside of Duncan, BC, (Fairbridge Farm), and moved to Qualicum to marry Glenn in 1950. Together they raised their family in Qualicum and Parksville.

She was passionate about and fiercely protective of her family and considered them to be her life's work. She faced her illness head on and without complaint or self-pity, her final unselfish act to us all. Your work is done, Mom. It's up to us now.

A small and beautiful family gathering was held to celebrate and honor her life.

If you wish to remember Aggie with a contribution to the Canadian Cancer Society.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

The five Duffy children, sisters, Agnes, Ellen, Kathleen and Mary and their brother Joseph, arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the second group on October 22, 1936.

*Agnes, Ellen and Kathleen
 Photo sent by Ellen Duffy*



Aggie Naylor (Agnes Duffy) passed away on October 7, 2010—she is sadly missed by her family.

Fairbridge Chapel News
Fall 2010

The Fairbridge Chapel web site has been up and operating for the past four months and a number of people have provided feedback regarding its set-up and content. Improvements to the photo gallery will be made over the next couple of months. Work is now underway on the Fairbridge Canada Association site and it should be operational by the end of the year. We will post information about this site on our Bulletin site.

The Annual Fairbridge Carols event will be held on

Sunday, November 28th at 2p.m. Everyone is welcome. **Encore!** a women's choir, under the direction of Christine Dandy will be the special guests this year. Refreshments and pastries will be available.

The Society was informed at the end of October that we were not successful in securing the Farm Credit Canada grant to upgrade the school house. They are keeping our application on file for another year and if agreed to by the Board of Directors a letter will be send asking them to review our submission once again in 2011. In the meantime the Society will undertake more detailed preliminary cost estimates for interior improvements. Some



Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society News

A Special THANK YOU to all those who made Donations to FABS.

- Jock & Gayle Bennett
- Olive Brown
- Jean Conon
- Doreen & Barry Hagen
- Roddy Mackay
- Berenice Speed
- Maureen Speed
- Fairbridge Canada Ass

Thank you

FABS has given out 125 Bursaries since 1992 —

totalling \$39,440.00

2010 Executive Members:
Pat Skidmore: President
Bill Cockburn: Treasurer

Directors:
Doreen Hagen
John Hardy
Eric Lewis
Roddy Mackay
Theresa Shelley
Joan Skidmore



We had three successful applicants this year.

- Kim Ayers
- Christine Brown
- Brittany Williams

All the best in your studies



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

Photo courtesy of Ken Armstrong



Con't from p. 18

of the work proposed included putting down a new floor, installing a new rear door, having school desks and benches made and plumbing the building. It could cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000 to complete the project. In the end we

are hoping the school house can be used by the wider Cowichan Station-Fairbridge community including primary grade children for field trips to the area. The Cowichan Valley Museum have offered their assistance to establish a school program.

At this time the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society would like to thank all our valued supporters for their much appreciated assistance throughout the year. It is only through your support that we are able to maintain the heritage site which is appreciated by all. We would like to mention that we are a registered society and as such we can provide federal tax receipts for donations.

Ron Smith
Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society
4791 Fairbridge Drive,
Duncan, B.C. V9L 6N9
Our Web Site: www.fairbridgechapel.com



Photo courtesy of Will Garnet

Fairbridge Gazette

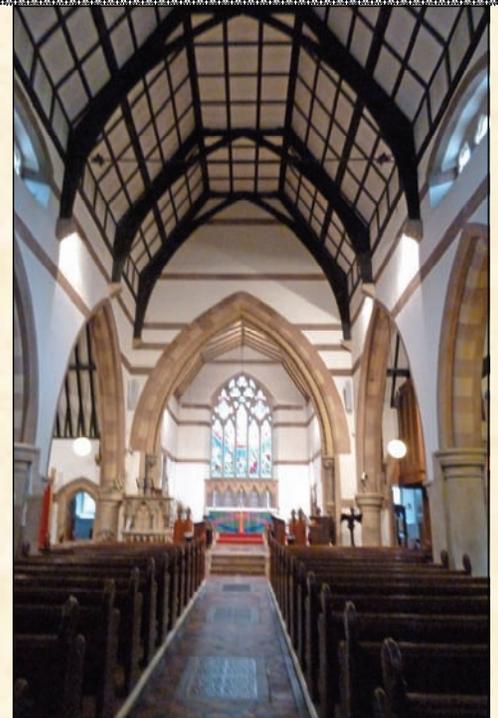
First published in 1939.



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Port Moody, BC
Canada V3H 0A1

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St. Mary's Church, right, is the church the children attended while housed at the Middlemore Homes, Selly Oak, Birmingham, England (2010) *Pat Skidmore photos*



The original Middlemore Homes at 157 St. Luke's Road, Birmingham, England (2010) *Pat Skidmore photo*



Princethorpe Junior—some of the children attended this school while at the Middlemore Homes, Selly Oak, Birmingham, England. Others attended the Ilmington Road School. Ilmington is no longer standing. (2010) *Pat Skidmore photo*

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 next issue is:

March 15, 2011

Send them via snail mail:

Pat Skidmore, Editor
Fairbridge Gazette
#1101—651 Nootka Way,
Port Moody, BC V3H 0A1
Or email:
patskidmore@shaw.ca



Do you have any Fairbridge stories to share? Send them in to the Gazette.

Look for 2011 Reunion News in your

Next Gazette: Spring 2011

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 to the *Around Town* column.

Fairbridge Canada Association 2011 Membership Form

Make a note to attend the 2011 FCA Reunion:

September 16, 17 & 18.

See page 4 of the Christmas 2010 Gazette for details and watch for updates in the Spring 2011 Gazette.



Enclosed are my fees for the Fairbridge Canada Association at \$30.00 for the 2011 calendar year.

Name _____
(please print)

Address _____

(postal code)

Telephone: (_____) _____ Email _____
(area code)

Amount enclosed: _____

Forward to: Barry Hagen, Treasurer, Fairbridge Canada Association,
5549 Clipper Drive, Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 5M7 (Tel) 250-751-2086 (Email) dbhagen@shaw.ca

The Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Fees

What do you get with a \$30.00 Fairbridge Canada Association membership?

1. A year long membership in the FCA—which gives you voting privileges at the BGM. **COME OUT AND HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE 2011 BGM AT THE SEPTEMBER REUNION. WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND YOUR VOTE IS VALUABLE.**
2. The Fairbridge Gazette.
3. A membership in the Fairbridge Chapel Society (\$10.00 goes towards the upkeep of the Chapel)
4. A membership in the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society (\$5.00 goes towards growing the principal for the Bursary Fund)

Forward your membership dues to: *Barry Hagen, Treasurer, Fairbridge Canada Association, 5549 Clipper Drive, Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 5M7 (Telephone: 250--751-2086)*