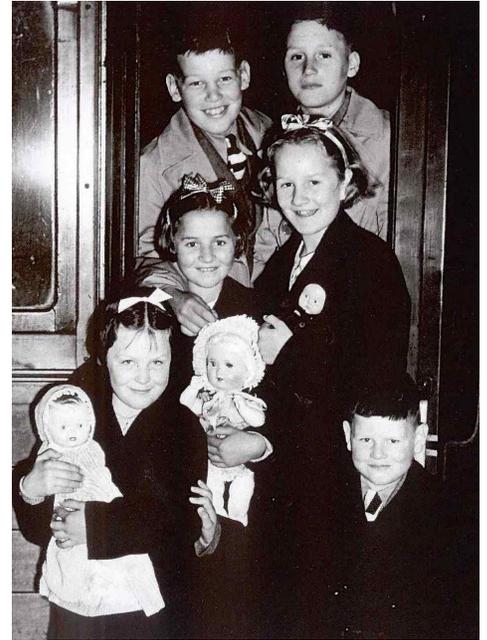


FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE



The Final Six of 329 Children Arriving in Vancouver, May 25, 1948.
Michael Pettit, Sidney Gillies, Hilda Smith, Rosemary Easton, Jean Hanson, Jim Hanson.

The Acting Agent-General, Mr. W. A. Mr. McAdam, Acting Agent-General for British Columbia, with Mr. Lumley and the first Canadian party. Photo taken at British Columbia House in London.

Benjamin Alsop, James Alsop, Norman Alsop, Peggy Auton, Ronald Auton, Daniel Brayfield, Henry Brayfield, Joan Buchan, Andrew Buglass, Florence Cowans, Ellen Dillon, Sarah Dillon, William Dowler, Lawrence Drake, Peter Forest, John Hunter, James Lally, Muriel Lister, Doreen Lister, Henry Lister, Irene Lister, Mathew MacDonald, John Monnington, Frank Morris, Mary Jane Morrison, Olive Morrison, Edith Phelps, Joyce Pritchard, Keith Pritchard, Mary Pritchard, Hal Skelton, Leslie Snaith, Richard Speed, Thomas Speed, Edward Spencer, Ernest Todd, Francis Todd, Richard Todd, Edmund Walton, Robert Warnock, Molly White.

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September 2015 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

1935: Framework of the first cottage for the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.





Roddy Mackay: President's Message

It's that time of year again and I personally am wondering about that old myth that "life slows down when one arrives in those so-called Golden Years?" I feel like I am on the German autobahn driving 100 miles an hour and drivers are still flying by me.

That's how time goes by these days: a year speeds by like a month. Pat is anxiously waiting for my "two cents" so here goes. To all I have talked to, we had another bang up fun-filled very enjoyable reunion. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with all that attended.

Word from our Chapel "Angel," Ron Smith, is that our old-school site had a terrible wind storm on November 6th and thanks should go to all the strata community volunteers, organized by Lyle Braithwaite of our strata community, to clean up the area around the Chapel. About 12 of the strata group spent a good 6 or 7 hours cleaning up the place. The Strata is also hosting the Fairbridge Carols event on Saturday, December 13th at 2 pm. Everyone is invited. Please join me in thanking Ron and the strata committee. An excellent way to thank them would be send a donation to the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Committee – you can find their address on page 5.

Where we (the committee) were naturally concerned about our numbers for the September 2014 Reunion, we actually exceeded the previous reunion. Thanks, to all our members who could attend the reunion. Particularly family groups, i.e. the Arnisons, the Dobson Family (10), the McIver's and Mick Nevard and his Grandson Andrew, these last two families travelled all the way from the U.K. Our Annual General Meeting was well attended: we had 2nd generation Fairbridgians volunteering, (with much enthusiasm) to serve on the Board. This I see as real hope towards keeping our Fairbridge Canada Association alive and well. Please welcome the new 2015 F.C.A Board members, they are noted on the bottom of this page.

Much as I hate to admit it, we are aging and our health may not be what it was in our younger days. These and other factors make it difficult for many members to attend the reunions. The other day I took the time to phone one of my former shipmates (*Bayano 1941*) who lives in the eastern part of the U.S. He is 83 and like most of us, his family, daughters and son have long flown the coop. He lives all alone in his house. One of his daily pleasures is to wave at the neighbourhood children on their way to school. Happily for him, some of the kids stop by, i.e. the girl scouts selling their cookies. Likely he buys more cookies than he can eat. He was totally upbeat during our conversation, and I could tell he was a very positive man, not one complaint passed his lips. His only concern in the entire conversation (at least an hour) was, *had he paid his F.C.A. membership dues for 2015?* I hope he enjoyed that phone call. I certainly did. This small incident of reaching out to a mate touched me deeply. I think all of us need to do more of that. With Christmas fast approaching, please take a few minutes of your day to call one of your former Fairbridge schoolmates, maybe they have lost their wife, husband or like my friend living alone. It will mean so very much to them and yourself.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2015.

Cheers *Roddy*

Fairbridge Canada Association Board

President: Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.net

Vice President: John Hardy: jkhardy@shaw.ca

Treasurer: Ron Smith: rgwsmiths@hotmail.com

Secretary & Gazette Editor: Pat Skidmore: pjs@telus.net

**FCA Fees of \$30.00 per year
are due in January of each year.**

Membership forms can be found
with this Gazette and on the

FCA website at:

<http://fairbridgecanada.com>

FCA Directors:

Christine Brookshaw

Ray Field

Roy Myhill

New Directors

Christina Dobson

Cheryl Kent

Steve Turnbull

Pat Skidmore - Editor's Notes:

Roddy Mackay is seen here presenting me with this lovely cut glass plaque at the September 2014 Reunion Banquet. I would like to thank the FCA Board for this honor – I will treasure it!

The 2014 Reunion was well attended and altogether an enjoyable weekend – so I give a big thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Reunion Committee: John Hardy, Ron Smith and Roddy Mackay.



Look for Roy Myhill's story about his trip to England under the Family Restoration Fund in the Spring 2015 Gazette.



Look for 2015 Reunion Details in the Spring Gazette and on the FCA website: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/>.

Tentative dates: September 11-12, OR 18-19, 2015. WE WILL POST THE DATES AS SOON AS THEY ARE FINALIZED.

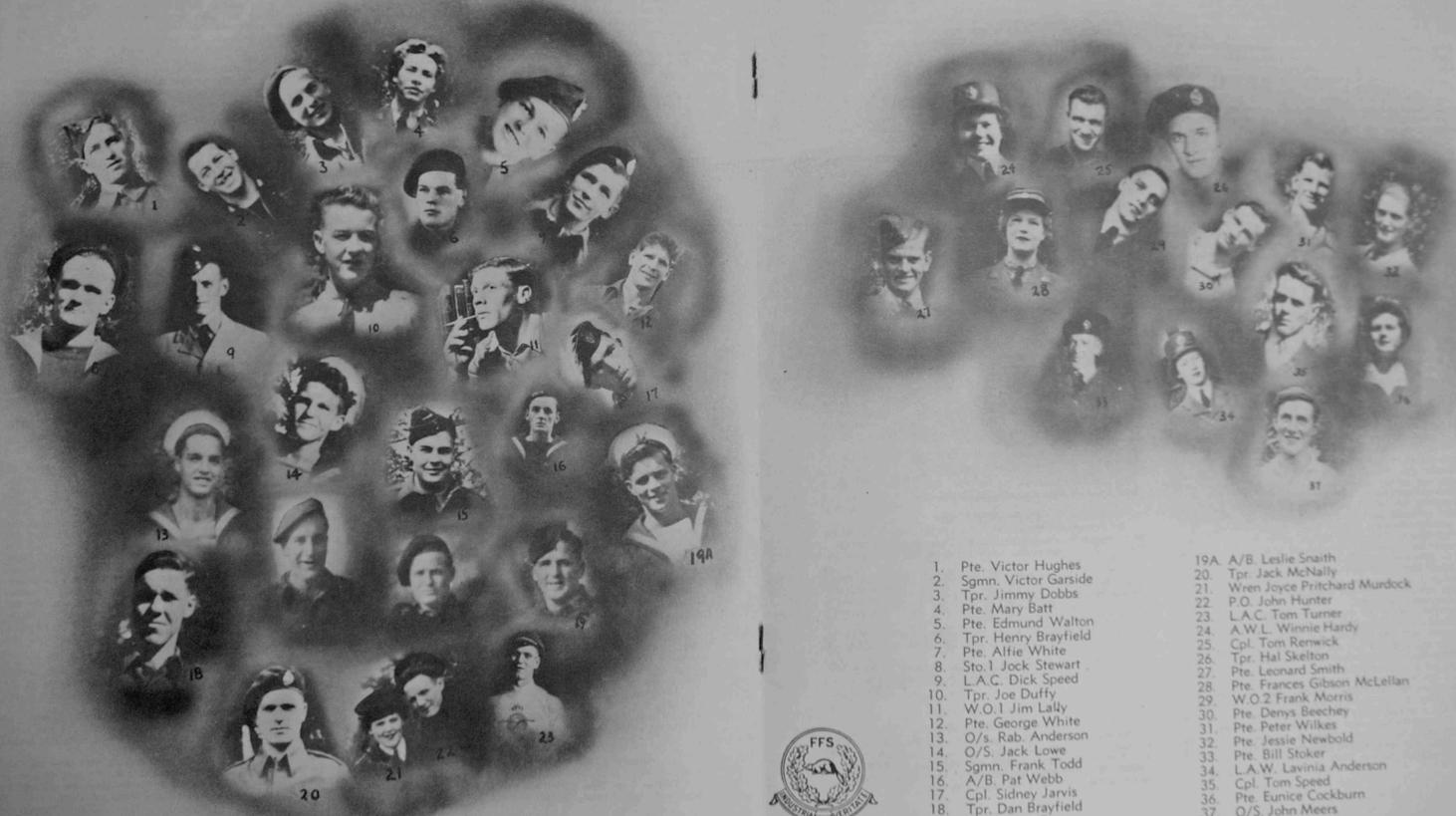
It is the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

Share with us what your Fairbridge Experience was like or your early memories of England, your trip to Canada or *what did you do* after leaving the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School? Ron Smith is collecting the names of those Fairbridge men and women who served Canada after the war. See page 6 for details. Please send in names to include on the new plaque.

This page below from is the February 1943 Fairbridge Gazette, page 7.

FAIRBRIDGIANS

Serving with the Armed Forces



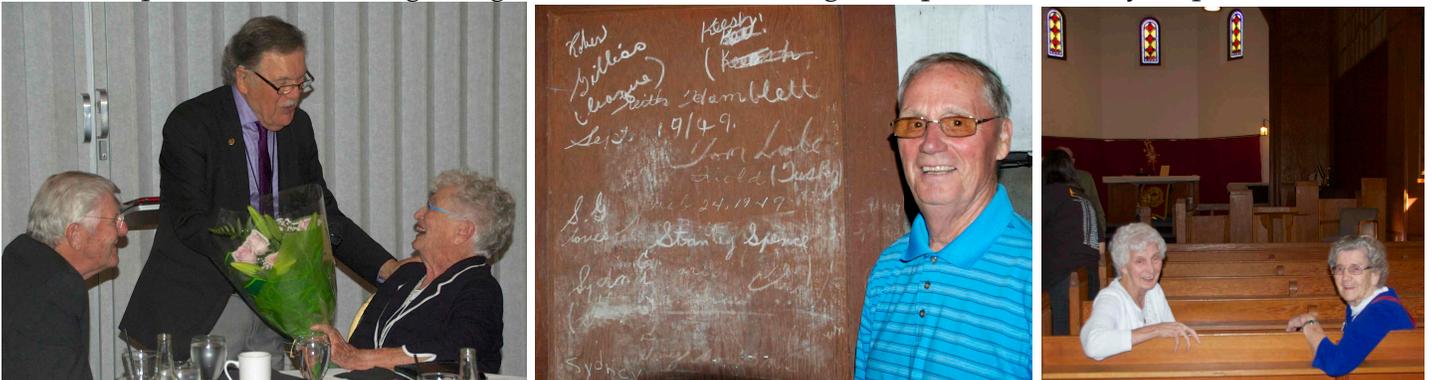
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Pte. Victor Hughes | 19A. A/B. Leslie Snaith |
| 2. Sgmn. Victor Garside | 20. Tpr. Jack McNally |
| 3. Tpr. Jimmy Dobbs | 21. Wren Joyce Pritchard Murdock |
| 4. Pte. Mary Batt | 22. P.O. John Hunter |
| 5. Pte. Edmund Walton | 23. L.A.C. Tom Turner |
| 6. Tpr. Henry Brayfield | 24. A.W.L. Winnie Hardy |
| 7. Pte. Alfie White | 25. Cpl. Tom Renwick |
| 8. Sto. Jock Stewart | 26. Tpr. Hal Skelton |
| 9. L.A.C. Dick Speed | 27. Pte. Leonard Smith |
| 10. Tpr. Joe Duffy | 28. Pte. Frances Gibson McLellan |
| 11. W.O.1 Jim Lally | 29. W.O.2 Frank Morris |
| 12. Pte. George White | 30. Pte. Denis Beechey |
| 13. O/s. Rab. Anderson | 31. Pte. Peter Wilkes |
| 14. O/S. Jack Lowe | 32. Pte. Jessie Newbold |
| 15. Sgmn. Frank Todd | 33. Pte. Bill Stoker |
| 16. A/B. Pat Webb | 34. L.A.W. Lavinia Anderson |
| 17. Cpl. Sidney Jarvis | 35. Cpl. Tom Speed |
| 18. Tpr. Dan Brayfield | 36. Pte. Eunice Cockburn |
| 19. Pte. Laurie Drape | 37. O/S. John Meers |



Reunion 2014 Recap



The Group of FCA Reunion goes gathered at the Fairbridge Chapel on Saturday, September 20, 2014



1) (Left) Michael Nevard, (aka Pownell - he travelled over from England for the reunion) looks on as Roddy Mackay presents Mimi Nichols – the guest of honour and a former Fairbridge teacher, with a lovely bouquet of flowers. 2) Robert Gillies in the basement of the Chapel – his name, written in chalk in the 1940s, is still visible on the walls today. 3) The Arnison Sisters (Audrey aka Bunny, (Duncan) Lewis & Marjorie Skidmore) sitting at their former pews in the Chapel.



1) Speed family: daughter, Caroline Pope, Dick & wife Berenice. 2) Frank Collins & Mike McIver (Mike, his wife Clare, his daughter Christine Brookshaw & grandson Luke McIver, travelled over from England for the reunion) 3) The Banquet



1) Awards were given out: Roddy Mackay presenting Ron Smith with an award. 2) The microphone was open for sharing Fairbridge Stories. May Bean, seen here told some very entertaining tales. 3) The Band with Ray Phillips, entertained us all. 4) And here dancing to the band is Christine Brookshaw (Mike McIver's daughter) and John Hardy.

Chapel News

Winter 2014

Ron Smith

Just prior to the Fairbridge Canada Association reunion we were able to undertake some repairs to three of the five damaged Chapel doors. Ron Price, one of our Directors, largely undertook this work. These doors were vandalized sometime in the spring. The locks on the four doors were destroyed, and as well, the wood chute door in the basement was kicked in. The locks on three doors were replaced and one door had to be totally rebuilt. The wood chute and the other double door at the west end of the Chapel will be repaired sometime in the spring of 2015. In addition, Ron also rebuilt the porch railing around the entrance to the vestry.

In the fall some painting around the windows was also done but there is more to do in the spring. We also need to clean the moss of the back of the chapel roof and clean more of the gutters including the one on the clock tower.

On November 6th a very intense windstorm hit Fairbridge. Gusts of over 90 kilometres an hour hit the community and carried on for about 8 hours. One home was badly damaged as a huge Cottonwood tree went through the roof and garage while another home had a large cedar branch go through the sun deck and their parked car. Two large Douglas firs came down to the west of the Chapel, landing within a few metres of the building. While there was no damage this time we are very concerned about the tall firs at the rear of the Chapel that are on the strata property. It may be time to do some major logging in selected areas around the community. Long time residents of Fairbridge believe this was the most severe storm to ever hit the area.

The Fairbridge Carols are planned for Saturday December 13th 2014 at 2 p.m.

Guest musicians and vocalists are Cari Burdett and Sara Marreiros.

In addition the Fairbridge Children's chorus will be singing.

Fairbridge Chapel

For more Chapel news and updates, please see the website: <http://www.fairbridgechapel.com>.
New pictures and stories are always being added.

Send Fairbridge Chapel DONATIONS to:
Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society
4791 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC V9L 6N9
Include a return address for your income tax receipt.

Fairbridge Farm School Bursary News

Donations to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary can now be made directly to the Vancouver Foundation. Make cheques out to the Vancouver Foundation and include the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary in the memo line. Send to:

Stacie Graham, Coordinator, Development & Donor Services
Re: The Fairbridge Farm School Bursary
Suite 200 - 475 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 4M9
stacie.graham@vancouverfoundation.ca
T. 604.688.2204 D. 604.629.2725 | <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca>

Or you can still send donations c/o:
Pat Skidmore, 174 April Road, Port Moody, BC, V3H 3M7
Make cheques out to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary

Thank you to Gayle Bennett for a donation to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary in Jock Bennett's Memory.

The FCA is looking for Fairbridgians who served in the Canadian Forces after 1945

The FCA Board is working on compiling a list of those Fairbridgians who joined the Canadian Forces from 1945 and on. A plaque with names of those who served during WWII is on display in the Chapel and the Board would like to include a plaque for those who served after 1945. Please send in your names to Ron Smith or Pat Skidmore.



Above – the cross country racers pass by the Chapel

Britain's Family Restoration Fund has been extended to 2017.

For more information see the Child Migrant's Trust Website:

<http://www.childmigrantstrust.com/services/family-restoration-fund>

New Scroll for the Fairbridge Chapel

Ron Smith

As many of you are aware, there is a scroll listing all Fairbridgians and staff members who served in World War II. There are 82 members from the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School and 11 staff members listed. This includes 18 that were in the Merchant Navy.

In May, 1947 Lt.-Col Cecil Merritt, V.C. M.P. for Vancouver paid a tribute to the farm school and mentioned that "95 per cent of the eligible boys and 36 per cent of the eligible girls had volunteered for war service." This was the highest percentage for *any* community in Canada.

At the present time the Fairbridge Canada Association would like to add a new scroll to hang beside the present one. This would include all the Fairbridgians that joined the armed forces after 1945. At this time we have 13 names as listed below but we are certain there are others that should be included. If you could let us know of others it would be greatly appreciated.

Kenneth Dobbs	Danny Dobson	Eugene Field	Phillip Field
Louis Field	Leon Field	Raphael Field	Roddy Mackay
Tommy Meers	Leon Mendoza	John Rutherford	Hugh Taylor
Ken Turner			

As a note of interest, the present scroll was designed by A.J. Casson, a member of the Group of Seven.

Those Who Passed



Kenneth Edward TURNBULL, July 15, 1930 - June 29, 2014. Kenneth Edward Turnbull, known to his friends as Kenny, passed away peacefully June 29, 2014. He is predeceased by his first wife Jean Katherine Turnbull (nee Mortimer) and survived by his two children Steven Kenneth (Wendy) and Linda Howey (nee Turnbull) (Shaun). He was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Ken came to BC as a child migrant with the Fairbridge Society and grew up at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School in Duncan, Vancouver Island. After a time in the Royal Canadian Air Force, mostly overseas, Kenny lived the rest of his life in BC and felt blessed to do so.



Catherine Jean (Hanson) CONLON. Born: District of Reigate, County of Surrey, England. Jean passed away peacefully on the beautiful sunny afternoon of November 13, 2014 in Parksville, British Columbia, after an amazing journey and courageous battle with cancer. Jean is predeceased by her husband Patrick. Jean spoke of a very vibrant and fulfilling life. She was a witness to many historical events and changes in our world throughout her years, facing all life had to offer with dignity and respect. Her warmth, beauty, and giving spirit has blessed all who knew her, we shall all have everlasting memories to treasure. In keeping with Jean's expressed request, in lieu of flowers, please honour her memory by making a donation to a local charity. To send a condolence to the family please visit Yates Funeral Service & Crematorium: www.yatesfuneral.ca

Jenny (Mein) FINNILA (1928 - 2014) passed away peacefully. She was predeceased by her husband Paul and is survived by her three loving daughters Darleen, Wendy, Linda and family. No service by request. Published in The Times Colonist on Sept. 9, 2014.

The drawing of the Chapel won Andy Anderson the second prize for the Annual Christmas Card drawing competition. (Dec. 1939, Vol. 1 No. 6)

Children packing for the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School taken at the Fairbridge Hostel at Benington, England. Are these members of the May 1947 group, the Lisle and Frankish children and?



Fairbridge Canada Association 2015 Membership



Your FCA Membership entitles you to voting privileges
at the 2015 AGM. Come out and have your say.
Watch for the details of the 2015 Reunion in the
Spring and Summer 2015 Gazettes and on the
FCA Website: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/>

*Please send to: Ron Smith, FCA Treasurer, 4791 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan,
BC, V9L 6N9*
rgwsmiths@hotmail.com



Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Form 2015 Membership fee: \$30.00



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Please send to: Ron Smith, FCA Treasurer, 4791 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC, V9L 6N9
rgwsmiths@hotmail.com