

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

SPRING 2019



EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME FOR FORMER BRITISH CHILD MIGRANTS

Each eligible former child migrant will receive a payment of GBP £20,000.
See page 3 for details.



Glen Dobson: President's Message

Happy spring to all!

Over the past few years our membership has expressed dissatisfaction with the management of the Fairbridge Bursary in that Fairbridge offspring seemed to be ineligible to apply for funds. In part due to this, donations to the bursary by Fairbridgians have diminished. As a result, the Fairbridge Canada board has been working closely with the Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society Board to explore the options we have in making the bursaries available once again to Fairbridge offspring, while still protecting the bursary for future generation; this is the reason prior FABS board members got the Vancouver Foundation (VF) involved.

I am pleased to report that we will remain with the VF but that now we are able to allocate up to 75% of the available bursary interest money to Fairbridge offspring. Applications for bursaries are included with this edition of the Gazette.

Another development is that we have changed banks and payments for your annual memberships and donations to the bursary can now be made via email money transfer. Please contact the FCA and FABS Treasurer, Tony Cartey (tony@invicta.ca) for more information.

I hope most of you caught the CBC radio one program on Fairbridge in December 2018. This program is still available in the archives of CBC's "the Doc Project". The piece is called "There was no love."

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/docproject/there-was-no-love-child-migrants-sent-to-canada-as-young-as-7-still-asking-why-1.4930502>

One last item of note is that we have been contacted by the museum at Cowichan Station. They are creating a permanent Fairbridge display. If you have any memorabilia that you would like to donate or loan, please contact the museum. (Cowichan Valley Museum, Kathryn Gagnon, Curator/Manager, 130 Canada Ave, Duncan BC V9L 3P7, email: cvmuseum.archives@shaw.ca)

Thank you all

Glen Dobson

See page 6 for an important update on the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary

Family Restoration Fund is still available.

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

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

FCA Fees of \$30.00 per year

**REMINDER: memberships are due in
January of each year.**

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

Or you can contact FCA Treasurer Tony Cartey
email: tony@invicta.ca Ph: 604-762-2192
20900 45A Avenue, Langley BC V3A 3G5

or email Pat Skidmore for a form: patskidmore@shaw.ca

Fairbridge Canada Association Board 2019

President: Glen Dobson: kingdobber@me.com

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kitt1062@googlemail.com

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EX-GRATIA PAYMENT SCHEME FOR FORMER BRITISH CHILD MIGRANTS

Each eligible former child migrant will receive a payment of GBP £20,000.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Interim Report and its report on Child Migration Programmes were both published in Spring 2018.

The Inquiry recommended that the UK Government establish a financial redress scheme for surviving former British child migrants on the basis that they were exposed to the risk of sexual abuse.

On 19th December the Government published its response to the Inquiry. The response announced that the Government would establish an ex-gratia payment scheme for former British child migrants, in recognition of the fundamentally flawed nature of the historic child migration policy.

This note provides further detail of the payment scheme.

The payment is being made in recognition of the exceptional and specific nature of the historic Child Migration Policy. It is payable to all former British child migrants, regardless of whether they suffered abuse, in recognition of the fundamentally flawed nature of the historic Child Migration Programmes and in line with the recommendation in IICSA's report

The scheme is open to any former British child migrant **who was alive on 1 March 2018**, or the beneficiaries of any former child migrant who was alive on 1 March 2018 and has since passed away.

The ex-gratia payment will be payable to all applicants regardless of their individual circumstances, including the receipt of payments received from other Governments or through private legal action.

The claimant must have been a child migrant sent from the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

In addition, the claimant must have been sent by a church, state, voluntary or other organisation to one of the

receiving countries (Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Zimbabwe/former Rhodesia) and must not have been accompanied by an adult family member, or sent to live with a member of their birth family.

Each eligible former child migrant will receive a payment of GBP £20,000.

All applications will be handled by the Child Migrants Trust, who will support applicants in establishing their identity as former British child migrants, which will be necessary in order to receive a payment.

All payments will be administered by the NHS Business Services Authority. Only that information required to confirm the status and identity of the former child migrant and to make a payment will be required and personal information will be managed in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation

The Child Migrants Trust's information about former child migrants, gained in their work with individual former child migrants to establish their identity for the purposes of confirming their nationality, to make use of the Family Restoration Fund, to access other countries' redress schemes or for other statutory purpose will form the basis of proof of their eligibility for payment.

The ex-gratia payment scheme will cover the whole of the UK, regardless of the UK nation from which the former child migrant was sent.

The Child Migrants Trust will start accepting applications **from 1 March 2019** and the formal scheme will remain open for two years from its launch.

If you need advice about the Payment Scheme, please contact your nearest Child Migrants Trust office.

Ensure that the Child Migrants Trust has your up to date contact information.

Child Migrants Trust: <https://www.childmigrantstrust.com/>

CMT - UK

Child Migrants Trust
124 Musters Road, West Bridgford
Nottingham, U.K. NG2 7PW
Tel: (0115) 982 2811
International: +44 115 9822811

CMT - Australia

Child Migrants Trust Inc.
169 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn
Melbourne, Victoria 3122
Free phone: 1 800 04 05 09
Tel: (03) 9815 2022
International: +613 9815 2022

Child Migrants Trust Inc.
8 Sunbury Road
Victoria Park, Perth, WA 6100
Free phone: 1 800 04 05 09
Tel: (08) 9472 7582
International: +618 9472 7582

Have you ever been in touch with the Child Migrants Trust? Have you received a letter from the Child Migrants Trust recently? Have you ever accessed the Family Restoration Fund? If not the first thing to do - is register - bottom line on this page:

*<https://www.childmigrantstrust.com/> - says click **HERE** - it opens up a page where you can give his contact information - in the bottom box - **OTHER** - include his information - important to include his address, that he was sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island and the date - that you want to apply for the UK Payment Scheme Application Forms. They should respond pretty quickly - saying they will mail out the forms - as of this Gazette printing - the application forms have started to be mailed out.*

FIRST: register with the Child Migrants Trust.

Balsall Heath Local History Society

Birmingham, England

Middlemore Homes Project

My name is Barry Vincent Sutton, now known as Barry Vincent Hagen. I emigrated to Canada in May, 1947 to Fairbridge Farm School, Duncan, BC, Canada. I am now 79 years of age and seldom reflect upon the time that I was a young child at Middlemore Homes in Birmingham, England. I was in diapers when I arrived at Middlemore Homes, and left when I was eight years old to come to Canada.

However, some fleeting images and even questions remain. I remember:

- Showing off by hanging out of a second story window and being coaxed in by a nurse, who then turned on me like a tigress.

- The collective punishment we received when someone would not confess to a misdemeanor. I have been very sensitive to such tactics all my life in that not only are they ineffective, but they destroy the credibility of those administering the punishment. One result is that I tend to place menopausal women in a category somewhat lower than they deserve.

- The time at school, when I organized riots. At lunch time, when the students were outside in the play area eating their bagged lunches, my gang would pull off all the cover plates and man hole covers and then go to one side and yell and blow whistles. The students would panic and run. While trying to avoid the holes, the students would drop their lunches. We would follow behind and take these lunches and share them among ourselves. All went well until someone fell into one of the holes and broke a leg. I was hauled up to the Principal's office and accused of being the ring-leader. The Principal demanded to know why I was doing this. I gave him my Oliver Twist answer, 'Because we were hungry'. While I was in temporary custody at school, I was treated very well. The situation was very different when I was turned over to the Principal at Middlemore, a Mr. Plenderleathe, I believe. It ended by me being locked in an unlit closet, and I caused another riot by attempting to beat down the door. The outcome, I do not remember, but the unfair punishment has become ingrained in my mind forever.

- The collective baths, with five children with no regard to sex being placed in a tub. One day a faucet broke and scalded some children in another bathtub some distance away.

- The air raids toward the end of the war. There was considerable damage one half mile away along the main thoroughfare. My retrospective question is why we were never taken to an air raid shelter. The front of the building was sandbagged, but this does not provide protection from above. We were assembled in the lower levels of the building and I, tired/unperturbed, slept soundly throughout the raid.

- On our way to school, we often made contact with German POWS cooking on old oil drums. We used to bum toast and dripping. I assembled a fair collection of foreign currency. I don't remember what happened to it. We would laugh and joke with the young men. We certainly had a more pleasant relationship with them than we ever had with the nurses at Middlemore. There was no doubt in our minds who these men were and why they were there. Imagine my surprise that, after approximately 150 of us had been assembled and kept waiting for two or three hours, a man appeared on the stage, dressed in a long black coat, and proceeded to the lectern. (Dr. Strangelove without the accent or the tricky arm.) God only knows what his intent was, but his opening shot was, "You children should learn to hate the Germans!" I stood up, being all of six years old, and challenged him by saying, "You're wrong. The Germans we know are good people." He left, the people on the stage decamped, and I never heard any blowback.

- The time I lost my grip doing a back flip in a toilet stall, and my head hit the toilet bowl. I was stitched up, and all was fine until we had to be combed for lice. The comb caught in the stitches, and when reefed on by the nurse caused a predictable mess.

- The mass head shaving to get rid of lice. And the hat we got at the end of the line, one size fits all and mine did not fit. I lost it shortly thereafter.

When I was asked if I would prefer to go South Africa, Australia, New Zealand or Canada, my answer was immediately ``Canada``. I was told to come back the next morning, and we would discuss further.

Barry V. Hagen, July 26, 2018

Note: Barry Hagen's account of his trip to Canada can be found in the Spring 2006 Fairbridge Gazette, page 12-14

A tribute to my Grandpa: A life made for movie screens.

By Kathleen Smith

Published on: March 1, 2019

<https://www.goderichsignalstar.com/opinion/columnists/a-tribute-to-my-grandpa-a-life-made-for-movie-screens>

Turning 90 is a celebration of life that few will reach. My grandpa, Rudolph J. (Rudy) Smith, met that milestone on March 1, 2019.

It's hard for anyone to predict where life will take them. As a young child, Grandpa Rudy grew up in the seaside town of Brighton, England, and calling Canada home wasn't part of his life plan.



Left: My Grandpa Rudy around the age of 16 on Vancouver Island. Kathleen Smith / GS



My grandparents (and hockey rivals) Rudy and Jean, will be celebrating 63 years of marriage in June. Kathleen Smith / GS

Shipped to the English countryside during the bombings of London and southern England during WWII, young Rudy was eventually sent overseas to Canada at a tender age.

In a program designed to save the youth of England from relentless bombings by Nazis during WWII, many "war-children" were shipped off far from all they knew and loved.

After a year spent away from his hometown and his mother, my grandpa boarded a ship with only a suitcase in hand, with countless other children, to begin his new life in an unknown world, where no one waited for him on the other side.

A young Rudy spent more than a week on the ship, the Duchess of Bedford, travelling across the Atlantic. He was alone and unsure of what the future held for him. At the age of 11, my grandpa landed on Canadian soil in May, 1940.

It was then that Canada became home to my Grandpa, as he travelled further west to Fairbridge Farm School, on Vancouver Island.

It was in B.C. where my grandpa finally settled with other "war-children" at the Farm School. At Fairbridge, the children were educated, developed a hard work ethic, and had plenty of food – the only thing missing was tradition

and someone to tuck them in at night with a kiss on the forehead.

From there, my grandpa eventually enlisted in the Merchant Marines, where he took to the seas again and was provided the opportunity to travel the world. While travelling the seas, my Grandpa soaked up the sights, cultures and languages at every new dock.

He was able to deliver and pick up supplies as a Merchant Marine while stepping foot in places such as Ukraine, China, Japan, Cuba, Australia, London, and the Panama and Suez Canals, and other destinations.

Rudy eventually left the Merchant Marines and was employed in "Hammertown", by Stelco, where he worked hard for 40 years in the steel industry. He spent his career at Stelco working in the shipping department in the Cold Mill.

After travelling the world and beginning a career in Hamilton, it was at a dance in Dundas that Rudy met the love of his life – Jean (nee: Kennedy) a nurse originally from Nova Scotia, who was working in Buffalo. It was in Jean that he found tradition, love and a home, after years of making it on his own since the day he was sent out to the countryside as a young boy during WWII.

Living in Hamilton, my grandpa began to build a career, a life and a family with Jean and their five children.

Despite all the challenges he faced early on in life, including being shipped off to Canada, to having to find his own way without family support, my grandpa remains one of the most positive individuals I have ever known.

Whenever I talk to him about his childhood, I often get choked up thinking about a young child having to wave goodbye to his mother, the streets he grew up in and the traditions and country he knew as home. He sees things differently.

My grandpa did not have an idyllic childhood in the years leading up to WWII in England, nor at the Farm School in B.C.

He also led a life of hard, honest work providing for his children and his legacy. If you ask him, he only sees the glimmer of light that seeped through the cracks.

Ask him about his memories in England – he speaks only of those memories of happiness and walking to meet his father at the train station as a very young child.

Ask him about his memories from his journey to Canada and his life on Vancouver Island – he speaks only of having plenty to eat, a warm bed and plenty of friends.

Ask him about his memories from his seaward journeys with the Merchant Marines – and he just might tell you all about his pet monkey he remembers with fondness. This same monkey wreaked havoc on the ship's kitchen once it got loose.

Ask him about his career at Stelco – he will tell you about the wonderful opportunity it was to be part of this growing industry in Ontario, a job that let him easily provide for his family, giving his children opportunities he didn't have as a child.

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Ask him about his estranged mother and her new family in England post-war – he shares stories of his happiness in the fact that she found new love and a new lease on life after losing her husband and two daughters to death pre-war and losing her son to Canada.

Perspective is a hell of a thing. For my grandpa, he didn't let circumstance drag him down. He was courageous enough to carry on and move forward. He became the maker of his own destiny at the tender age of 11.

One of the most monumental turning points in my grandpa's life was going to a dance in Dundas and meeting my Grandma Jean.

It was through her that he found love and family again. It was through her that he found tradition, laughter, and comfort again – he found his home.

Turning 90 this month is an impressive milestone for anyone, and my Grandpa celebrated with his family; five children, 19 grandchildren, soon to be nine great-grandchildren, and friends, in Dundas, at the very spot where he met Jean all those years ago.

Rudy achieved this milestone in good health after a life-long journey around the world, a career in the steel industry, and raising a family.

Grandpa Rudy is a man with stories and experiences you couldn't fathom, from early childhood days, to a young man who travelled the seas, to finally settling in Hamilton to build a family life.

My Grandpa has led a unique, sometimes challenging, but very fulfilled life.

If I am lucky enough to live to the age of 90, I aspire to celebrate in the same fashion my grandpa did – surrounded by friends, family, and memories.

Surrounded by his legacy.

Written by Rudy Smith's granddaughter, Kathleen Smith



Fairbridge Chapel, March 21, 2019. Photo by Pat Skidmore

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society is pleased to announce that Fairbridgians and their issue will once again be able to apply for the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary.

2019 Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society Board:

Patricia Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca
 Christina Dobson: christina@sustainablehealth.com
 Tony Cartey: tony@invicta.ca
 Melody Dobson: melody_d@telus.net
 Dan Dobson: ddobson@canpar.com
 Roberta Baril: baril@ualberta.ca

2019 Bursary Application Forms are included with this Gazette

For more information or for a FABS Bursary form, contact Pat Skidmore.

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

Donations to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary can now be sent directly to:

FABS Treasurer: Tony Cartey: tony@invicta.ca, 20900 45A Avenue, Langley BC V3A 3G5 604-762-2192

As well, donations to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary can be made directly from the *Fairbridge Bursary Page* on the Vancouver Foundation Website: www.vancouverfoundation.ca/fairbridge

Or you can also make a donation to the Fairbridge Farm School Bursary by contacting: Claire Vivier, Manager, Donor Services, Suite 200 - 475 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 4M9 D. 604-530-5026, C. 604-5050-8556. Website: <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca>

For more information, contact Pat Skidmore: patskidmore@shaw.ca