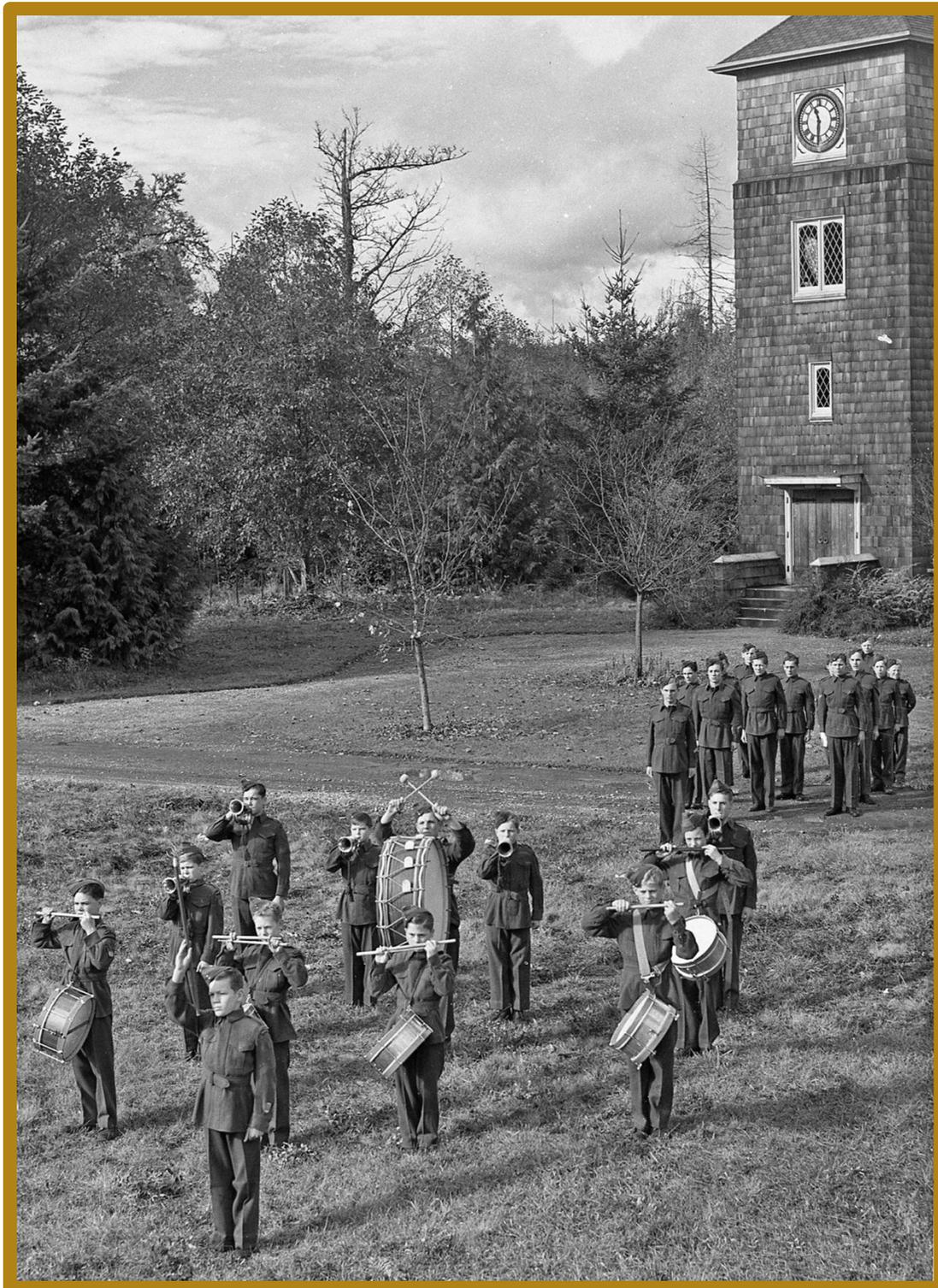


FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE



The Fairbridge Farm School Cadet Corps

The Fairbridge Farm School Cadet Corps had two platoons of boys and one platoon of girls. The Drum and Bugle band was formed in April 1946 with three buglers and five drummers expanding to include more buglers, a base drummer and the Drum Major. The cadets and band took part in a number of parades on the Island such as the large Victoria Day parade in the capital and the annual Dominion Day parade in Duncan.

Roddy Mackay President's Message



A very merry Christmas to all. Our 80th Fairbridge Anniversary was a smashing success with over sixty members, family and friends in attendance. This makes the fifth year in a row that we have topped a 50 plus

attendance. Not bad considering that during one of our annual general meetings a few years back there was a suggestion that maybe we should be closing down our FCA reunions. The question was.... "When and who is going to turn off the lights." That suggestion only inspired me and others to work that much harder, to keep, our FCA organization alive. One goal we felt was a major key to that effort and that was to get out and attract our second and third-generation Fairbridgians. I am quite proud to announce that our mission has led to success. Attending our September reunion, we counted over fifteen second generation Fairbridgians. Not only are they thoroughly enjoying meeting with their parent's former schoolmates, several have volunteered to serve on the FCA committee. To this end, we have Glen Dobson and his sister Christina Dobson (father was Danny Dobson) serving as our Vice President and new Corresponding Secretary. Glen has also been revising our web site and developing a Facebook site. As he is a young man, his ideas will be to make both sites not only attractive for us (the Old Fairbridgians) but of interest for the younger generation. We are not content to rest on our laurels; we need to attract more of our younger generation.

Please encourage your daughters, sons, and grandchildren to get involved with our FCA, so they can hear first-hand why & how you arrived in Canada. The 329 children sent to Fairbridge were part of the 120,000 child migrants sent to Canada from the U.K. The history of that massive migration scheme has a significant place in Canada's history and we were part of that.

As a tribute to our 80th anniversary, our Gazette editor Pat Skidmore assisted by Treasurer Ron Smith prepared a special commemorative booklet that each attending member received at the reunion. We hope to have it displayed on our web site. The booklet has photos of the parties and their ships and the year they arrived. In case you have forgotten the names of your shipmates they are listed, plus many other photos and interesting information of our life at Fairbridge. We feel this is a wonderful booklet to share with family and friends. If you would like to receive the booklet by mail, please contact our Gazette editor Pat Skidmore or corresponding secretary Christina Dobson. Contact information is below.

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 a few of my friends living alone. It will mean so very much to them and yourself. My wife Betty and I wish you and your families, a very Merry Christmas and our hopes of good health and happiness for 2016.

Yours Aye, Roddy

Fairbridge Canada Association 2015-2016 Board

President: Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.net

Vice President: Glen Dobson: kingdobber@me.com

Treasurer: Ron Smith: rgwsmiths@hotmail.com

Recording & Corresponding Secretary:

Tina Dobson cbrazzoni@telus.net

FCA Directors:

John Hardy: Past President: jkhardy@shaw.ca

Gazette Editor: Pat Skidmore: pjs@telus.net

Christine Brookshaw: kitt1062@googlemail.com

Roy Myhill: myhill@shaw.ca

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

Membership forms can be found with this Gazette.

Or you can contact Ron Smith

FCA Treasurer, 4718 Fairbridge Drive, Duncan, BC V9L 6N8

Remembrance Day November 11, 2015

Roddy Mackay sent "...a salute to all my fellow (male & female) Canadian Vets Nov 11, 2015."



Many wreaths were placed during various Remembrance Day ceremonies across Canada commemorating the British Child Migrants, aka Home Children, Veterans. This one was placed at the Legislative Assembly in Ottawa.



Correspondence News:

Christina Dobson will introduce herself in the Spring Gazette.

Fall 2015:



WWII Seaforth Veteran, William Stoker sent an article. 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands: "...the service and sacrifices of Canadians in the liberation of the Netherlands were remembered with pride and appreciation by both of our countries. As Seaforths we felt particularly honoured and fortunate to have been selected to be part of Canada's Veterans Delegation in the celebration and commemoration. Ceremonies at war graves cemeteries Groesbeek and Holten in the Netherlands and the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany were a deeply moving tribute to our fallen comrades.

- Ernie Hodge identified the children in the bottom right photo on page 3 of the Summer Gazette as being from the November 1938 party. He believes the boys to be - back row - left to right: John Mead, Arthur Fewings, Fred Harding, Ken Bennett, Eric Lewis, Stanley Newberry, Frank Morrison, Ted Collins. Front row – Don Collins, Charles Shelley, Ernie Hodge, RB Bennett, Dennis Beechy and George Pagden.
- Cy Glentworth telephoned to say that he had a wonderful trip to England.
- Newsletter from the Old Fairbridgians Association – Molong. They face similar challenges to keeping their association alive – long distances for people to travel, and many are not interested or their whereabouts are unknown.
- Chris Brookshaw emailed with a link to the article about the Molong Fairbridgians in Australia: "Sexual abuse, 'slave-like' conditions and a student with a broken back: Former pupils of NSW school awarded \$24million in damages - the largest payment of its kind in Australia."
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3143096/Sexual-abuse-slave-like-conditions-student-broken-Former-pupils-NSW-school-awarded-24million-damages-largest-payment-kind-Australia.html>
 "Record Australian Payout for Abused British Child Migrants"
<http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/record-australian-payout-for-abused-british-child-migrants-776328>
- Maureen and Gerry Maughan, English relatives of Jenny, Betty and Ernest Mein (August 1938) and Peter (November 1941)– emailed looking to see if anyone knew of the whereabouts of the Mein Family. They discovered that Peter Mein passed away in June 2015. Please contact the editor (pjs@teleus.net) if you have any information on the whereabouts of any of the Mein Family. Betty Mein went back to England.

The Fairbridge Canada Association is on Facebook

Check it out. Here is the link <https://www.facebook.com/FairbrigeFarmSchoolCanada>

There are over 300 photographs uploaded to the site. Have a look. See if you can put any names to the faces. Tagging the faces is easy – as soon as you put your mouse over a picture it shows a link that says "identify these people" - this then takes you to a place where you can type in a name, location and/or date!

Contact Glen Dobson for more information. kingdobber@me.com

Reunion Recap: As Roddy Mackay mentioned in his message, the 2015 FCA Reunion, Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the opening of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School – was a huge success. Here are some of the highlights:

Saturday Afternoon Tea and Service at the Fairbridge Chapel at the former Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School property: those Fairbridgians who have passed were remembered.



*Bob Gillies enjoying a cuppa - Bunny and her daughter - Pennant Cottage... one of the cottages still has the original sink in the basement
Marjorie and Bunny's English brother, David came to the reunion.*

Saturday Evening Banquet:



Lily Dean (Clabby) and Hazel Hunter (Hughes) Pete Timbrell and his son: note – Pete's Fairbridge Tie. Dobsons and McIvers



Saturday Evening ended with the sharing of stories...



Roy Myhill

Roddy Mackay

Tom Lisle

Chapel News

With the worst drought in years on the Lower Island we were under strict water restrictions throughout the Cowichan Valley including Fairbridge this summer. We did little watering except for the garden areas and some potted plants so the chapel grounds really took a beating. To give you an idea just how bad it was, the rainfall from May 1-Aug 31 was 34.2 millimetres or 1.35 inches.

Nevertheless, we were able to undertake a few minor repairs including one major one that was long overdue. This was to our furnace piping which went from the furnace to the chimney. This section was 'original' (or to put it another way, extremely old). Thanks to Southside Fireplace and Spas of Duncan they replaced all of the piping. Carey Rabey, who grew up at Fairbridge, did a fantastic job and we should be 'ready to go' for another 50 or more years!!

This fall one of our board members plans on repairing the basement trap door where we throw in the furnace firewood. It was damaged last year as mentioned in previous issues of the Chapel News. There is a lot more work that must be done in 2016 and we will be putting the priorities to the board early in the New Year.

Two wedding were held n the spring and early summer and one is booked for 2016. In September the Fairbridge Canada Association held their annual reunion and the Fairbridge Strata Corporation hosted a wonderful tea on the chapel grounds. This was followed by a short service in the chapel. It would be remiss to mention that the Strata has been holding the teas since 1983, something that no other community does in honour of their former 'family' in Canada.

Roddy Mackay, President of the FCA, donated a sound system to the Chapel Society. It is just what we

needed for the facility. The acoustics are great but once in a while we need to play some recorded music (which we did this reunion) or make a plea to fill the donation box!!

Both Roddy and John Hardy also donated a bugle used by the Fairbridge Drum and Bugle Band in the 1940's. Ron Price (our important go to guy with our Chapel board) made the display case and we will be putting it in an appropriate place on one of the chapel walls. Ron also made a second case this fall to display Thomas Kemp's three Second World War medals and information about Tom. This case will be mounted to the wall adjacent the memorial plaque for both Tom and Norman Alsop this coming spring.

On October 17th the Bruce Knight Memorial Competition was held in the chapel. This is an annual bagpipe competition and organized by Cecily Grant. There were 10 pipers in this year's competition, some just starting out. We had a good turnout with over 50 attending. A potluck supper was held in the evening and awards were handed out. It was a great event for the chapel and we hope they will consider using the site again in years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank Erik Henriksen, another of our long standing board members, for fixing the minute hand on our historic clock—sort of. The minute hand has shown up 5 minutes to the hour when the hour was struck. Now we have gained 2 minutes and the minute hand is just 3 minutes out. Ah, give us another decade or so and we may be able to get the old clock and its hands figured out.

All the very best in 2016 and many years to come.

Ron Smith

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 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

Or send donations c/o:

Pat Skidmore, 175 April Road, Port Moody, BC, V3H 3M7
Make cheques out to the *Fairbridge Farm School Bursary*

A special thank you to Madeleine Nelson for the donation to the Bursary Fund commemorating Pam Brown's (Olive Morrison) December birthday!

Fairbridgians Who Passed... our sympathy goes out to their families.



Peter Mein – June 3, 2015

Peter followed his brother, Ernie and sisters, Betty and Jenny (they arrived on August 23, 1938) and arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the twelfth party, called the “Orphans of the Blitz” by the *Victoria Daily Times*, on November 8, 1941.

Peter Mein 1947-48 Fairbridge Farm School Basketball team

Dorothy (nee Hood) Frank– July 27, 2015

Dorothy passed peacefully with her loving family with her at all times. Dorothy came from the Newcastle area of northeastern England to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School with the second party, arriving on October 22, 1936. She came to Canada with her sister Catherine (date unknown when she passed away) and her brother Patrick (who passed away in 2007).

Dorothy is third from the right – this is a group outside the Fairbridge Day School after a heavy snowfall.



Victoria and Albert Museum of Childhood “On Their Own.” British Child Migration Exhibit in London, England

For those planning a trip to London – don’t miss the British Child Migration exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum: **24 October - 12 June 2016**. The following is from the website:

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/exhibitions-and-displays/eon-their-own/>

An exhibition telling the heart-breaking true stories of Britain's child migrants who were sent to Canada, Australia and other Commonwealth countries between 1869 and 1970. An estimated 100,000 British children were sent overseas by migration schemes, which were run by a partnership of charities, religious organisations and governments, and claimed to offer boys and girls the opportunity of a better life in Britain's Empire overseas. Many migrants never saw their homes or their families again.

The exhibition will explore the complex moral motivations to these schemes and share the work of the Child Migrants Trust, which has brought some comfort to former child migrants, by finding their families and reuniting them with surviving members.

On Their Own: Britain's Child Migrants is a collaborative exhibition between the Australian National Maritime Museum, National Museums Liverpool and V&A Museum of Childhood

For more information, visit the website: <http://otoweb.cloudapp.net/> or google “On Their Own.”



The film, *Oranges and Sunshine* – based on Child Migrant Trusts’ Margaret Humphreys’ book *Empty Cradles* (1994) and also republished as *Oranges and Sunshine* in 2011, is now on Netflix. Most libraries also carry this film.

Until the early 1970s, thousands of British children -- many orphans, others taken by social workers from broken homes -- were packed onto ships bound for Australia. Promised "oranges and sunshine," many instead endured abuse in workhouses as virtual slaves. Set in 1980s Nottingham, social worker Margaret Humphreys holds the British government accountable for child migration schemes and reunites the children involved -- now adults living mostly in Australia -- with their parents in Britain.

Please Note

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

For more information see the

Child Migrant’s Trust Website: <http://www.childmigranttrust.com/services/family-restoration-fund>

Fairbridge Canada Association 2016 Membership



Your FCA Membership entitles you to voting privileges
at the 2016 AGM. Come out and have your say.
Watch for the details of the 2016 Reunion in the
Spring and Summer 2016 Gazettes and on the
FCA Website: <http://fairbridgecanada.com/>

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



Fairbridge Canada Association Membership Form 2016 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