



Fairbridge Gazette

February, 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

... Phil Field

With the August 1989 Reunion rapidly approaching, I thought it would be timely to devote this message to encouraging all Old Fairbridgians to support the Fairbridge Alumni Association and to attend the biennial Reunion/General Meeting.

As you are aware from the last Gazette, your Executive were successful in obtaining monies from the Fairbridge Drake Society towards the Bursary Scholarship Fund. It is my hope, as President and as an Old Fairbridgian, that we can build, not only a larger amount for the Fund, but that we can also build a larger sense of pride in what we, as Old Fairbridgians, can accomplish together in the form of a lasting legacy to future generations.

We will need your presence at the General Meeting to help determine and approve the direction and focus of the Alumni Association regarding this very significant project.

Just think . . . 30, 50, 75 years from now, the Fairbridge Alumni Association could be providing assistance and helping to provide an optimistic future for some young person. What a thrill!!! And what a sense of purpose and **what an opportunity** for you to say "I helped to set that up".

The Agenda for the General Meeting will include other such items as Disposition of Current Cash Assets", and support for the Fairbridge Heritage Chapel Society.

Let's not miss this opportunity to establish a solid cause for our Association, and let us not miss the opportunity to chin-wag and enjoy each other as individuals from the same family.

So . . . arrange those holidays and we'll see you in August!!!

REUNION INFORMATION

... Peter Forrest

The dates for the Reunion are August 25th and 26th, 1989.

It will be held at the "Inn at the Water", Cowichan Bay. You may make your reservations by phoning 1-748-6222 and advising the clerk that you are attending the Fairbridge Reunion.

Cheques for your Banquet and Wine & Cheese Party should be forwarded to Peter Forrest, 6930 Curtis, Burnaby, B.C. V5B 2B1 Make your cheque payable to "Fairbridge Alumni Association".

We regret we are unable to make reservations for you. Please use attached sheet when sending in your cheques.

Wine & Cheese	\$10.00 per person
Banquet	\$20.00 per person

CHAPEL NEWS

... John Cowans

The Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society has now acquired legal title to the Chapel and School House.

I am happy to report that we have received a grant of \$25,000 from B.C. Heritage Trust towards the cost of renovations. This grant is on a dollar for dollar basis, which means we have to raise \$25,000 in order to take full advantage of the grant.

Anyone who wishes to assist in helping to restore the Chapel is invited to send donations to the undersigned. Donations are tax deductible. You can also become a member of the Society for a \$10.00 fee.

Fees and/or donations can be sent to John Cowans, Treasurer, Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society, 4749 Fairbridge Drive, R.R. #7, Duncan, B.C. V9L 4W4

CORRESPONDING

SECRETARY/TREASURER

... Molly Harris

Excerpts and snippets from the mail:

1. Once again it is that time of year to remind you that your 1989 Alumni membership dues (as well as past dues!) are still needed in order for us to keep in touch and work for you. Many thanks to those of you who have already responded.

2. Upon receiving an annual report from London, we have learned that on November 2, 1987, there had been a merger of the Fairbridge Society and the Drake Fellowship to form THE FAIRBRIDGE DRAKE SOCIETY. This was followed with their December 1988 Newsletter

from which we quote in part: "Fairbridge Drake is the natural progression for the work of the Fairbridge Society, embracing the work of the Drake Fellowship in providing high quality training to young people at risk, many of whom are unemployed, homeless and under care and who need time, affection and encouragement to restore their self respect and confidence. Fairbridge Drake is based in 12 inner city locations throughout the United Kingdom. From each centre a professional staff encourage young people at risk to join our training programme. Over 60% who complete a Basic Course find work or return to further education." Fairbridge Drake also runs a small housing project in West London to help young people moving from unemployment into their first jobs.

3. Late last year we received a warm and welcome letter from a Mrs. Lyn Clough who has long been involved with Fairbridge in Australia. She also sent along a copy of her most interesting booklet which she had compiled for the Northcote Golden Jubilee Reunion held in Molong. It is entitled "NORTHCOTE - Our Heritage", and for those interested in viewing same it will be brought to our next Reunion.

4. An OF (John Dee) writes from California to say that the older he gets the more nostalgic he becomes about the good old days at the school and how fortunate he was to leave behind unhappy circumstances in England and get to Fairbridge. He concludes with, "When I look at my family, my land and possessions I have to thank Kingsley Fairbridge for his compassion and farsightedness. Without him none of this would have been possible for me." After getting out of the commercial fishing business John has taken up oil painting and has picked up a few ribbons at local art shows for his work. Good for you, John!

5. In an October postcard from Korea, John Stocker wrote: "I'll be sending you the Molong Fairbridge Reunion video tape when I get it converted to your system from Australia's PAL system." We will look forward to viewing it.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE ... Pat Webb

My first request for Heritage Artifacts of interest to Fairbridge did not receive many results. In fact, it was plain zilch. Maybe by now you may have had a chance to give it some more thought as to where some of our Fairbridge Heritage artifacts are put away. Let's get them out in the open and place them

on the Fairbridge site, where anybody making a memory lane visit can have a chance to see reminders of their time at Fairbridge.

Especially now that we have the Fairbridge Chapel in hand, it would be a very suitable place to store or display the Fairbridge memorabilia that has a place in the memories of so many Fairbridgians, young and old alike.

There have been so many changes to our first home in Canada, good changes I might add, but don't you think that it would add to the pleasure of your visit home if you were able to see the "call bell" in place, or "the sign" that pointed the way into Fairbridge for so many of us and our friends, the paintings that hung in the Dining Room, the "honour roll" that recognized those who served during the war, and I am sure there are many other items of interest that you may be able to bring to mind if you all think about it for a while.

Let us hear from those of you who can shed some light on where some of our History is sitting tucked away, so that it can be placed for all to see and remember.

I can be contacted at 15820 Fraser Highway, #66, Surrey, B.C. V3S 2W5. Or by phone at 597-8341. I will be glad to hear from you.

Thanks in advance.

GENERAL INFORMATION ... Eunice Nickolls Editor

1. David James of Fairbridge Drake Society would like Old Fairbridgians to keep in touch. If you care to write to him, his address follows: D. James, Chief Executive, Fairbridge Drake Society, Chancery House, 53-64 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1QX.

2. Please remember to get your dues in to the Fairbridge Alumni so that we can keep sending you the "Gazette". If you join the Chapel Society, please don't confuse it with the Fairbridge Alumni. The two Societies are entirely separate.

3. One final reminder - please mail your cheques and reservations to Peter Forrest as soon as possible. See you at the '89 Bash.