

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE

Newsletter of the Fairbridge Canada Association



2010: YEAR OF THE HOME CHILD



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

The November 8, 1941 Party

L-R: Joyce Dean (cut off)?, Ada Thain?, Hugh Taylor, Clement Gray, Irene Richards, Peter Mein, Mary Redshaw, May Bean, Clifford Cooper, Brian Tibbles, Louis Field, Roddy Mackay, Eric Foster, Leon Field, Christina Smith?, Roy Myhill.

Photo Courtesy of Hugh Taylor

Spring 2010

Laugh of the season

(Jokes sent in by Peter Gould, a former Rhodesian Fairbridgian, now living in New Zealand)

*Photo courtesy
of Ernie Hodge*

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Let's Keep Current

Send Pat Skidmore your change of address
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 the Bursary Treasurer, Bill Cockburn, FABS Treasurer. If you are sending donations or FCA Membership fees, please send them to Barry Hagen, FCA Treasurer.

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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

Our Reps in Britain

We were indeed fortunate in the Fairbridge Alumni to have three good representatives attend Prime Minister

Gordon Brown's *Apology Ceremony* in Britain.

There was very short notice given to us, just a few days, so that people from Fairbridge could attend. It almost seems like we were an afterthought on the part of the officials. That Marjorie, Pat and Roddy could go on such short notice was a great help, and we were well off having these two represent us.

If you have been attending the alumni reunions these past 20 years you would have realized there were two Fairbridges: one before the war and one after the war.

Marjorie Skidmore (Arnison) was in the pre war group, and went with her daughter, Pat, to represent us. Pat was first invited, not as a member of the FCA, but because of her relationship with child migrant groups from Australia, New Zealand, and eastern Canada.

When asked if she could bring a "child migrant" she

brought her mother. Then Pat was called again on February 11, and was told that funding was available for one more. I was not available for medical reasons, so we called on the V/P of the FCA, Roddy Mackay, to go and fortunately he was able to go with such short notice.

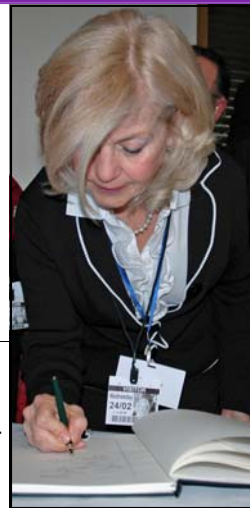
I have come to admire and respect Pat for her energy and dedication to the Fairbridge story. In fact, without her pushing our existence to the officials in Britain, it's a safe bet nobody would have known about us, and nobody invited.

Roddy stands bestride the two Fairbridges, the post and pre war, since he came out with a party in '41. We couldn't have got a better choice for a representative. I have no doubt in my mind that Roddy would have explained who we are in his usual forthright way, a way that would serve us all well.

Our next task should be to get Margaret Humphreys, that remarkable lady, who started all this with "Empty Cradles" to visit us here in BC. Let her see first hand the Fairbridge school, and the alumni and learn of the Child Migrants of Ontario and Quebec and to catch us up with Australia on the information data, we are all British Child Migrants.



Signing the "Book" after Gordon Brown, lasting proof of his Apology and of his government's promises.



Marjorie Skidmore

Pat Skidmore

Betty Mackay

Roddy Mackay

Skidmore Photos

Con't from page 5 →

gave her a robust old-fashioned British "Hip, Hip Hurrah." Quite possibly, with her assistance, our own Canadian Government would have followed the example set by both the UK and Australian Prime Ministers and delivered an apology to Canada's Child Migrants.

At the risk of sounding ungrateful, I made a point of expressing my views to the organization officials present, that we were disappointed that so few Canadian Child Migrants had been invited to this historic event. To that end, I have received word from the UK High Commissioner in Ottawa that there is a strong possibility there will be a similar event held in Canada. Pat and I will do all possible follow-up on that concept and hopefully such an event will take place.

I will give a complete and comprehensive report at our next board meeting.

In closing, all of us should be grateful, for her tireless efforts, the untold hours that our Gazette Editor, Pat contributes day after day, to our FCA organization. Had it not been for her constant communication with the Child Migrant organizations in eastern Canada, Fairbridge would not have had any representation in London.

FCA Vice President Roddy Mackay



Many of you may have heard of the recent gathering in London where Prime Minister Gordon Brown made the well-publicized Apology to UK Child Migrants who had been sent to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

On February 11, I received an email from our hard working editor of the FCA Gazette Pat Skidmore; Pat's email outlined the following:

Mr. Dave Lorente, Home Children Canada founder, called Pat, and asked if she and her mother, Marge Skidmore, plus one male from Fairbridge would be willing to be representatives of the UK Child Migrants of Fairbridge Canada at the London apology ceremony.

There is some confusion over the classification of who is a "Child Migrant?" Fairbridgians of Canada and Australia are indeed "Child Migrants." The UK Government classifies all children, who were part of the mass child emigration from the UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, etc as "Child Migrants."

Pat also explained that there was a time line of 24 hours to accept this invitation. The selection process, as explained by our President John, took form and on the extremely short advance notice, we booked our flights.

Our official invitations came from the UK High Commissioner of Canada, Mr. Kevin Farrell. *Prime Minister Gordon Brown would give his Formal Apology to the "Child Migrants" at the Palace of Westminster, scheduled for Feb 24, 2010.* Our small delegation of seven Canadians were representing well over 120,000 former UK Child Migrants sent to Canada over a period from 1833 to 1948. It is my understanding that there were approximately 10,000 sent to Australia between 1922 and 1967. We had barely 2 weeks to make our own travel arrangements; a special committee of the UK Government arranged our lodging etc in London. We were also informed that a large group (40 or so) former Australian Child Migrants had been invited, plus small groups from New Zealand and South Africa.

With the extremely short notice and the significant difference in the number of Aussies invited compared to our small Canadian group we did wonder if Canada was a last minute decision. This may sound ungrateful on our part but I personally felt there should have been more Canadians invited and a tad more time on the advance notice. We Fairbridgians of the F.C.A. are the largest group of surviving Child Migrants in Canada.

I decided as a representative that besides enjoying the trip I would also speak on your behalf to those involved in organizing this event. While Canada's Child Migrants were included in the official apology, all the Government speakers, the press, television, etc laid heavy emphasis on the Australian Child Migrant's scheme. I can assure you this was not only my impression, also that of many others in the UK. Several friends and family members who viewed it on the UK news asked me why there was so little mention of Canada's Child Migrants. At a reception held for us by Canada's High Commissioner to the UK, Mr. James Wright, informed us that it was only recently he even heard of Canada's Child Migrant scheme. He was very curious to hear of our own personal experiences as former child migrants. Like many people, he was totally unaware that the scheme, while beneficial to many child migrants, also held abuse and suffering for far too many children. I recommended that he read the book, "Little Immigrants," to better understand the complexity of the system.

I personally felt that the formal apology by the Prime Minister Gordon Brown was very sincere and straight from the heart. He recounted the terrible mistakes committed by the government-sponsored agencies, which resulted in far too much abuse and suffering of Child Migrants and their families.

One person that I sought to speak to was Margaret Humphries. I thanked her for the major role her organization, the "Child Migrant Trust," played in reuniting my family in 2000. As happened to many other Fairbridgians I was separated from my brothers and sister in 1939, and over all those years, I received absolutely no assistance in my search from the Government or Fairbridge. I also recognize that it is through her tireless efforts and the assistance the "Child Migrant Trust," provided to the Australian Child Migrants that really made them the focus of this "Apology." At the reception the night prior to the Westminster Apology, the Aussies



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



Past President's Message

Greetings to you all.

I was very pleased to hear that our president John is doing well after major heart surgery. I had the same procedure 22 years ago – quadruple (4) coronary by-passes, without it I'm sure that I wouldn't be here. Because of it, I've lived a very active life and still work-out and golf regularly and enjoy my kids and grand kids (many). Many believe one's early life, including diet, stress etc. is a strong influence in causing arteriosclerosis, leading to heart attacks, strokes etc. I wonder if our diet at the orphanage, Middlemore Homes, Birmingham, was a factor – remember the frequent “bread and dripping” meals? A great recipe for plugging arteries. One can recall many O.F.S that have had cardiovascular surgery –possibly more than the general population percent – wise.

I hope many of you enjoyed the Olympics as much as we did! I never felt so proud to be a CANADIAN. Even the Curling was exciting! – not to mention the ice skating and the hockey. To win the most gold medals is very impressive. The patriotism of the crowds was inspiring. We should show it more often, we have a great country! I believe our health care system is another manifestation of this, especially compared to the U.S. I feel sorry for President Obama who has a real up hill battle against the profit mongering and crooked health insurance industry and drug companies. I feel more sorry for the 40 million plus with no insurance and the huge number added daily. How lucky we are in Canada!

I look forward to hearing about the trip editor Pat and others made to Britain for “The Apology.” She tells me it was an incredible journey. The apology was made by the British Government to us, as well as other child migrants sent to the “Colonies” from Britain. I wonder about the necessity of this, but to some it would be more appropriate than other. What do you folks out there think?

Have a great spring.

Ron Hancock



Spring Greetings from Pat

I have made a point over the past few years to foster relationships with the various Child Migration groups and former Child Migrants in Eastern Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. I feel it is important to share stories and perhaps by working together we can get the complete story of British Child Migration into the history books.

With the numerous articles regarding child migration, and the debate about to ‘apologize’ or not to ‘apologize,’ along with the attention and controversy that it sparked, made me even more aware that one cannot make a sweeping statement about the experiences of any child migrant and especially not about the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* former Fairbridgians. Of the 329 Canadian Fairbridge former child migrants, there are 329 different experiences and many, many stories, and they range from feeling that being sent to Canada was the very best of luck, to it being the worst of luck, and everything in between. There is no one story to describe the Fairbridge Canada experience.

I have often heard people state that all child migrants were better off being sent to the colonies and that they all had a better chance. But—how can that ever be measured? The system of child migration did its best to destroy the “Family.” I believe that one of the flaws in the child migration scheme was in the breaking apart of family and country ties. I think it shows the general tenacity of the children that so many of them survived as well as they did—especially without family support.

Of the 329 Fairbridgians sent to the Cowichan Valley—95% were not orphans. Perhaps the children who struggled the most were the ones who felt closest to their families. The few who had siblings of the same gender living in the same cottage, had a better chance of forming a sense of *family*. Brothers and sisters had a difficult time supporting each other, as they had little interaction. They grew up in different households—cottages. As adults, a few Fairbridgians went back to England as soon as they were able. Some spent many years trying to locate their families. Others have spent a lifetime feeling disconnected from their English families. Still others built a life in Canada and never looked back. How much was the successes in their lives a direct result with how they were treated at Fairbridge? For those who had a good cottage mother, be thankful, but for those who did not have a kind cottage mother, and for those who also faced bullies on a daily basis, their stories have an added layer of distress that makes it difficult, and even impossible for them to see the Fairbridge experience as a positive one. Their stories are equally important to the history of child migration to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* and to the history of Canada.

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



Marjorie Skidmore tells Gordon Brown
“Don’t forget about Canada.”



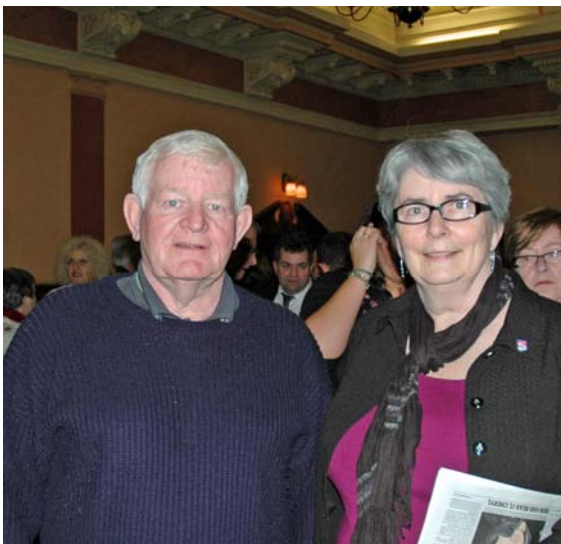
Roddy Mackay with Gordon Brown



Marjorie Skidmore with Andy Burnham
(Health Minister, and Roddy Mackay



Gordon Brown gives a private Apology to the
Child Migrants brought to London



Pat Skidmore with Joseph Isherwood—
Tom’s brother was sent to Australia



Marjorie Skidmore—Child Migrant Display at Westminster



Corresponding Secretary News

The bulk of the correspondence for this period was to do with the impending Declaration of 2010 to be named the Year of the Home Child and the talk of apologies from the various governments involved in Child Migration.

- Many Fairbridgians sent Christmas Greetings
- Nancy Scott called
- Jan 4 - Councilor Reginald Corns (see page 16)
- February 1: Canada Post called and assured me that the dates for the stamp will be changed to include the children sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School
- From the Hodges: Hi. Did you know that the Burnaby LDS church on Kincaid St. has microfiches re census, births, deaths, marriage for the UK and possibly Ireland going back hundreds? of years accessible for free
- Fairbridge Society, Western Australia Newsletter

Sent in by Bill Cockburn

GUEST EDITORIAL FROM THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

December 18, 2009

High time to apologize to the Home Children

The federal government is missing an opportunity to acknowledge wrongs done during an ugly chapter in the country's history that, despite being the inspiration for a beloved novel, few Canadians know much about.

The Australian government has already apologized for its part in child-migrant programs that shipped an estimated 100,000 British children to Canada, and a lesser number to Australia, between 1869 and 1939. The British government said it plans to apologize. A spokesman for Citizenship and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney says Canada has no plans to follow suit.

Many of the so-called Home Children worked as farm labourers or domestic servants. Some were abused and died as a result of poor working and living conditions and mistreatment. The huge numbers of these children sent to Canada during the last half of the 19th century is believed to have inspired author Lucy Maude Montgomery to make the plight of orphaned children a key part of *Anne of Green Gables*. When Anne Shirley is picked up at a train station in the novel, Matthew is surprised to see that she is a girl — he and his sister Marilla had asked for a boy, presumably a Home Child, to help them with their farm.

It was only after the death of one of the children on an Ontario farm in 1885, that most Canadians, at the time, learned of the British program. When

George Everitt Green died seven months after arriving in Canada, he was emaciated and his body was covered with scars and sores — signs of his mistreatment.

Most of the children sent to Canada were not orphans but were runaways or abandoned. They were generally sent without the knowledge of their parents. There is evidence that more than two-thirds of these children were abused while in Canada. Sidney Baker, 76, who speaks on behalf of Home Children Canada, claims that between 3.5 million and four million Canadians are descendants of Home Children.

Former Canadian Home Children and their descendants have not asked for compensation, as their counterparts in Australia have, but have long asked the Canadian government to apologize for their treatment.

The federal government should listen to the remaining voices of those voiceless children who were sometimes scooped off London streets and shipped to Canada to become unpaid labourers.

Although times were different during the last part of the 19th century and the early 20th century in Canada than they are now, the federal government has a responsibility to acknowledge its role in the mistreatment of these children, so that all Canadians can better understand how dramatically our society has changed, particularly when it comes to the rights of, and protection of, children.

OCTOBER 2010 HOME CHILDREN STAMP: From 1869 to the 1930s, close to 100,000 children were shipped to Canada from Britain's slums and orphanages, to be used as cheap domestic labour. As their "homes" weren't

monitored after placement, they were all susceptible to, and most were subjected to, grave mistreatment. This massive wave of immigration, little known to most Canadians, has left a significant mark on our nation's social fabric. In 2010, a stamp issue will honour the courage and perseverance of the Home Children who came to Canada.

2010 Stamp Program

A sneak preview

Thanks to all your creative suggestions, we're ready to unveil our 2010 Stamp Program. Wondering what's in store? The exciting lineup includes captivating snapshots of Canadian wildlife, a bold new addition to the Lunar New Year series, and some special Olympic issues, to name a few. We're currently working on our 2011 and 2012 programs, so now is the time to send us your suggestions.

OCTOBER

HOME CHILDREN

From 1869 to the 1930s, close to 100,000 children were shipped to Canada from Britain's slums and orphanages, to be used as cheap domestic labour. As their "homes" weren't monitored after placement, they were all susceptible to, and most were subjected to, grave mistreatment. This massive wave of immigration, little known to most Canadians, has left a significant mark on our nation's social fabric. In 2010, a stamp issue will honour the courage and perseverance of the Home Children who came to Canada.

I was contacted by the office of Phil McColeman – MP for Brant, Ontario, , to provide a brief history of Child Migration to Canada. See page 14 for a letter of thanks from Phil McColeman. He presented the Private Member's Motion-438, to designate 2010 as the Year of the British Home Child across Canada on December 7, 2009.

I sent in the following with a revised timeline:
First, let me suggest that you cannot isolate Child Migration to Canada from the bigger picture of British Child Migration to the colonies, the practice of which spanned almost 350 years. The documentation dates the

migrating of children from Britain from 1619, while the last group of children left Britain for Australia in 1967.

Child migration to Canada began with the first group of child migrants sent to the Toronto, Ontario area (Upper Canada) in 1833, and ended with the last group arriving at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, BC, in 1948.

Britain is the only country in the world with a sustained history of child migration... this has been called the "hidden, shameful chapter in Britain's history." (Select Committee on Health Minutes of Evidence <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/empower>, p 9)

At the height of child migration to Canada, between the years of 1869-1930s, it has been estimated that Britain sent over 100,000 children to Canada through the child migration movement. (Roger Kershaw and Janet Sacks, *New Lives for Old: The Story of Britain's Child Migrants*. Kew, Richmond, Surrey: The National Archives, 2008, page 142) [Note this figure varies from 80,000 to 150,000 with different authors.] Governments have not been able to provide accurate statistics concerning the number of children received from the UK, because there have been no centralized records kept. There were upwards of 50 sending agencies during this time, whose business it was to migrate children.

There were many reasons behind the migration of children besides 'child rescue,' and not all had the best interests of the child at the forefront. Economics played a part, as it was cheaper to send children to work in Canada than to bring them up at the British ratepayer's expense. Imperialistic motives were also strongly emphasized. In the early 20th Century, Barnardo called his children 'Bricks for Empire-Building.' It was "An imperial vision of Dominions prospering under young settlers of good British stock complemented the moral benefits of child migration." (Kershaw & Sacks, page 9)

In 1924, His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales launched an appeal at the Grocer's Hall on June 14 to put out an appeal to raise £100,000. It was claimed that the Fairbridge Farm School Scheme was "...not a charity, it is an Imperial Investment." (*London Times*, July 25, 1934, page 7) And - Child Emigration is the only form of organized settlement of the Dominions which has survived the recent difficult years... the child is the best settler... The concurrence of the Ottawa and British Columbia Governments in the present undertaking carries the assurance that in Canada, as in Australia the Fairbridge child will receive a welcome which can hardly be given to his elder brother or sister just yet... the Fairbridge School of British Columbia will maintain the standard of its model in proving itself an ideal form of Empire settlement. (*London Times*, February 15, 1935, page 15.)

And ...peopling the Empire with British Stock ... continuous stream of British stock... (*London Times*, June 7, 1934, page 15) ...peril of losing our great possessions... (*London Morning Post*, July 2, 1935) ...Nature abhors a vacuum, swarming nations demand an outlet... (*London Morning Post*, May 10, 1935)

Below is a partial Timeline of Child Migration. Child mi-

grants started coming to Canada in 1833. After 1833, I only included what affected Canada.

The Years of Child Migration (See the website at www.child_migration.l.htm for more details.)

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... Thousands of children were transported to the American and West Indian colonies between 1615 and 1776... and to Australia between 1787 and 1868. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 13)

1620: January - Opposition to child migration; first group sent illegally, but 31 January the Privy Council authorizes child migration. Second 100 children sent to America.

1622: Indian massacre of 350 settlers in Virginia in the wake of which another 100 vagrant children were sent among the reinforcements

1698: August 30-September 1, the Flying Post newspaper reporter claims he observed 'about 200' kidnapped boys held on a ship in the

Thames awaiting departure for the West-Indies. (The last line reads: "...he, and three others, have for some time made it their practice to kidnap boys, in order to sell them to the West-Indies.")

1830: Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy, later known as the Children's Friend Society, was founded in London in 1830 by a retired naval captain, Edward Pelham Brenton. Brenton's aim was to prepare destitute children for migration with training to enable them to support themselves. (Kershaw and Sacks, 15-17) Dr James William Fairbridge, the great-grandfather of Kingsley Fairbridge, helped to establish the Children's Friend Society. (The Australian Dictionary of Biography, On-line Edition at: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080485b.htm>)

1832: By 1832 the society found they could not obtain enough positions for the children in England. At this time they sent the first party of children to the Cape of Good Hope. As time went on children were also sent to the Swan River Colony in Australia.

1833: In August of 1833 the first party of children was sent

Child migration to Canada: The Children's Friend Society sent the first group of child migrants to Upper Canada—the Toronto, Ontario area, in 1833, and the last group arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, BC, in 1948. Kingsley Fairbridge's great-grandfather helped to establish the Children's Friend Society—thus the Fairbridge family was involved in the migration of the first and the last children sent to Canada.

to Canada. The following year three more groups arrived. Six groups of children came in 1835 and four groups in 1836. The emigration ceased at this point due to the rebellion in Upper Canada.

As many as 230 children arrived in Canada through the auspicious of the Children's Friend Society. They were placed, many as domestics, agricultural workers, or apprentices, in parts of Ontario and some parts of New Brunswick. (<http://jubilation.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/children/Organizations/cfriend.html>)

See also this Gazette, page 17.

1853: The Gold Rush ceased the early phase of emigration of children to Australia. Australian conditions were deemed unsuitable for children ... young migrants were sent to Canada instead. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 18)

1869: Maria Rye was in the forefront this wave of child migration. She took her first group of girls to Canada in October 1869. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 23)

1870: Annie Macpherson Homes took her first 100 boys to Canada in May 1870. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 28)

1870: Father Nugent took his first group to Canada on August 19, 1870. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 123) He continued to send children to Canada for another 20 years.

1872: The Orphan Homes of Scotland was established in 1871 by William Quarrier. His first party left for Canada on July 2, 1872. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 62)

1873: Children's Emigration Homes - children were emigrated from the various homes established by John T. Midlemore. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 70-71)

1873: Liverpool Sheltering Homes officially opened on May 1st 1873. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 33)

1873: National Children's Homes and Orphanages established in 1869 by Thomas Bowman Stephenson, sent their first party of children in May of 1873 and continued sending children until 1934. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 65-67)

1874: Canadian Catholic Emigration Society... children were sent to families in the eastern townships of Quebec and the Ottawa areas. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 124)

1880: Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society – due to financial pressures they stopped emigrating children in 1902. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 124)

1881: Church of England Waifs and Stray Society, later

called the Children's Society, was established by Edward Rudolf in May 1881. The Archbishop of Canterbury agreed to become president and after it was the Church of England's officially recognized organization for providing pauper children with homes. By 1883 emigration was underway... first group left with Macpherson. By 1885, the Society had established its own receiving home in Canada. A group left on April 23, 1885. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 51-52)

1882: Barnardo sent the first of his children under Annie Macpherson's scheme. But when Samuel Smith, Member of Parliament for Liverpool and supporter of child emigration, donated money to Barnardo and Fegan on

the condition that it be used to emigrate children, Barnardo complied and accompanied his first group to Canada on August 10, 1882. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 97-98)

1884: Dr. Fegan's Homes was established in 1872. Fegan sent the first group of children to Canada in 1884. Fegan died in 1925, but his wife carried on his work until 1943. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 76-77)

1886: Salford Catholic Protection and Rescue Society. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 125)

1887: - Southwark Catholic Emigration Society (later merged with the Canadian Catholic Emigration Society in 1898) (Kershaw & Sacks, page 130-131)

1887: Dr. Barnardo established an industrial farm in Russell, Manitoba. He gained the support of Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian High Commissioner in London. He asked that children be given free transportation, and with grants and donations, Barnardo was able to purchase a large farm. The Russell Farm in Manitoba was a forerunner to Kingsley Fairbridge's Farm Schools in Australia and Canada. The Russell Farm in Manitoba closed in 1908. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 103-105, 108)

1890: Scheme of Colonization was submitted by Barnardo. The Colonization Scheme was a new development in the story of child emigration as it enables young men to be sent from Britain to Canada to be trained in animal husbandry and crop management with the express aim of settling the land. The Canadian government had an allotment scheme in place, offering every young man over 18 a small farm of 160 acres and Barnardo planned to link this in with his training programme at the farm. One problem was the lack of women. If more women were not emigrated, farmers

...a careful selection of children provided the Dominions with a steady flow of 'good' citizens – an upright and productive population stock trained to work on the land.

would not stay in Canada, but would move to the US. The girls trained as domestics – most left at 18 for work in factories, restaurants and shops only a few married farmers. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 105, 107)

1891: Boarding Out scheme was established by Barnardo, where children under 12 were placed with foster families who were paid to look after them. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 107)

1896: Barnardo established a new home in northwest Winnipeg for boys between 10 – 13 years. It was opened in response to a demand, seemingly without end, from farmers for young boys to work on their farms. Boys first served as apprentices on Ontario farms. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 107)

1903: Father Hudson's Homes - the Rescue Society he established was so named after his death in 1936. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 134)

1903: Catholic Emigration Association (Kershaw & Sacks, page 134)

1901: Salvation Army - emigrated small groups in 1901, and emigration began in earnest in 1903. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 60, 225-226)

1906: Elinor Close Farm established in 1904 near Rothesay, New Brunswick, first children arrived in 1906. It closed 8 years later with the start of WW 1. Note - Kingsley Fairbridge was bitter over Close's farm as he felt it jeopardized his plans for a farm school in Newfoundland, which was his first attempt – which never materialized. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 143-144)

1909: Child Emigration Society formed by Kingsley Fairbridge – later called the Fairbridge Society. Fairbridge established his Fairbridge Farm School near Pinjarra which officially opened on August 7, 1912. On July 19 1924, Kingsley Fairbridge died at age 39. His work continued, as it had struck a chord with the prevailing social mood. It served 2 purposes – (1) child rescue and (2) commonwealth migration. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 144-151)

1924: A British parliamentary delegation was dispatched to Canada to explore the whole process of sending young children to live and work there. It found that the provincial child welfare associations opposed the practice almost without exception as professional childcare became more sophisticated. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 192)

1924: Canadian government passed an order in council that effectively barred unaccompanied children under 14 from entering Canada legally.

The ruling of no unaccompanied migrants under the age of 14, passed in council in 1924, was quietly disregarded.

1925: The ban was made permanent.

1926: The following year as many as 4,000 children still sailed to Canada, but numbers declined by the end of the decade.

1931: only 6 girls and fewer than 500 boys travelled to Canada in 1931, it was a combination of the Depression and internal resistance.

1932: Barnardo sent very few children there after 1932. Britain needed alternative countries to receive child migrants and Australia presented the obvious choice. (Kershaw & Sacks, years 1924 – 1932 see page 192-193)

1920s and 1930s - Fairbridge Farm School in Australia was visited by many including the Duke and Duchess of York, King George and Queen Elizabeth, who said, "I only wish there were more farm schools all over Australia and other parts of the Empire – but they must be run on the Fairbridge principle." (National Archives MH

102/1400) (Kershaw & Sacks, page 152)

1933: The Children and Young Persons Act stated that the consent of the child

and of the Secretary of State was needed, along with the consultation with the parents where these were deemed to be 'fit persons.' ... The intention was to manage migration in a more up-to-date and efficient way, but as the century progressed the limitations of the system were to be gradually exposed. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 197)

1934: On June 14, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) launched an appeal at the Grocer's Hall to raise £100,000 to establish more schools in the British Empire on the model of the Fairbridge Farm School in Western Australia. The Prince donated £1,000 (£36,980 in today's money) "...this is not a charity, it is an Imperial investment... *London Times*, July 25, 1934, page 7

British Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, was supportive.

...it claimed it gave an opportunity of happiness and a career to the numerous orphans and destitute children in Britain.

...by emigrating children overseas the Fairbridge scheme was also addressing Britain's unemployment crisis, particularly acute in the 1930s.

...a careful selection of children provided the Dominions with a steady flow of 'good' citizens – an upright and productive population stock trained to work on the land. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 153)

1935: *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* opened near Duncan on Vancouver Island, BC. The first 41 children arrived in September. Close to 170 children were put forth, but the Canadian Officials in London, rejected the majority of the children. (Letters dated September – October, 1935 Ottawa Archives Microfiche Imm Pr (RG 76 Vol 375 file 510340 pt.2)) Many protested – the Quarrier Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, to the Fairbridge Society Secretary, Mr. Green, dated September 13, 1935 “...of the 28... only 2 children were passed by Canada House. What happened in London, I do not know, but we consider it nothing short of an outrage on a crowd of fine children...turned down in such a ruthless way... we spent days in preparation and a good deal of money... and all to no purpose. I do hope...when you go to Ottawa you knock some sense into the powers that be.”

The ruling of no unaccompanied migrants under the age of 14, passed in council in 1924, was quietly disregarded.

The children presented to the Fairbridge Farm School are referred to as ‘material’ (page 1) and again on page 2: “...the difficulties which confront the Society in the selection of material. If the Society turn down these children, then they would strike a blow at the source of revenue... Strictly speaking,

The Fairbridge Farm School is somewhat in the nature of a broker. They ask these public assistance authorities, who are like wholesalers, to supply the children, who are the retailers.” (Canada House to the Acting Deputy Minister, Department of Immigration and Colonization—Letters dated between September – October, 1935 Ottawa Archives Microfiche Imm Pr (RG 76 Vol 375 file 510340 pt.2)

Influential supporters included T. D. Pattullo, the Provincial Secretary’s Dept, ...even in the Depression cheap farm labour and female household servants were in short supply. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 153)

Unwanted boys and girls from Britain were trained to become labourers and servants which are 2 of the most despised occupations. (Kershaw & Sacks, page 162) “A Canadian boy from the city does not take kindly to farm work.” (Letter dated December 23, 1935 from the Acting Deputy Minister, Department of Immigration and Colonization, to the Canadian Daughter’s League.) (Ottawa Archives Microfiche Imm Pr (RG 76 Vol 375 file 510340 pt.2))

1936: Harry T Logan – principal of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School Rhodes Scholar attracted attention and support.

***Unwanted* boys and girls from Britain were trained to become labourers and servants — two of the most despised occupations.**

I do hope...when you go to Ottawa you knock some sense into the powers that be.

Captain Dun-Water ‘sold’ his Fintry Estate to the Fairbridge Farm School for one dollar

1938: Fintry Fairbridge Training Farm. Having no heirs, Captain Dun-Water ‘sold’ his Fintry Estate, located on the west side of Lake Okanagan, in the interior of British Columbia, to the Fairbridge Society for one dollar. <http://www.finty.ca/history/index.php>

1948: the last group of 6 Child Migrants were sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School near Duncan, on Vancouver Island, BC.

1935 – 1948: 329 children were sent to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* near Duncan, on Vancouver Island, BC. Of this number, 95% were not orphans, 45% came from single-parent families, and 50% from 2 parent families. Relatively few orphans were sent to Canada because Fairbridge officials and the immigration authorities were reluctant to accept children who had been institutionalized for most of their lives.

(Dunae, Patrick Alexander. Waifs: The Fairbridge Society in BC, 1931-1951. Offprint from the Histoire. Sociale – Social History. No. 42, November 1988, p224-250; BC Archives - NW 325.711 D897, page 234)

The 329 children sent to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School* on Vancouver Island, like the child migrants before them, have their own individual stories and they range from feeling that being sent to Canada was the very best of luck, to the other end of the scale – where it was simply the worst experience imaginable.

1987: Child Migrants Trust established – before that time public knowledge or awareness of Britain’s child migrants was extremely limited. (The Select Committee on Health Minutes of Evidence, July 1997, page 12, See the website at: <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/empower>)

The following are excerpts from the *Select Committee on Health Minutes of Evidence, July 1997* See the website at: <http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/cgi-bin/empower>

Child migration was inspired by a variety of motives, few of which gave first priority to the needs of the children involved. Child migrants were viewed as a convenient source of cheap labour on Canadian farms. (Page 10)

...ages of the children generally ranged from 3-14 with the majority between 7-10. These children were sent away with the expectation that they would never return, to start new lives always without their families and often after


<p>many years of harsh institutional care, in a foreign land. (Page 9)</p> <p>Purpose - to populate the empire with Good White British Stock (page 9) and to maintain racial unity of the British Empire. (Page 10)</p> <p>It was a lack of accountability that allowed the charities to make ad hoc decisions which forever changed the lives of thousands of children and their families. (Page 9)</p> <p>Many child migrants experienced cruelty. Some Canadian farmers were charged with manslaughter, (Page 9)</p> <p>The tragic reality for many children was the appalling standards of care which fell well below accepted standards found within British institutions. Far too many children experienced practices and policies which would not have been tolerated by British child care agencies in that era. (Page 10)</p> <p>For most children migrated there was no family life offered. In many respects child migration lagged behind both public opinion and enlightened child care policies. (Page 10)</p> <p>Unfortunately insufficient attention and consideration was given to the long term implications of separating children from their families, their friends, their social context and their country on a permanent basis. (Page 10)</p> <p>A sense of rejection from their families and their country and a sense of isolation were to remain with many for the rest of their lives. (Page 10)</p> <p>Children were often sent without documentation – no passport, no social history. (Page 10)</p>		<p>Even those with successful careers feel overwhelmed at times by the loss and deprivation they suffered.</p>	<p>Deeply flawed assumption of many child migrating schemes that a fresh start in a new country was best achieved by cutting</p> <p>all ties between a child migrant and his or her mother and father and extended family. (Page 10)</p> <p>...both the children themselves and the wider public were confused and deceived by the inappropriate and untruthful use of the label ‘orphan.’ (Page 11)</p> <p>Plagued by scandals, lack of educational provisions, overwork of children, inadequate pay, suicides following episodes of ill-treatment, physical and sexual abuse... the interests of this large group of British children have never been safeguarded effectively nor consistently. (Page 11)</p> <p>This assumption that the good intentions of the respected voluntary agencies were sufficient to protect young children from abuse was shown to be entirely worthless. (Page 12)</p> <p>Given its discredited history, it is not surprising that neither the Government nor the agencies concerned with child migration have been able to accept any realistic measure of responsibility for the human costs of these schemes. Similarly, there has not been made available a fraction of the energy and investment to reunite former Child Migrants with their families as was previously given in order to separate them. (Page 12)</p> <p>Even those with successful careers feel overwhelmed at</p>
<p>The purpose: to populate the empire with Good White British Stock and to maintain racial unity of the British Empire.</p>		<p>times by the loss and deprivation they suffered. (Page 13)</p> <p><i>Compiled by Pat Skidmore</i></p>	

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

As the members, who attended the reunion are aware, changes beyond the convener’s control occurred at the last minute. As it happened, the Executive and the membership were in transit, and four Directors present including the Treasurer, were faced with a decision to either cancel or accept the changes. Cancellation, in our minds would have caused great individual expense and inconvenience and could possibly result in the collapse of our Association. Therefore, we opted to accept the changes, and with great effort the hotel Banquet Manager pulled the rabbit from the hat and the show went on, but at some extra cost.

Barry V. Hagen, Treasurer

See page 26 for the list of paid 2010 memberships



2009 Reunion—Pat Skidmore Photo .



Phil McColeman
Member of Parliament for Brant

It was asked that the government expand the information on Home Children in the schools."

HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Pat Skidmore
Corresponding Secretary, Fairbridge Canada Association
Editor, Fairbridge Gazette
President, Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society
2707 Fernwood Road
Victoria, BC
V8T 3A3

December 15, 2009

Dear Pat:

Thank you for the assistance that you provided to me and my staff in preparing for my recent Private Member's Motion. The historical brief, regarding Canada's British Home Children, which you provided was very valuable and I am grateful for your time and effort.

As you are aware, Motion-438, to designate 2010 as the Year of the British Home Child across Canada, received unanimous consent by Parliament. This is a wonderful tribute to Canada's Home Children and their descendants. It is my hope that this Motion will also provide Canadians with an opportunity to recognize the many organizations that have worked tirelessly to research and document the stories of the Home Children.

Thank you again and I wish you the very best in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Phil McColeman
Member of Parliament - Brant

"2010 declared as 'The Year of The Home Child.' Every MP who got up to speak was in favour of the motion - no dissenters. It was passed unanimously on a single vote. Some MPs asked that an apology also be given and it was recommended that each province also declare 2010 as 'The Year of The British Home Child' and that they also add or expand the information on Home Children in the schools."

(http://www.britishhomechildren.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=497:2010-art&catid=17:bhc-news&Itemid=2)

Mr. Phil McColeman (Brant, CPC) moved:

That, in the opinion of the House, the government should designate 2010 as The Year of the British Home Child across Canada.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in the House today to share with my colleagues a story that few Canadians know anything about. It is the story about courage, strength and perseverance. **It is a story of Canada's**

British home children. Like almost four million Canadians, my family can relate to this story. My uncle, Kenneth Bickerton, was a British home child. Born in 1916, my uncle was orphaned by the time he was 11 years old. Like most children in Britain, who suffered this fate, he spent time in an orphanage before being shipped off to Canada. He was 14 years old when he arrived in Quebec City. After being met by an immigration official, he and about two dozen other boys were transferred to Brantford, Ontario, to work on area farms... Between 1869 and 1948, over 100,000 British children, were sent to

Canada from Great Britain, many of them to work as farm labourers and domestic servants. These were the British home children: boys and girls, anywhere from 6 months to 18 years of age... For a variety of reasons, the children were sent to Canada, as we were a growing economy and in need of labourers. Most of the children were transported by British religious and charitable organizations. For the most part, these organizations believed that they were doing a good and noble thing for the children... many home children faced adversity. Most were able to overcome it, but it was by no means easy. The British home children faced considerable challenges and some experienced tremendous hardship. They were susceptible to mistreatment because their living conditions in Canada were not closely monitored. Some were malnourished and others emotionally starved. There was loneliness and sadness. Siblings were often separated upon their arrival and many never saw each other again. This is an important part of their story that deserves to be told.

However, their story does not end there. Due to their remarkable courage, strength and perseverance, Canada's British home children did endure, and most of them went on to lead healthy and productive lives.

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Pub=hansard&DocId=4297118&File=0#OOB-3000896>



Year of the British Home Child seen as major recognition

Declaration Decision recognizes contributions of the 100,000 orphans who came to Canada to work as labourers, servants

TAMMY SCOTT-WALLACE
TELEGRAPH JOURNAL

BELLEISLE CREEK – The federal government's decision to proclaim 2010 the Year of the British Home Child is being welcomed by descendants of the children.

"This has been quite a victory for us, really. This is a major form of recognition," says Marion Crawford of Belleisle Creek, one of the descendants.

Crawford, president of the Middlemore Atlantic Society, has worked alongside others for two years to have the declaration made to recognize the contributions of the 100,000 British orphans who made their way to Canada to work as farm labourers and servants, but also to raise awareness of the rarely spoken chapter in Canadian history.

On Dec. 7, MP Phil McColeman of Brant, Ont., introduced a private member's bill in the House of Commons encouraging the proclamation, and it was passed following many members' comments but no debate.

"It's a story of courage, strength and perseverance – it's the story of the British home children," McColeman read in the Commons. "It's a story that few Canadians know anything about."

Between 1869 and 1948, children aged six months to 18 years old living in horrific economic conditions in the United Kingdom travelled by boat to Canada, known to them as "the land of milk and honey."

Many home children faced "tremendous hardship," McColeman said, and many were abused when they reached their new families here.

"They were susceptible to mistreatment because their living conditions were not closely monitored, some were malnourished and others emotionally starved," said McColeman, whose uncle was a British home child.

"There was loneliness and sadness, sib-



Marion Crawford, president of the Middlemore Atlantic Society, says Ottawa's decision to proclaim 2010 the Year of the British Home Child is a significant achievement.

lings were often separated upon their arrival and many never saw each other again."

An estimated 10,000 home children are still living in Canada.

McColeman said the story of the child immigrants from the U.K. should be told out of respect for the contributions they made to the value system and economy of Canada.

"Canada's British home children are an integral part of our country's history," he said. "They're a part of our heritage. They represent a part of our past and their descendants represent a part of our future."

Documents show the Canadian government paid \$2 a person for these young people, who were dispersed throughout the country.

While the federal government is still

not making a move to publicly apologize to the British home children for the mistreatment they endured here, as the Australian government did last month, Crawford said it is important to enjoy the successes as they come. She said the U.K. is considering making an apology after Christmas to the thousands of orphans it sent away.

Crawford said in New Brunswick there have been great strides in support of the British home children. While there are only a couple home children still living in the province, there are thousands of descendants here, many of whom don't even know the story of their ancestors because of the embarrassment the children felt as "outsiders." Many of them simply didn't share their beginnings, not even with their own children.

In 2009, the province of New Brunswick proclaimed the year in honour of the British home children and in October 2010 Canada Post is issuing a stamp to commemorate the significance of its declaration.

Crawford said while some material has been added to school text books in this province to chart the story of the home children, many provinces have not come on board.

That is an issue MP John Cannis of Scarborough Centre brought up during comments surrounding McColeman's bill.

He said while the federal government doesn't have jurisdiction over the education curriculum, he believes it has a place to attempt to persuade provincial education departments to "put it on your curriculum" across the country.

It is estimated that 12 per cent of people living in Canada are descendants of British home children.

"This motion tells us that no longer is the story of the British home child going to be swept under the rug," Crawford said. "It is part of Canadian history that has to be told."

"We have never expected retribution

from the government. We can't expect the government to offer up financial assistance to those who suffered, we know that would be next to impossible to get, so what this declaration offers us as descendants is acknowledgement of the past."

Crawford has compiled reams of information on British home children and said anyone questioning their own ancestry can contact her.

IT'S A STORY OF COURAGE, STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE – IT'S THE STORY OF THE BRITISH HOME CHILDREN. IT'S A STORY THAT FEW CANADIANS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT."

PHIL MCCOLEMAN

"So many people are trying to find their roots, and very often we have information to help them."

It is estimated about 6,000 British home children came to the Maritimes (of them about 100 such as Crawford's grandfather went to Kings County farms) and while most of the British natives are dead, their descendants are still picking up the pieces. Many of them experience voids in their family tree because of the separation of the move to Canada caused among families, Crawford said. Every year there are reunions held, and in the past decade Crawford has researched and drawn lines between thousands of home children and their descendants.

Crawford can be called at (506) 485-1815 or emailed at mcrawford@nbnet.nb.ca, or people can visit www.middlemoreatlanticsociety.com.

Published Tuesday December 22nd, 2009



In 1991, Dave & Kay Lorente hosted the first reunion for British migrant children—Home Children—and their families in Renfrew. Billie Price, 81, fled the event. When Dave had gently invited the Home Children to tell their stories, Price couldn't bear it. He apologized the next day. "I couldn't stay. If I had, I would have broke down. Never thought I'd see the day when Home Children would be recognized and honoured."

This recognition is largely due to the tireless efforts of the Lorentes. As founders of Home Children Canada (HCC), a sub-committee of Heritage Renfrew, they have given a voice to the children of long ago—the wards of "the Homes"—that history seems to have forgotten.

For 14 years Dave Lorente answered requests for assistance in locating Home Children records. He has now handed the torch to John Sayers of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. For more information:

*John Sayers, Home Children Committee, BIFHSGO
2157 Fillmore Crescent, Ottawa ON K1J 6A1*

L-R: David Lorente, Phil McColeman, & John Sayers. Taken in the House of Commons just after the motion. David and John were invited guests in the visitor's gallery.
Photo courtesy of Dave Lorente

COUNCILLOR REG CORNS

45 HAWTHORNE ROAD
BOURNVILLE
BIRMINGHAM
B30 1EQ
Tel: 0121 458 1798

Please quote our reference in any reply
Our ref: RC.ai.4.1.2010

Email: Reginald_Corns@birmingham.gov.uk

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Gordon Brown, MP.,
First Lord of the Treasury,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON,
S1A 2AA

4th January 2010

Dear Prime Minister,

Further to my letter dated 30th May 2008, I would like to concur with the intention to offer an apology in the New Year to The British Home Children of Canada.

I truly believe they will appreciate and accept the apology with enormous gratitude in the memory of their forefathers and mothers, who over a period of 115 years from 1833 to 1948 as young people, were resettled in Canada.

However, many would appreciate it if the intended words of apology included the one deed that would help to reunite families in Canada with lost family or roots in Britain. Their hope would be that every avenue would be opened with the appropriate recourses to allow this to happen.

Birmingham City Council, through its Genealogy Department, have carried out test cases to establish the procedures needed and some aspects can be problematical. It might suggest therefore that National Government could assist in scrutinising the present processes and produce a formula as a means of assistance that would be more amenable.

May I also refer you to the early day motion EDM 1815 dated the 17th June 2008. This also speaks of helping such families.

It will be a momentous time for all such Canadian families to hear the proposed apology. As you know, the Canadian Government have taken the historical step of making 2010 the year of the British Home Children.

The very least we can do is satisfy their quest for information.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR REG CORNS
Birmingham City Council

CC: Cllr Mike Whitby
Leader of Birmingham City Council



Middlemore Children, Birmingham, pre 1928
Photos courtesy of Reg Corns



Councillor Reg Corns, Birmingham, England—shared the letters that he wrote to the British Prime Minister and the MPs regarding the apology in the New Year to the British Home Children of Canada.



Dave Lorente, Marjorie Skidmore, Pam & Reg Corns, Pat Skidmore—met in London Feb 2010



Middlemore Homes 1928
Photo courtesy of Reg Corns

COUNCILLOR REG CORNS

45 HAWTHORNE ROAD
BOURNVILLE
BIRMINGHAM
B30 1EQ
Tel: 0121 458 1798

Please quote our reference in any reply
Our ref: RC.fc.4.1.2010

Email: Reginald_Corns@birmingham.gov.uk

4th January 2010

Dear

You may recall in May 2008, I wrote asking for your support to have 2009 designated the year of the British Home Children to which you very kindly gave your support. Many MP's replied by letter which I delivered to the British Home Children Group in New Brunswick.

Although 2009 was not to be their year, the Canadian Government have declared 2010 "The British Home Children Year" which has been received with high accolade by the many Home Children Societies in Canada.

You may recall the revelations surrounding the Australian Home Children, the circumstances surrounding their resettlement and apology issued by the Australian Prime Minister. This led to a response from the British Prime Minister who then went on to state he would be announcing an official apology for the Canadian situation in the New Year. Canadians are looking forward to such an announcement, but given my previous letter to you and the Early Day Motion EDM1817 dated 17th June 2008 moved in the House of Commons, the hope is every avenue can be opened to help the descendants of all Home Children to establish their roots.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for the support. I do know your contributions gave much incentive to our Canadian friends to press for their year and now they have it. However that final request, if granted, will certainly conclude this chapter of events in our country's history.

I have attached a copy letter to the Prime Minister for your information.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Reg Corns
Birmingham City Council

CC: Councillor Mike Whitby
Leader of Birmingham City Council

THE OPERATIVE.

ESTABLISHED BY THE WORKING CLASSES FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF LABOUR.

"ILL FARES THE LAND, TO HAST'NING ILLS A PREY,
WHERE WEALTH ACCUMULATES, AND MEN DECAY."—GOLDENRITH.

VOL. II. No. 27.]

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1839.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

TRANSPORTATION AND SALE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR—DEFENCE OF THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

It is many weeks since we first called attention to the fact that the officers of certain parishes in the metropolis were in the habit of entrusting the children of the poor to the care of the Children's Friend Society, by whom they were sent to the Cape of Good Hope, without the knowledge and consent of their parents or natural guardians. Soon after our first notice of the matter in the columns of "THE OPERATIVE," the conduct of these brutal kidnappers was not only justified but applauded. At a meeting of the parishioners of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, by whose officers the child of the woman Croker had been transported contrary to the desire and without the knowledge of the parent, whose appeal to the magistrates of Bow-street for the restoration of her child first excited the attention and commiseration of every breast not dead to the feelings of humanity—we say, at that period, and with these startling facts before their eyes, the *respectable* parishioners of St. Martin's came to the resolution in a vestry meeting, "That the thanks of the parish and the public generally were due to the board of guardians for the way in which they had fulfilled their duties by braving the abuse thrown on them by *ex parte* statements in the public press." At this meeting, also, one of the parishioners drew a flattering picture of the highly moral state of society in the Cape of Good Hope, and said that having lately visited Cape Town, he had had an opportunity of knowing that the children sent there were treated with the greatest kindness by their masters and mistresses. Since this, however, the *ex parte* statements of the "vile press," have succeeded in developing a few more of the iniquities of these traffickers in juvenile flesh, who now stand convicted before the country, not only of transporting the poor children, but of selling them to the Dutch boors at the Cape, at prices varying from 8% to 10% per head. And this, too, under the auspices of a society which has her Majesty the Queen (Heavens bless her!) for its patron, and professes to be established on principles of morality and religion. Detestable cant and hypocrisy!

The Operative, dated Sunday, May 5, 1839, is "TRANSPORTATION AND SALE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR—DEFENCE OF THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY"

This article, from the English Newspaper, *The Operative*, is in a large format which I am unable to reproduce in full here—however, I have an electronic version and if anyone would like the full article sent to them, please contact me.

Children in the care of the Children's Friend Society were being sold to the Dutch Boors at the Cape of Good Hope, at process varying from 8/ to 10/ per head.

The Society for the Suppression of Juvenile Vagrancy was founded in London in 1830 by a retired naval captain, Edward Pelham Brenton. Brenton's aim was to prepare destitute children for migration with training to enable them to support themselves. It became known as the Children's Friend Society. There are two interesting pieces of information to pass on—(1) The first group of *child migrants* that were sent to Canada came under the auspices of the Children's Friend Society in 1833. (this is the first group that I have been able to find documented), and (2) Dr James William Fairbridge, Kingsley Fairbridge's great-grandfather, had helped set up a Children's Friend Society as early as 1824 in Capetown. (see article page 21) Thus the Fairbridge's were involved with migrating the first (1833) and the last (1948) groups of children to Canada. Kingsley Fairbridge may have had a *vision*, but migrating children was not new to his family.

The article discusses that in the 1830s, the children of the poor were being sent to the Cape of Good Hope without the knowledge or consent of their parents or natural guardians. It sparked a controversy in the day—"...these traffickers in juvenile human flesh, who now stand convicted before the country, not only of transporting the poor children, but of selling them to the Dutch boors at the Cape, at prices varying from 8/ to 10/ per head. And thus too, under the auspices of a

And thus too, under the auspices of a society which has her Majesty the Queen (Heavens Bless her!) for its patron, and professes to be established on principles of morality and religion. Detestable cant and hypocrisy!"

society which has her Majesty the Queen (Heavens Bless her!) for its patron, and professes to be established on principles of morality and religion. Detestable cant and hypocrisy!”

...in the name of common sense, can the consent of mere babes be a justification for the conduct of these British dealers in human flesh, who after trepanning their victims, dispose of them for a premium...

The article continues: “Did we not know that justice, when employed in the cause of the poor, is always a one-sided hobbling beldame, we should have expected that the society thus impugned would long ere this have been forced to take measures to secure the return of these juvenile victims of morbid philanthropy...” The society argued that the reports in the daily journals about the children being sold as slaves and the reports of ill-treatment have caused much mischief to the society which needs explanation. Absurd, said the society, the “...premium having been paid by the master of each boy was for the benefit of the boy.” It was also found that the other boys who complained of mistreatment, were “...extremely troublesome and required considerable strictness.” The society claimed to have sent the children with both the child’s and the parent or guardian’s permission, yet how can you explain the numerous complaints from parents that they did not give permission. “...and yet this official organ of the society has the effrontery to declare that ‘they ALWAYS obtain the consent and sanction of both parents and child.’ No doubt that some children when in the clutches of the society, and pampered by its crimping agents with sweetmeats, lollipops and cakes, and beguiled with kind words, might now express their disinclination—but—in the name of common sense, can the consent of mere babes be a justification for the conduct of these British

dealers in human flesh, who after trepanning their victims, dispose of them for a premium...(as the worthy secretary [of the Children’s Friend Society] calls it) of 7/10s each, which goes—where?—into the society’s funds.

“We are well aware that many of the supporters of this society would willingly transport all the children and half the adult population of the land to the most unhealthy portion of the globe, if by so doing they could increase their own security and get rid of what they impiously term the ‘surplus population’ of the country.

From such as those [the Children’s Friend Society] therefore we neither look for nor hope redress—their callous disregard of the statements brought before the public proved that they are conscious-steeled, and that in the prosecution of their darling object they will overlap the barriers of justice and humanity.

The Operative had begun a petition to the House of Commons: “...so that necessary steps may be taken to prevent the further kidnapping and transportation of the children of the poor.”

...boys who complained of mistreatment, were found to be “...extremely troublesome and required considerable strictness.”

British Child Migration, surrounded by controversy, but supported by the wealthy, carried on for more than another 130 years (a total of 348 years of British Child Migration: the first documented group of children were sent in 1619 and last group were sent to Australia in 1967) In Canada, the Toronto area of Upper Canada received its first group of Child Migrants in 1833 under the auspices of the Children Friend’s Society, and the Cowichan Station area of Vancouver Island received its final six Child Migrants. This brought the number to 329 children who were sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on Vancouver Island, BC.

Pat Skidmore



Francesca Brookshaw
Irene Robinson and Jim
Harris (background.)

Daytime view from the Hotel and night time view



STATUE OF KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE

The Queen and the founder's statue
Recall Imperial dreams.
Of a time that's really passed away
Or so to me it seems.

This stamp with names where he once lived,
Both of them now banished,
And his schemes once big and thriving,
Equally - all have vanished.

Was it rescue? Or Empire- building,
As we youngsters changed our nation?
Or was it something "incorrect,"
Children's deportation?



KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE
(1885 - 1924)

But the countries where we settled
Theirs has been the gain.
They got "good British stock" a'plenty,
-Yet some retain the pain.

.....The pain of leaving families
And sailing far away.
No blame to Kingsley Fairbridge though,
A great man in his day.
Proud young colonial scholar, poet, dreamer too,
He even took up boxing and earned an Oxford blue,
And he had this "Vision Splendid," swayed others to his view.
But early at Pinjarra, with family at his side
And the first few British children,he took ill and died.
The problems they were many and the flow of cash was slow
But the soon-spread fame of Fairbridge ensured that it would grow.

Approximately 6,000 British children emigrated to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Rhodesia between 1912 and 1981, (about 2,900 of them without parents to Farm Schools, and the remainder were accompanied by one or both parents) - under the auspices of the Child Emigration Society founded by an impoverished South African Rhodes Scholar, Kingsley Fairbridge, at Oxford University among his fellow students, in 1909.

Recommended reading
FAIRBRIDGE, Empire and
Child Migration -
Geoffrey Sherington and
Chris Jeffrey, Woburn Press
and University of W.A. Press.

Sent in by John Stocker, former Northcote Fairbridgian: I emigrated to Australia in 1937, aged eight in the first party of 28 boys and we were the only kids at Northcote until Spring 1938 when the second party arrived including the girls you saw in that picture you published in the Gazette. {Ed. See the Christmas 2007 issue, page 21} I was at Fairbridge Farm School, Molong for a relatively short time. I went up there GED 15 with 41 other kids from Northcote Farm School in Victoria, (Australia) in December of 1944 -war still on - because Northcote was suffering a water shortage and funds from its London Trust were being frozen because of wartime priorities for the use of sterling. Because I had finished grade school I was immediately made a trainee and my first job was the "cliché prison yard chore of peeling potatoes!" At first I was under one of the two Northcote cottage mothers who travelled up with us but she missed her family down in Melbourne over 600 miles away and didn't stay long. You see although Northcote had been 12 miles from the township of

Bacchus Marsh, at Molong we were then 250 miles from the city of Sydney whereas Bacchus Marsh is only 40 odd miles from the city of Melbourne so at Fairbridge one felt isolated from civilization. However, not too bad really I suppose because the little town of Molong was only four miles away and on Saturdays they let us walk into town to go to the picture show.

For the next eighteen months I was in succession a dairy hand, worked in the bakery, kitchen, poultry farm, pig-gery, slaughter-house -sheep for the dining room kitchen—and on my favourite 'town run' driving the gig into the town of Molong for post, some supplies and to pick up cottage mothers returning from leave in Sydney. One felt important to be shopping and mixing with normal citizens though was always conscious of being a "pommy" a derogatory term in Australia for people from England, and moreover a "Fairbridge kid, marked out by our khaki shirts, shorts and lack of socks. The Principal, F.K.S. Woods seemed to take an interest in me though always extremely busy and taught me shorthand and some German on Sunday evenings. With the visit of the Duke of Gloucester, then President of the Fairbridge Society in London but also in Australia as war-time Governor General, I wrote up a piece on the Duke and his links with Fairbridge, world-wide for the local paper, *The Molong Express*, typing it up in the Fairbridge Office. I was sixteen and a half. Well, they published it and took me on as a cadet journalist and that for me was the beginning of an assortment of jobs that mostly had little to do with agriculture—thank goodness! I liked the monthly social dances in the main hall, scouting, riding horses, reading from the

very limited library, singing in church, and I had a "girl-friend" even if all we did (well in my case at any rate) was smile at each other and say to others "She is my girl." Or the girl would be teased by her friends who'd say "Ooh, you like so and so, don't you" giggle, giggle, nudge, nudge. An age of innocence compared to the drugs smokes and drink culture experienced by teenagers today. So my next eighteen months as a fresh Old Fairbridgian were spent still at Fairbridge as I boarded there in the staff quarters and rode a bicycle in an out from work. But I felt grown up and sat up on the stage for breakfasts and weekend meals with the staff and visiting old Fairbridgians. In this way I know I acquired some social skills which were lacking in those simply turned out on the world at 16 and left to work out for themselves what the real world was like. Then I returned to Melbourne and did everything under the sun until I became a teacher eventually.

The farm school at Molong is a complete ruin and Northcote is now run as a government recreation camp. The large Fairbridge, Pinjarra near Perth, Western Australia, is used for all sorts of wonderful things. Pam Wilson, a former staff member who more or less runs their alumni affairs (oldfairbridge@yahoo.com) **John Stocker**



Jock Bennett and Chinami Hancock 2009 Reunion

Photo courtesy of Jock Bennett



Bill Dowler, Ernie Hodge & Eric Lewis

Photo courtesy of Ernie Hodge

Golf Poem

http://www.smileycentral.com/?partner=ZSzeb001_ZNxdm801YYUS

In My Hand I Hold A Ball,
White And Dimpled, Rather Small.
Oh, How Bland It Does Appear,
This Harmless Looking Little Sphere.
By Its Size I Could Not Guess,
The Awesome Strength It Does Possess.
But Since I Fell Beneath Its Spell,
I've Wandered Through The Fires Of Hell.
My Life Has Not Been Quite The Same,
Since I Chose To Play This Stupid Game.
It Rules My Mind For Hours On End,
A Fortune It Has Made Me Spend.
It Has Made Me Yell, Curse And Cry,
I Hate Myself And Want To Die.
It Promises A Thing Called Par,
If I Can Hit It Straight And Far.
To Master Such A Tiny Ball,
Should Not Be Very Hard At All.
But My Desires The Ball Refuses,
And Does Exactly As It Chooses.

It Hooks And Slices, Dribbles And Dies,
And Even Disappears Before My Eyes.
Often It Will Have A Whim,
To Hit A Tree Or Take A Swim.

With Miles Of Grass On Which To Land,
It Finds A Tiny Patch Of Sand.
Then Has Me Offering Up My Soul,
If Only It Would Find The Hole.

It's Made Me Whimper Like A Pup,
And Swear That I Will Give It Up.
And Take To Drink To Ease My Sorrow,
But The Ball Knows ... I'll Be Back Tomorrow.

Stand proud you noble swingers of clubs and losers of balls.... A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud. Almost feel like a hybrid.

*Sent in by Ernie Hodge
Ernie arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm
School on November 24, 1938. He travelled across the
Atlantic on the Duchess of Bedford.*

This overview of Kingsley Fairbridge is from the Australian Dictionary of Biography,

On-line Edition at: <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080485b.htm>

“FAIRBRIDGE, KINGSLEY OGILVIE (1885-1924), Imperialist and idealist, was born on 2 May 1885 at Grahamstown, South Africa, son of Rhys Seymour Fairbridge, mining engineer and land surveyor, and his wife Rosalie Helen, née Ogilvie. **His great-grandfather Dr James William Fairbridge, in 1824 in Capetown, had helped set up a Children’s Friend Society.**

Kingsley briefly attended St Andrew’s College before, at 11, he moved with the family to Mashonaland, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). He suffered severe malaria and at 12 had the vision that he would like to bring farmers to this fertile but empty land—it was reinforced by his exposure to the slums of England in 1902. He educated himself and went as a Rhodes scholar to Oxford in 1908.

He was awarded a diploma in forestry at Exeter College (1911) and a boxing blue as a middleweight. Next year with friends he formed the Child Emigration Society (later Fairbridge Society). He planned to initiate a series of farm schools for orphaned and underprivileged children, which would relieve overcrowded English slums and, within an agricultural setting, provide training in the underpopulated areas of the world. He chose Western Australia for his first experiment and on 14 December 1911 married Ruby Ethel Whitmore, who had some nursing training, at Felbridge, Surrey.

They arrived in Perth next year with idealism but little financial expertise or practical agricultural knowledge. They acquired a small mixed farm near Pinjarra where they built accommodation, initially in tents, for the first thirty-five orphans who arrived in 1913. World War I stopped further migration and dried up most of the society’s funds. The State government helped with a subsidy and in 1919 the Fairbridges went to England where he raised the money for a 3000-acre (1214 ha) uncleared property north-east of Pinjarra. Next year this farm was laid out and separate cottages built for the boys and girls, each family-sized group with its own garden, designed to avoid an institutionalized approach. The government belatedly provided a formal school, and by 1924 there were 200 children being educated, gradually raised to 400.

The struggle had been justified and the farm school was a success. But the founder, weakened by malaria, died of lymphatic tumour in Perth on 19 July 1924 and was buried at his school. He was survived by his wife (d.1966), two daughters and two sons who all returned to England. The farm school continued under a principal. While Fairbridge’s orphans were undeniably given a happy, kindly start in life, for various reasons their training was inadequate and led to their being fitted for only a range of semi-skilled occupations. Lack of finance always limited the founder’s dream of ‘Great Colleges of Agriculture’ and the final result hardly reduced either Britain’s over-population or increased Australia’s sparse inland settlement.”



Front—Ellen Duffy, Marjorie Skidmore, Bill Cockburn, Pat Skidmore



Ian Hanson and Mile McIver
2009 Reunion photos from the McIver Brookshaw Family

Fairbridge Chapel Facts

sent in by Ron Smith

The **Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society** is the registered owner of the buildings and grounds. The Chapel grounds is 1/2 acres in size, quite small when you consider how big the chapel is as well as the school house. The property is a separate title and not attached to the strata in any way. The property was cut off before the strata came into existence.

On May 27, 1981 the Cowichan Valley Regional District passed a special by-law registering the Chapel, School House and grounds as a heritage site. This by-law was then sent to the Provincial Government who approved the by-law and registered. At the same time the provincial government made registered it as a provincial heritage site.

The local and provincial heritage laws are all still in place and because a registered society that can give out tax receipts for donations, we can also apply for grants from governments, other charitable organizations, foundations etc. where often local governments cannot apply for such funds. For example, the B.C. Heritage Trust provided us with a little under 50% of the cost associated with putting on the new Chapel and School House roofs a couple of years ago. It took us almost a decade of savings



The Cowichan Valley Regional District passed a special by-law registering the Chapel, School House and grounds as a heritage site on May 27, 1981.

by the society to have enough money in the bank so we could show that we had enough money to cover the balance of the costs associated with the work.

The Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society is not governed by any of the Fairbridge Strata by-laws and the Society has the right of access along Fairbridge Drive from the north entrance up to the end of the chapel property. Having said that, we work closely with the strata. The strata provides us with water and sewage disposal as well as we park on a portion of their land immediately up the hill from the chapel. They also assist with the grass cutting and strata members come out once a year and clean up around the chapel gardens etc. In turn, the strata uses the school house for their strata

meetings and the chapel for the annual Christmas Carols event. The latter has been going for about 20 years.

The Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Society is not part of the strata and the strata is not set up to maintain the chapel. Whether they would in the future I cannot say. At the moment there are 5 strata members who are on

**Our Society membership is dwindling.
We need local people to join the Society**

the Chapel Society Board of Directors of which 4 are on the Strata Council (out of 7). This is not usually the case, however.

Thus, the obligation to maintain the Chapel falls on the Chapel Society Board of Directors to do the work themselves or hire someone when we cannot do the necessary work.

To give you an example of what is done, and by who; Cliff Rabey cuts the lawns and trims some of the bushes; Erik Henriksen assists with the water system including the in-ground irrigation and the Board has asked me to be sort of the *jack of all trades* which includes booking and overseeing all weddings and special events; organizing the parking with the local kids who help with the parking duties, being secretary and at the moment treasurer, apply for grants, clean and maintain the inside of the Chapel and the School House, call for tenders for major undertakings such as was done this summer with interior ceiling and painting, and do all the maintenance that I can do like painting the buildings, cleaning the eve troughs, and other minor repairs. For example, last summer Cliff and I made some new steps for the school house and are already planning out work for the spring outside the Chapel--new garden area, and repairs to doors and cement steps. Oh yes, I also usually wind up the historic clock twice a week!!

Our Society membership is dwindling. We especially need local people to join the Society although we haven't really gone out of our way yet to get new members. In this way we can get some to take over jobs like the treasurers position as well as work with us on projects. There are two new families who moved into Fairbridge this year and are very interested in the Society (both live directly across from the Chapel) and hope they will join this spring. We also are going to try and get others in the strata to join but we are open to still others from anywhere. I have been trying to do some kind of membership brochure for years but it has been difficult to find the time to do a proper one. Should we not be able

to operate the society, thus maintain the buildings, there are a few options we would have to explore:

a. would the Society want to take it on

b. would the BC Nature Trust want to take it over and maintain it like they to other properties in B.C.

c. would there be interest from the federal government to make it a national historic site and provide on-going funding assistance

They may also set up a local body to oversee its maintenance and operation. This may be a long shot at the moment.



in a washroom, re-do the classroom area, change the walls and flooring and other things. If this was done then there would likely be much wider support from the overall community to get on board and maintain the entire heritage site far into the future.

We receive in the order of about \$700-\$1000 in donations per year over and above what

we take in from weddings and other events. Right now we have just over \$7,000 in the bank and our liability insurance is about \$700. In addition the CVRD covers us with their blanket insurance policy for fire and break-ins etc. This assistance is given to us year by year and could change but the CVRD is doing this now so we don't come to them each year begging for a grant-in-aid and taking up their paperwork and time at a Board meeting. They have given this to us since 1988.

Ron Smith

Ron Smith usually winds up the historic clock twice a week!!

I am the President of the Strata Corporation this coming year and Cliff (grounds/roads), Erik (water/sewer) and Jack Hicks (a lawyer and good friend) is the treasurer for the strata. We are all on the Board of Directors for the Chapel Society as well.

I am working on an application to the Heritage Canada in January. I am also working on a project to turn the school house into a small museum housing various artefacts and pictures about Fairbridge. Also, another idea is to have the school house as a base to allow school groups (especially elementary students) come out and spend a day at Fairbridge using the building as a little classroom so they could learn about the history first hand. This will take some money but I know there is interest in this idea. For example we would have to put



Alma & Fred Harding, Theresa and Lily Dean
Pat Skidmore Photo



May Goldie (Bean) and Judy Miller



Jean Conlon and the Brookshaws: 50/50 Draw

2009 Reunion photos and Fairbridge Chapel photos on page 22 and 23 are from the McIver Brookshaw Family

THE LONG WAY HOME

To be launched in Australia 12 March 2010

In 1950, eleven-year-old Ronnie Sabin and his brothers Eddie and Joey were living a dismal life in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England. They had spent most of their early years in the notorious Rochester Dwellings, one of the worst post-War slum areas in the city. The boys were always hungry and never warm. They had to scavenge, beg and steal to survive.

Their mother worked twelve hour shifts as a bus conductress to try and support them and they hadn't seen their father, a Regimental Sergeant Major in the British Army, since 1943. In 1947 their mother moved them to a better area of Newcastle but the boys' destructive and dishonest behaviour continued. They were cheeky and insolent; they trashed houses and stole anything that wasn't bolted down. The authorities eventually rounded them up and their mother agreed that they should be sent to Australia as child migrants under the care of the Fairbridge organisation.

Ronnie spent six years at Fairbridge Farm School Molong, in rural New South Wales, under the care of its commanding principal Mr Woods and his gentle wife, Ruth. When Ronnie left Fairbridge, 'Woodsy' told him that bringing him up had been like 'trying to tame a wild horse'. But tame him, they did.

Ronnie is convinced that he would have ended up in jail or worse had he stayed in Newcastle. He credits the guidance of the Woods and the discipline and value of hard work that they instilled in him for turning his life around and enabling him to make a success of it, both as a family man and businessman in Australia and New Zealand.

Often hilarious, sometimes heart-wrenching, Ronnie's memoir adds a positive perspective to the Child Migrant Scheme debate. It pays tribute to the Fairbridge Organisation and details Ronnie's delight at finally taking the long journey home to be reunited with his family in Newcastle.

jo bailey, writer, copywriter, designer, author
Rangiora, New Zealand
info@jobailey.com

A Special Edition Anthology Book, to be published later this summer by *Canadian Stories* magazine, is a great opportunity for us to tell our stories and have them grouped together in one book, to acknowledge and honour our Home Children, and a wonderful keepsake and resource for 2010 Year of the British Home Child.

No limit for the length of story. No deadline yet (to be published this summer).

You can include picture(s) which will be printed in black and white for the Anthology.

Send your Home Child Story to: ejan...@sympatico.ca

When submitting your story **please use the Subject line - 2010 Anthology**

Ed Janzen
CANADIAN STORIES
P.O. Box 232, Fergus, Ontario - N1M 2W8
Or contact **Gail Collins** for information at (905) 935-4960 or gcol...@sympatico.ca
<http://www.britishhomechildren.org/>



Mike McIver at the
Fairbridge Cairn

Photo courtesy of the Brookshaw McIver family

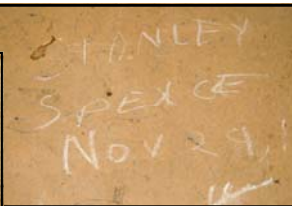
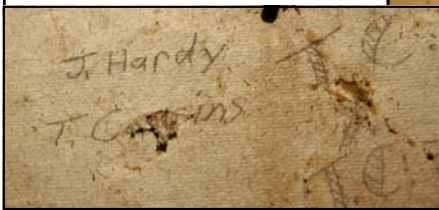
December 2009 Christmas Concert held at the Fairbridge Chapel



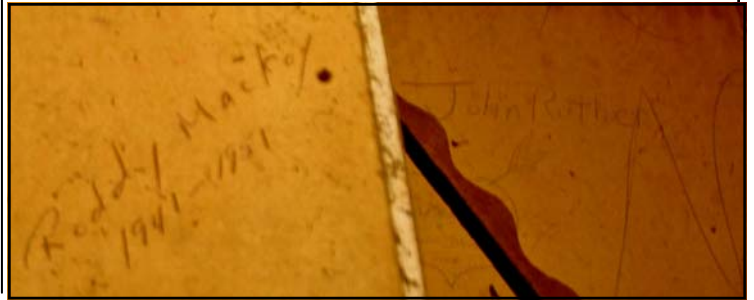
The Duncan Christian School Elementary Choir and Band with music director Ruth Bauman, and piano accompanist Sherri Atsma, and the Cowichan Community Band played a variety of traditional Christmas songs and the concert ended with everyone standing and singing: the words to *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *Deck the Halls*, *Silent Night*, *The First Noel*, *Joy to the World* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* filled the Chapel. A wonderful collection of goodies and hot drinks were enjoyed by all—before heading back home through the chilly afternoon.

The December 12th Christmas Concert held at the Fairbridge Chapel was well attended. The Hardys and the Hagens were the representatives of the Fairbridge Alumni.

Before leaving I visited the basement to check on the stove—and sure enough, the Fairbridge Strata were down there stoking the fire. I noticed a few more names on the wall—John Hardy, Tony Cousins, Stanley Spence, Roddy Mackay, and John Ruther(ford) - to name a few. I will take a tripod the next time to ensure I get the photos in focus.



Pat Skidmore photos



Welcome to British Home Children Descendants

In recognition of the Home Children's courage, ingenuity, vision & contributions in this forgotten period in Canada's history, the Canadian Parliament has unanimously designated 2010 as the Year of the Home Child. As well, the Canadian Stamp Advisory Board of Canada will issue one stamp in October 2010 in recognition of the Home Children, & The Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism plans to include recognition of their stories in citizenship ceremonies.

Welcome to our site dedicated to the Descendants of British Home Children (BHC). We are an extension of the British Home Children Mailing List, hosted by Rootsweb. During the Child Emigration Scheme (called now British Home Children), between 1869 and the early 1930s, over 100,000 children were sent to Canada alone from Great Britain. According to the UK House of Commons' Child Migrant's Trust Report, "it is estimated that some 150,000 children were dispatched over a period of 350 years—the earliest recorded child migrants left Britain for the Virginia Colony in 1618, and the process did not finally end until the late 1960s." From the website at: <http://www.britishhomechildren.org/>

Home Children VS Child Migrant— “Home Children” seems to be the term mostly used when referring to Child Migrants to Canada, but I believe that most Canadian Fairbridgians call themselves Child Migrants.



Fairbridgians who passed away *Our sympathy to the families.*

Rev. Thomas Edward Speed

March 7, 1923 - December 30, 2009

Tom died peacefully at Inglewood Care Centre, West Vancouver. Predeceased



by son Paul Richard (1991). Survived by brother Richard (Berenice), wife Maureen, son Tom, daughter Linda (Michel) and grandchildren Emilie and Tillie Roy, Thomas and Janine Speed and their mother Robin. A celebration of life took place on Tuesday, January 12th, 2:00 pm at St. Catherine's Anglican Church, 1058 Ridgewood Dr. North Vancouver. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Catherine's Church, Camp Artaban (same address), or charity of your choice. Tom Speed was in the first group to come to the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*. He arrived on September 25, 1935.

Robert (Bob) Bennett passed away March 1, 2010: Born October 12, 1927 in Scotland. Bob passed away peacefully March 1, 2010. He was predeceased by brother George and sisters Janet and Mary Jane. Survived by sister Cathy Laing and brother John (Jock) both of Gibsons, B.C., plus many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 263, Coquitlam, B.C. March 19, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

Robert arrived at the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School on May 8, 1940—he and his brother Jock, travelled across the Atlantic on the *Duchess of Bedford*.

Another interesting item is from a small report from the Ministry of Forests. It was done for them in 1993 and

dealt with caves and kersts on Vancouver Island. There is a list of the caves in the Cowichan Valley and one entry (number 50081) names one ***Prince of Wales Cave*** "Located on private land in Prince of Wales farm field. May be filled in. No further information." Now the question is, do

Does anyone recall the Prince of Wales Cave?

any of the boys and girls of years ago remember the cave and its location? It would be great if we knew where it

was. I am going to the Ministry of Forests office in Cobble Hill next week and see if I can get a complete copy as well as any map that may accompany the report. Hopefully they still have the report.

Ron Smith Jan 8, 2010

List of 2010 Paid Members Sent in by the Hagens

1. Armstrong, Ken	15. Dean, Lily	34. Hodge, Ernie	53. Skidmore, Joan
2. Ayer, John	16. Dewhirst, Gordon	35. Hughes, Alfred	54. Skidmore, Marjorie
3. Bishop, Fred	17. Duffy, Ellen	36. Isherwood, Tom	55. Skidmore, Pat
4. Blackmore, Thomas	18. Emmerson, William	37. Kent, Cheryl	56. Speed, Richard
5. Blake, Stanley	19. Fenton, Joe	38. Lisle, Tom	57. Stoker, William
6. Bordeleau, Nancy	20. Field, Phillip	39. MacKay, Roddy	58. Taylor, Hugh
7. Brown, Pam	21. Frazer, Kerry	40. Martin, Joan	59. Todd, Ernest
8. Bulcock, Fred	22. Friends of Fintry	41. Millman, Dennis	60. Toms, Evelyn
9. Carver, Jessie	23. Goldie, May	42. Montgomery, Georgina	61. Wallace, Ellinor
10. Conlon, Jean	24. Gray, Clement	43. Naylor, Agnes	62. West, Patricia
11. Conlon, Margaret	25. Hagen, Barry	44. Nelson, Edith	63. Westdorp, Rosemary
12. Conlon, Shirley	26. Hagen, Doreen	45. Nickolls, Eunice	64. Wheeldon, Celina
13. Danks, Frank	27. Harding, Fred	46. Phillips, Raymond	
14. Darrell, Michael	28. Hardy, John	47. Preece, Mollie	
	29. Harmer, Dennis	48. Price, Ronald	
	30. Harris, James	49. Reynolds, Pamela	
	31. Harris, Molly	50. Roberts, John	
	32. Hewitt, Andrew	51. Sandwith, Sheila	
	33. Hocking, Robert	52. Sharp, Harry	

Gazette Only—Paid

1. Glentworth, Cyprian
2. Myhill, Roy
3. Smith, Rudy
4. Whittaker, Sybil



Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society News

Most of you will find the 2010 Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society Form with this Gazette. For those sending in a Bursary application—please note the deadline—June 15, 2010.

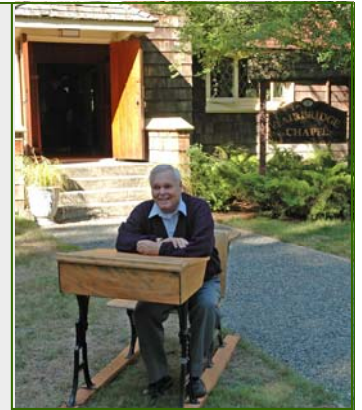
Please also note *change of addresses*.

**Donations help to ensure
that the Fairbridge
Bursary Society
has a future.**

2009 FABS Donations

**Richard Speed
Olive Brown
Gordon Dewhirst
FCA members
Barry Hagen
Roderick MacKay
William Stoker**

Thank you



*Stan Spence 2009 September Reunion
Pat Skidmore Photo*

This bursary has helped me out tremendously. I am very low on funds this year, and it has helped me pay for two of my textbooks for my classes. I hope you are well, and enjoying the Christmas season. I am now home from school and finished my exams for this term.

My Grandfather Rudy Smith Sr. and my Grandmother will be spending Christmas with us.

Again, I thank you...and Merry Christmas to you and all the directors!

Sincerely, Duncan A. Smith

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

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



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

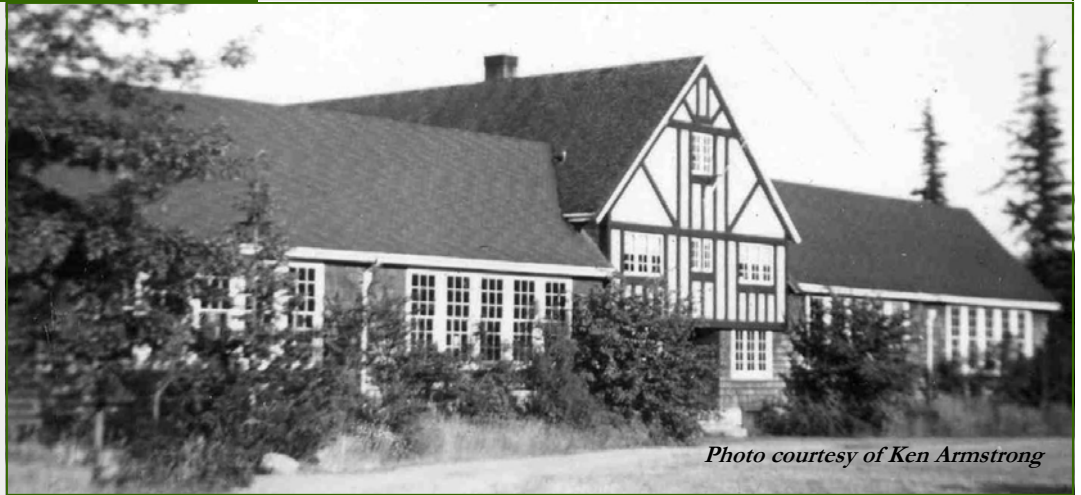


Photo courtesy of Ken Armstrong



Dismantling of the Fairbridge Day School

Fairbridge Gazette

First published in 1939.



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



Top—Liner Leaving Liverpool. Bottom—Liverpool (Web photos)



The Liverpool ferry boat section of the landing stage in the 1930's. Bottom left can be seen two Wallasey luggage boats, while at the right hand end of the stage an Eastam ferry paddle steamer is moored.



Duchess of Bedford
Montreal waterfront—leaving for Liverpool. Many of the 329 Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School children left England from Liverpool, others left from Southampton. Some arrived in Montreal via Quebec and others arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax. One group arrived via New York.



Pier 21 Complex & Halifax Harbour
Photo courtesy of the Halifax Port Authority collection of the Pier 21 Society
From the late twenties to the early seventies, Pier 21 in Nova Scotia was Canada's 'front door' to over a million immigrants, refugees, troops, wartime evacuees, war brides and their children. It has been compared to New York's Ellis Island, and is intrinsically linked to Canada's multicultural national identity.

Immigrants arriving in Quebec City at the beginning of the 20th century
Photo courtesy of
Quebec National Archives



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:

July 1, 2010

Send them via snail mail:

Pat Skidmore, Editor
c/o #306 400 Capilano Road,
Port Moody, BC V3H 0E1

Or email:

patskidmore@shaw.ca

**Do you have any leaving
England stories? Send
them in to the Gazette.**

**Look for your
Next Gazette:
Mid—Summer
2010**

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 in to the
Around Town column.

ENSURE YOU HAVE A COMPLETE PACKAGE

The Bursary Society Committee would like to know a little more about you. On a separate piece of paper, please provide us with a letter of introduction explaining a little about yourself, what your field of studies will be and what your financial needs are for the term, with estimates of fees, books, and other expenses.

If you are awarded a bursary can we have your permission to publish your name in the Fairbridge Gazette?

Yes _____ No _____

I certify the information given is true:

Signature:

Date:



**The Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm
Day School
Circa 1940**

Tich Harding's photo

CHECKLIST

**Use the following as a checklist to
ensure your application
package is complete.**

- 1) Have you completely filled out page 3 and 4 of this form?
- 2) Have you provided us with a letter of introduction explaining a little about yourself, your needs and what your field of studies will be?
- 3) Have you included 2 reference letters with your application, or have you instructed your references to mail their letter of reference to Pat Skidmore?
- 4) Be certain to send your application package in before the deadline of

June 15

PLEASE NOTE: Each year that you apply, you must send a complete package with current information and **two new reference letters.**

- ◆ Application received after June 15 cannot be considered.
- ◆ Incomplete application packages will be given less priority than complete applications.

**SEND YOUR
APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:**

**Pat Skidmore
2707 Fernwood Rd
Victoria BC
V8T 3A3
patskidmore@shaw.ca**

Founding Directors

Jean Conlon, Philip Field, Jane Fownes, Keith Hamblett, John Hardy, Thomas Speed, Richard Speed and Brian Tibbles.
*Registered Charity number 0884593-21
Incorporated October 17, 1989*



2010

Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society



A Busload of Children Coming to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

Ca late 1930s...Fairbridge Canada Association Photo

Who are the Fairbridge Alumni?

A unique historical event occurred in the Cowichan Valley, September 25th, 1935, with the arrival of 41 children, the first of many groups from the United Kingdom to their new home at the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*. By the time the Fairbridge Farm School closed in 1951, a total of 329 children (97 girls and 232 boys) had been given a different start in a new country.

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society was set up to provide assistance to those in need who seek to improve themselves by furthering their education and as a legacy to the 329 children who attended the *Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School*.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BURSARY?

All students are welcome to apply. Priority will be given to former members of Fairbridge Farm School and their issue. However, the awards are not exclusive to the issue of Fairbridgians.

To be eligible, you must be enrolled in a vocational school, college, or university during the 2010/2011 calendar year. The start dates can range from January 1st 2010 until September 2010, however, the Society sends Bursaries out once per year — in late October 2010.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Simply fill out both sides of the application form found on the following page and mail it to the Director listed at the bottom of the page.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

The application deadline each year is: June 15th

The Fairbridge Alumni Bursaries are dispensed annually.

A decision is made in August and the potential recipients are informed of the decision by mid August. The bursaries are sent out in late October.

HOW MUCH WILL I RECEIVE?

At this time, there is no fixed amount assigned for the FABS Bursaries. The Bursary Awards vary each year depending on the amount of funding, the number of applicants and the completeness of the individual's application. Please refer to the **CHECKLIST** on the last page.

Students can apply for one bursary per calendar year. Each student can apply for a total of three Bursaries while pursuing their educational goals.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY BURSARY?

The Society sends out the Bursary Awards in late October. Please ensure your Proof of Registration is submitted to us before the October 15th deadline. For those students attending school prior to September, proof of registration can be sent with your application package, however, bursaries are only sent out at the end of October each year.

IS THE BURSARY REPAYABLE?

No, students are not required to repay the bursary. However, the Fairbridge Alumni Society would appreciate hearing how the money has helped and on the results of your program.

APPLICATION FORM Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society

Last Name:

First Name:

Permanent Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Are you related to a former Fairbridge member? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is your relationship?

Please provide their name, address & phone #

Have you received a Fairbridge Alumni Bursary Society award in the past?

Yes _____ No _____

If Yes, please tell us when:

What is your academic year completed?

Post Secondary school or institution that you are/will be attending:

Program you are taking or plan to take:

To ensure your application package is complete—you will need to have two professional people provide reference letters for you.

Please provide your references' names, addresses and phone numbers below.

1)

2)

The two references can give you their letters to include with your application package, or they can send their letters to:

Pat Skidmore
2707 Fernwood Rd
Victoria BC
V8T 3A3
patskidmore@shaw.ca

Ensure that your references are aware of the June 15th deadline.