

## Friendship Force of Manitoba Newsletter Summer 2021

### Perfect Summer Day in the Gardens, July 14

*Contributed by Jacky Molyneux*

Once again, our members have proven that Manitoba Friendship Force knows how to deliver a delightful day! Many thanks to Esther & Clare McKenty, Susan Finlay and Carol De Baets for opening up their gardens and yards to us on July 14. Participants enjoyed a perfect summer's day touring our members' gardens from the north end to the south end of the city.

Each of two groups began their first garden tour at 10 a.m. Everyone commented on how absolutely great it was to finally see each other in person. The gardeners each shared their hospitality, their gardens and their stories. We saw trees planted four decades ago and plants that marked



anniversaries, children's school field trips and simply the love of gardening. The second round of tours began at 11 a.m. with more show and tell. Lunch was a picnic at St. Vital Park where we were joined by a gaggle of geese with definite boundary issues. Perfect weather, perfect surroundings and perfect company!

The day of garden touring ended at the home of Carol De Baets. Carol challenged the participants to find a Monarch caterpillar amongst a plethora of flowers and vegetables in her immaculate backyard. The perfect day ended with more sharing, friendship and of course...ice cream.

On a final note, kudos and many thanks to the Program Committee, the participants and our talented gardeners. A great time was had by all.

*Photos by Diane Schipper / Above: Group photo at Carol's Left: Picnic at St. Vital Park / More photos throughout this issue*



# Events

Welcome to the fall session of Friendship Force Manitoba.

The Program Committee has been busy over the summer planning activities that you will not want to miss. Don't forget you will have a chance to win the door prize at each meeting.

To kick things off, on **Wednesday, September 1**, we are excited to be welcomed graciously by Susan Finlay to an in-person gathering in her back yard. You can relax during cocktail hour, pre-select your dinner from nine yummy options provided by Danny's Whole Hog and then learn all about urban bee-keeping courtesy of our club apiarists Kristina and Jim Ryan. It will be so great to be together again. Don't forget your beverages, lawn chair and "ditty bag" with your own plates, cutlery, cups, etc.

*You can buy honey from Kristina and Jim at the meeting. **Please bring cash!!***

*"Hives are located in our back yard on Avalon Road. We have gardens and flower beds in the vicinity and also an abundance of spruce trees where pollen was collected. Honey was harvested the week of August 12th, 2021."*

*10 pounds (4 litre) pail is \$45 / 3 litre is \$35 / 1 litre is \$12 / 1/2 litre is \$6*

The committee has also made arrangements for a **blood donor clinic** in mid-September. Diane Schipper is handling the arrangements. Be sure to wear your club shirt.

At our **Wednesday, October 6** meeting, we will be challenged to organize our travel and family photos by our guest speaker Eleanor Suderman. She will teach us how to create a photo journal to display our photos and souvenirs from past trips so we can enjoy them anytime and show them to family and friends. I so need this!!!

We are encouraged by the uptake of the vaccines that will allow us to travel internationally again. We will be planning more activities for the coming months.

As ever, please let us know your ideas for activities that you would enjoy in person or via Zoom and we will get right on that!

Submitted by Lynne Foley on behalf of the Program Committee



*Summer hats were the fashion  
at the garden tour at Susan's*

# Travel

Midway through 2021 the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Manitoba has settled to lower case numbers not seen here for months. However, the fourth wave of infection is ramping up elsewhere – and is likely to be coming our way this fall – just in time to coincide with ‘regular’ influenza and other viral illnesses. Because of ongoing Covid-19 issues, our domestic journey request for autumn 2021 really never got off the ground.

However, looking forward, we are still hopeful that our multiweek journey to clubs in Japan will happen in March/April 2022. In spite of the escalating pandemic and damaging rainstorms in Japan, the Olympics were held in Tokyo. According to online statistics as I write, 42% of the Japanese population has been fully vaccinated. Other than allowing the athletes and limited media to attend the Olympics, Japanese borders remain closed to foreigners and the Japanese citizenry are under a stay-at-home order.

We anticipate that this situation will change for the better in the seven months before FF Manitoba is scheduled to leave for Japan. With increasing vaccination rates it is hoped that the international borders will be open. Still there are no guarantees; Covid-19 has proven to be a wily infection that transforms itself again and again with yet one more variant.

Denise Lawson has been in regular contact with the various clubs in Japan and will keep us apprised of the latest Japanese journey information as it becomes available.

Our 2020 incoming journeys from Ketchikan, Alaska and Koriyama, Japan rescheduled for 2022 have also had some bumps in the road. The fledgling Ketchikan club didn’t survive the pandemic. Despite assistance from another established club, the Ketchikan group never got enough local support to become a viable club.

Because of our high vaccination rates and our close proximity to the United States, Canada has suddenly become a preferred FF journey destination! When

Ketchikan was floundering, FF Lower Columbia (Oregon) requested that their 2022 journey be switched from Australia to Manitoba.

FF Lower Columbia anticipates being able to accommodate anyone from Ketchikan who would like to come to Manitoba in 2022. Their preferred time is the second or third week of September. They are planning to travel across Canada by rail. Even though they were denied a second FF week in Ontario (remember that Canada is now hot property!), they are planning to continue on to Toronto from here.

FF Lower Columbia’s club policy is that all of their ambassadors MUST be fully vaccinated and they will only stay with hosts who are fully vaccinated. (With over 95% of Manitobans over age 70 fully vaccinated I could tell them with confidence that our members meet their criteria.) Right now the Lower Columbia region (and all of Oregon) is in the throes of a resurgence of Covid-19. We hope that things will have settled when they are coming to see us more than a year from now.

Our other 2022 incoming journey is the Koriyama club that we hope to visit as part of our outbound journey in March/April next year. Dates are still pending but the journey is likely to be in August.

Journey directors and journey committee members are still needed for both of these incoming groups.

Don’t forget about the FFI Virtual Experiences <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/> while you are waiting for the real thing.

And please put on your thinking caps, as the request for our 2023 outbound journeys will need to be submitted soon. Where would you like to go?

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Finlay, Journey Coordinator

# FFM: Brought to you by...

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this message finds everyone enjoying these very hot, dry (or cool, wet) summer months and staying healthy. It is nice to have some of the restrictions lifted giving us a bit more freedom to navigate.

Thank you to our Program Committee: Lynne, Diane, Miriam, Helen N., Joan, Kathy H. and Jacky for continuing to arrange our monthly Zoom meetings and extra events. In May, Susan gave a very informative presentation on flower gardening and in June we had the privilege of visiting her garden as part of our garden tour. In June, we had a guest speaker from FF Matsuyama, Japan. He belongs to one of the FF clubs we will visit in 2022 on our Japan Journey which is being planned for March/April.

Thank you to Denise for organizing the weekly coffee chats.

I had the pleasure of attending the Garden Tour – thank you to Esther, Clare, Susan and Carol for hosting us. It was very evident that they give their gardens much TLC. The delicious treats at each garden were appreciated. I am sure you will see lots of pictures in this newsletter. Our “lunch in the park” was great fun and I enjoyed visiting with everyone.

We continue to have monthly board meetings to make plans for the rest of 2021 — details will follow.

We wish Sina a speedy recovery after her surgery and hope to see her back in the fall.

Continue to stay safe and we look forward to travelling and hosting in 2022.

Peggy Smith

## CANFFEX NEWS

Congratulations to Jim Kubas from Friendship Force Winnipeg who is taking over as the Canffex website manager. Jim spent over 40 years in computer systems management and will be maintaining the website in both English and French. We look forward to working with him.

Canffex was initially set up to inform and encourage Canadian members to join undersubscribed Canadian outbound journeys. Later, it was expanded to include basic information about our Canadian clubs and information from Canadian FFI Board members and field representatives. Bill Harkness helped set up the Canffex website in 2009 and continued to maintain it for the benefit of the FF clubs across Canada. He is now stepping down, so we thank Bill for his dedication.

## WESTERN CANADA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Congratulations to our own Gail Keeley who has been appointed to the position of Field Rep for the Western Canada clubs. Gail will act as a liaison between the Western Canada clubs and FFI. Along with a long list of duties, she will maintain regular contact with the Club Presidents. Thank you, Gail — we know we are in very capable hands.

Peggy Smith, President

### Board Members

**President:** Peggy Smith [phsmith448@gmail.com](mailto:phsmith448@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Denise Lawson [frdelaws@mts.net](mailto:frdelaws@mts.net)

**Secretary:** Diane Schipper [dschipper@shaw.ca](mailto:dschipper@shaw.ca) filling in for Sina Romsa

**Treasurer:** Thelma Sures [thelma@escape.ca](mailto:thelma@escape.ca)

### Committee Chairs and Members

**Journey Coordinator:** Susan Finlay [sufinlay@shaw.ca](mailto:sufinlay@shaw.ca), 204-339-7956

**Past President:** Gail Keeley [gailke@hotmail.ca](mailto:gailke@hotmail.ca), 204-257-9837

**Program Committee:** Lynne Foley

[lynne\\_foley007@hotmail.com](mailto:lynne_foley007@hotmail.com), Diane Schipper, Miriam Fenster, Helen Norrie, Joan Boyd, Kathy Hansell, Jacky Molyneux

**Communications Committee:** Gail Keeley, Bev Phillips, Lynne Foley, Marilyn Ouimet, Lynda Walker (Facebook) [lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com](mailto:lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com), Lynne Roberts, Shirley Twerdun, Douglas Jackson

**Newsletter Editor:** Bev Phillips 204-942-5453, [phillipb@mymts.net](mailto:phillipb@mymts.net)

**Website:** Marilyn Ouimet [mouimet1@me.com](mailto:mouimet1@me.com)

**Journey Directors:** Denise Lawson, Japan 2022 [frdelaws@mts.net](mailto:frdelaws@mts.net)

# International News & More

## New FFI site!

Friendship Force International launched a new website in March. They encourage all members to go to [my.friendshipforce.org](https://my.friendshipforce.org) to sign up for a personal account. The old website ([thefriendshipforce.org](https://thefriendshipforce.org)) will be maintained for a while to allow members time to move over to the new site.

To learn more about the new site, you can read this short blog post:

<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/we-moved-introducing-the-new-home-for-friendship-force-news-and-updates/>.

Thanks to outgoing Canffex manager Bill Harkness for circulating this info.

## Request for Donations to Friendship Force International

FFI Board and staff are hoping to see the return of journeys later this year. In the meantime, they are asking for members' help in getting them through the next few months. Please consider making a financial contribution to FFI (new address above).

Gail Keeley



Susan's amazing garden

## Winnipeg Makes a Top 100 List!

Time magazine included Winnipeg in its third annual "World's 100 Greatest Places," one of only two Canadian locations along with Jasper, Alberta. The list focuses on new attractions, and Qaumajuq – the Winnipeg Art Gallery's new Inuit art centre – caught the editors' attention. The article also features Winnipeg's unusual winter activities.



You can see the list at: [The World's 100 Greatest Places of 2021 | TIME](https://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28869,3796473_3796474_3796475,00.html)

Martin Cash of the Winnipeg Free Press wrote up the story on July 20.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/city-makes-list-of-times-worlds-greatest-places-574879122.html>

Large-scale tourism is still a way off, but future tourists will now have more reasons to visit us when they can travel again.



Our lunch was a big hit with the geese at St. Vital Park

# The Back Page

## FF Basics

### Membership renewals

Memberships run from January to December.

**Renewing member:** \$55

**New member:** \$55

**Associate member:** \$30

Contact Vice President Denise Lawson for inquiries about membership.

**Address changes /** Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? Please tell our VP Denise Lawson right away so she can update our membership list.

**Club website /** [friendshipforcemanitoba.org](http://friendshipforcemanitoba.org)

**Club property /** If you have any items belonging to the club (books, paper records, etc.), please tell our acting Secretary, Diane Schipper.

**canffex.ca /** Usually, canffex.ca is the place to check for undersubscribed journeys from across Canada. Canffex also posts messages from regional representatives and has contact information for all Canadian clubs.

**FF International /** Go to [friendshipforce.org](http://friendshipforce.org) for up-to-date information.

## Reasons to travel

Travel is...getting to know yourself by facing new experiences.

Travel teaches tolerance, patience, acceptance and how to live in the moment.

*Contributed by Doug Jackson*

## From the Editor

Congratulations to Gail Keeley on becoming our new Western Canada Field Representative and to Jim Kubas of FF Winnipeg for taking over Canffex – a terrific resource for all Canadian FF members. I personally thank Bill Harkness, who tended the website for many years and was always quick to answer questions and easy to deal with.

A few months ago, I watched one of the FF virtual events presented by FF Cottbus in Germany. My interest was piqued because Cottbus was scheduled to visit us at one time and I was curious to learn about this lesser-known location. Many club members took turns presenting information about the area, its culture and typical activities, in both German and English. The video really gave a feeling of the people and place – a preview of an actual visit.

I am enjoying our Wednesday morning coffee chats so much that it's become a highlight of my week. Denise opens up the Zoom room at 10:30, members come and go at their convenience, and it's great hearing what people are doing. Topics range from home repairs to bees (that's probably Kristina) to family, and of course travel.

Thanks again to our Communications Committee, especially Gail for looking after the admin duties of the newsletter. As always thanks to everyone who wrote articles and sent photos, especially Diane Schipper for the colourful photos from our garden tour.

Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Contact Gail at [gailke@hotmail.ca](mailto:gailke@hotmail.ca). Our next issue will probably be in the fall.

Bev Phillips



friendship force

INTERNATIONAL

Experience different views. Discover common ground.