

Friendship Force Manitoba meets monthly September through June. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Masonic Memorial Temple at Confusion Corner; check our events listings for date and location.

Guests are always welcome. Contact Dallas Bagby at 204-661-6199.

Friendship Force Manitoba

friendshipforcemanitoba.org

Honorary Patron Philip S. Lee
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

2014 Board Members

President: Dallas Bagby 204-661-6199
(phone/fax)

Vice President: TBA

Secretary: Gail Keeley
gailke@hotmail.ca

Treasurer: Georgette Boille
gboille@shaw.ca

*For the due date for contributions to the October newsletter, contact the editor.
Send contributions to Bev Phillips,
proofreaders@mts.net or 306-15 Kennedy
Street, Winnipeg R3C 3X5.*

“Open House”

Membership Meeting Wednesday, September 10
Masonic Memorial Temple
420 Corydon at Confusion Corner



Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Come early and visit our
“Festival of Nations” displays
presented by our own members, inspired by their travels.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Pay at the door: \$20
Enjoy a Summer Supper: barbecue chicken, potato salad,
coleslaw and seasonal pie.

Bring a guest!

Remember to wear your membership badge!

Upcoming meetings

October 1 – “The American South” (note new date)
November 5 – Annual General Meeting / “Egypt”
December 3 – Christmas Party – “Christmas in Finland”

Craft Circle:

Craft Circle will resume on October 18 to study finger weaving.
Contact Judy Single at jud64@mymts.net or 204-294-6428.

Memories of the Oita exchange, August 2014



Journey to Churchill at Assiniboine Park Zoo



A perfect day for posing at Grand Beach!



The Ambassadors in their western hats and neckerchiefs



Program Committee

The program committee of Helen Whetter and Jan Kollesavich would like to thank Terry Hercus, Liz Martin and Louise Schoenherr for volunteering to be on the committee to help with programming for the October, November and December meetings. Helen Isaak recently resigned from the program committee. We thank her for her service to the committee and the club.

— Jan Kollesavich, Program Committee Chair

canffex.ca

You probably already know that you can always check **canffex.ca** to find undersubscribed exchanges, both outbound and inbound, among Canadian FF clubs. But there's more to the site. It also offers a brief description and website link for all Canadian clubs and links to conference sites.

Plus, Canada's national representatives write occasional columns. Canada East rep Jaap Schouten wrote up a three-day workshop he attended in Atlanta in August with field reps from across the U.S. and Canada, and by video link, reps from Australian and New Zealand. You can read that and other columns anytime at **canffex.ca**.



Have you moved or changed your phone number or email address?

If so, please contact our Secretary, Gail Keeley, right away so she can update our membership list:
gailke@hotmail.ca

Please note this recent change: Liz Martin's new phone number is 204-330-2795.

A letter from Oita

August 25, 2014

Dear Friendship Force of Manitoba,

FF Oita ambassadors visited FF Manitoba and stayed with the hosts in August. I stayed there for a week. It was like a dream. I experienced many things with lovely people. The plans were organized very well and everything was very new and exciting to me. I saw the exhibit "Journey to Churchill" and the polar bears swimming in the water were so cute. I visited beautiful Oak Hammock Marsh, Grand Beach, four different farms, and the ballpark where an exciting baseball game was held. Every day, I saw huge wheat fields. Everything we did was so great.

People in Manitoba were very friendly and kind. Their warm smiles made us relaxed and we all felt very welcomed. The members helped each other and I found many people at the places we visited. I enjoyed talking with them. Every day, my host cooked delicious meals that I enjoyed. I had plenty of vegetables and fruits, and various kinds of dessert, such as muffins, cookies and pies, that were very nice.

I visited the museum and learned the history of Manitoba. They share such a big and beautiful land with many people.

I can't find good enough words to express my appreciation to FF Manitoba, but I would like to say "ARIGATOU GOZAIMASHITA" from the bottom of my heart.

Kikumi Shiga, Assistant Exchange Director
FF Oita, Japan



Ambassadors Reiko Sato and Kikumi Shiga with their host Louise Schoenherr



Oita, Japan Exchange August 16-23

Our second inbound exchange of the summer began with a potluck welcome lunch at the Assiniboine Park Children's Nature Playground. This was followed by a display of Aboriginal hoop dancing by two young First Nation dancers who even convinced a couple of our ambassadors to join in. A visit to the new exhibit "Journey to Churchill" at the zoo and the chance to enjoy the many other attractions at the park completed the day.

The next day started at the Forks Market for a city bus tour. That evening dinner hosts welcomed ambassadors and their home hosts into their homes for a Friendship dinner. At our home we served a Canadian barbecue and it was a very enjoyable evening getting to know our ambassador and fellow club members.

Tuesday was a free day and in the evening everyone met for a Goldeyes baseball game at Shaw Park. It was a beautiful evening



made even better when two of our ambassadors caught a couple of the prizes that were shot into the crowd – a tee shirt and a stress-relieving ball. The Goldeyes won the game 6 to 0.



Wednesday morning everyone met at Oak Hammock Marsh. To start, we went up onto the roof of the building where prairie grasses and wild

flowers were growing and there was a bird's-eye view of the marsh and surrounding area. During a canoe ride through the marsh we learned about some of the native grasses and birds. Our guide gave us the opportunity to taste a cattail stem. Once we returned to shore we given a lesson in how to make bannock which was wound around a wire stick and baked over an open fire. It actually tasted pretty good as long as you were careful not to burn the dough. For lunch we had a picnic at Grand Beach and then an assortment of delicious desserts served at Rossita Schau's cottage.



On Thursday we drove out to Diana Hansell's farm near Beausejour where we were divided into groups to view four different kinds of small farms. We learned many interesting things

about leaf cutter bees, organic farming, dairy farming and communal farming. Some of the ambassadors enjoyed a short horseback ride. The evening was completed with a barbecue dinner and entertainment by our visiting ambassadors and local musicians.



Overall it was a very busy and entertaining week. Our ambassadors were very gracious and it was very enjoyable getting to know them. For a number of members who have travelled to Japan, it was a chance to renew previous friendships.

— Gail Keeley

Photographs throughout this issue courtesy of Barbara Main, Denise Lawson, Liz Martin, Bev Phillips and Diane Schipper

From the Oita Exchange Co-EDs

First of all, we would like to thank everyone involved with this exchange — from the committee members to the members who attended the functions to those who contributed in any way, and especially the Home, Day and Dinner Hosts.

We have heard from both Tomoji Tanabe (FF Oita ED) and Kikumi Shiga (Assistant ED) indicating their pleasure with the arrangements and the friendliness of our members. The following are excerpts from their comments:

I returned to Japan safely last Saturday. Thank you very much for what you did for us while we stayed at Manitoba. I really had a wonderful time. I'll never forget my happy memories with you. Please come to Japan if you have a chance.

Please send my regards to members of your club. Thank you again. It was a great experience.

Arigatou gozaimashita.

Yours sincerely,

Tomoji Tanabe

I liked the way of hosting of your club very much. I really think I was very lucky I was able to visit your club. Thank you again for every kindness.

Kindest regards,

Kikumi Shiga

We were able to see some of the Oita members off at the airport. As we said "Sayonara" and wished them a safe trip onward and home, it was most obvious that they had a wonderful time. There were hugs and handshakes, and a few kisses! Many friendships which may well last a lifetime were made during their short visit, with the hope that we may meet again soon.

— Shirley Twerdun and Barbara Main, co-Exchange Directors



Tomoji Tanabe, Oita ED; Kikumi Shiga, Oita Assistant ED; Barbara Main and Shirley Twerdun, Manitoba EDs

Friendship Force International 2014 World Conference

October 14-16 in Auckland, New Zealand
Post-conference homestays and tours are available.

2015 World Conference

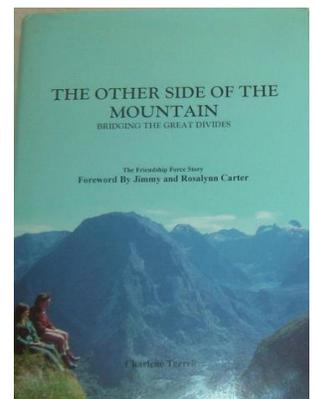
Vancouver, August 28-30, 2015

Congratulations!

FF Manitoba member **Joyce Aitken** was recognized on May 6 at a special ceremony at Government House to honour donors who have shown exceptional commitment to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. This group of caring individuals and organizations were welcomed into the Heart and Stroke Foundation's inaugural Caring Hearts Circle. Congratulations, Joyce!

The Other Side of the Mountain: the Friendship Force Story

We have two copies of this book in circulation. Do you have one? If you do, please bring it to our September meeting and we can pass it along to another member.



Friendship in Force

Exchanges are the best part of our Friendship Force experience. Our two inbound exchanges highlighted domestic and international connections. By virtue of two different dates (June and August) and two different types, as noted, nearly every one of our veteran and virgin members was able to participate. We even saw some former FFM folks and some FF Winnipeg friends take part. It was great.

Now fall is upon us. It is the time to consider what role you could take at the club level. The exchanges are so rewarding, but without a strong club they won't happen. The nominating committee will be confirmed at our September dinner meeting. Please answer their call.

— Dallas Bagby, President

The *Clipper Weekly* of Beausejour printed a front-page article on the Oita exchange in its August 28, 2014 issue, by reporter Mel Stefaniuk. The group portrait of the smiling Ambassadors, resplendent in their matching hats and neckerchiefs, perfectly conveys the excitement of an exchange. To see the article, Google "theweeklyclipper" and click on "weekly clipper".

2014 Committee chairs

Exchange Coordinator and Past President: Stan Croall 204-261-4198 or sfcroall@me.com (NOTE: New email)

Program Chair: Jan Kollesavich 204-338-4913 or jankollesavich@gmail.com

Communications: Shirley Twerdun 204-237-7856 or shirley.twerdun@shaw.ca

Newsletter Editor: Bev Phillips 204-942-5453 (phone/fax) or proofreaders@mts.net

Webmaster: Judith Single 204-294-6428 or ffmb@mymts.net

Exchange Director: Jan Kollesavich, Richmond/Raleigh, 204-338-4913 or jankollesavich@gmail.com

2015 Exchanges

Incoming:

Long Island, NY – possibly in September
Second incoming still being pursued.

Outgoing:

Probable dates: Raleigh, NC April 11-18
and Richmond, VA April 18-25
New Exchange Director: Jan Kollesavich

— Stan Croall, Exchange Coordinator (EC)
sfcroall@me.com, 204-261-4198

Preparation and Payoff

What a summer! Two wonderful exchanges, two chances to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old friends. The months of planning paved the way for success, and many happy visitors.

As part of the Oita program committee, I saw firsthand how much discussion and research is needed to prepare a one-week exchange. I applaud our Exchange Directors Barbara Main and Shirley Twerdun for their unfailing patience and perseverance to make sure we kept working toward our goal.

I was especially happy to spend time with many of the Japanese friends we met two years in Oita. I was curious to hear their reactions to our very different landscape. Just as some of us were agog at their ubiquitous mountains, some of our visitors were taken aback by the horizon and big skies.

I will always remember one of our visitors, standing on the viewing platform at Oak Hammock Marsh and looking out over the endless flat marsh. "I try to take a picture," she said, "and all I see is a line!" Just one example of how travelling with Friendship Force helps change the way you see the world.

— Bev Phillips, Editor, 204-942-5453,
proofreaders@mts.net

**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**
thefriendshipforce.org