

## Friendship Force of Manitoba Newsletter March 2017

**Friendship Force Manitoba** meets monthly September through June. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month; check our events listings for date and location.

Guests are always welcome. Call Gail Keeley at 204-257-9837 or Lynda Walker at 204-995-8344.

**Friendship Force Manitoba**

[friendshipforcemanitoba.org](http://friendshipforcemanitoba.org)

### 2016 Board Members

**President:** Lynda Walker  
[lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com](mailto:lyndadawnwalker@gmail.com) or 204-995-8344

Judy Single [jud64@mymts.net](mailto:jud64@mymts.net) or 204-294-6428

**Vice President:** Gail Keeley 204-257-9837

**Secretary:** Judith Deatrach  
[energy@mymts.net](mailto:energy@mymts.net)

**Treasurer:** Agathe Bisson 204-255-4195

## 2017 Meetings



July 28 – August 13

**Wednesday, March 8** / World Friendship Day / Celebration with FF Winnipeg / Speaker on Canada Summer Games / Holiday Inn Winnipeg South, 1330 Pembina Highway / Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. / \$30

**Wednesday, April 5** / Masonic Memorial Temple / Slide presentation by Audrey Hawkins on New Zealand / Doors open at 6, Dinner at 6:30 / \$30

**Wednesday, May 3** / Dalnavert Museum and Visitors' Centre, 61 Carlton Street, south of Broadway / Tour starts at 5:30, Dinner at 6:15 / \$25 includes dinner and tour

**Wednesday, June 7** / The Hitch'n Post, Grosse Isle / Dinner \$30 / Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary / Guest speakers Devon and Pearlene Clunis on their book "The Little Boy from Jamaica: A Canadian History Story" / Line dancing – bring your western wear and boots!

**\*\* Remember to wear your membership badge \*\***

**Reminder!** If you promise to come to dinner and don't come, you will be charged. You can cancel up to two days ahead (by Monday). Our club must pay when members and guests do not show up for dinner.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

**Fall meetings: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6**

## FF Who, What, Where

### Membership renewals

Memberships run from January to December.

#### Renewing members:

\$35 plus \$10 Liability Insurance

#### New members:

\$47 plus \$10 Liability Insurance (extra fee to pay for name tag)

— *Agathe Blsson, Treasurer*

### Address changes

Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? Please tell our Secretary, Judith Deatrach, right away so she can update our membership list: [energy@mymts.net](mailto:energy@mymts.net), 204-489-3287

### Club website

Check our website anytime for upcoming events, past exchanges, issues of this newsletter, and useful links: [friendshipforcemanitoba.org](http://friendshipforcemanitoba.org)

### Club property

If you have any items belonging to the club (books, paper records, etc.), please let our Secretary Judith Deatrach know: [energy@mymts.net](mailto:energy@mymts.net), 204-489-3287

### canffex.ca

Interested in joining up with another Canadian club to travel? Visit the **Canadian FF Clubs Exchange Site** at [canffex.ca](http://canffex.ca) for undersubscribed exchanges from across Canada. You can sign up for monthly updates and immediate notices of new exchanges.

### Other travel updates

Go to [thefriendshipforce.org](http://thefriendshipforce.org) and find "Sign up for email alerts." There are many options for travel destinations.

## Celebrating our anniversary year

This year we celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friendship Force International and our club's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have some special activities planned to celebrate the year. Our Winter Wonderland Exchange cohosted with Friendship Force Winnipeg was a highlight this February. Despite the unseasonably warm weather that melted our ice sculptures, nothing could dampen the spirit of our mates from the Land Down Under. We had a lot of excellent participation with 115 people attending the Welcome Dinner and 96 at the Farewell Dinner. The success of this exchange depended on our two clubs working together. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the planning committee, as well as home hosts, day hosts,



*Lynda (at left) and Australian Ambassadors at Fort Whyte during axe-throwing practice*

dinner hosts and members who took the time to join the Ambassadors in the planned activities. This is what Friendship Force is all about. I was delighted when Helen Norrie let me know that we have enough Ambassadors to proceed with our inbound exchange from Hamilton & Waikato, New Zealand. I found out from our founding member Shirley Twerdun that our first outbound exchange was with Hamilton and Wellington in 1998. It is fitting that they will be returning for a visit in our anniversary year. We will be circulating signup sheets for hosts at the March and April meetings. This will be a great chance to get acquainted with our New Zealand members. We are planning a reciprocal outbound exchange with this club next year.

Happy 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Friendship Force Manitoba!

—*Lynda Walker, President*

### 2016 Committee chairs

**Exchange Coordinator:** Elizabeth Schirmer 204-475-1220, [schirmer@mymts.net](mailto:schirmer@mymts.net)

**Past President:** Judy Single, [judithesingle@gmail.com](mailto:judithesingle@gmail.com) or 204-294-6428

**Program Committee:** Helen Whetter, Lois Edwards, Kazuko Nomura

**Communications Assistant:** available

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

**Webmaster:** Judy Single 204-294-6428/Bev Phillips [phillipb@mymts.net](mailto:phillipb@mymts.net) or [ffmb@mymts.net](mailto:ffmb@mymts.net)

**Exchange Directors:** Don Greig, [greigdonr@gmail.com](mailto:greigdonr@gmail.com) (note new email address), 204-268-3511 and Ruth Clare, [rem5clare@hotmail.com](mailto:rem5clare@hotmail.com), 204-833-2556; Helen Norrie, [hnorrie1@mymts.net](mailto:hnorrie1@mymts.net), 204-488-0740 and Diane Schipper, [dschipper1@shaw.ca](mailto:dschipper1@shaw.ca), 204-257-1101

## Winter Wonderland Inbound Exchange, February 15-22, 2017



*Our exuberant co-Exchange Director Doug Jackson, with co-ED and wife Gail Keeley seated at left*

On Wednesday, February 15, a group of 28 Australians and one member of a club from New Zealand were welcomed by our FF Winnipeg and FF Manitoba clubs at Winnipeg International Airport. They were later joined by an adventurous couple from High River who are members of FF Calgary Region. That evening they and members of our clubs took part in a bountiful feast put on by our capable potluck committee at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in St. James.

Thursday was a full day for our Ambassadors with a tour of the Manitoba Museum followed by a quick lunch at Red River College and from there to the Assiniboine Park Zoo and the amazing Journey to Churchill exhibit. Friday was a free morning with lunch at Mongo's Grill followed by winter activities at Fort Whyte Alive. Everyone had a chance to try their hand at axe throwing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and traditional bison hunting skills. The evening was topped off with attending a hard-fought junior hockey game at Eric Coy Arena.



*Faylen and Robin at Festival du Voyageur*

Saturday was lunch at Resto Gare Bistro where everyone enjoyed fine traditional French-Canadian pea soup, tourtiere and dessert, followed by an afternoon at the Festival du Voyageur and a music venue. Our guests took to the outdoors at Birds Hill Park Ranch on Sunday for a horse-drawn sleigh ride followed by a bonfire where they could enjoy marshmallows roasted over the fire and a chili dinner.

A tour of our amazing Canadian Museum for Human Rights filled Monday morning for our Ambassadors. Since Monday was also Louis Riel Day, many of our guests enjoyed lunch and the activities at the Forks. Tuesday, the last full day for our guests, was a free day followed by a farewell reception at St. Vital Curling Club and a chance for our Down Under guests to try their hand at curling.

All in all, our Ambassadors seemed to enjoy their balmy winter experience in Winnipeg.

*— Doug Jackson, co-Exchange Director*



*Roasting marshmallows at Birds Hill*



*All smiles in the snowy outdoors*

## “Springpeg” through Aussie eyes

Arriving from Ottawa, we thought the temperature and snow there was the precursor to harsh conditions in Winterpeg. Clothing layers at the ready, we found Winterpeg to be more like Springpeg. Not a snowflake fell during our stay, instead a thaw started and ended the cross-country ski option.

This in no way detracted from the friendships made and hospitality experienced. It just gave us an opportunity to perhaps come back for REAL WINTER WONDERLAND!!!

The programme arranged was a good leisurely mixture of culture, way of life experiences and just as important a chance to really socialise with our hosts, to learn of their ways and interests when not hosts to Friendship Force folk.

Would we return? Yes of course, perhaps in an autumn or spring to see a different Winnipeg, bursting with colour.

Our personal highlights apart from meeting day and evening hosts, which goes without saying, were the Human Rights Museum with an excellent guided tour that whetted the appetite leaving, deliberately, unanswered questions, the Winnipeg Art Gallery with the Inuit exhibition, and the most informative Manitoba Museum. For variety we had the opportunity of watching a quite exhilarating game of ice hockey, commonly known as hockey. This was later followed by the grand finale of our being given the opportunity of getting on the ice and “having a go” at curling, simple to watch and understand but not so easy to put into practice, as various poses on the ice soon showed!

Thank you to all involved in however small or big way, your efforts were truly appreciated and reinforced how alike are Canadians and Australians.

— Ray Walter

As well as all the above, I appreciated the opportunity we had to experience the winter activities at Fort Whyte which we loved and how special it was to see polar bears...for real.

This was our first overseas exchange with FF what really stands out for me is the FRIENDSHIPS forged.

—Carole Walter



*International dinner hosted by Helen Whetter*

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Our traditional January "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" Home-hosted dinners were coordinated by Vi Hultin. Thirty members met at six hosts' homes for potluck dinners and great conversation.



### In memoriam – Binx Remnant

*William "Binx" Remnant passed away  
on January 5, 2017.*

In February I attended the Celebration of Life for Binx Remnant with Esther and Clare McKenty and we reminisced about his life, and specifically about his membership with Friendship Force Manitoba. Binx joined FFM after his retirement and was a member for more than 10 years. He added a valued dimension to our club with his outgoing personality, warm smile and extensive experience across Canada. Binx spent many years in the Northwest Territories, ultimately as Clerk of the Council for the GNWT. In 1983 he moved to Winnipeg and became Clerk of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. In 2012 his 40 years in public service was recognized with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Binx's wide circle of friends and associates was a benefit when he arranged special tours of the Manitoba Legislature and discussions with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, The Honourable George Hickes. The Ambassadors had the opportunity to learn more about Manitoba from the first elected and first Inuit Speaker. It was always reported as a highlight of our exchanges.

Binx joined one of the exchanges to Australia and New Zealand and I know he enjoyed that experience. Also, he was a favourite dinner host for incoming exchanges. Binx will be missed. Rest in peace.

— Barbara Main

## Editorial

Welcome to our first quarterly issue of the Keystone Klippings for 2017. There was a lot to cover in six pages.

I'd like to thank Hazel Birt, who has just stepped down from her long service as Communications Assistant. She kept the public informed about our events with PSAs. Many first-time guests came to our dinner meetings thanks to Hazel's notices in the media. Hazel is a busy person with an array of activities and she certainly made a great contribution to our club.

One of Hazel's last tasks was arranging an FFM speaker at Creative Retirement. I was asked to be the speaker, because of my Toastmasters experience. In late January, Lynda Walker and I faced a keenly interested audience. (Thanks to Joan Pitcairn, our "cheering section"! ) I spoke for 20 minutes to introduce the concept and history of Friendship Force. Then Lynda and I answered questions for a full 50 minutes! These seniors were well travelled and well informed – an ideal audience to introduce to FFM.

During the much praised Winter Wonderland exchange, my husband and I escorted seven FF members (three hosts and four Ambassadors) around the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Everyone enjoyed both the permanent collection and "Our Land," the show of Nunavut art.

Thanks to Ray and Carole Walter from Adelaide, who sent their impressions of the Winter Wonderland exchange.

Our immediate past President Judy Single will be moving out west soon, and she's promised to teach me to maintain our club website. I will do my best!

See you at a meeting soon.

— Bev Phillips, Editor



*Bev (centre) and FF group at Winnipeg Art Gallery*  
This issue's photos supplied by Barbara Main, Don Greig, Esther McKenty, Bev Phillips

## A Fond Farewell

On behalf of Friendship Force Manitoba I would like to bid a fond farewell and thank you to Jan Kollesavich who has moved to Calgary to be closer to her family. Jan chaired the program committee for several years and she has been a longtime member of Friendship Force. I understand that she has joined Friendship Force in Calgary so our loss will be Calgary's gain. Thank you for all the time and energy you put into our club, Jan, and all the best in the future.

— Lynda Walker, President FFM

### 2017 World Conference

August 25-27 in Manchester, England  
Celebrating FFI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## 2017 Exchanges

- Inbound from New Zealand, June, co-EDs Helen Norrie and Diane Schipper
- Outbound to FF Cheyenne, Wyoming and FF Central Montana (Great Falls and Helena), September, co-EDs Don Greig and Ruth Clare

## 2018 Exchanges

### Inbound

- Cottbus, Germany
- Columbia Cascades (Portland, Oregon)

### Outbound

- Hamilton & Waikato and Horowhenua, New Zealand  
As yet no dates have been confirmed. I'd be happy to hear from you if you would like to be the Exchange

Director for one of these exchanges.

— Elizabeth Schirmer, Exchange Coordinator (EC),  
schirmer@mymts.net

## Exchange from New Zealand, June 16-23

We are looking forward to hosting 16 guests (five couples and six singles) from FF Hamilton & Waikato, New Zealand for the week of June 16-23. We have scheduled a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" at Shakespeare in the Ruins as well as a trip to Lower Fort Garry and a possible visit to Winnipeg Beach. We're also planning trips to Fort Whyte, Assiniboine Park and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Let us know if you want to join us on any of these or at our opening or closing dinners (June 17 and June 22).

—Helen Norrie, ED, hnorrie1@mymts.net, 204-488-0740, Diane Schipper, dschipper1@shaw.ca, 204-257-1101

## Exchange to Central Montana and Cheyenne, Wyoming, September

Sept. 5-6 Travel days to Great Falls/ Sept. 8-14 FF in Great Falls / Sept. 14-15 Travel days to Cheyenne / Sept. 16-22 FF in Cheyenne / Sept. 23-? Return to Winnipeg

The Cheyenne club has suggested many possible group activities, such as a historic trolley tour of the downtown area, a day trip to historic Fort Laramie (about 100 miles from Cheyenne), a bison ranch tour, a visit to railroad shops, and many more.

We currently have 13 ambassadors who have filed applications. If you are interested in joining the exchange, please submit your application to Ruth Clare, rem5clare@hotmail.com, 204-833-2556

— Don Greig, 204-268-3511, greigdonr@gmail.com (note new email address)



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Experience different views. Discover common ground.