



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



## President's Message



Twenty years ago, Glen and Grace Hutchinson invited friends to their home to introduce the Friendship Force idea. Within months the group was hosting its first inbound exchange from Brussels-Pajot, Belgium under the leadership of Morton Sider. In April of the next year the charter arrived and the Friendship Force Niagara adventure was formally under way!

As the club has grown, the adventures have taken members to nearly every continent and along the way we have discovered that, with Friendship Force, travel is not the goal but rather the tool used to accomplish our goals. In the twenty years since inception innumerable friendships have been made, some lasting decades.

As I reflected on our experiences, the most memorable seem to come from the kitchen table. The first breakfast in Japan; children enjoying their guinea pig lunch at a picnic table in Peru; the history lesson learned as Van and Bee took us to a French Patisserie in Hanoi and the gales of laughter from the dining room in Hamburg, a room designed for 4 but packed with 6 Canadians and 6 Germans for an evening meal none of us will ever forget.

Friendship Force offers each of us an amazing new and very personal view of the world. From the backyard strolls and quiet conversations to the excitement of sailing the Kapiti coast where the conversation was all about our children's future.

At home, this club provides each of us with opportunities to expand our local social sphere while engaging us in cooperative planning as we prepare to welcome new friends to our homes and to our region.



I hope you will find your Friendship Force experiences in 2018 enriching and engaging; providing you with opportunities for personal growth as you seek new friendships.

Bill Harkness

### Dates to Remember

- Feb. 9 – 7:00pm  
FFN Trivia Night  
Beamsville Seniors Centre
- Feb.20 -7:15pm  
FFN Members Meeting  
Regional Offices Cafeteria
- March 21 – 9:30am  
FFN Board Meeting  
Armbrusts
- April 17 – 7:15pm  
FFN Members Meeting  
Regional Offices Cafeteria
- May 2 – Oita Inbound  
begins

## Past President's Report

A request is being made by our Regional Representative for Eastern Canada, Christiane Beaupré, for participants to form an organizing committee for an Eastern Canada Regional Conference to be held in November 2018.

Costs would be kept to a minimum by using WebEx (video conferencing and instructions would be included) for most meetings.

The only requirements are a computer and willingness to participate.

The organizing committee would work under the theme of '**Leadership and Imagination**' and touch on three major topics.

The participating clubs would be Quebec, Sherbrooke, Montreal, Canadian Capital, Ottawa, North Bay, Toronto, Niagara, Greater Hamilton/Burlington, Haliburton Highlands and Stratford/St. Mary's.

One or two people are required and this would be a chance to get to know other neighbouring clubs here in Ontario and Quebec.

**Please consider volunteering for this interesting opportunity on behalf of your club by contacting Karin Lampman.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report

### **Inbound Journey Oita Japan, May 2-9, 2018**

You are invited to participate in another exciting and energizing inbound exchange. If you have not already done so please volunteer to either night host, dinner host or day host in this exchange.

Contact **Host Co-ordinator Sandra Yemm** for further details.

### **Outbound Journeys**

We have 2 undersubscribed outbound journeys.

**Journey #14112 June 3-9, 2018**, to Northern Illinois (Chicago) has 4 spaces.

**Journey # 14112 June 9-15, 2018**, to Madison Wisconsin has 2 spaces.

Contact **Host Co-ordinator Wendy Hammond** to be involved in either or both of these outbound journeys. (If these are not filled by our members they will be listed on canffex.ca)

## Summary of Journeys for 2018

Inbound 2018	Outbound 2018
<p><b>#1 Oita Japan #10485</b>  <b>Date:</b> May 2 -9, 2018  <b>Host Co-ordinator:</b> Sandra Yemm  <b>Deputy Host Co-ordinator:</b> Annelie Hedden  <b>Treasurer:</b> Len Ewert  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 15, (Ottawa 14)  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Bill Harkness</p>	<p><b>#1 Niagara to Northern Illinois #14112</b>  <b>Date:</b> June 3-9, 2018  <b>Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Wendy Hammond  <b>Deputy Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Peggy Champion  <b>Treasurer:</b> Jim Chalcraft  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 16  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Mort Sider</p>
<p><b>#2 New Hampshire Seacoast USA #14195</b>  <b>Date:</b> September 20-26, 2018  <b>Host Co-ordinator:</b> Clarice West-Hobbs  <b>Deputy Host Co-ordinator:?</b>  <b>Treasurer:</b> Peter Bowslaugh  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 19/20  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Karin Lampman</p>	<p><b>#2 Niagara to Madison Wisconsin #14112</b>  <b>Date:</b> June 9-15, 2018  <b>Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Marilyn Weber  <b>Deputy Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Peggy Champion  <b>Treasurer:</b> Jim Chalcraft  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 18  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Mort Sider</p>
<p><b>#3 Canadian Global-Ontario Outdoors #1424</b>  <b>Date:</b> September 10-15  <b>Host Co-ordinator:</b> Linda Holmes  <b>Deputy Host Co-ordinator:</b> Committee of Linda Hamilton, Debbie Kretz, Sharon &amp; Willard Thorne  <b>Treasurer: ?</b>  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 20  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Willard Thorne  <i>In conjunction with: Hamilton - September 5-10, Haliburton-15-20</i>  <i>Host Co-ordinator for all 3 areas: Heather Oliver</i>  <b>F.F.I. CONTACT:</b> Allison Lindsey</p>	<p><b>#3 Niagara to Greater Taipei, Taiwan #14214</b>  <b>Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Carol Liboiron  <b>Deputy Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Helen Self  <b>Treasurer:</b> Helen Self  <b># of Ambassadors:</b> 15  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Karin Lampman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p><b>#4 Niagara to Kaohsiung, Taiwan #14214</b>  <b>Date:</b> November 3-9, 2018  <b>Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Carol Liboiron  <b>Deputy Ambassador Co-ordinator:</b> Helen Self  <b>Treasurer:</b> Helen Self  <b># of Ambassadors:</b>15  <b>Board Liaison:</b> Karin Lampman</p>

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## Outbound Journeys

### Taiwan Outbound Update October 28-Nov 9, 2018

We have 15 FFN members interested in heading to Greater Taipei and Kaohsiung Taiwan next fall.

We are currently working on flights which will include side trips to Viet Nam, Hawaii or S. Korea for some members. We hope to have our decision made in the next month or so. We have good communication with the HC's in both clubs in Taiwan.

Our communication is by email within the ambassador group, and we will be meeting in person before the April, 2018 general meeting to settle financial matters.

**Carol Liboiron and Helen Self, Host Co-ordinators**

### Illinois Wisconsin Update June 3-9 and June 9-15, 2018

#### **Report for Northern Illinois #14112 June 3-9/18 AC Wendy Hammond DAC Peggy Champion**

To date we have held one joint meeting with the Madison Wisconsin group as almost everyone is doing both exchanges. We currently have 16 ambassadors confirmed with deposits paid - 6 couples and 4 single women. **There is room for 4 more if anyone else would like to join us.** To date 5 people have booked non-stop flights out of Buffalo and it was decided we would arrive in Chicago the evening before the exchange begins in order to have a full day program on June 3rd as it is only a 6 day journey. This journey will feature one full day in Chicago - including an evening Cubs game at Wrigley Field for anyone wishing to do so, with the remaining time spent visiting the suburbs. One of the days is spent in Oak Park visiting the home of Frank Lloyd Wright, his studio and surrounding neighbourhood featuring other buildings he designed. From Chicago, we will take the bus to Madison (2.5 -3 hours). Wendy has had very good communications with Marcia Weissman, the HC who has been great to work with. She has been updated on our numbers and has her first meeting scheduled for this month. Hopefully by our next meeting in early March we will have an outline of their itinerary.

#### **Report for FF Madison, Wisconsin #14112 AC Marilyn Weber DAC Peggy Champion**

We currently have 18 ambassadors for this journey (June 9 – 15) which will occur after the FF Northern Illinois journey (June 3 - 9). Seven couples and 4 single women will fly to Chicago O'Hare and take a connector bus to Madison or drive to a suggested location. The Host coordinators, George Wysock and Lise Skofronick, will be meeting soon to plan our itinerary. Madison is the Capital of Wisconsin so we will be visiting this and the surrounding area with numerous natural, historic, and cultural sites. Perhaps some of us can visit the home of Frank Lloyd Wright in Spring Green WI (Taliesin). Our next meeting will be at Marilyn's house on Tues. March 6 at 1:30 where we will collect the FFI fee (\$140 US) and the Host fee (approx.\$150 US) for each of the journeys. Jim Chalcraft will be the treasurer for both exchanges. **There is still room for 2 more ambassadors if you would like to join this portion of the combined journey.**

**Please contact Wendy Hammond if you are interested in either or both of these journeys since Marilyn Weber will be in Mexico until March 2.**

## Inbound Journeys

### **Oita Japan May 2-9, 2018**

Fifteen FF Oita ambassadors will arrive on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and depart for Ottawa on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee has met and are working to confirm aspects of the itinerary which will include a Welcome lunch at Grimsby lakeside, a hike on the Bruce Trail and a visit to the 'Painted Ladies'. Other destinations are Wineries, Welland Canal, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, Morningstar Mills and a St. Catharines House Tour.

The itinerary for FF Oita includes the Canadian Federation of University Women's 44<sup>th</sup> House Tour in St. Catharines on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> starting at noon. Jean Armitage has secured a reduced price of \$20 each (\$5.00 savings) for tickets to this House Tour. If you would like tickets please contact Jean at [jwarmitage@sympatico.ca](mailto:jwarmitage@sympatico.ca).

If you have not already indicated your choice to night host for Oita, we would love to hear from you as we need more hosts.

**Sandra Yemm, Host Co-ordinator, Annelie Hedden, Deputy Host Co-ordinator**

### **Global Outdoor Adventure September 10-15, 2018**

FF members we are expecting our ambassadors to be arriving September the 10<sup>th</sup> and staying with us until September 15<sup>th</sup>. We expect them to arrive in the a.m. of the 10<sup>th</sup> and then head to a catered lunch. The departure date is September 15<sup>th</sup> around 10:00 am. The reason that we bring this to your attention is that this will be only a **5 night hosting!**

Our programme will be very similar to the usual with the Niagara Falls day, Welland Canal time, & wineries tossed into the mix! Just in case that you are concerned that you are expected to hike or bike, that is not so. The bikes are rented and delivered to a starting point, and the night hosts deliver their ambassadors to that starting point and are not required to hike or bike unless they wish.

We have 20 Ambassadors arriving and we are asking for your support for night hosting and dinner hosting. We do have a cluster of dedicated night hosts and dinner hosts however for everyone's comfort and security we would like to add to our list.

**Global Outdoor Adventure Committee**

**New Hampshire September 20-26, 2018**

We are expecting 20 ambassadors and at the moment we are told we will have 19. I am planning a meeting with the committee in the very near future. We are fortunate, as many members have stepped up to Night Host. In the next few days I will be in touch with those people who have offered to Dinner Host and Day Host.

Host Co-ordinator, Clarice West Hobbs, Deputy Host Co-ordinator ??? Treasurer: Peter Bowslaugh, Program: Carol Liboiron, Dinner Host Coordinator: Mary Armbrust, Day Host Co-ordinator??? Committee Members: Judy Wasitis, Marilyn Lackie, Carolyn Vilim, Sophie Chess, Executive Member: Karin Lampman

**Clarice West-Hobbs, Host Co-ordinator**

**Other Travel Opportunities****Festival at Sea Transatlantic Cruise, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Love thought members might be interested in the following travel opportunity:

I'm booked to join FFI's "Festival at Sea" Transatlantic Cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Copenhagen, Denmark, for 18 days: April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup>, on Holland America. Day excursions include Bermuda, two of the Azores Islands, England, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, and disembarking in Denmark. Copenhagen is just a short distance by bridge or tunnel over to southern Sweden, and so I've made arrangements to visit with Britt-Marie whom I hosted for our Global Food & Wine Exchange a year ago last Fall, before returning home. FFI writes that the cruise "has ten days at sea where Friendship Force programs will cover a wide range of friend-building activities, workshops, and talks about the future of our growing organization." I'm not sure if I will participate a little or a lot in these events, as I know that there are so many other things of interest to do during at-sea days. I do know though, that I'll have fun. And the airfare was a remarkable deal: Toronto to Fort Lauderdale direct, and then Copenhagen to Toronto with a stop at Heathrow, cost only \$652 in total!

If anyone in our Chapter is interested in this cruise, I'd be pleased to talk with them about the booking and costs. I will be away most of February and so will miss the Trivia night and the next Chapter Meeting, however I can always be reached by email.

**Membership**

Membership has been collected for 2018, unfortunately we lost 13 members but gained 7 new ones. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested in the club please bring them to the trivia night or the next meeting.

**Mary Armbrust, Membership Chair**

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## Social Committee

The 2018 Social Committee met on Friday Jan 12 to plan the years events.

**February 9, 2018** has been booked for our **Trivia Night** so we will be asking everyone to bring family and friends as we will be short a number of people as they escape to the south. Cost \$7

The following is a list of possible events for 2018.

- The March International Dinner and Silent Auction will be planned for **March** 5-9 or March 19-23 depending on venue availability. So please start gathering your very best gifts for the event.
- We will check to see if there are 20 people interested in Ice Dog Game. If we have enough interest we will set that up with a dinner included. Group rate is \$15.
- In **May**, we hope to have our walking tour and lunch. More information to follow.
- We would like to set the Foster Festival for **June 28, Wrong for Each Other** at PAC followed by a dinner.
- In **August**, we will continue with our Summer Picnic. We are looking at the new Pavillion at Lakeside Park and Queenston Heights. Date to be announced.
- Once again, we will plan a **November** Breakfast.
- In **December**, we will have our Christmas Party. More information to follow.

We have decided to introduce **LEO Lets Eat Out**. Any member may set up these events and there is no need for 20 people. This will be like a spur of the moment event. You will be notified, a time line will be set up and then you are off to the event, which will usually be a lunch or dinner but could be something else.

**Other ideas:** Car Rally, Tour the Police Station in Niagara Falls, Tour the Hamilton Harbour

**Clarice West-Hobbs, Social Committee Chair**

### Note from the Editor

Learning how to manipulate the program to deliver your newsletter is a process and I am still in the early learning stages. If you have any concerns about your newsletter (type size, style, format...) let me know and I will work to incorporate any needed changes.

The next newsletter goes out March 26th. If you have important information to share with the club please send it to [lkemp5@cogeco.ca](mailto:lkemp5@cogeco.ca).

Lynne Kemp, Editor

## FFN Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Bill Harkness</b>	<a href="mailto:wdharkness@gmail.com">wdharkness@gmail.com</a>
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<b>2nd V. President</b>	<b>Mort Sider</b>	<a href="mailto:mortfromport@gmail.com">mortfromport@gmail.com</a>
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