



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



## President's Message



Friendship Force Niagara is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Friendship Force International has acknowledged that milestone.

As your president, I have recently been involved in a series of workshops, which have explored the issue of member recruitment and have looked at a set of strategies to propel Friendship Force into the media limelight. I have also been working with the eastern

Canada club presidents in an effort to mount a leadership conference in Ottawa in the autumn of this year.

It was a pleasure to lead the “town hall discussion” at our last members’ meeting. The discussion, the sharing of ideas and the expression of member’s perspectives were refreshing and enlightening. Your thoughts from that meeting will fuel our plans as the club moves forward.

The planning for the 2018 inbound and outbound journeys seems to be moving forward smoothly. I would like to thank all of the coordinators for their hard work, their persistence in finding solutions to new challenges and their willingness to keep everyone informed.

A special note of thanks goes to our treasurer. Mike has developed and shared a “pocket calculator” for inbound treasurers. This compact spreadsheet plugs into Excel and presents a quick and accurate tool for maintaining the journey books.

Finally, one of the principal goals I had set for 2018 was to re-establish a membership team willing to move forward with leadership roles over the next 3 to 4 years. At present, that goal will not come to fruition.

As your current president, you may depend on my sitting as past-president in 2019. A committed leadership team must come from the membership and should be in place by October to ensure your club’s future.

Bill Harkness

### Dates to Remember

**April 17** –FFN Members Meeting

**May 2** – Oita Inbound

**May 16** – FFN Board Meeting

**May 17** – Walk/Hike/Bike Event

**June 2** – Northern Illinois Outbound

**June 9** – Madison Wisconsin Outbound

**June 19** –FFN Members Meeting

**June 28** – Foster Festival

**July 18** – Board Meeting

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

### It's a Match 2019

#### Inbound

<u>Journey Name</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Tere-Rio & Itanhaem Brazil		15115	June	\$140.00
Melbourne & Hobart		15208-2	October	\$140.00
Australian ambassadors move to Canadian Capital		15208-1	October	

Note: On request from the capital Region we have requested Sept. 22-28 in Niagara and Sept.29- Oct. 5 in Ottawa. At this time Hobart and Melbourne have agreed to these dates. I have not had a reply from the Canadian Capital Region club.

#### Outbound

Niagara to San Antonio U.S.A.		15008	February	\$140.00
Niagara to Derbyshire		15057-1	April	\$140.00

Contact has been made with Derbyshire, and they suggest a time near the end of April, 2019. Establishment of these dates will be determined by our Ambassador Coordinator and Derbyshire counterpart once appointed.

A Journey Volunteer List sign-up form will be introduced at our April 17<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. However, if you wish to sign-up for Host or Ambassador Coordinator for any of the four 'It's a Match' journeys please contact

**Willard Thorne, at 905-934-6396, or [wjthorne@cogeco.ca](mailto:wjthorne@cogeco.ca) A.S.A.P.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report**

**Communication**

Mort is pleased to announce that Kathy Baranoski has assumed the Chair of the Telephone Committee.

**F.F. TRAVEL Committee Report for 2020**

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Possible Date</b>	<b>Country</b>
Sharon Thorne	February	Guadeloupe
Judy Troup	Spring or Fall	Charlotte, & or Ashville North Carolina
	Spring or Fall	Quebec City
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David Vilim	Spring or Fall	Bratislava, Slovakia
Judy Wasitis	Spring or Fall	Brasov, Bucharest, & Sibiu, Romania
Jim Westell	Spring or fall	<b>Bordeau, France *</b>

\* The **Bordeau France** journey has already been approved and established. Essentially, you will be choosing one or possibly two of the other journeys.

Our committee will give a presentation of researched information on Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

Voting can be made by e-mail before the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Chair:** Sharon Thorne

**Chair Advisor:** Mort Sider

## 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> Judy Wasitis  <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>

## Outbound Journeys

### Taiwan October 28-Nov 9, 2018

Taipei. Oct 28-Nov 3; Kaohsiung Nov 3-Nov 9,2018

We have 13 ambassadors with airplane and hotel (jet lag recovery!) reservations made. Two other ambassadors are going to be making their decisions soon, I hope!

We will have a group meeting on April 17th before the general meeting to work out a few details and get our finances organized. So far, all is well, hosting assignments will be made in-late spring or early summer as soon as our numbers are finalized.

### **Carol Liboiron, AC and Helen Self, Co AC**

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

Journey #14112 to FF Northern Illinois and FF Madison Wisconsin

Our 2 journeys now have a complete set of ambassadors. Northern Illinois will be hosting their maximum of 17 Ambassadors (6 couples and 5 single women) from June 3 – 9 with Wendy Hammond as the Ambassador Coordinator. An exciting (but somewhat expensive) itinerary has been planned including 2 days in Chicago with an architectural boat trip, Frank Lloyd Wright's Home and Studio, great dining out experiences, and for some a Cub's game. 10 ambassadors will be flying and the other 7 are driving.

The next journey to Madison Wisconsin will start on June 9 – 15 with Marilyn Weber as the Ambassador Coordinator. There are 20 ambassadors on this journey including the original 17 ambassadors plus 1 extra couple and 1 lady from Iowa joining our group and will be driving. The Illinois hosts will meet the Madison hosts at a halfway mark in Union Illinois where there is a Railway Museum. We will also be visiting the Capital building, more Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, a marsh boat trip, Clydesdale farm show, antique planes and several tours at the University of Wisconsin.

The FFI fees have been collected and will be forwarded by our club treasurer, Mike Hedden, to FFI via US cheque at the end of March. Our next meeting will take place on Thurs. April 5 at Marilyn Weber's house. We will be collecting the host fees which will be forwarded by our journey treasurer, Jim Chalcraft, to each of the 2 clubs by mid-April.

## Inbound Journeys

### Oita Japan May 2-9, 2018

The Oita Planning Committee have organized a special itinerary for our Oita visitors and will meet with Night Hosts on March 28<sup>th</sup> to finalize all aspects of this Journey.

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

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

Working together the Hamilton/Burlington, Haliburton and Niagara Journey Coordinators have selected and notified the 20 ambassadors who will be part of this Global Journey. The Niagara portion is from September 10 -15, 2018. Thanks to our members who have stepped up be night hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts. Presently we are requesting our members to complete the matching forms online with their information and forward the data to Sharon Thorne.

Once we have collected all our local data, our committee will then begin to match the ambassadors to the hosts. The ambassadors have sent their profiles and most have paid the initial \$250 deposit for this Journey to Atlanta. Four have paid the total fee of \$850.00.

Things are progressing in a positive way, and the Journey appears to be a highlight for many of the ambassadors who have indicated how pleased they are to have been chosen.

**Linda Holmes, Global Outdoor Adventure Committee**

## Social Committee

Thanks Doug Holmes for organizing the Pop Up trip to the Ice Dogs game.  
Thanks Elaine Duffy for the Trius Dinner Pop Up. Any member may set up a Pop Up on the spur of the moment. Just let us know.

The International Dinner was Friday, March 23 at Victoria Shores Clubhouse at Vineland Station.

May 17 Walk/Hike lunch to follow. More information will follow.

We have ordered tickets for **Wrong for Each Other**, at the Foster Festival at PAC, down town St. Catharines, for Thursday June 28 at 2:00 pm. We have 20 tickets. We will sell them at the April Meeting.

August Picnic: August 15, Lakeside Park, Port Dalhousie Pavilion.

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

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## FFN Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Bill Harkness</b>	<a href="mailto:wdharkness@gmail.com">wdharkness@gmail.com</a>
<b>1st V. President</b>	<b>Willard Thorne</b>	<a href="mailto:wjthorne@cogeco.ca">wjthorne@cogeco.ca</a>
<b>2nd V. President</b>	<b>Mort Sider</b>	<a href="mailto:mortfromport@gmail.com">mortfromport@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lynn Butler &amp; Helen Self</b>	<a href="mailto:lbutler@cogeco.ca">lbutler@cogeco.ca</a> , <a href="mailto:hself@cogeco.ca">hself@cogeco.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Michael Hedden</b>	<a href="mailto:hedden@mcmaster.ca">hedden@mcmaster.ca</a>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Karin Lampman</b>	<a href="mailto:kllampen28@gmail.com">kllampen28@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Mary Armbrust</b>	<a href="mailto:armbrust@vaxxine.com">armbrust@vaxxine.com</a>
<b>Social &amp; Fund Raising</b>	<b>Clarice West-Hobbs</b>	<a href="mailto:clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com">clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Lynne Kemp</b>	<a href="mailto:lkemp5@cogeco.ca">lkemp5@cogeco.ca</a>
<b>Inbound Oita Japan</b>	<b>Sandra Yemm</b>	<a href="mailto:syemm@sympatico.ca">syemm@sympatico.ca</a>
<b>Inbound Global</b>	<b>Linda Holmes</b>	<a href="mailto:lholfmes7@cogeco.ca">lholfmes7@cogeco.ca</a>
<b>Inbound New Hampshire</b>	<b>Clarice West-Hobbs</b>	<a href="mailto:clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com">clariceros.westhobbs@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Outbound Madison Wisconsin</b>	<b>Marilyn Weber</b>	<a href="mailto:lin167@myfastcom.ca">lin167@myfastcom.ca</a>