



# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



## President's Report



The summer newsletter is here. The publication of this letter signals the seven-month countdown to our first journey of 2019!

July has seen a flurry of reporting activity from FF International. These have included:

- The 2017 Annual Report
- The FFI Financial Report

If you have not seen these reports please contact Mort for links to, or copies of the documents.

Also, of interest from FFI was an article detailing changes to the 2020 Matching Process. FFI has announced that Mutual Journeys, such as the one we are pursuing with Bordeaux, will no longer be supported. Allison Lindsey, in Atlanta, has been contacted and our arrangements with the French club will not be affected.

During the June membership meeting you sent a signal that you wanted a modified ambassador selection process to happen for 2019. Two members stepped forward to lead a team of five to research member contribution history, setting the "data" groundwork for the process to begin. Those teams did their job. The research reports, presented to the executive on July 11 were exceptional. The data provided, permitted the selection process to unfold. Following board approval, the results arrived in your mailbox on July 17<sup>th</sup>. During this selection process, each of the 11 members involved repeatedly commented on the complexity of the task. The need to create a simplified version seemed imperative.

Ambassador coordinators are now at work assembling lists and contacting their counter-parts in Texas and in Derbyshire as plans unfold for the 2019 outbounds.

The annual club picnic will be celebrated on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please explore the Social Committee flier for details.

Bill Harkness

### Dates to Remember

**August 15** – Picnic

**September 10-15** -Global Outdoors Adventure

**September 20-26**- New Hampshire Inbound

**October 16** – Annual Membership Meeting

**October 28** – Taipei Outbound begins

**November 13** – Breakfast

**November 20** - Board Meeting

**December 5** – Club Christmas Dinner at Club Capri

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

### It's a Match 2019

Status report July  
Submitted by Willard Thorne

#### Outbound:

##### **San Antonio - Late February or early March 2019:**

Martha Abra is our Ambassador Co-ordinator and has been in close contact with FF San Antonio's President Pedro Morales. Martha has contacted all FF Niagara Journey members on the Ambassador list and waiting list and at San Antonio's request will begin a mutual planning in late August for this journey.

##### **Derbyshire - April/ May 2019:**

Clarice West- Hobbs is our Derbyshire Ambassador Coordinator and Sharon Thorne Deputy Ambassador Coordinator. Clarice has been in close contact with the Derbyshire Club and planning will begin shortly for this Journey.

The Club thanks the above members for stepping forward to take the leadership roles for the planning of these journeys.

#### Inbound:

##### **Itanhaem, Brazil - June 2019**

At present Itanhaem has 8 members planning on travelling on this Journey. Because of our minimum requirement of 12 ambassadors I have asked Hemily Nogueira Regional Support Manager for Brazil to encourage members of neighbouring Brazilian FF clubs to consider joining Itanhaem on this Journey

##### **Hobart- Melbourne - September 21-29, 2019:**

Host Coordinators are needed for each of our Inbound Journeys. Our Journey Volunteer lists have been posted on our web-site, so if you are one of those volunteers please consider taking the additional step and filling one of the needed positions. If you have any questions about being a Coordinator please call me at 905-934-6396 or email at [wjthorne@cogeo.ca](mailto:wjthorne@cogeo.ca).

It would be great to have these positions filled before our picnic, August 15th at Lakeside Park.

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**FF Central Coast Australia (Friendly Visit) – February 13-16, 2019**

Thus far the Holmes', Harknesses, Lackies, Thornes, and Yemms, have agreed to assist in this Journey. We have accepted their 6 Ambassadors because of the short time and less formal visit. Our programme will be about activities celebrating Niagara's winter glory. Anyone interested in being part of this exchange please contact Willard Thorne.

**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

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

Everyone from the Northern Illinois and Madison Wisconsin journeys have safely returned. Unfortunately, one couple had to return home due to illness after the first day. As a result, a claim will be made on the Friendship Fund.

Both journeys were excellent, the people were wonderful and they kept us moving the entire time. We had a great variety of attractions to see and we had the contrast of big city vs smaller towns and countryside. They were long days and we were tired - but it was all worth it.

We had the chance to visit different sites of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture in both places; an architectural boat cruise and Big Bus sightseeing tour of Chicago; botanical gardens; preserved historic homes and a schoolhouse; an underground railroad museum; a Clydesdale horse farm; the University of Wisconsin campus where we learned about DNA research and testing; - and something that was probably the highlight for most of the group - the chance to ride in the open cockpit of a 1929 D-25 biplane! There were four passengers and the pilot - who sat in the back - each flight lasted about 15 minutes. None of us could believe we actually did it! We took off and landed in a field with the wind blowing in our hair!

I have only had good feedback from everyone involved and the Madison club has expressed a desire to visit Niagara in 2020.

### **Wendy Hammond**

#### Derbyshire April 30-May 7, 2019

This is what we know at the moment.

There are 30 members 20 are active in Derbyshire.

They can handle up to 16 ambassadors. No extras due to transportation issues.

We could fly into Manchester airport with Air Canada or Air Transat as an example.

There is another airport called the East Midland airport but you would have to fly KLM to Amsterdam and then over then connect to this airport.

England is expensive and money is almost double ours.

I have been on line and the area is very rural and lovely.

I am sending them our numbers and the breakdown of singles and couples so we can determine how many of us may go.

### **Clarice West-Hobbs Chair**

**Taiwan October 28-Nov 9, 2018**

- Helen Self (treasurer) will be receiving payment in US\$ from our 15 ambassadors at the FFN picnic (or before August 14<sup>th</sup>). This payment will cover the FFI Fee for two weeks and the Taipei club fee for one week. Please direct your questions if any to Helen. Our Kaohsiung hosts have requested that we bring our club fee with us. Both clubs have planned interesting programs and we look forward to the matching lists being exchanged so we can meet (electronically, anyway!) our new hosts.
- Matching lists have been sent to both clubs. They do not want a club gift, so we will be taking Canadian flags as requested.
- We have 2 openings for ambassadors who would like to join us for this two week exchange in October. Unfortunately, one couple has had to decline because of health issues. If you are interested, give Carol Liboiron a call for details.

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

## Inbound Journeys

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

Things have progressed along very rapidly in the last few days. The deadline for withdrawing from the Journey has now passed and all 20 ambassadors have paid the full \$850.00 USD for the 15 day Journey. We expect our final funds to be received from FFI very soon.

The Niagara Club has sent the Ambassador and Hosts Matching Forms to the hosts and ambassadors and several of our hosts have received emails from their ambassadors. Likewise, many of our hosts have made the initial contact with their ambassadors. Our Niagara night hosts, day hosts and dinner hosts have been notified of the breakfast meeting on Monday Aug. 13 at Sunset Grill at the Fairview Mall St. Catharines at 8:00 am. Meeting to start at 9:00 am.

All venues for the Journey have been finalized. The program pamphlet is being organized and designed by Lynne Kemp. We will be selling tickets to our Farewell Dinner at the picnic on Aug. 15. Members may purchase tickets for the Dinner & Dance for \$40.00 ea. It is a buffet meal at the Royal Niagara Golf Club in Niagara.

The Global committee from Hamilton/Burlington, Niagara & Haliburton will be meeting next on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Grimsby. This meeting is accomplished in the form of a conference call with Haliburton.

**Linda Holmes, Global Outdoor Adventure Committee**

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**New Hampshire Journey    September 20-25, 2018**

The committee met on Monday July 9 and we have worked through a few wrinkles. We have lost 2 visitors so we are down to 17 incoming Ambassadors. Therefore, we have had to make some adjustments to home hosting and dinner hosting. Howard Lackie will take over as treasurer for the journey very shortly. Thank you, Howard.

All our guests will be arriving by car. We will be holding our Welcome Dinner on Thursday September 20 at the home of Jim and Judy Westell. The committee has been working hard and we are in the process of finding tables and chairs for our dinner. If any member is willing to loan these items to us, please contact Carolyn Vilim at [cdvilim@gmail.com](mailto:cdvilim@gmail.com).

Our final dinner will be held at the **Port Dalhousie Yacht Club on Tuesday September 25**. Cost will be **\$37**. We will collect the money at the August Picnic in Port Dalhousie. At that time, we will ask for your choice for dinner- **Strip loin or Salmon**.

Our final meeting with Night Hosts, Day Hosts and Dinner Hosts will take place on **Thursday September 6** at Carol's Party room.

**Clarice West-Hobbs, Host Coordinator**

**Oita Japan    May 2-9, 2018**

FF Niagara welcomed fifteen ambassadors from FF Oita for 7 nights, May 2 – May 9, 2018. We thank the 44 Niagara members who participated in this Journey as members of the hosting committee, night hosts, dinner hosts, day hosts, and day photographer. FF Oita members were welcomed at Pearson airport and enjoyed visiting the usual landmarks, tours and wineries as well as a St. Catharines House Tour, Grimsby Beach tour and home visit to a 'painted lady'. The highlight of this Journey was the official welcome, in Rotary Park, by St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik and recognizing the occasion of the official opening of the Rotary Friendship Garden by Rotary International President Dr. H. Mukasa from Oita, Japan, in 1983. Rotary banners were exchanged with St. Catharines Rotary President Vicky Rudachuk, Oita President Kunihiko Otsuka and Oita Past President Kazumori Tsuzuki. We also recognized that FF Niagara member Lynn Butler's husband, Dave, was Rotary President in 1983.

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

## Social Committee

**Pop Up** - Friday July 6, 2018 Fish Fry Royal Niagara  
Approximately 27 people attended so many thanks to Linda Holmes.

**Picnic** - Wednesday August 15, 3:00 pm Lakeside Park Port Dalhousie  
Beef on a Bun complimentary (change of plan), Coffee, tea available  
Members bring appetizers, salads and veggie dishes, Enough for 8 people or more.  
Bring your own cutlery and plates.  
Check the alphabet breakdown on the flyer to see what food you need to bring.  
No alcohol, please bring drinks. The concession stand might be open!!!

**November Breakfast** - Tuesday Nov 13  
Johnny Pastrami's at 569 Lake St. St. Catharines

**Christmas Party** - Wednesday Dec 5, 2018 Club Capri  
Cost to be determined once we have chosen the menu  
20 Year Anniversary  
We will recognize Charter Members with a certificate. Gift exchange, Sing along.

**January** - possible games night.  
Should we move to an afternoon? Should we have a lunch first? What do you think?

### Ideas for Pop Ups

Concerts in Montebello Park  
PAC Lunch Hour Concerts starting about Oct 12  
PAC Outside Movies -free.  
Shaw- noon hour plays  
Anyone may call one. Usually under 20 people. Just let the Social Committee know.

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



## 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:klampen28@gmail.com">klampen28@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:lholmes7@cogeco.ca">lholmes7@cogeco.ca</a>
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<b>Outbound Madison Wisconsin</b>	<b>Marilyn Weber</b>	<a href="mailto:lin167@myfastcom.ca">lin167@myfastcom.ca</a>