



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



President's Report



Summer is drawing to a close and with the approach of autumn it is time to reflect.

The club's 2018 journeys have been and continue to be under excellent leadership. The planning committees, the JC's and their teams are doing a superb job.

New Hampshire Seacoast is well under way as this note is being composed. The Global Ontario Outdoor Adventure has been completed. That farewell dinner found many new friendships in full bloom while the excitement of the week's physical challenges and personal achievements remained the subject of conversation.

The ambassadors staging for the outbound to Taiwan have planned, met and are packing as you read these lines. Our best wishes go with those ambassadors as they fly to the west, to meet the east.

I would like to recognize the contributions Grace has made to our club. With over 20 years of Sunshine behind her, she has recently handed the torch to Marilyn Lackie. Marilyn has accepted the role as Sunshine and we send our thanks to both members.

Next year, 2019, is becoming clearly mapped. We have 2 inbounds, 2 outbound and a friendly to-date. Each of those adventures has a leadership team in place, but, at this point, January 1st will see the club without a complete executive. Willard will leave the executive in 2019. I have appreciated Willard's commitment to his job more than you will know. My role as president will also end in December of 2018. At this time there are no candidates for either president or vice president.

In closing, the leadership conference in Ottawa, November 15, 16 and 17, has space for one more delegate from Niagara. Would you like to join us?

Bill Harkness

Dates to Remember

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

December 5 - Christmas Party

1st Vice President's Report

It's a Match 2019

Status report September
Submitted by Willard Thorne

Outbound:

In planning Stage

1. **Derbyshire, U.K. after April 29,2019**, Ambassador Coordinator Clarice West –Hobbs.
2. **San Antonio Texas, late Feb., early March, 2019.**Ambassador Coordinator Martha Abra.
Deputy Ambassador Coordinator Jean Armitage.

Inbound:

1. **Itanhaem Brazil June1-14 2019.**

We thank Sandra Yemm, as Host Coordinator and Lynn Butler as Deputy Host Coordinator for volunteering to accept the Leadership roles for this Journey.

2. **Hobart-Melbourne Australia Sept-Oct 2019**

Visiting Niagara and Canadian Capital Region.

We thank Jean Armitage as Host Coordinator and Martha Abra as Deputy Host Coordinator for volunteering to accept the Leadership roles for this Journey.

3. **Friendly Visit**

As earlier announced we have a Friendly Visit from **Central Coast FF Australia** occurring **Wed. Feb.13 to Sat. Feb 16.** (Their visit follows a Global Journey to Haliburton) They will arrive 5p.m., Feb.13 and leave 8a.m., Feb.16.

At this time, I believe we have sufficient night hosts. There is one couple and also there are 4 ladies in the group. A planning meeting will be held shortly after Thanksgiving to formalize a relaxed and informal visit.

Past President's Report

As the AGM will occur on October 16, I will be forwarding proposed motions via email to all members prior to this meeting. These motions will contain amendments to the by-laws, particularly to the position of 2nd Vice-President. Please be prepared to vote on these motions at the meeting.

As Past President, and chair of the Nominations Committee I have been contacting members to fill executive positions and committee volunteers but so far to no avail.

Again, I would like to reiterate what I stated in my last communique which is, that as a club many of our positions are partnered with other members who then share and assist in responsibilities and work as a team to create successful journeys. So please consider either an executive or a committee position (with or without a partner) because without you, OUR CLUB CANNOT EXIST. Our club needs you!

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Karin Lampman, Past President

Social Committee

On August 15 we had a happy group attend our summer picnic at Lakeside Park Port Dalhousie. There were between 35 and 40 members attending. Although the parking was a bit of a problem people seemed to really like the venue. Many thanks to those Social Committee members who attended and helped out and to the strong people who moved tables for us at setup. Thanks to Phil Baranoski for suggesting the new venue. Breakfast November 13, at Johnny Pastrami's. We will need numbers. Our Christmas Party is Wednesday, December 5th at Club Capri. More information to follow.

Clarice West-Hobbs, Social Committee Chair

Summary of Journeys for 2018

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

Outbound Journeys

Taiwan October 28-Nov 9, 2018

We had a very fun (and filling!) "Taste of Taiwan" dinner on September 6th. Many ambassadors brought their rendition of Taiwanese food, including street corn, pork bellies with rice, Taiwanese eggs, beef rolls with cucumber, 3 cup chicken, beef noodle soup, crabby rice with peas and eggs, flies head greens (actually they were black beans!), tiger bites pork rolls - (oh, those Taiwanese, how they come up with these names for some fabulous dishes!) We finished off with pineapple cakes, peach, banana loaf, fresh fruit, wine and juice! This meal gives us an idea of what we might be tasting during our stay in Taiwan. I have sent pictures to our host coordinators so we shall see what they think of our efforts.

Many of us have made arrangements to get to the Pearson Airport for 7:30 am on October 25th (yawn!) and will arrive at about 2pm on the 26th (we lose a day going over). After a refreshing stay in the hotel, we will meet our Taipei hosts on Oct 27th. Some ambassadors are going to Korea first, and will meet us in Taipei.

We have made contact with our home hosts, and fees have been paid, so this must mean we are really going! Getting very excited!

Carol Liboiron, AC and Helen Self, Co AC

Derbyshire April 30-May 7, 2019

Our upcoming trip to England.

So far there have been numerous emails back and forth from the group in Derbyshire and they are quite excited about our visit. They say they can accommodate 16 and they have decided on no more than 16 people. The FF Derbyshire committee are now requesting information on our potential ambassadors, so it is time to get started.

Sharon Thorne and myself have set a meeting date for Friday September 28 at 10:00 at my home at 16 The Cedars. At that time, we will have members complete the appropriate forms and make a commitment. We will have more information to share following our first meeting.

Clarice West-Hobbs, Ambassador Coordinator
Sharon Thorne Deputy

Inbound Journeys

Global Outdoor Adventure September 10-15, 2018

Three amazing weeks of outdoor adventure were completed with enthusiasm by the twenty ambassadors selected by the Coordinators from the Hamilton/Burlington, Niagara & Haliburton FF Clubs. The evaluations were completed by each of the ambassadors. The 5 days of the Niagara section of the 15day Journey was well received by all the ambassadors who gave rave reviews to all the activities. The first day of the Journey was started with the welcome lunch, then followed with the Welland Canal Tour. Rain curtailed our driving from lock to lock, but Wendy Hammond was able to give her talk about the canal after our lunch in the clubhouse in Victoria Shores. Thankfully we were able to juggle the program to include a visit to the Lock 3 Museum where all the ambassadors got to see a boat go through a lock. Many expressed on their evaluation forms how impressed they were to see this engineering feat.

Niagara Falls Day with Bob Rouble in the lead once again received wonderful remarks as they found the day to be more than they had anticipated. Imax Theatre, the Skylon Tower, The Falls and the Hornblower Boat Cruise never fail to impress our visitors.

Our cycling day offered us exceptional weather for cycling as it was sunny, the temperature was



not too hot, and the ambassadors thought we had the exact number of viewing stops to take pictures and take in the beauty of the mighty Niagara River. Many of our ambassadors were pleased with the quality of the rental bikes and

found the seats and gears to be beyond their expectations. The hill up to Queenston Heights was mastered by all the cyclists. Some walked up pushing their bikes, but the majority were able to cycle to the top and for that they were proud of their accomplishments. Evaluations showed that day was a very positive experience for them all. Queenston Heights pavilion was the venue for catered lunch. Cycling along country roads in Niagara provided the ambassadors with a view of the many acres of vineyards.

A stop at Marynissan Winery was enjoyed by all those who sampled the grape. A quick stop at Peller Estates Winery gave ambassadors another perspective on an upscale winery. After cycling

43 km we returned our bikes to the bike rental company, and all ambassadors were smiling as they congratulated themselves on completing a respectable distance on their ride.

Dinner hosted parties are always a highlight and once again our Niagara dinner hosts outdid themselves with their culinary talents. All evaluations stated how wonderful their dinner hosting was received. Great accolades all around to our club dinner hosts.

Hiking the Bruce Trail was a challenging day for most of the ambassadors. Upon culmination of the trek they were quite surprised when they learned they had hiked 14 km. They were tired, but they got to see a unique part of the Niagara Escarpment. For many the word escarpment was a new word in their vocabulary. Under



the able footing of leader Willard Thorne and assisted by a member of the Bruce Trail Club the group completed the trek with no mishaps.

Ambassadors were happy to relate to the audience at the farewell dinner the many different activities they chose in their continuation of exploring Niagara more fully on their free day. The highlight of the dinner at Royal Niagara G.C. was to hear the ambassadors perform for us a lively tune that Richard Mueller from Sun City AZ wrote earlier in the day. The words creatively culminated the week's program in song.

As the ambassadors left we understood the meaning of "arrive as strangers and leave as friends". We could openly see how the ambassadors had grown together quickly by experiencing our Niagara outdoors in an adventurous way.

Our committee met up with a challenge when one of the ambassadors was injured. It was all dealt with professionally. All the while it brought home to us the absolute need to vet, reference and meet face to face with prospective ambassadors on a Global Journey. References need to be challenged that they are giving the whole truth about the ambassador they are recommending. Many kudos to Irene & Gary Millington who offered their home to the injured ambassador until suitable arrangements could be made to have the ambassador return home to family.

Thank you, to all club members who played a key role in making this Global Journey a success. It is that spirit of cohesiveness that makes us a well-respected Friendship Force Club.

Linda Holmes, Global Outdoor Adventure Committee

New Hampshire Journey September 20-25, 2018



Our New Hampshire visitors have arrived. We are enjoying lunch at the Lighthouse Restaurant on the Niagara Parkway. Then we are off to Reif Winery.

Willowbank Tour



Wolfgang talked to the New Hampshire group at Port Dalhousie about the three old canals. We had a bit of rain that morning.

Our closing dinner at Port Dalhousie Yacht Club. We had a wonderful meal.



Clarice West-Hobbs, Host Coordinator

Treasurer's Report

Fee Increase

In March a Committee was formed to review FFN's financial position and to recommend ways to both increase revenue and reduce expenditures. The Committee was struck as the budget for 2018 indicated that it was possible that the Club could run out of funds by year's end. The Committee consisted of Phil Baranosiki, Jim Chalcraft, Karin Lampman, Carol Liboiron, Willard Thorne, Clarice West-Hobbs and Mike Hedden.

Over the course of the spring and summer the Committee met several times and investigated in detail the Club's income and expenses. An examination of the 2018 budget illustrated one of the problems: the Club was spending more per member than it was collecting in revenue per member. The Committee presented recommendations to the Board on several occasions and was asked to reconvene and reconsider some of these recommendations.

Based on the recommendations presented in a final report at the July Board meeting, a motion was passed increasing the membership fees to \$55 effective in January 2019. Several recommendations were also made to reduce expenditures.

A summary of the Committee's recommendations will be presented at the October meeting.

Members should come to the October meeting prepared to pay their fees for 2019 at the October meeting. **Please pay only by cheque made payable to FFN, post-dated to January 1, 2019.**

Michael Hedden, Treasurer

FFN Board of Directors

President	Bill Harkness	wdharkness@gmail.com
1st V. President	Willard Thorne	wjthorne@cogeco.ca
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