



THE FRIENDLY ECHO

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF WINNIPEG NEWSLETTER



Volume 23 Issue 2 April, May, June 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - JUNE 2023 - James Ryan

Friendship Force Winnipeg welcomed ten eager Ambassadors from La Serena Chile on June 10th. They arrived early that morning from Toronto where they had completed a pre-journey excursion to the region, including Niagara Falls. They spent the day with their Home Hosts and were formally greeted at a Welcome Dinner held in the common room at Joe & Val's condo.

I wish to sincerely thank all the members of the planning committee under the leadership of Paul V L who acted as the point man for this Latin American club. He was most ably assisted by Carol De B who organized all the Home, Dinner & Day Hosts. This was an extraordinary feat owing to some unforeseen challenges that arose without much warning. Carol managed to find a Spanish translator (with Susan F's assistance) the night before our visit to the Legislative building so that our guests would understand the English narrative. Our son, Tom, acted as translator for the visit to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as the museum had no one who spoke Spanish.

Many of our members stepped forward to assure the success of this visit. We are indebted to Jim Kubas who again prepared the Souvenir Guide used throughout the week. I must highlight the contributions of Val K, Inga Z, Kristina R & many others for the Welcome Dinner. Norma P, our club Historian, took great photos of the Ambassadors and their Home Hosts. Richard G provided an overview of the history of Manitoba and the contributions of the Red River Metis during our stop at Louis Riel's grave in St. Boniface.

Our Journey Coordinator, Maria C. graciously offered the use of her cottage for an evening meal enjoyed after a sunny day visiting the town of Gimli. Karen C. was responsible for the tour at Fort Whyte Alive the next day and finally, Loretta H led the tour of the Assiniboine Park zoo and the Diversity Gardens. The final day consisted of a tour & lunch at the Mennonite Heritage Village in Steinbach capped off by the Farewell Dinner at the Holiday Inn South.

It was certainly a challenging week due to the language barrier, but I believe the Chilean Ambassadors appreciated the efforts of our many talented members. Thank you one and all.

This week I was contacted by Peggy Miller of FF San Diego regarding their June 2024 proposed Inbound journey as well as the President of FF Leicestershire confirming our journey to their club in Sept 2024. I also received notification confirming the Inbound from Quad Cities Iowa also for June of 2024. The executive Board will need to review these proposals to resolve the conflicting dates.

We will resume our dinner meetings in September so watch your Inbox for the date and time. I wish you all a safe and pleasant summer.

JOURNEY CO-ORDINATOR REPORT - Maria Coutu

We hosted the La Serena Club from Chile from June 10th to June 17th. The ambassadors were a great group, the only hardship was communication. Many of the ambassadors spoke little or no English and whereas the Google app was handy sometimes the translation was really nonsensical. Just as soon as we really started to understand each other it was time for them to go.

Thank you to Paul and Carol and the committee who put together a great program for the visitors.

Unfortunately, the New Zealand Journey has been cancelled due to lack of ambassadors who were able to come to Canada. Thank you to Lorraine and Elizabeth and their Committee for the pre-planning they had already done.

None of the above would be possible without the help of our whole Club. Thank you to Hosts, Day Hosts, Dinner Hosts and all members who help to make our inbound Journeys a success. Many hands make everything we do easier and a lot more fun. Thank you!

ACTIVITIES REPORT - Susan Munroe

Hello everyone, hope you are all enjoying this wonderful kick start to summer with the incredible month of weather we've enjoyed to date, so unlike last June.

Our final meeting was combined with the farewell dinner for our Chilean visitors, who by all accounts had a great time in Winnipeg.

Our regular dinner meeting held in May at the Holiday Inn South had a slightly lower attendance, but hopefully the return in the fall will see more members participating. Our program included a wonderful, as always, presentation by Jim Kubas about their trip to Antarctica and South America. We also revived a mini book exchange and raised a total of \$38.00 which was donated to Rossbrook House. I received a lovely thank you note from them thanking us for our donation. They were very sincere in their appreciation of our thinking of them with the donation. Any unsold books were dropped off for inclusion in the Childrens Hospital book mart, so overall everyone benefited in one way or another.

We have some ideas brewing for our September meeting so will keep you posted as plans develop. (hint: think train rides, think fall suppers...)

I hope you all have a fun and healthy summer break, look forward to seeing you in the fall. Best regards.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Nina Logan, Vice-President

We have 54 regular members and 5 associate members. We gained 3 new members in 2023!

Your VP applied for funding from FFI through their grant process to promote and increase membership. The idea was to cover the cost of business type cards which had our logo and website information as well as the FFI website. There would be space for people to write their contact information to share with those they met who showed an interest in our organization. I also asked for funding for refreshments for a “meet and greet “ for potential new members, for a total of \$200 US dollars. I have not yet received an answer. Here is an example of one club who did receive funding:

Deborah Hay's club in Saskatoon has received grant approval for \$350 US to connect with newcomer organizations in Saskatoon and put on a cooking class with them following which they will sit down and share a meal together. The goal is to promote intercultural understanding and to advertise friendship force within the community.

From the information shared at the Western Presidents' Zoom meeting, we learned that in the follow up to the “Its a match” documents, FFI will be emailing out contact information over the next couple of weeks for the journeys, as well as the name and contact information for the RSM who is responsible for the journey. Our next outbound journey is to Leicester, England in September 2024. Nina and Loretta have offered to be the Journey Co-ordinators. When contacted, FFI was not able to connect us with another European Journey, but we will contact other clubs directly and hopefully get another week's journey.

We also received a chart with number of members for each of the Canadian Clubs. The bad news is the number of members has dropped dramatically since Covid and the Hay River Club has folded. Pre-Covid there was a total of 1210 Canadian members, but now the total is 846, a drop of 346! The surprising good news is that of the 22 clubs, Ottawa is the largest with 112 members and our own FFW is in second place!!

For our Canada Wide Directors and Officers Liability insurance, which covers all Friendship Force Clubs across Canada for club activities such as Inbound and Outbound activities, each member is assessed \$1.21, for a Canadian total of \$1,025.00 for the insurance. Clubs may need to purchase commercial liability insurance (PAL Insurance Brokers is recommended) for specific events where the venue requires this insurance.

continued on next page

We also learned that the Ambassador Director must have proof of medical insurance for each ambassador and must share this with the Host Director. There have been instances where it has been very important to have this. One club trip organizer had everyone bring in their policy for medical care and photocopied the front page to ensure that everyone had medical insurance. This sensitive information was then shredded at the end of a journey.

The three Manitoba FF groups have already met once on Zoom to discuss our particular issues. We will meet again in September to continue our discussions.

WALKING CLUB REPORT - Linda Dart

The Walking Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Following the summer break we will resume the walks at 10 am on September 26th, 2023. An email giving the starting point will be sent out on the Sunday prior to each walk. Following the walk we go out for coffee and a visit. Please come and join us. This is a good opportunity to get to know other members of the club in a different setting.

Further information re the FFW Zoom Book Club and the Bridge sessions will be forthcoming.

Members have been asking for a Recipe Exchange, so here is one to start you off:

Elephant Stew.

- 1 elephant, medium
- Brown gravy, lots
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 rabbits, optional

Cut elephant into bite sized pieces. This will take about two months. Add enough brown gravy to cover. Salt and pepper to taste. Cook over kerosene fire about four weeks at 465 degrees. This will serve about 3,800 people. If more people are expected, the two rabbits may be added. But do this only if necessary as most people do not like to find a hare in their stew.

MORE WORD PUNS - these may have been around before but worth a second chuckle.

Dad, are we pyromaniacs?

Yes, we arson.

She was only a moonshiner's daughter,
but I miss her still.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter?

Swarm.

Just so everything is clear,
I'm going to put my glasses on.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone a round.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced?

A buccaneer.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by.

I kneaded the dough.

Why is "dark" spelled with a k and not c?

Because you can't "c" in the dark.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock?

Well, time will tell.

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament,

but good players are really hard to find.

What do you say to comfort a friend who is struggling with grammar?

There, their, they're.



The beginning of a happy week with our visitors from La Serena, Chile.





Ambassadors from La Serena, Chile, at the Forks.

EDITORS' CORNER

Best wishes from Diane and Dave for a happy, healthy and peaceful Summer.

**May you always have: Love to share, cash to spare,
tires with air and friends who care.**

FFW Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Diane and David Judge
Contact: **The Friendship Force of Winnipeg.** Email: friendshipforcewpg@mts.net
Website: www.friendshipforcewinnipeg.org
Friendship Force International 279 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, GA 30046
Email: ff@thefriendshipforce.org Website: www.thefriendshipforce.org

