

FAIRBRIDGE GAZETTE



The Final Six of 329 Children Arriving in Vancouver, May 25, 1948.
Michael Pettit, Sidney Gillies, Hilda Smith, Rosemary Easton, Jean Hanson, Jim Hanson.

The Acting Agent-General, Mr. W. A. Mr. McAdam, Acting Agent-General for British Columbia, with Mr. Lumley and the first Canadian party. Photo taken at British Columbia House in London.

Benjamin Alsop, James Alsop, Norman Alsop, Peggy Auton, Ronald Auton, Daniel Brayfield, Henry Brayfield, Joan Buchan, Andrew Buglass, Florence Cowans, Ellen Dillon, Sarah Dillon, William Dowler, Lawrence Drake, Peter Forest, John Hunter, James Lally, Muriel Lister, Doreen Lister, Henry Lister, Irene Lister, Mathew MacDonald, John Monnington, Frank Morris, Mary Jane Morrison, Olive Morrison, Edith Phelps, Joyce Pritchard, Keith Pritchard, Mary Pritchard, Hal Skelton, Leslie Snaith, Richard Speed, Thomas Speed, Edward Spencer, Ernest Todd, Francis Todd, Richard Todd, Edmund Walton, Robert Warnock, Molly White.

September 2015 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School

1935: Framework of the first cottage for the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.

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Roddy Mackay: President's Message

It's that time of year again and I personally am wondering about that old myth that "life slows down when one arrives in those so-called Golden Years?" I feel like I am on the German autobahn driving 100 miles an hour and drivers are still flying by me.

That's how time goes by these days: a year speeds by like a month. Pat is anxiously waiting for my "two cents" so here goes. To all I have talked to, we had another bang up fun-filled very enjoyable reunion. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with all that attended.

Word from our Chapel "Angel," Ron Smith, is that our old-school site had a terrible wind storm on November 6th and thanks should go to all the strata community volunteers, organized by Lyle Braithwaite of our strata community, to clean up the area around the Chapel. About 12 of the strata group spent a good 6 or 7 hours cleaning up the place. The Strata is also hosting the Fairbridge Carols event on Saturday, December 13th at 2 pm. Everyone is invited. Please join me in thanking Ron and the strata committee. An excellent way to thank them would be send a donation to the Fairbridge Chapel Heritage Committee – you can find their address on page 5.

Where we (the committee) were naturally concerned about our numbers for the September 2014 Reunion, we actually exceeded the previous reunion. Thanks, to all our members who could attend the reunion. Particularly family groups, i.e. the Arnisons, the Dobson Family (10), the McIver's and Mick Nevard and his Grandson Andrew, these last two families travelled all the way from the U.K. Our Annual General Meeting was well attended: we had 2nd generation Fairbridgians volunteering, (with much enthusiasm) to serve on the Board. This I see as real hope towards keeping our Fairbridge Canada Association alive and well. Please welcome the new 2015 F.C.A Board members, they are noted on the bottom of this page.

Much as I hate to admit it, we are aging and our health may not be what it was in our younger days. These and other factors make it difficult for many members to attend the reunions. The other day I took the time to phone one of my former shipmates (*Bayano 1941*) who lives in the eastern part of the U.S. He is 83 and like most of us, his family, daughters and son have long flown the coop. He lives all alone in his house. One of his daily pleasures is to wave at the neighbourhood children on their way to school. Happily for him, some of the kids stop by, i.e. the girl scouts selling their cookies. Likely he buys more cookies than he can eat. He was totally upbeat during our conversation, and I could tell he was a very positive man, not one complaint passed his lips. His only concern in the entire conversation (at least an hour) was, *had he paid his F.C.A. membership dues for 2015?* I hope he enjoyed that phone call. I certainly did. This small incident of reaching out to a mate touched me deeply. I think all of us need to do more of that. With Christmas fast approaching, please take a few minutes of your day to call one of your former Fairbridge schoolmates, maybe they have lost their wife, husband or like my friend living alone. It will mean so very much to them and yourself.

Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for 2015.

Cheers *Roddy*

Fairbridge Canada Association Board

President: Roddy Mackay: roddymc@comcast.net

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**FCA Fees of \$30.00 per year
are due in January of each year.**

Membership forms can be found
with this Gazette and on the

FCA website at:

<http://fairbridgecanada.com>

FCA Directors:

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Cheryl Kent

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