



# Canadian War Brides and Families

January 2013

## Greetings from President Jean

Greetings to everyone. I hope you had a wonderful Holiday season and I wish you all a very healthy year ahead. After a very successful reunion at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon last year, we are now looking forward to our gathering in Victoria, BC in April. Our members in B.C are working hard to organize a great weekend for everyone to enjoy. A visit to Vancouver Island in April should be a welcome break from winter and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again. Take Care

As ever,  
*Jean*

## News from Bev Tosh



I was honoured to have the opportunity to share my Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal with my precious mother recently. I told her it was all because of her. My mother, Dorothy, was a Canadian war bride to New Zealand. She made an epic journey in December 1946 on one of the last bride ships bound for New Zealand. She returned to Canada in 1957. On December 27, 2012, aged 91, Dorothy made her final passage. She inspired and empowered me.

## War Bride Exhibition Agenda

**Canada:** Approximately 24 portraits on wood, hundreds of photos and a veil of vintage handkerchiefs - each embroidered with the name of a bride ship - will be on display at the Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick from 8 March to 28 April, 2013.



**Holland:** Over 20 portraits with stories of Dutch-Canadian war brides will be on display in the Netherlands from June 6 to November 16, 2013. The exhibition will also include Hetty Wear's wedding dress, photos, film and audio. It will be on display at the National Liberation Museum 1944 - 1945 in Groesbeek (the location of the largest Canadian cemetery in the Netherlands). I will be there for the opening on June 6 to commemorate D-Day.

Thank you to Elly Cornish, my first Dutch war bride, for inspiring this exhibition and to Jane Dunbar and family for contacting the museum with a copy of her portrait. This will be my first exhibition to include a brief story (English and Dutch) with each portrait. I sincerely hope you may consider this a worthy stop if you are planning a European trip.



## WOMEN'S LAND ARMY MONUMENT



The Prince of Wales unveiled a monument to the WLA at Clochan near Fochabers, Moray, Scotland on October 10, 2012. The Prince paid tribute, "... to all the remarkable Land Girls who did so much during the years when the country was under threat. There are still several hundred land girls left, the only problem is that it's taken nearly 70 years or something in order to ensure there was a memorial." Former National Farmers Union Scotland president Jim McLaren, whose mother Katherine was a Land Girl, guided the creation of the memorial. During WW II up to 80,000 Land Girls were milking, lambing, shearing, planting, harvesting and operating agricultural machinery.



WLA war bride Ethel Cunliffe married John Tryon at Blackpool in 1944 with an honour guard from her Women's Land Army unit. She sailed on the Aquitania from Southampton, February 21, 1946 and settled in Parksville, British Columbia

## **REUNION 2013 – April 12 – 14**

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA IN APRIL!!!!  
 A GRAND OLD LADY – THE FAIRMONT EMPRESS HOTEL ON INNER  
 HARBOUR!!!  
 REMINISCING WITH OLD FRIENDS & MEETING NEW FRIENDS!!!  
 DON'T DELAY!!!  
 COME JOIN US FOR OUR CANADIAN WAR BRIDES & FAMILIES REUNION  
 2013!!!  
 APRIL 12, 13, & 14, 2013 @ the Fairmont Empress Hotel in downtown Victoria,  
 British Columbia



We have a block of rooms set aside at the Fairmont Empress Hotel with our greatly reduced nightly rate of \$149 per night plus taxes based on single or double occupancy. You can get this group rate a few days before our Reunion and for up to a week after our annual party ends. Call the hotel directly @ 250-384-8111 or their Global Reservations Centre @ 1-800-441-1414 to book your rooms and don't forget to mention that you're with the Canadian War Brides & Families group. You can also book on-line at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/cdnwarbrides> And book your rooms now because we don't want any of you to be disappointed when we run out of our special Fairmont Rooms @ \$149 per night!!!

Your registration package is included in your January newsletter and needs to be completed, optional tours picked, cheque written, and mailed to Canadian War Brides & Families, c/o 215 West Beasley St., Nelson, British Columbia, V1L 3K4.

We guarantee that you will have a wonderful time with all of our amazing War Brides and their family members. We have lots of entertainment planned and welcome all of you to our Hospitality Room in the Blanshard Suite for a nice cuppa, a few English biscuits, and a good old 'chin wag'.

Registration Fees for the weekend's events are \$75.00 for Canadian War Brides, \$130.00 for Canadian War Brides & Families members; and \$135.00 for non-members. Due to a lot of hard work and effort from Executive Member and War Bride daughter **Sandi Jeffs**, we have received a very generous donation from the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation which has allowed us to reduce the registration fees to \$75.00 for the first 40 Canadian War Brides to register by **March 15, 2013**.

We have also organized optional tours to the world renowned & famous Butchart Gardens as well as a Deluxe City Tour. More information below and the registration form for these optional tours is attached.

So here's your TO DO list:

1. Complete your registration form, choose your optional tours, write your cheque and get it in the mail.
2. Call the Fairmont Empress Hotel to reserve your rooms.
3. Mark your calendars.
4. Make your travel arrangements.
5. Join us in beautiful Victoria for **FUN FUN FUN!!!**

Registration Deadline To Avoid Disappointment is **MARCH 31, 2013**.

For further information you can contact Janet Leahy at 1-(250) 354-4006 or by email at [canadianwarbrides@netidea.com](mailto:canadianwarbrides@netidea.com)

### **OPTIONAL AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE**

Akal Airport Shuttle offers shuttle service from Victoria International Airport to the Fairmont Empress Hotel. The cost for a one way trip is \$21.00 per person but if your group is a bit larger the cost is reduced - 2 people traveling together would be \$19.00 each way, 3 people would be \$13.00 each way. This shuttle company also sells round trip tickets but they can only be purchased at the airport. Their booth is located in the baggage collection area and they will have a sign up for our *Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion Group* which will also assist in grouping our travellers together to get a reduced shuttle rate.

\*\*\*One way taxi fare from the airport to our hotel will be a minimum of \$60.00.

## Optional Tours

Friday, April 12	Deluxe Victoria City Tour – Special Group Rate of \$25.00 per person You will be picked up at front of the Empress at 10:00 am	
Saturday, April 13	Butchart Gardens Tour including Lunch – Special Group rate of \$75.00 per person You will be picked up at front of the Empress at 11:00 am. Price includes transportation, admission to Butchart Gardens and Lunch.	

## Afternoon Tea at the Empress



A time honoured tradition for over a century, the world renowned tea lobby of The Fairmont Empress has served England's most beloved ritual and Victoria's grandest tradition of Afternoon Tea.  
Offered daily from Noon – 2:15 pm.  
Special seniors (60 and over) rate of \$29.95 per person is available until the end of April 2013. You are able to book this when you arrive!

### *Dutch Shop*

We also have plans to take any of our interested War Brides and family members to *The Wooden Shoe*. This is a shop in Victoria that sells everything Dutch - Cheese, coffee, candy, Delft Blue and many, many other things made in Holland. If you are interested in this little shopping excursion, please indicate on the 'Optional Tour form' that is part of this package. Further information will be available when you register at the reunion.



## Remember When . . . .

Do you remember.....Dried Eggs??? They came in a package about the size and consistency of a brick - with sort of brown heavy wax paper over a brown cardboard box! And when you managed to open it you found a bright yellow powder that was almost paste like. It came with instructions telling you how much to use and how to 'reconstitute' it - not that it ever tasted or looked anything like a real egg! When I started work up in London, I used to take my lunch, walk from the office on Holborn High Street to Lincolns Inn Fields, find a bench and eat. Now my grandmother believed that if the instructions said 1 tablespoon 2 would be twice as good, scrambled with a little dried milk and water, and put into a sandwich with a little lettuce (which included a bit of grit - her eyes weren't that good), it would make a delightful and nutritious lunch! Oh yes, I remember it well! One day the Dried Egg package was being difficult to open and I tried to help. When I got it open and exposed the contents, there, on the top, was the biggest, greenest caterpillar I had ever seen! It was dead, of course, but looked undamaged, and distressingly lifelike. Given the shortage of food, we just removed the corpse and carried on. After I came to Canada, I discovered that the caterpillar was a Tomato Horn Worm. I also learned from young women I met in Saskatoon who had worked in the Egg Plant, some unfortunate details of how Dried Eggs were prepared. It was not pretty. I had a recipe for a chocolate steamed pudding which consisted of flour, cocoa, dried eggs, dried milk and crushed saccharine tablets! Yummy????? I just found out that saccharine was a bi-product of coal tar!!!

Joan Reichardt

