



VANCOUVER INTERLINE CLUB NEWSLETTER

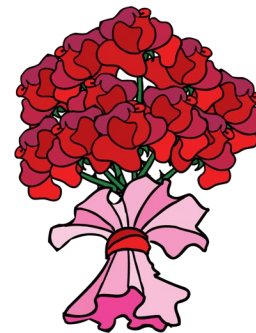
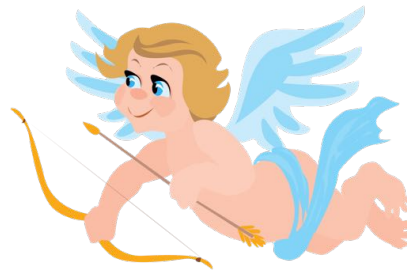
Issue 1



WORLD TRAVELLERS

FOR AIRLINE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



JOIN PATTY V FOR A ST. VALENTINE'S JAZZ CONCERT! SEE POSTER INSIDE

Presidents Message

Hi Vancouver Interliners,

Not a lot has happened since my last president report.

Last year we manage to grow our membership and are now we are one of the largest clubs within WACA. That being said, it's a far cry from where VIC was in the 1970s when VIC had more than a 1000s members. My goal is to increase and maintain our membership by 25% this year and getting to over 200 members by end of 2019.

I can't do this by myself. I need everyone's help. We need exciting events to attract new members and to keep our current members coming back.

Our Entertainment Committee, under the leadership of Ann Senko, will be working hard in planning parties, tours and events in the coming year. So keep your eyes and ears open for new and great events!

Sadly in the last couple of years, some of our members have passed away who were all dear friends to VIC.

I will miss seeing them at our meetings. Max and Ron you will be remembered for all your help to the club and making others feel welcome.

Wishing all the best for 2018

Freddie Whiting
President, Vancouver Interline Club

Survey Monkey Coming Soon

As a social club the focus for the Vancouver Interline Club is to have fun; bring airline friends together and make new friends. We have been challenged by our friends at WACA to open our homes like we have opened our hearts, to our friends from around the world. As the Club of the Year for 2017, we are up to the challenge, if our membership is interested.

Four years ago we conducted a survey, 25% of our members replied. Please take a few minutes and tell us how we can make our club even better. All members are invited to participate in our regular meetings and get involved at our events. Our website and Facebook sites are user friendly, just like your club.

Happy Interlining,
Inge Hansen, VP

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE-PRESIDENT	Inge Hansen	465-4153
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FROM THE EDITOR

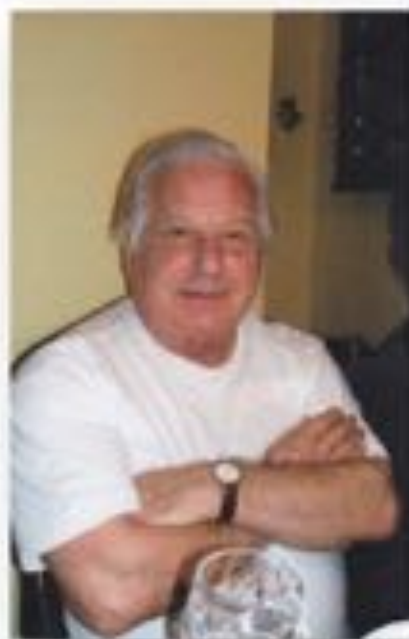
We are always happy to receive your travel stories and pictures for publication in the newsletter.

Check out the new updated WACA website.
www.waca.org

Please note our new address: Vancouver Interline Club, 14067 113A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 2K6 or use the e-mail on our new web site
<http://www.vancouverinterlineclub.ca>

To sign up for the e-mail version of the newsletter, send your e-mail to
maxpat@telus.net

The Vancouver Interline Club has joined Facebook. You can now follow us and WACA on Facebook, as well as on our website.



Ron Smith

October 18, 1927-December 23, 2017

Ron Smith of Richmond, BC passed away peacefully on December 23, 2017 in his 91st year.

Ron was a long time member of the Vancouver Interline Club and held the position of Treasurer for approximately 32 years.

During his years with the Vancouver Interline Club Ron attended numerous World Airlines Clubs events and made many friends throughout the world.

Ron joined the British Army near the end of World War II. He was also in the Korean War, the Suez Canal Crisis and the building of the DEW Line or Distant Early Warning Line, (a system of radar stations in the far northern Arctic region of Canada).

Throughout his working career, Ron worked for Canadian Aviation Electronics, (CAE), repairing Microwave systems throughout BC. Ron also worked for 25 years for CP Air and Canadian Airlines International in their Instrument Shops.

Ron will be greatly missed by his wife Irene, daughter Tina, sister-in-law Helen, relatives in England and all of us who knew him at the Vancouver Interline Club.

AGA POST TOUR CUBA

Day One

After a successful AGA in Havana and Varadero, 59 interliners joined the post tour to central Cuba. We were divided into 2 groups and left Varadero in opposite directions; as most places cannot handle larger groups.

Our first stop was at a Varadero school for special needs children where we donated much needed school supplies and toiletries collected at the AGA.

Back on the road we visited an old sugar mill, now museum. Sugar production, once Cuba's main industry with 100 mills, now has less than 30 and sugar is produced mainly for local consumption. We learned the history of rum, a by-product of sugar production. The world famous Bacardi factories originated in Santiago de Cuba. At the end of the tour, we each received a lovely gift of a twin pack of white and dark rum.

On to Cardenas, known as "the city of firsts"; first city with electric street lights, first city to hoist the national flag in 1850. The bustling main streets were full of horse and buggies used as taxis and transportation for locals, along with many old, what we would call, antique cars. Cubans are now allowed to have private businesses and our lunch stop was at a private-run restaurant; great food and atmosphere, run in a very professional manner.



Our overnight stop was in Cienfuegos, a city rich in French architecture. A walking tour around the centre followed by a short drive to our Hotel Jagua on the shore of Bahia de Cienfuegos. We toured the Palacio de Valle, next to our hotel. Built 1913-1917 by Don Acisclo del Valle Blanco, a wealthy Spanish sugar trader, the structure resembles an outrageously ornate Moroccan casbah. With a great view over the bay, the colorful, exotic palace was Batista's dream for a casino. This never materialized and today it is a restaurant/museum. We enjoyed a delicious roast turkey dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Our 2nd day takes us into the Escambray Mountains. When our bus was no longer feasible, we climbed up ladders into the backs of leaky tarp-covered old Russian army trucks to navigate the steep muddy road to the top of Topes de Collantes, at 800 m, Cuba's 2nd highest peak. Some decided to go straight to the restaurant, and despite heavy rains some of us took the short hike to the waterfalls. Half of the hiking group continued on the 3 kms to the restaurant, while the rest turned around at the waterfalls for another hair-raising ride to the restaurant; rattling up hills and bouncing down slippery washed out road sections, swaying to the noise of grinding gears, choking on stinky black exhaust emissions, while trying to hold on to flapping tarps to keep from getting drenched. Some called it a "Russian massage." Truly a memorable ride! Totally soaked but in good spirits the hikers arrived a short time later to join us for a much appreciated hot lunch. A wet ride back to our bus and on to our mountain hotel. The heavy rain caused the water pump to fail and after a few concerned moments collecting rain water, the problem was resolved.



After a delicious buffet lunch in town we headed to our all-inclusive Hotel Brisas Trinidad del Mar, on the Ancon Peninsula, 12 km from town. Located right on the beautiful white sand Playa Ancon, we had a great 2 night stay relaxing and enjoying the resort.



On the second day most of our group set sail on a catamaran “seafari” to Cayo Macho de Afuera; a lovely little island where iguanas and tree rats were the main inhabitants. Activities included snorkeling on a nearby reef, swimming and beach combing for a variety of shells and coral formations or just relaxing with “the locals” (iguanas and tree rats.) The highlights of the return catamaran ride: rum flowing, music playing, the sun sparkling on the clear Caribbean sea and an exhilarating 18 knot wind! Our day ended with dinner at the resort, followed by an evening trip to town to take in an outdoor concert of Cuban music and salsa dancing. Party on!



Day 3 and awaking to sunshine lifted our spirits. A short ride down the mountain to the coast and we arrived in Trinidad, one of the best-preserved cities in the Caribbean from the time when the sugar trade was the main industry. The Valley of the Sugar Mills is a UNESCO cultural heritage site with approximately 70 historic mills in the area. We enjoyed a walking tour of the town’s main plaza, an open air museum of Spanish Colonial architecture; cobbled streets, pastel colored houses with wrought-iron grilles. The Plaza Major is dominated by the impressive Trinidad Cathedral and Convent de San Francisco.



Day 4:

Reluctantly we said goodbye to beautiful Trinidad and our first stop of the day was to the historic Manaca Iznaga Tower, 18 km east of Trinidad, in the Valley of the Sugar Mills. The tower was built in 1816 by a wealthy sugar baron Alejo Iznaga, to oversee his vast plantation. Built with mud bricks and traditional mortar of lime and sand, the 45 meter high tower was at one time the tallest structure in Cuba.



The view from the top of the tower of the surrounding valley is spectacular, well worth the steep climb up the 184 steps to the top.

Day 4 continued, On to Sancti Spiritus, the capital city of the province in Central Cuba founded by the Spanish in 1514, one of Cuba's oldest settlements. Our walking tour started at the Puente Yayabo, a Spanish built bridge over the River Yayabo.

The picturesque bridge of 5 clay brick arches is today a national monument and one of Cuba's oldest bridges.

We walked the surrounding neighborhood of cobbled streets with beautifully restored pastel colored houses, as well as the modern pedestrian shopping street with busy shops and restaurants. The main square had a charming mix of colorful, well maintained colonial buildings, where we enjoyed watching the lively activity of the square: vendor carts selling drinks and ice cream, people sitting and chatting, while bikes, buses, cars, horse carts whizzed by.

. After a delicious fish lunch at the Buccanero Restaurant in Sancti Spiritus, we drove 80 km through the lush green countryside to Santa Clara, capital city of Villa Clara province in the most central region of the country. Our first stop was the historical setting of the battle of Santa Clara led by Ernesto Che Guevara, in December 1958.

Located in a park-like setting, we toured the grounds with the reconstruction of railroad tracks and the actual derailed armored train cars, as well as the bulldozer that Che Guevara's soldiers used to derail the train full of Batista's troops and supplies. The photos and description of the events explained how this was a decisive event in the rebels' capture of Santa Clara and a decisive moment in the Cuban Revolution.

. A drive around the main square of the bustling city and on to the Ernesto Che Guevara Mausoleum and Museum. We toured the mausoleum and eternal flame, where Che's remains were brought in the 90's. The surrounding parade grounds with massive statue of Che were an impressive reminder of the importance of Che in Cuba's history.



We overnighted in Santa Clara at the Los Caneyes Hotel, a native-themed resort with little thatched cabins in a lovely garden setting. An early morning start for the 258 km drive back to Hanava, on a beautiful sunny day, with time to contemplate all that we experienced on our fabulous journey through Cuba!

Loretta Buchi





PATTY V
vocals



**MILES
BLACK**
piano

NOCK APIVOR, percussion



guest soloist **FINN MANN**,
cellist/
electric bass

**Saturday,
February 10th
2018**

**2:00 pm
Brentwood
Presbyterian Church
1600 Delta Ave.
Burnaby, BC**

\$15
online from Brown
Paper Ticket
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3066278
or phone (604) 689-8946

\$20
at the door