



friendship force
OTTAWA



General Meeting Notes

Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 11:00AM at Riverside United Church

- 1) President Joan Kinnie welcomed all especially new members.
- 2) Joan handed over the meeting to Lynda Heffernan and Anna Van Adrichem Rochon to talk about the Kern County, California inbound journey (May 13-20). Anna and Lynda went through the activities for the different days.¹ The Friendship Dinner hosts were also announced and which ambassadors they are hosting. The meeting was then broken up into small groups to finalize the arrangements.
- 3) The 50/50 draw was made by Pierrette Benoit, and the winner was Leonard Bonnet.
- 4) Secretary Vivien Runnels promoted the website to members to help keep them informed and up to date.
- 5) The Treasurer's update was provided by Joan Kinnie on behalf of Colin Leech. The bank account is healthy.
- 6) President Joan Kinnie told the meeting that the Board is looking for a financial reviewer. Review procedures will be available for the reviewer. The Board is currently looking at improving the existing documentation. Liz Ford offered to do the review. Many thanks to Liz.
- 7) VP Membership Lynne Deachman noted that since the beginning of the year, FFO has had 8 new members. Some were present at the general meeting. Lynne mentioned the mentor program and asked new members to contact her if they did not have a mentor yet. She also mentioned the many social activities that FFO offers.
- 8) The report on Trivia Game Day was given by Julie Breeze. Attendees included new members. A profit of over \$200 will be donated to FFO. Some questions related to FFO such as ideas

¹ Day 1 welcome Day. Day 2 Welcome Lunch and Diefenbunker. Day 3 Introduction to Hockey ('Elder Statesmen' hockey game at Richcraft Sports Complex), and RCMP stables (may see horses and practice). The afternoon is not fully scheduled but there is lots to see in the area. Day 4 (Julie Breeze) is Upper Canada Village day. The Special lunch is 1867 style in Willard's Hotel at the Village if you wish. Dinner that day is 2025 style at the Van Adrichem Farm where all will see a dairy farm operation and equipment. Attendees will bring own plates and utensils. Day 5 (May 17) Downtown Day, will start at the Rink of Dreams and there are different things to see including Parliament building at a scheduled time. After this, there will be a self-guided tour downtown. The Sunday May 18 is a 'day of rest.' There are many ideas for things to see. Tulip Festival is ongoing. Food options for dinner include ambassadors' cooking for the host or ordering in/eating out. The final day morning (Monday) will start at Dow's Lake with a mini-workshop by Masuma Rahimtula on taking tulip pictures with your phone. There will be a picnic at Massey Park and a scavenger hunt starting from Hog's Back. The Farewell Dinner is at Riverside United Church at 5:00pm.

for host gifts were asked. The responses will be posted to the website for everyone's information.

- 9) VP Journeys Julie Breeze told the meeting that FFO has received information about journey matches for 2026. These were 2 inbounds and an outbound to Leeuwen, Belgium likely to take place in April, 2026. Julie asked FFI to place FF Ottawa on a waiting list for an additional outbound, and shortly after, we were tentatively assigned an outbound to Perth, Australia (FFO has welcomed members of this Australian club in the past). The 2 inbounds are from Western Colorado (in May 2026), and from Western North Carolina (in September 2026) led by Nancy Wood who many of us already know from previous journeys. Thanks were extended to everyone who is helping with journey hosting. Anyone interested in a journey or being a coordinator can speak to Julie. FFI has added US\$15 per journey in addition to US\$25 per night. The board is seeking volunteers to review journey planning including a review of journey cancellations.
- 10) Members at Large Pierrette Benoit and Valerie Wright had nothing additional to report.
- 11) The next General Meeting will be in September, 2025 - date to be determined.
- 12) Joan thanked everyone for participating. Members were encouraged to enjoy the upcoming inbound. It will give some good ideas on how members who are new get to make Friendship Force friends. Joan mentioned that after many years Joan and Leonard are still connected to the first couple they hosted. The meeting was closed.²

² About 30+ people attended the general meeting today. A few more attended the first part which was about the host planning.