

Building Global Friendship

50 Years of Friendship is a Short Series to commemorate CISV Victoria's (Vancouver Island) 50th Anniversary (1965-2015)

As an international organization dedicated to building global friendship the success of CISV is through its membership and volunteerism.



1965 Village Delegations

Denmark
Guatemala
Japan
Mexico
Norway
Philippines
U.S.A.

Canada

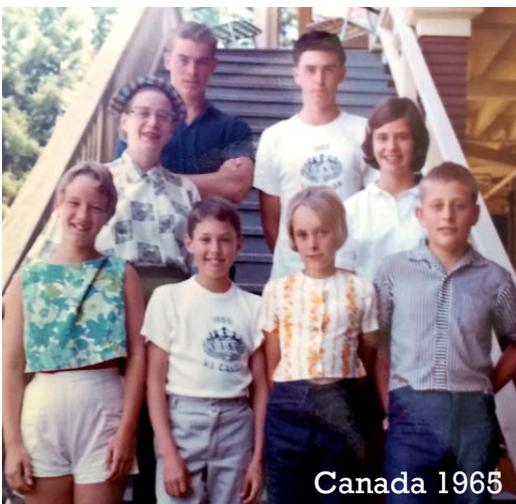
Chapter Chair
Mrs. Agnes Fraser

Camp Director
Mr. John Berges

Canadian Leader:
Lorna Stewart

Canada Delegates:
Trudy Clark
Claire Denninger
Andy Petter
Wendy Walsh

Junior Counselors:
Craig Delahunt
Joanne Oliver
Richard Reichard



*May this Chapter go
on from strength to
strength . . .*

. . . In all our hearts the
words of the CISV song
keep ringing as we
visualize the villagers
around the flag . . .

- Kay Hilton
Victoria 1965

1965 – Victoria's First Village

In the fall of 1963 representatives of Victoria's Labour Council, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Sikh Temple, Council of Churches, UN Association, Social Workers, Teachers' and other Associations formed a Victoria International Cooperation Year Committee to mark the UN's Year of International Cooperation, and the chosen event was a CISV Village.

In the spring of 1965 no money had been raised and the Committee Chairs had resigned; a newly formed committee proposed postponing the first Village by one year. However, the Village site had been chosen, a Director appointed, and 7 delegations had already accepted. CISV's National President and International Secretary visited Victoria - *"International office would be embarrassed and our country discredited if Canada's Village was postponed."* The next 3 months were a blur as the Committee of *"impractical, visionary do-gooders"* personally pledged \$2,000 of their own money and set out to raise \$4,000 (½ of the required funds) by mid-July:

- Over 3,000 letters were sent with multi-level Government briefings and numerous presentations made
- Victoria shop windows promoted "CISV week"; radio, TV & newspaper publicity helped promote events such as a livestock auction, raffles and car washes.

First Village continued

- Children marched in the Victoria Day parade; there were two separate Song and Dance Festivals

The Committee hoped for eight thousand donors of \$1 each; “the project had caught the imagination of the residents and the efforts of hundreds of people made the Village a possibility” and by early July \$8,000 had been received. The camp was ready for the opening on July 15th “it seemed like a miracle” All who worked with and for the children at that ‘instant Village’ were warmed by the experience and felt that the effort had been worthwhile personally and internationally. Surely the climate for international peace and understanding was improved during the summer of 1965 on Vancouver Island.

A unique month in the lives of 32 children began with a trip on the Dayliner train clicking north to Strathcona Lodge School on balmy Shawnigan Lake. Trading quickly broke the language barrier and within minutes of unpacking blond Scandinavians were blowing notes on Philippine conch shells. Trading is the easiest way for children without a common language to check each other out. They even trade their clothes . . . The children get along well and laugh together at the start, but toward the last they are holding serious little chats . . . The last day is the saddest one of all - hugging and crying. You can see the bonds they have formed.

1969 Village Welcome

May each day be filled with the wonder of a new experience

May each hour be filled with fun and laughter

May each moment hold within it the quiet joy and harmony of friendships shared

As a team, we will make this Village one of the most memorable ever

Mick Auger
1969 Village
Programme Director

How CISV Began . . .

In August 1946, Doris Allen sat on a park bench in New York and read the New York Times Magazine article, “To Teach the World How to Be Free”. The article discussed Dr. Alexander Meiklejohn’s proposal to found an institute, allied to the UN that would unite politicians and philosophers. He wrote “... it is in this field of adult learning and adult teaching that the battle for peaceful world organization will be won or lost”. Dr. Meiklejohn’s concept produced a strong reaction in Dr. Allen, who as a child psychologist took a diametrically opposed view – **“We must start with the children.”**



CISV Victoria’s 2nd Village was held in 1969. Trudy Clark who was a delegate at the first Victoria Village attended as a Junior Counselor -

As our camp comes to a close I’m sure we all realize what a wonderful experience it has been – living together in this CISV [Village] of 1969.

Now in parting our many friendships will stay – warm and steadfast through the years until we meet again. The true understanding of international friendships had been brought to light in this month for many of us through leaders and children working together in a common belief.

I’ve really enjoyed being a J.C here and I look back on my experience when I watch the kids sharing joys and adventures together. All 40 of the children in this camp should be proud of themselves. They are really a great bunch - **Trudy Clark - Canada**

Issue 1 - 1960s

Acknowledgements

- Agnes M Fraser - Scrapbook 1965
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- Bev Hee – 50 Years of CISV in Canada (Victoria)
- Victoria Daily Times newspaper
- The Province newspaper



For more Information visit us at:

<http://www.cisvictoria.ca>

Contact us by email at:

Communications@cisvictoria.ca

- * 50th Anniversary Gala Tickets
- * Future issues 50 Years of Friendship
- * Join, Volunteer, Questions

Donations gratefully received at

[Canada Helps CISV-Victoria](#)



- * Bursary Fund
- * 2015 Village costs
- * Chapter Needs