



President Report

Welcome to September! It is funny that I still haven't gotten used to the fact that there is no Labour Day or back to school that is 'normally' associated with September. And to think that September used to be the signpost that dreaded winter was soon to arrive.

But here in Australia, September is the signpost that winter is almost over, there is really no two month school holidays for the kids to return from, that we are in the longest stretch of the calendar year without a holiday. Yup, things are certainly different than how they are in Canada...but in a good way!

September also sees the club reach another milestone. Although the first organized meeting of the club (it was the Canadian Women's Club of Victoria back then) can be traced back to June 26th, 1942, and the 'Canada Club of Victoria' was officially created in 1981 when the Canadian Women and Canadian Men clubs amalgamated, the club was incorporated on September 10th. So I guess that makes September 10th Incorporation Day for our club! ☺

On August 11th, thanks to Consul General Tom MacDonald and Sharon Penny, I was made aware of an incredible Canadian journey. To be honest, my first reaction to an email titled "Jean Béliveau" was that it was another hockey joke. When I opened the email, I was blown away by its' contents far more than any joke could. This was notification that a very dedicated and courageous man would soon be coming to Melbourne and that he had spent **10 years** on his mission to walk around the world, a mission that was about 90% complete. Because of the profound impact it had on me, I immediately knew that I had to do something for him.



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Important Dates:

- Sep 3 – Australian National Flag Day
- Sep 5 – Father's Day (Australia)
- Sep 6 – Labour Day (Canada)
- Sep 17 – Citizenship Day (Aust)
- Sep 23 – Fall Equinox

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 1 – Trivial Canadian Games Night
- Oct 10 – Thanksgiving
- Oct 31 – Afternoon Tea
- See page 3 for more details

President's Report (continued from front page)

Since Gayle and I would not be here when Jean would arrive in Melbourne, we decided to drive out to meet him in Sale, where he was taking a day of rest from his walk. It was an absolute pleasure to sit down with Jean for lunch. My first impression of this French-Canadian gentlemen was that he was extremely humble and positive. He seemed to be more impressed that I would take the few hours to drive out to see him than his own amazing journey.

Jean seems to be the perfect example of a saying I heard many years ago – the saying is "There is no such thing as an incredible person – only regular people who do incredible things". He was just a regular husband and father who seemed to deal with a mid-life crisis in a very unique manner. When Jean set out, he could only speak French and his daughter was pregnant. Now, after 68000km, meeting many people on his travels (including Nelson Mandela), he is preparing for the home stretch which hopefully will see him arrive back in Montreal in October 2011 after about 75000km. If that is not a regular person doing an incredible thing, I can't imagine what would ever satisfy the definition.



Jean Béliveau, between Gayle & Nick, in Sale

As you will know by now, I sent a personal appeal to club members to be there when Jean reaches Melbourne. Unfortunately, because of when he was scheduled to arrive, and the timing of our deadline for newsletter articles, I cannot let you know much more at this time. But in next month's newsletter, there will be a summary of Jean's quick stop in Melbourne. Hopefully it was a fantastic greeting !!

This month we were putting some final touches on a few club things. In case you missed it on page 8, we have the new CCV Pucks with the club logo emblazoned on Australian made hockey pucks. Personally I think they look awesome!!! So good that I bought the first 10 off the press to take back to Canada as gifts. In addition to the pucks, we put the final touches on the club's new banner/stand. Thanks to some help from one of Stewart's mates for cleaning up the club logo. And a huge thanks goes out to Shawn Lynch for finalizing the overall graphics for the stand. Shameless plug for Shawn's company:

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And finally, you may have seen the email that was forwarded on by the club from the Age about keeping Canadians out of Australia. I had a number of people forward it on to me and I thought it was extremely funny. It obviously was a semi-political statement about immigration but done in a very clever and entertaining manner. I thought it was interesting that a few people actually thought the article was serious, despite it being written by a Canadian-Australian who had included a number of outlandish claims (like how he was smuggled into the country in his father's chest hair or how his parents made him walk to school in Australia wearing snowshoes). It was great!

And as always, don't forget to keep your stick on the ice!

Nick Michaels

