**The Canadians Are Coming**

*By Jane Lee*

Yes, they will be here October 19 – 26, and we are so excited to be able to host 12 Ambassadors from the Vancouver Friendship Force Club. We will be the middle leg of their trip. They are coming to us from the Tallahassee Friendship Force Club on the Big Red Bus and will reboard at the end of their stay with FFFS to visit the Villages Friendship Force Club. We want them to have the best time with us since this seems to be a little competitive!

The activities planned are the best ever, and you should join us whenever you are available. The tentative schedule is posted in this newsletter. What we especially need now is help with transportation and hosting a dinner. Our home hosts have been so gracious to open their homes. However, when they have other commitments, day hosts will be needed to drive guests to the various activities. Mair Murphy is our Day Host Coordinator, so please let her know what day you can help.

We provide two dinners and this is where we need those of you who enjoy entertaining in your home. The nights are Friday, October 21 and Monday, October 24. Let Marilyn Whelan, our Dinner Host Coordinator, know which evening and how many you can accommodate. Some entertain one guest and home host and others like to host more if they have the room and enjoy having folks in for a dinner party. Some of our home hosts are couples with two guests so in some cases we will need hosts for four.

Day coordinators are also needed to arrive at venues in advance to greet guests, tell them a little about the day and introduce the speaker or tour guide.

The Welcome Party on October 20 – when all Ambassadors and club members meet for the first time – will be an all-you-can-eat breakfast at the Holiday Inn on Indian Rocks Beach. It starts at 9:30 am and the cost is $20. This is a wonderful experience for all.

The Farewell Party will be at the Safety Harbor Museum at 5:30 pm on October 25, the day before our Ambassadors leave. We don’t have final plans for this, so we welcome ideas, experience and energy to put together a memorable visit wrap up. Ellen Henderson is our decorator and she always appreciates assistance. This involves arriving a little early to help set up tables.

Lastly, we need drivers to pick up our guests on October 26 and take them to the USF campus in Tampa to catch the bus. You will be reimbursed for doing this for our club.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jane Lee at 727-709-9470.

Darlene Kalada is in charge of home hosts. If you are able to be a back-up in the event a home host needs help, please let her know.