

# Servas Canada

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*Newsletter 3 - June 2000*

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## From the Editor

Hi everyone,

This is our third newsletter to hosts. We are feeling our way and slowly working out what kind of information is best to send out. So far I have included the information in the body of the e-mail and avoided the inevitable problems with attachments. This limits formatting the text but we might experiment in the future. We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

The Servas executive is concerned that this newsletter is only reaching hosts with an e-mail connection. They encourage you to contact local hosts without e-mail and set up an arrangement whereby you could mail or fax them a copy that you have printed out.

I have had a few problems sending this out as many servers have limits on the number of addresses that can be in one e-mail to cut down on spam. I have therefore been experimenting with the number that I put in the "bcc" box. This is the third time I have tried so I would appreciate it if some of you let me know that you received it. Suggestions to solve this problem from the technologically literate would be appreciated.

*Jo Hauser*

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## Calling for Volunteers

No News is not good news. Servas Canada does not have a newsletter editor. If you have an interest in editing or some talent in layout, please contact our National Secretary, Gerry Staring soon. He needs one editor and one designer/layout artist. If we don't get someone, we will have no newsletter, or not a good one.

**Are you a Sherlock Holmes?** We need a person willing to investigate our brochure "Alternatives to Servas" which is now 2 years old. There are many interesting groups and travel tips in this brochure. The volunteer would need to check the information they are given (as a Word or Wordperfect file), do updates and add a few things. Want to contribute? Contact "Dr. Watson" (Michael) at: [canada@servas.org](mailto:canada@servas.org)

**Are you an organizer?** We need a volunteer to update the 2001 Mexico list. And the same or another person who will be willing to maintain it. It is currently on a computer file, so you don't have to start from scratch and we can get some help from Mexico also. It could be very rewarding and it is CERTAINLY needed. thank you, Contact: Gerry Staring: [canada@servas.org](mailto:canada@servas.org)

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### **Servas Canada mugs for sale!**

Servas Canada mugs are now available for sale. They are white, with a blue SERVAS logo - in French and English on either side. Although the mug design is a little different, you can see a version of our **new logo** on the [Servas Canada website](http://go.to/ServasCanada) which is under construction: <http://go.to/ServasCanada>

The cost is \$7.00 per mug (including shipping), if purchased in groups of 6 to a single mailing address. For any order that is not a multiple of 6 to one address, there is an additional \$5.00 'odd quantity charge' (this covers extra mailing costs, special packages, etc.). If anyone is planning a Servas gathering, it might be a fine idea to phone around beforehand and pull together a group order to save the \$5.00 'odd quantity charge'!

Orders indicating the number of mugs and the address to which they should be sent, with a cheque made out to SERVAS Canada, should be mailed to Penny Pattison, 1442 Brooke St., Victoria, BC V8S 1M3. Please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery. If you have any questions, Penny can be reached by e-mail at [canada@servas.org](mailto:canada@servas.org) or telephone at (250) 382-9190.

Chart of costs:

1 mug costs \$7.00 + \$5.00 = \$12.00  
2 mugs cost \$14.00 + \$5.00 = \$19.00  
3 mugs cost \$21.00 + \$5.00 = \$26.00  
4 mugs cost \$28.00 + \$5.00 = \$33.00  
5 mugs cost \$35.00 + \$5.00 = \$40.00  
6 mugs cost \$42.00 + \$0.00 = \$42.00  
7 mugs cost \$49.00 + \$5.00 = \$54.00  
....  
11 mugs cost \$77.00 + \$5.00 = \$82.00  
12 mugs cost \$84.00 + \$0.00 = \$84.00  
13 mugs cost \$91.00 + \$5.00 = \$96.00  
.... and so on ...

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### **Warning to interviewers**

If you are asked by Simon Jarvis to renew his LOI, you should know that this traveler does not seem to be aware of Servas rules. A British couple who hosted him last November found that he did not realize that travelers stay for only two nights, do not bring non-Servas friends along and should try to help with the chores. He is a charming fellow who comes from New Zealand and currently has an LOI renewed in January 1999 in his home country. Unfortunately he could see nothing offensive in his behavior even though it was far from that one expects from a Servas traveler. Please make sure in the interview that he understands what went wrong in the UK and why, before you accept him as a member.

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### **Servas on the World Wide Web**

Alvaro Barba has the go ahead from the Servas Executive Committee to develop Canada's own website including a link to the [Servas International Website](#) (thanks to Amir and Guido).

Here are some really interesting Servas websites that shouldn't be missed.

Servas International has finally got its own site (it was previously hosted by US Servas). Check it out at <http://www.servas.org/>. I'd never even heard of Rodrigues until I found its Servas website: <http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/rodrigues.html>. Rodrigues is a tiny island in the middle of the Indian Ocean and it has its own site! We think of some developing countries differently when we realize they have websites and Canada is just 'developing' ours.. Have a look at Zambia's site <http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/zambia.html>.

Southern Africa has created a site for a number of countries (<http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/>). The site has some excellent information, (both Zambia and Rodrigues are accessible from here)...<http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/> Included are traveler notes, a calendar of world events, various national newsletters, plus SI News, and even a list of how many hosts are in each Servas country...<http://pages.intnet.mu/servas/list0799.html>

The Servas Czech site lists hosts' email addresses only: <http://www.czechsite.com/servas/hostlist.html> What do hosts think of doing with with Servas Canada? It is the only site I know that does this (Korea removed their entire host list from their website). The Czech is also the only one I know which is a subheading of the Czech tourist website: <http://www.czechsite.com/general.html>. This site is full of help and tips like: "Prague is plagued with unscrupulous cabbies. Hailing a taxi on the street is inviting trouble."

There are many others [Argentina](#) - [Belgium](#) - [Brazil](#) - [Britain](#) - [Colombia](#) - [Denmark](#) - [France](#) - [Germany](#) - [Israel](#) - [Italy](#) - [Japan](#) - [Korea](#) - [Netherlands](#)- [Pakistan](#) - South Pacific - [USA](#). Happy Surfing.

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**Requests, etc.**

**Toronto Host Going Away?**

Reliable Servas member offering to "house-sit" in Toronto area for some months starting June 1. Contact Michael Johnson

**Au Pair**

We want "au pair like" person to care for a 3-year old and 1 1/2 year old in Servas home near Hannover, Germany for several months.