



Canada-China Friendship Society

Ottawa Chapter

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September Newsletter

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A NEW LOGO for the Canada-China Friendship Society - Ottawa Chapter

With this issue of the Newsletter we are introducing a new logo for our Society founded in 1976. The project of creating a new seal/logo that meets our requirements was organized by members of the Executive Committee. As you can see, it bears the same four characters as the old logo, in the same order, but expressed in a stronger script. The outside shape is less square, more rectangular, and the red and white colours of the characters and background are reversed. All members of the Executive Committee have seen and welcomed the new logo and we hope you like it too.

You might ask why change at this point since the old logo has been in use since August 1993. Our former President, Mr. C. K. Ng, claims that he designed that logo and took out a copyright on the design after his resignation from our Society, despite the fact that it was clearly created for the Ottawa Chapter and has been used by none other. Regardless of Mr. Ng's claim, we feel that this might be an opportune time to modernize the organization's image. It will also help to prevent anyone from misrepresenting our Society through use of the previous logo, which is now superseded by the one you have before you.

This logo was designed by master calligrapher Hu Xinjun, who resides in Washington, D.C. We wish to express our appreciation to him and to Executive Committee member Yong-Zhi Wang who made it possible. I'm sure you will agree that it is a crisp new look of which we can be proud and that will serve us well in future.

The Visit to Ottawa of President Hu Jintao

The September 8-9 visit by PRC President Hu Jintao, who is also the Communist Party Secretary General, marked his first to North America since becoming President in 2003. Meetings between the principals, President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Paul Martin, and their accompanying ministers, confirmed the new *chapeau* of "strategic partnership" and resulted in several new cooperation agreements on rail and air transportation, nuclear energy, health and education. More two-way trade is expected, with both countries setting a goal of doubling their trade by 2010. China is already Canada's second largest trading partner. The visit included a banquet at Rideau Hall, a luncheon at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and a joint press conference in which the President defended his position on a number of points.

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Past Events

CCFS-Ottawa Film Evening: Some 75 members and guests attended the very successful evening held **August 25** at St. Luke's Church in New Edinburgh, featuring two films on China. The audience was fascinated by the Canadian documentary film *Two-Gun Cohen* centred on the soldier-adventurer Morris Cohen, an Englishman with a colourful Saskatchewan connection who developed a life-long fascination with China and became Dr. Sun Yatsen's bodyguard; the audience was equally entertained by the lively and informative introductory commentary provided by CCFS-member Gilliane Lapointe. The second film, a Chinese documentary *The Return of the Ospreys* highlighted the successful cleanup of Erhai Lake in Yunnan that was made especially convincing through the commentary provided by Environment Canada scientist Mervin Fingas, who had worked for several years with Chinese authorities on the cleanup of the lake. Merv's expertise with the projection equipment also proved invaluable in ensuring a smooth presentation. Mrs. Sun and Mrs. Li of the Chinese Embassy's Cultural Section and daughter attended and contributed a large number of information materials on China. Refreshments baked by Ramona MacFarlane and Pat Steele were enjoyed during intermission. Mmes. Major and Amberg's assistance in contacting members is also appreciated.

Ottawa Hakka Conference: Society president Lolan W. Merklinger was invited to participate in a one-day Ottawa Hakka Conference on **August 27** at the Nepean Sportsplex organized by the Ontario Hakka Association. Chaired by Dr. Keith Lowe of Toronto, the conference, with the theme of *Hakka Destiny*, featured presentations by Patrick Chen on the migration history of the Hakka, by Dr. Lowe on the Hakka in Canada, and by Tin S. Yap on the Hakka worldwide. A cartographic and photo display as well as a video on the Hakka in Canada were part of the interesting program at this conference, attended by some 50 persons. Prior to the luncheon Counsellor and Consul General JIANG Yuansong extended good wishes to the participants on behalf of the PRC Embassy. Lolan Merklinger addressed the audience on behalf of CCFS-Ottawa. Evelyn Amberg and Luna Yap from CCFS-Ottawa played a vital role in the conference organization; Gilliane Lapointe also attended.

Report on Jiangsu Visit: Five Ottawa area members of the FCCFA delegation that visited Jiangsu province in May as guests of the Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (see M. Copeland's article in this newsletter) contributed to a presentation of their experience at the Richelieu-Vanier Centre on **June 23** attended by some 50 members and guests. Michael Copeland, Immediate Past President of FCCFA, gave a vivid slide-illustrated presentation of the 50th anniversary celebrations of JPAFFC and the delegation's tour of four Jiangsu cities. The congratulatory letters by Lt. Governor Bartleman and Mayor Ducharme were on display. L. Merklinger, M. Lee, G. Samné, and T. Van (a former FCCFA president) also spoke. Items which the delegation brought back from China were contributed as door prizes, an added attraction. Mr. Van's gift of a chop he designed embodying the Chinese character for friendship encased in a red maple leaf was accepted with pleasure. Proceeds from the sale of photo prints from the Van photo collection of the trip were later donated to the Society by Van.

Upcoming Events

- * **September 30. Chinese community buffet dinner in celebration of the Chinese National Day, Ottawa City Hall, cost \$18. Time: 7 p.m.** This has been a huge success and tickets are now **SOLD OUT**. However our Society will be well represented.
- * **October 12–13. Friendship visit to Ottawa by a 6-member delegation from Shanghai Youxie** to discuss Shanghai's ongoing international programs (for youth, seniors, etc.) and future exchange visits. Details TBA.
- * **October 13. Official unveiling of a Chinese and Canadian Postal Stamp Exhibition** and a joint issue of new stamps to commemorate mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and China on October 13, 1970, at the Canadian Postal Museum, inside the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, QC. *Members of the Executive Committee and a few others will be invited to the official opening by Canada Post; the exhibition will be on view to the public for at least one month.*
- * **October 14-16. FCCFA Annual General Meeting in Victoria, B.C.** The Ottawa chapter will be represented by Lolan Merklinger, President, Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations, and Jeffrey de Fourestier, Vice-President of the Ottawa chapter.
- * **October 28. CIIA China Conference.** See details below.
- * **November 24, CCFS–Ottawa Chapter, Annual General Meeting**
7:30 – Business meeting 8:30 - Guest speaker Library&Archives Canada

The Canadian Institute of International Affairs Conference on China

Ottawa, October 28, 2005

The Canadian Institute of International Affairs will be hosting a one-day conference devoted to China on Friday, October 28, 2005. Fourteen speakers, all recognized experts in their respective fields, have accepted an invitation to speak at the conference which will cover a number of aspects of China's dramatic development and potential role as a world power. More than 200 persons are expected to attend.

The speakers include: Dr. Paul Evans, Vice-Chairman and Co-CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, who will deliver the keynote address; Professor Wenran Jiang, University of Alberta, and Ross H. Munro on political-strategic relations in Asia; Profs. Oded Shenkar and Wendy Dobson, and Thomas d'Aquino, on China's amazing economic growth; Professors Pitman Potter and Jeremy Paltiel on the rule of law; and Prof. Bruce Gilley and Li Fan, Director, The World and China Institute, Beijing, on China's democratic future.

Three members of CCFS – Ottawa, Gilliane Lapointe, along with Ken and Lolan Merklinger, are engaged in organizing the conference. For more information, speak to one of them or visit www.ciia.org/chinarising.htm. The registration fee for non-members of the CIIA including lunch and a reception is \$60.

Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Celebrates its 50th Anniversary – a report by Michael Copeland on the history of the Friendship movement and the 50th anniversary celebrations of JPAFFC

The Friendship movement in China began in 1954 in Beijing. In 2004 a delegation of 15 members of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA) attended the 50th anniversary of China's national association, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC or Youxie). A speech from President Hu Jintao in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing was the highlight of the celebration. He emphasized the importance of friendship work in the years before China had diplomatic relations with most western countries.

Following the founding of CPAFFC, friendship associations were established in each province and city. Usually they work in association with the Foreign Affairs Department or Office in the province or city.

On May 26, 2005 Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (JPAFFC, one of the many provincial friendship associations) hosted an event in Nanjing celebrating its founding in 1955. Historic Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu Province. At this year's event in Nanjing there were 178 foreign guests, including the eight of us from Canada. Our delegation was led by Lolan Wang Merklinger, FCCFA President. Other members were Mary Lee, Josette and Georges Samné, Betty and Tsin Van, all from Ottawa, Fred Drewe, FCCFA VP from Winnipeg, and your dutiful reporter.

The 107-person group from Japan was the largest of the fifteen delegations. This surprised me because of the memory of the Rape of Nanjing in 1938. Moreover, this spring there had been many public demonstrations across China over the failure of Japanese school history texts to fully and fairly acknowledge Japanese aggression during WW2.

The Friendship Movement helps China maintain informal ties in times when formal diplomatic relations are strained. As it did in earlier years before China had diplomatic relations with many Western countries. The delegations also included 21 persons from Vietnam, 11 from both South Korea and the USA, 7 from Australia, and smaller numbers from Austria, Germany, Mauritius, Argentina, Holland, India, Lebanon and New Zealand.

There were speeches in the afternoon followed by a wonderful banquet in the evening. In the afternoon Madame Wu Xijun, President of JPAFFC, Mr. Li Yuanchao, Secretary General of Jiangsu province, and Madame Li Xiaolin, VP of CPAFFC, welcomed the delegations from abroad and from neighbouring provinces. They also spoke about the achievements of the friendship movement. Leaders of the Jiangsu Provincial Government and a few of the visiting delegations responded with short speeches.

FCCFA President Lolan Wang Merklinger offered congratulations and mentioned that:

Those of us from Ontario are particularly aware of the special bond that exists between Jiangsu and the province of Ontario in Canada, one that has existed since the inauguration of the Jiangsu-Ontario Friendship Agreement in November 1985.

As you know well, Madame President, this important Agreement has spawned a host of activities between the two provinces. Its origins go back to February 1984.

The Japanese delegation included members from a number of friendship associations in Japan, representing cities or other organizations. There is no national friendship association in Japan. Mr. Yoshiro Hayashi, President of the Japan-China Center, and a former Japanese Cabinet Minister, spoke as well.

In the last century, Japan launched a devastating war, which caused serious damages not only to China and other Asian Countries, but also to Japanese people as well. After the war, Japan stuck to the road of peaceful development, and has achieved its present prosperity. People in the world who were tortured by sufferings of wars are longing for an international environment with everlasting peace. It is imperative for us to learn from history and adhere to peaceful development, so as to maintain friendship from generations to generations.

Over the thirty years since Japan and China formalized their diplomatic relations, the two countries have achieved notable success in developing a bilateral relationship, obtaining remarkable results in communications in every field. The facts show that the friendly cooperation between Japan and China is conducive to the interests of the peoples from the two countries, an important element promoting prosperity in East Asia, and a devoted contributor to world economic development.

Despite these encouraging developments, both countries are concerned very much about more aloof relations between our two peoples. Japan-China Friendship is boiled down to friendship between our two peoples. NGOs from both countries should play an active role to conduct a variety of communications in every field and to direct public opinions in a correct direction.

The evening banquet was quite a formal event with the fine food and entertainment between courses. However with our hosts circulating among the tables and with toasts at each one, everyone was quite relaxed and there was a good deal of informal mixing among delegations.

JPAFFC took us to three other cities in Jiangsu, Yangzhou, Wuxi and Suzhou. We were with the Australian delegation; they were wonderful companions.

Yangzhou was a centre for the collection of the salt tax in Imperial times. It is the birthplace of Jiang Zemin. Wuxi is on scenic Lake Tai (Taihu), the source of the large rocks that are featured in the many gardens in Jiangsu. Suzhou mixes history with technology. Suzhou is famous for its ancient gardens and for the modern Singapore Industrial Park.

Michael Copeland

“The most radical man in Canada”

An article by Ron Mickleburgh of *The Globe and Mail* filed in Vancouver on January 12, 2001.

Vancouver, B.C. Jack Scott, once described in a mainstream national magazine as the most radical man in Canada, has died of a heart attack at 90. His death cuts off a remarkable 70-year involvement in socialist activism in Canada that began with a 1930 May Day rally in Montreal and ended with Mr. Scott just two chapters short of completing his fifth book, a critique of the early days of the Russian Revolution. Along the way, **Mr. Scott founded the Canada-China Friendship Association** (of Vancouver), advocating closer relations between Canada and Communist China during the depths of the Cold War, met legendary Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Tsetung, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre by General Charles de Gaulle for gallantry under fire during the Allies' Normandy landings of 1944.

But Mr. Scott achieved his greatest prominence amid the turbulent West Coast politics of the 1960s and '70s, when he became an inspiration and mentor for many serious young Marxist-Leninists... Groups spearheaded by Mr. Scott supported the fierce Maoism of the People's Republic of China and the formation of independent Canadian trade unions free of control from U.S.-based unions. Advocating these positions led to Mr. Scott's expulsion from the Communist Party of Canada and led him to form the Progressive Workers Movement in the early 1960s, calling for revolutionary socialism in Canada.

By the 1970s, however, the PWM had disbanded, and thousands of hard-core socialists across the country were joining intense study groups, belabouring each other over arcane political points and claiming to be in the vanguard of Marxist-Leninist revolution. Mr. Scott took a leading role in the Vancouver Study Group and Red Star Collective during this time. But unlike the bitterness that often accompanied the inevitable collapse of other study groups, most participants in Mr. Scott's groups remained close to him long after they left their hard-core politics behind. "The groups lasted until the babies started coming," laughed former study group member Janet Hall, now working for the Canadian Auto Workers in Vancouver. "The whole radical left was dying out at the time."

Mr. Scott spent his last 20 years writing books on early labour history, working at the left-wing Spartacus bookstore, continuing to closely scrutinize and analyze political events and maintaining an active social life with his former comrades... Indeed, Mr. Scott's demise is another loss for the dwindling group of surviving veterans who took part in the highly charged political and organizing struggles of the desperate 1930s, when tens of thousands of working-class protesters would turn out on a day's notice, and pitched battles with authorities were commonplace. Few are now left to tell those stories.

Mr. Scott left his poverty-stricken roots in Belfast to come to Canada in 1927 at the age of 17. He found work as an indentured farm labourer and construction worker before being thrown out of work and riding the rails during the Depression. His left-wing radicalism was forged in the fight for unemployment insurance and relief for the hungry... After the war, Mr. Scott worked as a Communist trade-union organizer in mines and factories from Yellowknife to

Trail, B.C., before ending up in Vancouver, where he became increasingly committed to revolutionary socialism...

A former activist said Mr. Scott was always a strong Canadian nationalist despite the opposition of many leftists in those days who considered nationalism a reactionary concept. In recent years, the disappearance of a radical left, the introduction of capitalism into Communist China and the sad state of social democracy must have had Mr. Scott shaking his head at the way events have unfolded...

Toward the end, said Ms. Hall, Mr. Scott was becoming more interested in the role of democracy in a one-party system, pointing to his support for student protesters crushed by Chinese authorities in Tiananmen Square in 1989. Longtime friend Graham Johnson, a university professor who shared Mr. Scott's deep interest in China, said Mr. Scott was feverishly trying to finish his last book before he died. "Like Marx, he basically died at his desk."

Mr. Scott had no children. His wife Hilda died during a visit to China in 1976. She is buried in the country's cemetery for Martyrs of the Revolution.

Article contributed by Sheila Foster, President, Calgary Chapter

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: Ms. Gwen Richards, Ms. Gilliane Lapointe, Ms. Elizabeth Killawee, Mr. Mervin Fingas, Mr. Marc Pichard and Mr. Patrick Cuenco. Members who wish to renew their membership are asked to write to the Membership Secretary, Meibing Fu, at 1074 Brasseur Crescent, Orleans K4A 5A1 or telephone (613) 996-4201 or 590-1558.

Visit of President Hu Jintao, continued from page 1.

A welcoming group composed of members of the Ottawa Chinese community and PRC student groups were on hand to extend a warm welcome to the President upon his arrival at Ottawa airport on September 8. CCFS-Ottawa president Lolan W. Merklinger was part of the welcoming group and among those invited to participate in a photo session with the President the following day at The Westin Hotel.

My Thanks

In the absence of our very capable editor, Brian Eastwood, my husband Ken took on the task of assembling this issue of the Newsletter. My thanks to him. - Lolan Merklinger

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival (*zhongqiujie*): One of the most important of traditional Chinese festivals, the Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth lunar month; hence this year it's on **September 18**. At that time, the moon's orbit is at its lowest angle to the horizon, making the moon appear brighter and larger than at any other time of year. Compared to many Chinese festivals that are vibrant in colour and sound, the Mid-Autumn Festival is more subdued and a time for reunion. Traditionally celebrated outdoors under the moonlight, people sample tasty mooncakes and gaze at the moon with friends and family. Mooncakes are made of flaky pastry stuffed with a wide variety of fillings: egg yolk, lotus seed paste, red bean paste, and coconut or other fillings. Most have characters for longevity or harmony inscribed on their top surface and are eaten for several weeks after the official festival day. Mooncakes are available from many Ottawa stores in Chinatown. For further information visit http://www.chinaculture.org/gb/en/node_2.htm).

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Stephen Hagopian maintains the data base for the membership list.