



## **Canada-China Friendship Society**

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

PO Box 8461, Post Office Terminal – Ottawa, Ontario K1G 2H9

*Special Anniversary Issue*

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**January Newsletter**

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## **Year of the Dog - New Year's Banquet**

Sunday, February 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

A traditional Chinese New Year Celebration Banquet  
at the MANDARIN OGILVIE RESTAURANT

*Details and reservation form on page 5.*

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### ***Celebrating the Founding of our Friendship Chapter Thirty Years Ago: The Genesis of CCFS-Ottawa***

A Provisional Executive Committee, or steering committee, consisting of 10 or 12 members met informally beginning in 1975 to draw up a list of guiding principles for the new Society. A draft dated December 4, 1975 states its purpose as follows:

*“To encourage the development of friendship between the peoples of Canada and China by promoting an understanding of the history and of all aspects of economic, political and cultural life today in the People’s Republic of China. The Society is open to any person who would like to develop a friendship with China, irrespective of his/her philosophical, political or religious beliefs...It is not a group of experts on China!”*

Planned activities of the Society: *public meetings including films, slides and discussions; exhibitions; book tables of publications which fall within the scope of the Society; study groups; creating a list of ‘resource persons’ on China; and providing orientation and briefing for groups going to China. In all its activities, the Society would “emphasize the achievements of the Chinese people, e.g. the development of agriculture, health and education. In explaining life in China, the Society bases itself on the explanations given by the Chinese people themselves.”*

- continued on page 2

The first public meeting was held on February 6, 1976 at the Ottawa Public Library (not the National Library as reported in the last Newsletter) with over 100 persons attending, described as “generally enthusiastic about China and the Society”. Like the forthcoming banquet, it was called to coincide with the start of the lunar New Year and the great holiday known as the *Spring Festival*. By early March, membership of the Society had risen to 35!

In March a letter was sent by Peter Larson, Interim President, to other Friendship Associations in Canada to establish contact “in order to benefit from the knowledge and experience (they) had already accumulated.” Said the President, “The Society is prepared to work hard in order to build an ever greater friendship between Canada and the People’s Republic of China.”

Subsequently, two film evenings were held to screen the Patrick Watson film, “The 700 Million” which described life in China in the 60s, and “le Nouveau Visage de la Chine” by Professor Robert Garry of the University of Montreal. Meetings were characterized as “bilingual” and notices were issued in both official languages of Canada.

**On September 17, 1976 a solemn ceremony was held at the Ottawa Public Library in memory of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung sponsored jointly by the Canada-China Friendship Society and the Ottawa Chinese Association. Eighty persons attended.**



*Society meeting chaired by President Maija Kagis, November 1976.  
Standing behind Maija is Dr. Wendall MacLeod, colleague of Dr. Norman Bethune.  
Larry Katz, a former President, is seated at right end of first table.*

At its first public meeting on February 6, the Provisional Executive signified its intention to call a general assembly of the members *in October* to discuss the first nine months of the

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Society's work and to elect an executive to carry on for the coming year. The first Annual General Meeting was held on schedule at the National Library on October 29, 1976. The President noted that in its first nine months the Society had gained almost 80 members; Chinese publications not easily available elsewhere in Ottawa had been sold for \$400 and 12 public events were held which had attracted in total over 1200 participants. The Society sent a delegation to the opening ceremonies of the Norman Bethune Memorial House in Gravenhurst, Ontario, and Tsin Van attended the first Canada-wide meeting of friendship groups in Regina, Saskatchewan – altogether a remarkable achievement for the first year of a new Society.

A new Executive was elected on October 29 which chose in turn the officers to lead the Society in its second year, including some members who are still active today. Maija Kagis was elected President and Bill Badour as Vice-President. Tsin Van was the first elected Treasurer and Jacqueline Major its Membership Secretary. Tin Yap was an active member of the steering committee and a subsequent President. Bless them all!

*- Lolan Merklinger*



*Peter Larson together with Marcel Bédard, Jerry White, Diana Simpson, Jacqueline Major and Maija Kagis plotting CCFS activities, September 1976*



*Ambassador Menzies and Julia Cheng at a CCFS Halloween Party, 1987*



*Young Chinese artist with her painting which won a competition and a trip to Canada from CCFS standing with Tsing Van*



*Embassy Reception for students of the Elaine Hunter Dance School who performed in Shanghai in 1994*



**P**eople born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. They are said to make good intelligence officers. But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and somewhat distant at parties. Yet Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

**Newsletters via the Internet**

With the electronic age upon us, members who wish to receive their newsletters via e-mail should submit their e-mail addresses to any member of the Executive Committee. At the recently held Annual General Meeting, a number of members wrote their e-mail addresses on a sheet of paper that was circulated at the meeting. Like a number of organizations, CCFS – Ottawa is finding that it is not only more efficient to communicate electronically than via regular post but less costly.

**The Year Of The Dog -1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006**

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**Year of the Dog Banquet - Sunday, February 5 at 6 p.m.**

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED (and received until Feb. 2):

List your Name(s) and that of your Guests:

Name	Member @ \$29	Non-Member @ \$32	Born in the Year of the Dog: 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994? If yes, please check below	Cost
<b>Total participants:</b>			<b>Cost:</b>	
<b>Membership renewal fee(s):</b>	<b>Family - \$25      Single - \$20</b>			
			<b>Total:</b>	

Name (of person reserving): \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your cheque payable to CCFS-Ottawa, New Year Banquet, and mail it with this reservation form to: Mary Lee at 50 Florence St., Ottawa K2P 0W7 – cell 276-6203, OR to John Hilliker at 1555 Caledon Street, Ottawa K1G 0H9 - tel. 733-6721.

**New Members** - A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: Shi-jing Aass, Raoul Awad, Charles Chen, Ann Chudleigh, Pierre Gagnon and Suzanne Dumont, Shan He, Angela Huang, Jacqueline Verdon, Marthe Sirois, Qin Xu and Lenore Rayner.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Nov. 24

The AGM of the Ottawa Chapter was held at Library and Archives Canada immediately following a heavy snowfall on November 24 that undoubtedly reduced attendance at the meeting. Nevertheless close to 40 members were present for the business meeting and around 60 including many enthusiastic *guests* took in the film *Chairman Mao and Snow* introduced by CCFS member Gilliane Lapointe, who appears in the film alongside her late husband as Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Snow.

Highlights of the business meeting included the election by acclamation of members of the Executive Committee who were first elected on March 17, 2005, and conferring an Honorary Life Membership on Jacqueline Major in recognition of her longstanding and unstinting service to the Society. At the same time the President reported that the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations had nominated Tsin Van as FCCFA candidate for the honorary title of Friendship Ambassador expected to be named by the Chinese National Youxie (Friendship Association) in 2006.

A number of reports and a budget for 2005-06 were presented to the membership.

Thanks are due to volunteers Jacqueline Major, Josette Samné and Pat Steele who between themselves provided tasty refreshments and reminder calls before the AGM.



*CCFS members' farewell dinner for Counsellor Wang Zhenxiao and Madame Lu Anling, December 1997*

## **“China's rise should be celebrated, not feared”**

*An article by Dr. Huang Huikang, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy published in The Ottawa Citizen, Dec. 28, 2005 in response to the published views of Professor David van Praagh*

David Van Praagh's opinion article, "The real threat is China," Dec. 16, is sensationalist. His assertion that the Chinese are intent on "global domination" and thus a "rising China" should be "contained" is, to say the least, groundless and out of step with the times. The world has become one in which all countries are mutually dependent and their interests increasingly intertwined. China too has greatly changed. In the last two decades or so, China has succeeded in embarking upon a development path suitable to its national conditions and achieved impressive results. It is understandable that such a fast development of a large country like China would cause some doubts and worries among some people. But it is less understandable that the author clings so tightly to the long outdated Cold War mentality. His concern about the China threat is totally unnecessary. The theory of "containment" has never worked with China and it never will.

For one thing, the Chinese people have always been peace-loving and the philosophy of achieving harmony and being a good neighbour has deep roots in Chinese culture. Whether it was in the opening of the famous "silk road" more than 2,000 years ago during the Chinese Han Dynasty, or during Gen. Zheng He's seven epic voyages in the Ming Dynasty 600 years ago, the messages sent to the countries and peoples concerned were the same: The sincere hope of the Chinese people is to strengthen exchanges, co-operation and friendship with the rest of the world. The Chinese people are firm believers in the Confucian teaching, "Don't do unto others what you don't want to be done unto you." Having suffered so much at the hands of colonial powers over history, China will never do that to others. China has never sought hegemony, and never will seek domination in Asia or the world for that matter.

Second, for China, the world's largest developing country, expanding the economy and improving the quality of people's lives remains the central task of the country. China requires a peaceful international environment for self-development and wishes to promote world peace through her development. The Chinese people are keenly aware that development can only be sustained and beneficial to both Chinese and other peoples when it is achieved through peaceful means.

Third, China has put forward a new development concept that makes it clear that China's development will not stand in the way of or pose a threat to anyone. The world is very different now than when the old development concept prevailed and very few Western powers did not resort to snatching resources from other countries or even engaging in wars to achieve their emergence as major powers. Some may worry about China's development because they are still thinking the old way. Of course, with China's development, some contradictions and frictions will inevitably crop up. The important thing is to adopt a new and responsible approach and properly solve these problems with mutual respect, dialogue on an equal footing, friendly consultation, mutual understanding and mutual accommodation to arrive at peace, stability and common prosperity.

Fourth, China has always been a responsible player in the world arena. Over the years, China

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**“China's rise should be celebrated, not feared”** – *cont'd from previous page*

has unflinchingly abided by the principles of the UN Charter, actively participated in international affairs and fulfilled its international obligations. For example, during the Asian financial crisis in 1997, China, acting in the overall interest of Asian countries, decided to keep its RMB (Renminbi or "people's currency") exchange rate unchanged and in the process made great sacrifices. When a tsunami ravaged the Indian Ocean a year ago, China was one of the first countries that went to the rescue of the disaster-stricken countries and donated more than \$83 million U.S. to these countries. Since China's accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, it has fulfilled all its commitments, which is acknowledged by the other 148 members of the WTO.

Fifth, China's economic development has not only benefited China, but also the world at large. In recent years, China has enjoyed a rapid expansion of its foreign trade and economic co-operation with other countries. However, it is not a one-way track. Foreign countries, especially the developed ones, have reaped huge profits from their investments in and services trade with China. In 2004, the exports of foreign-invested companies in China amounted to \$338.6 billion (U.S.), or 57 per cent of China's total exports for the year. China's imported services reached \$72.1 billion. China paid as much as \$4.5 billion for patents alone. China is not seeking a big surplus in foreign trade. In fact, the enormous domestic demand and the broad internal market are the perpetual driving force behind China's economic development. In this light, it is simply groundless to say, as Mr. Van Praagh did, that China's development "undermines the economies of other countries large and small." The Economist has stated, "Millions of consumers in other countries are gaining from the low prices and high quality of Chinese goods. A billion Chinese are escaping the dire poverty of the past. Business across the globe will profit from supplying a vast new market. These are wonders to be celebrated, not threats to be agonized over."

Last but not least, China's human rights and rule of law have improved greatly over the years and the assertion that the Chinese government "rejects democracy and human rights" simply does not hold water. Since the inception of the reform and opening-up policy in the late 1970s, China has successfully lifted more than 300 million of its people out of poverty and the average life expectancy reached 71.8 years in 2003. The Chinese people's rights to subsistence and development have been greatly advanced, which I believe is the greatest contribution to mankind as a whole. To better protect the human rights of the people, the Chinese government incorporated the protection of human rights into its constitution back in 2004.

Rule of law and political democracy have also been advancing. Nowadays, people in China are enjoying unprecedented individual freedom. Anyone without bias will agree that human rights in China are at their best in history. So instead of mindlessly pointing accusing fingers at China, maybe one should stop for a minute and think of all the achievements China has already made in the fields of human rights in such a short period of time. By calling on the world to "contain" China, has the author ever stopped to think he, maybe unknowingly, is trying to deny the Chinese people's rights to subsistence and development, the most basic and important human rights?

With China unswervingly combining its own development with the progress of humanity, China's development, instead of hurting or threatening anyone, can only serve peace, stability and common prosperity in the world.

## Coming Events

- **March 23. Dashan – Mark Rowswell will visit his native Ottawa to receive the Keys of the City from Mayor Bob Chiarelli.** A special reception will be held followed by a performance (Dashan and Chinese performers) at Ben Franklin Place, CentrepoinTE Theatre, with the proceeds to benefit the Glebe Centre. Reception: 5:30 p.m. Concert: 7 p.m. Proposed ticket price for the reception and performance: \$125. Performance only: \$50 with some price variation based on seating. Further information is available from Jeffrey de Fourestier, CCFS-Ottawa Vice-President and Chair of the Dashan event Publicity and Fundraising Committee, tel. 864-1277 (evenings) or 995-9322 (office) or by e-mail: [defourestier.jd@forces.gc.ca](mailto:defourestier.jd@forces.gc.ca).
- **April 5. Talk by Ms. Julia Bentley, Senior Adviser, Asia and Pacific, Foreign Affairs Canada, on the NGO scene in China.** Ms. Bentley spent the last several years as Director of the NGO Capacity Building Program in China funded by the Ford Foundation and as a senior officer of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Exact time and location to be announced.
- **National Gallery event.** There will be a viewing this spring for Chapter members only of selected Qing dynasty paintings from the National Gallery of Canada's Chinese collection. This very special opportunity is being offered to us under the NGC's Outreach Program. A specialist in Chinese art history will provide commentary. Space limitations require the viewing to be limited to 25 persons per session with up to two sessions possible. Dates and other details to be announced.

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## Credits

**Credit and thanks** for all the photographs appearing in this issue must be given to one of our founding members, who has maintained a very welcome presence as well as a photographic record of the Chapter's history - our very special **Tsin Van**.

With appreciation we acknowledge also the contribution of **Stephen Hagopian** who maintains the membership data base. In addition to working with the CCFS Membership Secretary **Meibing Fu** in keeping the membership list up to date, Stephen provides the address labels for all our mailings. He also maintains our temporary website where previous issues of the Newsletter can be found: [www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS](http://www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS).

## 2006 Executive Committee Members

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The resignation of **Brian Eastwood** as **Executive Committee member** and **Newsletter Editor** due to other commitments is acknowledged with regrets. Brian made a substantial contribution to the Newsletter and to the transition of the Society following its rebirth in the spring of 2005.