



Canada-China Friendship Society

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

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

March Newsletter

2006 – No. 2 ISSN 1496-6816

Chapter President: Lolan Merklinger

E-mail: Lolan.Merklinger@sympatico.ca

Year of the Dog - New Year's Banquet



*Seated: Mary Lee, Lolan Merklinger, James Steele, Ambassador Lu Shumin and Mme. Lu
Standing: Minister-Counsellor Huang Huikang, Meibing Fu, John Hilliker, Georges Sanné,
Jeffrey de Fourestier, Mme. Desjardins, Gatineau Deputy Mayor Aurèle Desjardins,
Andy Kusi-Appiah, Yong-Zhi Wang*

Celebrating the Founding of our Friendship Chapter Sunday, February 5, 2006

“From a ‘telephone booth’ to a Banquet Hall”: That was the title given to an article about the banquet by Elizabeth Yeh in the *Canada-China News* (Feb.10). Elizabeth was quoting Dr. Peter Larson, founding President of the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa, who indicated there were only a few people who would “fit into a telephone booth” at an organizational meeting of the Society in 1975. By contrast, the huge banquet hall of the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant could hardly contain the crowd at last month’s event celebrating the Chinese New Year and the 30th anniversary of the Society.

- continued over page

Exhibition entitled ‘The Manchu Era (1644-1912): Arts of China’s Last Imperial Dynasty’ - on view at the Art Gallery of Hamilton until April 17

Many experts consider the porcelain of the Qing Dynasty to be the most splendid ceramics ever crafted by mankind. *The Manchu Era (1644-1912): Arts of China’s Last Imperial Dynasty* highlights the ceramics of the period, as well as elaborate costumes, painting and calligraphy scrolls, and intricately carved jade, ivory, amber, and bamboo.

Organized and circulated by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria with assistance from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Museum Assistance Program, *The Manchu Era* examines the arts that emerged during a period of unprecedented prosperity in China; during their rule, the Manchu brought China to the zenith of her power materially and geographically, expanding China’s territory to create its largest pre-modern boundaries. Several of the most powerful Manchu emperors were also involved patrons of the arts, establishing workshops dedicated to the production of exquisite decorative pieces. For example, Qianlong, emperor from 1735-95, was an enthusiastic collector-connoisseur who amassed an enormous collection of painting and calligraphy masterpieces; his reign is considered the greatest age of decorative art in China.

The Qing (or “pure”) Dynasty was established by the Manchu, a militaristic frontier people who swept down into China in 1644 and placed a Manchu emperor on the throne. In order to control China, the Manchu minority kept their racial identity, status and privilege separate from the Han Chinese majority. Despite stressing their differences, the Manchu cultivated artistic practices that displayed a strong underlying current of Chinese influence, demonstrating perfection in all areas of artistic expression. On February 12, 1912, the Emperor of China, five year-old Pu-Yi, abdicated the throne, ending the remarkable Qing Dynasty, China’s last imperial dynasty.

- from the website of the Art Gallery of Hamilton

30th Anniversary Celebration – continued from page 1

Distinguished guests at the Banquet included Ambassador Lu Shumin and Mme. Lu, Minister-Counsellor Huang Huikang, Counsellor Yang Xuelun and Mrs. Yang, Counsellor Sun Lushan, First Secretary Mrs. Li Caiyun, Canadian Ambassador Arthur Menzies, President of the National Capital Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs Ms. Barbara Darling and Allan Darling, the Deputy Mayor of Gatineau M. Aurèle Desjardins and Mme. Desjardins, and representative of Mayor Bob Chiarelli, Mr. Andy Kusi-Appiah. Ambassador Lu commended the true friends who had built and sustained the Society. Two of the founding presidents, Dr. Peter Larson and Ms. Maiji Kagis, spoke movingly about its origins - the text of Dr. Larson’s remarks is on page 6. Three musicians performed brilliantly, the beautiful sounds of Cindy Yang’s *gu-zhen* contrasting with the energetic lyrics of Dominic D’Arcy and George Sapounides. Door prizes included a framed uncut press sheet of *Year of the Dog* stamps donated by Canada Post together with 165 official first day covers for participants. (Alas the supply proved insufficient when final registration exceeded 200!) Other prizes and wines for all 20 tables were generously donated by the Chinese Embassy. Persons born in the Year of the Dog received *Year of the Dog* souvenir sheets and cards. Additional prizes were contributed by Tsin Van and Lolan Merklinger. Thanks are due to all who contributed to the success of the occasion including in particular Ramona MacFarlane, Josette Samné and members of our Executive Committee.

Coming Events

- **March 23. Dashan Gala, hosted by Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli and Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin, at Centrepointheatre.** For further information, see below or contact Jeffrey de Fourestier, Coordinator (Marketing), Ottawa Dashan Charity Show, who will ensure tickets are held for you.
- **April 5. Talk by Julia Bentley, Senior Policy Adviser, Asia and Pacific, Foreign Affairs Canada, on “Chinese civil society: how are Chinese NGO’s contributing to Society, and what role international support can play.”** 7:30 p.m. Library and Archives Canada. Ms. Bentley has been a teacher, diplomat, development consultant and most recently manager of the Ford Foundation’s NGO Capacity Building Program in China. For background information on her talk see www.icnl.org/journal/vol6iss2/ar_bentley.htm.
- **National Gallery event.** There will be a viewing this May 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.

Text of News release for the Dashan event, March 23

“Canada and China Joined by Charity for Ottawa Seniors”

Ottawa-born Chinese superstar Dashan will be coming to Ottawa March 23 to perform for the benefit of the Glebe Center for senior citizens. Dashan, whose real name is Mark Rowswell, will be the guest of honour at the Gala, which is hosted by Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli and Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin. Dashan will also be the star performer. Incorporated into the event will be a special ceremony where Mayor Chiarelli will be presenting Rowswell with the “Key to the City” for his contributions in building bridges between Ottawa and China.

Organized by members of the Ottawa Chinese community with the generous support of the City of Ottawa, all proceeds from the show will be for charity in support of seniors in long-term care in the Glebe Centre, especially the 6th Floor. This will also be a unique opportunity for those participating to also partake in a rare treat. Called “the most famous foreigner in China”, Rowswell has become a regular fixture on Chinese television and is a cultural icon across China. Famous for performing traditional Chinese dialogue, he will be giving local citizens a taste of what has made him a household name in the largest country on earth.

Fluent in Mandarin, Dashan (Rowswell) has been appearing on Chinese television for the past 17 years before audiences of 800 million viewers. *Time Magazine* selected Dashan as one of the “Leaders of the 21st Century”. Tickets are available from the Centrepointheatre box office at 101 Centrepointheatre Drive, or (613) 580-2700, or at www.centrepointheatre.com or directly from Jeffrey de Fourestier (613) 995-9322 at a cost of \$20, \$35 or \$45.

Harry Elton Memorial Fund Bursary

Application Form

Please type or print

Full name and street address:		Telephone no.	
		E-mail address:	
Name of current school and grade:	Date of birth:	Citizenship:	
Have you travelled abroad before? If so, where?			
Title of your essay (500 words or less, typed, to be attached):			
Names of two referees and their relationship to the candidate (give address and tel. no.):			
1.			
2.			
<p>Waiver by the Applicant:</p> <p>If selected, I agree to participate in the program at my own risk and would not hold either the sponsor of the Bursary, the Harry Elton Memorial Fund, or the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa’s Selection Committee liable for any loss or injury incurred during the programme or its related travel.</p> <p>Signature of the applicant:.....</p> <p>I note the responsibilities accepted by the applicant and support him or her in this endeavour.</p> <p>Signature of parent or guardian:.....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dated.....</p>			

The selection procedure for these bursaries is managed by a committee of the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa. Applications should be addressed to Mr. James Steele, Secretary, Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa, 45 Kilbarray Crescent, Ottawa K1K 0H2, and **must be postmarked by midnight on April 21, 2006. Additional copies of this form and other documentation are available from www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS/HEMF.**

The Harry Elton Memorial Fund will sponsor Two Young Canadians for a Trip to China in August

Our readers have heard about this project from a note on page 6 of the November Newsletter. The trustees of the Harry Elton Memorial Fund, namely Marguerite McDonald and the family of Harry Elton, have decided to send two young Canadians aged 16 to 18 to the Shanghai International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp between August 7 and 16 to participate in a variety of cultural activities centred in Shanghai and Hangzhou. The camp is organized by the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. CCFS – Ottawa has been asked to conduct a competition for this purpose and a selection committee comprised of members of the Society has been at work preparing documentation for distribution to schools in the area. The winners will be announced before the end of May. An information package about the program and the competition is available from the Society's website at www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS/HEMF. Copies may also be obtained by calling James Steele, CCFS Secretary, at (613) 746-6261. A copy of the application form appears opposite on page 4 of this Newsletter.

The Harry Elton Memorial Fund was created for this purpose in summer 2004 from donations received from colleagues and friends of Harry Elton and is open for further contributions, which may be sent to The Harry Elton Memorial Fund, c/o the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Ste. 301-75 Albert Street, Ottawa ON K1P 5E7. A tax receipt will be issued.

CCFS members are encouraged to publicize the competition which represents a wonderful opportunity for two young Canadians to meet with other young people from around the world, to visit two of China's most interesting cities: Shanghai and Hangzhou, and to learn how the Chinese people live, express themselves and view the world.

New Members –A warm welcome to the following new members: Desbaree and Sumit Banerji, Bingbing Cai and Michael Parks, Nancy Huang and Michael Guiver, Paule Sirois; to returning members: Maija Kagis, Peter Larson and Lorraine Farkas, Paul and Suzanne Brennan. Membership forms may be obtained from Meibing Fu, Membership Secretary (613) 590-1558.

Membership fees: individual \$20, family \$25; full-time student \$12, student family \$17.

A Reminder of our Founding Principles drafted December 4, 1975

Our purpose:

“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!”

Excerpt from Remarks by Dr. Peter Larson delivered at the Chinese New Year Banquet at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant, February 5, 2006

“Lolan has asked me to say a few words about the origins of the Society in Ottawa. Well, I can tell you one thing – our first meetings were so small you could hold them in a telephone booth. So it’s a wonderful thing to see that tonight one of Ottawa’s largest restaurants can barely contain all of us. Creating the CCFS was the work of many people. I will mention some of them in a moment. We probably all have our own stories about how the CCFS began, but this is my story.

In 1973 and 1974, my wife and I were living in France where I was doing my doctoral studies. While I was there, I attended some events organized by the France China Friendship society. The France China Friendship Society was quite a big deal in France. Its president was a former Prime Minister of France, it had hundreds, if not thousands, of members and more than a dozen branches in major French cities. It held lots of activities – film nights, photographic exhibits, and organized book reviews. It also organized trips to China which I thought was very exciting.

Through that society, I saw many films and began reading about China. The wonderful novels of Han Suyin, biographies of incredible people like General Chu Teh who started out as a warlord and ended up as a leader of the Chinese Red Army. Of course I also read about Mao Tse Tung and the Long March. And I was fascinated by William Hinton’s “Fanshen” the story of one small Chinese village’s struggle to get rid of the habits arising of hundreds of years of feudalism.

When we came back to Canada in 1974, I continued to be fascinated by China. My interest was heightened as I came to know about some famous Canadians like Dr. Norman Bethune and Dr. James Endicott whose support for the Chinese people had earned Canada a great reputation in China. But I was disappointed by how little most Canadians knew about China in 1974.

In those days there was no CNN, no televised images, nobody – or hardly anybody went to China as a tourist. So we in Canada were in a state of almost total ignorance about China.

- We knew that it was big – very big.
- We knew that it was poor – very poor.
- We knew that it had great cultural and artistic traditions.
- We knew that it had great food – but that they sometimes ate some very strange things.
- But we also knew that they had a Communist government – and that made us quite uncomfortable.

As a result, many Canadians still looked on China with a combination of admiration, curiosity and fear. In this context, it took quite a bit of courage for Prime Minister Trudeau to establish diplomatic relations with China in 1970 – nearly 10 years before the US did so.

So Lorraine and I started to look around for people who were interested in China and to see if we couldn’t start up a Canada-China friendship society here. Before too long, we found some people who were interested. Each was motivated by their own reasons. People like Tsin Van and Tin and Luna Yap and her brother Norman seemed to be mostly motivated by patriotism. They were proud Canadians who were also proud of their Chinese origins and wanted other Canadians to better understand China.”

- continued on page 8

Final Report of the CIIA China Conference, October 28, 2005

Hosted by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, National Capital Branch (NCB), with support from the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa

The NCB's one-day Conference focussed on a series of themes related to China's amazing growth, its consequent impact on the world economy and on relations generally.

The Branch brought together a number of speakers who are leaders in their respective fields, five from Canadian universities, three from the U.S. and one from China – Professor Li Fan, founder of The World and China Institute, which is active in promoting grass-roots democracy in China. The Chinese chargé d'affaires, Dr. Huang Huikang, delivered a response to the keynote address from Dr. Paul Evans, Co-CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Other speakers were Professors Wendy Dobson, Oded Shenkar, Wenran Jiang, Pitman Potter, Jeremy Paltiel, Bruce Gilley and Ross Munro, a former journalist, now a teacher/researcher in Washington, D.C. Discussants included Mr. Thomas d'Aquino, Professor Fen Hampson, Mr. Ercel Baker and Ms. Julia Bentley.

The Conference was held in the Lester B. Pearson Building, home of the Foreign Affairs Department in Ottawa, and was well-received by the more than 200 participants. The Branch also gained 27 new members as a result of the Conference. Generous support was provided by Foreign Affairs Canada, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives and the National Office of the CIIA. The papers presented will be published in the spring issue of the *International Journal*. A summary report on the findings of the Conference is posted under **Reports and Publications** on the CIIA website www.ciaa.org.

The combination of a rapidly growing and very influential economy with an autocratic government has focussed the attention of the world's governments, business, academics, and activist organisations on the future of the planet's most populous country – China.

In many respects, China is a study in contrasts. An abundance of low-cost labour combines with the application and mastery of technology to produce a tremendous competitive advantage. The central government continues to emphasize political stability while striving to guide the country through rapid change and permitting some democratisation at the local level. There is income disparity between the rapidly developing coastal regions and the western provinces, and apparent growing disparity between rich and poor and between urban and rural areas – a source of evident unrest.

China is exerting a growing political influence on the world stage through multilateral channels while acting to protect its interests in terms of access to raw materials and export markets. It is working constructively with its regional neighbours (although there are issues with Japan), but continues to resist interference in its internal affairs. Its dramatic growth causes debate on whether its future influence will be benign or aggressive, but China's leaders portray its partnerships with other countries as building cooperation for *mutual* benefit. China's economic impact is increasingly important to Canada in terms of import competition for our manufacturers, its effect in lowering interest rates, and as a source of investment and export opportunities.

Past experience has shown Canada's capacity to engage China on trade and investment while focussing an unprecedented amount of private attention on promoting human rights. There were suggestions that Canada needs to work even harder to achieve a more balanced approach in its 'strategic alliance' with China, reflecting both our values and the need for diversity in our economy.

- Kenneth Merklinger

Remarks of Dr. Peter Larson (cont'd)

“My own interest, of course was mainly political. I was impressed by the fact that, after centuries of feudalism, after decades of military aggression and interference by the major colonial powers, under the leadership of Mao Tse Tung, China had stood up. Although we all had different reasons for being interested in China, we quickly and easily banded together with the aim of learning more and helping other Canadians learn more about China. We organized film nights, organized trips to China, we had a calligraphy class, Norman and Luan I remember had a dance group that did “ribbon dances”. I also remember organizing a memorial service for Mao Tse Tung when he died in 1976.

So that’s the story as I remember it. Lolan, I am thrilled by the fact that the CCFS has become a large and successful organization. And thrilled too, by the fact that Canadians today know much, much more about China than they once did.”

Yeh Ching’s interview with **Lolan Merklinger**, focusing on the aims and character of the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa and its eventful 30-year history, was broadcast on CHIN Radio’s *East Meets West*, 97.9 FM on February 5, 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.

2006 Executive Committee Members

- **President – Lolan Wang Merklinger** (with responsibility for Chinese Embassy Liaison)
(819) 777-8434 lolan.Merklinger@sympatico.ca
- **Vice-President – Jeffrey de Fourestier**
(819) 995-9322 defourestier.jd@forces.gc.ca
- **Secretary – James Steele**
(613) 746-6261 jimandheathersteele@rogers.com
- **Treasurer – Georges Samné**
(819) 776-6364
- **Membership Secretary – Meibing Fu**
(613) 590-1558 (613) 996-4201 meibingfu@yahoo.ca
- **Program Co-ordinator – John Hilliker**
(613) 733-6721 john.hilliker@sympatico.ca
- **Banquet and Reception Co-ordinator – Mary Lee**
(613) 234-9513 maryyylee@hotmail.com
- **Chinese Community Liaison and Associate Program Co-ordinator – Yong-Zhi Wang**
(613) 228-0437 wangy@cnsccsn.gc.ca

The Society’s website is maintained by Stephen Hagopian. Previous issues of the Newsletter can be found on this website: www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS. The membership application form will also shortly be available on the website.

