



Canada-China Friendship Society™

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

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Chapter President: Lolan Merklinger

E-mail: Lolan.Merklinger@sympatico.ca

The Federation's Gift to CPAFFC or National Youxie

A 10-member Canadian delegation from Victoria, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa participated in events in China this month at the invitation of Mme. Li Xiaolin, Vice-President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and a daughter of the first PRC President to visit Canada in 1985. Forty-one participants representing five English speaking countries were invited to Beijing, then to Wuhan for a Forum on the future of the friendship movement, and to a number of sites in Hubei province including Wudang Mountain, a sacred place for Taoism, a joint-venture automotive plant and a major automotive testing facility – the largest in Asia – in Xiangfan City. They were joined by delegates from 32 countries for celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries that concluded on September 15.

The Ottawa participants were delegation leader Lolan Merklinger; Jeffrey de Fourestier our chapter Vice-President; and Tsin Van, a past CCFS and Federation president who was honoured with the title of *Friendship Ambassador* that National Youxie confers on rare occasions on those who have made the greatest contributions to the growth of friendship. Previous recipients of the title in Canada are the Federation's founding president, Alice Griffiths who resides in Toronto, and Professor Edmund Dale of Regina.



Inuit bear sculpture presented to National Youxie

The Canadian delegation used the occasion to make a presentation to National Youxie. Our organization had never provided a gift that symbolized our friendship as many others had done. These gifts are housed in the Friendship Museum on the grounds of the CPAFFC offices in Beijing, located in the elegant premises of an early 20th century Italian Embassy.

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That gap was closed this year when the Canadian delegation presented National Youxie (pronounced yoehsye) with an 8-inch Inuit sculpture purchased from the Indigena Gallery of Inuit Art in Stratford, Ontario. It is a serpentine stone sculpture of a bear with plenty of character set on a black marble pedestal and an oak base inscribed as a “Gift from the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations to the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, September 2006”. Making the presentation to Mme. Li, Lolan Merklinger said:

“Our Federation would like to leave something behind in Beijing which would be a lasting symbol and example of the friendship we are building between our peoples. And so we searched for a Canadian artefact which would symbolize this developing relationship and we settled on a carving from the Inuit community in Canada.

“The bear is an important symbol in the Inuit tradition and we think we have found a fine specimen by the Inuit artist Ohito Ashoona, descended from a well-known family of Inuit artists.

“On behalf of FCCFA, I would like to present our gift to the Vice-President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Mme. Li Xiaolin. Mme. Li, please accept this gift.”

Canada-China Collaboration in Dinosaur Research: An interesting talk by Dr. Xiao-Chun Wu

More than 50 members and guests attended a talk on this subject by Dr. Xiao-Chun Wu at Library and Archives Canada on June 28. A research scientist at the Museum of Nature in Ottawa who recently returned from a field trip in China, Dr. Wu presented an abundance of slides depicting his work and achievements.

Originally trained in China and with a Ph.D. from McGill University, Dr. Wu has been contributing to research efforts between Canada and China since 1976. His work in China has taken him to Tibet, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan and Inner Mongolia. If dinosaur history is divided into its early, middle and late stages, the dinosaurs of the early stage are usually found in the southwestern provinces of China, dinosaurs of the middle stage in south-central provinces, and dinosaurs of the late stage in the north and north-eastern provinces.

Since 2003 Dr. Wu has been focusing on two projects, one on dinosaurs and the other on marine reptiles. The first involves the study of 190 million year old dinosaurs from Yunnan Province with scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Alberta. The second project is a study of 230 million year old reptiles which lived in the ocean. This project includes scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Natural Science Museum of Taiwan.

In recent years paleontologists have demonstrated that our ancient ancestors (the earliest tetrapods – animals with four legs - about 340 million years old) had more than five digits on both hands and feet. A few years ago, a marine reptile with more than five digits on its legs was found in the 240 million year old rocks in Hubei Province. Dr. Wu was invited to study it. Wu’s research team proved that the tetrapod limbs with more than five digits developed independently in our ancestors and in this marine reptile, which provides a wonderful example of convergent evolution in biology. A report on the study of this marine reptile was published in *Nature*.

In addition to ichthyosaurs, there are a lot of other fossils of marine reptiles found around the

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Coming Events

- **October 19, 7:30 p.m.** at Library and Archives Canada, Room 156, an illustrated talk by CCFS member **Ms. Ann Chudleigh** on **traditional Chinese gardens**.
- **November 23 at 7:00 p.m.** (note change of time from earlier notice) at Library and Archives Canada, Room 156, **Annual General Meeting of CCFS Ottawa**. The speaker for this evening following a one-hour business meeting will be **Mr. Martin Charron, Deputy Director (China), Asia and Oceanic Commercial Relations Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada**.

China's rapid economic growth over the past decades has forced Canada to reevaluate the nature of its commercial relationship with that country. From a purely trade-based relationship, Canada now has to look at China in many ways. We now look at China not only as a market but also as a competitor, a source and destination for investment, and a partner for science and technology. In his presentation, Mr. Charron will try to explain how this new relationship is affecting Canada.

Martin Charron has been a member of the Trade Commissioners Service since 1987. He has had postings in Beijing, Hong Kong and Taipei.

Dinosaur Research *continued*

world. However, scientists have wondered for over a century how these marine animals reproduced because of a lack of any physical evidence. In 2003, Dr. Wu was invited to study two *Keichousaurus* specimens obtained from 240 million year old rocks in Guizhou Province, which have a number of small skeletons inside them. Wu's research group have proven that the small skeletons are embryos of the animal, and proposed that many marine reptiles gave birth to their young rather than laying eggs.

Scientists have known for over a century that carnivorous dinosaurs and birds share many skeletal similarities. Many feathered dinosaurs discovered in China since 1996 provide the most significant evidence to support the view that birds originated from dinosaurs. As early as 1998, Wu was invited to study one of those dinosaurs with two young paleontologists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They demonstrated that this feathered dinosaur is much more closely related to birds than to other dinosaurs.

Wu also showed a dinosaur specimen found in Jiangxi Province. This specimen had a pair of shelled eggs inside her. A research team under Wu's supervision studied the specimen and has proven that advanced feathered dinosaurs laid a pair of eggs like birds, unlike other reptiles such as turtles which lay many eggs all at once. This further supports the thesis of a close relationship between dinosaurs and birds.

Thanks were expressed by Yong-zhi Wang following many questions from a highly stimulated audience.

CCFS name and logo trade-marked

The Canadian Intellectual Property Office has approved the trade-mark of the name and logo which appear in the letterhead of this Newsletter, now accompanied by the famous sign (as per letterhead). This means that no one can takeover our Society's name or logo. It also means that henceforth we can exercise some control where necessary over chapters or organizations in our area or elsewhere that might attempt to use these identifiers.

The Executive Committee of CCFS Ottawa considered this issue in 2005 and decided that we should apply for a trade-mark as the strongest possible protection for our name and logo. The need for a new logo was explained in our Newsletter of September 2005. After the original seal and logo were taken from us in the spring of 2005, there was some concern that the physical basis of our Society might be undermined or confusion arise if more than one organization had the identical symbols. This issue has now been resolved.

Any questions on this topic should be directed to Lolan Merklinger or Jeffrey de Fourestier, president and vice-president respectively of CCFS Ottawa.

Prime Minister Harper offers apology for Chinese head tax

Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered the nation's regrets for "the racist actions of our past" on June 22 as he formally apologized for the imposition of a punitive head tax on Chinese-Canadian immigrants between 1885 and 1923. With six elderly head-tax payers and hundreds of their family members packing the Commons visitors galleries, Mr. Harper apologized to a community that came to Canada in large numbers to build the railroad that bound the nation together, but then tried to exclude them from the country when it was completed.

The Prime Minister noted that more than 15,000 Chinese immigrants worked to build the Canadian Pacific Railway between 1881 and 1885, and more than 1,000 died during the construction. But from the moment the railway was completed, Canada turned its back on these men. In 1885, a \$50 head tax was imposed on Chinese-Canadian immigrants to deter them from coming to Canada, a tax that eventually rose to the then-enormous sum of \$500. In 1923, the Chinese Immigration Act effectively barred immigrants from China from coming to Canada, until it was repealed in 1947.

Mr. Harper said: "We acknowledge the high cost of the head tax meant that many family members were left far behind in China, never to be reunited, or that families lived apart and in some cases in extreme poverty for years. We also acknowledge that our failure to truly acknowledge these historical injustices has prevented many in the community from seeing themselves as fully Canadian."

While agreeing that the apology was deserved, *The Globe and Mail* in an editorial comment noted that the "transformation" of Canada offers a still more convincing form of redress than an official apology. The number-one source of immigrants to Canada is now China. The inflow in 2004 was 36,411 compared with 6,058 from the United Kingdom. After China the biggest sources were India, the Philippines and Pakistan.

The Harry Elton Family envisages an Extension of Fundraising to support More Visits by Canadian Youth to China

At a meeting on September 21, the two winners of the Harry Elton Memorial Bursary presented an enthusiastic account of their experience in attending the International Interactive Youth Camp held this summer in Shanghai and Hangzhou. The camp was hosted by the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The Canadian participants, Neuczki Mathurin and Nick Wang, were selected from a field of 37 applicants by a committee of Canada-China Friendship Society Ottawa and flew to Shanghai in August.

At a meeting of the Society, Ms. Marguerite McDonald, widow of Harry Elton, announced that due to the very encouraging results of this year's program, the Harry Elton Memorial Bursary Fund will be extended with the objective of raising additional funding to send more students to the camp in future. Contributions may be sent to the **Harry Elton Memorial Fund, c/o the Community Foundation of Ottawa, 75 Albert St., Suite 301, Ottawa K1P 5E7**, and will be acknowledged with a receipt for charitable donations.

Excerpts of Lolan Merklinger's remarks to the Wuhan Friendship Forum, September 8, 2006

"...The FCCFA is living in a very positive environment in terms of Canada's relations with China. All of our chapters celebrated the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Canada's diplomatic relations with China, a highlight of which was President Hu Jintao's visit to Canada almost exactly one year ago. It was during the President's visit that Canada and China agreed to build a *Strategic Partnership* with the aim of the steady and long-term development of bilateral political and economic relations.

"Fall 2005 was a heady period for the many friends of China in Canada. Following President Hu's visit to Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, the 35th anniversary was celebrated at a major event in Parliament hosted by the Prime Minister and government leaders in both Senate and House of Commons. There were numerous receptions and ceremonies..."

"Tsin Van, one of our illustrious members and a former Federation president, who continues to inspire us with his commitment to friendship, has recently completed a remarkable photo album on Canada China relations, 1971-2005, with over 130 photos he took of important diplomatic episodes, often as official photographer of such events. We are proud that he is with us today.

"...there seems to be a clear consensus that economic and commercial relations between the two countries are on a strong footing. Our mutual trade and investments are growing by leaps and bounds. As one Canadian think-tank firmly supportive of stronger relations with China has noted, "Our education system, skills training, municipal planning, even our national awareness have the necessary focus on Asia Pacific to support a growing integration with Asia." For this reason the Pacific Gateway Project has been developed by both levels of government to provide a greater facility for handling two-way trade between Canada and East Asia, particularly China..."

"Three of the themes suggested for discussion at this Forum are the following: **1) How to expand bilateral visits of self-funded groups** - We could revert to the former pattern of sending organized self-funded groups from Canada to China under the sponsorship of our associations, but we are cognizant that the focus and organization of such groups would need to be well – *cont'd*

thought out as we are working in a climate different from that in the 70's, 80's, even 90's. On the other hand, we believe that the program of visits by self-funded groups from China to Canada would probably be assisted significantly by the granting to Canada of China Approved Destination Status or ADS. Our organization has already received several requests this year from Youxie organizations and others who have expressed interest in visiting Canada. We have been pleased to assist these groups, but it occurs to me that the process where we issue letters of invitation, whereafter visas are issued by one of the Canadian missions in China - that process could be expedited and simplified with ADS.

“2) How to enhance local government exchanges - We believe that helping to build sister relationships between Canadian and Chinese cities is a good way to enhance local government exchanges. There are apparently a good number of existing agreements, close to 30, including well-known twinning arrangements between cities such as: Suzhou-Victoria; Xian-Quebec City; Montreal-Shanghai; Toronto-Chongqing and Winnipeg-Chengdu.

“Recent experience suggests a possible new direction for such twinning arrangements. We could set aside twinning arrangements between the major centres in Canada and China which are probably doing quite well on their own, and focus instead on co-operation between the smaller cities in Canadian and Chinese provinces.

“This past spring, Jiangsu Youxie asked our Ottawa chapter to propose a Canadian partner for the City of Xinyi in northern Jiangsu (near Xuzhou). We suggested two counties in Ontario which embrace a number of small-to-medium sized communities with a major energy supply and significant tourist and industrial potential. The effort brought together people of diverse backgrounds: municipal officials, farmers and business people, along with cultural and regional native Indian leaders, who truly enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know the delegation from Xinyi City which visited Canada in July. There is now an anticipation of further developments of a business nature on both sides.

“3) How to get greater involvement by business - I believe there is a recognition that friendship organizations can open doors to viable business links. While in the past our organizations have generally pursued closer cultural and educational linkages as their principal focus, there appears to be increasing interest on both sides in building economic and commercial exchanges to which our organizations could contribute. Our recent experience with a delegation from Xinyi City is a case in point. We could aim to broaden our membership and our activities to reflect this wider focus...

“Conclusions - As part of the follow-up to this Forum, we expect to adopt the three themes proposed by CPAFFC for further review at our Federation's annual general meeting. As part of the general aim of allowing greater diversification in the work of our associations, we believe we should access a wider pool of talent with pertinent China interest and experience, and try to do more in tapping existing skills and talents among our respective memberships. At the same time we are aware that while the plans and objectives we formulate may become more ambitious and forward-looking, our projects need also be based on realistic assessments of our resources.”

New Members – A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: Ronald Drews, and Annette and Louise Moisan who have rejoined the Society.

Other events this summer: three visits, two from Jiangsu

On August 23, a 4-member delegation from the Jiangsu PAFFC, the capital Nanjing and Xinyi City, visited Ottawa and were guests of the Society for a dinner at the Mandarin Ogilvie attended by Counsellor Zhou Haisheng and Mrs. Li Caiyun from the Chinese Embassy, and by a number of our members for a total of 21 persons. The delegation led by Deputy Secretary General Ms. Lizhen Zou had useful talks in the morning with Ms. Debasree Banerji, CCFS member with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Mary Lee, and Geoff Best of OTNET regarding teacher training in Ottawa and other forms of exchange. After a lunch at the Museum of Civilization, the group toured Parliament Hill on foot and parts of Ottawa by car. The delegation was very generous in bringing gifts for all who assisted their visit or attended the dinner on the 23rd.

It was the second visit this summer by a Jiangsu delegation, preceded by a delegation from Xinyi City, who were interested in establishing a partner relationship with some part of Ontario as noted in another report on page 6 in this issue. Ronald Drews and Michael Copeland, both members of our Society, and Lolan and Ken Merklinger escorted them to the Grey-Bruce region, including the Bruce Peninsula and city of Owen Sound, the partner region designated by CCFS Ottawa for Xinyi, a city of 970,000 located in an area with significant industry and tourist potential. The two sides are now considering a Memorandum of Understanding as a framework for doing business and other exchanges.

On September 26-27, a 12-member delegation sponsored by the China National Youxie organization that included representatives from the People's Congresses, media and various enterprises arrived in Ottawa having visited the Bethune Museum in Gravenhurst accompanied by Michael Copeland and travelling by van through Algonquin Park and the Madawaska Valley. They had previously made contact with our sister chapter in Victoria. Members of the delegation came from Chongqing, Sichuan and Guizhou and included a liaison officer from the National Youxie office in Beijing. They will have just one full day to familiarize themselves with the sites and institutions of Ottawa, accompanied in part by Lolan Merklinger who on behalf of FCCFA issued the invitation to visit Canada on their way to a trade mission in Cuba.

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

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- **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

Note: The Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations has a new website still under development with pages reserved for each chapter. You can access the Ottawa webpage at www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa where previous issues of the Newsletter, information about forthcoming events, and Membership Application Forms are located. Both the FCCFA site and webpages for the chapters are being developed by Steven Hagopian.

This Newsletter has been edited by Kenneth Merklinger.