



Canada-China Friendship Society®

Ottawa Chapter
PO Box 8461, Post Office Terminal – Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9

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Ambassador Lu to speak to CCFS Ottawa, January 10, 2008

Ambassador Lu Shumin will address our Society on the subject of Canada-China relations on January 10, 2008. A great deal of attention will be paid to the relationship in the run-up to the Beijing Olympics. Has the formal state of relations changed in recent years? Are we maintaining the same level of official visits and exchanges of business and other delegations as in the past? Is the Strategic Partnership still in place and will Canada be granted Approved Destination Status to allow a larger number of Chinese visitors to come to Canada? Hear the Ambassador address these and other issues and consider what we can do to contribute to genuinely warm, open and friendly relations.

Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin and Mme Gao host CCFS Ottawa at a Reception celebrating the 37th Anniversary of Canada-China Relations – October 24, 2007



From the left, Counsellor Zhao Haishen, Marianne Situ, Justin Li and Lolan Merklinger



*Dr. Gordon Armstrong and Ambassador Lu
- photos by Tsin Van*

The Chinese Embassy welcomed more than 120 members of CCFS Ottawa to a delightful evening of speeches, food and film on Wednesday, October 24. The evening began with a warm welcome from Ambassador Lu in which he complimented the Canadian friendship societies who

he said were “pioneers” in building the relationship, and who had been “working for years and years” to achieve the level of understanding and friendship now evident in ongoing activities. He noted at the recent National People’s Congress in Beijing, President Hu Jintao had committed to a further opening of the Chinese economy and peaceful development providing a further impetus to the continuing development of relations. He suggested there is a “vast potential” for Canadians and Chinese to work together in the areas of energy and environmental protection.

Speaking on behalf of the Society, Lolan Merklinger said it was very satisfying to our members that the Embassy had chosen to celebrate the 37th anniversary with a reception for our Society. CCFS Ottawa was created in 1976 as a manifestation of a developing relationship “to build an active and lasting friendship and develop mutual understanding between the Canadian and Chinese peoples.” She said each and every member has a genuine interest in learning more about China and in building friendships with China. All of our activities are directed to this purpose. She thanked Ambassador Lu, Mme. Gao, Counsellor Zhao and the Cultural Section for their efforts in organizing such a splendid event.

Their remarks were followed by a series of high powered videos on *China Today* by famed Chinese film director Zhang Yimou, portraying the transformation of urban life in China into a fast-paced modern society with creative imagination and a life style as energetic as any on the planet. The videos focussed in part on the training of Chinese athletes who appeared well prepared for Olympic competition. After the film, the Embassy served an excellent buffet.

Silk Road Odyssey: An Overland Journey along the Ancient Trade Route from Istanbul to Beijing related by Yue Chi, President of AAST, October 26, 2007

Yue Chi provided a personal portrait of her life growing up in Northeastern China during the Cultural Revolution. It was a memorable education for a small child. She eventually obtained a master’s degree in history at Beijing University and moved to Toronto in 1989. In 1992 Chi founded an adventure travel company, Asia Adventures and Study Tours (AAST Inc.) Ever since



she has been planning, organizing and operating cultural and educational adventures for Western travellers in Asia. Her major achievement to date is the overland driving experience she completed this year with eight co-travellers over 15,521 kilometres across Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and China along the ancient Silk Road.

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Coming Events

- **January 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Talk by Ambassador Lu Shumin on Canada-Chinese Relations.** Library and Archives Canada, Room 156. See page one.
- **Chinese New Year's Banquet** - to usher in the New Year of the Rat will be held Sunday, February 10 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant, 1137 Ogilvie Road. A notice with further details will be mailed to members in early January. Please stay tuned.
- **March 13, 7:30 p.m. Illustrated talk by Ann Chudleigh on Glorious Chinese Gardens: Imperial and Scholars' Gardens Compared.** Library and Archives Canada, Room 156. Members will remember Ann's most interesting talk one year ago on Chinese Scholars' Gardens. We look forward to the sequel.

Spring Festival Gala of Chinese Music and Dance, National Arts Centre, February 24, 2008

The Ottawa Chinese Community and the Canada China Art Association are proud to present a visual and musical masterpiece. The Spring Festival Gala will feature various art forms, visual spectacle and entertainment that will dazzle all who attend the event. Twenty leading artists and entertainers from many parts of China will join forty local artists to celebrate the first joint annual Spring Festival Gala in the National Capital Region.

The histories of the majestic Han and glorious Tang dynasties will be told through music, dance and visual spectacle. Six different, traditional Chinese instruments will be showcased in ensemble and individually to demonstrate China's rich musical tradition. Magicians, dancers, singers, artists and acrobats make up the full cast of this truly unique show which is designed for the entire family.

Tickets for the Spring Festival Gala are available from the NAC Box Office, Ticketmaster and local Chinese community outlets. Prices range from \$20 to \$80 for regular tickets. Corporate and VIP seating may be arranged through Justin Li at 613-222-1331. For more information, visit the website www.springfestivalgala.ca.

Silk Road Odyssey – *cont'd.*

Chi sees the safari as symbolizing a re-connection between the West and East; a test of our ability to communicate and extend the hand of friendship across multiple boundaries. The genuine warmth she experienced in contact with the people of so many, varied backgrounds engenders faith in the innate sensibilities of man's relationship with man. By developing the safari as a yearly event, she will provide opportunities for others to share in this valued experience. Chi hopes thereby to fulfil a lifelong ambition of building peace and harmony across diverse cultures.

Volunteering at the Treasures From China Exhibition

by Irene K. Ip

If you visited the *Treasures from China* at the Museum of Civilization this past summer, you may have enjoyed chatting about what you saw with one of the youth interpreters who had joined the “regular” volunteers for this exhibition; the role of the volunteers is to interact with visitors and give additional information about the artifacts. Although the Museum had appealed to students with a Chinese heritage to form this youth contingent, one student with French-Canadian and Haitian roots applied, as a result of a suggestion by Lolan Merklinger. Her name is Neuczki Mathurin, and CCFS members will recall that she was one of two winners of a Harry Elton Memorial Bursary, which enabled her to go to Shanghai and Hangzhou in August 2006. This experience, together with studies in Mandarin, led Lolan to believe that Neuczki was well qualified to be an interpreter at the exhibition. For Neuczki, who explains that she was “pricked with an interest of discovering new cultures and languages at an early age,” it was an opportunity to add to what she had already learned about China.

Neuczki was one of 30 young people who participated in a very intense training program that began before the artifacts had even arrived. At the initial meeting, the volunteers learned what their duties would be and which items would be exhibited. The training program continued with two daylong Saturday sessions. They were given historical background from Professor Jean-Guy Daigle of the University of Ottawa; and from a couple who own a pottery business in the area they learned how glazing is done and various colours achieved. This couple provided some pottery pieces for the kit the volunteers would use at the interpreters’ station. The volunteers were also furnished with a manual that, besides giving dates for each artifact, provided more detailed information than was provided in the public displays. The volunteers also had access to additional resources in the Volunteer Section of the Museum.

In an interview, Neuczki explained that her visits to museums in both Shanghai and Hangzhou had subconsciously prepared her to be an interpreter for the *Treasures from China* exhibition. However, she knew little about Chinese archeology or artifacts. During the training program, she learned about the creation of decorative porcelain objects, the history of calligraphy in China and how jade is carved. Now she views the jade items with a more appreciative eye, recognizing them for the real treasures they are. She loved the brightly coloured ceramics but her favourite item was the “red lacquer bowl with dragon and phoenix design” from the Qianlong period. She was not only struck by the skill of the artisan but also by the length of time it must have taken to complete.

The Volunteer Station, where a small display table was installed, was in the section of the exhibition devoted to calligraphy. Neuczki says that, at the station, the volunteers had replicas of various artifacts, a calligraphy set, samples of ground materials used for glazing, clay molds and various porcelain tiles (glazed, unglazed, etc.). Thus, when the volunteer interpreters were discussing a particular topic, they could select a related item and accompanying visual materials to illustrate their remarks. The visitors were encouraged to touch and examine these items.

When she started the training program, Neuczki knew that she would not be in Canada for the duration of the exhibition. She was, therefore, used as a substitute rather than having a set schedule. In all, she did four stints of two hours each before she had to leave for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and three more, on Saturdays, after she returned and before the exhibit ended on October 28.

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Second Appeal for the Harry Elton Memorial Fund

by Marguerite McDonald

Many of you will remember that CCFS conducted a competition for the Harry Elton Memorial Bursaries in the spring of 2006 which resulted in two winning candidates, Nick Wang and Neuczki Mathurin, who consequently participated in an international youth camp in Shanghai and Hangzhou in August 2006. Approximately 37 students from high schools across Ottawa and Gatineau participated in the popular competition.

Members will remember the enthusiastic report by the first two winners given to a meeting of the Society in September 2006. The experience was inspirational for them, an education covering so many facets of life in China including instruction in the Chinese language, learning Chinese songs and making *dim sum*, lessons in *kung fu* and Chinese folk arts, time spent with a Chinese family, and plenty of fun with their international counterparts. The camp is organized by the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and includes tours of major sites in Shanghai and Hangzhou.

The Harry Elton Memorial Fund Committee, which I chair, is charged with fundraising with a view to realizing a second edition of the HEMF Awards, hopefully by next summer. We are seeking contacts in the business community who might be interested in sponsoring students to attend the cultural camp. It might be a company that is currently doing business in China, or one that is considering doing so. If you have contacts who might be helpful, please be in touch and we can provide more information as required.

We will have funds enough to support one candidate for next year's camp and have set a goal to raise \$3,500 to cover at least two participants. Would you like to help yourself to send two or more students to China for an extraordinary immersion in Chinese culture? The Harry Elton Memorial Fund is pleased to receive donations from individuals. You can contact me, Marguerite McDonald, at 819-770-2169 or by e-mail at mm.1812@videotron.ca or contribute directly to the Harry Elton Memorial Fund, c/o The Community Foundation of Ottawa, 75 Albert Street, Suite 301, Ottawa K1P 5E7. Contributions of \$20 or more will be acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes.

Volunteering at the *Treasures from China* Exhibition – cont'd

During each session she interacted with 15-20 people. Most of the visitors who approached her had a link with China—having spent time in the country, having children living there or being collectors of Chinese artifacts. These people were familiar with China's history and had seen many similar artifacts when visiting the country; they were anxious to share those experiences as they related to the current exhibition.

Neuczki says that, although the training program enlarged her knowledge of Chinese history and culture, she realizes how much more there is to learn about this ancient civilization. Her immediate goal, however, is to complete Grade XII at Elmwood School and brainstorm for her future plans. In addition to these academic pursuits, she has a full program of extra-curricular activities, such as playing on the water polo and rugby school teams and being part of the international club and yearbook committee. Once she finishes high school, her current hope is to pursue civil engineering and business studies at university and to somehow find time to also continue her Mandarin and East Asian studies.

“The Golden Mountain: Canada and China Interconnected”

A Colloquium held at the McCord Museum, Montreal, November 1-3

by Lolan Merklinger

I recently attended this Colloquium organized and hosted by the McCord Museum of Canadian History and Concordia University intended to explore the dynamic interactions between China and Canada from a multi-disciplinary perspective. The program under the direction of McCord's Victoria Dickenson included illustrated lectures, films and musical compositions. The interconnectedness of Canada with China was explored through the perspectives of journalism, economics, early Chinese immigration, Canadian missionary endeavours, and cultural projects.

I missed the first evening's roundtable on *Canadian journalists in China*, but took in the second full-day program which was opened by Senator Vivienne Poy, followed by a session on *Norman Bethune* featuring a fascinating talk by Larry Hannant, a recent biographer of Bethune. The next session on *Canadians in China* featured veteran author Alvin Austin's illustrated presentation on three Canadians: missionary George Leslie MacKay, Bishop White of Henan, and missionary archaeologist Dr. James Mellon Menzies. Masters student Jesse Radz's paper on Morris *Two-Gun* Cohen was a valiant attempt to describe the legendary Canadian adviser to Chinese political figures from Sun Yat-sen to Chiang Kai-shek, followed by communications professor Gary Evans (Ottawa/Concordia) on past National Film Board works on China. The next session on *The Chinese in Canada: Redress and Respect* heard from representatives of the Chinese Canadian National Council and featured an engaging University of Toronto doctoral student Josephine Chan's musical composition about Chinese workers and the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Generous funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council made possible an evening presentation of an excerpt from the Opera *Three Cities in the Life of Dr. Norman Bethune* with commentaries by the composer Tim Brady. I learned that the City of Montreal will be celebrating the life of Norman Bethune throughout 2008 which is the anniversary of Bethune's arrival in Montreal and the 70th anniversary of his arrival in China. Organizers envision an international set of events including the participation of the cities of Montreal, Shanghai and Malaga in Spain, with a travelling photographic exhibit from the three countries, books and films on Bethune and his times in their original languages, etc.

Something to look forward to!

The Dalai Lama and the Chinese Flag

Letter to the Editor, *Ottawa Citizen*, October 30, 2007

A statement in your newspaper attributed to the Dalai Lama needs clarification (*Citizen* Oct. 29, A5). He reportedly said "*Manchu, Mongolian, Xinjiang, Tibetan and Han Chinese: those are the five stars you see on the Chinese flag, representing the five nationalities... now, they are all disappearing, except the Han Chinese.*"

The Dalai Lama must have been thinking of the flag adopted by the Chinese Republic in 1912 (after the fall of the Manchu/Qing dynasty). That flag consisted of five horizontal bars of different colours (yellow, red, blue, white and black) with each representing respectively the Han, Manchus, Mongols, Hui, and Tibetans. This flag was superseded in 1928 by the Nationalist Chinese flag of red and blue segments with a white sun.

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Pacific Gateway: Container Port opens at Prince Rupert, BC

At the beginning of the last century when American entrepreneur Charles Melville Hays, a railway builder, stumbled on a little place in the middle of nowhere, he saw something others could not see: a gateway to the Far East. Mr. Hays saw a bustling city of 50,000 that would be the terminus of the Grand Trunk Railway of which he was president. He imagined a wealthy community with fancy hotels. “He wanted to get in on the silk trade between North America and Asia” says Don Krusel, president of the Prince Rupert Port Authority. Unfortunately, he went to England in the spring of 1912 to arrange for financing to complete the national railroad to Prince Rupert. He got the money. There was only one problem. He booked a return trip on the Titanic.

It has taken almost a century to reconstruct the vision of Charles Melville Hays. On Sept. 12, 2007, politicians and business leaders from across the continent arrived in Prince Rupert for the official opening of the Fairview Container Terminal. Previously, Prince Rupert was a bulk port. It only had the ability to fill up the holds of ships with bulk products like grain or pulp, while the world of shipping had long ago moved to containerization. Virtually all major ports along the west coast of North America from San Diego to Vancouver had invested heavily in the equipment necessary to handle container traffic. Prince Rupert was still wearing bellbottoms and wide collared shirts.

Now it was determined that Canada would become a Gateway between Asia and North America and that Prince Rupert would become a major player on the international trade scene. Prince Rupert was at the end of an under-utilized rail line that had north-south and east-west links in the U.S. Its proximity to Asian markets offered a sailing time advantage of roughly two days over all others in the Western Hemisphere. Following a proposal presented by its predecessor, the Harper government announced an *Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative* in October 2006 that committed \$591 million to be invested in various transportation infrastructure and upgrades, later increased to \$1 billion, while the BC provincial government launched its own programs.

The sustained growth of Asia’s economies is creating an economic engine rivalling those of North America and Europe. Canada is well positioned by its strategic geographic location as well as its human and cultural linkages to benefit from the new patterns of trade this change is bringing. The Asia Pacific Gateway strategy represents a comprehensive policy to cope with the rise of China and Asia in general and its implications for Canada's place in the world.

- with contributions from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada and The Globe and Mail

George Sapounidis Stop Press!

- Sapounidis has been selected to be **Olympic Torch Bearer** at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Summer Games.
- Beijing’s *International Talent Monthly* will feature Sapounidis in its December issue.
- In November Sapounidis appeared on China's popular national CCTV3 variety show “Yunin xiang yue.”
- Sapounidis will host a national CBC Television Special called “China-Canada Hand in Hand: A Celebration of the Olympics” – Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 4 pm (ET).

New Year Celebration Variety Show

Time: Saturday, January 5, 2008 - 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Place: CentrepoinTE Theatre, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive

Price: \$25, \$20 and \$15

Ticket contact: Winnie Wang 613-737-4877

Organizer: Federation of Ottawa Chinese Community Organizations

Winnie Wang writes: "This multicultural variety show is to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Ottawa is a city with many ethnic groups represented by a great diversity of language, customs and foods. This variety show will bring you such varieties in the form of dances, songs and costumes from different regions. Dances include Chinese (silk-fan dance, peacock dance, ancient step dance, children's Mongolian dance), Korean, Irish and highland. The unique pipa will be played by a famous band. Canada's top prize winning youth singer Ivy O will bring you 'Memory' from the musical 'Cats.' A spectacular item with 80 dancers will conclude the show. Come and join us for this special family event."

The Dalai Lama and the Chinese Flag – cont'd

The People's Republic of China flag (since 1949) has four small yellow stars which stand for the four classes working together to build a new China: proletariat, peasantry, national (i.e. "patriotic") bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie. The large star represents the Communist Party.

The above information was collaborated by Professor David P. Barrett of McMaster University. There are altogether 56 nationalities in China. The non-Han Chinese groups are not disappearing as they are exempt from the official one-child-per-family policy of the Chinese government.

Lolan W. Merklinger, Gatineau, QC

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