



Canada-China Friendship Society®

Ottawa Chapter

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Chapter President: Lolan Merklinger

E-mail: Lolan.Merklinger@sympatico.ca

Two Views of Canada-China Relations: Extracts of a presentation by Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin to the Canada-China Friendship Society - Ottawa and another by Paul Evans to a Canada-China conference at the University of Alberta, January 10 and 21, 2008

Ambassador Lu Shumin “Canada-China Relations in the Run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games” Over the decades, CCFS has been dedicating itself to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of our two countries. (CCFS has) done a truly remarkable job in serving as a two-way bridge. I’d like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere appreciation to all of you for your hard work, selfless support and genuine friendship... I would like to focus my remarks around three points: First, our relations run deep. Second, much has been achieved but a lot more remains to be done. And third, what is the way ahead for Canada-China relations?

Dr. Norman Bethune and Dashan come instantly to the minds of the Chinese when the word ‘Canada’ or ‘Canadians’ is mentioned. One for his professionalism and selflessness, and the other, a most loved ‘Canadian Chinese’ with an extraordinarily high command of the Chinese language and culture... of course, genuine friendship is forged in the process of decades-long or even centuries-old interaction. The construction of the Pacific Railway in the late 19th century recorded the contribution of tens of thousands of Chinese to the growth and development of Canada as a nation. During World War II, the Chinese and Canadians fought shoulder-to-shoulder and over 500 Canadian soldiers laid down their lives defending Hong Kong.

In 1908, Canada sent one of its first trade officers to Shanghai and in 1961 Canada shipped wheat to China. In October 1970, Canada was among the first group of western countries to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic. Today, China is probably the No.1 source of immigrants for Canada and the 10th largest source of tourists... Chinese is already the third most spoken language in Canada. Moreover, there are six provincial twinning relationships and 32 pairs of sister cities between the two sides. Over the past 37 years, our relations have scored *substantial achievements on so many fronts...*(emphasis added).

From the **trade** deal signed between our two governments in 1972 to the agreement on cooperation in science and technology in early 2007, our two-way trade has grown substantially in breadth and depth and is breaking records every single year... China’s imports from Canada grew at a rate of 45% in the first 10 months of 2007. Today, China is Canada's second largest trading partner just behind the US, and its fourth largest export market...

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In **education**, China has become the second largest source of foreign students in Canada... there are now over 55,000 Chinese students here, not to mention those in language training programs. The pace will not slow... In **culture**, the *Treasures from China* exhibition last year in Ottawa and the *First Nations* exhibition in China this coming August are important steps in the exchanges between our two national museums. The 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics represent even more opportunities for our interaction and collaboration.

All that being said, our relationship is not short of challenges and much remains to be done to bring forth the full potential for future growth... much more energy and practical work are needed to remove obstacles and create a more open and welcoming market for each other... What we do today will have its impact felt some time down the road...

The way ahead for Canada-China relations

Friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect and mutual benefit are in the highest interest of the two countries and two peoples. The potential for growth in our bilateral relations, trade and beyond, has never been greater... Thirty years ago when the Chinese nation was at a critical juncture, it decided on a strategy of reform and opening up, which has resulted in a booming economy for almost three decades profoundly changing the country's political, economic and social landscape as well as tying the country's future closely with that of the world.

At the CPC's 17th National Congress in Beijing last October, in addition to reiteration of the reform and opening up policy, a strategic direction was written into the congress report, namely, to build a 'harmonious society' and a 'harmonious world'. This sets a defining tone as to where China is heading both domestically and internationally. Domestically, we are committed to building a harmonious and well-off society, with the aim of quadrupling the per capita value of the 2000 GDP by 2020 in a balanced and sustainable way. The ultimate objective is to ensure that the benefits of reform and economic prosperity will be shared by all Chinese. When it comes to relations with the rest of world, China is an ardent advocate of building a harmonious world. It is our belief that diversity is the inborn feature of the world and that different civilizations should co-exist in peace and enjoy equal opportunity to progress in an environment featuring tolerance, mutual respect, equality, expanding consensus and common development.

In the specific context of China-Canada relations, in line with the above mentioned principles and ideas, I personally consider the following four areas as important and deserving of more input if we want to see this relationship strong and fruitful. *First, understanding the strategic significance of the China-Canada relationship.* We must realize that for China and Canada, two major Pacific Rim countries, our relationship is a strategic priority. Aside from differences on some of the issues, we see our interests converging on issues like climate change, infectious diseases, illegal migration and cross-border crimes... To expand our bilateral relations, we need to have the political will and the vision...

Second, tapping into economic complementarities and expanding trade and economic links. Great potential exists and both sides have a lot to offer to the other. The magnitude of the Chinese market is nothing short of amazing, with 30 million migrating to the cities and another 30 million joining the ranks of the middle class every year. China is now in its 11th five-year Development Program, in which economic efficiency and technological innovation are placed at centre stage. Canada, on the other hand, aside from its rich energy and other resources, is home to many cutting-edge technologies, which are most valuable for China as it endeavours to raise

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Coming Events

- **April 15, 7:30 p.m.** Showing of the documentary film “**They Chose China**” by Chinese Canadian film director **Wang Shuibo** with introductory comments by **Gilliane Lapointe** at St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 326 MacKay Street. Enter from the parking lot entrance. About American POWs captured during the Korean War who opted to stay in China rather than return home.
- **April 26, 7:30 p.m. 6th Annual Gala Concert at the Canadian Museum of Civilization** marking the start of **Asian Heritage Month** sponsored by the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Committee. Tickets including a sampling of Asian foods \$20 from Mary Lee (613-828-6203) or the Museum. A calendar of events for the entire month is available at www.ottawaheritagemonth.net.
- **May 29, 7:30 p.m.** Illustrated talk by **Professor Gary Evans on From here to there: The China Optic in National Film Board Films.** Library and Archives Canada, Room 156. Since its founding on 1939, the National Film Board of Canada has made dozens of films about China. These films reflect both Canadian and Chinese ideas about the monumental changes that China has experienced over these years. Prof. Evans will show clips from these films and lead a discussion about their significance at home and abroad. A \$5 charge applies for non-members.

Spring Festival Gala of Chinese Music and Dance – a great sold-out success!

A visual and musical masterpiece indeed! It has been described as the best show of outstanding talent from China ever staged in the National Capital Region held at the National Arts Centre on February 24, 2008. Leading artists from the China Broadcasting Performing Arts Troupe combined with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and Chinese Canadian dancers to produce a wonderful performance showcasing the diversity of Chinese culture.

It is difficult to choose a few numbers that adequately characterize the entire show. Ms. Jiang Kemei must be mentioned, the virtuoso of Chinese string instruments, who played two beautiful numbers on her 2-string *huqin* plus an encore at a quickening pace that kept the OSO on their toes. The star magician, Ms. Yang Lulu, who pulled umbrella after umbrella from her tiny shoulders along with numerous brightly coloured butterflies. Yi Yongren who played an amazing reed instrument, called a *sheng*, consisting of vertical bamboo pipes, and other performers playing ensemble on traditional instruments. Imagine the Guinness World Record holding *hula* artist, Ms. Jin Linlin, twirling more than 100 hula hoops at one time around her body!

A reception was held in *Le Salon* in advance of the performance hosted by Ambassador Lu Shumin attended by former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Mme. Aline Chrétien, Mayor Larry O'Brien, Senator Mac Harb and other well-known Ottawa figures. We hope the Canada-China Art Association, principal organizer of this elegant event, will be successful in its goal of staging another show next year.

Harry Elton Memorial Fund: 2008 Competition

The Harry Elton Memorial Fund has launched its second competition to enable two more high school students from the National Capital Region to attend the International Youth Interactive Summer Camp in Shanghai and Suzhou organized by the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in August 2008. Two bursaries will be awarded covering all travel and accommodation expenses and fees. The competition will be conducted as in 2006 by a committee of CCFS-Ottawa. Members serving on the committee include Lolan Merklinger, Marguerite McDonald, James Steele, Gilliane Lapointe and John Hilliker. Application forms and all the necessary information are available on line at www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa. The deadline for the receipt of applications is midnight on Monday, April 21, 2008.

Special thanks are due to all who made contributions to the Harry Elton Memorial Fund to make this program possible.

CCFS-Ottawa celebrates the Year of the Rat

by Irene K. Ip

One hundred and forty-three friends of China braved the bitter winter weather on February 10 to celebrate the start of the Year of the Rat at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant. In contrast with the hostile conditions outside, two *gu-zhen* players, Vicky Ye and Sandy Ip, provided gentle background music as all found their places at the banquet.

CCFS President Lolan Merklinger introduced the special guests, Ambassador Lu Shumin; Senator Mac Harb; Mr. Pierre Poilievre, MP; Ambassador Arthur Menzies; Mr. Craig Hunter, President of the Canadian International Council, National Capital Branch; Ms. Elizabeth Yeh, Publisher of Asia Network Canada; Mr. Joseph da Sylva, Gatineau City Council; and Mr. Alykhan Velshi, Director of Communications for the Hon. Jason Kenney. Ambassador Lu, Senator Harb, Councillor da Sylva and Mr. Poilievre each addressed the assembled guests while James Steele read greetings from the Ottawa Mayor.

Tsin Van, a founding member of the Society, as in previous years explained the origin of the 12-year lunar cycle and the selection of animals by which the years were named with a focus on the characteristics of people born in the years of the rat. The rat guests were identified and presented with a gift.

Musicians Vicky Ye and Sandy Ip provided additional melodic intervals while guitar-playing singers Dominic D'Arcy and Georges Saponides entertained with energetic lyrics, including Chinese folk songs. Some courageous guests did some impromptu karaoke. Edwin and Mary Lee drew names for many draw prizes which had been generously donated by the Chinese Embassy (which also provided wine for the banquet), Canada Post (which also gave table favours), the McGarry Family, the Mandarin Ogilvie and Lolan Merklinger.

Satisfied by an excellent 10-course meal prepared by the staff of the Mandarin Ogilvie and entertained by such diverse performers, the guests left the restaurant to face the challenges of an Ottawa winter more cheerfully than when they came.

Welcome to new Members. A warm welcome is extended to new members Eva Hammond and Beryl Phillips and to returned member Nyuk Luna Yap.

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energy intensity by 20% and cut emissions of major pollutants by 10% by 2010. Given the complementarities of our two economies, Canada could have a place in the top 10 of China's global trading partners.

Third, enhancing closer exchanges and dialogue at various levels, especially at the top. Many of the biased opinions appearing in the Canadian media or held by individuals are a result of insufficient knowledge about China. We believe dialogue is the best solution to narrow differences and increase mutual understanding. Over the years, a wide segment of people from both the public and private sectors of our two countries have maintained regular visits and interaction. Our heads of government as well as parliamentarians have met on various occasions and exchanged views on many issues of common interest. These contacts have helped to nurture trust and understanding at every level, leading to fruitful partnerships and a general atmosphere of trust.

Fourth, properly handling differences and accommodating each other's interest. We don't always see eye to eye on everything. It is natural. China and Canada are different in history, culture and social systems, but such differences should not become obstacles to forwarding our relations. Instead, we should engage in a spirit of mutual respect and benefit, and work to enlarge our shared interests...

Conclusion

There is no reason why China and Canada should not truly engage as strategic partners. We have a broad basis for cooperation and enjoy enormous shared interests. History tells that it is the economy and national interests, rather than ideologies, that underpin the cooperation between our two countries. As the process of globalization becomes irreversible and our two economies get more intertwined, we are going to see China and Canada so tightly knit together that a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship will be our only alternative.

Paul Evans “Responding to Global China: getting the balance right”*

The (current) political context is a palpable shift in the tone and temperature of the bilateral relationship under the Harper government in a direction that can be described as ‘cool politics, warm economics.’ This shift has not been articulated in a major speech or policy statement but rather has been signaled in occasional public statements by the Prime Minister, the known views of some around him, and some incremental policy adjustments related to Taiwan and Tibet... The social context is a growing public anxiety about China on a panoply of issues including human rights, democracy, economic competition, product safety, climate change, foreign policy in the developing world, and military modernization...

Origins of Engagement

The decision of the Trudeau government to recognize China followed two decades of divisive debate about how to respond to Communist China in parliament, inside the Department of

* Excerpts only are printed here. The full paper was presented in a debate with Bruce Gilley of Queen's University. Both their papers will be published in *Canadian Foreign Policy* in April 2008. Paul Evans is Co-CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada on secondment from the University of British Columbia where he is appointed at the Institute of Asian Research and the Liu Institute for Global Issues.

External Affairs, in the press, and in the Canadian public. Between 1949 and 1970 China generated more discussion in parliament than any other country save for the United States...

For the vast majority of Canadians the issue at stake was not how to promote human rights and political reform in China. Rather, the immediate issues were the basic diplomatic problems of recognition and China's representation in the United Nations... Pierre Trudeau made the case for recognition on the pragmatic grounds that China existed, that it should be brought into the world community, and that this likely would reduce tensions between China and its neighbours and with the US, and would promote Canadian commercial interests... Even if Canadian decision makers had more knowledge of the dark happenings in China including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, as presumably more conservatively-minded Americans did a few years later, the case for recognition and the terms of *the actual agreement would not have differed at all* (emphasis added).

Consensus

By the act of recognition in 1970 and especially the visit of 1973, the Trudeau government set the course and tone in the Canadian approach to China that, with one interlude, held sway for 36 years... the tone in the relationship was set at the very highest levels of government led by the Prime Minister and the federal Cabinet. Building relations with China were a priority and at the centre of Canada's activities across the Pacific... Expanded engagement demanded the development of relations and contacts at as many levels as possible... Officials pursued several objectives simultaneously. These initially focused on building bilateral diplomatic ties and deepening commercial connections. They later included the promotion of human rights and good governance within China and cooperation with China on a range of regional and global issues... Promotion of human rights and good governance were significant parts of the bilateral agenda by the late 1980s... The debate about Team Canada in China, for example, pitted human rights activists against a business community intent on commercial interests.

Global China and Canada

The high watermark of the approach may have been reached in 1998 when then Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji declared during a Team Canada visit that "Canada is our best friend in the whole world." Probably even more significant was the October 2005 declaration by Paul Martin and Hu Jintao of the "strategic partnership" between the two countries. The term was decided upon hurriedly but captured the enthusiasm for moving the relationship to a higher level that moved well beyond engagement and acknowledged a series of common interests in addressing several bilateral and international issues... (Meanwhile) China had emerged as the shop floor of the world by crafting a production system that fuses high-end technology with low-wage, labour-intensive activity, cut-throat domestic competition, a reliable, controlled, and capable industrial workforce, utilization of huge sums of foreign investment and technology, and the new appetites of a billion domestic consumers... China and Canada are not just major trading partners, they are becoming more economically integrated than could have been imagined even a decade ago. The Western Canadian transportation system, for example, is being revamped to expedite that integration...

Surveys indicate that Canadians are aware of these dramatic changes. China is no longer 'out there'; it is 'here' as a part of daily life for most Canadians... With the rise of Chinese influence and power we are on the verge of an era in which China may not just aspire to be a responsible stakeholder in the international system... It may be an uncomfortable form of cultural relativism born of new power configurations to argue that our future may be built less on universal values

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GLORIOUS CHINESE GARDENS: IMPERIAL AND SCHOLARS' GARDENS COMPARED – *a synopsis of an illustrated talk given to the Society by Ann Chudleigh, March 13, 2008*

Ann Chudleigh, one of our members, followed up on her October 2006 presentation on Chinese Scholars' Gardens with a new talk comparing the gardens of the emperors with private scholars' gardens. Ann took the slides for the talk on visits to Suzhou, Beijing and Chengde in April 2006.

The **Imperial Summer Villa at Chengde**, some 255 km north east of Beijing, was also known as the Fleeing-the-Heat Mountain Villa. The Qing court moved here most years for several months; not only was it cooler but the atmosphere was relaxed, a pleasant change from the hectic, regimented life of the Forbidden City. The site was also half way between the Qing capital and the Manchus' favourite hunting grounds at Mulan to the north. Another reason for the location on China's northern frontier was political: given its strategic position, Chengde became a command centre for co-ordinating relations with Mongolia to the north and Tibet to the west.

The complex covers some 560 hectares and comprises 4 distinct areas: the Court, Lakes, Plain and Mountain. Construction took some 86 years beginning in the Kangxi emperor's reign in 1703; it was completed by the Qianlong emperor in 1792. The largest imperial garden-palace complex in China today, it is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ann's slides took us on a tour of the highlights of the Villa, including the throne room and the Hall of Simplicity and Sincerity where in 1793 Lord Macartney may or may not have performed a kowtow to the emperor. In the Lakes area, the Villa's chief attraction, the natural features of the landscape were enhanced by bridges, creeks, winding paths and structures such as halls, studies, pavilions, temples and pagodas. The resulting gardens, characterized by their grandeur of scale, extravagance and luxury, exemplified imperial dignity, wealth and power.

In the Plains area, the emperors held lavish banquets for foreign guests with entertainment provided by musicians, wrestlers, dancers and acrobats. The feasts were designed to demonstrate the power, authority and benevolence of the emperors in order to cultivate the goodwill of the Mongolian princes and Tibetan Buddhist leaders. Here too the emperors reviewed displays of archery and equestrian skills and chose horses before their hunting sorties. Outside the 10 km wall surrounding the Villa property, the emperors constructed 12 temples, eight of which have been restored and opened to the public. The most famous of these is the Potala Temple, a replica of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, then home of the Dalai Lamas. The construction of these magnificent temples showed the emperors' respect for Tibetan Buddhism. The Qianlong emperor was himself a devoted practitioner, as evidence the Temple of Happiness and Longevity on Mt. Sumeru built as a residence for the 1780 visit of the Third Panchen Lama who came to express his good wishes on the emperor's 70th birthday.

At the **Summer Palace in northwest Beijing**, the Qianlong emperor greatly enlarged and embellished an earlier palace into three areas: the imperial court area, including the residences, and the scenic areas in front of Longevity Hill and on its back slope. The Kunming Lake which takes up about three quarters of the park was greatly enlarged by a thousand labourers who used the dredged material to build up the hill. Needless to say, these vast earthworks involved immense sums of money and labour only available to the emperor from the state treasury. Most of the scenic spots were built on the hill or along the lake. These included the Long Corridor, Cixi's marble boat, the lavish Dispelling Clouds Hall, the imposing Tower of Buddhist Incense,

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and a number of rich and elaborate complexes on both slopes of the hill.

The Garden of Harmonious Pleasures was built in 1754, inspired by a garden in Wuxi that the Qianlong emperor had admired on his inspection tours. This garden within a garden is imposing and dignified in a formal way in contrast to the lightness and delicacy of the scholars' gardens.

The **scholars' gardens** aimed, in relatively small urban spaces, to recreate nature with rockeries, ponds and vegetation. The living quarters were then integrated into the natural setting around the ponds and linked with bridges and corridors into a harmonious whole. Ann showed examples of components of scholars' gardens including moongates, reflections, pebble paths, windows, borrowed landscapes and flowers and shrubs in bloom. All these features create scenic spots which serve to slow down the visitor so he or she can savour the simple, elegant beauty of the gardens.

Both types of gardens evolved slowly over centuries and form part of the cultural heritage of China and all mankind, thus making them truly worthy of their UNESCO World Cultural Heritage designation.

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than shared ones. It is to our benefit as well as China's that Canada be a part of the evolution of Chinese thinking on what that new world order will look like.

In this charged context, private institutions and active individuals will develop ideas and push connections to the best of their abilities. But Canadian officials will have a special responsibility to continue to build constructive relations with their counterparts and conduct state-to-state relations with a combination of pragmatism, prudence and balance.

2008 Executive Committee Members

- **President – Lolan Wang Merklinger**
(819) 777-8434
- **Vice-President – Gilliane Lapointe**
(819) 842-9400
- **Secretary – James Steele**
(613) 746-6261
- **Treasurer – Shiyou Li**
(613) 694-2459
- **Membership Secretary – Huixin Yang**
(613) 692-5488
- **Program Co-ordinator – John Hilliker**
(613) 733-6721
- **Banquet and Reception Co-ordinator Mary Lee** – (613) 234-9513
- **Associate Banquet Coordinator Ramona MacFarlane** – (613) 741-7703
- **Chinese Community Liaison Yong-Zhi Wang** – (613) 228-0437

Note: Gilliane Lapointe is the new Vice-President replacing Jeffrey de Fourestier who stepped down from the position on January 10, 2008.

For Membership information, see our website: www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa.

Webmaster: Steve Hagopian
Newsletter Editor: Kenneth Merklinger