

Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa
Annual General Meeting, November 25, 2010
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past twelve months have been a significant year for Canada-China relations and for friends of China. After four years in power, our Prime Minister made his first visit to China, followed by a series of ministerial visits to China, the visit of President Hu Jintao to Canada and the signing of a multitude of agreements between the two countries. Also the two countries celebrated the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The CCFS-Ottawa participated actively in the celebrations of this historic event during the month of October.

In the Society itself, the past year saw a change in its leadership as I took over as President. Of the 11 members of the executive committee, 8 were experienced members and 3 were new members. We continued the orientation of recent years: focusing on inviting expert speakers on various issues, with the objective of fostering understanding and friendship between the Canadian and Chinese peoples. China's economy has continued to grow at a fast pace, and our events have aimed to help us know better China's past and understand its recent achievements and challenges and how it is dealing with them. A list of our public events is included at the end of the report.

I am pleased to report on some of the business aspects of CCFS-Ottawa during the past year:

Our Membership: remains stable at 135 paid members. The new membership coordinator, Sadie Yang, has updated the membership list and has been making our system for accepting new memberships and seeking renewals more efficient.

Our finances show a comfortable balance, reflecting careful spending, support from memberships, revenue from the Chinese New Year's banquet, and donations.

Executive Committee: Eight executive committee meetings were held during the year in rent-free premises.

Newsletters & website: Newsletters were issued in January and April 2010 under the editorship of Peter Larson and with the assistance of Jordan Birenbaum. Notices were issued for all the Society's events and for other events which might be of interest to our members. The chapter's website www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa was updated and revised by Lolan Merklinger.

Chinese Embassy: We have appreciated our cordial relationship with the Chinese Embassy. The Embassy has continued its support to CCFS-Ottawa through attendance by its staff at our events, the provision of information materials at events, and the donation of generous doorprizes and wine for our New Year's banquet.

Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations: Our Society has been represented on the Federation Board by Gilliane Lapointe, Lolan Merklinger, Jim Steele and myself. Four Ottawa members represented our chapter at the November 2010 Friendship Forum in Nanchang and tour of Jiangxi Province and one member participated in the tour of Shanghai and Jiangsu Province, hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

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For the coming year, we have already planned a lineup of interesting speakers and the traditional Chinese New Year's banquet. I hope that we will continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our membership system. I will propose that the chapter adopt a clear and transparent process for choosing participants for tours to China, the next one scheduled for 2012. Also we are designing a trilingual letterhead.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the executive committee for their strong commitment and great efforts to carry out their tasks as volunteers. They also attend conferences and other events, and are constantly advocates for the Society. I would like to give a special thanks to Lolan Merklinger who has remained on our executive as immediate past president and has continued to take on tasks, be an ambassador for the Society and give me support as the new president. Lastly I thank our members who have attended our events and helped out in other ways to support the Society's work. Your feedback and comments are always welcome.

Lorraine Farkas

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CCFS-Ottawa Public Events During 2010

November 25: AGM at Library & Archives; illustrated presentation by Dr. Peter Rist on *Film Making in China Since the 1980s*.

October: Co-sponsor of Canada-China Film Festival, featuring four evenings of Canadian and Chinese films, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Canada-China diplomatic relations.

September 30: Illustrated presentation by ceramicist and archaeologist Ron Whate on *The Untold Story of Canada-China Trade 200 Years Ago*.

June 17: Illustrated talk by John Higginbotham from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on *Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative: Building Bridges of Transportation and Trade between Canada and China*.

May 17: Presentation by Paul Evans, University of British Columbia, on *Where in the World is Global China?*

April 29: Presentation by Nailin Bu, Queen's University, on *The Path of China's Economic Development and Success Factors of Western Businesses in China: Looking Forward into the Next Few Decades*.

March 18: Talk by Isaac Goodine, formerly of the World Bank, on *Partners in Development: China, Canada and the World Bank*.

February 8: CCFS's Year of the Tiger New Year's banquet attended by Ambassador Lan Lijun, the Honourable Sheila Copps, Mayor Larry O'Brien, Senator Jim Munson, other distinguished guests, members and friends at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant; musical entertainment, doorprizes, and a ten-course banquet with 170 attendees.

January 21: Illustrated presentation by Phil Calvert, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, on *Prime Minister Harper's Recent Trip to China and the Canada-China Relationship*.