



Canada-China Friendship Society®

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

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

2010 – No. 1
ISSN 1496-6816

January 2010 Newsletter

<http://www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa/>

In this Issue:

- ⇒ 60th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China
- ⇒ Editorial Canada and China
- ⇒ Chinese Embassy
 - Farewell Counsellor Zhao
- ⇒ China's Energy Challenges
- ⇒ Tai Ki Quan (aka "Tai Chi")
- ⇒ CCFS-Ottawa Executive Elections
 - The New Executive
 - Reflections by Past President Lolan Merklinger
- ⇒ Members' Corner
 - Tsin Van
- ⇒ Letters from China
 - Andrée Chenard
 - Sun Ping

China Faces its Energy Challenges



Rizhao, a coastal city of nearly three million in northern China, was recognized by the United Nations as one of the world's most habitable cities in 2009. 99 percent of households use solar water heaters, and most traffic signals, street and park lights are powered by photovoltaic (PV) solar cells. In total, the city has over a half-million square meters of solar water heating panels.

BY DR. LOLAN MERKLINGER

Promoting energy conservation is a "basic principle" of China's energy policy according to Professor Christian Constantin.

A specialist on the Chinese state and its policy-making process, Professor Constantin teaches at the University of Ottawa's Graduate School of International and Public Affairs.

At a CCFS-Ottawa seminar in November, Professor Constantin told approximately 50 members and guests that the key prin-

ciples of China's energy policy are:

- to quadruple the GDP,
- promote scientific development of energy,
- promote energy conservation as a 'basic policy',
- improve coal use efficiency,
- ensure oil supplies from domestic and foreign sources,
- move away from coal use,
- develop renewable energy sources, and
- develop energy efficiency.

Dr. Constantin referred to China's Renew-

Continued on page 3

Acknowledgements:

Editor: Peter Larson
editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com

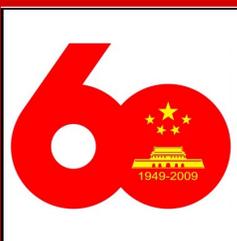
Acting CCFS-Ottawa President:
Lorraine Farkas

Layout: Jordan Birenbaum

Feature

60th Anniversary of the
People's Republic of China

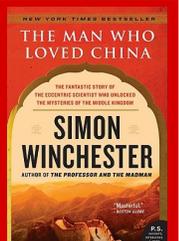
Page 7



Book Review

Simon Winchester's
The Man Who Loved China

Review by Peter Larson
Page 7



Canada's Back!!



Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, meets Chinese President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to China did not capture the world's attention, much less imagination. But its immediate deliverables – Approved Destination Status for Chinese tourists to Canada and the lifting of a ban on Canadian pork products – are welcome developments after 4 years of frigid relations between our two countries.

As commentator Paul Evans, director of the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia noted, “The real significance is that it happened at all and without serious disaster. It closed the chapter on “cool politics, warm economics” and re-opened the engagement strategy of previous Canadian governments.”

With Harper's policy reversal, Canada is now back on the track that Jean Chretien had initiated and which Paul Martin aspired to push forward when he and President Hu Jintao proclaimed a “strategic partnership” in 2005: The CCFS-Ottawa welcomes this development. ♦

Some Reflections on Four Years as President of the CCFS-Ottawa (2005-2009)

BY LOLAN MERKLINGER

Most of my tenure (March 2005 to November 2009) as president of the Ottawa chapter overlapped with my being president of the Federation of Canada China Friendship Association.

At the start, both levels inherited some organizational problems. For CCFS-Ottawa there were some urgent administrative projects. Registering a legal trademark of our Society's name and logo, bringing about of a new Constitution (amending that of 1982), and launching a chapter website - all three accomplished in 2006 - helped to strengthen the Society. The fifteen newsletters released under editors Ken Merklinger and Peter Larson, and webmaster Steve Hagopian's efforts provided useful dissemination vehicles for the organization. An expanded executive committee functioning with greater transparency now welcomes and encourages members' input on program activities.

CCFS-Ottawa's 30th anniversary was celebrated at its 2006 Chinese New Year banquet attended by then Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin and CCFS's first president Dr. Peter Larson and his wife, both founding members'. The diversity of interests that Canadians exhibit toward China were demonstrated by the 34 different guest speaker presentations at our events since spring 2005 and held in prestigious cost-free venues.

We also received a good number of PRC delegations from across China and helped arrange their Canadian

visit programs. This was very useful in raising the Society's in-China profile. Ottawa's delegates also contributed in major ways to the Chinese Association-organized friendship meetings in China. I had the pleasure of leading two such delegations, in 2005 and 2006, at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

Through our executive we have built good co-operation with Chinese community organizations such as when our members actively participated in the 2007 Sichuan earthquake relief effort. We have fostered cordial relations with the Chinese Embassy and the Chinese ambassadorial presence at our New Year banquets has enhanced the appeal of this annual event. Meanwhile, the broader Canada China relations context has changed in ways since 2005 that bode well for the activities of the Society. We have gone from a hesitant government disposition to the People's Republic of China to a renewed and reinvigorated mutual relationship at the government levels. These signs cannot but augur well for CCFS-Ottawa's work of promoting friendship between the peoples of Canada and China and better understanding of Chinese society and culture.

I extend heartfelt thanks to all CCFS (Ottawa) members and to its executive committee for their steadfast support of me toward attaining our goal during my tenure. ♦

CCFS-Ottawa Elects New Executive



Gilliane Lapointe thanks Lolan Merklinger for her leadership and commitment during almost five years as President

A new CCFS executive was elected at the Society's Annual General Meeting on November 26th, 2009.

The annual reports by Treasurer Shiyou Li and outgoing President Lolan Merklinger, were followed by the election of officers to the executive committee, presided over by election chair Elayne van Snellenberg.

The new executive has two new faces, André Laliberté, and Sadie Xinxin Yang. They replace John Hilliker and Andrée Chenard who stepped down. At the close of the business meeting, Vice-president

Gilliane Lapointe thanked Lolan Merklinger for her strong leadership and dedication as president for the last four years and eight months.

The business meeting was followed by the screening of a CCTV English version documentary film *A retrospective of Chinese National Day celebrations over 60 years*.

There were over 50 members and guests, including First Secretary (Cultural) Madame Zhang Haiyun and a number of other observers from the Chinese Embassy. ♦

Executive line-up for 2010

Under the CCFS-Ottawa constitution, the members elect the executive at the Annual General Meeting and the newly elected executive decides how to allocate responsibilities amongst its members. At its first meeting on December 5, the new executive decided the various members' responsibilities as listed. The new Acting President, Lorraine Farkas, joined the executive in 2008 and was a key organizer of the successful New Year's Banquet last February. She was a founding member of the Ottawa Chapter in 1976. ♦

Acting President	Lorraine Farkas
Vice President	Gilliane Lapointe
Treasurer	Shiyou Li
Secretary	James Steele
Membership Coordinator	Huixin Yang
Program Coordinator	André Laliberté
Program Associate	Jordan Birenbaum
Chinese Community Liaison	Yongzhi Wang
Banquet and Reception Coordinator	Mary Lee
Associate Banquet and Events Coordinator	Sadie Xinxin Yang
Immediate Past President	Lolan W. Merklinger

ENERGY POLICY

China Faces its Energy Challenges

BY DR. LOLAN MERKLINGER

Continued from page 1

able Energy Law, adopted in 2005. One of its goals is for China to become a world leader in solar energy use.

He noted that 70% of China's electricity is currently derived from coal, and that oil, gas, hydro, nuclear and renewables contribute the remainder of China's electricity; with its rural

countryside using largely biomass. As China's oil production is stable, its consumption is growing, leading to a major effort by China to acquire oilfields in other countries.

An overall energy-climate challenge lies in the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Dr. Constantin noted in passing, that while not aimed at this, China's one-child policy has had the effect of containing the growth of per capita emissions.

In terms of opportunities and chal-

lenges for Canada, Professor Constantin noted that Canada remains reluctant with respect to Chinese investment in our oil and gas sector.

Following the presentation, Professor Constantin fielded a great many questions from the attentive audience which included university students and faculty, representatives from the Chinese Embassy's offices of cultural affairs and the defence attaché. Dr. James Steele extended thanks on behalf of the highly appreciative audience. ♦

ACTIVITIES

CCFS gets the Groove!!

BY GILLIANE LAPOINTE

CCFS inaugurated its 2009-2010 year of activities on September 17 with a fascinating presentation of Tai Ji Quan (also known as "Tai Chi") by Loic Gouadec. Mr. Gouadec has been practicing Tai Ji Quan for almost thirty years and teaching it at the Ot-

tawa School of Dance for eight years.

After a short introduction to the history of Chinese martial arts, Mr. Gouadec explained how Tai Ji Quan (which translates as "supreme ultimate fist") evolved centuries ago and is rooted in fundamental principles of Chinese medicine and philosophy.

The practice of Tai Ji Quan, according to Mr. Gouadec, helps achieve the right balance of negative and positive energies (Yin and Yang) and, in so doing, brings about a state of mental calm, clarity and relaxation which is propitious to good health.

Mr. Gouadec demonstrated several movements first as slow exercises and later at a faster pace. He also gave a spectacular demonstration of movements with swords as well as a fan.

Finally, he encouraged members of the audience to follow him in practicing what is known as the short series of Yang movements. It was a lot of fun to see the majority of the audience (see photo) get up and try their first (for most people) Tai Ji Quan lesson. The presentation was a big success and we have heard that some of the people present that evening have since begun attending regular Tai Ji Quan classes. ♦



Legend for photo: Mr. Loic Gouadec (centre) leads a lively Tai Ji Quan lesson at a recent CCFS meeting

LETTERS FROM CHINA



Left to Right: Sun Ping, Student; Lorraine Farkas, Acting President, CCFS-Ottawa; Professor Feng Zhi, Professor of English at Qufu Normal University (and sister of CCFS-Ottawa member Timao Li).

In this issue, we have two letters from China.

The first is an exchange of letters between newsletter editor Peter Larson and Sun Ping, a 21 year old Chinese student at Qufu Normal University. Peter and his wife Lorraine (now acting CCFS (Ottawa) president, met Sun Ping while on a CCFS tour to China in November 2008. He asked her to submit an article on how her university was celebrating China's 60th anniversary. The exchange between the two of them was interesting.

The second is a letter to CCFS (Ottawa) members from Andree Chenard who was a member of our executive last year. She is now studying in China.

Ottawa, October 28, 2009

Dear Sun Ping,

Thanks for your news about the 60th anniversary activities in China. Your photos of your friends singing songs of celebration for motherland were impressive. But I am not sure I can use them in the CCFS newsletter.

It has to do with how China is viewed in the western press. In Canada, many people see China as a "totalitarian, government-run" country. People here think that Chinese just do what they are told, and don't have their own minds.

As a result, I am reluctant to show those pictures of the singing group. Because it will reinforce the Canadian view that Chinese do everything in groups under the direction of some kind of political leader. Do you understand??

I would like your reaction on this comment.

Your friend,

Peter

Qufu Normal University, China, November, 2009

Hi Uncle Peter,

I know you are right; a lot of foreigners regard China as a totalitarian country, and regard most of the Chinese as people who lack freedom and a spirit of independence. But I don't think so. Maybe I can analyze it from a different angle.

China has a history of more than 5,000 years, in which there were many feudal dynasties. All of these dynasties were authoritarian and people had few rights. This had a great effect on Chinese thought and still affects our thinking today.

But we now have a constitution and everyone can use the laws to protect his or her own right. Despite the criticism from the international community, China is making progress. We are making democratic reforms and all the people of China are feeling much better than before.

We have our own path. We call it "The road to socialism with Chinese characteristics". I think the system has some controversial aspects, but China has had rapid development these recent years, that's the reality, and everyone agrees that our life is much more comfortable than before.

China is a country that values unity, while western countries value individuality. I think these different core values between China and other countries also contribute to misunderstanding and some criticism. We have different definitions of freedom and democracy, but in the end, I believe that we all have the same goal—to make our life better, right?

Every race has its own characteristics. We Chinese, we have our own values, spirits and traditions. So I think it is not suitable to analyze China using western values and cultures, because they are different.

We are making progress, that's the truth. We can be serious, but for the most part, the social environment in China is peaceful and relaxing. Everyone has their own life and their own definition of society. We can express our ideas on the websites, blogs or the newspapers. We can do many things we like as long as it is legal.

But that doesn't mean that China is a society without competition. On the contrary, sometimes life here can be stressful. But through stress, we can see the development of China. I don't think it is a bad thing.

And I also have good news to tell you and Lorraine. I have realized my dream--- I came first this year in my faculty, and I won the National Scholarship! I know I still have a long way to go, so I must work on. And I plan to continue to my graduate studies in Beijing.

Hope you and Lorraine have a good time.

Sun Ping

大家好 (Hello everyone),

In early September I left Canada to attend Renmin University in Beijing (called Renda) as a Senior Visiting Scholar, as part of the Canada-China Scholar's Exchange Program. Although my major is History, the China Scholarship Council placed me at the School of Public Administration.

Upon my arrival, my advisor Prof. Wang invited me to attend the opening ceremony for the 2009-2010 academic year. The students and faculty were very welcoming and made me feel included in the program. I was fortunate to meet several very interesting students who I now consider friends.

I have focused my energy on studying Mandarin-Chinese for the first half of the year. So far, thanks to the help of my new friends, I have had ample opportunities to put this study into practice.

One of the highlights of my stay at Renda thus far has been the Mid-Autumn festivities. This is typically a period when students return to their families, but those who stayed in Beijing were generous enough to invite me to celebrate along with them. We exchanged traditional mooncakes and joined hundreds of students in the main square to watch as beautiful red lanterns floated around us.

*Andrée Chenard
Executive Member, CCFS-Ottawa, 2008-2009*

Members' Corner

Every issue will feature a CCFS member. Today, we feature Tsin Van.

Born in semi-feudal China over 92 years ago, Tsin Van has experienced enough of the world to fill several careers.

“Van”, as he is known by his friends, left Shanghai after university for a posting with the Bank of China in faraway Burma. But when Japan invaded Burma, he returned to China to work in the company head office in Chungking.

In November 1944 he accepted an offer to study in the USA at the University of Pennsylvania. From Chungking he made his way to Calcutta, and then on to Bombay. After a short tour of India, Van boarded a freighter for USA, taking 40 days to make the voyage via Indian Ocean and the Atlantic, often in a convoy under warship protection.

Shortly after finishing his studies, he received a call from the Chinese Gov-

ernment Supply Agency in Ottawa inviting him to assist in shipping Canadian second hand war supplies to China.

Van arrived in Ottawa ("a village", he smiles) in 1946 and quickly got to work. The job didn't last too long, but during his first years in Ottawa, he acquired 3 important assets - his wife Betty, good connections in the small



Tsin Van, Honorary Lifetime CCFS -Ottawa member, and wife, Betty.

Chinese community, and a reputation as a talented amateur photographer.

As a foreigner without status just after the end of World War II, jobs were hard to find in Ottawa – even one with an MBA from a prestigious US university. But it was

his talent as a photographer that became his new source of living. Van quickly became one of Ottawa's best known freelance photographers, snapping shots of many important figures, such as Queen Elisabeth, King Hussein of Jordan, Prime Ministers Diefenbaker & Pearson and visiting Chinese PM Zhao Ziyang in 1984.

Van was one of the founding members of the CCFS (Ottawa Branch) when it was established in 1976, and his long standing contacts in the Ottawa Chinese community helped establish that fledgling organisation. During the 1980's, he played a key role in several CCFS trips to China which brought influential Canadians to visit China for the first time. In 1998, he was awarded an *Honorary lifetime membership* in the CCFS.

In 2006, the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Peoples honoured Tsin Van by naming him a *Friendship Ambassador* in a ceremony in Wuhan China. ♦

Chinese Embassy National Day Celebration, September 30th

BY LOLAN MERKLINGER

His Excellency, Ambassador Lan Lijun hosted two Embassy receptions on September 30th to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China: a noon reception for 250 Canadian

government and diplomatic corps guests, and an evening reception for over 300 attendees who were mainly members from the Chinese community in Ottawa and Montreal, and a smaller number of foreign friends.

A good many of CCFS-Ottawa executives and members were spotted at the evening reception. The Embassy grounds were colourfully decorated with splendid

looking red and gold Chinese lanterns hanging from the trees. There were more festive lanterns in the flower-decorated Cultural Wing reception hall. Ambassador Lan's speech referred to the significance of the 60th anniversary to China as well as to Chinese everywhere in the world as well as of the special relationship between Canada and China. Guests

were treated to a sumptuous buffet and a huge birthday cake. ♦

60th Anniversary of PRC celebrated at Ottawa City Hall

BY LOLAN MERKLINGER

Some 300 attendees were celebrating at Ottawa City Hall on September 24 evening to herald the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China as well as the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The event was organized by the Federation of Ottawa Chinese Community Organizations (FOCCO) and

other Chinese community groups. The evening opened with the singing of the national

anthems by this year's National Youth Singing competition winner followed by a welcome by FOCCO president Winnie Wang. Ambassador Lan Lijun gave remarks as did municipal, federal, and provincial officials including Mayor Larry O'Brien, Councillor Diane Holmes, Senator Mac Harb, MPs Paul Dewar, Royal



Galipeau, Gordon O'Connor, and Pierre Poilievre; and Ontario Minister Jim Watson.

The tasty Chinese buffet and the moon cakes were appreciated by all who also enjoyed the performances of Irish dance, male vocal trio, and soprano solo. CCFS-Ottawa was represented at the evening by Gilliane Lapointe, Shiyong Li, Yong-Zhi Wang, Huixin Yang and Lolana Merklinger. ♦

BOOK REVIEW

The Man Who Loved China.

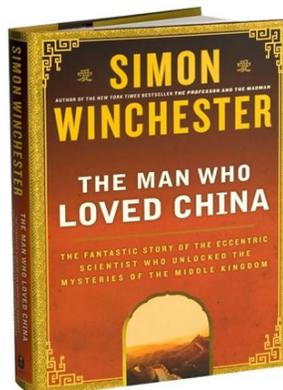
By Simon Winchester.

REVIEWED BY PETER LARSON

In this extraordinary book, best selling author Simon Winchester, ("The Professor and the Madman" and "Kakatoa") brings to life the peculiar story of Dr. Joseph Needham, a brilliant Cambridge scientist who travelled across China and discovered that Chinese inventors had made many technological inventions before they were known in the West.

In 1937, while working as a biochemist at Cambridge University,

Needham fell in love with a visiting Chinese student, with whom he began a lifelong affair. That soon led to a fascination with China itself, and in 1938 he left England to embark on a series of extraordinary expeditions to the farthest frontiers of this ancient empire. Through his travels, Needham found evidence that the west had overlooked many Chinese technological breakthroughs. The Chinese were responsible, he argued in a several volume study of the history of Chinese science, for hundreds



of mankind's most familiar innovations—including printing, the compass, explosives, suspension bridges, even toilet paper—often centuries before the rest of the world. His thrilling and dangerous journeys, vividly told by Winchester, took him across war-torn China to far-flung outposts, consolidating his deep admiration for the Chinese people.

The Man Who Loved China is both a story about China and the story of a remarkable man, recounted by one of the world's great storytellers. ♦

CHINESE EMBASSY

CCFS says “goodbye” to Chinese Cultural Counsellor Zhao Haisheng

Members of the CCFS executive and many other friends gathered last August 29th to say goodbye to Counsellor Zhao Haisheng and his wife Yungiu who were returning to China after 3 interesting years in Ottawa. Counsellor Zhao who was in charge

of the Cultural Office at the Embassy was very popular with the Ottawa community and attended many CCFS events. The goodbye party was held at the home of Yong-Zhi Wang and his wife Joanne.

“Parting is such sweet sorrow” said Haisheng in his remarks to the crowd. “Sweet because we return to see our families, but sad selector. ♦

because we will miss all our Ottawa friends.”



Right to Left: Zhao Yungju, Zhao Haisheng, Li Shiu, and Wang Yong-Zhi

At the same time the CCFS was able to welcome Counselor Lin Difu and his wife Mrs. Zhang Haiyun. For Mr. Lin who will take over the functions of the departing colleagues, this is a return to Canada as he has already served a previous term in Ottawa as Political Coun-

DONATIONS

CCFS-Ottawa acquires a projector: Now THAT’S Friendship!!

The Society wishes to thank Dr. Aying Eng and his wife Dr. W.M. Pan for their generous donation of \$500 for the purchase of a new projector for society events. The donation was made in memory of Ken Merklinger who was CCFS -Ottawa’s newsletter editor for many years. Dr. Eng and Dr Pan reside in Pembroke. Secretary James Steele took charge of researching our needs. This new acquisition, combined with a microphone system that had been acquired earlier, has made our organization self-sufficient in terms of equipments. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of these events will be mailed to members and posted on our website. Our monthly events are free to CCFS-Ottawa members and \$5 admission to non-members.

- **January 21** : *The Prime Minister’s recent visit to China and the Canada-China Relationship*, a presentation by Phil Calvert, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. Press Room/Salle de presse Vidéotron, Gatineau City Hall, 25 Laurier St. Gatineau (Hull sector), 7:30 p.m.
- **February 21**: Chinese New Year Banquet -Year of the Tiger; a ten-course banquet at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant, 1137 Ogilvie Road, Gloucester, Ottawa, 6 p.m.; registration form to be available in the near future; ticket prices are \$35 for CCFS-Ottawa members and \$40 for non-members.
- **March 18**: *Partners in Development: China, Canada and the World Bank Group*, presentation by Isaac Goodine, formerly of the World Bank, Press Room Videotron, Gatineau City Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- **April 29**: *China’s economic path of development in the next few decades*, presentation by Dr. Nailin Bu, School of Business, Queen’s University, Press Room Vidéotron, Gatineau City Hall, 7:30p.m.
- **May 27**: Program to be announced, Press Room Vidéotron, Gatineau City Hall, 7:30p.m.

Note the new venue at the Press Room, Gatineau City Hall (Hull Sector)

Full directions to the venue will be mailed to members with the notice of the meeting.

COMMENTS? FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send your ideas to editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com