



Canada-China Friendship Society®

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

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Chinese New Year's Banquet – In with the Tiger



l to r: Austin Thorne, Dr. Ian Bowmer, Peter Larson, Ginette Munson, Ambassador Lan Lijun, Hon. Sheila Copps, Gilliane Lapointe, Lorraine Farkas, Mayor Larry O'Brien, Counsellor Lin Difu, Senator Jim Munson

The Tiger came roaring in at the Annual CCFS-Ottawa New Year's Banquet on February 21, as over 170 guests from all across Ottawa came together to have fun and renew old acquaintances at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant.

The evening got off to a smooth start with some lovely Chinese zither music played by Zhiqi Ye, followed by a welcoming

address by Acting CCFS-Ottawa President, Lorraine Farkas.

"Canada and China have now had diplomatic relations for 40 years", noted Farkas, "Over all those years, our Society and the other friendship societies in Canada have played a big role in building awareness and understanding in Canada about China. We

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Feature

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Book Reviews

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Ottawa native at Shanghai Expo

"Dashan" to head Canada Pavilion

As the Shanghai World Expo opens in May of this year, Canada's delegation will be led by an Ottawa native - Mark Rowswell. Rowswell (known in China as "Dashan") is perhaps the most famous Western performer in China. He occupies a unique position as a foreigner who has become a bona fide domestic celebrity with an amazing fluency in the Chinese language that even leaves Chinese speakers stunned.

"Expo 2010 provides a valuable opportunity for Canada to advance its foreign and trade policy goals and strengthen economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties with China," said Minister Cannon. "As Commissioner General for Canada's participation at Expo 2010, Mark Rowswell will be our country's official representative, promote Canada to China, and welcome guests to our pavilion." Expo 2010 is expected to be the biggest exposition ever, with more than 230 countries and organizations participating."

The Government of Canada expects between 5 and 5.5 million visitors to the

Canada Pavilion: 30 000 per day. With the assistance of Cirque du Soleil, Canada has created a stunning pavilion that will be the jewel of Expo 2010 and an excellent showcase for Canada's theme "The Living City: inclusive, sustainable, creative."

"The objective is to make the Canada Pavilion the destination of choice at this Expo", noted Minister Cannon. Our participation will also include a spectacular and extensive cultural program that will showcase Canadian artists and performers from a wide range of disciplines. ♦



(l to r) Canada's Consul General in Shanghai, Nadir Patel; Mark Rowswell ("Dashan"); Canada's Foreign Minister, Lawrence Cannon; China's Commissioner General for Shanghai Expo 2010, Hua Junduo

China's premier orchestra performs at NAC Spring Festival Gala

by Lorraine Farkas

Close to 100 talented musicians performing with over 30 different traditional Chinese instruments presented a spectacular symphonic concert at the Chinese Spring Festival Gala. The performance, which took place at the National Arts Centre on March 8,

was the first in Canada of the China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra, which was founded in 1953. The orchestra played mostly Chinese pieces, including the wonderful *Northwest Suite* by well-known contemporary composer Tan Dun. It also played a Mozart *Serenade* and the Strauss *Pizzicato Polka*.

The concert was preceded by a VIP reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy and the Department of Foreign Affairs in celebration of the 40th anni-

versary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Canada and China. A host of interesting speakers, including Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, talked about the long relationship between the two countries. Ward Wisensel, COO of the Canadian Wheat Board, recalled the first wheat sales to the People's Republic of China in the early 1960s. These important sales led the way to the later establishment of diplomatic ties. ♦



The Internet and Censorship in China – an exchange of letters

Our Editor, Peter Larson, continues his correspondence with a young Chinese student

Dear Sun Ping,

I know you are a frequent user of the internet, both for email and for getting information. You may be surprised to know that the western media is full of reports critical of what they claim is extensive censorship of the internet in China.

They claim that Chinese internet users are prevented by the government from accessing many sites which the government does not want people to see. These include sites that talk about such controversial issues as corruption in the government, the June 1989 Tien An Mien incident, China's One Child Policy, the Falun Gong, etc. etc.

I am genuinely puzzled by this. I was able to easily access Canadian, American, and British daily newspapers when I was using internet cafés in China last year. Can you access *The Globe and Mail*, *The New York Times*, and "The BBC" as examples"? Do you feel you have access to the information you need? Or do you feel hampered by excessive censorship?

I would be interested in your response to this.

Cheers,
Peter

Dear Uncle Peter,

How are you getting on recently? And so happy to hear from you again. Thank you for your questions in the last letter.

There are many websites for people to show their opinions about corruption in China. Everyone can make comments on the issue, though we know it is difficult to deal with, we think China is making progress. (...)

I can find the information I need from the internet. There are lots of internet cafés in our school and some students have their own computers. The resources on the internet are abundant, and it is handy for me. Take the BBC as an example, I can access to it from the internet or radio easily. And there are different kinds of newspapers in our library that we can read free of charge.

Of course, there is some information which is prohibited on the internet by our government. However, I think the censorship of the internet is necessary-----as we all know, some web-pages contain harmful information which will have a bad influence on our society. And it is universally acknowledged that every government has its regulations about the internet, though sometimes they are different from each other, it must be helpful to the people, am I right?

I am so sorry that I reply to you so late, and I write so many words to explain those questions, just because in my opinion, they are different, you know. And you can shorten them as you like, uncle Peter.

Best wishes.
Yours sincerely
Sun Ping

Canada, China and World Bank – Partners in Development

Canada, China and the World Bank have been partners in development for nearly 30 years, Mr. Isaac Goodine told about 50 CCFS members and friends at a lecture on Thursday, March 18th.

Mr. Goodine, who is a former employee of the World Bank Group, has extensive experience in China. He showed how Canadian universities and colleges played a key role in

helping China develop its human resource capability following the end of the Cultural Revolution.

Mr. Goodine's presentation was extremely wide ranging and comprehensive and appreciated by many of the audience. As is customary, the event was followed by a reception with tea and refreshments served.♦

A University of Regina project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Peking University and Wuhan University to carry out research and education programs to protect the environment and prevent floods, is one of dozens of cooperative projects between Canadian and Chinese universities.



NEW YEAR'S BANQUET

Continued from page 1

have hosted tours to China, we have organized hundreds of meetings on various topics ranging from Tai Chi to defense policy in China, we have assisted Chinese students in Canada, we have published many newsletters and organized other kinds of activi-

ties.

“However, we feel that as China becomes more important in the world, the work of the Society becomes more important than ever.”

Guests were overwhelmed with mountains of sumptuous food in a 10 course banquet.

CCFS Vice-President Gilliane Lapointe was a very talented master (mistress) of ceremonies, speaking in 3 languages (English, French and Mandarin) who kept the event running on time.

Among the many dignitaries were Chinese Ambassador Lan Lijun and



Eagerly awaiting the banquet...



Zither music from heaven...



Young and old had a great time



Tigers All: born in the year of the Tiger



Lots of door prizes...

NEW YEAR'S BANQUET

His Worship Mayor Larry O'Brien.

Another speaker, former deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, told the audience about her nearly 40 year fascination with China. "My first trip to China was with the Canada-China Friendship Society in Hamilton, way back in 1973. It opened my eyes to

another world, and I have been back to China several times since. I think China and Canada have a lot to learn from each other."

Senator Jim Munson, who introduced the "Year of the Tiger" also spoke about his 7 years in China as a correspondent for CTV news. "My chil-

dren were born in China, he told the audience. I visited 25 of the 27 Chinese provinces", he said, "and I was always well received."

The evening was rounded out by a quiz on Canada-China relations and lots of door prizes. ♦



Calling the meeting to order...



Young and old friends of China...



Lots of new friends...

ABOUT THE CANADA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (CCFS-OTTAWA)

The CCFS-Ottawa, founded in 1976, promotes understanding of China and friendship between our two peoples. We hold monthly meetings open to everyone on various topics. You may show your support and join the Society: \$20 for an individual (\$12 for a student) and \$30 for a family (\$17 for a student family). Please see our web site for further information and membership forms: www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa.

Changes to the Executive: Huixin Yang has stepped down from the membership coordinator position. Thank you Huixin for your five years of service. Also we are sorry that André Laliberté, newly elected last November, has unexpectedly had to withdraw from the executive because of other responsibilities. We are pleased to welcome two new members to the executive: Hailin Yang and Hong Xu who will fill the positions of assistant events coordinators. Sadie Yang has moved into the position of membership coordinator.

We're Back!

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to China last December represents a significant step forward in improving trade, economic and cultural links with one of Canada's most important trading partners.

This was one of the key messages in a presentation to over 70 CCFS members and friends by Mr. Phil Calvert, Director General, North Asia Bureau at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

According to Calvert, this was Harper's first visit to China. The short visit had three main stops – Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The Beijing leg of the tour was mostly focused on political and diplomatic relations. Harper met with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jibao as well as Wu

Bangguo, Chairman of the National People's Congress (or parliament). With these senior Chinese political leaders, the talk was mostly of trade and investment and encouraging cultural links between the two countries. Harper also underlined



Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen, look out over the Shanghai skyline.

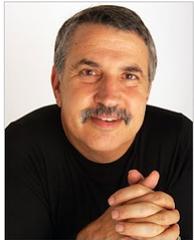
Canada's interest in human rights. In Shanghai, the focus was all business. Shanghai is China's "New York", and Harper attended a business roundtable accompanied by a large Canadian business delegation.

He also visited Canada's pavilion at Shanghai's Expo 2010. At the pavilion, Harper met Ottawa native Mark Rowswell, who has been named Canada's commissioner at the Shanghai Expo.

Finally, Harper's team continued on to Hong Kong, where he met with representatives of the substantial Canadian community, and also penned some economic agreements.

"Although short, the visit was a great success", noted Mr. Calvert. "Among other things, the visit resulted in agreement on the long sought "Approved Destination Status" which will facilitate the arrival of Chinese tourists in Canada, four MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) on various topics including climate change and agreement for the establishment of a new Chinese Consulate General in Montreal. ♦

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT CHINA'S FUTURE...



The following article, excerpted from the New York Times on January 10th, 2010, is by Thomas L. Friedman, celebrated NY Times columnist and the Pulitzer Prize winning author of Lexus and the Olive Tree and From Beirut to Jerusalem.

Who's Sleeping Now?

By Thomas L. Friedman

C. H. Tung, the first Chinese-appointed chief executive of Hong Kong after the handover in 1997, recently offered me a three-sentence summary of China's modern economic history: "China was asleep during the Industrial Revolution. She was just waking during the Informa-

tion Technology Revolution. She intends to participate fully in the Green Revolution."

I'll say. I am more convinced than ever that when historians look back at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, they will say that the most important thing to happen was not the Great Recession, but China's Green Leap Forward. The Beijing leadership clearly understands that the E.T. — Energy Technology — revolution is both a necessity and an opportunity, and they do not intend to miss it.

I've been stunned to learn about the sheer volume of wind, solar, mass transit, nuclear and more efficient coal-burning projects that have sprouted in China in just the last year. Here's an e-mail from Bill Gross,

who runs eSolar, a promising California solar-thermal start-up: On Saturday, in Beijing, said Gross, he announced "the biggest solar-thermal deal ever. It's a 2 gigawatt, \$5 billion

continued on the following page...



China already has the world's longest high-speed rail (HSR) network with over 3,000km (1,800mi.) of service routes. China's high speed trains use a wide range of domestic and imported technologies from Germany, Canada, France, Japan and Sweden.

Who's Sleeping Now? ... continued from the previous page

deal to build plants in China using our California-based technology. China is being even more aggressive than the U.S (...)!"

Yes, climate change is a concern for Beijing, but more immediately China's leaders know that their country is in the midst of the biggest migration of people from the countryside to urban centers in the history of mankind. This is creating a surge in energy demand, which China is determined to meet with cleaner, home-grown sources so that its future economy will be less vulnerable to supply shocks and so it doesn't pollute itself

to death.

In the last year alone, so many new solar panel makers emerged in China that the price of solar power has fallen from roughly 59 cents a kilowatt hour to 16 cents.

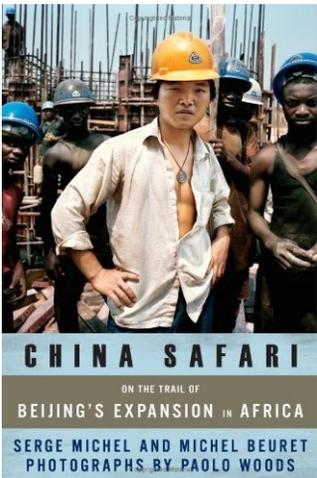
Meanwhile, China last week tested the fastest bullet train in the world — 217 miles per hour — from Wuhan to Guangzhou. "China "has nearly finished the construction of a high-speed rail route from Beijing to Shanghai at a cost of \$23.5 billion. Trains will cover the 700-mile route in just five hours", notes Keith Bradsher of The New York Times. "By comparison, Amtrak trains require at least 18 hours to travel a similar distance from

New York to Chicago."

China is also engaged in the world's most rapid expansion of nuclear power. It is expected to build some 50 new nuclear reactors by 2020; the rest of the world combined might build 15.

"By the end of this decade, China will be dominating global production of the whole range of power equipment," said Andrew Brandler, the C.E.O. of the CLP Group, Hong Kong's largest power utility.

In the process, China is going to make clean power technologies cheaper for itself and everyone else. (...) ♦



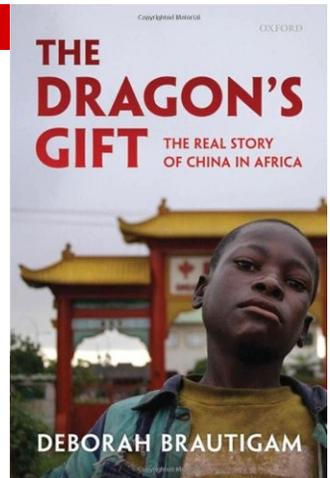
BOOK REVIEWS

The Dragon in Africa: A force for good or evil?

China Safari: On the Trail of Beijing's Expansion in Africa by Serge Michel, Michel Beuret & Michel Paolo, Nation Books, 2009

The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa by Deborah Brautigam, Oxford University Press, 2009

Review by Xinxin Yang



The increasing Chinese engagement in Africa since the late 1990s has generated heated debates in the international development field. Is China a "rogue donor"? Or is China helping Africa pave a way out of protracted poverty?

On one hand, Africa is excited about the new opportunities accompanied with the rapid expansion of trade, investment and liberal lending offered by China. On the other hand, fears are widespread in the west about the social, economic and environmental impacts caused by China's activities. Specifically, China's "non-interference" policy is widely per-

ceived as supporting regimes regardless of their human rights and governance record. Responding to these questions, China has suggested that the traditional donors should be more tolerant and open-minded towards China's approach to development aid.

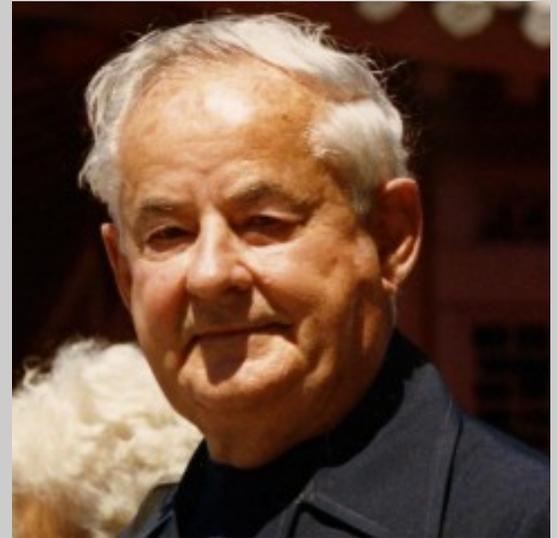
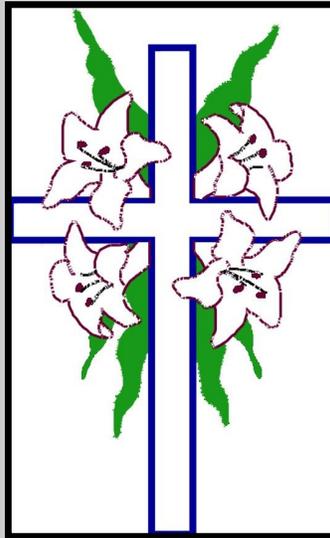
Both *China Safari* and *The Dragon's Gift* adopt a cautious optimism concerning China's role in Africa's development. The former is written by two leading reporters from Europe and one of the world's leading photographers. The latter is authored by Prof. Deborah Brautigam, a long-time observer of Asia and Africa, who has lived and worked in both regions.

Unearthing the extraordinary human stories underlying China's new ventures in Africa, *China Safari* is most successful in its close-up encounters with the characters that expose the nuances of the China-Africa partnership. Concentrating more on historical and comparative analysis, the *Dragon's Gift* successfully corrects much of the misinformation of both critics and defenders of China's role in Africa. Both books are admirable contributions to a subject with broad geopolitical implications and will be of interest to both China's friends and its critics. ♦

IN MEMORIAM



Tsin Van, 1918 – 2010



Arthur Menzies, 1916 – 2010

The Canada China Friendship Society is sad to lose two long standing members.

On April 2, 2010, honorary life member Tsin Van passed away peacefully in his sleep at the Garden Terrace seniors' home in Kanata. In addition to being one of the founding members of CCFS Ottawa, Tsin participated in many CCFS trips to China and was always interested in developing Canada China friendship. He authored *Canada-China Relations, 1971-2005: Photos by Tsin Van*. Tsin's extraordinary life was briefly chronicled in the *Members Corner* article in the November 2009 CCFS Ottawa newsletter. He is survived by his wife Betty, also a long-time member and supporter of the Canada-China Friendship Society.

On March 4, 2010 Arthur Menzies passed away of a sudden heart attack. Mr. Menzies was the son of a Canadian missionary in China who eventually returned to China as Canadian ambassador from 1976-1980. He had been an honorary life member of CCFS-Ottawa and a strong supporter of our association. Many CCFS members attended the service as did Chinese Ambassador Lan Lijun, Jacques Roy, former Canadian ambassador to France, The Honourable James Bartleman, and Toronto author Dr. Alwyn Austin. The tributes evoked the sense that a remarkable Canadian has passed, as has the era of Canadian missionary children born in China or 'mish kids' as they were known.

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.

- **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 17:** *Where in the World is Global China?*, presentation by Professor Paul Evans, Director, Institute of Asian Research, University of British Columbia; the Press Room Vidéotron, Gatineau City Hall, 25 Laurier, Hull/Gatineau; this event is also being presented under the Asian Heritage Month Society-Ottawa program in May; 7:30p.m..

COMMENTS? FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

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