

Canada-China Friendship Society® La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

2011 – No. 1
ISSN 1496-6816

January 2011 Newsletter

www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa/

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Canadian Friendship Delegation Goes To China



Oh Canada!! Jordan Birenbaum, CCFS Ottawa Executive member, promotes Canada China friendship in Nanchang, Jiangxi province, China.

Delegates from CCFS-Ottawa and from other friendship societies across Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, and Oceania visited China in September for a variety of conferences and tours. *Details on pages 6 to 9.*

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40th Anniversary of Canada-China Diplomatic Relations

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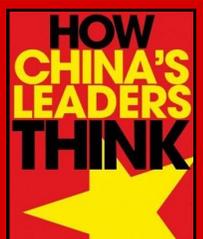
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Canadian air and sea ports aim to become key link between Asia and North America—DFAIT Official



Map of Railways and Infrastructure Upgrades as part of Canada's "Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative"

SEPTEMBER 2010

Canada China trade over 200 years old

Over 200 years ago British and French trading companies brought Chinese goods including porcelain, to Canada, a specialist told a CCFS-Ottawa event in September. Ron Whate, Parks Canada (ret), Ottawa archaeologist and ceramicist, and specialist in Chinese and Japanese pointed to the important collection of Chinese porcelain at Fortress Louisbourg in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. There a decade ago a Parks Canada-supported project was launched in collaboration with Chinese potters from Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, the historic porcelain capital of China, to reproduce the porcelains found in archaeological excavations at Louisbourg. Mr. Whate played a key role in this interesting project. ♦

JUNE 2010

Canada will capitalize on China's economic boom by upgrading our west coast transportation network, John Higginbotham told a CCFS Ottawa audience in June.



John Higginbotham

of Asia.

The Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative, into which the Federal government has invested over \$1 billion, is a joint federal-provincial-private sector project which is improving Canada's air, rail, marine and road transport systems.

Higginbotham, an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, explained that British Columbia's ports and airports are the closest North American transportation hubs to the booming economies

Canada aims to become the main transportation hub between Asia and North America, not only for Canadian, Chinese and other Asian producers but also for US producers looking for a fast and economical route, concluded Mr. Higginbotham. ♦



Chinese porcelain was imported to Fortress Louisberg in the 18th century



MAY 2010

China is closer than we think

ABRIDGED FROM THE OTTAWA CITIZEN
BY JENNIFER CAMPBELL

"Where in the world is China?" China scholar Paul Evans posed that question at Monday's meeting of the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa. Evans is director of the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia's Liu Institute for Global Issues.

Evans said that today, policy makers around the world have to be concerned with what Beijing will do next. "What do the Chinese think about the United Nations? What do the Chinese think about human security and conflict in Darfur, Burma and Thailand today? What does China think about the applica-



Paul Evans

tion of concepts such as human rights and democracy in some of the ways we're familiar with in the West?"

Evans said Canada has to understand that the values we hold as universal are not necessarily also seen as universal by China.

"The assumption was that in due course, if we played our cards right, China would come around," Evans said. "I'm not sure that's the outcome. There will be experimentation with human rights and social justice in China, with democratic forms, but what's likely to emerge isn't identical to what we know.

"The challenge now of understanding China is more important than ever, but it's also more difficult. China is no longer a rule taker, it's become a rule maker." ♦

decades away in her view), the changing composition of China's exports, a booming growth of young professionals, China's burgeoning green initiatives, success factors for western business in China, and will western multinational corporations be able to profit from the enormous opportunities in China. She also cited the international reach of Chinese companies such as Huawei (an example is the recent early November agreement between Huawei and Ontario for Huawei to spend \$67million to expand its telecommunications R&D presence in Ottawa). Dr. Bu also spoke about the increased investment in China's western and central regions, and the impact of the world financial crisis on China. ♦

NOVEMBER 2010

Chinese Film Making Draws a Crowd

At the Annual General Meeting of the CCFS-Ottawa, Peter Rist from the School of Cinema, Concordia University, spoke to as many as 70 people on *Film Making in China Since the 1980s*. Dr. Rist focused on those movies by directors of the 5th and 6th generations of graduates from film school in Beijing who made films using Chinese landscape. While showing clips of several films, he explained how these filmmakers were interested in different aspects of the image and how accomplished they were in their work. ♦

Four Months Later:

China passes Japan as the No. 2 Economy

Tokyo — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MONDAY, AUG. 16, 2010

Japan lost its place as the world's No. 2 economy to China in the second quarter as receding global growth sapped momentum and stunted a shaky recovery. The figures underscore China's emergence as an economic power that is changing everything from the global balance of military and financial power to how cars are designed. It is already the biggest exporter, auto buyer and steel producer, and its global influence is expanding. ♦

APRIL 2010

China's Economic Development

China was the largest economy in the world until the 1880s when the USA surpassed it according to Dr. Nailin Bu of Queen's University School of Business speaking to a CCFS-Ottawa audience on April 29.



Dr. Nailin Bu

Dr. Bu, a graduate of Shanghai's Fudan University and Canada's UBC addressed timely issues in her richly illustrated talk, such as a growth plateau for China (several

Canada ~ China
Canada ~ Chine
加拿大 ~ 中国

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2nd Canada-China Cultural Dialogue Conference

The Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa was the site for the October 13 - 14 2nd *Canada China Cultural Dialogue* organized by the Canadian Fund for International Understanding Through Culture in collaboration with The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Canadian Museums Association. Opening session speakers included Chinese Ambassador to Canada Lan Lijun, Dr. Nelly Ng, Chair of the CFIUTC and Mr. Qing Boming, Deputy Director General of CPAFFC. ♦



CCFS-Ottawa members Lorraine Farkas, James Steele, Gilliane Lapointe, Lolan Merklinger, Shiyou Li, and Sadie Yang (not pictured) attended the Cultural Dialogue Conference as special invitees.

DIPLOMATIC COMINGS AND GOINGS

President Hu Jintao makes state visit to Canada

President Hu Jintao was the guest of honour at a state luncheon given by Governor General Michaëlle Jean on June 24, 2010. Among the 65 guests, including university presidents, politicians, professors, heads of not-for-profit organizations and business leaders was Lorraine Farkas, President of the CCFS- Ottawa. President Hu noted that this was his second time visiting Canada. ♦



CCFS President Lorraine Farkas chats with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Ambassador Lan Lijun looks on.

Ambassador Lan Lijun takes up new post

The CCFS is sorry to see Ambassador Lan Lijun leave after only two years in Canada. We wish him well in his next posting in Norway. We are pleased to welcome new Ambassador Mr. Zhang Junsai, arriving from his previous posting in Australia. ♦

Canada-China Relations Conference



Left to right: Prime minister Stephen Harper, Chapter President Lorraine Farkas, Ambassador Lan Lijun

“The strategic partnership between Canada and China has never been so promising”, declared Prime Minister Harper at the reception of the Canada-China Relations Conference held October 13-14. According to Harper, there have been 30 ministerial level visits to China in the past year, China is the third biggest importer of Canadian goods and second biggest exporter of goods to Canada.

Conference presenters were in agreement that the relationship between the two countries is moving to a higher level. The Conference was organized by the China Institute of the University of Alberta and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, and featured presentations mostly from leading academics from across the country and former diplomats. Several members of the CCFS-Ottawa attended the conference.

Discussion also focused on how the future relationship will be developed. In the past Canada has emphasized our differences with China: different political systems, different values. To continue to build the relationship, some presenters suggested Canada must emphasize the common ground and mutual respect. ♦

First ever Canada-China Film Festival

Over 700 attended the first Canada-China Film festival in October. The series featured two Canadian films plus one short, all produced by the National Film Board of Canada, and three Chinese feature films. Some of the audience were visibly moved as young pianist Yu Xin Ben gave a live performance following the showing of the NFB film *Mr. Mergler's Gift* which she had starred in nine years ago. She demonstrated that she had indeed received Mr. Mergler's "gift", as she performed "from the heart". The audience was equally impressed another evening when Ms. Alastan-qique, the star of the Chinese film *Urtin Duu* and visiting from China, sang live a traditional Mongolian folk



Urtin Duu depicts the return of a singer in Beijing to live in her native traditional Mongolian village

song. The series was organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the National Film Board, the Chinese Embassy, the Canada-China Friendship Society – Ottawa, and other organizations. ♦



Bethune statue in Montreal's Norman Bethune Square.

Norman Bethune Inducted Into Hall of Fame

On October 15, Dr. Norman Bethune (1890-1939) was inducted into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame at the Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, for his

work as a surgeon and medical innovator who had an instinctive ability to develop new instruments. While working in Montreal, he specialized in the treatment of tuberculosis, established a free medical clinic for the unemployed and formed a group that lobbied for socialized medicine. He was known in China for his selflessness and internationalism and for fighting inequality. He died on the battlefield treating Chinese soldiers who were fighting Japan. ♦

Dream of the Red Chamber

Among the many other events marking the 40th anniversary were the ballet *Dream of the Red Chamber* which was beautifully performed by the Beijing Friendship Dance Company on October 9 at the National Arts Centre, and the unveiling of the new Chinatown Gateway on Somerset Street on October 7. ♦



Performance at the NAC

DELEGATIONS VISIT SHANGHAI, AND THEN SPREAD OUT OVER CHINA



Shanghai Today

Two separate CCFS Delegations, totalling 15 people, took exciting and interesting trips to China in September. Both delegations visited Shanghai, where they took in Expo 2010, including the Canadian and Chinese pavilions and were impressed by Shanghai's phenomenal growth and modern skyscrapers.

The first delegation, led by Federation President Fred Drewe of Winnipeg, consisted of CCFS members from Victoria, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Toronto.

A second delegation, which arrived a few days later, was led by our own Lolan Merklinger, and also consisted of many old friends of China.

After visiting Shanghai, each delegation then set off in different directions. The Drewe delegation headed south west to Jiangxi province, visiting Nanchang, and a model ecological city before heading on to Mount Lushan and Jingdezhen, China's porcelain capital.

The Merklinger group, on the other hand headed west and then north to Jiangsu province, visiting Nanjing, and Wuxi among other places.

On these four pages are a few articles submitted by different members of the delegations. Many of the delegates even stayed on after the tours were over, visiting such places as Beijing, Chengdu, and Mongolia. ♦



CCFS trip revives old friendships

By *Lolan Merklinger*

Our delegation visited Shanghai on the invitation of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC). Delegation members each paid their own international travel and consisted of Hei-Ling Choi, James Huang, Helen Wang, and Lolan Merklinger (leader and past Federation president).

In Shanghai, we visited Expo and also were treated to an exposition on Shanghai Urban development. We also visited the SPAFFC offices thus getting a rare glimpse into the workplace of the 50-year old Shanghai Friendship Association.

Lolan Merklinger and Hei-Ling Choi then embarked on a visit to Jiangsu province, hosted by the Jiangsu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. We visited awe-inspiring Nanjing historical sites, including a tour of the Pearl S. Buck House on the Nanjing University campus, where the famed American writer lived from 1919 to 1933. Jiangsu Association's distinguished president Professor Wu Xijun gave a banquet and we enjoyed meeting old friends Juliet Zou and Mr. Wang of the Jiangsu Foreign Affairs Bureau the next evening.

Wuxi City (pop. 6.1 million) has a 3000 year history and is a thriving economic and industrial hub of Jiangsu. It can boast to have produced the 8000 huge drums featured at the 2008 Beijing Olympic opening ceremony. Wuxi Friendship Association president Mr. Shi Yu expressed his city's desire to twin with a Canadian

city through our Federation. We concluded our tour with a visit to Soochow University which has retained the old name given it by its American missionary founders.

Our ten days in Shanghai and Jiangsu revealed much about the global nature of the work of China's two pre-eminent provincial friendship associations, and we can attest that Canada and Canadians are extremely popular among the Chinese people. ♦

Well-known Kiwi journalist visits China

Tapu Misa, a well known Kiwi journalist and broadcaster was one of the "prominent New Zealanders" invited to participate in this year's friendship delegation.



Tapu Misa, is a New Zealand journalist who was selected to join the friendship delegation to China as a "prominent person". She says the trip "changed her perspective on China."

"I am not a member of the NZ China Friendship Society", said Tapu, an Auckland journalist and columnist for the *New Zealand Herald*. "I was nominated for the delegation by George Andrews, the president of the Auckland branch of the New Zealand China Friendship Society," she noted. The New Zealand delegation to the

Friendship Forum always includes a number of "prominent persons" who are not members of the China-New Zealand Friendship Society. In this way, the China-New Zealand Friendship Society introduces new people to the Chinese reality, notes Bill Wilcott, head of the delegation.

"There's nothing like seeing and experiencing a place first-hand," said Tapu. "China's a fascinating country, full of contrasts, greener than I had expected, and more complex than I'd imagined. I loved it. The trip definitely changed my perspective. Not rose-tinted, just more appreciative of Chinese people and culture, and the enormous challenges the country faces." ♦

Sister Cities Conference

Participants on the Friendship Forum trip also went to the Sister Cities Conference in Shanghai attended by over 500 delegates from some 100 countries. Canada and China have 44 twinning arrangements between cities or provinces. FCCFA vice-president Gilliane Lapointe made a presentation at the Sister Cities Conference on the most active twinings, including Montreal-Shanghai and Ottawa-Beijing. Her interesting presentation is available on our website: www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa ♦



Gilliane Lapointe

The “Big Mountain” becomes a Big Bridge

Mark Rowswell, Canada’s Commissioner General at the Shanghai Expo 2010, clearly likes his job.



“I want to be a bridge between Canada and China”, Mark Rowswell, (a.k.a. “Dashan”) told CCFS-Ottawa President Lorraine Farkas during her visit to Shanghai.

“Many people think of me as a comedian”, says Rowswell, who we met in his office in the Canada Pavilion. “But I like to think of myself as a bridge between Canada and China.”

The Ottawa-born Rowswell is now probably the best known foreigner in China. His Chinese name is “Da Shan” which means “big mountain”. He zoomed to fame on Chinese television in 1989, because of his remarkable ability to speak Mandarin like a local just as television was becoming widespread. “It was kind of an ‘Ed Sullivan’ moment in Chinese history, remembers Rowswell.

“The Chinese find this combination of a person who looks white but speaks like a local, both humorous and fascinating”, notes Rowswell.

“The humour and the fascination for the Chinese people lie in the fact that not very many westerners understand them – either linguistically or culturally. I use humour as a way to bridge the two cultures”, says Rowswell

who now has a Chinese wife. The Canadian Pavilion serves as a platform to bring Canadians and Chinese together. Over 35,000 people visit the Canadian Pavilion every day. “This job (as Commissioner General

for Canada at Expo 2010) makes me very happy. It actually pays me to do what I love doing – acting as a bridge between Canada and China, and between Canadian people and Chinese people.”♦

China tackles environmental challenges

By Thomas Leung – retired environmental engineer, Victoria CCFS.

China’s environmental challenges – and what it is doing about them – was one of the key themes of this year’s friendship tour to Jiangxi province.

Of most interest to me as an environmental engineer was how China is tackling environmental issues. A speaker from the UK told me that China has designated seven special “Green economic Zones” incorporating many of the “green technologies” being developed in the west. In Nanchang, one of the designated low

carbon pilot cities, we also visited a solar power plant and a biogas village.

I think China is trying hard to address its environmental problems. It is obviously a long journey and it will be difficult considering how much it relies on its secondary industry, especially heavy industry and coal power. However, as long as it tries and innovates, it will achieve great things. I am hopeful that the low carbon “Green Economic Zones” will be as successful as the “Special Economic Zones” which first started in Shenzhen in 1980.” ♦



As a part of its program to control urban sprawl and reduce its carbon footprint, China has developed a number of “ecological model cities”. Here, our group looks at the model for futuristic Gongqing City, in Jiangxi Province.

Beautiful, historic Mt. Lushan impresses visitors

By Marlene Ritchie

After a breathtaking bus ride up a spiralling road we finally arrived at the top of Mt. Lushan. Today, Lushan is a popular recreational and holiday site boasting of varied rock formations, lakes, waterfalls, springs, caves, temples and stone inscriptions from ancient poets.

It also has historical significance. At the turn of the 20th century, Europeans and Americans built summer residences on the mountainside to sit out the hot Jiangxi summer. One residence was later acquired by Chiang Kai-shek, who named it Meilu Villa for his wife

Song Meiling. It is preserved in a rather shoddy state, but one can see an intact bedroom, the American kerosene-powered refrigerator, the dining area with its rectangular table around which the Kuomintang Government once formed strategies.

My first keen interest in China began when in high school I read Pearl Buck's 1938 Nobel Prize winning novel, *The Good Earth*, and also read the biographies of Song Meiling and her beautiful sisters. It was like discovering old acquaintances when I saw the Madam's pictures garnishing the rooms where she once walked and toured the house used by Pearl Buck's parents.

After 1949, Chairman Mao had a residence there which today houses a museum. Lushan was the site of an important 1970 Politburo meeting when Mao clashed with Lin Biao, probably over Mao's rapprochement

with the U.S. and his policies of the Cultural Revolution.

In addition to visiting the historic sites, six of us also visited the local middle school where 300 twelve to eighteen-year-olds get their education. Ninety students live in the school dormitory. We visited one class of thirty-five eager students seated at individual deal desks in a room with a plank floor, lit by a wall of windows. One boy waved his hand wanting to ask in English where we were from. Hopefully they could understand our answers aided by their two English teachers who showed them the sites of our homelands on maps. The teachers were graduates of a teacher's normal school but had never studied under a foreign teacher.

We were all impressed by the skill, courtesy and competence of our Chinese tour guides throughout our Jiangxi tour. ♦

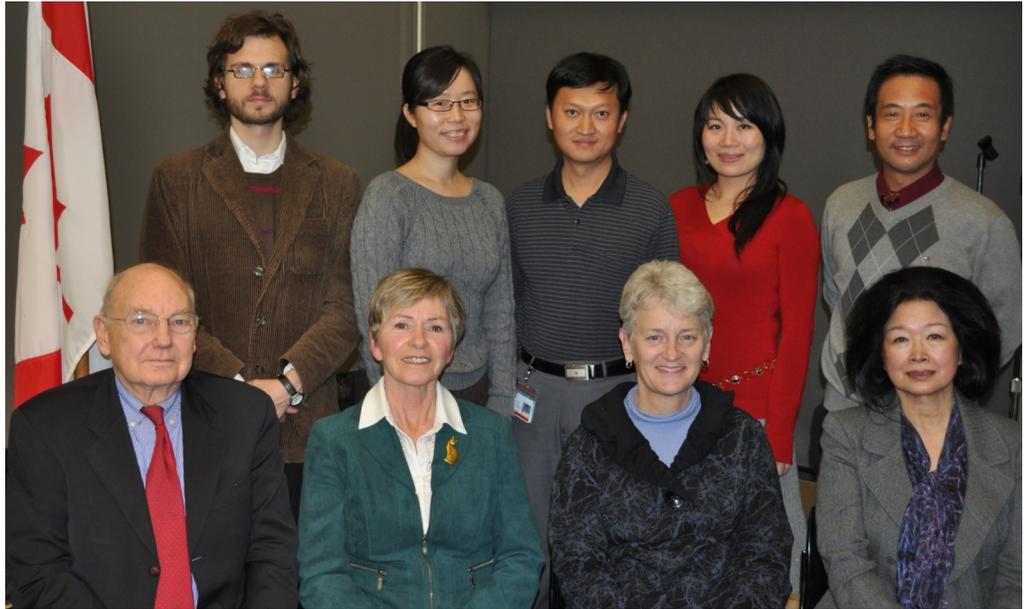


Jinxu Valley, Lushan, Jiangxi Province.

CCFS-Ottawa conducts successful Annual General Meeting

The trend in Canada-China relations is very good, CCFS (Ottawa) President Lorraine Farkas told over 70 members at the Annual General Meeting held on November 25th. The year 2010 was highlighted by the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to Canada and followed the visit of Prime Minister Steven Harper to China in December of last year.

According to Ms. Farkas, the society has successfully undertaken a wide range of events over the last year, and its membership continues to grow. In her remarks, she thanked all the members of the 2010 executive for their hard work and enthusiastic attitude. However, she added that the



CCFS-Ottawa's 2010-2011 Executive Committee. Top row from left to right: Jordan Birenbaum, Sadie Yang, Hong Xu, Hailin Wang, Yong-Zhi Wang. Front row from left to right: James Steele, Gilliane LaPointe, Lorraine Farkas, Lolan Wang-Merklinger.

Society will need the energy and support of more volunteers to service a growing membership.

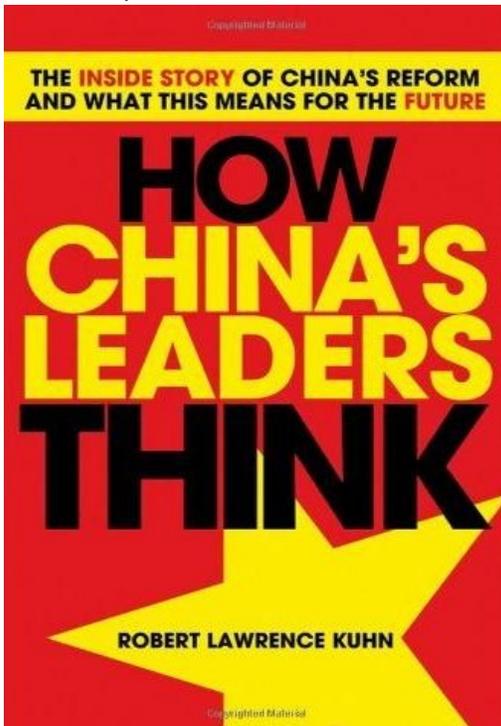
All the proposed candidates for the executive were approved by

acclamation. There are still 2 positions left vacant. In addition, outgoing Treasurer Shiyu Li presented the financial report, which showed that the CCFS (Ottawa) is in sound financial condition. ♦

BOOKS AND CULTURE

Book Review

Review by Peter Larson



ROBERT LAWRENCE KUHN, *HOW CHINA'S LEADERS THINK*, (JOHN WILEY & SONS.), 536 pp.

The seemingly impossible task of explaining the collective and individual psychology of the leaders running the world's largest one-party state has been taken on by American Dr. Robert Lawrence Kuhn. It is the first attempt by a foreigner that I am aware of to explain the thinking of China's current leadership (including Xi Jinping who is widely expected to become China's next President.)

For this book, Kuhn, an investment banker by profession, consulted over a hundred of China's top political leaders across a wide range of sectors including healthcare, religion, media, banking, agriculture and science in an attempt to explain their thinking.

"I wanted to let the world understand the thinking of a range of Chinese leaders in different sectors. It's not, you know, everybody in lock step repeating the same phraseology and the same words, although that still happens on occasions, but it's much less so and that's what I wanted to communicate."

How China's Leaders Think investigates the leaders' views with respect to economic and social imbalances, pollution, unsustainable development, corruption, migrant workers, unemployment and crime. He explores human rights, censorship, religious freedom, ethnic clashes and international conflicts. "China has many serious problems," Kuhn says. "I report what they told me about the problems and how they hope to tackle them." ♦

Thank You!

CCFS Ottawa extends its thanks to two long-serving members of its executive, Mary Lee and Shiyou Li who decline to seek a renewed mandate for the coming year due to other commitments. Both plan to remain active in the Society and you will likely see them at the annual banquet and other CCFS-Ottawa events. ♦



Mary Lee



Shiyou Li

BOOKS AND CULTURE

Ember Swift: "So Nice" in either English or Chinese

By Dr. Allan Ryan

Beijing based, Ontario-born, singer-songwriter, Ember Swift, performed recently at the Black Sheep Inn in Wakefield, Quebec. Swift sang several songs from her most recent album *Lentic* and introduced an enthusiastic audience to several more compositions. With an engaging stage personality and supple voice, Swift

demonstrated an effortless ability to move back and forth between English and Chinese.

Swift first visited China in 2007, but she now has a home and musician-husband in Beijing. Her opening song *So Nice* recalled that first visit. Ember now spends half the year performing in China where her unique brand of bi-cultural jazz-inflected folk-pop music is increasingly in demand. The other half of the year she spends in North America and Australia, where she also has a growing fan base. ♦

Ember Swift a talented Canadian singer-songwriter who now calls Beijing home, performs in both English and Chinese. Visit www.emberswift.com.



Photo: Sof Courtney



Beautiful Chinatown Gateway inaugurated on Somerset Street, Ottawa



Jinxiu Valley, along the Flower Path. Lushan, Jiangxi Province.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- **Friday January 14, 7:30 pm:** *Beneath the Miracle: Inequality and Economic Development in China*, Joseph Wong, Director, Asian Institute, University of Toronto, at LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, ROOM A, 395 WELLINGTON STREET, OTTAWA.
- **Sunday February 13, 6:00 pm:** *Annual Traditional Chinese New Year's Banquet*, MANDARIN OGILVIE RESTAURANT. Make your reservations early, www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa/doc/reservation_form.pdf
- **Thursday March 17, 7:30 pm:** *China-Africa Relations*, Professor Moses Kiggundu, Carleton University, ROOM A, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, 395 WELLINGTON STREET, Ottawa.
- **Thursday April 14, Thursday May 12:** SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED:
- **Thursday June 9, 7:30 pm:** *Women, Gender, and Politics in China*, Professor Kimberley Manning, Concordia University, ROOM A, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, 395 WELLINGTON STREET, Ottawa.

COMMENTS? FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

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