

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

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## Acknowledgements

Editor  
Peter Larson  
[editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:editor.ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com)

Layout  
David Yip

## Chinese New Year Banquet 2012

# Year of the Dragon starts off with a roar!



**Back row (Left to right):** John Noble, President NCR Branch of Canadian International Council; Madame Liu Manxue; Peter Larson, founding president of CCFS-Ottawa; and Ambassador Robert Colette. **Front Row:** Marilyn Collette; Royal Galipeau MP; Lorraine Farkas, President CCFS-Ottawa; Liu Jin, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Canada; Linda Noble. Photo credit: Ulle Baum

The CCFS-Ottawa Annual Chinese New Year's Banquet took place under an auspicious sign in February, coinciding with the end of Prime Minister Harper's successful visit to China and the announcement that China would give Canada two Giant Pandas.

"We are happy that Canada and China have renewed their relations at the highest level after several years of estrangement", noted CCFS-Ottawa President Lorraine Farkas in her

opening remarks. "We are encouraged to note that the improved relations between our governments are also reflected in the fact that our society has more members than ever, and that this is the biggest banquet in our association's history." More than 220 CCFS members and friends gathered at the Ogilvie Mandarin restaurant for a fun-filled evening of prizes, games, music and of course, delicious food (More information and photos inside.)



## Report from Annual General Meeting

A record crowd of 75 turned out to participate in the CCFS-Ottawa Annual General meeting on November 25th, 2011.

President Lorraine Farkas reviewed the significant list of activities over the last year, and outlined some of her ideas for the future.

Among other things she noted that while the CCFS-Ottawa “has had its ups and downs over the years, we are definitely in an up right now.” She noted that membership had grown from 135 a year ago to over 190. China is a rising power in the world and more and more Ottawans are interested in visiting and knowing about China. She noted that the CCFS-O had a very active year, with monthly meetings with interesting speakers, well attended with lively question periods. Some meetings were quite large with over 100 participants.

Treasurer Cat Situ reported that the CCFS had revenues of \$10,700 and expenses of \$9,700, leaving a small surplus at the end of the year. (Both the President’s report and the Financial report will be available on the CCFS-Ottawa website when the “new look” is installed soon.)

Following the reports, the election of officers took place under the chairmanship of Elaine Van Snellenberg. Ten candidates were nominated. All were approved by acclamation.

### The 2012 CCFS Ottawa executive:

- President - Lorraine Farkas
- Vice-President - Gilliane Lapointe
- Past president - Lolan Wang Merklinger
- Secretary - David Burke
- Treasurer - Xueying Cat Situ
- Banquet and reception co-ordinator - Hailin Wang
- Chinese community liaison - Yong-Zhi Wang
- Programme associate - James Steele
- Program co-ordinator - Janice Zaharko
- Membership secretary - David Dupont
- Program associate - Tracy Tian

### Non-executive members on committees of the executive

- Coordinator of speakers’ committee – Roy Atkinson
- Webmaster and newsletter assistant editor – David Yip

## AGM guest—Author Eric Tamm

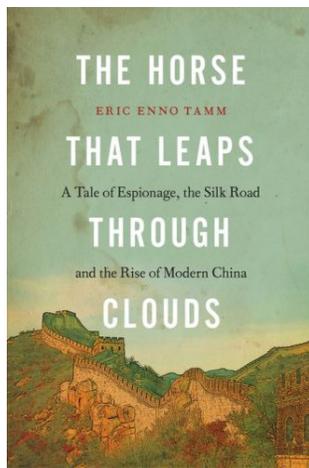
### Century-old Russian spy tale reveals China’s past

Canadians who want to understand China could spend a lot more time trying to understand its history, celebrated Canadian author Eric Tamm told a CCFS-O audience in a presentation at the AGM in November.

According to Tamm, whose recently published book *The Horse that Leaps Through Clouds* is a story of true to life espionage in China from over 100 years ago, we don’t pay enough attention to where China has come from.

Tamm built his book based on the diaries of Baron Gustaf Mannerheim, a Finnish aristocrat who was sent by the Russian Czar in 1906 to secretly collect intelligence on China’s Qing Dynasty. At the time, Russia and Britain were vying with each other to bring China under their control. Mannerheim’s 5 month trek across the deserts and highlands of China is richly recorded. He scrutinizes almost every facet of China’s modernization, from

reform of education, foreign investment and industry to the military, Muslim borderlands and Tibet’s struggle for independence.



In researching his book, Tamm undertook the same trip a hundred years later, visiting many of the same spots as Mannerheim. His comparisons of the similarities and the differences, after 100 years of social upheaval, make for a fascinating presentation.

One of the surprising findings was that far from being a stagnant backwater, in 1906 China was already in the process of rapid political, social and economic change. New railways, communications, education, commerce were rapidly changing the countryside, and talk of “revolution” was in the air.

## Canada–China trade in agri-food: “Huge potential for both countries”

Canada and China have been trading in food and food products for over 50 years, but there is a great potential for increased trade, a senior official of the federal government told a CCFS audience in April.

The main reason, according to Fred Gorrell, Director General at Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, is that while both China and Canada export a large amount of agricultural production, our products and markets are complementary.

Mr. Gorrell has travelled to China many times and is responsible for making links between Canadian and Chinese producers and food wholesalers and retailers.

“China is the world’s number one producer of apples for example. We see Chinese apples in our supermarkets. Canada, on the other hand, is one of the world’s leading exporters of grain and soy. Our first grain sales to China took place in the 1960’s. The Chinese remember that.”

Three significant demographic trends are changing the Chinese market, according to Mr. Gorrell – opening up new opportunities for Canadian exporters. The first is the continual rise in the

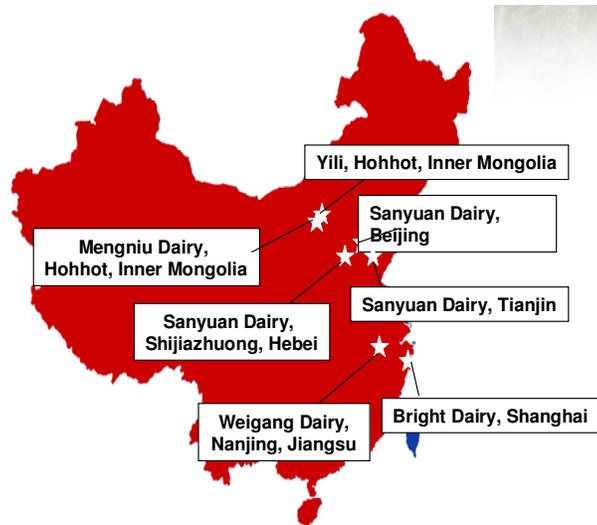
Chinese population, expected to reach 1.5 billion by about 2050.

The second is the rise in urbanization. For the first time in history more Chinese live in the city than in the country, changing the way food is produced and consumed. And the third is the rise of the Chinese middle class with more disposable income and a change in diet. All of these open up new possibilities for Canada, with its large supply of high quality food products for export.

One specific consequence is the rise in the demand in China for milk and milk products. As one of the world’s leaders in cattle and bovine products, Canada is working with Chi-

nese counterparts to help develop their cattle industry. At the current time Canada has 7 large scale feeding trials with major Chinese dairy companies to show the benefits of Canadian grown canola oil as an additive in feed for dairy cows.

“Canada has a very good image in China and the potential market is huge,” warned Mr. Gorrell, but there is lots of competition. Every large agricultural producer in the world is also knocking on China’s door. We have to be aggressive if we want to realize the potential.”



Canada is partnering with China to demonstrate the benefits of canola meal as premium dairy feed.

## In Search of Safe Food in China

The Chinese government is having a hard struggle to ensure that its population has access to safe, reliable food supply, according to Dr. Josephine Smart, of the University of Calgary. Smart, who remembers that food shortages were common in southern China when she was a child, indicated that the country now faces new kinds of food problems.

Dr. Smart's research focuses on foods of the Hong Kong-South China region, an area she has been working in since 1983. China has come under particular international scrutiny after researchers identified food safety problems linked to the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) a few years ago.

But government mandated food safety measures confront both deep-rooted cultural practices in food consumption, and the overwhelming temptations of the newly liberalized market in food production.

“We are all coloured by our cultural upbringing about what constitutes appropriate categories of food, so that when we hear about Ecuadorians eating Guinea pigs, or Chinese eating civet cat or donkey, it sounds strange and unacceptable.” But in China, not only are such exotic foods acceptable, they are considered a status symbol and an integral part of maintaining good health.

# YEAR OF THE DRAGON BANQUET 2012



Retired ambassador Robert Colette (middle) explained the Chinese zodiac and the significance of the Year of the Dragon. Afterwards he called up all the dragons—those born in a year of the dragon—and presented each with a prize. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Member Alex Goddard, a former English teacher in China, directed the *Yes/ No Game*. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



A table of friends who together toured China recently were happy winners of the *Yes/No Game* and each received a token prize. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Guests were fully satisfied after the ten-course banquet, which included grilled prawns, pipa duck, vegetarian Shanghai noodles, baby bok choy, and much more. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Treasurer Cat Situ (Left) and Events Coordinator Hailin Wang (Right) present a prize to Mary Lee for bringing the most guests to the banquet. Mary, a long-time active member of the CCFS-O, brought 35 guests. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



A full house! Over 220 CCFS-O members and their friends attended the Society's annual Chinese New Year banquet on February 12, 2012. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Executive member Yong-Zhi Wang and singer Shan Lu sang two songs, including the Chinese song *My Country and I*. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Vice-President Gilliane Lapointe was MC and kept the fun-packed evening rolling along. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Some guests who have not been to China met others who have, while other guests exchanged China experiences. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Many prizes, donated by members, Yanjing Beer, T&T, the Chinese Embassy, the Mandarin Ogilvie, the McGarry Family Chapels and others, were handed out. Photo credit: Ulle Baum



Some came alone to the banquet and others brought friends. Photo credit: Ulle Baum

## China faces its “grave” environmental situation

The most senior members of China’s political system have labelled China’s current environmental situation as being “grave” according to a leading Canadian environmental specialist.

Dr. Art Hanson served on Canada’s National Round Table on the Environment and Economy (NRTEE) and was Canada’s Ministerial Ocean Ambassador with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for four years. In the last several years he has been to China on many environmental missions.

According to Dr. Hanson, who addressed the CCFS in January, China is increasing its focus on its environmental challenges.

“China’s 12th five year plan seeks to rebalance the economy and society. In this context the environment is seen not as an impediment to economic development but as an essential precondition for social stability, food security, economic security, peaceful relations with its neighbours, and to establish China as a responsible global citizen. “

As Dr. Hanson explained, China is trying to transform environmental challenges into opportunities to generate not only social benefits but also jobs and income.

For example in the current 5 year plan, 7 of 12 mandatory targets in the plan address environmental issues, and include spending commitments of \$400 to \$500 billion.

Dr. Hanson illustrated the success of China’s approach with numerous examples of improvements in a low carbon economy including a broad focus on energy efficiency; greenhouse gas



**The Chinese leadership’s most recent 5 year plan tries to deal with its enormous environmental challenges while at the same time encouraging the economic development which is necessary to continue to bring the**

reductions and air quality (scrubbers and filters for coal fired generators, nuclear energy and low emission cars); control of heavy metal contaminants (including mercury); nuclear energy; reforestation; and, infrastructure investments such as water, sewage, renewable energy projects (wind farming, solar energy), and environmental research and development.

Looking to the future expect to see China continuing to expand its focus on engaging its diverse environmental challenges. The greatest pressures will continue to be a product of rapid economic growth particularly if growth exceeds 8.5%.

Rapid economic growth is essential to meet China’s ambitious goals for reducing poverty, but it puts pressures on the environment including the challenges of feeding its increasingly affluent population in a sustainable way, noted Dr. Hanson.

## Book review: *On China* by Henry Kissinger

Penguin Books

2011

By Peter Larson

In a recent article in *Foreign Affairs*, the leading US foreign policy journal, Henry Kissinger discusses the future of US – Chinese relations. “Conflict is a choice”, he argues, “not a necessity.”

In other words, claims Kissinger, a war between the US and China might happen if either side misjudges its own interests or the interests of the other. But it is avoidable.

The background to this carefully optimistic conclusion is laid out by Kissinger in “*On China*”. Kissinger, who has visited China over 50 times, demonstrates a surprising knowledge of Chinese history, politics and culture. “*On China*” is a marvelous and de-



**In *On China*, Kissinger includes psychological portraits of key Chinese leaders including Zhou Enlai (above),**

tailed review of relations between China and the rest of the world going back several centuries.

Because of its sweep, *On China* is a good complement to (and a far more satisfying read than) *Nixon in China* by Canadian historian Margaret MacMillan.

MacMillan was able to give some insights into what Nixon and his entourage were thinking when he first met Mao. Kissinger is able to place that meeting in the full geopolitical context of the times and even peer into what both sides were thinking including the Chinese leadership.

## Turn China's needs into our opportunity: business experts

Seventy six people attended to hear Daniel Poon of the North-South Institute [www.nsi-ins.ca](http://www.nsi-ins.ca) present his argument that Canada should look to China to diversify its economic interests beyond the current “all-eggs-in-the-USA-basket” approach to trade and economic policy.

Mr. Poon challenged Canada to engage China in sectors beyond our traditional export of natural resources and energy, calling for a new approach that would leverage China's technology/industry ambitions in Canada's favour.

Mr. Poon cited prominent policy advisors from Dominic Barton of the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. to Jim Stanford of the Canadian Autoworkers Union who both advocate a change of orientation in Government policy.

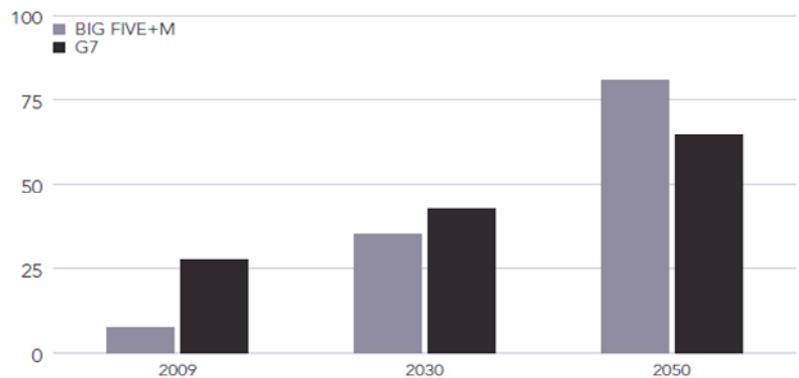
Following Poon's remarks, David Rothwell shared some of his experiences negotiating and working with the Chinese government. He cautioned that the business environment and “rules of engagement” are not the same in China as in Canada, and that this can lead to serious adverse consequences for prospective investors and business deals.

Looking to the future, he proposed that the Canadian strategy should move beyond high visibility trade missions of large Canadian firms, to embrace smaller companies and a wider range of products and services.

Based on his experience in China, Rothwell made 3 specific recommendations for government action to support Canadian business seeking to do business in China.

First, the Government should develop a system to validate information about Chinese firms (who are they, where are they located, what products they make, and what markets do they

**FIGURE 3.3 THE BIG FIVE+M WILL ECLIPSE THE G7**  
(GDP, REAL \$, TRILLIONS)



Source: Authors' projections.

**In 2009, the G7 countries produced five times as much as the major countries of the developing world, led by China. But that is rapidly changing and Canada will need to develop new strategies for these markets according to business experts**

serve) that could be potential business partners with Canadian firms.

Second, the Canadian Government should provide an interlocutor service that would explain the local rules of the game to small and medium sized Canadian firms considering entering the Chinese market.

Third, the Canadian government should act as a “marriage broker” to link Canadian companies with “reliable” Chinese firms and individuals. On the latter two points Dr. Rothwell noted that the considerable Chinese expatriate community in Canada could be an invaluable resource.

The evening concluded with the CCFS-O's traditional tea and sweets and many conversations about policy, options, and the “how-to” of investing in China.

## Book review: *Tide Players* by Jianying Zha

The New Press  
2011

By Lorraine Farkas

In *Tide Players*, author Jianying Zha follows the paths of some of the “movers and shakers” who are shaping the new China. Her cast of characters includes a “barefoot doctor” who transforms himself into a publishing mogul, a talented couple who become

leading real estate tycoons, and an owner of home-electronic chain stores, determined to rehabilitate his mother who had been executed as a counterrevolutionary criminal. Zha also tells the stories of intellectuals such as a former cultural minister who becomes a prolific writer, and her own brother who helped to found the China Democracy Party. Zha's insight into China today and the complexity of its evolution makes a worthwhile read.



On April 19th, Lolan Merklinger, CCFS-O Past President, and Janice Zaharko, CCFS-O Program Coordinator, attended the official opening of the National Capital Confucius Institute located at Carleton University.



Mayor Jim Watson hosted the grand event attended by many, including a delegation from China led by Mr Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of China.

### ABOUT THE CANADA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF OTTAWA

The CCFS-O aims to help Canadians learn more about China and understand it better. We cover China's past, its present, the challenges it faces and how it deals with them. The CCFS-O holds monthly meetings, open to the public, featuring speakers on a wide variety of topics, ranging from the environment to films in China and political reforms to tai chi. We also hold an annual Chinese New Year's banquet. The CCFS-O is a member of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations.

### BECOME A MEMBER!

CCFS-Ottawa currently has over 200 members from all walks of life. We welcome new members who are interested in and want to learn more about China. Membership is open to anyone who supports the aims and objectives of the society and pays an annual membership fee.

The fee for regular members is \$20 for individuals, and \$30 for a family. Student membership (for full-time registered students) is \$12 for individuals, and \$17 for a family.

To join the CCFS-Ottawa, go to our website at: <http://www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa/index.htm> or join at an event!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of our events are mailed to members and other interested persons, and posted on our website [www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa](http://www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa) and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ccfs.ottawa](http://www.facebook.com/ccfs.ottawa).

Our monthly events are free for CCFS-O members and \$5 admission for non-members.

- **June 12, 2012: Dr. Qiming Wang, Science Counsellor of PRC Embassy, more details later.**
- **More events to be announced!**

### COMMENTS? FEEDBACK? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send your ideas to [editor.cafs.ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:editor.cafs.ottawa@gmail.com)