



## **Canada-China Friendship Society**

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

PO Box 8461, Post Office Terminal – Ottawa, Ontario K1G 2H9

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### **November Newsletter**

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### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Ottawa chapter will take place on Thursday, November 24 starting at 7:00 p.m. at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, followed by the film *Chairman Mao and Snow*, with commentary from Ms. Gilliane Lapointe. A feature-length film, *Chairman Mao and Snow* was released in 2001 and is the only Chinese-made film about Mao and Edgar Snow, an American journalist who travelled to the Yenan region in northwest China in 1936 to experience the beginnings of the Communist revolution at first hand. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Edgar Snow. Gilliane Lapointe whose late husband stars as Edgar Snow, and who appears in the film as Mrs. Snow, will provide an introduction and commentary. The film which includes documentary footage from the time is primarily in Chinese with English subtitles.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### ***Chinese New Year's Banquet and Celebration!***

***To usher in the New Year of the Dog which begins on January 29, CCFS-Ottawa will be holding its annual Chinese New Year's Banquet on Sunday February 5, 2006 at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant, 1137 Ogilvie Road beginning at 6 p.m.*** A notice with further details will be mailed to members in early January. The ticket price is expected to be similar to last year. Please stay tuned!

Combined with the Chinese New Year's Banquet will be a celebration of the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the ***Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa.***

A brief history: Over 100 hundred people attended the first public meeting of the Society held in the National Library on February 6, 1976, described as “generally enthusiastic about China and the Society”. Several books were sold on China, memberships were sold at \$5 each, tea was served and an unnamed film shown. The first officers of the Society were appointed: Peter Larsen as President; Tin Yap as Vice-President and Chairman in charge of book sales – clearly an important function in the early days of the Society; Maya Kagis as Membership Secretary; and M. Alberti as Treasurer. Bless them all!

## **Past Events**

**Talk on Chinese export porcelain:** On November 3 some 57 members and guests attended a talk by Ron Whate on “Chinese export porcelain in Canada” at St. Luke Lutheran Church. As evidenced by the turnout, the evening's topic attracted a high level of interest among our Society members and guests. Mr. Whate documented the importance of the Chinese export trade in porcelain to Europe and beyond, beginning in the early seventeenth century, created by craftsmen from Jingdezhen (Jiangxi province), and its historic presence at Fortress Louisbourg in Eastern Canada and America. His excellent slides, items of porcelain from his own collection, and mounted pictorial displays were helpful illustrations. A large number of questions were fielded by a very obliging speaker. Once again the efforts of member volunteers Jacqueline Major, Evelyn Wu Amberg, Elayne van Snellenberg, and Pat Steele made for a well-attended event with enjoyable refreshments.

**CIIA Conference on China:** Ten members from CCFS-Ottawa were among 230 participants in a one-day conference, October 28, entitled “**China Rising: Will China Join the World or Change It?**” Hosted by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, with generous sponsorship from Foreign Affairs Canada, and co-chaired by CCFS member Gilliane Lapointe, the Conference featured fourteen experts from Canada, the U.S. and China covering a variety of topics related to China's dramatic development. Dr. Huang Huikang, Chargé d'affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Chinese Embassy responded to the keynote address from Dr. Paul Evans, Co-CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Dr. Huang also answered questions from the floor noting the “three pillars” of Chinese policy: the “openness of Chinese minds and markets to the world”; reform of its economic and political structures; and the maintenance of political stability so that people can enjoy the economic and social benefits achieved. Professor Li Fan whom the Institute brought from Beijing to talk about developments in grass-roots democracy, also spoke at Carleton University, York University by arrangement of CCFS member Michael Copeland, and at the University of Alberta where he was a guest of Prof. Wenran Jiang, Acting Director of the University's new China Institute. The CCFS-Ottawa members who attended the conference all agreed that it was immensely worthwhile. Ken Merklinger was a principal organizer enlisting the participation of fourteen very special speakers.

**A Shanghai Friendship Association delegation** headed by Mr. Chen Longxin visited Ottawa Oct. 12-13 to begin a six-day Canadian visit at the invitation of the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA). The six-member delegation were guests of CCFS-Ottawa at an October 12 dinner at the Palais Impérial restaurant, joined by a dozen self-paying Society members and guests. Mr. Tsin Van made a generous contribution to the cost of the delegation's dinner. The event in effect returned hospitality shown to the FCCFA delegation during its Shanghai visit in early June. Dr. Runie Gao, Mr. Eddie Huang and Mr. Jeffrey Huang joined Ken and Lolan Merklinger in meeting the delegation on arrival at Ottawa airport. They left Ottawa by car for Quebec City the following afternoon.



*Dinner in honour of Professor Li Fan, Director of The World and China Institute, Beijing and a speaker at the CIIA China Conference. Standing from left to right, Evelyn Amberg, Gilliane Lapointe, Tsin Van; seated Ken Merklinger, Carl Amberg, Betty Van, Li Fan and Lolan Merklinger. Photo by Tsin Van.*

## **Celebrations marking the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China**

The month of October marked the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of mutual recognition and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the People's Republic of China. The September 29 **National Day Reception at the Chinese Embassy** hosted by Ambassador Lu Shumin and Madame Gao Shuqing was one of a series of events drawing attention to the anniversary. On October 19, the Co-Chairs of the Canada China Legislative Association hosted a **Reception in the Centre Block addressed by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Speakers of the Senate and House, and the Chinese Ambassador** celebrating recent and past achievements in our bilateral relations. Several CCFS-Ottawa members attended the event including John Small, Tsin Van, John and Nevitt Maybee, Winnie and Adam Wang, Ti-Mao Li and Ken Merklinger.

On October 13 a contingent from CCFS-Ottawa, including its executive committee members, attended a reception at the Canadian Museum of Civilization hosted by Canada Post on the occasion of **the official unveiling of a joint issue of Big Cat postage stamps** to commemorate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Representatives of the Chinese postal service attended the event along with Chinese Ambassador Lu Shumin and David McGuinty MP, while a similar event was held the same day in Beijing attended by representatives of Canada Post and Minister John McCallum. CCFS-Ottawa members were able to meet with Mr. Jim Philips, Director of Stamp Services for Canada Post and a long-time friend of our organization. As part of a continuing exchange between the two postal services, a stunning selection of Chinese stamps issued between 1990 and 2004 were on display in the Canadian Postal Museum at the CMC.

A number of CCFS-Ottawa members (Arthur Menzies, Lolan and Ken Merklinger, Meibing Fu, Gilliane Lapointe, Winnie and Adam Wang) attended the October 12 **National Press Gallery Newsmaker Lunch** which featured **Ambassador Lu Shumin**.

A **Chinese community buffet dinner** organized by FOCCO (Federation of Chinese Community Organizations) was held at Ottawa City Hall on September 30 with over 300 participants. CCFS-Ottawa contributed to the success of the event through its members' purchase of 28 tickets, the largest number by any one organization. The highly successful event was addressed by His Excellency Ambassador Lu Shumin, Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli, Members of Parliament and other elected officials, and by representatives from the Chinese community organizations. Traditional Chinese dance and musical performances mixed with a performance by CCFS-Ottawa member Dominic D'Arcy. The evening concluded with ballroom dancing.

## CHINESE EMBASSY UPDATE

The CCFS-Ottawa bid farewell to a good friend when Ms. Sun Changning, First Secretary, returned to Beijing in early October after spending three-and-a-half years in Ottawa during which she was the primary contact for the Ottawa chapter. Her consistent support for the friendship work undertaken by this chapter and by the FCCFA was greatly appreciated. The PRC Embassy's Cultural Division, headed by Counsellor Yang Xuelun, was joined last December by Ms. Li Caiyun, First Secretary. Ms. Li is trilingual and has worked at the Ministry of Culture in Beijing and at missions in Mauritius and Madagascar. We are pleased to be working with Ms. Li Caiyun who has been designated the primary liaison for CCFS-Ottawa. Mr. Shen Pengshan with camera in hand is another familiar presence at our meetings during the past year. Ms. Li Xin, Second Secretary, is a new officer who arrived in Ottawa in October. The generous help of the cultural office in answering a variety of questions and providing information materials for our meetings is much appreciated.

## CPAFFC NEWS

It was recently learned that Mr. Shen Xin is now Deputy Director of the Division of Canadian and Oceania Affairs of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, replacing Ms. Helen (Hairong) Ma. Ms. Ma brought much experience and understanding of Canada-China friendship activities to the position apparent during the five years she was the lead liaison with FCCFA. Our appreciation for her efforts was conveyed to her by Lolan Merklinger during Ms. Ma's September visit to Canada.

## **NEW BOOKS *of interest***

**Linfu Dong, *Cross-culture and Faith: Life and Work of James Mellon Menzies***, Univ. of Toronto Press, Sept. 2005, 370pp., \$65, ISBN: 0802038697. This scholarly biography is about a remarkable figure in twentieth century Canadian missionary history in China. In the words of the University of Toronto Press, James Mellon Menzies “was a Canadian engineer, Presbyterian missionary, and archaeologist active in China in the 1920s and 1930s. In a tradition that saw archaeology as a means of gathering artifacts for the collections of Western museums, Menzies believed in collecting for the people of China. He also saw his archaeological work as an extension of his missionary work, connecting, through his discoveries, the religious beliefs of ancient China to those of evangelical Christianity.” Some of Menzies’ large personal collection, notably fragments of oracle bones to which China’s earliest writing system is traced, was donated to the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in British Columbia. Says the Press, “This has assured his place in the cultural memory of both East and West – appropriate, since his life so often straddled the two worlds.”

The author Linfu Dong is an associate professor at Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong and is a doctoral graduate from York University in Toronto. The launch of this book by University of Toronto Press takes place Friday, November 25, 5 to 7 p.m. at Trinity College, University of Toronto. The ceremony will be attended by Arthur Menzies, Canadian Ambassador to China from 1976 to 1980, and a member of the Canada-China Friendship Society.

*Arthur Menzies has commented on the release pointing out that his father served in China from 1910 to 1936. He has also pointed out that 90% of his father’s oracle bone collection was intentionally left in China.*

## **FEDERATION UPDATE**

**The Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA) held its annual general meeting in Victoria on October 14-15 marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1980.** The Ottawa chapter was represented by Lolan Merklinger, President of FCCFA, and Jeffrey de Fourestier, VP of CCFS-Ottawa. A number of decisions were taken to strengthen the Federation including the drafting of a ten-point plan embracing measures that seek to increase the number of chapters and of individual members over the next 2 to 3 years, and the redefinition of payment schedules for Federation delegations visiting China. It was resolved to adopt the logo designed and presented by former FCCFA president Tsin Van of Ottawa which features the Chinese character for friendship inscribed on a red maple leaf. The nomination of Tsin Van as a candidate for the title of Friendship Ambassador was adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors of FCCFA. It will be presented to China’s National Youxie when the next request for nominations for this distinctive title is received currently anticipated for summer 2006. The election of officers from among current Board members resulted in the acclamation of officers elected in February 05, with Lolan Merklinger as president, Fred Drewe (Manitoba) as vice-president

Irvine Hare (Victoria) as secretary, and Bert Whantong (Victoria) as treasurer. The AGM coincided with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet celebrating the formation of the Victoria Canada-China Friendship Association in 1965 – Canada's oldest friendship association. Prof. Richard King, an expert on contemporary Chinese literature at the University of Victoria, was the guest speaker for a talk entitled: "Supergirl and the Wolf".

The **2005 FCCFA Newsletter** produced by Principal Editor Michael Copeland was issued at the Victoria AGM. Copies for CCFS-Ottawa members will be available at the November 24 meeting.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR CCFS-OTTAWA**

**The Harry Elton Memorial Fund.** Harry Elton's presence on the CCFS-Ottawa Executive committee has been greatly missed since his untimely death in May 2004 while on a visit to Tibet as a member of a Canadian FCCFA delegation to China. A well-known producer and broadcaster, and in his later years a great friend of China, Mr. Elton had also many friends in Canada. It is the wish of his wife, Marguerite MacDonald, a member of our Society, and of his family that the Harry Elton Memorial Fund created from the donations of friends and colleagues be used for the purpose of sending young Canadians for a short period of exposure to China. At its November 3 meeting the CCFS Executive committee accepted Ms. MacDonald's proposal for the Society to form a selection committee and to work with her on identifying and selecting two young Canadians to attend a "culture camp" in China during 2006. In addition to Ms. Macdonald, the selection committee will comprise Jim Steele, John Hilliker, Lolan Merklinger, and possibly a fifth member still to be confirmed. The selection committee's tasks and responsibilities, as well as its liaison with the Somerset West Community Health Centre as the designated charitable organization to despatch the necessary funds, will be defined in greater detail in the coming weeks.

**City of Ottawa's planned event honouring Dashan - Mark Rowswell.** CCFS-Ottawa is participating in the planning of an event scheduled for March 2006 initiated and sponsored by Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli which will confer the Keys of the City on Dashan, whose Canadian name is Mark Rowswell and who is at least as well-known in China as Norman Bethune. A native of Ottawa, Dashan is known in all parts of China for his mastery of Chinese cross-talk, a form of Chinese comedy that is apparently comparable to Abbot and Costello in the West. At the invitation of Mayor Chiarelli's office, CCFS-Ottawa has designated a representative to serve on the organizing committee who will be Jeffrey de Fourestier. The three-day event which is scheduled to take place March 24-26 will bring Dashan to Ottawa to perform in a show at CentrepoinTE Theatre, and participate in other activities supported by the City of Ottawa, the Chinese Embassy, and the Chinese community.