

**CANADA CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF OTTAWA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2009, LIBRARY & ARCHIVES**

President's Report

The November 2008 to October 2009 period has been a memorable year for China, for friends of China, and the activities of CCFS-Ottawa have reflected this past year's highlights. CCFS-Ottawa recognized the 30th anniversary of the opening and reform policies of the new China, participated in celebratory events relating to the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as paid tribute to the remarkable accomplishments and legacy of Dr. Norman Bethune. We are looking to the coming year's activities that will culminate in the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Canada-China diplomatic relations in October 2010. The much anticipated upcoming visit to China by Prime Minister Stephen Harper will no doubt be closely followed by our members.

I am pleased to report on some of the business aspects of CCFS-Ottawa during the past year:

Our Membership : remains stable at 140 of paid individual members. The executive committee recently passed a motion for an increased family membership fee of \$30, with the individual membership remaining the same. **Our finances** show a healthy balance with a welcome revenue resulting from the New Year banquet with hats off in particular to Lorraine Farkas' efforts, and member donations.

Executive Committee : The eleven-member committee has worked well with a high level of engagement, with eight executives staying on from the previous year, and three new members elected a year ago. Eight executive committee meetings were held during the year in rent-free premises.

Newsletters & website: Three newsletters were issued, in December 2008 under the editorship of the late Ken Merklinger, March and summer 2009 issues under the editorship of Peter Larson. Seven substantive event notices were distributed. The chapter's website continues to be maintained by Steve Hagopian, www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa.

Purchase of equipment: The chapter acquired a projector last spring using a \$500 donation in memory of Ken Merklinger from Dr. A.Y. Eng and his wife Dr. W.M.Pan. We are now self-sufficient in terms of equipment for our events. Secretary Jim Steele managed the purchase of both projector and microphone system.

Chinese Embassy liaison: Under Ambassador Lan Lijun, the Embassy has continued its strong support to CCFS-Ottawa through regular attendance by Embassy staff at our events, the provision of interesting information materials at events, and

generous doorprizes and wines for our New Year banquet. The executive organized an August 29 farewell reception for departing Cultural Counselor Zhao Haisheng and his wife at the home of executive member Dr. Yong-Zhi Wang and his wife. It doubled as a welcome reception for new Cultural Counselor Lin Difu and his wife Ms Zhang, plus two new Cultural Office staff (photos can be viewed on our website.)

Many of our members attended the two splendid variety shows by art troupes from the PRC. Some attended the 60th anniversary celebration of the PRC founding, and the Mid-autumn Festival hosted by the Chinese Embassy.

Federation of Canada China Friendship Associations: Our Society has been represented on the Federation Board by Gilliane Lapointe, Jim Steele, and myself (myself now as FCCFA immediate past president). Four Ottawa members represented our chapter at the November 2008 Friendship Forum in Hunan hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. As the largest branch of the Federation, we expect to send a similar-size representation for an October 2010 Friendship Forum in Shanghai to be hosted by the CPAFFC, coinciding with the closing of the 2010 Shanghai World Exhibition. We also expect to be represented on a smaller delegation at the invitation from the Shanghai Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

2009 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

I believe it is a significant accomplishment for the CCFS-Ottawa to continue to offer the range of program activities such as of the past year, using very limited financial resources at our disposal. For this accomplishment, I give special credit to our program sub-committee - vice-president Gilliane Lapointe and John Hilliker. This appreciation is extended to our honorary members, the member volunteers who have contributed in various ways, as well as to our guestspeakers from Ottawa and from elsewhere who addressed us this past year at members' events. Nine CCFS-Ottawa members' events were held this past year, almost all at Library & Archives Canada. A list of the events may be found at the end of this report.

Finally, it has been a privilege to serve as your president during the past four years and eight months. My personal conviction in CCFS-Ottawa's work is deepened with respect to the goals of our Society, that of building active and lasting friendship and developing mutual understanding between the Canadian and the Chinese people. I want to express my gratitude to the Society's executive committee members for their commitment to our Society's goals, their sense of responsibility, and their steadfast support of me during my tenure. To all of you, thank you.



Lolan Wang Merklinger

CCFS-Ottawa Members Events During 2009
all held. except where indicated, at Library and Archives:

November 26: AGM at Library & Archives; screening of a China Central Television documentary 'A Retrospective of 60 Years of Chinese National Day Celebrations'; 87minutes.

October 15: Professor Christian Constantin, Ottawa University, presented an illustrated talk on '*China's energy policy and global climate change*'

September 17: Loic Gouadec's talk and artistic demonstration on '*Personal Journey Into Tai Ji Chuan*'

June 18: Lively presentation by M. Jean-François Leclerc, Director, Centre d'Histoire de Montréal, on *Montrealizing Bethune: The genesis of the exhibition 'The Adventures of the Unpredictable Doctor Bethune'*

May 7: Talk by Dr. Bernie Frolic, Professor Emeritus, York University and Senior Researcher, Munk Centre, Toronto, on *Current Prospects for Political Change in China*;

April 16: Illustrated Talk by Dr. André Laliberté, University of Ottawa, on *The Revival of religion in contemporary China*

March 19: Talk by Senior Colonel CAI Ping, Defence Attaché of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, on '*China's Security Policy Today*

February 8: Year of the Ox New Year's banquet graced by Ambassador Lan Lijun and Madame Lan, and senior Chinese Embassy representatives and other VIPs at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant

January 15: Talk by Professor Charles Burton of Brock University on *The reforms of Deng Xiaoping*

February 8: CCFS Traditional Chinese New Year Celebration Banquet to usher in the Year of the Ox at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant. Musical entertainment, doorprizes, a ten-course banquet with 145 attendees

CCFS-Ottawa actively supported the January 16, Spring Festival Gala of Chinese Music and Dance 2009 at the National Arts Centre; presented by the China Arts Association, a visual and musical masterpiece featuring a wide range of spectacular performances by 50 leading artists from China.