



Chinese New Year's Banquet – In with the Tiger



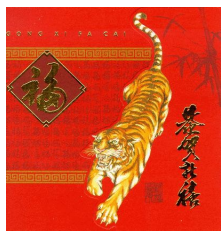
I to r: Austin Thorne, Dr. Ian Bowmer, Peter Larson, Ginette Munson, Ambassador Lan Lijun, Hon. Sheila Copps, Gilliane Lapointe, Lorraine Farkas, Mayor Larry O'Brien, Counsellor Lin Difur, Senator Jim Munson

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



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 La-pointe 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...

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...
