

**Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa**  
**Annual General Meeting, November 22, 2012**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

During the past year, the Society was very active and its membership continued to grow to stand at 220 now, compared to 190 a year ago.

In response to the challenges of continued growth, the executive held its first strategy meeting in March. At the meeting, we clarified that our focus is to reach out to the Ottawa and surrounding community to help Canadians learn more about China and understand it better. On the one hand, this is an increasing challenge as tension between China and particularly the United States has been increasing, spreading fear and prejudice. On the other hand, more and more Canadians are interested in knowing more about China and are visiting China. The Society's main activity will continue to be monthly public meetings featuring expert speakers on a wide range of topics.

This was my third year as President. A newly formed speakers committee brought some excellent speakers which attracted growing audiences of 50 - 80 members and non-members. A list of our events is included at the end of the report.

Our other activities included:

- Four members from CCFS-O participated in the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations (FCCFA) delegation to the Friendship Forum and Tour in China in September 2012 at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.
- We continued to be very active members of the FCCFA.
- We have started to organize tours of the Asian superstore T&T, with one tour already having taken place and much appreciated.
- We received delegations from Shanghai and Jiangsu friendship organizations recently. We organized some programming, including a tour for one of them of our parliament and a meeting with Minister of State and Chief Government Whip Gordon O'Connor.

The executive is proud to have created a Board of Patrons and honoured that Honourable Sheila Copps and former Ambassador Robert Wright are members of the new board.

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

**Newsletters & website:** Newsletters were issued in December 2011 and May 2012. Notices were issued for all the Society's events and for other events which might be of interest to our members. Considerable work went into implementing a new look for our website and adding new content, such as a list of readings recommended by executive members. Also CCFS-O is now on Facebook.

**Membership:** Records were meticulously updated and a good rate of renewals was obtained.

**Finances** show a comfortable balance, reflecting careful spending, support from memberships, revenue from the Chinese New Year's banquet, and donations. After having rent-free rooms for our public meetings for many years, we will start to pay for meeting rooms in 2013.

**Executive Committee:** We have achieved a nice mix on our executive of experienced and inexperienced, younger and older members, women and men. We have also benefited greatly

from other loyal members who took on substantial responsibilities. Nine executive committee meetings were held during the year in rent-free premises.

**Chinese Embassy:** We have appreciated our cordial relationship with the Chinese Embassy. The Embassy continued to support CCFS-Ottawa by Embassy staff's attending some of our events, by providing information materials at events, and by generously donating door prizes and wine for our New Year's banquet.

For the coming period, we have a lineup of impressive speakers and are busy organizing our annual New Year's banquet in Feb. We plan to start a China book club for members. We hope to cover increasing expenses due to room rentals by achieving a continued growth in memberships and collecting donations, while avoiding an increase in dues.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the executive and other active members for their strong commitment and considerable efforts to carry out their tasks as volunteers. They also attend conferences and other events, and are constantly advocates for the Society. Sincere thanks to three executive members who are stepping down--David Dupont, and long-time members Gilliane Lapointe and Jim Steele. I am grateful to our speakers who devote precious time preparing and delivering without compensation. I thank our members who have attended our events and helped out in other ways to support the Society's work. Your feedback and comments are always welcome.

*Lorraine Farkas*  
Lorraine Farkas

### CCFS-Ottawa Events During 2011-2012

- December 15, 2011: ***Finding Safe Food in China***, Professor Josephine Smart, University of Calgary.
- January 12, 2012: ***Transforming China's "Grave" Environmental Situation***, Arthur Hanson, former president, International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- February 12, 2012: **CCFS-O's Year of the Dragon New Year's Banquet**, a ten-course banquet for members, friends and distinguished guests. Record attendance of 220.
- March 6, 2012: ***Canada-China Economic Relations: Beyond Petroleum***, Daniel Poon (North-South Institute) and David Rothwell (David Rothwell and Associates).
- April 10, 2012: ***Importance of Food and Agriculture in Canada-China Relations***, Fred Gorrell, federal Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food.
- May 23, 2012: ***Leadership Prospects for the 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress***, Professor Jeremy Paltiel, Carleton University.
- June 12, 2012: ***China's Three Gorges Dam: Development and Conflicts***, Wang Qiming, Chinese Embassy in Ottawa.
- September 26, 2012: ***In the Move to Mass Higher Education***, Professor Ruth Hayhoe, University of Toronto. Carleton University
- October 18, 2012: ***The Rise of China to an Art World Superpower***, Derek Jessop, art advisor, Toronto and Chongqing.
- November 22, 2012: **Annual General Meeting and presentation *The Life and Times of Chester Ronning*** by Brian Evans, professor emeritus University of Alberta.