



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.)





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



Some came alone to the banquet and others brought friends. 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