



Canada-China Friendship Society® La Société d'amitié Canada-Chine

Ottawa Chapter. Founded 1976. | Section d'Ottawa. Depuis 1976.

Helping Canadians Learn About China and Understand it better

Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa (CCFSO) Annual General Meeting, November 10 2016

Co-Presidents' Report

The year 2015/16 has been another busy year for the Society. We held ten events which are listed at the end of this report. Attendance at Speaker Events ranged from 50 to more than 100. The speakers and their topics were both diverse and extraordinary, and provoked enthusiastic question and answer sessions. Our membership now stands at 228 a decline of 32 from two years ago. The annual Chinese New Years' Banquet was sold out with 210 people enjoying the food and entertainment. The silent auction set new records and made an important contribution to our financial stability. Our thanks go to the banquet Chair, Nataly Azzi and the other members of the Banquet Committee.

This was a year of anniversary celebrations. In October the CCFSO celebrated the 45th anniversary of Canada-China Diplomatic Relations with a free event. Minister Wang presented greetings from the Embassy. John Curtis recounted a tale of the Public Service ingenuity required to properly brief Prime Minister P. Trudeau on the economy of China. Roderick Stewart, Norman Bethune's biographer, and his wife provided a fascinating account of Bethune's life and motivations. We were pleased to show several pieces of Chinese art from the collection of Professors Bled. Looking ahead the calendar year will end with a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the CCFSO at the Canadian Embassy of Peoples Republic of China.

The Speakers Programme continued its policy of providing a broad cross section of topics about China (See attachment 1). The year began with a stimulating presentation by Professor Daniel Bell based on his book *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. He explored the long history in the Chinese philosophy and government systems designed to seek out the brightest and the best for governance roles. Professor Bell discussed not only the merits of the system, but also its challenges and how they might be overcome.

Other speakers covered key economic issues (the road to the internationalisation of the Chinese currency, the prospects for a Canada-China Free Trade Agreement, ways and means for local companies to compete with the Chinese), culture (traditional Chinese medicine, food production and food waste in China, Art Deco in Shanghai), and the past, present and future of Canada-China Higher Education Co-operation.

In September the CCFSO was pleased to support an international Folding Book exhibition sponsored by Library and Archives Canada, and Maureen McTeer. Several CCFSO members lead by Janice Zaharko provided the visiting artists with a colourful tour of the Gatineau Hills, and provided key translation support.

Last year we reported that "the Executive held a one day strategic planning session."

"The CCFSO's Mission statement was affirmed and the outcome / result statement was refined.

- Mission – Helping Canadians to learn more about China and to understand it better.
- Outcome / result - and thereby help Canadians acquire a more realistic and comprehensive understanding of China and its changing role in the world and the implications for Canada; and, enable them be exposed to, better engage with, and appreciate its culture.

“These provide the raison d’être, the motivation and the focus of the Executive’s efforts.

“Two planning goals were agreed to guide the Executive’s plans and development over the next 2-3 years.

- Planning goal 1: Significantly increase the scope and reach of our outreach to Canadians
- Planning goal 2: Strengthen and evolve our product lines and create proficient and modern product line-target group oriented outreach and marketing strategies

“To achieve these goals we will be seeking to proactively identify specific groups of Canadians with an interest in China and to develop targeted means of connecting with them, and tailoring our programmes to attract their interest and engagement. Among other things we agreed to pursue more movie nights, to establish a pilot project of Mandarin Conversation Circles, and to make more use of social media.”

A new initiative, Mandarin Conversation Circles, started this year. After a general call was put out, members responded if they were interested in practicing their Mandarin language skills. Several groups were formed at varying skill levels, each headed by a volunteer leader. The participants were pleased with the circles and found them useful and enjoyable. Activity decreased over the summer. Several groups restarted since the fall season. We are currently looking for volunteer leaders and participants for weekly meetings.

The CCFSO has been active on Facebook and Twitter with the regular sharing of news articles and information related to China. We have also used the tools to promote our events and reach a greater audience. Our Twitter account now has over 415 followers and our Facebook page has over 300 likes. Recently we opened a LinkedIn account to enhance our outreach to businesspeople and professionals. The CCFSO web site now includes two completed blog series on travel in China and Chinese festivals.

Marilyn Collette leads the CCFSO book club, ChinaReads, which functions more like a China Study Group than a traditional book club. Begun in April 2013, the 10 loyal members meet once a month and use the vehicle of book reviews to enhance their knowledge of China and the authors who write about it (See Attachment 2). Subjects and discussions have covered far ranging topics from China’s historical past and legacy including Manchu rebellions and the Cultural Revolution; current politics, leadership and power issues; economic development, climate change and poverty concerns -- to China in the media, culture in fiction and the cultural delights of Sichuan food.

We want to thank all members of the Executive for the many hours they put in to organize all these activities and for their co-operation during the last year.

We would like to acknowledge the continuing collaboration of the Embassy of China. They provided a number of gifts that were used to raise money in the very successful silent auction that takes place at the Banquet.

Roy Atkinson
Co-President
November 1, 2016

Gary Levy
Co-President
November 1, 2016

Attachment 1: CCFS-Ottawa Events During Fiscal Year 2015-2016

October 1, 2015	The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy, Professor Daniel A. Bell, Tsinghua University, Beijing
October 30 2015	<u>Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Canada-China Diplomatic Relations</u> Greetings from Minister Wang, Embassy of the People's Republic of China A tale of briefing of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau for his trip to China. John Curtis, Senior Fellow, CD Howe Institute: The Life of Norman Bethune , Roderick Stewart, Historian, Author, Understanding China Through Cartoons , A 1986 Exhibition that toured Canada in 1986 courtesy of Professors Cynthia and Yves Bled
November 19, 2015	The Untold Story of the Past, Present & Future of Canada-China Higher Education Co-Operation Ruth Hayhoe Professor and President Emerita Hong Kong Institute of Education and University of Toronto Minister Counsellor Yang Xinyu, Educational Affairs, Embassy of People's Republic of China in Canada Dr. Julia Pan OISE at University of Toronto, Director Canada-China University Linkage Programs
January 12, 2016	Traditional Chinese Medicine, Dr. Yan Lu registered Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioner and Acupuncturist with over 20 years of experience in China and in Canada Lacey (Qing) Sheng, Master's Degree from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine in Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine. Recent graduate student in Health Administration at the University of Ottawa
February 20, 2016	Annual Chinese New Year's Banquet
March 23, 2016	Food Production and Food Waste in China Matthew Gaudreau, PhD Candidate University of Waterloo Hingman Leung, Intercultural communications specialist, film maker
April 20, 2016	China's bumpy road to currency internationalization and why it matters for Canada, Daniel Koldyk is a Senior Researcher at Export Development Canada specialising in international investment and Chinese economics.
May 25, 2016	Prospects and Obstacles to a Canada-China Free Trade Agreement Dan Ciuriak, Fellow in Residence, C.D. Howe Institute
June 22, 2016	A Tour of Art Deco in Shanghai Ian Ferguson: Since retiring as a Canadian diplomat Ian has pursued an interest in art and received his M.A. in Art History from Carleton University in 2014. He is a member of the board of Heritage Ottawa and volunteers as a docent at the National Gallery of Canada.
September 14, 2016	The China Factor: The Rise of a Dragon on the International Markets, Amy Karam, Author and business consultant

Attachment 2: Summary Books Read in 2015/16 by China Reads Book Club

1. Frank Ling's memoirs with her review of "*Pray Standing*": Frank Ling was born in Hong Kong to a family rooted in Chinese tradition and open to modern Western perspective, a family committed to providing him all the tools needed for creating a fulfilling life. In 1967, he emigrated to Canada and then fast-tracked through Harvard, where he earned a master's degree in City Planning in Urban Design in 1972. Frank acquired international business experience and cultivated business contacts around the world while working in Hong Kong, Southeast Asia, Europe, the United States and Canada. His recently published memoir, *Pray Standing: a Global Life Inspired by Family and a Fortune Teller*, celebrates his commitment to community, near and far, and to family, including his wife Loretta, children Theo and Kim, and four grandchildren.

2. Lin Yutang's "*Moment in Peking*". This novel is neither an apology for contemporary Chinese life nor an expose of it, as so many recent Chinese 'dark curtain' novels purport to be. It is neither a glorification of the old way of life nor a defense of the new. It is merely a story of how men and women in the contemporary era grow up and learn to live with one another, how they love and hate and quarrel and forgive and suffer and enjoy, how certain habits of living and ways of thinking are formed, and how, above all, they adjust themselves to the circumstances in this earthly life where men strive but the gods rule

3. Shaun Rein, "*The End of Cheap China: Trends that will disrupt the world*". Think beyond the incorrect stereotypes about China and read Shaun Rein's reality check. This respected China expert takes you behind the scenes to see what is going on in China today. His main message is a cautionary note for Westerners: As Chinese factory wages skyrocket, products made in China and sold around the globe will become more expensive, and China will become the world's most dynamic retail market. Despite its perhaps too-benign view of the Chinese government, recommend Rein's report to manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

4. "*U.S. -China 21, the future of U.S.-China relations under Xi Jinping*", by William J. Holstein 2014 : Thirty-five years after China's opening to the world, some of the key assumptions that have guided coverage are being tested by Presidency of Xi Jinping " by William Holstein.

5. William Holstein: "*Has the American Media Misjudged China?*" This book is must reading for anyone who is involved in U.S.-Chinese relations or for anyone who is just plain curious about how the assumptions that have guided American media coverage of China are now being challenged by the presidency of Xi Jinping. He has a very different vision of his country's future than the one often presented in some media accounts.

6. The Honourable Vivian Poy: "*Tales of Survival and Good Fortune of the Poy Family*"

7. Kwei-li's "*Golden Lilies*" is adapted and with an introduction by Eileen Goudge. The book is a series of letters written 110 to 135 years ago by a woman named Kwei-li. She was the high-born wife of a wealthy diplomat and the head of the domestic household of extended family and servants. The letters at the outset are from the point of view of a young bride and noblewoman who is writing to her husband who is travelling and who is adjusting to a new household of her husband's family, including a bossy mother-in-law. Halfway through the book, Kwei-li has moved to Shanghai with her husband and is writing to her mother-in-law about the political unrest sweeping

the country and her children defying the old ways and creating a new China. The book takes you inside a wealthy family of the old family in essentially an autobiography of a woman dealing with change.

8. Hugh White's "*The China Choice: Why We Should Share Power*" analyses three options for the US' China Policy --- compete on all fronts; concede leadership to China in Asia; and share power which is the author's recommended approach. He proposes accepting China as "an equal partner" or risk facing China as an enemy which would entail immense costs. The book describes how power could be shared. The author is Professor of Strategic Studies at the Australian National University's Strategic and Defence Studies Centre.

9. "*Treason by the Book*", by Jonathan Spence. "In 1728 a stranger handed a letter to Governor Yue calling on him to lead a rebellion against the Manchu rulers of China. Feigning agreement, he learnt the details of the plot and informed the Emperor, Yongzheng. Using documentary evidence, the author recounts the story of this revolt."

10. Nien Cheng's "*Life and Death in Shanghai*" is the story of a wealthy Chinese woman who worked in Shell's office in Shanghai before it was shut down with the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. Her daughter Meiping was a young actress at the Shanghai Film Studio. Both were victimized, and Nien Cheng spent more than six years in detention under constant interrogation to confess her wrongdoings against her country. The book was published in English in 1986.

11. Xianlin's "*The Cowshed*" was first published in 1998 in Chinese, and only this year has been published in English. The author was a respected professor of Buddhism at Peking University. During the Cultural Revolution he was struggled against by students at Beida, and was forced to build the "Cowshed" of the book's title and then he himself and other professors were detained in it for a year.

12. Marius Jansen's '*The Japanese and Sun Yat-sen*' (pub 1967) -

13. Simon Winchester's book '*Pacific*' *Pacific*: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators, Fading Empires, and the Coming Collision of the World's Superpowers.

14. "*Chinese Politics in the Era of Xi Jinping: Renaissance, Reform, or Retrogression?*" Despite an undistinguished career as a provincial administrator, Xi has rapidly amassed more power than his predecessors. He has overawed his rivals and shaken up the party-state hierarchy by launching large-scale anti-corruption and rectification campaigns. With a strong power base in the People's Liberation Army and a vision of China as an "awakening lion," Xi has been flexing China's military muscle in sovereignty rows with countries including Japan, Vietnam, and the Philippines while trying to undermine the influence of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. While Xi is still fine-tuning his art of governance, his zero tolerance for dissent and his preoccupation with upholding the privileges of the "red aristocracy" and the CCP's status as "perennial ruling party" do not bode well for economic, political, or cultural reforms. Lam takes a close look at Xi's ideological and political profile and considers how his conservative outlook might shape what the new strongman calls "the Great Renaissance of the Chinese race."

15. The “*Man Who Loved China*” by Simon Winchester. The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom ; about the remarkable scientist and sinologist. Joseph Needham.

16. “*Shark's Fin and Sichuan Pepper*” (a sweet-sour memoir of eating in China) by Fuchsia Dunlop, published in 2008. "In this extraordinary memoir, Fuchsia recalls her evolving relationship with China and its food, from her first rapturous encounter with the delicious cuisine of Sichuan Province, to brushes with corruption, environmental degradation and greed."

17. “*Decoded*” by Mia Jia is a riveting tale of obsession and a profound exploration of the mind of an inspired genius, one that discovers in cryptography the key to the human heart.”

18. “*The Cultural Revolution - A People's History*” by Frank Dikotter. 1962?1976 draws for the first time on hundreds of previously classified party documents, from secret police reports to unexpurgated versions of leadership speeches. After the army itself fell victim to the Cultural Revolution, ordinary people used the political chaos to resurrect the market and hollow out the party's ideology. In short, they buried Maoism. By showing how economic reform from below was an unintended consequence of a decade of violent purges and entrenched fear, *The Cultural Revolution* casts China's most tumultuous era in a wholly new light.

19. “*How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*”, by Yuen Yuen Ang. Before markets opened in 1978, China was an impoverished planned economy governed by a Maoist bureaucracy. In just three decades it evolved into the world's second-largest economy and is today guided by highly entrepreneurial bureaucrats. In *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*, Yuen Yuen Ang explains this astonishing metamorphosis- the most complete synthesis to date of the numerous interacting forces that have shaped China’s dramatic makeover. “