



DOUBLE HAPPINESS
FUNDRAISING DINNER

NOVEMBER 4, 2017



CHINESE CANADIAN
MILITARY MUSEUM



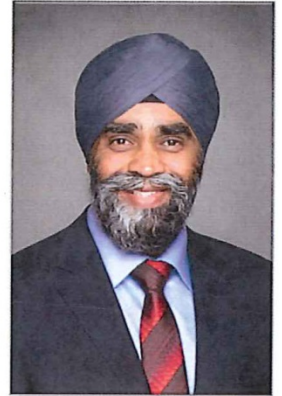
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Harjit S. Sajjan
Member of Parliament
Vancouver South



September 27, 2017

Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society
PO Box 47004 City Square PO,
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 3X0

Thank you for your invitation to this year's fundraising dinner for the museum on November 4th, 2017. Regrettably, I am unable to attend this year due to a prior commitment. However, I would like to take a moment to recognize the amazing work that the society has done and continues to do in our community.

With the attendance of Bill Norwood as a guest speaker, and great veterans like Thomas Wong and Monty Lee – there is no doubt that this will be a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harjit S. Sajjan'.

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan
Member of Parliament
Vancouver South



A Message from the Lieutenant Governor



As Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, it is my honour to join you this evening in support of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

This year I have had the opportunity to provide remarks on Private Frederick Lee, a Chinese Canadian soldier who was killed in action in 1917 during the Battle of Hill 70 in the First World War. Lee was enlisted with the 172nd (Rocky Mountain) Battalion, of which I am Honorary Colonel. Many brave Canadians lost their lives during this fierce battle, but Lee's story resonates. While Lee was born and raised in Canada, he was unable to exercise his franchise to vote. Nevertheless, he willingly enlisted to fight for his country and made the ultimate sacrifice as a result.

Even in the face of discrimination, Chinese Canadians have served our country with pride. The Chinese Canadian Military Museum is a crucial resource in preserving and documenting the stories of citizens like Frederick Lee. His contributions, alongside other Chinese Canadian men and women, must be shared, as they connect the modern Chinese community with their own history in Canada.

I extend my sincere thanks to all those who have worked so hard to bring this museum to the people of Canada and my gratitude to Chinese Canadian veterans for their leadership and courage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Guichon".

The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, it is an honour to welcome everyone to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society's *Double Happiness* fundraising dinner.

This special occasion honours two anniversaries: Canada's 150th and the 70th anniversary of the passing of the 1947 Citizenship Act. This Act granted Chinese Canadians full citizenship, allowing them to finally take their rightful place in Canadian society and be recognized in the professions in which they were trained. By accepting and appreciating our diverse cultures, Canada has grown as a nation and we are now able to live in a vibrant, diverse and welcoming country.

I would like to acknowledge two guests of honour here tonight. Both men are Royal Canadian Air Force veterans who served in the air war during World War II – Monty Lee and Thomas Wong. Thank you for your years of service and dedication. I would like to extend a special birthday wish to Mr. Wong who will be turning 100 on November 14, 2017. Congratulations on this milestone!

And congratulations in advance to the CCMMS for unveiling its new exhibition *On A Wing And A Prayer*. The World War II stories from men of the Chinese-Canadian Air Force will enable a new generation of Canadians to learn about the sacrifices made by these patriots.

Thank you to organizers of this special event. As the only museum of its kind in Canada, I wish you great success in meeting your fundraising goals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John J. Horgan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society
PO Box 47004 City Square PO
Vancouver, BC V5Z 3X0



It gives me great pleasure to join you this evening for such a wonderful occasion. I have had the great privilege of visiting the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and meeting so many incredible Chinese Canadian Veterans. The museum is a credit to all of those who have worked so hard to create a living history of commitment and service before self. The stories that are told of struggle, perseverance and sacrifice are truly inspirational to all Canadians and rightly bring the spotlight on to some of the most significant elements of Canadian history.

I am incredibly fortunate and proud to have a diverse group of servicemen and women in the Maritime Forces Pacific Command and would like to thank the Chinese Canadian community for their hard work in maintaining such good relations and celebrating the Canadian Armed Forces. I would like to thank you for your presence and support to the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and wish you a wonderful evening.

Yours aye,

Art McDonald
Rear-Admiral
Commander



City of
Richmond

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

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GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR:



On behalf of City Council and the residents of Richmond, I would like to extend sincere greetings and welcome you all to the *Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society's 19th Annual Fundraising Dinner*, being held on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at the Radisson Hotel in Richmond.

Since its inception in 1998, the *Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS)* has been dedicated towards informing and educating the community about the importance of the Chinese Canadian participation in the First and Second World Wars. The *CCMMS* collects, records, and preserves artefacts, memorabilia, and photographs that are significant to many historical wartime events. We are very appreciative of the invaluable services that you have offered to the community.

As Mayor, I take pride in the remarkable multicultural community within our City, and believe that it creates mutual respect and generates understanding of the different values and traditions that make up a diverse cultural heritage.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently to organize this exciting event. Best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and memorable evening!

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum

By Howe Lee, Colonel (retired) Canadian Army, President Emeritus, CCMMS

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS) was officially formed and opened with a ceremony on November 7, 1998. At that time there was a need to inform or educate the Chinese communities and the general public about some of the history of the Chinese people in Canada. The important historical Chinese contributions for the past 200 years to Canada have brought about many positive changes. One of the most significant contributions was the voluntary participation of the Chinese Canadian veterans in the Second World War.

CCMMS' overall goal is to educate the public about the Chinese's contribution to Canada, in particular, their participation in the First and Second World Wars and other national conflicts. It was the Chinese Canadian veterans' contributory role in bringing about the repeal of the federal racist Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 and the passing of the new Citizenship Act on January 1, 1947. These two Acts are major historical milestones in our Chinese Canadian history. Naturally, research into the history of the Chinese people, especially during the war times would be a very important activity of CCMMS. Collection and preservation of historical artifacts, memorabilia, and photographs would thus be major activities to document the legacy of the Chinese veterans.

Honour Roll

During the past couple of years, members of our museum have been recognized for their contributions serving our veterans and in our community. We are pleased to share with you the following members that were awarded specific honours for their service achievements.

Minster of Veterans Affairs Commendation

Paul Lee
Edmund Wu

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

Catherine Clement
Alison MacLean
King Wan

Meritorious Service Medal (Civ.)

Howe Yet Lee

In addition, we have a couple of recognitions pending formal notification and public release thus we are unable to announce them at this time. Nevertheless, we send our heartiest **Congratulations** to all those named and as yet unnamed recipients!



President's Message

By King Wan, President, CCMMS

This year, communities across the country are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. We join together to toast the nation's sesquicentennial birthday, and show our national spirit and pride! Canadians are encouraged to explore their own country this year. The "Canada 150" celebrations are also a great time for all Canadians to discover the history of their own country.

The first Chinese immigrants began arriving to Canada to work on railroads and in mining operations in the late 1800. They lived in turbulent times during the past 150 plus years in Canada and were treated differently than any other immigrants in two important ways: they were forbidden to vote until after WWII, and they were subjected to a head tax.

In spite of being discriminated, when World War I was declared in 1914, approximately 200 Chinese volunteered for the Canadian Army. When war ended, returning Chinese veterans continued to face racial intolerance as well as unemployment. The passage of the 1923 Immigration Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the only legislation written for a specific ethnic group, effectively barred Chinese from coming to Canada.

At the start of World War II, a few Chinese volunteered for the Canadian Army. Those who volunteered argued that if Chinese wanted to be considered first class citizens, they needed to demonstrate their loyalty to Canada. However, the air force and navy at first did not accept anyone of Chinese descent due to their internal policy. But that policy was eventually overturned as the war moved to the Pacific Theatre and Chinese were considered useful. By war's end, over 800 young and patriotic Chinese Canadians volunteered in all three branches of the armed forces and some were even seconded to the British forces. They fought on land, sea and air in all branches of the Canadian military and many made the supreme sacrifice.

As a result of their contributions in the Second World War, Chinese in Canada were finally given the opportunities and rights afforded other Canadians. In 1947, they were granted citizenship and the right to vote. These privileges meant that they could enter professions such as accounting, law, engineering and medicine that were previously closed to them. The veterans paved the way for men and women of Chinese descent for a stable future and changed the economic landscape shaping Canadian society in a constructive and meaningful way.

This year, we celebrate two significant events in the Chinese community in Canada. The 150th year of Canadian confederation and the 70th anniversary of the Chinese regaining the right to vote. The theme of our dinner is "Double Happiness" to celebrate the two momentous and happy occasions; and aims to inspire all of us to continue to uphold the ideal of Canada as a beacon of hope, a just society and an accepting country in our tumultuous world.

To make this evening's dinner inspirational we are joined by our keynote speaker, Bill Norwood – author of *"Cleared for Takeoff: A Pilot's Story of Challenges and Triumphs."* Growing up in a small, segregated southern Illinois town in the 1940's, Bill was inspired by his elementary school principal, who was a pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen in WWII. Bill worked hard and, eventually, became a pilot flying B-52s in the U.S. Air Force. He made history when, in 1965, he became the first African-American line-pilot flying for United Airlines. He will share his story, his love of flying and his adventurous spirit in the hopes of inspiring others, especially young people, to pursue their dreams.

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM



Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

The Chinese Canadian participation in the World Wars is largely unknown within and outside the Chinese communities yet their contribution was significant. However, despite their courage and patriotism, there are few official displays dedicated to Chinese Canadian participation in either war.

As a result of their sacrifice in World War II, Chinese were finally able to claim the opportunities and rights afforded other Canadians. They were offered citizenship and the right to vote, which in turn, led to membership in professional societies such as law, medicine and engineering previously closed to them.

The role of our museum society is to collect, record and preserve artifacts, memorabilia and photographs and tell their wartime stories. Today, we also seek to educate a new generation of Canadians on the role the Chinese played in our country's history. We not only operate a museum – which is located within Chinese Cultural Centre complex in Vancouver's Chinatown – we also organize tours and talks, and undertake special projects designed to promote awareness of the experience of Chinese Canadian soldiers.

Find out more: info@ccmms.ca; on [Facebook](#) and on our website at www.ccmms.ca.



ANAVET Pacific Unit 280

World War II Chinese Canadian veterans came into their own 68 years ago when 70 of their ranks were granted a charter of the Army,

Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada, Pacific Unit 280. They made history by becoming the first all Chinese Canadian vets Unit in Canada.

Chinese Canadians veterans had served in various theatres of conflict – in Europe, Southeast Asia, South Pacific and Australia – and were present as provincial President Sidney Hamilton presented the charter to Unit 280 President the late Frank Ho Lem of Calgary.

When members of Unit 280 donned the uniform of Canada's armed forces, they had experienced "the most glorious moment of their lives. But their task was only half done. Now that they had returned to civilian life it was their duty to fight for the rights not only of veterans but for all Chinese Canadians. During its formative years, the Unit focused its efforts and energy in fighting for civil rights. As recent as the late 1940s and the 50s, Orientals in this country were relegated to second class citizens in this province.

Besides fighting for political, economic and social equality, unit 280 also organized many gala and festive events. It sponsored a youth's drum and bugle corps, annual Narcissus Queen reception, summer picnic and yearly Children's Christmas party. In 1988 a plaque was erected in Goose Bay (later renamed Commando Bay), on the Okanagan Lake where a secret training camp was held to trained 13 Chinese Canadian vets in a secret mission. In the 1990s the Chinese Canadian veterans were guests on a China tour of China's Minister of Defence.

Members of Unit 280 have been turning out every year for the Remembrance Day parade and wreath presentation ceremony at the Cenotaph.

The success of Unit 280 is built in no small measure on the willingness and cooperation of its members. The Unit owes much to those who have worked so hard to hold the organization together during difficult periods. They have learned the incalculable value and satisfaction of comradeship.



Namwayut: We are one with others

By Don Chapman, Director, CCMMS

Almost 6 years ago I was in Phoenix. It was towards the end of January 2012 with the Dr. Martin Luther King march just about to get underway. Not being one to sit on the sidelines, I was about to join thousands upon thousands of other individuals and families gathering in the streets. Our route was from a local downtown church to a nearby grassy park. People sang, held hands, there was laughter, stories were told, parents pushed their toddlers in strollers, middle-aged children pushed their elderly parents in wheelchairs, and it was all in the spirit of making the world better and more inclusive for everyone.

The key phrase: *“Better and more inclusive for everyone.”*

It was exactly as Dr. King would have imagined. Solidarity, kinship, and a common bond for a common cause. The idea was to spread Dr. King’s messages of hope, unity, compassion, fairness, equal rights, justice, and everything that is good in life.

A block or two from the start, it dawned on me that Dr. King’s words were never meant for just one group of people, nor for just one country. Why then, why don’t we celebrate these cherished values in Canada with our own march? The answer was obvious.

I contacted my friends at the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, and they too embraced the idea. Now to make it a reality, to celebrate Dr. King’s vision, but with a Canadian twist. The most obvious concern was timing. Marching in January as they do in the States might turn an enthusiastic participant into an unwilling ice sculpture. January got nixed, as did February. What about March or April? The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guaranteeing equal rights was signed into law on April 17, 1982, so why not combine these two hugely significant milestones? The date was set, now we needed a name. Thus was born, ***The Rights and Freedoms March***.

2018 will be our fourth year. It’s also the most important march yet. Why? Because discrimination and hate are on the rise. We’ve all seen it, especially south of the border. Yes, we’re extremely lucky being Canadian, but nonetheless no country is immune, and hatred has a way of spreading. But then, so too does love and acceptance. As Dr. King would say: *“We Shall Overcome.”*

True, but not when people sit on the sidelines. Please, we need you to walk with us, for everyone, and in particular for younger Canadians. Our obligation is to pass onto them a better world.

In so many words, *To Stand on Guard for Thee* also means standing up for hope, unity, compassion, fairness, equal rights, justice, and everything that is good in life. Teaching our youth these core values ensures a better future for Canada, and for that matter, the world. Ripples come in contact with every shore.

We are our brother’s keeper.

See you in April, under the Cambie Street bridge near the Canada Line at Olympic Stadium.

www.rightsandfreedomsmarch.com



A Year in Review 2016 – 2017

This past year has been another busy year for the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society since our last fundraising dinner. The following events have happened since last year's dinner.

Date	Event
October 29, 2016	Battle of Hong Kong Annual Fundraising Dinner
November 8, 2016	Aboriginal Veterans' Day
November 11, 2016	Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Cenotaph and Chinatown Memorial
November 18, 2016	Multiculturalism BC Awards Dinner
November 26, 2016 to December 9, 2016	Trip to Guangzhou and Hong Kong to commemorate the 75 th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong
December 12, 2016	"First Christmas in Canada" Concert at QE Playhouse Theatre
January 29, 2017	Lunar New Year Parade in Chinatown
February 11, 2017	ANAVET Pacific Unit 280 Installation Lunch
March 3, 2017	<i>Burkas2Bullets</i> screening at Woodward Theatre
March 16-18, 2017	LIAC Commemorative Monument Tour to Ashcroft, Kamloops and Barkerville
March 28, 2017	Le Kiu Open House at new Le Kiu warehouse
April 2, 2017	2 nd Annual Ladies' Luncheon at Sherman Armouries
April 9, 2017	100 th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge at Mountain View Chinese Cemetery
April 16, 2017	3 rd Annual Rights & Freedoms March in Vancouver
May 6, 2017	Celebration lunch of veterans over 90 years old
May 13, 2017	Chinatown Heritage Memorial Plaque Ceremony at Chinese Cultural Centre
May 27, 2017	Chinatown Windows Project Walking Tour
July 1, 2017	Canada Day celebration at Chinese Cultural Centre and at Canada Place
July 1, 2017	Canada 150 Drumming Event
July 9, 2017	Pacific Unit 280/Alex Louie Memorial Picnic at Trout Lake Park
August 13, 2017	<i>BC Honours Chinese Pioneers</i> screening at The Cinematique
September 10, 2017	Chinese Canadian Airmen Memorial Plaque Ceremony at Air Force Memorial Garden in Stanley Park
October 17, 2017	Lost Story of Frederick Lee at the Battle of Hill 70
November 4, 2017	Double Happiness Annual Fundraising Dinner
November 5, 2017	"On A Wing and A Prayer" exhibit opening at CCMMS
November 11, 2017	Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Cenotaph and Chinatown Memorial

Highlights From The Past Year





Peering into Chinatown's Past

By Catherine Clement, Curator, CCMMS

To celebrate Canada's 150th birthday as well as commemorate 70 years since Chinese Canadians were granted the vote, our museum took on a slightly different project this year.

Our **Chinatown History Windows** project took place in Vancouver's Chinatown. This neighbourhood was the epicentre of the early Chinese-Canadian experience, and where a quiet civil rights movement was fought and won. Today, it is a community that is recovering from a long, slow decline, and facing a lot of changes and concerns about the loss of its Chinese history and character.

We wanted to help remind people of what has happened in this community. And we viewed the many empty or heavily shuttered windows in Chinatown as opportunities. These were blank canvases on which we could share the incredible stories that took place in these few city blocks, and within these buildings.

The **Chinatown History Windows** project involved the installation of large-format, historical photos onto storefront windows throughout Chinatown.



The historical photos filled the window. Black and white images were colourized, and often stylized, to create more dynamic, eye-catching graphics facing the street. Each image was accompanied by a text panel (English and Chinese): a short story about Chinatown's history that was evoked by the image. (For example, a historical image showing a family who ran a Chinese laundry in 1884, would describe the role of Chinese hand laundries in the early days of the community.)

Our topics ranged from pivotal moments in Chinatown history, to trends, to interesting personalities. We also shared some of the lesser-known stories and personalities that once walked the streets of this unique neighbourhood. In addition, we showcased some never-before-seen photographs from Chinatown's past that were offered to us from private, family collections.

By the end of the project, we installed 22 history windows, and told 22 different stories about Chinatown's past.

We thank all the building owners and retailers who volunteered to host a history window.

And, of course, we are deeply grateful to The City of Vancouver who sponsored the project through a grant from its "Great Beginnings Program." The City recognized the value of this project: it would not only help improve the look of the streetscape, it also would help educate people about the remarkable history of this neighbourhood.

You can view the 22 windows at: www.historywindows.ccmms.ca



CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

2017 Annual Fundraising Dinner

Evening Program

Reception

Introductions

MC Call to Order

VIP Procession

First Nations Welcome

National Anthems

Introduction of Dignitaries

Recognition of Veterans

Celebrating 100 Years

President's Remarks

Dinner

Raffle Ticket Sales

Remembering those veterans we lost in 2017

Toast to Fallen Comrades

Dessert

Hill 70 Project

Honourary Patron

Burma Star Flag Ceremony

Speech

Introduction to tonight's speaker

Speech (*by Captain Bill Norwood*)

Draws and Raffles

DOUBLE HAPPINESS



CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

2017 Annual Fundraising Dinner

Dinner Menu

Appetizer

Artisan lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers

Entrée

Choice of:

Roast chicken breast, lemon grain mustard sauce and
pancetta mashed potatoes

or

Wild salmon with soy braised eggplant,
brown basmati, shimeji mushrooms and green onions

or

Tofu with soy braised eggplant,
brown basmati, shimeji mushrooms and green onions

Dessert

Lemon cream shortcake

—

Freshly brewed coffee and naturally sourced teas

DOUBLE HAPPINESS





Keynote Speaker: William Ronald (Bill) Norwood

Most people, in their own way, make it through life. Few change the world. Bill Norwood falls into the latter category. At Southern Illinois University, he became the first Black football quarterback, a rarity at that time for predominately white universities. Graduating in 1959 from the university with a degree in chemistry, he joined the U.S. Air Force.

Bill was in pilot training in Selma, Alabama in 1960, during a challenging racially segregated period. In the end, the United States became forged into being a more inclusive country.

During the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, Bill found himself at the controls of a B-52 bomber as part of what was known as the *Strategic Air Command*, or SAC.

In 1965 he joined United Airlines as its first African American line pilot. Prior to Bill, former Tuskegee Airman and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ashby was hired by United to be a ground school instructor. Despite being infinitely qualified, Black line-pilots were not being hired by major airlines. Bill was instrumental in breaking aviation's colour barrier, paving the way for others.

In 1974, he received an MBA from the University of Chicago with an emphasis in International Labour Relations.

In 1996, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 60, Bill retired from United as a DC-10 Captain. Later that same year, in honour of his achievements in both aviation and in education - including his thirty-one years of dedicated service to United Airlines -- his name was painted on a United Airlines Boeing-727, which is now prominently displayed at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

For 27 years Bill served on the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees. He helped found the Organization of Black Airline Pilots, where he served multi-year terms as their treasurer, President, and Chairman of the Board. He was also a proud member of the Airline Pilot's Association.

In retirement, Bill stays active in several communities and organizations. He was co-organizer and an instructor for the Southern Illinois Flight Academy, a basic flight training camp for young students interested in the field of aviation. He's also past President of the Archer-Ragsdale Arizona Chapter of the Tuskegee Airman, an organization well known for representing the first ever U.S. WWII Army Air Corps pilots of African-American descent.

There's been an endowment fund established at Southern Illinois University Paul Simon Public Policy Institute in Bill and Molly Norwood's name. They also give several student scholarships at the University.

Bill has recently authored a book which chronicles his life titled *Cleared for Takeoff: A Pilot's Story of Challenges and Triumphs*.

In 2015, Bill received an honorary doctorate from Southern Illinois University.

Bill stays extremely active and is dedicated to inspiring and mentoring young people of all backgrounds.

Always, Bill leads by example. The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society is honoured to have as our featured "Canada 150" speaker, Captain Bill Norwood.



Celebrating 100 Years: Thomas Wong

Thomas Wong was born in Victoria, November 14, 1917.

A mere six days after Canada joined the Second World War, Thomas jumped on the ferry from Victoria to Vancouver and marched into the local RCAF enlistment depot.

Although intelligent and skilled, Thomas was sent packing. He was told “Chinese were not allowed to join the air force.” His dreams of becoming a pilot seemed to come to an abrupt end.

However, two months after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Thomas got a call and became the first person of Chinese ethnicity to be accepted into the RCAF.

Thomas knew he had an aptitude for math, drafting and all things mechanical. And although he would have preferred to have been a pilot – he wanted to get back at the Japanese – the RCAF could not ignore his enormous talent for all things engineering.

He aced his training, and quickly rose through the ranks to sergeant, then to an inspector in the Aeronautical Inspection Detachment (AID).

Thomas eventually became the Chief Aeronautical Inspector at Jericho and at Sea Island.

Lucky for him, Thomas soon discovered that in order to do a “thorough inspection” on any Kitty Hawk, it meant him sitting at the controls and taking the craft for a test flight. So, in many ways, Thomas did fulfill his dream of becoming a pilot.





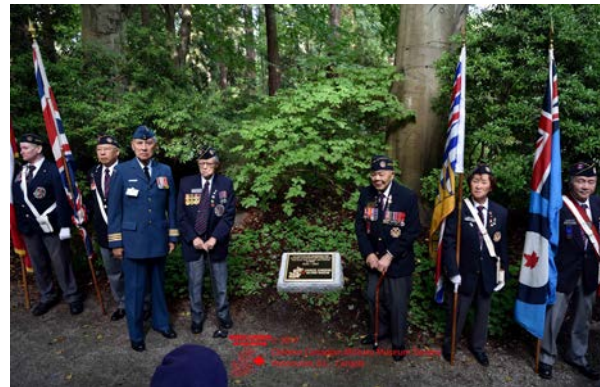
Battle of Britain

By George Ing, CD LCol Retired RCAF, Director, CCMMS

On Sunday September 10, 2017, the Air Force Officers Association (AFAO) celebrated the 77th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain by conducting a ceremony in Stanley Park. As well as remembering this epic battle that

changed the course of WWII, this occasion also included another significant event - the dedication of a Plaque in the Air Force Garden of Remembrance commemorating the Chinese Canadians who served in the RCAF and the Allied Airforces during WWII.

At the commencement of WWII, Chinese Canadians, even those born in Canada, did not have the rights of Canadians. Yet many young men and women choose to fight for Canada. But on volunteering most were rejected for being Chinese. The RCAF, until October 1, 1942, had a policy that prohibited accepting non Caucasians. Chinese Canadians who were already trained as pilots were still rejected. Nevertheless a few managed to enter as ground crew before October 1942 and others were accepted as Aircrew later.



Chinese Canadians served in the RCAF, the RAF, the USAF, the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the Chinese National Aviation Corps. They performed capably and even heroically. Their medals include: The Distinguished Flying Cross and the Croix de Guerre. They flew numerous supply missions over the Himalayas between India and China, coastal patrol missions, bombing missions over Germany and France, and even fought

with the French Resistance forces.

As a result they are buried in: India: Oldenburg, Germany : Bretteville sur Laize, France ; and Charlottenburg, Germany.

The keynote speaker, George Ing, CD LCol Retired RCAF, highlighted the careers and contributions of 2 past and 2 living airmen.



W/C Douglas Sam of Victoria, BC, led a storied RCAF career which included flying in bombing missions and fighting with the French Resistance. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He also became a trusted and valued Federal Intelligence officer after retirement from the RCAF.

P/O Quan Louie, Vancouver, was shot down during his 29th bombing mission over Germany and is buried in Charlottenburg, Germany. He was 23. Louie Lake north of Vancouver is named for him.

Two living WWII RCAF Vets were present at the ceremony. Sgt Thomas Wong was initially rejected but after Pearl Harbour, was invited to join the RCAF. He performed valuable service as an AID Supervisor. His duty was to inspect aircraft for airworthiness. He will turn 100 this November.

Sgt Monty Lee - only 94 - was trained as a Bomb Aimer and Gunner and served from 1942 to 1945 in Coastal Command at Goose Bay, Labrador. There he was involved in hunting enemy submarines and flying numerous missions escorting supply ship between Halifax and Europe.

It was due largely to the service of all our WWII Veterans that Chinese Canadians received full Canadian rights in May 1947.



The Chinese Canadian Military Museum acknowledges their gratitude to the AFAO for the invitation to install and dedicate this Plaque. The installation of this Monument in the Air Force Garden of Remembrance honours the Chinese Canadians who served Canada in WWII: they are now spiritually in a place with their comrades.





Return to Vimy

By Alfred Woo, CCMMS Member

I had explored Vimy Ridge in April of 2001, on a perfectly miserable day when a brisk wind exacerbated the sleet as nightfall set in. I recall that these weather conditions were similar to that day in April of 1917 when four divisions comprising the Canadian Corps attacked this strong enemy high point located near the town of Arras in Northern France. I remember the piercing twin spires of the Canadian National War Memorial that tower over the cloaked statue of Mother Canada, mournfully brooding the loss of 11,285 of her sons whose names are inscribed on the base. They had been killed in France and have no known graves. Is it any wonder that the grateful people of France in 1922 ceded this hallowed ground in perpetuity to the people of Canada for the memorial.

The battle for Vimy Ridge (Hill 145) began at 5:30 am on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, with a fierce 1,000 guns artillery barrage designed to lead the infantry onto their objectives. The big guns were constantly adjusting their elevations to fire over the heads of friendly troops advancing behind a protective firewall that crept onto enemy lines. The gunnery staff who wrote the finely programmed deliberate attack Fire Plan deserve our compliments! The battle was fought over four days with the Canadians fully achieving their mission, a feat that eluded previous attempts by the French and the British armies. Historians would later claim that this heroic victory earned Canada her right of passage to respected nationhood.

It was against this backdrop that some 40 Canadian artillery veterans in our tour bus, designated Call Sign "Gunner 1", would offload near Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2017, to join the centennial commemoration of this famous WWI battle. The pilgrimage to Vimy culminated our group's eight days excursion to Juno Beach, Dieppe, Ypres, Passchendaele, Hill 70, and Beaumont-Hamel along with their associated cemeteries. We all felt compelled to be at Vimy on the last day of our European battlefields tour. So it was that we journeyed there, along with over 25,000 others - mostly Canadians - to honour the duty, the valour, and the sacrifice of Canada's war dead. I was personally astounded by the bus loads of school aged children amongst us, wearing distinctive T-shirts, ball caps, and windbreaker jackets that announced their Canadian origins. I couldn't help thinking that it must have taken a lot of bake sales, garage sales, and community fundraisers to transport them and their chaperons here! Perhaps some will return for the 150th anniversary, in like manner as we now observe the sesquicentennial of Confederation.

Security was awesome. Anyone admitted to the site had to apply for preclearance which required that you submit passport information at least a month in advance to obtain a bar coded admission ticket. This was then matched to your passport during the onsite screening by the French *gendarmes*. Probably understandable since the Prime Minister of Canada, their Royal Highnesses (Charles, William, and Harry), the Governor General of Canada, and the then-Premier of France (Francois Holland) would all be in attendance. An artillery saluting troop from 2RCHA announced their arrival with a 21 gun salute fired from vintage L5 105mm Pack Howitzers.

We had anticipated cool soggy April weather, but what a glorious Spring day it turned out to be: bright, sunny, and a balmy 22 degrees Celsius! Sunscreen was prescribed as the sun blazed down on us for the two hour ceremony which commenced at 1600 hrs. The majestic memorial in the near distance was itself off limits to the huge crowd which flanked the front and the rear of the structure. Thoughtfully, towering close circuit LED screens monitored the proceedings which were live broadcasted throughout Canada. Besides the dignitaries, the only folks near or on the memorial were the performers, selected veterans, the Canadian Armed Forces Honour Guard, and a platoon of red-serged Mounties.

The actual ceremony was predictable enough: The solemn dignitary speeches; artistic songs, readings, and dance performances; soundings of *Last Post*, *Rouse*, and the *Lament*; the laying of wreaths. Poignantly, thousands of pairs of army boots had been placed on-site by Canadian and French youth to symbolically represent the some 3,600 Canadians who died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Nostalgically, five WWI era replica biplanes circled the site commemorating the contributions of the nascent air corps. Resolutely, the national anthems of the principal allies were sung at the close - *God Save The Queen*, *O Canada*, and *La Marseillaise* - in that order. Then three French *Armee de l'Air* Dassault Rafale jet fighters roared over the memorial in final fitting tribute.

We departed Vimy Ridge as humbled and proud Canadians.



Meet Our New Patron: Arthur Lee, MSM

The CCMMS would like to introduce Arthur Lee as our Honourary Patron for his dedication to serve our fellow citizens and for what he has done to preserve our collective Canadian and Chinese Canadian history.

Arthur Lee is an entrepreneur who built his career in the manufacturing industry. In 1985, he founded Solidwear Enterprises, a domestic manufacturing operation, which has grown into one of Canada's largest apparel manufacturers. Arthur has overseen the expansion of Solidwear

from its inception to present day, managing a client list that has included Weekenders, Nike, Tommy Armour Golf, Lululemon and Canada Goose.

Born in Canton, China, Arthur immigrated to Canada as a child, settling first in Sudbury, Ontario where his family owned and operated a restaurant. Arthur has always felt connected to his Canadian heritage and accordingly has been active in the community. In November 1997, he purchased Col. John McCrae's war medals for the explicit purpose of donating them to the McCrae House Museum in Guelph, Ontario. In 1998, Arthur was awarded the Arbor Award by the University of Toronto, an honorary doctorate of laws from Ryerson University, as well as a Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada.

Arthur has previously sat on the Board of Directors of Upper Canada College, on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and on the fashion advisory board of Ryerson University. He was also co-chairman of the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care.

Arthur has been happily married to Esther for almost 40 years and they have three children, Jennifer, Andrea and Adrian. In his spare time, he is an avid golf player and fisherman.

Arthur holds a BA in business administration from Ryerson University.



In Memorium: Marcia Aw

Marcia came into our lives in 2012 when she visited Vancouver bringing the medals of her late uncle, William (Bill) Lore, to the museum. William Lore was the first Chinese Canadian enrolled in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). In fact, he was the first Chinese who was commissioned in all the Commonwealth Navies at a time when policy excluded non-Caucasians being commissioned. He brought specialized skills as he had worked for the Canadian Department of Communications. Later in the war, William Lore was seconded to the Royal Navy (RN) and assigned to Rear-Admiral Cecil Harcourt's staff when the Admiral accepted the surrender of the Japanese Forces in Hong Kong in 1945.

William Lore passed away in 2012 at age 102 and he was Marcia's favourite uncle. After the war, he practiced law and resided in Hong Kong. Prime Minister Harper commented on William Lore's passing when he visited Hong Kong in 2012. William Lore was also a member of the ANAVETS Pacific Unit 280 and our museum in Vancouver.

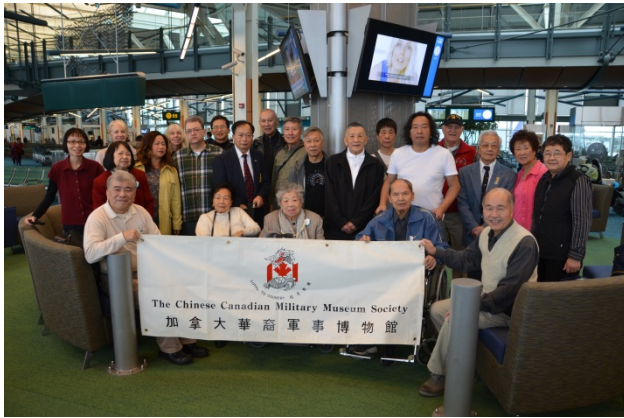
Our dear friend Marcia was given a tour of the exhibits at the museum and she was impressed with the work done to preserve the histories of Canadian Chinese who contributed to the Canadian military. She started helping our museum and wanted to support the remaining veterans to promote their stories. In subsequent years, 2014 and 2016, when the museum led tours to Hong Kong, Marcia was instrumental in facilitating our visits with the local service groups and the Canadian Consulate in Hong Kong. In the meantime, she also visited Vancouver several times and put in many hours and efforts assisting with our fundraising dinner and donating necklaces that she personally designed and created for selling at our dinner. She has also provided artifacts from her uncle's personal files for museum display.

After our visit to Hong Kong last year to participate in the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong ceremony at the Sai Wan Commonwealth Cemetery, Marcia found out that she had brain cancer. We were all saddened by her illness as she struggled for many months under very trying conditions. We were devastated when we learned that she succumbed to cancer in August this year. Marcia was a generous person and exuded warmth beyond description and when she wanted to dedicate herself to a cause she would immerse herself to ensure the efforts would achieve the objectives.

All of us miss her and she will be remembered.



Pictures From Our China and Hong Kong Trip





Tomboy Digital Productions and CCMMS

By Alison MacLean, Tomboy Digital Productions, CCMMS Documentarian

Tomboy Digital Productions and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society continued their 10 year collaboration, with the release of *BC Honours Chinese Pioneers*, a Documentary Short, which screened at The Cinematheque Theatre on August 13, featuring a 3 day journey into the BC Interior honouring Chinese

Pioneers. Chronicling the unveiling of commemorative plaques, and featuring the stories of the descendants.

Veteran Voices, is the current project designed for Touch Screen applications. It features profiles of seven World War Two Veterans, and their point of view comments, on their time defending Canada, and the impact on their lives. Another project, *Chinatown: Then and Now*, screened at VanCity Theatre in 2016, will now have a Global reach on Amazon Direct.

A rough cut of *Burkas2Bullets*, screened to a full Theatre at Simon Fraser University in February this year, with the US Consul General, and German Consul General in attendance, and opening comments from Member of Parliament Joyce Murray.

Burkas2Bullets (70 mins) will release globally on Amazon Direct Video in November, and have limited Theatrical Screenings as well as available in Direct DVD's.

For over ten years I have been honoured to be associated with CCMMS. Ms. Peggy Lee, invited me to join after I documented her for *The Power and the Grace: WW2 Women*, an Award Winning Documentary, featuring Canadian Women in Service. That Vision TV Special, also featured Hon. Col. Howe Lee and his comments about the Chinese Head Tax, provided valuable insight to Canada's Historical wrongs. Partnering and platforming inspirational stories of courage and change, with the support of CCMMS, have been a wonderful journey for me.

Special thanks to the current CCMMS Board, for their ongoing support. The work continues and I am grateful to represent Canada alongside our NATO allies. The Afghan Orphanage and Police Women, continue to receive direct donations from my Keynote Speaking events.

Editor's note: The Governor General will be awarding Ms. Alison MacLean with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for her work archiving World War Two stories, and her continued work in Afghanistan. This is in spite of her four Combat Camera embeds, and three knee replacements!

Acknowledgements

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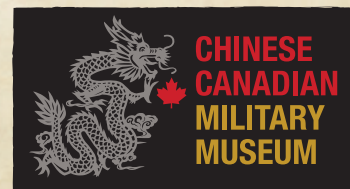
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WWII ENDED IN 1945. CHINESE CANADIAN SOLDIERS HAD TO FIGHT FOR TWO MORE YEARS.

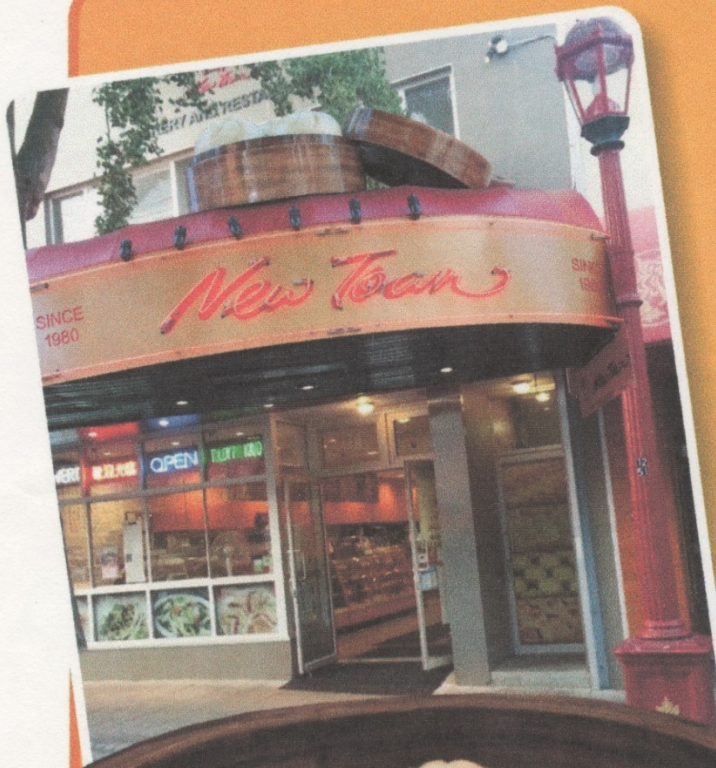
Before WWII ended, Chinese Canadians experienced a lot of discrimination. They could not vote or swim in public pools. They were limited to working in restaurants, laundromats and grocery stores. Few were allowed to live outside of Chinatown. Despite this, they still wanted to fight for the country that did not recognize them as full citizens. Thanks to their war service, Canada finally changed its legislation in 1947 and allowed all Chinese Canadians the right to vote. For other interesting battle stories, visit our museum inside the Chinese Cultural Centre, 2nd Floor, 555 Columbia Street, Vancouver. www.ccmm.ca



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www.ccmms.ca



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As we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we commemorate the contributions of Chinese–Canadian veterans during the two World Wars, and their efforts gaining the right to vote.

As a contributing member to the safety of people and property, we appreciate all those who honorably served and continue to serve.

commissionaires.bc.ca