



The Maple Leaf and Dragon

A newsletter of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

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Judy Lam Maxwell, Editor

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2009 Coming to a Close

2009 has been another successful year for the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society. Since our Spring newsletter, the Museum and veterans have been involved in a variety of activities, ranging from educational, cultural, community and military. Beginning with educational outreach, our cover story features Alison MacLean and her groundbreaking documentary *Outside the Wire*. With regard to cultural connections, the CCMMS has been involved in a number of events, from the Asian Heritage Fair and Culturalthon, to the Golden Mountain Award presented to us by our comrades in Victoria. In terms of community, the Museum had a presence at the Chinese Benevolent Association's March dinner and Vancouver's new PRC Consul General and staff visited our Museum. As for our military ties, we gave the Irish Fusilier Cadets a tour of the Museum and several board members attended a reception on the HMCS Calgary. Many of these outreach endeavours overlap in terms of purpose, but all were successful in promoting our Museum and Mission. Read ahead to find out more about our recent accomplishments.

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

Alison MacLean, Producer/Cameraperson
TOMBOY PRODUCTIONS INC.

<http://www.tomboyproductions.tv/>

The CCMMS has taken on a collaborative project with Producer and Cameraperson Alison MacLean. Alison's upcoming documentary, *Outside the Wire*, will feature an updated look at Canadian and Coalition Forces on the front lines as seen through soldiers' eyes. With the focus on women in combat, it will highlight Chinese in the Canadian Military and overseas work with NATO. This film will document the changing face of war as women share in combat duties and assist in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. It will be shot on location in mid-October 2009.



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Visit our website at <http://www.ccmms.ca/> or e-mail us at info@ccmms.ca

Spring and Summer 2009 in Review

MARCH

On **March 18th**, Vancouver's new PRC Consul General Liang Shugen and his staff were given a tour of the Museum by President Howe Lee. Impressed by the displays and history of the Chinese Canadian veterans, the Consul General conveyed an interest in returning to the Museum in the near future.

Just two days later, the Chinese Benevolent Association hosted a dinner on **March 20th** to welcome the new PRC Consul General Liang. The dinner was well-attended by many Vancouver Chinese community organizations, businesses and people who wanted to show their respect to the new leader and his staff.

On **March 21st**, LCol Howe Lee and Cmdr King Wan invited filmmaker Alison MacLean to join them in Fort Lewis, WA to tape and interview some of the members of 12 Service Battalion training in the field.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Kwong



MAY

The CCMMS had a booth set-up for the Aberdeen Centre's annual **Asian Heritage Fair**, held on **May 2nd**. Museum Volunteers turned out in full force to help man the booth: Howe Lee, King Wan, Kelly Kwong, Dan Lee, Paul Tsui, Judy Maxwell, Paul Lee and Ed Lee. It was an excellent venue to showcase our display panels and to connect with the public.



Photo courtesy of the Richmond Chinese Community Society and the Aberdeen Centre.



On **May 3rd**, the CCMMS gave a tour of the Museum to the Irish Fusilier Cadets and Legion Branch 44 members and parents. There was great interest and it was a good turnout.

(Photos courtesy of Kelly Kwong)

OUTSIDE THE WIRE

(Continued from page 1)

Alison first became associated with the CCMMS in May 2007, when she was the cameraperson for the CCMMS *Celebrate Citizenship Dinner*. However, her connections to the Museum and ***Outside the Wire*** go much deeper than that. Alison is the child of immigrant parents from Scotland, and she grew up in a multiracial neighbourhood. Her father was a pilot for the British Royal Air Force during the Second World War, and was posted to the Middle East. In addition, Alison spent a great deal of time in the Middle East, where she became familiar with the culture of Afghanistan and became involved with secret schools, procuring medical supplies, and women's groups. Her fascination with diversity, inequities, women, the military and the Middle East are all evident in her current project ***Outside the Wire***.

Alison studied English Literature and Political Science at York University, and financed her university education by working as a coach and instructor in ballet, gymnastics and fitness. While studying, she travelled extensively through Europe and the Middle East, and she worked as a flight attendant for six months on the Hajj -- a Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca -- to finance her TV Broadcast training at UCLA. Upon completion of this degree, Alison was offered a full-time job as a cameraperson at The Sports Network (TSN). Although she began her videowork on the homeless in East L.A., the Aboriginal community and the KC House AIDS Hospice in Toronto, her actual production career began with a focus on sports: *Womensport* (CBC, 1989-1993) and the *Championship Spirit* (1993). This interest later evolved into other areas. Alison's first documentary with her company TOMBOY PRODUCTIONS INC. was shot on location in Russia and was called "Russia: A Changing Face," garnering an International Award at the Charleston International Film Festival. Her film "The Power and the Grace: WW2" received awards at the Niagara Independent Film Festival for Best Independent Documentary 2007, and Best Independent Documentary Jury Award at the 2009 NewFilmmakers Film Festival in New York in 2009. What an impressive repertoire!



All photos of Alison were taken in Fort Lewis, WA by Cmdr King Wan.

Regarding ***Outside the Wire***, the production for this is unique with so many firsts. It covers female Canadian soldiers and how women can now be in combat, as opposed to the Second World War. Another first is its technology of Hi Definition and use of podcasts and streaming video. Alison's documentary will show the spirit of the Canadian forces, its work in rebuilding Afghanistan, and the ability that Canada has in reassessing military objectives and making changes — something that other military units don't do. Alison will be deployed to Kandahar Province some time after Sept 20th with her staff, including Associate Producer Wendy Jang. They will spend three weeks in Afghanistan doing ground interviews and capturing the fast-paced conflict on film. Representing the culmination of her 20 years in filmmaking, ***Outside the Wire*** will feature themes of injustice, reparation and reconstruction, enforcement, and more. Life on the front lines will be Reality TV at its finest. This 1-hour Television Special has a confirmed broadcast airdate for North American Television Release (PBS). A longer film

version will have a World Wide Release in November 2010 at the International Film Festival in The Netherlands. A dedicated website will be launched for Educational purposes. Three Podcasts in Afghanistan will bring in a World Wide Web audience.

Alison has some support and funding assistance from the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, but she is actively seeking donations and/or sponsorship. All monies would be used for production development, to purchase equipment, release the product and pay the staff. All donors would be fully acknowledged and appreciated. To find out more, please contact Alison at tomboy_productions@yahoo.ca or (604) 874-8174.

90th Birthday Celebration

Report by George Ing, President of Unit 280



On **Saturday, 09 May 2009** an event of great significance was held at the Pink Pearl Restaurant in Vancouver. This was the celebration of Frank Wong's 90th Birthday! A crowd of over 100 people — family, friends and colleagues — enjoyed an afternoon of fine food, camaraderie, good fellowship and fun. The event was jointly sponsored by ANAVETS Pacific Unit 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, and was well-attended by members of both organizations as well as the widows of Chinese WWII Veterans, plus a contingent of Scouts from the Chinese Cultural Centre No. 28 Troop and the SUCCESS No. 116 Troop. Paul Lee, chair of the Committee, organized the function and he capably performed as MC for the afternoon.

As President of Pacific Unit 280, I thanked Frank for his competent and reliable work for many years as Treasurer, and for his continued loyalty to and strong support of the Unit. I also thanked Frank for his notable Second World War contributions, for fighting on behalf of Canada when Chinese Canadians were not considered Canadian citizens and for taking up the struggle for the franchise when he returned from the war. All Chinese Canadians are deeply indebted to Frank and the other World War Veterans who helped us to gain our Canadian citizenship.

Howe Lee, as President and founder of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society, acknowledged and thanked Frank as one of the founding members and also for his outstanding contributions as Treasurer from the inception of the Museum. Then Howe briefly went over Frank's sterling military career as a member of the RCEME, the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who were part of the 2nd landing at Normandy, France. This Unit crossed Europe, from Belgium through to Arnhem and Nijmegen, Holland, then on to Germany before returning to Nijmegen. Frank was demobilized after the war and returned to Vancouver where he still resides.

For his loyalty and dedication to country and selfless service to Pacific Unit 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, Howe presented Frank with a plaque. Following, I presented Frank with a Lion Dance t-shirt from Wes Fund and Honorary Membership to the Vancouver Police Department. All members of this Lion Dance team are Chinese Police Officers.

There were other notable highlights, including Alfred Woo's guitar and vocal rendition of Paul Anka's "The Longest Day". Alfred was warmly received and pleasantly surprised us with hits previously unknown troubadour talent. Soon after, Dave Wilson, the son-in-law of Veteran George Chow, graced us by playing his bagpipes to Happy Birthday. Many thanks to both Alfred and Dave.

It was an enjoyable and appropriate event to honour and pay tribute to a distinguished Second World War vet and a fine gentleman. Happy 90th Birthday Frank Wong!

