



The Maple Leaf and Dragon

A newsletter of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

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Judy Lam Maxwell, Editor

Spring 2010

YEAR OF THE TIGER!!!



Prime Minister Stephen Harper socializes with some of the Chinese Canadian veterans at a special function hosted by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver on 10 Feb 2010.

(Photo courtesy of Carolyn Sullivan)

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

SPRING 2010 has SPRUNG !

So much has happened since the Museum's last newsletter. There have been so many activities and events that the CCMMS has participated in the last six months.

Affiliations · Education · Outreach · Preservation

Although there have been so many positive experiences, our group has sadly lost two veterans: Daniel Lee and Willie Chong. Read ahead to find out more details (chronological).

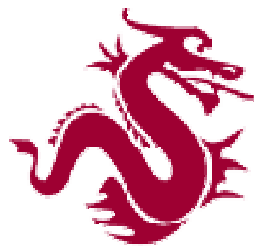
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NOVEMBER 2009

November was an extremely busy month. On **November 4th**, President Howe Lee gave a talk for the **Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown** at the Floata Chinese Seafood Restaurant. Howe spoke on "Canada's Army 2009", a discussion about the current strength and capabilities of Canada's Army. Howe informed us about the Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC) at CFB Wainwright in Alberta, which replicates Afghani terrain and simulates insurgents in order to prepare Canadian soldiers for war. It was a very well received. There was a good show of support from the Museum with two tables of veterans and Directors in attendance.



(Photos courtesy of Lincoln Yeung)



The **Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown** has been very supportive of the CCMMS, featuring Judy Maxwell as their December speaker.



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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS!
\$20 per year

The CCMMS 11th Anniversary Celebration



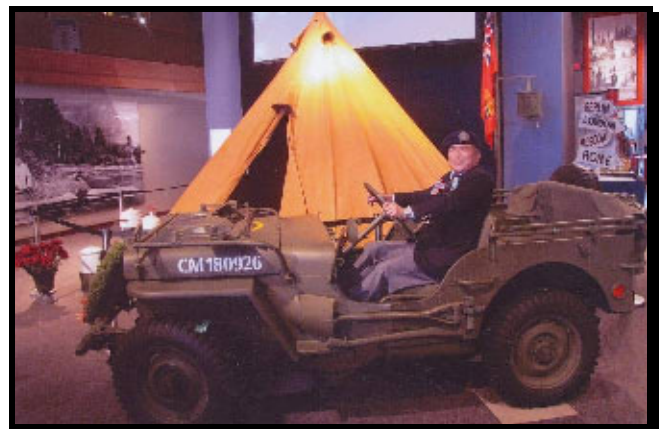
(Photo courtesy of Patrick Tam)

On **November 7th**, the CCMMS had a very successful **11th Anniversary Dinner** at the Fraser Court Restaurant. It was a full house with local Chinese Canadian veterans, Legion Branch 44 veterans, Seattle's Cathay Post veterans, and Aboriginal veterans. Also, there were many special guests, such as Alison MacLean and her Tomboy Productions crew, a surprise visit by MP Ujjal Dosanjh, and many others. There were lots of great prizes for the raffle and many happy winners.

WHAT A GREAT SUCCESS!

REMEMBRANCE WEEK at the ROYAL BC MUSEUM

Howe Lee, Kelly Kwong, and Judy Maxwell went to Victoria on **Nov 9th** to man the large display panel at the **Royal British Columbia Museum**. They were also on hand to answer questions from visiting schools. The Heroes Remember DVD was also shown. This was the third year that the RBCM has requested the Museum's display for Remembrance Week.



Kelly is pictured in a military vehicle that was also on display at the RBCM.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The CCMMS participated in November 11th ceremonies at both Victory Square and the Chinatown Memorial Square. There was a very high turnout and the lack of rain made the event very pleasant.

(Photo courtesy of Todd Wong)



CHRISTMAS

On Sat., Dec. 12th Mirian and Bill Lee kindly hosted our group at their home for a Christmas social. The Lees have been doing this for several years and 2009 was another fun get-together. Great gathering!



WILLIE CHONG

We are sad to inform everyone that Willie Chong passed away on January 27th. Born in Vancouver on 15 December 1923, Willie was one of the Founding Members of the CCMMS and active in both the Museum group and Pacific Unit 280. Willie served in Force 136 in Southeast Asia during the Second World War and he was very proud of his service. As per Willie's request, there was no service.

POSTCARD from TOULOUSE

Dear Colonel Lee, Judy, and members of the CCMMS:

It's been a few months since I was last able to attend our Thursday evening meetings to record the minutes and/or to enjoy the delicious homemade Cantonese food that I cannot stop thinking about. Greetings from Toulouse, France, from Victor.

I have remained in France and continue my studies at the Political Institute of Toulouse, one of the best schools in the country for the study of politics and international relations. During my time here, I have not only come to discover a new perspective, but have also adopted it as my own. While I could only speak the language a little while ago, I can now think with it; while once subjects such as French politics or EU community law only came alive to me through books and journal articles, I now discuss and debate them with my peers, as I would the laws and politics of my own country.

I have also had the opportunity to travel a little bit in Europe. I went to Italy for Christmas and Spring Break. This month I plan to go to Normandy and walk around the D-day beaches. It will definitely make me think about what I learned from the CCMMS in the last few years.

I have been accepted at Columbia, Cornell, and Georgetown Law Schools, and I'm still waiting for Harvard's decision. So please keep me in your prayers and wish me luck!

If everything goes according to plan, I shall be back in Vancouver soon. It will be an honour to see all of you again.

In respect,

Victor Chian (CCMMS Secretary On Leave)

Personal Reminiscences of Dan Lee by Larry Wong

There were occasions when I would phone Dan to ask for a lift to attend a veterans' function or an event. He was always prompt in picking me up in his white Volkswagen Jetta and, in typical fashion, he didn't follow the main streets to get to his destination. Instead, he took side streets and avoided the more heavily travelled roads. He always made good time as he knew the city streets like the back of his hand.

Dan was my Assistant Curator at the Museum. He helped as a technical consultant and assisted me with the displays. He also conducted tours of the museum.

Not long ago, the Historica-Dominion Institute held a history fair on war veterans in West Vancouver. Dan came dressed in his old Air Force uniform, which was a rare sight, and he stood by a pictorial exhibit of his wartime years in Britain. Crowds of students and teachers were drawn to Dan and they asked him lots of questions about his war experiences.

Dan was born in 1920 in Chinatown, and he was the 11th child of 14 children. Although his father was an optometrist in Chinatown, he died at a young age and left Dan to be raised by his grandfather, the Reverend Chan Yu Tan. Reverend Chan had come to Canada in 1896 and he was one of the first Chinese missionaries in Chinatown.

Dan joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in 1942, after moving to Toronto to take a 16-week Advanced Technical Course. After a year of training, he was posted to Transport Command at Biggin Hill, England. As an Aero Mechanic, Dan worked on Dakotas, the Flying Fortresses and the Liberators.

After the war, Dan returned to Toronto and became active in seeking an apology from the federal government for the racist Head Tax. Dan and Douglas Jung became founders of the National Congress of Chinese Canadians (NCCC). The Pacific Unit 280 veterans group -- the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans of Canada (ANAVETS) -- agreed to a government apology, only. In an interview, Dan said "A genuine apology is all that is needed to put to rest this Head Tax issue along with our ancestors. We said we do not want compensation."

Dan became the President of Pacific Unit 280 several times. His leadership and devotion caught the attention of the Army ANAVETS, who awarded him with the highly regarded Award of Merit. Dan was also recognized by the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver as Senior Citizen of the Year in 2009.

Sadly, he passed away January 26, 2010. We will miss him dearly.



(Photos courtesy of Dan Lee, Vincent Chan & Judy Maxwell.)

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES



On **January 21st**, **Gordie Quan** was asked by Citizenship Canada to represent Canadian Forces past and present. Gordie participated in the Victoria ceremonies, and he's pictured here with his daughter Brenda.

(Photo courtesy of Gordie Quan)

George Ing was also a representative, but at the Vancouver ceremonies on February 19th. George (C) is pictured here with Senator Yonah Martin (L) and MP Alice Wong (R). The Honourable Jason Kenney, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity), spoke at the ceremonies.

Senator Martin was a special guest of the Museum on Wed., Jan 28th.

(Photo courtesy of George Ing)



VIPs during the OLYMPICS

Many dignitaries came to Vancouver during the Olympics, from February 12th to 28th. They included Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of The Netherlands and local Minister of Canadian Heritage James Moore.



On **February 10th**, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver hosted a special event to welcome Canada's **Prime Minister Stephen Harper** to Vancouver's Chinatown. Unfortunately, demonstrators locked us in the CCC building for several hours and it was a long time before Prime Minister Harper could enter the building. What a day!

(Photos courtesy of Carolyn Sullivan)

Other guests included **James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and MP for Port Moody-Westwood-Port Coquitlam**. Minister Moore took an avid interest in speaking to the Chinese Canadian veterans. He also had his photo taken with many of them, and he posted a photo taken with Frank Wong and George Chow on his website.



On **Feb 13th**, **Prime Minister Balkenende** and the Consul-General [to Canada] of The Netherlands hosted a reception at the **Billy Bishop Legion** to extend thanks to all Second World War veterans who helped to liberate Holland from Nazi tyranny. It was 'standing room only', but Chinese Canadian veterans Frank Wong and George Chow went early and got front row seats. Marshall Chow also attended this event. Each and every veteran at this reception was personally given a medal by the Prime Minister to express continued thanks, appreciation and gratitude for their efforts.



(Photos courtesy of the Consulate for The Netherlands and Judy Maxwell)

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2010



There was a record turnout at this year's Chinese New Year's Parade. Part of the reason why it was such a success was because of the Olympics, numerous visitors to the City, and the pride of our Vancouver community. We even had a Paris newspaper reporter follow us.

Some notables that attended the event were PRC Consul-General Liang Shugen, CEO Mike Jang of the CCC, MP Michael Ignatieff, MP James Moore, Mayor Gregor Robertson, MP Alice Wong, and MLA Carole James.



The CCMMS & The HISTORICA-DOMINION INSTITUTE

The CCMMS partnered with **The Historica-Dominion Institute** to produce Learning Tools for high school Social Studies students to learn about the contributions of the Chinese Canadian veterans during the Second World War. The launch was on **Tues., March 2nd**.

This event featured veterans **Peggy Lee, Frank Wong** and **Victor Wong**. **MLA Jenny Kwan**, a strong supporter of the Museum, gave a short speech before **Fairchild TV's Emily Ng** took the podium as moderator. Students from **Gladstone Secondary School** and their teacher, Janet Thompson, attended the event. Media coverage was excellent.

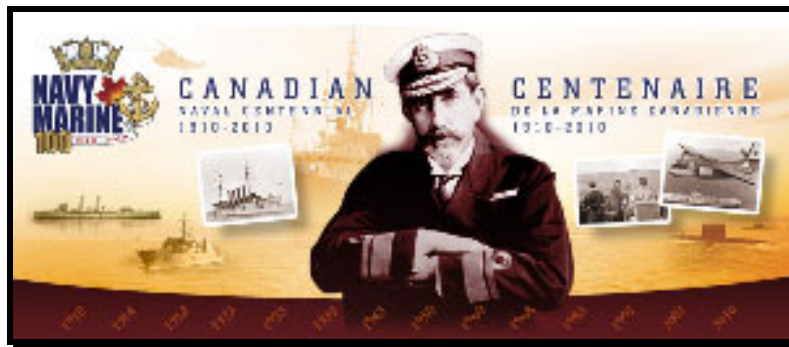


(Photos courtesy of Carolyn Sullivan)



NOTEWORTHY

The **year-long Navy Centennial** celebration in 2010 will kick off on the West Coast with the **Maritime Forces Pacific Navy** exercising the Freedom of the City in Victoria on **May 4th**. Also, on Saturday, **Sept 4th**, a Naval TATTOO will take place at the **PNE** with mass bands performing. The **NADEN Band** will also perform a "Sailors & Songs" Musical Revue at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond on **Sept 20th**.



For more information, please see the Maritime Forces Pacific link below – http://www.navy.forces.gc.ca/marpac/14/14-w_eng.asp

Filmmaker and Camerawoman ALISON MacLEAN will be deployed to Afghanistan on June 15th to continue the documentary "Outside the Wire". Everyone wishes you a safe trip, Alison. We look forward to an update upon your return.

photo
Carolyn Sullivan
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Special thanks to professional photographer Carolyn Sullivan for all the fantastic photographs that she took for the CCMMS at various events.

<http://www.carolynsullivan.ca>