



The Maple Leaf and Dragon

A newsletter of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

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Larry Wong, Editor

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A Very Special Visit by the Governor-General

By Larry Wong
Editor

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum was honoured and privileged to play host to Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, C.C., C.M.M., C.D. Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada and His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C..

At exactly 11am on Friday, August 17, they arrived at the front door of the Museum and were greeted by Howe Lee, President, Bing Wong, Vice-President, Frank Wong, Treasurer, Larry Wong, Secretary and Monty Jang, Chairperson of the Board, Chinese Cultural Centre.

Approximately sixty invited guests waited in the Gallery as Their Excellencies were escorted by Howe Lee to the second floor where they toured the exhibit of From Generation to Generation and the exhibits in the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

After the tour, the party returned to the Main Reception Area where the Governor General spoke to the guests praising the dedicated service of the 600 Chinese Canadians who enlisted in the war.

She told the gathering that the importance of the Museum is in documenting and getting the facts down about the veterans.



Howe Lee, President of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, is showing the Governor-General and her husband, the proclamation naming a mountain in northern Vancouver Island after Pte. Fred Ho.

After her speech, she was introduced formally to Bill Chong, who was Agent 50, John Ko Bong and his wife, Ida, and Trevor Sam, son of Douglas Sam.

The Governor General was pleasantly surprised to discover Douglas Sam's story while touring the museum.

The late Douglas Sam was a friend of Bill Poy, the father of the Governor-General and so it was a great pleasure to meet Trevor after all these years.

The encounter became a news item in The Vancouver Sun.

The Governor-General was presented two gifts from the Museum. They were a copy of Marjorie Wong's The Dragon and the Maple Leaf and a NFB video documentary entitled, Unwanted Soldiers directed by Ms. Jari Osborne. In turn, the Governor-General presented Howe Lee an official portrait of Their Excellencies.

Among the guests also introduced to the Governor-General were the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association and the Royal Hong Kong Regiment. The Governor-General's father had served with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment.

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Any donations of \$10.00 and up are tax-deductible.

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With the formalities over, the Governor-General surprised everyone by offering to cut the cake. Howe Lee was even more surprised when she served him.

Volunteer Peggy Lee was thrilled to have her picture taken with the Governor-General. Although the scheduled visit was from 11am to noon, the Governor-General and her husband stayed longer. Their last official duty before leaving the Museum was to sign the Guest Book.

The event was memorable for all who were present.♦

Commando Bay Marker

There is a bronze plaque on the site of the training grounds for Operation Oblivion and subsequent missions at Commando Bay that was dedicated at an official ceremony September 17, 1988.

The plaque however, is accessible from the hiking trails only on the east side of the Okanagan Lake and therefore not visible to the general travelling public.

The Museum Society is proposing a marker on the west side of the Okanagan Lake, opposite from Commando Bay, on a lookout from Highway 97 within the Okanagan Lake Provincial Park.

There are two quotes and design underway for a display panel and stand.

The panel will point out the historical significance of Commando Bay and name the thirteen Chinese Canadian volunteers for Operation Oblivion.

We hope to have more news in future issues of the newsletter.♦

Chinatown Historic Alley

The Society took part in an official ceremony and unveiling of a replica of a Western Han Dynasty bell on the morning of June 26.

The ceremony included delegates from China, city and provincial officials.

The Alley commemorates the early community of Chinese residents who relocated from Yale after the completion of the CPR lines.

The Alley was the beginning of Vancouver's Chinatown and the Society is proud to participate in the fund raising of this project.♦

Celebration Of A 90th Birthday

Guests from Hong Kong, Toronto and California joined in with invited museum members to celebrate Bill Chong's 90th birthday July 15 at the Kirin Seafood Restaurant on West 12th Avenue.

Bill, known as Agent 50 in the war, was delighted with the turnout. Howe Lee surprised him when he was presented with a special plaque from the Museum.

Bill requested that in lieu of gifts, donations be made to the Museum.

The donations to the Museum totalled \$3500. Many thanks to those who participated.♦

The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

加拿大華裔軍事博物館



Presented to

Bill Chong, BEM, Agent 50

In Celebration of his 90th Birthday

July 15, 2001

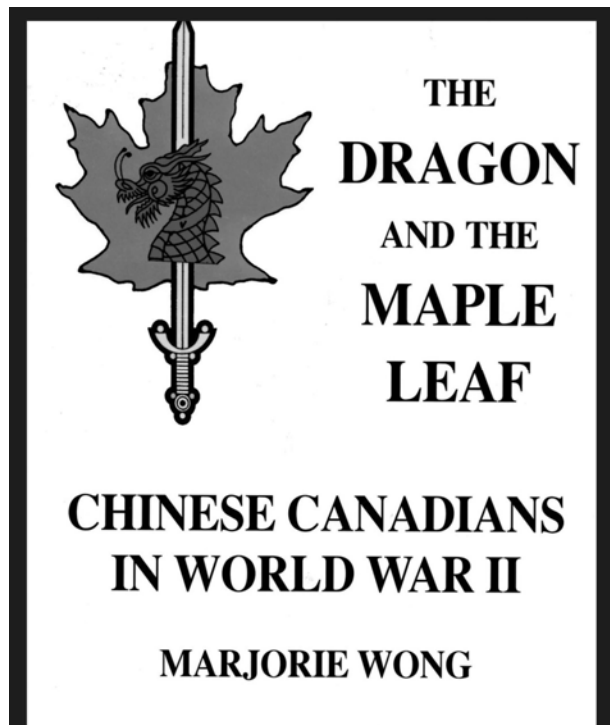
Details of the plaque presented to Bill Chong. The BEM stands for British Empire Medal. Bill is the only Chinese Canadian so decorated. He had rescued 1883 escapees from Japanese occupied China.

Tribute to Marjorie Wong

By Larry Wong

Marjorie Elizabeth Wong, 77, passed away in London, Ontario March 16, 2001.

She was the author of *The Dragon and the Maple Leaf*. When the book was published in 1994, few people realized it was self-published. With the exception of government funding for travel, the entire cost of the publishing came from Mrs. Wong personal finance.



The book never made it to the best sellers' lists or made the author wealthy. The book is a 'first' and a remarkable first at that.

It documents as comprehensive as possible, the Chinese Canadian military experience, through photographs, original documents and papers, personal interviews, correspondence, and searches through libraries and archives.

The book lacks popular appeal but is appreciated by families and friends of the vets and history buffs. In my own research for the museum's exhibits, I often draw upon *The Dragon and the Maple Leaf* for information referring it as my Bible.

Copies of the book have been given as gifts to distinguished guests to the Museum, the recent being to Her Excellency The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and His Excellency John Ralston Saul. Marjorie Wong and her book will not be forgotten.♦

Friends of the Museum Attending the Social and Tea

It was a warm summer afternoon July 29, 2001, perfect for a Social and Tea to the approximate fifty guests at the Museum.

Columbia Street was blocked off for the Annual Chinatown Festival, which added a festive air to the occasion.

The Social was held to thank you the donors and contributors to the Museum. In particular, the family members who donated photos and artifacts and had never visited the museum before.

It was a rewarding experience to see the expression of family members viewing their fathers' or mothers' photographs on display and perhaps hearing for the first time what their parents did in the war.

Peggy Lee, along with other volunteers, served tea and cake, along with other goodies.

Everyone had a good time and the consensus is that it should be held as an annual event.

Our Condolences

Herbert Lim on the passing of his wife, Elizabeth, April 19, 2001.

The family of Charles (Kok Chung) Ho who passed away May 5, 2001. He served with Force 136 in India.

Recent Visitors to the Museum

The Army Cadet League of Canada with their British counterparts.

Representatives from the Royal Westminster Regiment Museum.

The Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown.

Alfie and Lin Yip from Toronto. Alfie is the son of the late Dock Yip, first Chinese Canadian lawyer.

Dora Nipp, curator from the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Membership: \$100 per individual or corporation.

Donation: from \$10.00 and up will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHEQUE PAYABLE TO **THE CHINESE
CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM SOCIETY** AND MAIL TO:
CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM, 555 COLUMBIA ST.
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6A 4H5



Watching the cutting of the cake by Dr. Fred Chu and Howe Lee at the Friends of the Museum Social and Tea are from left to right, Lally Chu (a member of the Women's Ambulance Corps and wife of Dr. Chu), Gim Wong, Dan Lee, Alex Louie and Roy Mah. The Social was held July 29.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Commissioner Steve Yuen, His Excellency John Ralston Saul, and Ted Darling
Picture by Bing Wong



Ladies who helped are May Wong, Peggy Lee, Betty Joe, Amy Joe and Gwen Wong
Picture by Frank Wong



Monty Jang, Chairperson of the Board, Chinese Cultural Centre and President Howe Lee
Picture by Frank Wong



Bill Chow, Yvette Yip and Michael Chow.
Picture by Frank Wong



Peggy Lee and Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson
Picture by Frank Wong



Her Excellency signing the Guest Book.
Picture by Frank Wong