



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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Roy Mah, Our Beloved Friend and Supporter

Roy Mah, well known for his Chinatown News publication, passed away on the morning of Friday, June 22 in the Palliative Care Unit of the St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

He had been in failing health for several years yet his inner strength sustained him to see his 89th birthday celebration in the presence of 730 people at the Floata Restaurant on Easter Sunday.

Roy was warmly received by the crowd as he was escorted by Martin Yeh and Howe Lee between two rows of veterans. (See left photo) He was praised by community leaders and politicians alike.

A private funeral was held at Forest Lawn in Burnaby June 28.

The David Lam Hall at the Chinese Cultural Centre was the scene of his public memorial held July 12. Fred Mah and Gary Mar were the MC's and Wesley Lowe the Padre. Gary Mar is the MLA of Calgary-Mackay who represented the Mah family.

Speakers included the Hon. Jason Kenney, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity), Yang Qiang, Consul General of the PRC, Richard Lee, MLA Burnaby North, Joe Wai, community leader, Mai Po Qiang, President of CBA, Dr. Wallace Chung, long-time friend, Karen So, Reporter/anchor from Channel M and LCol Howe Lee, CD, Pacific Unit 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum.

The pianist was Julie Joe, Last Post was played by Bugle Major John More and Lament by Piper Sgt. R. MacDonald.

Roy was the founding member of both the Pacific Unit 280 and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum. He attended on a regular basis the monthly meetings of both while he was in good health.

The City of Vancouver proclaimed July 12 Roy Mah Day, a very rare and honoured tribute to the best of his generation. ♦

60th Anniversaries for the Chinese Community

1947 is a significant year. It was the year of the new Canadian Citizenship Act on January 1, 1947, the formation of ANAVETS Pacific Unit 280 and the repeal of the infamous 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act on May 14 which led to the enfranchisement of all Chinese Canadians. ♦

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Visit our website at www.ccmms.ca
Or email us at info@ccmms.ca

I Am the Canadian Delegate is a recent documentary produced and directed by CCMM member Wesley Lowe. It is the story of earlier generations of Chinese Canadians battle for recognition in the land of their birth, as experienced by its most celebrated member, Douglas Jung. Like hundreds of other Chinese, Jung served in Canada's military during WWII without rights of citizenship. This helped convince the government to give Chinese the vote and Jung made his mark in history in 1957 when he became Canada's first Chinese Member of Parliament and represented Canada at the United Nations.

Twelve years in the making, it was completed in time for broadcast on Chinese New Year of 2007 on Channel M in Vancouver and nationally on The Biography Channel.

The Department of Canadian Heritage featured the film in their Asian Heritage Month celebrations, inviting Lowe to be the keynote speaker at their annual breakfast meeting and sponsoring screenings in Ottawa, Vancouver and Toronto. Lowe traveled with Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity Jason Kenney where they witnessed members of Japanese, Chinese, Indo-Canadian, Black, and Korean communities, as well as members of the NDP, Liberal and Conservative parties praising the film and voicing their desire to see this story not only on television but in libraries, schools and community groups. More than entertainment, *I Am the Canadian Delegate* has struck a nerve as an expression of cross-cultural understanding.

With this June 10 marking the 50th anniversary of Douglas Jung's initial election, the documentary is most timely and the Chinese Canadian Military Museum is proud to have been part of the making of this most important film. ♦ *Wes Lowe*

The DVD is available at Filmwest Associates at the following website:
<http://www.filmwest.com/catalogue/itemdetail/3344> ♦

We Will Remember Them...

In Vancouver:

CATHERINE LONG

Catherine, also known as Buddy, was a long time benefactor of the museum. She and her sister, Elizabeth, were active in the Chinese community for many years but always keeping out of the limelight.

She died February 10.

ON WAH LIM

On was a past president of Pacific Unit 280 and was known to be an avid pilot. His claim to fame came he landed a plane with a seized engine on the Swartz Bay ferry ramp in 1991.

He was 86.

He died June 9.

JAMES H. MA

James was also a past president of Pacific Unit 280. He served with SOE in Asia. He was a gifted artist in painting, sketching, wood carving and music, especially jazz.

He was 82.

He died June 22.

ROY QUOCK QUON MAH

See front page. ♦

Veterans' Oral History Project now called Heroes Remember

The launch of the Heroes Remember DVD was held at the 12 Service Battalion in Richmond Saturday morning May 12 with producers Howe Lee, Wes Lowe and Claudia Ferris relating stories of the project which was three years in the making.

The DVD was complimentary to the attendees of the 60th Anniversary Celebration dinner held later that evening.

Copies of the DVD are available with a donation of \$20 plus shipping cost. Write to our email address.

Interviews can also be viewed on the Veterans Affairs Canada website. Click on Canada Remembers and click again for Heroes Remember. ♦

Diversity Panel on Display at Canada Place on Canada Day



Pictured on the left is the 8 feet by 20 feet panel featuring stories and photos of the Chinese Canadian vets.

The panel was part of our museum's display and participation in the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre exhibit.

Thousands of visitors dropped by our table for newsletters, membership forms and the Fighting for Canada booklet as well as taking pictures of our vets in front of the large panel.

The Diversity Program in its recruiting drive offers employment equity and diversity of visible minority groups for the Canadian Forces. ♦

Vancouver City Hall Proclaims Chinese Canadian Citizenship Week

This month marks the 60th Anniversary of the Pacific Unit 280, the only organization of Chinese Canada War Veterans in Canada, and the Chinese Canadians receiving the franchise.

While it is hard to believe today, prior to, during and for some time after World War Two, Chinese Canadians were not Canadian citizens. They could not vote in civic, provincial or federal elections. They could not obtain licenses to practice law, medicine and pharmacy or teach or work as accountants. Government employment was closed to them.

Yet when World War Two came, many unreservedly volunteered for the Armed Forces only to be rejected. As the war progressed and manpower needs grew, they were finally accepted. Over 600 Chinese Canadians served in virtually every theatre of operation, served extremely well, received notable recognition and received the highest decorations from several allied countries. Many lost their lives.

At the end of hostilities, these Vets returned home to fight another war; the struggle to obtain the franchise. Their influence and efforts contributed significantly in Chinese Canadians obtaining full Canadian Citizenship rights in 1947.

From a speech given by Stephanie Mui, UBC Student in the City Council Hall ♦

Celebrate Citizenship Gala Held May 12

What a spectacular event! This special evening was aimed to recognize and commemorate the 60th anniversaries of the creation of Canadian Citizenship (First of January 1947), the granting of a Charter by the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (ANAVETS) in Canada to form Pacific Unit 280 after Chinese Canadians were rejected from joining the Canadian Legion, the repeal of the 1923 Immigration Act, aka the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the 50th anniversary of the election of Douglas Jung, the first Chinese Canadian Member of Parliament. The May 12 gala was a very significant event during Asian Heritage Month.

This festivity was jointly hosted by the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. There were representatives from the Chinese Cultural Centre, the P.R.C. Consulate, Canadian Heritage, Veterans Affairs Canada, the 12 Service Battalion and 39 Brigade Group, Dept. of National Defence, Maritime Forces Pacific, RCMP, Cabinet Ministers and MPs, MLAs and many others.

Among the highlights of the evening: the re-affirmation ceremony of the vets presided by Citizenship Judge Sandra Wilking, speeches by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. CEO Tung Chan, Howe Lee, Stephen Ogden from VAC, MLA John Yap and many others and the announcements of proclamations from civic, provincial and federal governments.

Special thanks to President Howe Lee for his vision of a Chinese Canadian military museum and to all the organizers for such a memorable event. Lastly, to the veterans for all their sacrifices and contributions which have made Canada the multicultural and egalitarian nation that it is now. ♦ *Judy Maxwell*



Back row: Willie Chong, Alex Louie, Bing Wong, George Ing

Front row: Frank Wong, Ed Lee, Howe Lee, Paul Tsui, John Yap

DEBATES OF HANSARD BLUES TRANSCRIPT

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007

Afternoon Sitting

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

CHINESE CANADIAN MILITARY MUSEUM

John Yap: Today I rise to speak about a very important cultural institution in British Columbia, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum. A non-profit organization since 1998, the museum is located in the heart of Vancouver's Chinatown. Howe Lee, the president and founder, had a vision to preserve, collect and bring to light the artifacts and memorabilia and, most importantly, the stories of the Chinese Canadian veterans that risked their lives in order to serve Canada during World War II, despite the blatant racism and indignities they faced at the time.

When war began in Europe in 1939, there was debate within the Chinese Canadian community as to whether or not they should participate and fight for a country that they felt treated them as second-class citizens. Even as many volunteered, most were rejected because of their ethnicity. But all of that changed when Japan entered the war, and many were recruited to help with undercover operations in Asia. Soon the Canadian military had Chinese Canadians serving in all areas of operations, fighting not only for freedom but for equality in their country.

At the war's end over 600 Chinese Canadians served, making them the largest ethnic group to serve the Canadian military. On returning home from war, many Chinese Canadians felt they had proven their loyalty and allegiance to Canada. Many in the community felt they had achieved their goal through the contributions to the war effort and gained the respect they had deserved for years. This new-found respect ultimately led to the provision of full rights of citizenship to Chinese Canadians with the repealing of the exclusion act by Canada's parliament in 1947.

Under the guidance of Howe Lee and museum curator Larry Wong, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum proudly displays the stories of courage, sacrifice and patriotism of those who chose to fight for their country, Canada. I encourage everyone to visit the museum and learn about a widely unknown part of Canada's military history. ♦



Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"CHINESE CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP WEEK"

WHEREAS *During WWII, Chinese Canadians joined Canada's military forces in the struggle against oppression and domination;*

AND WHEREAS *They served with notable distinction in virtually every theatre of military operation;*

AND WHEREAS *Upon returning from the War, these Veterans formed the only Chinese Canadian Veterans organization - the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada Pacific Unit 280;*

AND WHEREAS *These Veterans coalesced efforts to obtain civil rights for Chinese Canadians;*

AND WHEREAS *On May 14th, 1947, the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 was repealed to align with the new Canadian Citizenship Act;*

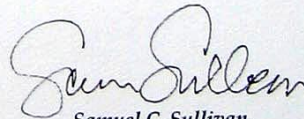
AND WHEREAS *This action enfranchised Chinese Canadians by granting them full citizenship rights, including the right to vote and participate fully in Canadian life;*

AND WHEREAS *May 14th, 2007 marks the 60th anniversary of both the founding of Pacific Unit 280 and the Enfranchisement of Chinese Canadians;*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Samuel Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of May 14th through 20th, 2007, as*

"CHINESE CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP WEEK"

in the City of Vancouver.



Samuel C. Sullivan,
MAYOR





Office of the Mayor
CITY OF VANCOUVER
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Proclamation

"ROY MAH DAY"

WHEREAS

Mr. Roy Quock Quon Mah, born on March 29, 1919, received the Order of British Columbia in 2003, passed away gently in Vancouver, BC on June 22, 2007; and

AND WHEREAS

Mr. Roy Mah urged fellow Chinese Canadians to join him in volunteering for service in WWII with the hopes of winning a vote for his community and was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the War Medal, the Burma Star and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal; and

AND WHEREAS

Mr. Roy Mah was instrumental in lobbying Ottawa to grant the vote to all Chinese Canadians and triumphantly voted for the first time when he was 30 years old; and

AND WHEREAS

Mr. Roy Mah founded and published for 42 years the Chinatown News which became the most influential English language magazine on the life of Chinese in North America; and

AND WHEREAS

A celebration of Mr. Roy Mah's remarkable life and contributions that helped transform Canada into a multilingual and multicultural society will be held at the Chinese Cultural Centre on July 12, 2007:

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Samuel Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM Thursday, July 12th, 2007 as

"ROY MAH DAY"

in the City of Vancouver.



Samuel C. Sullivan,
MAYOR



