



# The Maple Leaf and Dragon

A newsletter of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

[www.ccmmms.ca](http://www.ccmmms.ca)

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Wesley Lowe, Editor

Winter 2008

## Welcome to the new Editor of Maple Leaf and Dragon

When Howe Lee and I got together about the creation of a newsletter, I was very hesitant to take on the position of editor. We were faced with raising money and the newsletter was one possibility.

I used my Microsoft Word Publisher for the template of the newsletter and in the fall of 2000, I printed the first newsletter from my computer and ordered hundreds of copies from a copy shop. I did all the mailing labels and mailed each copy with the newsletter folded twice. The response was overwhelming with financial support from our readers.

Unfortunately the post office insisted the newsletter be mailed in an envelope which raised the cost of our mailing which explains the sporadic frequency of the newsletter.

To increase the readership, arrangement was made with John Ko, who was the webmaster of the museum's website to include each full edition of the newsletter.

In looking back, it's amazing how in the last seven years, the technology has made publishing so much easier. Instead of printing a master copy from my computer and taking it to a copy shop, I can now email the files in a PDF file to the printer, all from the comfort of my home.

I wish Wes all the best as the new editor. I think he'll have as much fun as I did.

[Larry Wong](#)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reach our tenth anniversary, the opportunity to continue as your founding President of The Chinese Canadian Military Museum has been, and continues to be a privilege with its well known reputation as the only Museum of its kind in the world.

2008 reflects many achievements. Besides our own projects, there were many that were done in partnership with the Department of National Defence, Veterans Affairs of Canada, Canadian Heritage, community organizations and others. As a result of this, we were able to document, record, publish, and showcase such items as a book 'Fighting For Canada', the website 'Canada Remembers', our DVD 'Heroes Remember', and our huge display panel 'Chinese Canadians in the Military'. There are so many more items to list.

The many accomplishments since our Official Opening on November 07, 1998 are a tribute to the efforts of the executive, the Directors, and supporters. It is with great appreciation that I thank our donors, whose support often make the crucial difference in our ability to create a supportive and collaborative environment that fosters our CCMM purpose and mission.

As your President, I care deeply about the purpose and mission of CCMM as an institution that promotes the legacy of the Chinese Canadian veterans. I am sure we will have a very positive and progressive future.

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(left to right – Cedric Mah, Larry Wong, John Ko, Dan Lee)

## **Cedric Mah Returns to Shangri-La**

By Larry Wong

Yes, there is a Shangri-La. The Chinese government changed the name of Zhongdian to Shangri-Li County which is located 10,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by 23,000 foot mountains, bordering Tibet and Yunnan province.

From 1944-45, Cedric Mah and his brother, Albert, worked for the China National Aviation Corporation, flying DC-3 transport planes from northeast India over the Hump carrying vital supplies to the Chiang Kai-Shek's National Armies in Kunming, China. By the end of the war, Cedric completed 400 missions, dodging Japanese patrol planes and flying into unpredictable weather.

Fast forward to September 2007. Cedric and four other surviving CNAC pilots are guests of the China Exploration and Research Society to retrace their flight routes after an 57 years. Their schedule in China was welcomed by aviation groups and air museums as they journeyed to Kunming, Binchuan, and Chongqing before arriving at Shangri-La.

Cedric didn't recognize Shangri-La. Where once the area was remote is now criss-cross by highways and where quiet was the norm, the ringing of cell phones is ever present. "This region to the west used to be the most remote spot around," said Cedric, "But now, in building roads where you go in China, the traffic there is just like here."

Their host was Wong How Man, an explorer, writer and photographer for National Geographic. Accompanying them was an IMAX crew hired to do a promotional film for the 2008 Olympics.

## **Remembering Roy – the final years**

by Ramona Mar

Four and a half years ago, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum approached me to interview Roy Mah on video for its planned Veteran's Oral History Project. What an opportunity for me to probe the mind of this heralded community leader and, as a bonus, a chance to catch up with him on a personal level, as I have known Roy as "uncle Roy" all my life. How was I to know that our interview session would lead me to his bedside for what would be his remaining years?

Roy was in and out of St. Paul's Hospital countless times in addition to regular thrice-weekly dates with dialysis machines. If my admiration for Roy's public achievements as a soldier, journalist and community leader weren't enough, I came to also admire his courage in the onslaught of his medical ups and downs.

Although he might have made his gripes known to his wife Ling, Roy faced frustrations without complaint. Dr. John Sloan, who attended regularly at Roy's apartment was in equal awe. He would deliver Roy whatever grim medical news there was and Roy would simply nod his head, smile, and ask Dr. Sloan if he wanted tea.

In the meantime, even though Roy admitted he was living in "semi-isolation" he was determined that life would go on. So it was that I was privileged to share many lunches of sushi, noodles and dim sum (meals were a priority), trips to the bank (he preferred the personal experience), and forays to Chinatown for his bbq duck (even though he wasn't supposed to eat it!)

By the time Roy hosted his incredible 89<sup>th</sup> birthday banquet last Easter, life was precarious. But that party meant so much to him! What a remarkable way to embrace a lifetime of friends, family, supporters and fellow veterans. Now that he is gone, may we all keep a little of Roy's spirit in our hearts in honour of a brave soldier and inspiring man.



## Douglas Jung – Recognition after 50 Years

By Arthur Calderwood

2007 was a memorable year for the legacy of my late father, Douglas Jung C.M., O.B.C., C.D. (1924-2002). Two great honours were bestowed; first was the production of an exceptional documentary on his life, *"I am the Canadian Delegate: a Biography of Douglas Jung"* by Wesley Lowe. This documentary eloquently described my father's modest upbringing in Victoria through his ground breaking election victory as an MP for Vancouver Center. The documentary's title stems from an event which occurred at the United Nations Headquarters in New York where my father had been sent as Chair of the Canadian UN Legal Delegation. As my father was about to take his seat behind Canada's nametag, a UN attendant intervened to explain that the seat he was about to occupy was reserved for the Canadian delegate. "I am the Canadian Delegate" was my father's reply.



Mr. Douglas Jung Candidate for Vancouver Center with the Hon. John George Diefenbaker when he visited Vancouver recently.

After the War, my father attended UBC, graduated in Law and was called to the Bar in 1954. The following year he made history by being the first Chinese-Canadian lawyer to appear before the B.C. Court of Appeal. He made Provincial political history by being the first Chinese-Canadian to run for political office in BC, running but losing narrowly in a Provincial Bye-election in Vancouver Center in 1956. Encouraged by the strong support, he ran for the Federal Conservatives in Vancouver Center becoming the first Chinese-Canadian to run in federal politics. His opponent was the powerful Minister of Defence, Liberal Ralph Campney. On June 10, 1957, in the biggest upset of election, he gained the distinction of being the first Chinese-Canadian to have been elected a Member of Parliament and represented Vancouver Centre from 1957-62, as a Progressive Conservative.

The second great honour in 2007 was the decision by the Federal Government to name the new federal building at 401 Burrard, located in my father's riding, the Douglas Jung Building. It was a great privilege to attend the naming ceremony, and on behalf of the family, to personally thank the federal government for the honour. Canada has come full circle from a period where Chinese Canadians were barred from certain public buildings (which my father and his generation experienced growing up in BC) to one where we honor their legacy by naming a Federal Government building after them. In a life graced with many "firsts", my father legacy is doubly honoured since this is the first federal government building to be named after a Chinese-Canadian.



(Left to Right) Wesley Lowe, Tung Chan, Arthur Calderwood, Parliamentary Secretary James Moore, Ministry for Public Works and Government Services Canada, and the Hon. Jason Kenney, Secretary of State Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity.



## Lest We Forget - 2007

***They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.***

On Lim, Harold Chinn, Roy Mah, James Ma and Sidney Wong are Chinese Canadian WWII Veterans whose contributions to family and community will be sadly missed.

From the Editor

Happy New Year 2008 and Chinese New Year of the Rat!

This is a good time to introduce myself. I'm Wesley Lowe and I am the new newsletter editor. However, Larry Wong has agreed to help me out and I will be relying on his expertise to maintain the high standards that he has set.

I've been involved with the Museum since the beginning – I was the emcee at the inauguration and am proud to have witnessed and been part of its growth.

I am also Chaplain and Secretary of Pacific Unit 280, Chinese Canadian Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans.

By background, I am a filmmaker and by training, a composer, none which helps too much in being the editor of a newsletter. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes and feel free to contact me with input and suggestions.

Wesley Lowe

[editor@ccmms.ca](mailto:editor@ccmms.ca)

### Acknowledgements

**Arthur Calderwood, Ph.D, MBA is Douglas Jung's son.**

**Ramona Mar is a broadcast personality and community worker extraordinaire. To see her interview with Roy, visit [www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collection/hr\\_cdnchinese](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collection/hr_cdnchinese) and click on Roy Mah.**

**Lt. Colonel Howe Lee is the President of the CCMM.**

**Larry Wong is the past Editor of the CCMM**

**Please feel free to contact us if you would like additional information on any of the articles.**

## ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

For those who have not paid their annual dues for 2008 or who wish to join the Chinese Canadian Military Museum, please remit \$20.00 to the:

Chinese Canadian Military Museum  
555 Columbia St.  
Vancouver, BC V6A 4H5

We are a registered charitable organization and rely on the support and generosity of volunteers and donors. For volunteers, we have many opportunities to serve.

Donations gratefully accepted and recognized with a tax receipt for income tax purposes.

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