



The Maple Leaf and Dragon

A newsletter of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society

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Judy Lam Maxwell, Editor

Winter 2009

Happiness and Prosperity for 2009!!!

2008 was another historical year for the CCMMS. President Howe Lee encouraged everyone to attend various social and political functions with him, emphasizing the importance of supporting and representing the community with our presence. Veterans and other Museum representatives were invited to participate in Chinese community and non-profit fundraisers, at Chinatown-related political events, special holiday occasions, historical and armed forces events and activities, Consular dinners, and so on. The CCMMS hosted special visitors, youth organizations, personnel from the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as interested-others. The Museum and veteran's presence, participation and outreach peaked in 2008. Let's review the year's accomplishments.

Lieutenant Governor Pays Special Visit to Chinatown Memorial Square on Remembrance Day



Members of the CCMMS with politicians and Lt. Gov. Steven Point at Chinatown's Memorial Square.



Remembrance Day luncheon with the Lt. Gov. leading special guests in a traditional Aboriginal song of thanks to the cooks at Foo's Ho Ho.



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2008 in Review



JANUARY

- Howe Lee and Larry Wong attended the Grand Opening of '5 West Pender Street' (purchased by Milton Wong in 2004 for senior citizen housing).
 - "Beyond Golden Mountain" was shown on CBC, which included an interview with the late Roy Mah.
 - Howe attended the Mayor and City Council Reception as a representative of the CCMMS.
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Photo of the newly-restored 5 West Pender, transformed by Chinatown heritage advocate and architect Joe Wai.

FEBRUARY

- The Consul General of China hosted a Chinese New Year's dinner, attended by Howe Lee and five Chinese Canadian veterans.
 - A contingent of more than 20 Chinese Canadian and Aboriginal veterans marched in Chinatown's 'Year of the Rat' Lunar New Year parade.
 - City Council passed a by-law allowing vehicles with veterans plates free parking during Remembrance Week.
 - Lt. Gov. Steven Point mentioned the significance and passing of Roy Mah in his Throne Speech.
 - John Yap and 2 other M.L.A.s hosted an Appreciation Dinner, attended by Howe Lee and George Ing. The Chinese Canadian veterans were recognized at this dinner.
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MARCH 16 - American Legion Cathay Post 186 hosted their annual dinner in Seattle. This was attended by several of the CCMMS group.

MARCH 27 - Willis Louie was the guest speaker of the month for the Vancouver Historical Society, assisted by Larry Wong.

APRIL 24 - Howe Lee gave Lt. Sandra Bourne, Canadian Forces Public Affairs Office, a tour of the Museum.

MAY - Canadian Heritage sponsored a veterans' multicultural presentation to honour all Asian veterans. Peggy Lee spoke on behalf of Chinese Canadian veterans at the Vancouver Public Library. (Asian Heritage Month)

MAY 14 - King Wan, Co-Chair of the Department of National Defence Diversity Group, gave a tour of the Museum to DVD Diversity Group representatives from across Canada.

JUNE - John Ko coached several paddling teams in the Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival.

JUNE 6-7 - Howe Lee, Paul Lee, John Ko and Judy Maxwell participated in the Seattle-Vancouver Chinatown Exchange, hosted at the new Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle's International District. Other Vancouver representatives were from Vancouver City Planners, Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Gardens, Chinatown Societies Heritage Buildings Association, Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee, and the Chinatown Business Initiative Association.

JUNE 15 - Howe Lee, Judy Maxwell, and many of the veterans showed support for Raymond Louie's Mayoral Campaign.



Chinese Canadian veterans visit their American comrades for the annual dinner hosted by Seattle's Cathay Post 186. (Photo Courtesy of Howard Chan)

JUNE 17



Chinese Canadian veterans **John Ko Bong** — one of the original 13 members of SOE's Operation Oblivion — passed away on June 17, 2008 at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital in Vancouver. He attended monthly CCMMS Museum meetings until just before he passed away. He was 95 (b. 1912 Nov 18).

John Ko Bong will be greatly missed by all his fellow Chinese Canadian veterans and friends at the Museum.



JUNE

- **Wesley Lowe** stepped down as Editor of the CCMMS Newsletter, as he was appointed to head the cross-Canada Advisory Panel that evaluates funding for Chinese-Canadian community projects related to immigration restriction. Thank you, Wesley!
- The Museum hosted students from Richmond's Enoch Youth Outreach Society's annual *Culturathon*.
- The CCMMS participated in the Richmond Public Library's annual *Celebrate Canada Fair*.



A Rail Odyssey

Via Rail offered free travel to Canadian Forces' members and veterans during the month of July.

Alfred Woo is pictured here with guardsman at Parliament Hill, in Ottawa. (See Alfred's article "A Rail Odyssey", p. 4)

JULY

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

- Canada Day event at Canada Place, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and veterans had a booth with display panels, they sold *Fighting for Canada* and DVDs of *Heroes Remember*, and the veterans spoke to visitors.
- Chinese Canadian veterans raised funds for China's Earthquake Relief.



The CCMMS entourage with Rear-Admiral Tyrone Pile, Commander of Maritime Forces Pacific.



Richard Lee M.L.A. with President Howe Lee.

AUGUST

- B.C. Day 'Salute to the Veterans' events were at the Burnaby Village Museum.
- 150th Anniversary *Golden Mountain Celebration Awards* held in Victoria. Dan Lee and Victor Wong attend.
- In honour of the contributions that Chinese Canadians have made, Richard Lee, Parliamentary Secretary for the Asia-Pacific Initiative and MLA for Burnaby North, proclaimed Aug. 3 to 10 as *Chinese Canadian Heritage Days* in British Columbia.
- The Chinese Benevolent Association hosted a dinner for the retiring Consul General of China. This was attended by Howe Lee and six others from the Museum.

A Rail Odyssey by Alfred Woo

On Friday, July 11th, I commenced my two week journey to Central Canada by way of **VIA RAIL** Train #2, or *The Canadian*, pulling out of the Vancouver Terminus at precisely 1730 hrs. Thanks to VIA RAIL's innovative 'CF Family Appreciation Program', members of the Canadian Forces and Canadian veterans were invited to travel for free during the month of July 2008, to anywhere in Canada that VIA RAIL serviced. The program commemorated the train service that historically transported Canadian troops and equipment across Canada during peace and war.

Travelling solo, my destinations were the cities of Ottawa/Gatineau, with side trips to Montreal and Toronto. It had been some thirty years since I had last visited the nation's capital. This was the preferred R & R weekend retreat for platoon members of my basic officer training course, when we were housed for six weeks in "tent city" at CFB Petawawa.

"Comfort Class" (a.k.a. Economy class) on *The Canadian* was spacious and relaxing. I was easily lulled by the train's constant, yet gentle, rocking motion while admiring the vistas that slipped past the picture windows. One could meander about the train coaches; view the local landscape in the dome car; or just sit in the dining car with a cold one in-hand chatting/debating with other veterans and military-types who comprised the majority of travellers.

On board for three days and three nights, with scheduled stops in the major cities of Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg, I came to appreciate the breadth and depth of this country. Train #2 weaved its way across the rugged majestic Rockies, cruised through the vast solitude of the Prairies, and traversed the lush diversity of the Canadian Shield as we made our way to Toronto. Somewhere past the Manitoba border, we passed VIA Train #1, which was headed in the opposite direction, westbound for Vancouver. The passengers on one train waved frantically at passengers in the other, while some of the train crews reached out of the open vestibules and 'high-fived' their colleagues as the trains sped past each other.

Ottawa was beautiful. The city is embodied of Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal, the Canadian Mint, and a multitude of museums and national attractions. Over a five-day period, I hit as many highlights as my feet could endure and my budget could support. Every site on my itinerary was within walking distance from Université d'Ottawa, where I settled into a dormitory room at a reasonable rate of \$44.00 per night. (Remember that July is at the height of the tourist season!) Regarding delectables, I treated my palate to the exquisite fare offered at *Chez McDonald's*, *Monsieur A & W*, and *au Tim Horton's*; the swill at the Canadian Museum of Civilization was particularly appetizing, as was the borscht at the Canadian War Museum. Complimentary admission to the Canadian War Museum was bestowed on those who had military ID or a veteran's Record of Service card (NDI 75).

Of course, a visit to Ottawa is incomplete without a pilgrimage to Parliament Hill. Although Parliament is prorogued in the summer, the buildings are open for guided tours — be sure to go up the Peace Tower for a panoramic view of the city! Every day at 1100hrs, a page is turned on the Book of Remembrance listing Canada's First World War war-dead. Another valued sighting was always the daily spectacle of the Changing of the Guard on the Hill. I was among thousands of spectators on that hot and humid day, and one of few who noticed that a guardsman had fainted from his fixed 'at attention' position. I also visited the Canadian Mint, where I discovered that my weight in gold on that day was worth ~\$1.2 million; the Supreme Court of Canada, where I received a one-on-one guided tour; and duly paid my respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial.

Despite many arduous evenings sleeping in a reclined position, the train trip was a revitalizing change of pace from domestic routine. Beyond the adventure of sightseeing, the trip provided me with some wonderful quiet-time. The romance of train travel cannot be denied, and the price was right.

Thanks, *VIA RAIL*, for the wonderful opportunity!

AUG 14

Chinese Canadian veteran **Norman Wong** — one of the thirteen agents in SOE's Operation Oblivion — passed away on Thursday, August 14th at 93 years of age. Norman's wife Marjorie, the author of the *Dragon & the Maple Leaf*, predeceased him in March 2001. Norman's cousin, Hank, is the last remaining member of that group.

Norman Wong is in the centre of the back row; Douglas Jung is back row far left; John Ko Bong is front row, far left.

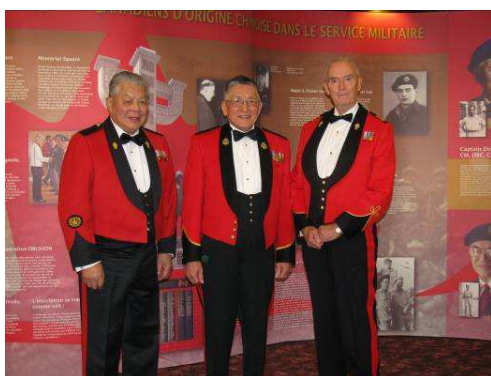


SEPTEMBER

- Howe Lee attended the National Congress of Chinese Canadians' Annual Conference in Montréal, Québec City and Ottawa, representing Chinese Canadian veterans. The federal government's failure to fairly compensate the Chinese communities in Canada is the key topic.
- Chinese Cultural Centre's Annual Telethon aired on Fairchild TV, showing a \$2000 donation given by CCMMS & Unit 280.
- The Chinese Benevolent Association's commemoration of the 59th Anniversary of the People's Republic of China, by hosting a dinner. The Chinese Canadian veterans were some of the special guests.
- Consul General Liang's hosted a reception and dinner, which was attended by Howe Lee and veterans.

OCTOBER 24

10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the CCMMS



Normandy veteran George Chow, President Howe Lee and Vic Stevenson pose in front of the Museum's display panels of Chinese Canadian veterans.



Wesley Louie and his siblings donated the Canadian Armed Forces uniform of their deceased father, Victor Louie. Victor and his brother Alex owned and operated Vancouver Chinatown's renowned Marco Polo Restaurant and Night Club.

(Photos courtesy of Todd Wong)



Guests included Community Leader Todd Wong and other Members of the Rev. Chan clan, including Second World War veteran Dan Lee (rear, far right).



Chinese American Veteran Lip Mar, Chinese Canadian veteran Peggy Lee, and former politician Grace McCarthy.





OCTOBER

Jericho Beach Monument Re-Dedication Ceremony, with guest speaker LCol Howe Lee (centre).

NOVEMBER

- The Chinatown Rotary Club hosted a luncheon and invited veterans from Unit 280 and CCMMS.
- Victoria's Royal B.C. Museum put our veterans' history panels on public display.
- **Remembrance Day Services** at Chinatown Memorial Square and at Victory Square. CBC & CTV gave good news coverage of the Chinese Canadian veterans.



NOVEMBER 25
Canadian Club @ HMCS Discovery
speaking engagement hosted by
the Canadian Club of Vancouver



LCol Howe Lee pictured with LCmdr Friedrich and Capt. Lynnette MacKay.

CCMMS representatives attended this event, including Canadian Club Director King Wan.

DECEMBER

- MLA John Yap had a small Christmas reception at his Steveston office, to thank his supporters. Howe Lee, George & Rosalyn Ing, and Judy Maxwell attended the social before joining the veterans at a Christmas Party kindly hosted by Bill & Marian Lee.
- Several CCMMS members and veterans attended a Christmas luncheon at Floata Restaurant, hosted by the Chinatown Rotary Club for the Salvation Army.

CURRENT DIRECTORS



Photo courtesy of Doug Soo

Back Row: John Ko, Judy Maxwell, Wesley Lowe, Peggy Lee, Quan Lim **Centre Row:** Bing Wong, Paul Lee, Dan Lee, Paul Tsui, Kelly Kwong **Front Row:** Larry Wong, King Wan, Howe Lee, George Ing, Frank Wong.