

CONTACT



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Happy 90th Birthday Lee Kuan Yew: 16 Sep



The VSC would like to extend our well wishes to Mr Lee Kuan Yew on his 90th birthday.

Source: Straits Times

Ahead of marking a significant milestone in his life today, former prime minister Lee Kuan Yew told The Straits Times: "I am lucky to reach 90." Asked in an e-mailed interview what gave him the greatest satisfaction when he looked back on an illustrious life, he replied that it was "to see Singapore's progress".

He will be celebrating his birthday with his family at a private dinner. Several world leaders sent birthday greetings to Mr Lee,

including Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and China's former vice-premier Li Lanqing.

Mr Lee was born on this day in 1923 in a house in Kampong Java Road. He was the eldest son of a Shell employee and a housewife.

In nine decades, he has lived through the Great Depression, the Japanese Occupation, the Malayan Emergency, merger and separation, and Singapore's journey from Third World to First World.

He played a key role in the major events of his day from 1959, when he became Singapore's first prime minister, and came

to be well-respected around the world as a perceptive statesman. He stepped down as Prime Minister in 1990 and from Cabinet in 2011.

Speaking to The Straits Times ahead of Mr Lee's birthday, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said his father's greatest achievement was building a nation "nobody believed possible". "Nation building is never complete, but Singapore would not be here today but for Mr Lee."

What did he think was the most important lesson to be learnt from his father's life?

"You must know what you want to do, and not just follow what other people suggest or what the crowd says," he said. "He was also very good at persuading others to follow him, so that in the end we achieved together more than we imagined that we could."

Mr Lee, in his book published last month, *One Man's View Of The World*, summed things up this way: "As for me, I have done what I had wanted to do, to the best of my ability. I am satisfied." ♦

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President's Message... Violet Chan

Summer goes by so quickly and before long Autumn kicks in!

In this issue, I wish to touch on the subject "Keep Membership Growing." Membership retention and recruitment are critical components to the challenges of any Club.

In my personal vision of a club success, we need to have a good diligent team of exco members, dedicated and hardworking. Everyone plays an

important role. They do their part not to receive praise and glory but to achieve self satisfaction for the smooth running of the club by increasing the membership year after year! On this note I wish to congratulate our new exco member, Selvan Doraisamy who had enrolled over ten new memberships during his initial period of service with the Board. He showed his enthusiasm with his friends and brought them into the

fold. By the same token, I would like to invite all other exco members and all VSC members to bring in more members, young & old. Look around your neighbourhood, workplace or among friends for those whom you believe can be asset to the Club.

We definitely need new blood and new ideas to take over the Presidency in the years ahead bringing the Club to a higher level of success! ♦



A Quick Word... Editor, Kah Eng Koh

Time flies, and we are now doing the 2nd issue of our newsletter. My first newsletter has been a good learning experience, and I hope to improve.

We are really happy to include articles contributed by our members in this issue.

We really encourage you to send in your contributions.

Please feel free to send your comments, articles and pictures to:

violetct99@gmail.com ♦

Club Objectives:

1. *To promote opportunities for Members to meet socially and to organize cultural and recreational activities.*
2. *To serve as an informal source of information and advise on Doing Business, Working and Living in Vancouver to Members and newly-arrived Singaporeans.*
3. *To organize informal meetings and exchange of views with eminent Singaporeans visiting Vancouver on subjects of general interest.*
4. *To carry out such other activities which promote the general welfare and interests of the Members and the Club as determined by the Executive Committee in a manner which is consistent with the objectives stated above.*

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Residency in Canada

by member Robert Leong

"Where thou art, that is home"...Emily Dickinson



The issue of "residence" is an important one for permanent residents. A permanent resident must comply with a residency obligation of 2 years in every 5-year period, and must show at least 3 years of residence in the 4 years before any application for Canadian citizenship.

Canada Immigration has become increasingly enforcement-minded against breaches of the residency obligation. Proceedings may lead to the permanent resident losing status unless there are humanitarian and compassionate considerations that justify the retention of status.

Here are 6 things you should know about residency in Canada:

How is the 5-year period calculated?

For persons who have been permanent residents for less than 5 years, they must prove at examination that they will be able to meet the residency obligation in the 5-year period immediately after they became a permanent resident.

For persons who have been permanent residents for 5 years or more, they must prove at examination that they have met the residency obligation in the 5-year period immediately before ex-

amination.

An examination takes place whenever the permanent resident submits an application in writing or seeks to enter Canada. So, each time the permanent resident crosses the border, or when the permanent resident applies to renew the permanent resident card, it may trigger an examination of compliance with the residency obligation.

How is the number of days calculated?

A full day or part day of physical presence in Canada counts as a day. In other words, if Peter left Vancouver on Friday and stayed overnight in Tulalip before returning on Saturday, he would not be treated as having spent time outside Canada as he would have spent part of Friday and part of Saturday in Canada.

Using passport stamps is not reliable

With the introduction of permanent resident card scanners at the borders, passport stamps are no longer a reliable way to prove entry into Canada.

Immigration lawyers can assist clients to obtain their Traveler History Report from Canada Border Services Agency, as well as other jurisdictions that have freedom of information regimes in order to prepare a comprehensive spreadsheet to track and detail their time in Canada after landing.

Canada has records of your leaving to the US

From June 30, 2013, Canada implemented an Entry/Exit Initiative whereby entry data of permanent residents entering the US by land are captured by the US and then shared with Canada.

You must maintain your PR status pending your citizenship application

Citizenship applications are now taking at least 2 years to process for straightforward cases. You must not be the subject of an immigration investigation, an immigration inquiry or a removal order in the interim period before your citizenship application is processed.

There are rights of appeal

If a negative decision is made against your permanent resident status or your citizenship application, you have a right to appeal either to the Immigration Appeal Division or the Federal Court of Canada, depending on the situation.

There are limitation periods for appeals, and it is important for you to consult a lawyer once you obtain a negative decision to avoid being time-barred.

With fewer immigration options to Canada, permanent residents should not take their residency obligation lightly. Once they lose their status, it may not be easy to re-apply for permanent residence to Canada. ♦

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Achieving Financial Independence

by members Ms Florence
Yeo & Ms Kheng Sin Saw

People plan for their vacations, weddings and grocery lists, but do not spend much time planning their financial future. People do not plan to fail, but they fail to plan.

Achieving financial independence is within your reach. Mapping out an appropriate financial plan will help bring you through every stage of your life, enabling you to put your money to work for you. A solid financial foundation is essential to ensure you and your loved ones can live out your lives without facing problems brought about by a lack of money.

Financial planning should cover protection for you and your family should something unforeseen happen. There could be risks to your life or your health. Coverage should ensure the family has sufficient funds to fulfil financial commitments for an adequate period of time. You also want to ensure you have enough money to enjoy your golden years.

Key to the building of your financial foundation is to reduce your liabilities. Pay off debts sooner



to minimize interest paid. Then you can focus on building and growing your savings.

Planning for the future is critical, and should start as early as possible to take advantage of the effect of compounding in your savings. Even saving a small sum, perhaps \$10 a day, can result in a tidy sum for your retirement. Savings of \$300 a month, invested at 8%, will grow to a sum of almost \$450,000 in 30 years. This savings can easily be achieved by small changes in your spending habits.

With the low interest rates banks offer, after taking inflation and taxes into account, you could end up with less spending power than you started with. To keep pace with inflation and

taxes, you need to have a return that is higher than the two combined.

To ensure you understand the options open to you, consult a financial advisor who can guide you and ensure you understand the steps you need to take to make a decision you will be comfortable with. People with a financial plan in place will probably have peace of mind, knowing the roadmap to achieving financial independence. ♦

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HAPPEN.**



CONTACT

Singapore National Day Banquet - 9 August

by member Brandon Bong



Recipients of Award Certs
(L-R) Emcee Robbe Hardnette,
Exco member Alice Crestejo, Life
Member Luke Tham, Belly Dancer
Jenny Nguyen, President Violet
Chan, Co-Emcee Clement Yapp &
Guest Artist Joyce Lan



Guest Artiste Joyce Lan



Our VIP Guests with the EXCO

I am proud to say that I was born a Singaporean and grew up a Canadian. Every few years when I've been back to Singapore, I enjoyed every single day I was there, eating local food, sightseeing and getting acquainted with my grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins. Unfortunately, I've never celebrated National Day in Singapore, so I don't have the experience of watching the grandeur of the National Day Parades with uniformed personnel marching in precision, roar of the armoured vehicles, nor the thundering zoom of fighter planes soaring by. These, I've only been able to watch on YouTube, or gather from my parents' recollection of those days when they were back in Singapore.

This year's celebration of Singapore's 48th National Day was celebrated by the Vancouver Singapore Club at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. I had arrived early with my parents who were helping out with the pre-dinner preparations; my mother attended to the reception desk and my father helping with setting up the audio/video presentation that was to take place. The ease and serenity of those pre-registration hours were short lived as guests started pouring in through

the doors before long. Auntie Annie and my mom were very busy, perhaps even overwhelmed with the lineup of guests checking in! So I volunteered to help out. It was hard work. The line up at the reception desk was brisk and continuous until the dinner actually started and I'm very grateful for the guests who were patient with us while we found them their tables, gave them their tickets, and collected their money. I hadn't realized that these events took quite a lot of planning and effort to put together.

Prior to the dinner, we all stood up and sang both the Singaporean and Canadian national anthems. Then it was time for some speeches, welcoming the many guests and important dignitaries present.

The food was sumptuous and I can hardly remember what a spread the club usually puts out since the last time I attended a club function. While we ate, we were also entertained with some singing and dance performance. The MC went from table to table, joking and entertaining the crowd.

After dinner, we had the prize draws. When I was looking through the list of prizes there was one prize that stuck out prominently for any young male adult: the VIP tickets to Miss Uni-

verse 2014 Pageant. That would have been quite the prize indeed! Though I did not win that prize, I won the member's grand prize of a limited edition 1:100 scale model of SIA's Airbus A380! When I heard my ticket number called out, I got up and started whooping as I ran to receive the grand prize! It seems that my enthusiasm caught on as I heard a loud roar of applause and cheering while I made my way over to the stage. A big thank you to Michael Wraight of Singapore Airlines for donating this prize! Our table must have been very lucky, since the grand prize of an iPad Mini was won by another guest sitting at our table: our family friend Auntie Lucy.

After the final prize was called, some made their way home when the dancing commenced with music provided by a live band. This carried on till close to midnight.

Happy Birthday Singapore!
◆



(L-R) Violet Chan, Michael
Wraight (SIA) & Brandon Bong
(Winner of SIA's Model A380)

September - November 2013

VP Michael Wong & Life Member Horace Bong at work!



Building a shed at the back portion of President Violet Chan's house for the storage of VSC assets and files. Violet Chan offered to loan the backyard space to VSC shed for FREE!!

Membership Fees

General Member	(for Individual & Family)	\$25.00 per year
Life Member	(for Individual & Family)	\$250.00 one time payment
Corporate Member	(for Companies & All Legal Entities)	\$180.00 per year
Student Member	(for students in full time studies)	\$10.00 per year

Vancouver-Singapore Club

Membership Application Form

Name: Spouse:

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Address:.....

City:..... Province:..... Postal Code:.....

No. of Children: Email:.....

Tel: Fax: Cell:

Date:..... 20 Signature:.....

Proposed By:..... Seconded by:.....

Date Approved:..... Membership No: Expiry Date:

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