



Contact

Newsletter of the Vancouver-Singapore Club



The parade of beauties at the National Day Dinner & Dance-Singapore Ethnic Costume Show (l-r) Ms. Yee Hua Tan, Mrs. Shirley Wong, Mrs. Helen Leong, Mrs. Laurie Wong, Mrs. Gina Hansen, Ms. Lillian Quek, Ms. Susan Koh, Mr. Teong Sin Kwek, Mrs. Elaine Soh, Mrs. Mary Anne Dorai Raj, Ms. Sunshine Lim and Mrs. Janet Chee.



Celebrating Singapore's 40th National Day
Members of the 2005-2006 Executive Committee with MLA John Yap (7th from left) and Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo (9th from left) at the Dinner & Dance held on August 13, 2005 at the Continental Seafood Restaurant, Richmond.



Annual Camp at Alouette Lake, Golden Ears Campground
Our happy campers and visitors at the Club's 5th Annual Camp from July 29 to August 1, 2005.



Cutting the Singapore 40th National Day cake
(l-r) Mr. Michael Leong (President), Mr. John Yap (MLA for Richmond-Steveston), Mrs. Billy Foo and Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo.



Celebrating 2005 Year of the Veteran in Victoria
(l-r) Veteran Mr. Herb Lim, Mr. Michael Leong, Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo, Mrs. Billy Foo and Mrs. Helen Leong.



Winning the SIA Return Air-ticket to Singapore
Mr. John Toh (centre) with Mr. Michael Leong (left) and Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, VP SIA Canada (right).



At the Social Night on October 3, 2005
(l-r) Mr. Michael Leong, Mr. Ronnie Tan and Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Tan, SIA Station Manager.

**Vancouver-Singapore Club
Executive Committee Members
2005/2006**

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necessarily those of the Vancouver-Singapore Club.

President's Message

Singapore Business Council of Canada

To cater to the needs of members in business here, the Club is registering the "Singapore Business Council" with the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Ottawa. Members will be able to use this organisation for the promotion of their business in Vancouver and across Canada. They can also access other Singapore Business Associations world wide through links with the Singapore International Foundation and various trade organisations in Singapore.

Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance 2006

The Club welcomes the year of the Dog with a gala dinner and dance event on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Continental Seafood Restaurant, Richmond. Members are encouraged to participate in this event and to purchase their tickets early to avoid disappointment. This year's event is limited to the first 400 tickets sold and they will be allotted on a "first come, first serve" basis.

"Social Night"

The "Fall" Social Night was held successfully on October 3, 2005 at the Willingdon Community Centre, Burnaby with over 50 members and guests attending for networking and social contact. In order to maintain interest in the "Social Night", the Ex-co has decided to run 3 "Social Nights" in a year. They will be known as "Fall, Winter and Spring" Social Night. The next "Social Night" will be the "Winter Social Night". Full details of this event are found on Page 15 of this newsletter.

Postal and Email Addresses

In line with the modernisation of communication, this is the final reminder to all members to lodge in their email addresses with the Club at: "president@singaporeclub.ca" immediately. Postal mailing of information will be phased out from next year. The Canada Post Box No. 2838 at 349 West Georgia Street, Vancouver had been cancelled and would no longer be in use. If you wish to continue receiving the Club's newsletter and information by mail, please return the form shown below. Members can obtain up-dates on the Club's activities by logging on the website at: **www.singaporeclub.ca** or **www.vancouveringaporeclub.ca**. You can also view a full colour copy of this newsletter by visiting our website.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Michael Leong

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60th Anniversary of the End of World War II in Asia and the Pacific and the 2005 Year of the Veteran

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by Michael Leong

The invitation from the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C., the Hon. Iona Campagnolo for my wife and I arrived in early August 2005. We were included in the invitation by our friend, Mr. Herb Lim who sits on the Advisory Planning Council Committee of the Veterans to the ceremony on August 15 at the Government House in Victoria. This ceremony is in Recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II in Asia and the Pacific and the 2005 Year of the Veteran.

Being unfamiliar with the roads in Victoria, my wife and I decided to head over to Vancouver Island a day before the ceremony. We took the ferry from Tsawwassen to Swartz Bay on Sunday, August 14 and after an hour and a half sailing, we arrived to fine weather in Victoria.

In the peak of the summer holidays, the hotels in Victoria were packed and all hotel rates were in high gear. We managed to check into a motel with no air-conditioning for \$120 a night. Considering the peak holiday season at that time, we were told that the rate given to us was a good bargain!

After checking in, we immediately make a survey of the surrounding area and map our route to the Government House. We did an impromptu drive-by to ensure that we know where to head to for the next day's ceremony.



Veteran Herb Lim (l) with Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo



At the ceremony, Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo (4th from left) with some of the members of the Advisory Planning Council Committee of the Veterans.

The ground to the Government House was opened for the public but August 15 being a Monday there were not very many tourists or visitors. We toured the Government House ground and admired the wide range of lovely flowers that were planted.

At 2.00 p.m. sharp all the 200 invited guests were ushered into the main foyer and the ceremony hall. Consul-General Chin Kwok Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo were among the invited guests. To the strains of the bagpipe, Lt-Gov. Iona Campagnolo proceeded to the podium where the National Anthem of Canada was played. She later addressed the gathering with a message remembering the sacrifices made by Canadians who died 60 years ago in the war campaign in Asia and the Pacific.



In the photo gallery, Lim Bo Seng was remembered as a hero when he fought for Singapore and Malaya under Force 136 against the Japanese during World War II.

The ceremony was simple and dignified. The guests rose to pay homage to the war heroes who died in the Asia and Pacific campaign. After the ceremony, all guests were invited to a reception and a viewing of the war photos. Of particular interest to Singapore was the recognition of the contributions made by the late Lim Bo Seng who led the guerilla warfare against the Japanese in Malaya and Singapore. Many of us will remember the memorial erected in the esplanade for Lim Bo Seng. His remains were buried in the ground of McRitchie Reservoir in Singapore.

We left the Government House with a deep impression of the recognition that the Canadian Government accorded to the war heroes in Asia and the Pacific. Coming from tiny Singapore, it is humbling to know that Canada made significant contributions to the 2nd World War not only in Europe but also in Asia and the Pacific.

We left Victoria after a hearty Chinese meal in Chinatown and caught the evening ferry at Swartz Bay back to Tsawwassen, Vancouver.

Annual Picnic – July 23, 2005

By Michael Leong

This article is divided into 2 sections. The 1st section gives you an insight into the preparations made by the Executive Committee and the 2nd section brings you to the Annual Picnic at the Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby.

Preparation For The Picnic - Section 1

When Preparation Starts

Immediately after the Annual General Meeting in March, the new Ex-co met and drafted out the plan for the Annual Picnic in July. It took about 3 months of advance preparation to plan and decide on the food menu for the picnic.

Working Out the Menu

Deciding on the menu was no easy task. The food chosen must match with the cook who would be preparing the dish in the authentic Singapore way. This selection took one to two meetings of brain-bashing to sort out. Once the menu was decided, the preparation by the individual cook commenced.



Ms. Yee Hua Tan (right) dishing out her famous "Chin-chow" drinks to the thirsty picnickers.

The Big "Picnic" Day - Section 2

Selecting the Picnic Site

The advance party arrived at Barnet Marine Park well before the official opening time. They brought with them table cloths for marking out the picnic tables surrounding the site of the picnic area. Once the site was marked and secured, the main party of helpers arrived with the foods, pots, BBQ sets and all the utensils for the picnic. Cartons of drinks, purchased earlier were then transported to the picnic site. Volunteers helped to erect the posters and the banners of the Club and Singapore Airlines. The reception table was set up and Ex-co members rotated to man the registration.

Welcoming Members and Guests

Members and guests arrived from 9.30 a.m. onwards and they were quickly whisked through the registration. The standard formality of signing the "Waiver Clause" rested with the head of the family. New members signed up to take advantage of the "free" picnic given to the membership. At this year's picnic, a total of over 250 people were registered as picnickers and 20 families signed up for new membership.

The Picnic Menu

All registered picnickers carried the club's stamp on their hand and this stamp allowed them free amount of food from the various stalls that were set up. The foods available at this year's picnic were: Fried Hokkien Prawn Noodles, Indian Rojak, Mee Goreng, Hot-dogs, BBQ Pork-chops, BBQ Chicken and Chin-Chow drinks.

Games for the Kids

Members of Malaysia Singapore Students' Club of SFU were on hand to draw the kids into games that they had prepared. This allowed the parents to relax and to visit all the stalls for the food of their choice.

Concluding Another Year of Fun

Members gave very encouraging feedback on the picnic and after all the analysis, the Ex-co felt that the effort expended on the picnic was well worth the money spent. As our picnic is an annual affair, we look forward to see you again next year!



Mrs. Jeannie Chong (left) working hard on the BBQ chicken with a handful of eager picnickers waiting for their cue.

Budgeting the Cost

Like all "Not For Profit" organizations, members fund for a lavish picnic is hard to come by. The Ex-co must ensure that there is no wastage in allocating the funds for the food. This is where the Ex-co displayed the spirit of volunteerism. Ex-co members allotted the food preparation volunteer their time and transport to minimize spending and maximize purchasing power.

Setting the Stage for Picnic Day

The Ex-co meeting before the picnic set the stage for the final run to ensure all matters were taken care of. The logistics of purchasing the cups, plates, forks, spoons, table cloths, charcoal, BBQ set etc. ran into a long list. Posters advertising the various foods were being drawn up plus the attendance list showing members and guests participation. I must emphasize here that it is essential that members inform the club of their attendance well before the closing date of the registration as the quantity of food being prepared is dependant upon the number of attendees.

by Teong Sin Kwek

SingaporeMedicine, a multi-agency government initiative, comprising of *International Enterprise Singapore*, *Singapore Tourism Board* and *Economic Development Board*, aims at making Singapore's world-class healthcare services easily accessible to international patients. Singapore's private healthcare system has much to offer, especially to those countries where the public healthcare system is unable to cope with or facilities inadequate to meet the demands of the population.

Each year, Singapore's medical facilities treated more than 200,000 international patients, the majority of these at premier private hospitals. The hospitals and specialty centres in Singapore provide integrated focus in areas such as haematology, cardiology, ophthalmology, oncology and major organs transplantation. International patients receive quality care, where application of cutting edge technology and highly trained medical specialists offer the most advanced treatments. Many world-renowned researchers have made Singapore their base to conduct research.

Singapore sets and enforces standards to safeguard public health and ensure efficiency while supporting medical advancements. Highly qualified and experienced professionals administer the healthcare system.

At the Vancouver Healthshow 2005, held on 29 and 30 October 2005, Singapore's Parkway Group Healthcare, Asia's largest private healthcare organisation, and the owner of *Mount Elizabeth Hospital*, *Gleneagles Hospital* and *East Shore Hospital* in Singapore, and more than 15 hospitals in Malaysia, India, Brunei, and Indonesia, showcased their medical facilities and



Parkway Group Healthcare showcase at the Vancouver Healthshow.

specialties to the Canadian public. Senior level executives from the Singapore Corporate Marketing and Communication Groups were on hand to explain the medical treatment opportunities available at the group's medical facilities in Singapore. Parkway is the first major Singapore healthcare provider to take a serious interest in the Canadian market and had appointed a local representative. The *Singapore Tourism Board* and *SingaporeMedicine* support Parkway's initiatives towards the Canadian market.

In anticipation of a potential policy shift in Canada's healthcare system, Parkway's representatives have been conducting investigations on how the group might be able to participate and contribute towards a highly efficient integrated healthcare system in Canada.

Prior to leaving for Singapore, Parkway's senior executives had wanted to pay a courtesy visit to the President of Vancouver Singapore Club and meet with the Singapore community in Vancouver. However, due to a virus attack that was unforeseen, the President was unable to host them.

Social Night

by Michael Leong

The "Fall" Social Night held on October 3, 2005 was well attended by over 50 members and friends. There were good interactions between our members and friends who were attending the event for the first time. The next "Social Night" will be held on Monday, February 6, 2006 where we will arrange to host a "Lo-hei" party in celebration of the Chinese New Year. The function will be provided free for members while guests will be paying a nominal charge of C\$5.00. Please remember to register your attendance with Michael Leong so that we can cater sufficient food for everyone.

(Seen in the photo on the right: (l-r) Mr. & Mrs. Chin Kwok Foo, Mr. Michael Leong and Mr. & Mrs. John Yap).



Mrs. Jeannie Chong (left) meeting new Life Member: Mrs. Agnes Loh and Mr. Johnny Loh.



Mrs. Pauline Chong (left) and Ms. Sunshine Lim preparing the dessert.



(l-r) Ms. Yee Hua Tan, Mr. Brian Chong, Mr. T.S. Kwek and Mr. David Petitpierre of the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Celebrating Singapore's 40th National Day

By Michael Leong



Mrs. Helen Leong (left) receiving the 2nd prize in the Raffle Draw from Mrs. Billy Foo.

The Club celebrated Singapore's 40th National Day with a dinner and dance event on August 13, 2005 at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. Ms. Pearlynne Leong and Mr. David Si were Emcees for the evening.

On hand to participate in this event was the newly elected MLA for Richmond/Steveston, Mr. John Yap and the Consul-General of Singapore, Mr. Chin Kwok Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo. Members from fraternal associations like Malaysia Singapore Brunei Cultural Association, Malaysia Association of B.C. and the Philippines Canada Trade Council, were present too. As a show of solidarity and support for our club, these associations were represented at our event by their Presidents.

We were pleased to welcome Professor Lawrence Loh, Vice President of the National University of Singapore who was in Vancouver during that time. He was invited by Mr. Arthur Yap, the NUS Alumni Representative in B.C. to join us in the celebration. Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Vice President of SIA, Canada and his wife, Mary Anne, represented Singapore Airlines. SIA donated a return air-ticket to Singapore, which was used as the first prize in our Raffle Draw. Yeo Hiap Seng (S) Ltd. donated 50 cases of Green Tea and Soya Milk for Table Draw prizes through the YHS Representative in Vancouver, Mr. Peter Koh.

President Michael Leong gave an account of the events 40 years ago leading to the independence of Singapore. As a young man of 28, his narration was made in the form of an on-hand account of the conditions in "colonial" Singapore. He then invited Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo to give a toast to Singapore and cut the National Day cake with Mr. John Yap.



President Michael Leong addressing the gathering.



Mr. Kalidasen Muniady belting out his ever popular Chinese songs.

The highlight of the evening's event was the presentation of the Singapore Ethnic Costume Show by Ms. Yee Hua Tan and Ms. Helen Leong. Full details of the event would be reported on pages 8 and 9.

Members and friends, who were present at previous events organized by the club, were quick to recognize the many high value prizes being given away. This year's event was no exception. Mr. John Toh won the 1st Prize in the Raffle Draw, which was a return SIA air-ticket to Singapore. There were also many prizes such as TV sets being given away for the lucky draws. Life Members of the Club have a chance to win a 13" TV set, put aside solely for them.

The club recognizes the confidence exemplified by members taking up Life Memberships. New Life Members received a beautiful Singapore pen-set from the President and an immediate chance to win the top prize of a 13" TV in the Life Members' Draw.

Although dinner ended at 10.00 p.m., many guests remained to dance the night away with sentimental music provided by the Continental Resident Band and their resident singers: Lydia and Agnes Wong.

If you have enjoyed our dinner and dance event, please continue to support us. To all our new members and friends, please come and join us at our next event.



Mr. Teong Sin Kwek (left) receiving the "Life Member" Draw prize from Mr. Michael Leong (right).



Mr. Tim Wong of MSBCA receiving the Special Longevity Buns from Ms. Sunshine Lim.



Receiving the SIF Certificate of Appreciation from Con-Gen C.K. Foo (left) Ms. Pearlynne Leong, Hon Secretary 2002-2005 and (right) Mrs. Angeline Yap, Sub-Editor 2002-2005.





Mr. Michael Leong presenting a pen-set to the new Life Members: (l-r) Mr. & Mrs. Teong Sin Kwek, Mr. & Mrs. Yew Cheng Wan and Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Loh.



Mr. Michael Leong presenting a pen-set to the new Life Members: (l-r) Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tan, Mr. & Mrs. Manohar Nagiah and Ms. Carol Chong.



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Sunshine in ankle length Cheongsam



Shirley in a batik sarong



Janet in a brocade Cheongsam

Introduction

Singapore celebrates her 40th birthday this year. Singaporeans have faced many challenges all these years and with sheer determination, resourcefulness and capable leadership, Singaporeans are proud of who they are today.

Singapore is a small country in terms of size, 682 sq km, which is about a quarter the size of Vancouver, (2878 sq km). However the population of Singapore is large, having about 4.2 million people as at mid-year of 2004. The population is now about 5 million people. The population profile by race is Chinese (76.2%); Malays (13.8%); Indians (8.3%) and Others (1.7%).

The citizens of Singapore pledge themselves as one united people, regardless of race, language or religion. Singapore is a democratic society based on justice and equality and Singaporeans strive to achieve happiness, prosperity and progress for their nation.

In celebration of Singapore's 40th National Day, the Vancouver Singapore Club held a dinner and dance on Saturday Aug 13, 2005 at the Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond. One of the highlights of the evening was the Singapore Ethnic Costume Show to showcase the multi-racial and multi-cultural Singapore society.

The Cheongsam

The traditional long dress worn by Chinese women is the *cheongsam*. During the Qing Dynasty, the wives and daughters of the aristocrats wore tight-fitting costumes, which evolved into the cheongsam of today.

The cheongsam is a perfect picture of feminine elegance with a figure-hugging form, buttoned tightly at the neck.

There are slits down the two sides of the skirt. The original version of the cheongsam reaches down to the ankles and is designed with short sleeves. As the design is extremely simple, it is usually enhanced with ornaments or specially hand made cloth buttons at the collar or is intricately embroidered.

Janet in a brocade version, Sunshine in a sleeveless ankle length version and Yee Hua in a black with floral embroidery version of the cheongsam delighted the audience with the beautiful traditional dress of Chinese women.

The *samfoo* is a cheongsam top with a matching pair of pants. In the 1960s and 1970s Chinese women usually wear light cotton samfoos at home as these were comfortable and it was also convenient for them to move around performing household chores and minding the kids. Shirley in a beautiful floral print batik samfoo was a picture of elegance and charm as she paraded in front of the audience.

Singapore Ethnic Costume Show

By Yee Hua Tan



Participants in the Singapore Ethnic Costume Show

(l-r) Mr. Teong Sin Kwek, Mrs. Janet Chee, Mrs. Elaine Soh, Ms. Sunshine Lim, Mrs. Mary Anne Dorai Raj, Mrs. Helen Leong, Ms. Yee Hua Tan, Ms. Susan Koh, Ms. Lillian Quek, Mrs. Laurie Wong, Mrs. Gina Hansen and Mrs. Shirley Wong.

The Baju Kurung & Sarong Kebaya

The most popular traditional costume of the Malay women today is the *baju kurung*. It is a loose tunic that reaches the mid-thigh and worn over a long skirt with pleats at the side. The *sarong kebaya* is also a 2-piece costume consisting of a tight blouse, which is usually made of lace or any transparent material and a figure-hugging *batik sarong*.

Usually a *selendang* or scarf is loosely draped over the head or slung across the shoulder. A *tudung*, which is a head scarf that conceals the women's hair is sometimes worn by Malay women.

The baju kurungs, sarong kebayas and the fusion kebarung worn by the ladies on that night were very colourful and attractive. Helen wore a beautiful bright pink embroidered baju kurung, while Lillian's striking blue with white floral prints version was also an elegant attraction. Sunshine, Janet and Laurie wore different versions of the sarong kebaya. Laurie's pretty kebaya top with a batik sarong was also an eye opener for the audience. Gina and Susan wore very intricately embroidered lacy look type of sarong kebayas. The fuchsia ensemble on Gina and the purple one on Susan really brought out the charms and beauty of the traditional Malay women dress.



Yee Hua in a black floral Cheongsam



Helen in a baju kurung.



(l-r) Gina and Laurie in their sarong kebayas.



(l-r) Elaine, Teong Sin and Mary Anne in the Sari and Salwar Kameez costumes.

Participants for the night

Several ladies members of VSC and one gentleman were the volunteer models for the night's costume show. It was a very colourful and pleasing sight when the models took to the catwalk parading in their respective costumes for the different ethnic groups. A grand finale was when all participants in their colourful outfits paraded round the entire restaurant floor for all the audience to have a closer view of the different ethnic costumes.

As a token of appreciation to the participants, a Uniquely Singapore souvenir in the form of a Kuchinta cat collar/dress pin was given to them. The souvenirs were compliments of the Singapore Tourism Board.

Feedback from guests and visitors were that the show was interesting and informative and we certainly hoped that everyone had an enjoyable as well as memorable evening for Singapore's 40th birthday.



(l-r) Susan in her sarong kebaya and Lillian in her baju kurung.

Annual Camp at Alouette Lake

by Michael Leong



Enjoying the camaraderie at the camp.

(Seated from left): Michael Leong, Johnny Kee, Joseph Liu, Horace Bong, Peter Poon and Jackie Liu.

(Standing from left): Helen Leong, Gracie Bong and Angie Poon.

This year's camp was the 5th Annual Camp that the Club had held since we first organized camping in 2001. Over the years, members had found a very strong sense of camaraderie among campers as they joined with those who enjoyed this outdoor activity.

When we organized our first camp in 2001, we were worried about getting campers to fill the 10 campsites that we reserved. Fortunately, we were successful in persuading members and friends to participate in the camp and all 10 campsites were taken up. The Alouette Lake campsite was a natural first choice for our camping. Members and friends who attended the camp returned singing praises of the wonderful time that all campers enjoyed. Since then, camping had become another event that the club organized every year.

This year, we had 14 campsites under our reservations with about 20 families participating from July 29 to August 1. We had to return to the Alouette Lake campground as our first choice of Alice Lake was booked out before we could reserve the required campsites through the internet reservation system.

Although we had been to the Alouette Lake campground before, most campers never seem to tire-out on the natural environment that the place offers. With 14 campsites under one reservation, the Park Warden was familiar with the patronizing by the club. He ensured that our 14 campsites were neatly space out on the same street and we no longer needed to be there at 7.00 a.m. to secure "so-called" good sites for our campers.



Campers preparing the hike up West Canyon, Golden Ears.

Apart for the 2 or 3 new families that were joining us for the first time in the camping trip, most seasoned campers knew what to do as soon as they arrived on site. The Park Warden held a list that we gave him to direct our campers to the campsites that were allotted. This made the settling in to the campsite much easier.

Having a street of campers that we knew were our members made a difference to the atmosphere and friendly surroundings of the campground environment. It was difficult to walk down the street without being greeted or waved by someone you knew. It was true camaraderie that we each came to learn and realize as we spent the weekend together.

Although the club no longer sponsored the potluck dinner, campers still enjoy the impromptu get-together at the VSC President's campsite. All campers looked forward to the evening gathering where they had a wide array of food that no camp "chef" could provide.

Hiking was another form of exercise that many campers enjoyed. Laurie Wong had been the chief organizer of the hike for the past 2 camps. She led a group of enthusiastic hikers for a four-hour walk to the waterfall in the Golden Ears Provincial Park.

Members should be aware that the registration for the camp starts early in March. The rules for the reservation require members to make an advance reservation 3 months before the camping date. The reservation must be done through the Provincial Park Campground Internet Reservation System. If you wish to join us for camping next year, please watch out for the Club's reservation notice that will be announced sometime in February/March next year.



(l-r) Karen Kee with the youngest visitor at the camp Baby Jazelle Neo, Helen Leong and Shirley Wong.



Jeannie and Brian Chong enjoying a light moment at the camp.



Hikers thrugging up the stream in West Canyon



Hikers getting ready for the big walk with leader Laurie Wong (3rd from left).

Cherry Picking in the Okanagan

By Michael Leong

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The "happy" group photo taken at Mission Hill Winery



Another group photo taken at the Cherry Orchard in West Bank.

Ten families participated in this year's Cherry Picking Trip to the Okanagan with a night's stop-over at Falkland. We began our trip from the meeting point in the car park of Canadian Superstore in Lougheed Highway. Formalities for the trip included signing of the Waiver Notice by the head of the family and the payment of the BBQ dinner at Falkland.

At 7.30 a.m. sharp, the convoy of cars left the Canadian Superstore car-park and headed out east on to Highway No. 1. The morning was bright and sunny and all participants were in high spirits. With the high price of gas, some participants detoured into Abbotsford to refill their tanks. This was where we lost one vehicle during the refilling exercise. The students in the lost car went on their own way to the Okanagan and they were not able to meet up with the rest of the convoy.

We arrived at West Bank, Okanagan at noon where we had lunch before proceeding into the cherry orchard. It was absolute delight for everyone as we picked and ate our way through the cherry orchard. After about 3 hours of cherry picking, we had to leave the West Bank and headed further inland to our overnight destination in Falkland.

By 6.30 p.m. we arrived safely at the Highland Motel in Falkland and proceeded to prepare for our BBQ dinner. There was no shortage of hands in preparing the salad, dishing out the food and BBQ the meat. The ten dollars per person pooled for the dinner left so much food that we were able to enjoy the same food for breakfast the next morning. After a day of driving, most participants retired early for the night in Falkland.

The next morning, our good friend and owner of the Highland Motel, Mr. Mark Ehlinger directed us on a tour to the Ginseng Farm and the Westwold Carrot Company in Falkland. The owner of Westwold proudly brought us round on a tour of her "organic" farm, which produced all the items she put up for sale in the small retail shop.

We returned to Kelowna where we met up with Dr. Gene Chan for lunch and visited a couple of Okanagan wineries. By 4.00 p.m. we were back at the West Bank Cherry Orchard where some of the participants purchased more cherries for friends in Vancouver. The drive back to Vancouver was a little slower as it was drizzling all the way home. We arrived safely at 11.00 p.m. after an exhaustive but enjoyable excursion.



Our cars go right into the Cherry Orchard.



Touring the Westwold Organic Farm.



Visiting the Ginseng Farm in Falkland.



Climbing to pick the cherry.



Helping with the BBQ is our BBQ expert: Lincoln Yeoh.



Families enjoying the BBQ Dinner in Falkland.



Nylon nettings protect the Ginseng from the sun's ray.

Singapore's 40th National Day

by Teong Sin Kwek



Consul-General Chin Kwok Foo welcoming the guests.



Mr. John Yap (left) and Con-Gen Foo cutting the National Day cake

There were two significant departures from the usual celebration of Singapore's National Day by the office of the Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore in Vancouver. This year, the celebration took place on the actual day – 9 August. It took place in an exhibition hall of a local community centre instead of the Vancouver Rowing Club.

40th National Day is a milestone for Singapore. The country developed from a third world backwater in Asia into a brilliant first world country that many envy and tried to emulate. All of us Singapore Citizens who are resident in Vancouver are particularly proud of our country's achievements. We therefore looked forward to the celebration with fellow Singaporeans, Canadians and friends of other nations.

The event was an exclusive one where only adults were invited to attend. Several guests came in traditional Singapore attires and that added gaiety and colour to the atmosphere. The hall was gaily decorated with bannerettes specially brought in from Singapore. The Consul General, Mr Chin Kwok Foo and his wife made special arrangements with several caterers who were

requested to serve up 'authentic' Singapore cuisines. There were several tables serving cut up roti prata with curry gravy, Hainanese chicken rice, beef and chicken satays, fried beehoon, and an assortment of Nonya kueh. The Consul General had provided a large and attractive 'birthday' cake in the shape of the Singapore Flag.

There was a brief introduction of the geographic and socio-economic background of Singapore. This was followed by the high point of the evening, the singing of our national anthem, Majulah Singapura. The Canadian national anthem was also sung. The Consul General, in his speech, highlighted a few prominent ex-Singaporeans and Canadians, including Mr John Yap, the MLA of Richmond-Steveston and Mr Herb Lim, a war veteran who fought in Malaya during World War II.

The evening was a very good occasion for all who attended to network with fellow Singaporeans and Canadians. We look forward to the next Singapore National Day Celebration with great anticipation.



(l-r) Mr. & Mrs. Teong Sin Kwek, Con-Gen & Mrs. Chin Kwok Foo and Mr. Michael Leong at the National Day celebration.

Indonesia 60th Independence Day Celebration

by Teong Sin Kwek



(l-r) Mr. Teong Sin Kwek, Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Mr. Sing Lim Yeo, Mr. Michael Leong and Ms. Yee Hua Tan at the Indonesian National Day celebration.

The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia celebrated the country's 60th Independence Day on 17 August 2005 with a reception held at the Marriot Vancouver Pinnacle Hotel.

Consul General, Bapak Bunyan Saptomo and his wife warmly welcomed guests from Indonesia's ASEAN neighbours and Canadians. The Guest of Honour for the evening was Mr Colin Hansen, the Minister of Economic Development of British Columbia.

An Indonesian lady sang the National Anthem of Indonesia, "Indonesia Raya" and guests joined in the singing. The guests were entertained by traditional Indonesian dances, songs and gamelan music performed by adults and children of the Indonesian community.

Guests were also treated to traditional sumptuous Indonesian cuisines catered for the occasion.

We had a wonderful time meeting and interacting with members of the Indonesian community, consular staff, as well as guests coming from different countries.

Malaysia 48th National Day

by Teong Sin Kwek

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On 31 August 2005, the Consulate General of Malaysia in Vancouver celebrated the country's 48th National Day. The Consul General, Encik Mat Idris bin Hj Yaacob and his wife invited several Ex-co members of the Vancouver Singapore Club to join in the celebration. This memorable event was held at the Vancouver Rowing Club.

The evening had an air of dignified informality. Guests, including the Guest of Honour, Parliamentary Secretary for Asia-Pacific Initiative and MLA for Burnaby North, Mr Richard T. Lee, were warmly welcome by the Consul General and his wife. The guests were pleasantly surprised that the speech given by Encik Mat Idris was full of personal humour. His anecdote of his encounter as a young boy in the kampong of Melaka with the British army who went to Malaysia to help defend the country was hilarious yet reminiscent of the innocence of the good old days. His warmth endeared the guests.



(l-r) Con-Gen Mat Idris and Mrs. Idris with Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lee at the Malaysia National Day celebration.



Con-Gen Mat Idris welcoming the guests at the celebration.

When the Malaysian national anthem, *Negara Ku*, was played, it brought back fond memories of the times when, as students, we used to stand in attention and sang the national anthem.

The guests were feted to authentic Malaysian cuisines catered by a Malaysian restaurant. The beautiful scenery and backdrop of the city and waters of Vancouver enhanced the friendly atmosphere where new friendships were made and old ones renewed.



Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leong (left) with Con-Gen Mat Idris and Mrs. Idris at the Malaysia National Day celebration.

Taiwan Double Ten Celebration

by Michael Leong



Dir-Gen Yu Chung Lo welcoming the guests at the Taiwan National Day celebration.



(l-r) Mr. John Yap and Mr. Richard Lee at the Taiwan National Day celebration.



With Mr. & Mrs. Michael Leong (centre) were Mr. Peter Yung (left) and Mr. David Chu (right) of Harmony Airways.

The Director-General, Mr. Yu Chung Lo of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office invited my wife and I at the behest of Consul-General Chin Kwok Foo to represent the Singapore Community in Vancouver on the occasion of the Taiwan National Day celebration held on October 9, 2005 at the Convention Exhibition Hall, Canada Place.

The Convention Hall was awash in a sea of radiant red with the Taiwan National Flag displayed prominently as over 500 guests streamed into the hall to a warm welcome by Director-General Lo. He was very pleased to see us and we had time for a brief exchange of a few pleasantries befitting the occasion. Many local businessmen and politicians were also invited to join in the celebration and among those that were known to us were: Mr. Richard Lee (Parliamentary Secretary for the Asia-Pacific Initiative), Mr. John Yap (MLA Richmond/Steveston), Mr. Peter Yung and Mr. David Chu, Vice Chairman of Harmony Airways.



Mr. Michael Leong posing in the Convention Exhibition Hall that was awash in radiant red.

14 News from Singapore

President Nathan returns for second term

President Nathan has been re-elected on 17 Aug 2005 for a second term in office after his presidency went uncontested.

Mr. Nathan, 81, was the only candidate qualified to run for presidency after he received a certificate of eligibility from the Presidential Elections Committee, which assesses applicants' suitability for the highest post in the land.

Three others who filed for the certificate were rejected for lacking adequate experience required for the post.

Mr. Nathan, who is also Patron of the Singapore International Foundation, said that he hoped to play a greater role in helping the charity sector along with the National Council of Social Services and Community Chest. The President is well known for his support of the arts and charities.

Car sales pushed to record high

Car sales soared to an all time high in Singapore, thanks to low prices – lowest since the 1980s – and a bounty of certificates of entitlements (COE). The favourable trends attracted many first-time car buyers, as well as Singaporeans looking for an upgrade, helping car dealers sell 55,780 new cars in the first six months of 2005.

Despite having a wider range of cars to choose from, Japanese brands such as Toyota (the top-selling brand) and Nissan continue to dominate the market. Among luxury cars, Mercedes-Benz was recently dethroned by BMW as the top-selling luxury car in Singapore.

NS call-ups cut to 10 years

About 25,000 operationally ready national servicemen (NSmen) in Singapore can look forward to fewer disruptions to their jobs and personal lives, when in-camp training is trimmed from 13 years to 10 starting April 2006. With this policy, most Singaporeans men will be able to fulfill their NSmen obligations before they reach 35.

This move comes about as a result of improved technology being used in the military, as well as a bigger pool of 18-year-olds to draw from over the next 10 years – thanks to the increase in number of boys born between 1988 and 1997. Officers holding key positions, such as battalion and brigade commanders, may however have to serve longer terms.



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Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Life Members:

1. CHONG, Carol
2. LOH, Johnny & Agnes
3. NAGIAH, Manohar & Vaani
4. REYNOLDS, James & Pui Ah
5. TAN, Paul & Jenny
6. THNEAH, Dr. Dennis & Fanny
7. WAN, Yew Cheng & Margaret
8. WEE, Chow Leng & Carolyn

General Members

1. AMINI, Mansour & Pamela
2. CHIA, George & Mary
3. HENG, Vincent
4. HUNG, Michael & Nora
5. JANG, Linda
6. KOH, Susan
7. LIM, Janita
8. LO, David & Catherine
9. MANNAR, Raj
10. MOK, Ryan
11. MOON, Steve
12. POH, James & Selina
13. TAN, Olivier & Carolyn
14. TAN, Peter & Cheryl
15. TAN, Selyn
16. TOH, John & Ann
17. TULSI, Manjeta
18. WEBB, Preston
19. WONG, Dominic
20. WONG, Edmond & Laurie
21. WU, Helene
22. YEP, Santiago & Hazel
23. YOUNG, Robert & Jacqueline

Student Member

1. SOH, Michelle

Singapore Airlines

The Club has made a special arrangement with SIA on some special promotional fares for members and their family flying to Singapore during the off-peak season. Members using this special promotional fare are bound by the "Non-disclosure Clause" in effect. For more information, please contact Mr. Michael Leong Tel: 604-942-6966 or visit www.singaporeair.ca.

Winter Social Night-Chinese New Year "Lo-Hei"

In order to bring members and their family together, the Club has decided to hold the "Winter" Social Night in the form of a Chinese New Year "Lo-Hei" party. Details of this event are as follows:

Date/Time: Monday, February 6, 2006 6.00 p.m.-8.30 p.m.
Venue: Willingdon Community Centre,
1491 Carleton Avenue, Burnaby.

Price: Members "Free"
Guests -\$5.00 per person

If you are in business, this is a good opportunity to come around and wish members and friends "Gong Xi Fa Cai" for the year of the Dog. Members attending this event are kindly requested to pre-register with Mr. Michael Leong for food catering purposes.

Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2006.
Time: 6.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.
Venue: Continental Seafood Restaurant,
#150-11700 Cambie Road, Richmond, V6X 1L5.
Tel: 604-278-6331
Dinner: 10 course Chinese Dinner Banquet
Dancing: Continental "Live" Band with singers
Prizes: Door Prize & Members' Draw
Fund Raising: Raffle Draw at \$2.00 per ticket
(sold only to participants on night of dinner)
Ticket Price: Members: \$35.00 per person
Guests: \$40.00 per person
Table for Ten: \$350.00 per table
Sale of Tickets:
1. Contact any Committee Member (see Page 2)
2. Michael Leong Tel: 604-942-6966/Fax: 604-942-2647
Email: president@singaporeclub.ca
3. Robert Chia Tel: 604-941-0645
Email: vp@singaporeclub.ca

Some Useful Addresses

Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore

Suite 1820, 999 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2W2.
Tel: 604-669-5115/Fax: 604-669-5153

Singapore Airlines

Suite 1111-1112, 1030 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, B.C., V6E 2Y3.
Tel: 604-681-5212/Fax: 604-689-2973

Vancouver-Singapore Club
c/o: 1476 Lansdowne Drive,
Coquitlam, B.C., V3E 2S8, CANADA.

Membership Application Form

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____
Tel: _____ Cell: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

For Corporate Membership - Name of Representatives:
1. _____
2. _____

I/We* wish to apply for membership in the Vancouver-Singapore Club and I/we* agree to abide by its rules and regulations.

Date: _____ Signature: _____
Membership Fees: Corporate \$180.00 per year
General \$ 25.00 per year
Life (One time payment) \$250.00
Student (In full time studies) \$ 10.00 per year

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