

CONTACT



NEWSLETTER • SUMMER EDITION

VOLUME 1-2013

June - August 2013

FREE COPY

Violet Chan Leads The Way...

Violet Chan was acclaimed as President of the Vancouver Singapore Club for a second term, 2013-2014, during the club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on June 8, 2013 at the Pink Pearl Chinese Restaurant on East Hastings St.

Violet will lead the club together with Vice-President Michael Wong, Secretary Gracie Bong

& 9 EXCO members. Mr. Sing Lim Yeo remains as our Hon. Advisor together with 2 newly appointed Hon. Advisors, Mr. Dominic Tan and Mr. Michael Wraight. Mr. James Reynold will continue as our Hon. Legal Advisor. Our newly appointed Club Auditor is Mr. Marc Lim. Mr. Horace Bong remains as our Webmaster while Mr. Robert Chia continues as our Advertising

Manager.

The AGM was well attended by 69 members and guests.

After the conclusion of the meeting, everyone was treated to a sumptuous meal of dim sum, fried rice/noodles, and dessert.

We want to thank Mr. Michael Leong for his comprehensive Audit Report for 2012-2013.

Inside this issue:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
VSC NEW OFFICIAL ADDRESS	2
TOP 25 IMMIGRANT AWARD 2013	3
SINGAPORE HAZE HITS RECORD HIGH	4
2013 CNY CELEBRATION DINNER & DANCE	6
MEETING THE HIGH COMMISSIONERS	9
UPCOMING: SINGAPORE NATIONAL DAY BANQUET - RESERVE YOUR SEATS EARLY	9
MANY STORIES... ONE SINGAPORE	10



Members of the VSC EXCO 2013-2014

Front (L-R): Dominic Tan (Hon. Advisor), Violet Chan, Michael Wong, Gracie Bong
Back (L-R): Selvan Doraisamy, Alan Chu, Sharon Lim, Sunny Loo, Kah Eng Koh, Michael Mok, Robert Chia (Advertising Manager), Rey Halim, Tim Chandra, Alice Crestejo

CONTACT



**"IT'S KIND OF FUN
TO DO THE
IMPOSSIBLE."
- WALT DISNEY (1901
-1966)**



President's Message... Violet Chan

It is with humility that I accept the honour of your Club's Presidency for a 2nd term.

Prior to the last AGM a campaign was on to encourage old/new members to fill the shoes of the Presidency. There was some interest and enthusiasm from some fairly new members but was tempered by a reluctance for "fear of inexperience". The membership is reminded that it is actually a "job in training" with lots of guidance from the respective previous

leadership. Despite the personal pressure of an ailing mother recuperating in hospital at that point in time, I was awed by the proclamation. So here I am writing the President's message again. I take this opportunity to thank the previous executive committee for a very successful term 2012-2013. On behalf of the membership, our appreciation and gratitude go to all of you. I am pleased and welcome the current executive committee. It comprises a few familiar

faces and some that you will see more of in the months ahead.

Our traditional ethnic food summer picnic is around the corner. One can practically smell the aroma! This will be followed by the Singapore National Day Celebration at Continental Seafood Restaurant in August. Please visit www.singaporeclub.ca. We look forward to your continuous support and another successful year 2013-2014.

A Quick Word... Editor, Kah Eng Koh

I will be the first to admit that I am not trained in the art of editing. So I'd really appreciate everyone to help me improve.

On behalf of the EXCO, I want to extend our invitation for all members to contribute to our newsletter. Make your voice

heard and speak up! Please feel free to send your comments, articles and pictures to: koh.realestate@gmail.com.

Hope you find this issue interesting reading, informative and entertaining.

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.*

6417 Fraser Street, P.O. Box #60008 Fraser PO , Vancouver, BC V5W 4B5 , Canada

E-mail: violetct99@gmail.com • Phone: 604-616-8258

www.singaporeclub.ca

www.facebook.com/vancouveringsingaporeclub

Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award 2013: Sing Lim Yeo

Occupation:

Realtor/Philanthropist

Country of Origin:

Singapore

City: Vancouver, BC

Though he worked as a banker in his native Singapore, Sing Lim Yeo had no firm career plans when he first arrived in Vancouver. "I immigrated to Canada under the basis of being an entrepreneur and thus had to find a way to support my family," he says. "I first began by purchasing lots, then building and flipping homes. That eventually led me to take the real estate exam and become an agent." Yeo went on to build an internationally recognized residential and commercial real estate firm. "Royal Pacific Realty Group is the largest independent real estate brokerage in Western Canada. I overlook daily operations as well as the long-term strategic planning for the growth of the company."

An impressive leader, he is also passionate coach and mentor to other realtors on his team, who affectionately call him "Uncle Sing."

But it isn't all about work. Over the past 14 years, Yeo has devoted significant time, energy and financial support to promoting enhanced health care,

social programs, multiculturalism and international disaster relief. A skilled fundraiser, he played a leading role in raising nearly \$3.5 million for local charities in 2011. Some of the organizations that have benefited from his work are the Tapestry Foundation, the SUCCESS Foundation, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Vancouver and St. John Ambulance. Perhaps most notably, Yeo established the Realtors Care Endowment Fund to provide funding for genetic and oncology research at BC Children's Hospital. To date, more than \$750,000 has been raised for this purpose. As a result of Sing's work, the "Realtors Care" brand went national in 2006. He and his wife, Patricia, have also been leaders with the Realtors Care Blanket Drive — a grassroots movement that has collected and delivered warm blankets and clothing to 165,000-plus homeless individuals in Greater Vancouver since 1995. "Business and philanthropy go hand in hand," says Yeo. "I live by this mission to always give back. In the past 30 years, I am

proud to have raised more than \$20 million for social, senior, youth, woman, health care, homeless, food bank, arts, cultural and heritage programs. This is my legacy as an immigrant to a country that I now call home."

VSC is very proud of our very own Top Canadian Immigrant. We extend our **Heartiest Congratulations to Sing Lim Yeo**, our Hon. Advisor and his wife, Patricia.



Photo By: Bini Ball



June 21, 2013

Mr. Sing Lim Yeo
Senior Vice President
Royal Pacific Realty Group
550 North Tower, Oakridge Centre
650 West 41st Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2M9

Dear Mr. Yeo,

Please accept my most sincere congratulations for receiving the 2013 RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award.

This prestigious award is a fine tribute to you in recognition of all your hard work, experience and accomplishments. I am confident that your passion and commitment to your community will undoubtedly lead to even greater success.

As a fellow immigrant from Singapore, I am particularly interested in your many inspirational stories in Canada. You have not only carried a successful business in realty, but also contributed to improving the lives of Canadians through your charitable work.

As a Senator of Canada and a former recipient of this outstanding award in 2011, I am pleased to have this opportunity to show my gratitude and appreciation for all you have done and congratulate you once again on this great achievement.

Please accept my best wishes once again for your continuous commitment to serving our community. I look forward to meeting you one day and sharing our experiences in this beautiful country.

Kindest regards,

The Honourable Victor Oh
Senator - Ontario

202 Édifice Victoria Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4
victor.oh@sen.parl.gc.ca

Tél / Tel: 613-943-1880
Télex / Fax: 613-943-1882
1-800-267-7362

CONTACT

Singapore haze hits record high from Indonesia fires

June 2013

Source: BBC News Asia



Singaporeans have donned face masks as the haze engulfing the city hit hazardous levels

A PSI READING OF ABOVE 400 SUSTAINED FOR 24 HOURS "MAY BE LIFE-THREATENING TO ILL AND ELDERLY PERSONS"

Pollution levels soared for a third day in a row in Singapore, as smoky haze from fires in Indonesia shrouded the city state.

The Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) hit 401 at

12:00 on Friday (04:00 GMT) - the highest in Singapore's history.

The index also reached 400 in one part of Indonesia, which is readying helicopters and cloud-seeding equipment in an effort to tackle the fires. Indonesia has said it is unfair to blame it solely for the forest fires.

A senior official in the Indonesian president's office said fires had been spotted on land owned by 32 companies in the region, some of

them based in Malaysia and Singapore. Schools in parts of Malaysia and Indonesia have closed



temporarily.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsieng Loong warned on Thursday that the haze could remain in place for weeks.

"We can't tell how this problem is going to develop because it depends on the burning, it

which may be September or October."

'Life threatening'

A PSI reading above 300 is defined as "hazardous", while Singapore government guidelines say a PSI reading of above 400 sustained for 24 hours



Demand for face masks has soared, leading many pharmacies to run out of stock.

depends on the weather, it depends on the wind," he said.

"It can easily last for several weeks and quite possibly it could last longer until the dry season ends in Sumatra

"may be life-threatening to ill and elderly persons".

"Healthy people [may also] experience adverse symptoms that affect normal activity," the government says.



Can you recognize this place through the haze?

Cont'd... haze hits record high

The PSI dropped down to 143 at 17:00 (09:00 GMT), although this is still classed as "unhealthy". Before this week's episode, the previous air pollution record was from September 1997 during the 1997-1998 South East Asian Haze, when the PSI peaked at 226. Singapore resident Nicole Wu told the BBC that she had stayed indoors for the past two days.

"It's terrible. In my flat the windows are all closed with the air conditioning on," she said. "My mother has to wear a mask to go shopping." "I can't even see what's happening outside my house due to the smog. You can't see birds [or] moving objects," she added.

Philip Koh, a doctor, told AFP news agency that the number of medical

consultations he had had in the past week had increased by 20%.

"My patients are telling me they are worried about how long this is going to last and how much higher this is going to go," he said.

In Indonesia's Riau province, where the fires are concentrated, the PSI reached 400 on Friday, the head of the local health office told the BBC.

Schools there are to remain closed until the air quality improves.

The chief of the health department Zainal Arifin said there was an "increasing number of asthma, lung, eye and skin problems due to higher CO2 levels".

"I call for residents to stay at home and reduce outdoor activities," he said.

Diplomatic strain

Singapore's National Environment Agency has

started providing hourly PSI updates [on its web-site](#), in addition to the three-hourly updates it previously provided. Around 300 schools in southern Malaysia have now been closed as a result of the smog.

Schools in Singapore are currently closed for the holidays.

There are also reports of flight delays affecting both Singapore's Changi airport and Riau province in Indonesia.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said "all the country's resources" would be mobilised to extinguish the fires.

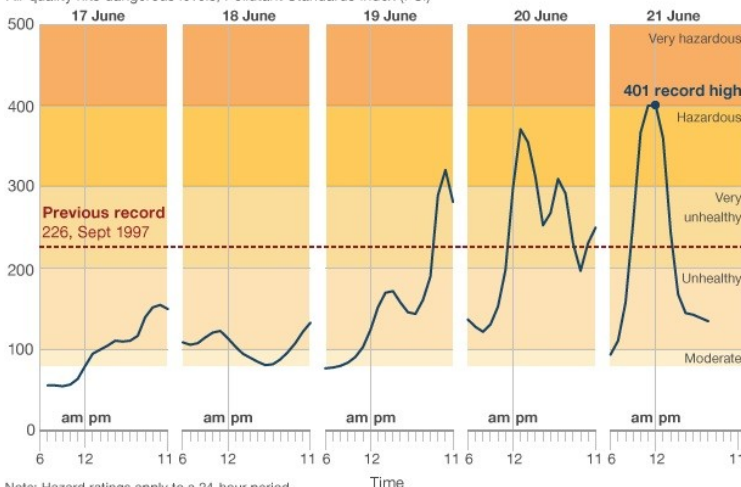


The smog is caused by smoke from forest fires in Indonesia, which has blown over to southern Malaysia and Singapore

"WE HAVE BEEN
FIGHTING FIRES
24 HOURS A DAY
FOR TWO WEEKS"
"IT IS STILL
BURNING UNDER
THE SURFACE SO
WE HAVE TO
STICK A HOSE
INTO THE PEAT TO
DOUSE THE FIRE"

Singapore smog, June 2013

Air quality hits dangerous levels, Pollutant Standards Index (PSI)



Note: Hazard ratings apply to a 24-hour period
Source: Government of Singapore



Firefighters in Indonesia are said to be "overwhelmed and in a state of emergency."

CONTACT

CNY Celebrations 2013

By Alan Chu
Photos: Sharon Lim

**WE ARE DELIGHTED
TO ANNOUNCE
THAT OVER 300
MEMBERS AND
GUESTS ATTENDED
OUR EVENT, AND
OUR EVENT WAS
GRACED BY MANY
VIPS**

The year of the Snake was ushered in by the Vancouver Singapore Club on January 24 2013. It is fitting that the celebration is held on "Yuan Xiao," the fifteenth day of Lunar Chinese New Year. We did have glutinous rice balls (Tang Yuan) on that night and it is symbolic that we celebrated Chinese New Year together as big family reunion of Vancouverites associated with Singapore. When guests arrived in the evening, they were met by our friendly reception team comprising of Mei Lam, Alice Crestejo and Glen Chua. We are delighted to announce that over 300 members and guests attended our event, and our event was graced by many VIP guests—Richmond MLAs, MLA John Yap and MLA Teresa Wat, MLA Richard Lee of Burnaby North; Mr. Malcom Brodie, Mayor of Richmond; Ms. Sophia Woo, Mr. Ken Denike, trustees on the Vancouver School Board; Mr. Bambang Hiendrasto, Consul General of Indonesia, Mr. Komgrit Varakamin, Consul General of Thailand,



Mr. Jose Ampeso, Consul General of Philippines; Mr. Michael Wraigh, General Manager of Singapore Airlines; Mr. Ike Lalji, Chairman of Miss World Canada; Mr. Frankie Cheung of MJ Pharmacy, Mr. Norman Sung, President of Richmond Chinese Community Society, Mrs. Carmelita Tapia, President of South East Asia Canada Business Council and Mr. Yeo Sing Lim, Senior Vice

President of Royal Pacific Realty and Honorary Advisor of the Vancouver Singapore Club.

Our talented hosts, Rey Halim and UBC student, Andrew Leong guided guests through the program for the evening. Not only did we enjoy a sumptuous feast at Continental Seafood Restaurant and packet drinks sponsored by Yeo Hup Seng, our eyes and ears

CNY Celebrations 2013, cont'd...

were treated to performances from different artists—a lion dance troupe from Royal Pacific Realty started off our celebration with a bang, followed by a visually appealing performance by Colours of Dance Academy while music by Ross & Archie entertained us for the entire night. We also had an appearance from the Money Fortune God, who distributed red packets to guests for good fortune in the coming year. Nonetheless,

the biggest highlight of the Chinese New Year event was the Donation Draw! Once again, the club would like to express a big thank you to Singapore Airlines for being our main sponsor. The first prize was an economy return airline ticket to Singapore via San Francisco, including access to the VIP lounge in San Francisco and one night accommodation in Singapore arranged by Singapore Airlines. The prize was won by Mr. Michael Wong, a

Life Member of Vancouver Singapore Club!

After the donation draw, some of our guests could not wait to get on the dance floor and the party went on till late in the night. All in all, it was a great evening and once again, we would like to thank all our guests for making this event so special and our sponsors for making this event happen.



CONTACT



The Right AGENT Makes All The DIFFERENCE !

Call - MALA SELVAN

CELL : 778 859 4458

Call US with Trust & Confidence!!

**** Commission Negotiable ****

Assistant To Realtor
(Previous Spore Realtor &
NOW Investor in Canada)
Cell : 604 710 9030



PRESIDENT AWARD
Sutton 2009

DIRECTOR AWARD
Sutton 2008

DIRECTOR AWARD
Sutton 2007

PLATINUM AWARD
Sutton 2010

PLATINUM AWARD
Sutton 2011

PLATINUM AWARD
Sutton 2012

FRASER VALLEY
2013
REAL ESTATE BOARD

**"THE MAN WHO
STOPS ADVERTISING
TO SAVE MONEY IS
LIKE THE MAN WHO
STOPS THE CLOCK TO
SAVE TIME."
THOMAS JEFFERSON**



Advertise with the Vancouver Singapore Club

Rates for Quarterly Newsletter

For Advertisements in Color

Full Page (Back Cover).....	\$300
Full Page (Inside Cover).....	\$250
Full Page (Inside)	\$200

For Advertisements in Black & White

Full Page (Inside Cover).....	\$200
Full Page (Inside)	\$150
Half Page (Inside)	\$100
Quarter Page (Inside)	\$50
Business Card (Inside)	\$25

Advertising Discounts:

- 1) Members advertising their own companies - 10%
- 2) Advertisements placed in 2 consecutive issues - 10%

Single Line Advertisements

(Applicable to Restaurants & Shops)

For those who participate in giving 10 - 20% rebate benefit to Members.

*Special Advertisement Rate of \$60 per year, payable in Advance. (Above Advertising discounts do not apply)

Contact:

Robert Chia..... 604-931-3020

Website Advertising

(per year):

Rotating Feature Banner \$1,000

Column Advertisement
(125 x 125 pixels)\$100

Contact:

Violet Chan..... 604-616-8258

Or

Email: President@singaporeclub.ca

Website: www.singaporeclub.ca

June - August 2013

Visitation by Outgoing High Comm Koh Yong Guan



VSC meeting with Mr Koh Yong Guan, outgoing High Commissioner to Canada Mar 2013
Front (L-R): Juliet Yeo, Mrs Koh, Mr Koh Yong Guan, Violet Chan, Michael Leong
Back (L-R): Mr. John Khoo (Country Officer, North America), Sharon Lim, Sunny Loo, Mr Sing Lim Yeo, Mei Lam, Tim Chandra, David Ho

Visitation by Incoming High Comm Philip Eng



VSC EXCO meeting with Mr Philip Eng, incoming High Commissioner to Canada on 13 Jun 2013
(L-R): Gracie Bong, Violet Chan, Mr. Philip Eng, Mr. John Khoo (Country Officer, N. America), member Wendy Chan, Sharon Lim, Michael Wong

Welcome New Members

Life Members:

- Tan, Dominic & Magdeline
- Tham, Luke & Cecilia

General Members:

- Briones, Melissa & Danvic

- Chan, Linda & Tony
- Doraisamy, Selvan & Mala
 - Dy, Leo
 - Leung, Lindy
 - Philip, Bruno
 - Yap, Joy



*Free Home Estimates
Call Me Today*

Work with the Vancouver Real Estate Expert



KAH ENG (KE) KOH
許嘉榮
CELL: 778-223-7818

Email: koh.realestate@gmail.com
Royal Pacific Tri Cities Realty

"If you think hiring a Professional to the Job is expensive, wait until you hire an Amateur."

Red Adair

My Business is All About You!

Service in English and Chinese. 英語, 華語, 台語服務

* Disclaimer: Not intended to solicit or induce a breach of an existing contract. E&OE



Happy 48th Birthday Singapore

**Singapore 48th National Day
Dinner & Dance: 9 Aug 2013
Continental Seafood Rest.
Reserve your Seats Early!**

CONTACT

Happy 48th Birthday Singapore: 9 Aug 2013



“MANY STORIES...”

ENCOURAGES
SINGAPOREANS TO TELL
THE STORY OF OUR
PERSONAL JOURNEY,
BOTH INDIVIDUALLY
AND COLLECTIVELY AS
A SOCIETY, AS WELL AS
OUR HOPES AND
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE
FUTURE.

Everyone has a story to tell and these stories define who we are as an individual and collectively as a nation. This year's theme for the National Day Parade (NDP) 2013 is **“Many Stories... One Singapore”**. It calls on everyone to remember and share the stories that make us who we are and how we identify ourselves as Singaporeans.



“Many Stories...” encourages Singaporeans to tell the story of our personal journey, both individually and collectively as a society, as well as our hopes and aspirations for the future. They can be personal stories or stories we have heard that have touched us. Taken individually, each story shows that we are all unique. Taken together, they tell of who

we are as a country.

This leads to **“One Singapore”** — a culmination of the unique individual stories that represent the many facets of Singapore society. It is a reminder that despite our different backgrounds, we are one Singapore. It emphasises that we are all interconnected through our shared stories and history.





Honorary Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore - Vancouver

Mr. Terry Salman (Tel: 604.685-2450)

Suite 1700 - 17th floor, 1095 West Pender Street, Vancouver B.C., V6E 2M6

COLOUR COPIES !!!

12¢ each!!!

Prices are based on:

Paper size: "8.5 x 11" (one sided, 70lb white paper)
no ink bleeds, minimum 1000 copies.

 **The Printing Edge**

604.431.9297

www.printingedgeonline.com

CONTACT



VANCOUVER-SINGAPORE CLUB • FOUNDED 1990

ROYAL PACIFIC

www.royalpacific.com

怡富地產集團

ROYAL PACIFIC
REALTY HOLDINGS LTD.

ROYAL PACIFIC
REALTY CORPORATION

ROYAL PACIFIC
REALTY (KINGSWAY) LTD.

ROYAL PACIFIC
RIVERSIDE REALTY LTD.

ROYAL PACIFIC
TRI-CITIES REALTY LTD.

NEW WORLD
REALTY LTD.



SKILL • CAPACITY • INTEGRITY
年交易額超逾73億加元
溫哥華最大獨立地產公司

**怡富與您
共創明天**

**放眼加拿大
共創楓葉財!**



(604) 266-8989 FAX: 266-8829

加拿大

#550 NORTH TOWER, OAKRIDGE CENTRE, 650 WEST 41ST AVE. VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA V5Z 2M9
ROYAL PACIFIC REALTY GROUP member of ROYAL PACIFIC REAL ESTATE GROUP