



VANCOUVER SINGAPORE CLUB

VSC E-NEWS

20 December 2007

Issue 5/2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007/2008

President:
Kwek Teong Sin

Vice President:
Robert Chia

Honorary Secretary:
Agnes Loh

Honorary Treasurer:
Michael Cayetano

Editor:
Tan Yee Hua

Sub-Editor:
Albert Lee

Committee Members:
Brian Chong David Chong
Simon Chow Alin Kasenda
Ken Lau Lillian Quek
Jeannine Sheares Shirley Wong

Contact Information:

Telephone:
604 762 2588

E-Mail:
President.VSC@Gmail.Com



It's the time of the year when all of us are busy sprucing up our homes in anticipation of inviting family, friends and guests to celebrate the year-end festivities. In this issue, I have included an article on how to make the best use of these opportunities and enjoy the warmth of the family and friends.

Although traditionally the autumn months saw a slowly down of Club activities, there was no let up. Two events were held and your Exco worked feverishly to design and print the Life and Ordinary membership cards and the tickets for the Chinese New Year dinner and dance.

Do come and join us at the exciting events that the Club is organising for you in the coming months.

Have a blessed Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year!

Yee Hua Tan, Editor



yeehua@shaw.ca

President's Message & Greetings

A New Year is coming soon and it is time for me to take this opportunity to thank all the hard working Exco members during the past 6 months. I must not forget the strong support that their spouses have given to them. We could not have done it without them.

I am very glad that members have given their strong support of the activities that the Exco had organised for their enjoyment. Life membership has grown a strong 12% and many Ordinary members have converted to Life membership.

Very soon the term of the Exco will come to an end and I look forward to members coming forward to serve on the Exco and contribute their time and ideas. As the membership matures, members will start to think more of how they can contribute towards the well being of the Club. Benefits of club membership always run in reciprocation of the contribution members give to the club.

I hope that you will continue to enjoy the blessings of good health and success, and the warmth, support and goodwill of your family and friends in the coming years.

Warmest Regards

Kwek Teong Sin
President

Club Events . .

LIFE MEMBER'S NETWORKING DINNER

Within a week of the announcement of the Life Members' Networking dinner, all 60 seats for the full course seafood dinner were snapped up. The dinner was held on Saturday 8 December 2007 at the Tsui Hang Village Restaurant, in downtown Vancouver.

The evening began with most members arriving early for networking and social interaction. Most members were present by the time the early bird draw took place at around 6:55pm.

In his welcome address, Kwek Teong Sin, President of the Club, informed all present that the dinner was held in appreciation of the staunch support of Life Members and to enable them to get to know fellow members. It was also an opportunity for all Exco members to meet with Life Members. He was very happy to announce that the number of new life members during the six months of the current term of the executive committee had increased by 12%.

He also invited all present to share their experience and expertise in managing the Club and to consider contributing their effort in the next executive committee. Succession planning is very important and through his discussions with members, the consensus was that it would not be healthy for the Club to have any one person taking the helm for more than 2 or 3 terms.

Members present were also briefed on new initiatives taken by the Exco. They were regular e-newsletters that provide more current news and announcements. The Exco had adopted a new logo to

reflect identity and exciting changes that has been taking place at the Club. All members will be issued with membership cards. The cards would be available for collection at the various Club functions that would be held over the next few months.

The members present were also informed of the upcoming events.

All new Life Members were presented with a souvenir pen/pencil/key ring gift set. Singapore Lion Head collar pins were given to all present. The evening culminated in a lucky draw with pashminas donated by Horace Bong and beautiful Singapore pen gift sets from the Club.

Feedback from some members present was that the evening was very enjoyable and they looked forward to more such events for Life Members.



JOINT SINGAPORE BUSINESS COUNCIL AND VANCOUVER SINGAPORE CLUB SEMINAR

SBC and VSC jointly organised a mini-seminar with HSBC Securities for members of both societies on 15 December 2007. The very informative seminar which included the following topics were presented by Terry Wong and Maili Wong, both very experienced and qualified HSBC's Wong Group:

1. How to invest for global growth with no risk to your capital
2. Tax and estate planning
3. Strategic approach to charitable giving
4. Family wealth transfer plan: how you can pass your estate on to your heirs without losing significant value to probate, taxes and other estate charges while saving taxes during your lifetime

The information provided by the speakers was very useful and elicited many questions from the attendees.

Kwene Low, a member of SBC won a hamper and Lillian Quek, a member of VSC won a picnic bag. The prizes were donated by the Wong Group.

After the event, a few members adjoined for a scrumptious seafood dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant.



News from Singapore..

NEW SINGPASS RESET SYSTEM

The SingPass is used for a wide range of transactions with the Singapore Government online. You can check and make transactions to Central Provident Fund balance, filing income tax, register a new business and many other Singapore government online transactions.

In the past, you would have to visit one of 49 Singpass counters if you have forgotten SingPass password. From 25 November 2007, you could perform an instant online reset of the personal password one uses to access government services on the Internet. Instant online password changes will be obtainable at www.ecitizen.gov.sg/singpass

You can also submit an online request for a new password but this will be delivered to your registered address by mail.

To protect your security, the system will require you to answer questions about yourself correctly. They will next receive a code on their mobile phone, and another code on their computer screen. Both codes are needed to reset a password.

If you wish to use this new system, you will have to register your mobile phone number with Singpass.

MEDIACORP ONLINE BROADBAND TELEVISION

The Overseas Singaporean Unit has partnered with Mediacorp to offer you discounted subscription rates for the latest entertainment conduit, MOBTV (MediaCorp Online Broadband Television).

MOBTV is Singapore's first subscription-based video-on-demand service that provides viewers with easy and immediate access to their favorite programmes from the most recent President's Star Charity event to all-time favourites such as Phua Chu Kang. Using broadband internet, users can download a wide variety of entertainment genres from drama, variety, sitcom, news and infotainment.

Discounted rates at: 30% off published rates. Promotion ends till 31st December 2007. You can join and register at http://www.mobtv.sg/osu/welcome_osu.aspx in order to activate it.

Your e-voucher code is: 19f1-cb48-324D-679F

Singapore Press Holdings is offering an exclusive special deal to all OSP members - a discounted subscription rate of the online Straits Times Interactive at discounted rates at: 50% off normal rates. Promotion is valid till 31st December 2007.

To register, log on to:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/STI/STIMEDIA/sp/ads/overseas/overseas.html>

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SINGAPORE

Members who are interested to learn about the employment conditions and opportunities can visit the website of Contact Singapore, <http://www.contactsingapore.org.sg/home/>

LOCAL NEWS

The GST rate will be reduced by one percentage point from 6% to 5%, effective January 1, 2008. To facilitate the transition to the lower rate, transitional rules for determining the GST rates applicable to transactions that straddle the January 1, 2008 implementation date have been enacted.

For more information, please go to CRA's website:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/notice226/README.html>

Just Sharing Some Thoughts . .

GET INVITED AGAIN

It's the time of the year when you or your family or freinds extend the warmth and goodwill by inviting each other to your/their home for gatherings or meals, or simply just to keep in touch.

As good hosts, we want our guests to enjoy the occasion. Sometimes, we tend to work ourselves tired and frazzled just to achieve this. Here are some suggestions that may help to be a good host and yet enjoy the event just as the guests do:

If you are invited to visit, especially for dinner parties, here are some suggestions to make your visits pleasant and that you will be invited again:

- **Respond to the Invitation Quickly.** It is common courtesy to let your host know, as soon as possible and by the deadline, whether or not you are and the number of persons attending. The host needs to plan to ensure that there will be sufficient food and space.
- **Be Punctual.** In many Asian communities, being late for events, especially dinner parties, had been the norm. The guests did not want to feel that they are anxious to eat. However, it is not courteous for the rest of the guests who are punctual wait for you to commence the dinner. If you are running late, please call and let your host know. It shows that you are considerate and respect the host and the other guest who are punctual.
- **If you bring young children . .** please ensure that you maintain control over them to avoid them breaking items at the home of the hosts. Most hosts, no matter how tolerant, will be exasperated if the children of guests run wild. It will also prevent awkward situations where you may have to compensate for damages or spillages.
- **Offer to Bring Something.** In most cultures, bringing something as part of your contribution to the event is usually appreciated. You may wish to consider calling to ask if you can bring something, especially a dish that you know how to cook well.
- **Be Considerate.** As a guest, don't criticize or pass comments, even they are well intended. You may have to consider foregoing many helpings even if the food is delicious and the hosts kept prompting you to have more. Some hosts may wish to have some leftovers for meals the next day.

It is also courteous not to snoop around the home or open up kitchen cabinets searching for utensils or crockery. There may be heaps of things the host stashed away that he does not want guests to see. Don't open the refrigerator searching for food or drinks. Always ask the host. A no-no is the use of the host's computer to check your emails or go on the internet. There may be confidential folders or sites the host visited that they want to keep private.

- **Be Tolerant.** Very so often your hosts have invited guests with whom you do not get along. Avoid creating unpleasant scenes by minimising your interactions with them and keep away from conversations that may cause arguments. Even if you are taunted, just walk away.
- **Help Out.** The host will usually appreciate your help in clearing or cleaning the plates after the meal. In Asia, housekeepers do the clearing and cleaning. If you see something that needs to be done, ask the host what you can do to help.

- Don't overstay .. discreetly ask your host when they expect the event to wrap up. The host still has plenty to do after all the guests depart.
- And finally, send a Thank You Note.

Announcements & Coming Events . .

The follow events have been planned for members over the next three months:

1) CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER & DANCE

Saturday, 2 February 2008

Venue: Continental Seafood Restaurant, Cambie Road, Richmond

For details, please see the Announcement Flyer at the end of this e-newsletter.

As places at this event are limited, please contact any Executive Committee member as soon as possible to purchase the tickets.

2) MEMBERS' MINI-SEMINAR & GATHERING

Saturday, 23 February 2008

Venue: 3409 East 49th Avenue (Park Place Residence Social Hall)

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Mini-seminar titled "WHEN GROUPS MEET"

This highly informative and fun mini-seminar is part of the Club's Education initiative. Leo Valdes will conduct it. Leo is a business consultant, specializing in training, accessibility and usability. He worked with international organizations, governments and companies in Asia, Europe and North America on technology implementations and capacity building. He has designed many technology and business workshops, and has delivered hundreds of training sessions. He is also the Executive Director of the Mount Pleasant Business Improvement Area, and an instructor for University of Phoenix and City University of Seattle.

Synopsis of the Mini-Seminar:

If you have ever been part of a team, a committee, a singing group or a member of a board of directors, you would have had to work together to decide on key issues.

This short but lively workshop introduces participants to three concepts of team-based decision-making processes - group life, group thinking and group wisdom.

Using a mini-case study and a game, participants will experience the pitfalls of having the wrong working conditions, and learn the remedies to those pitfalls. Be prepared to challenge some traditional perceptions about teams and groups. Be prepared to have some fun together.

Charge: Free for members, \$10 for guests

4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Social Gathering and Karaoke

A chance to catch up with friends and enjoy an afternoon of karaoke singing. Please bring your own karaoke CD/DVD discs. Light refreshments will be provided.

Charge: Free for members, \$5 for guests. Guests who have paid for the Mini-seminar can join the gathering without charge.

Please register early by emailing to: President.VSC@Gmail.com

3) MEMBERSHIP WITH VOLUNTEER CANADA

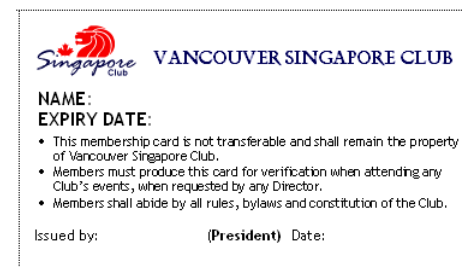
The Club is now a member of Volunteer Canada, a national volunteer organisation that has its head office in Ottawa. The Club will benefit from the programmes that Volunteer Canada provides. Members can obtain more information about Volunteer Canada at: <http://new.volunteer.ca/en>

4) MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The Club has designed membership cards for Life and Ordinary members. They are now ready for distribution. They will be mailed to last known address on the Club's records. If you wish to collect them, please email your request to: President.VSC@Gmail.com

There will be an administrative charge for the replacement of your membership card.

Members are requested to bring along their membership cards when attending all Club's events for identification and enjoying membership privileges.



Ordinary Membership Renewal Reminder:

If your membership had expired recently, please mail your membership subscription renewal payment to:

Vancouver Singapore Club,
2719 Main Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 3E9



VANCOUVER SINGAPORE CLUB

2008 Chinese New Year

Dinner & Dance

Saturday, 2 February 2008

6.30 pm to 12 midnight

Venue:	CONTINENTAL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT 150 - 11700 Cambie Street, Richmond
Dinner:	10-course Chinese Seafood Dinner
Ticket:	\$40.00 per person Tickets available from any Executive Committee member of the Club

Highlights: Live Auction, Costume Competition, Door and Table Draws, Good Luck Ang Pows (for ALL attendees), Songs and Music for your dancing pleasure.

Enquiries: Tel: 604 762 2588



*The Executive Committee members
of Vancouver Singapore Club
wish you and your family a Happy,
Healthy & Successful
Year of the Rat*