



THE VICTORIA CHINESE MESSENGER

维多利亚华人信息

November, 2013 (1st Ed.)

Victoria, British Columbia

Remembrance Day, Celebrating Chinese Woman and Men who paved the way to Equality for all future Chinese Canadians.

On Monday, November 11th, the courage and sacrifice that our Canadian Veterans have made for Canada will be celebrated through our Nationwide Remembrance Day celebrations. The Chinese Veterans of the Second World War played a pivotal role in securing the equal rights and privileges enjoyed by all Chinese Canadians living in Canada today.

Around the time of WWII the Chinese people were discriminated against, and did not enjoy the same equalities as other Canadians. After years of being denied the right to enlist in the army and fight for what was essentially their country, eventually 600 Chinese male Veterans were sent into battle in South East Asia for their ability to “blend in”. This is an incredibly large portion of the community as only 41,000 Chinese

people were living in Canada at the time. Ironically, the mission in South East Asia played an important role in changing the future of all Chinese Canadians today.

It is of the utmost importance that the new generations of Chinese Canadians and all Canadians alike do not forget the sacrifices made by these Veterans. They fought not only for our country, but for the future of equality in Canada, as, soon after WWII, Chinese people were granted citizenship of Canada.

While a large majority of the WWII Chinese Veterans were young men, it should not be forgotten that many Chinese woman also played a pivotal role in the war effort of WWII, through their family support as well as working directly within the Army Services.

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Mary Laura Wong (Mah) enlisted with the CWAC (Canadian Woman's Army Corps) in Vancouver, British Columbia where she was employed as a teletype keyboard operator. During an interview with Laura Wong, for Veterans Affairs Canada, Ms. Mary Wong explains that she lived full time at the Old Vancouver Hotel, where she was fed, provided with accommodation and completed long hours of shift work. While Mary Wong's experience in WWII may not have been at the front line, or in the trenches, one cannot deny the commitment Ms. Wong, and many other Chinese Canadian Woman Veterans had made for Canada. She committed those many years of her life entirely to the Army, for the safety of *All Canadians*. After the war, Mary was chosen as one of the first three Chinese-Canadian women to receive her Canadian Citizenship in February 1947.



Another female Chinese Veteran was Mary Ko Bong. Growing up in a devout Christian family in Victoria, Mary attended a segregated school for the Chinese. Her family was one of the few where all off the

siblings joined the army, but Mary was first in line. Mary enlisted into the army based in Victoria, however, she was only accepted around 1943, when visible minorities were officially allowed to enlist to work in the Canadian Army. Mary learned to be an instrument mechanic, and trained for the position in Hamilton at Barrie Field. She learned how to run and assemble machines from scratch, including all the parts the machines were made up of – down to the screws. It was a very specialized field, and only few were accepted into the training program. Of the 30 girls in each group – a few representatives from each province in Canada – only 5 graduated. Mary was one of them. Boys were in this program as well, however, they were put into their own groups.



Mary did not only put her smarts to the test, she also entertained the Army, singing and dancing Jazz and Classical Styles. A True Jack of all Trades!

The Sacrifices made for the equality, freedom and safety we enjoy today stem from years and years of hard work and commitment not only in the trenches, but also in the offices, factories and hospitals, by all Chinese Canadian Veterans, men and woman alike. They paved the way for Chinese Canadians: In 1947, Chinese Canadians were officially recognized as citizens by the Canadian Government.

Let us remember these Pioneers of freedom and Chinese equality in Canada, for their sacrifices are the very reason we all sit here today, in a free and equal country, living side by side with all other Canadians from around the world.

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Happenings

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Happenings column is published under our sole
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Victoria Chinese Commerce Association

November 20, 2013

Meet & Greet at 5:30 pm

Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm

Place: Golden City Restaurant, 721 Fisgard St
Price: Dinner with Pre Registration - \$25.00
Dinner paid At the Door - \$35.00

Register online at www.vcca.ca

Tradition in Felicities at the Royal BC Museum Ends November 11, 2013

The exhibit at the Royal BC Museum
"Tradition in Felicities: Celebrating 155
Years of Victoria's Chinatown at the Royal
BC Museum" is open to the public has been
extended.

It's full of history and artifacts from Victoria's
Chinatown, including a special lantern with
an internal moving carousel, originally
constructed by the Chinese Free Masons
and restored by the museum.

Check regularly online at
www.victoriachinesemessenger.com
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Planning for Success, Putting Canada First

Ottawa, October, 2013 — Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander announced an immigration plan that will drive economic growth in 2014 and position Canada for success in the years ahead.

“Securing economic growth is and will remain our Government’s top priority,” said Alexander. “Canada is in a global competition for the best and brightest immigrants, and this plan is crafted with attracting the people we need for Canada to succeed.”

After tabling the *Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration*, Alexander said Canada plans to welcome 240,000 to 265,000 new permanent residents in 2014, with record admissions forecast in both the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) and the Provincial Nominee Program.

“While Canadians will continue to get the first crack at available jobs, getting the right people in the right places is key to addressing regional labour needs and fueling Canada’s long-term prosperity,” said Alexander. “We need newcomers willing to put their skills, ideas and energies to work.”

Economic immigration is slated to increase to 63 per cent in 2014. The remaining 37 per cent will consist of family class immigrants, refugees and others admitted under humanitarian programs.

Canadian Experience Class: Reaching for New Heights in 2014

Canada plans to welcome up to 15,000 permanent residents under the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) in 2014 – the most since the program was launched in 2008.

The CEC allows people who meet a minimum language requirement **and** have at least one year of skilled work experience in Canada to transition to permanent residence. These include international student graduates and foreign nationals who are working legally in Canada on a temporary basis.

The CEC is a very popular choice for newcomers. To date, CIC has welcomed more than 25,000 permanent residents through the program.

Provincial Nominee Program: Record Levels Planned for 2014

Canada plans to welcome between 44,500 and 47,000 permanent residents under the Provincial Nominee Program (PNP) in 2014. This represents the highest-ever levels for this program, a nod to its success in attracting newcomers who contribute more fully and can provide for their families more quickly.

The PNP is an important part of the Government’s efforts to align our immigration system with labour market needs. The PNP helps to strengthen local economies by allowing provinces and territories to nominate qualified individuals to meet their unique labour market needs and promote business development.

The PNP is Canada’s second-largest economic immigration program and has helped to spread the benefits of immigration across the country. The program has grown exponentially, from around 1,250 landed immigrants in 2000 to almost 41,000 people in 2012. (These figures include principal applicants, spouses and dependants.) Thanks in large part to the PNP, 42 per cent of all economic immigrants in 2012 intended to settle outside of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, compared to

only about 20 per cent in 2000.

The Government is continuing to work with provinces and territories to ensure that the PNP remains focused on meeting Canada's economic and labour market needs.

All provinces and territories, with the exception of Quebec and Nunavut, have Provincial Nominee agreements. Under the *Canada-Quebec Accord*, Quebec has the sole authority for selecting immigrants to its province. However, these candidates must still meet Citizenship and Immigration Canada's admissibility requirements.

(This information is partly reproduced from information on the CIC or BC PNP website and is provided by Sarina Hoi, BA, MA, RCIC, of Ocean Pacific Immigration Associates Ltd. additional information may be found on the website)

KOREAN FOOD 101



Korean food has a great deal in common with both China and Japan as a result of their close proximity and frequent cultural and historical interaction. However, over the years Korean cuisine has developed its own unique identity. This identity has largely been shaped by Korea's geography and climate, as well as by the introduction of chili peppers in the 17th century by European traders. As Korea was once primarily an agricultural nation, boiled rice is the staple of nearly every Korean meal.

Korean food is also widely known for its many side dishes (banchan), which are served alongside individual bowls of rice or soup. The number of side dishes range from between 2 and 12, but every meal includes at least a few. These dishes are placed in the middle of the table, as they are meant for sharing, and consist of vegetables, meat and seafood prepared and

seasoned in a wide variety of ways. Contrary to Western cuisine, all Korean dishes are served at the same time rather than in separate courses.



Over the course of thousands of years, Koreans have perfected the art of food preservation and therefore many dishes are pickled, salted, or fermented. Kimchi, Korea's most basic and indispensable side dish, consists of a mixture of pickled vegetables such as Chinese cabbage, radish, green onions and cucumber. Some types of kimchi are made spicy by adding red chili pepper powders, but all incorporate garlic for additional flavor.



Since Korea is a peninsula, much of the Korean diet consists of seafood. However, meat has become increasingly popular over the last 50 years. The intense flavor of Korean food is due to the common use of spices and sauces such as sesame oil, chili pepper paste, chili pepper flakes, soybean paste, soy sauce, garlic, and ginger. While Korean food in general has this in common, there is also a great deal of regional food variation. Since regions within Korea are separated by steep mountain ranges and rivers, climate conditions and natural produce vary greatly throughout the nation. This accounts for the high level of region-specific foods.



In Korean cuisine, all seafood and meat are cut into bite-sized pieces, alleviating the need for a knife. Traditionally, Korean food is eaten with chopsticks and a long spoon. In accordance with Korean etiquette, the youngest members of the table are not to pick up their chopsticks or begin eating before elders or guests, and should maintain the same pace of eating as elders or guests. Lastly, a Korean meal is served at a low table, with the diner's seated on the floor.

Foodies

Our online version is regularly updated with a "Foodie" comments section. Look forward to more online content and "news" as we grow our service to community events. Here are some snippets for your "digestion":

" ... back to Shima Sushi again... the sushi and sashimi both very good and among the best in Victoria..."

"...for some of the best home style noodle soup try out Shanghai Noodle on Quadra Street, just across from Crystal Pool"

"... La Tea Ah on 700 blk Fort, just tried their crepe and beef noodle dishes, both were excellent and well priced. For a casual Taiwanese Noodle experience... this is the place in Victoria..."

"... new owners of Forum Seafood Restaurant at 612 Fisgard...try it out and report to us what you think....they do their own Sichuan hot sauce...try their Sichuan Menu...hot stuff"

2013 VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please note that the listed organizations are not limited to persons of Chinese descent.

Victoria Chinese Commerce Association

New projects on the go...including the need for volunteers for the 2014 Chinatown Night Market! Find out more:

Check website www.vcca.ca for more information on that and the regular meetings.

Victoria Chinatown Lions Club

If you wish to serve the community, the Victoria Chinatown Lions Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday at Golden City Restaurant. Contact Art Quon at art.quon@rbc.com or Alan Yuen at yuenfam@shaw.ca

Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club

Meetings are second Monday of the month at Golden City Restaurant. Will need to contact their president for more info (to follow). This a very active club which has won awards for its philanthropy.

Victoria Chinatown Care Foundation

Mandate is to support and fundraise for the needs of the Victoria Chinatown Care Centre located in Chinatown. Volunteers for fundraising events. For information on the foundation go to www.chinatowncarefoundation.com

Victoria Chinese Messenger

You can also volunteer by submitting foodie tips, articles and photos of Victoria things, places and events for posting on our facebook or online publications.



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Founding sponsors are visionary sponsors who commit their support to us, to the Chinese/Asian community in Victoria and to the Oldtowne districts of the Chinatown, Oldtowne and Design areas in Victoria. They have committed as longer term sponsors to support the sustainability of the community service provided by Victoria Chinese Messenger. We thank them for their faith and support of our community services.

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We bring and report on happenings in the community. Our focus is on public and community service within the context of your social networks. Our goal is to bring the community closer and to pass on social happenings and community service events. Join us as we work with you to make our community a better place. Help us use social media to make for better communities, grow our community, help others, and bring people together for common purposes.

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Happenings: Submit your events, news, or interesting facts. Our Public Service and Community Service column may publish information as a free service to non-profit groups. Again, any publication of information provided is in our sole discretion

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Previous Winners: D. Bratzer, A. Blainey, J. Ngai, R. Fong, P. Battles, L. McArthur, P. Hannah, B. Hung, L. MacDonald, R. Archibald, B. Cornborough, R. Eng, B. Yan, S. Scott, L. Wong, R. Lalev, for certificates to Ming's Restaurant, Forum Restaurant, Jonathan's Restaurant, Shima Sushi Japanese Restuaranty or Dynasty Restaurant.

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<http://www.knowledge.ca/>

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