

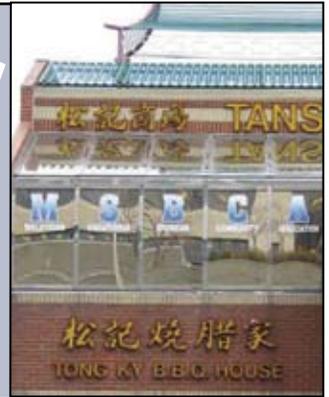
msbca newsletter

Malaysian Singaporean Bruneian Community Association

A Non-Profit Organization

#301, 114 – 3 Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0E7
(403)-289-7711

Volume 13 Issue 1



www.geocities.com/msbcacalgary/

From the President's Desk



Hi everybody;

It's me, Khin Chew, the new President of MSBCA-Calgary for the term 2004 thru 2005. If you don't already know me, I used to be the Entertainment and Membership Director. I was the one doing the sound system with the

help of the Sound System Group that comprises of Danny Wong, Khin Chin and Teck Lim.

The MSBCA-Calgary AGM 2004 was held in the clubhouse on Saturday, October 2, 2004. The event started at six in the evening with arrival and registration of attendance of our members. Membership renewal was accepted at the same time. By close to 6.30 pm, we have already reached the required number of membership required to form the quorum for the meeting. MC's Daniel Sario and Kim Roe announced commencement of the meeting and started accepting nomination of candidates for the six executives while food was served. Previous President Eric Ng delivered a brief and to the point speech. Nomination stopped at 7.30 pm. As there were no contestants for every one of the six executive positions, all nominated candidates who agreed to the nomination were assigned to the various positions as nominated. Six nominated Committee Members who agreed to the nomination were appointed.

As the new President of MSBCA-Calgary, I like to first thank the previous President Eric Ng, the previous Board Members and all Volunteers for all the hard works, time and contributions to MSBCA-Calgary. Although during the year, there had been disagreements and conflicts of personalities within the Board, it is the dedication, hard work and team spirit of the Board Members and Volunteers, and eager participation from members that made the first year operation of the MSBCA-Calgary clubhouse a real success, and continuing success of the association's operation.

While we are celebrating and enjoying the success, we must not forget the contributions from all the previous Presidents, Board members and Volunteers who have put in countless hours of their valuable times, hard work and sacrifices that paved the road to continuing success. We also should not forget about the MAS air ticket sponsorship from MAS (Malaysian Airline System) that have helped MSBCA-Calgary all these years to raise funds through Raffle Ticket Sales. Thanks to Jacques Malaspina of MAS. Jacques has lots of good comments towards the continuing good performance of MSBCA-Calgary, and is pleased with the MAS exposure to our members and the general public through our continuing efforts. With Jacques' assurance to continue to support MSBCA-Calgary, not only will we be very grateful to the continuing supports, but will also continue to improve exposure of MAS to the general public. Jacques also believes that MSBCA-Calgary's success has set a good example to all other similar associations across Canada. All these encouraging compliments should be motivating power to drive us to achieve better team work and performance in the years to come.

The new Board had it's first board meeting held on Tuesday October 5, 2004. Official handover of the Secretarial and Treasury jobs were carried out. Tasks were assigned to the Board members and several topics were discussed and agreed upon. Apart from having some of the upcoming events planned, it was also emphasized that an Events calendar is to be prepared for 2005. Immediate upcoming event will be the Halloween Night, which is a family event, tentatively set for Saturday October 30, 2004. Under the lead of the Social & Entertainment Directors Priscilla Wong, May Lee, Joyce Wong (VP Brunei) and Jane Lim, this should be a fun event to participate in. Children's Christmas Party is also in the plan. Sports Director Peter Cheng, together with Treasurer Jennie Soo, will search for a suitable venue for this event – at this stage, no disclosure of what this event is about, it's confidential. Peter Cheng is also taking the responsibility to find and negotiate a reasonably

priced and best-value-for-our-money venue for the badminton group that consists of quite a number of our youth members.

During the meeting, the Board also approved the proposal to form an MSBCA-Calgary Youth Group to participate in organizing events like reading contests, debates, arts and crafts classes, martial arts, various sports etc. Tracey Bong and Rachel Wong, our two young Editorial Directors, amongst their busy editorial work, will look for interested young bloods to the formation of the Youth Group. Tracey and Rachel are also on the search to set up a more easily accessible MSBCA-Calgary website.

To keep the house in proper order, Eric Ng (VP Malaysia) and Geraldine Sng (VP Singapore) have both taken on their shoulders to look after the well being of the clubhouse. All future clubhouse rental issues will be taken cared of by both Eric and Geraldine. Khin Chew (the President) will take care of the recruitment of new members and keep the membership list current. Chief coordinator for Bingo and Casino will be Jesse Cheah (the Secretary), assisted by Khin Chew. A MSBCA-Calgary Bylaws review committee, to be led by Ken Preston, has also been appointed to look after review and update of the existing Bylaws and Guidelines. The target is to get the draft ready by April 30, 2005, review and approve by the Board, and get the final draft ready for members review by June 30, 2005.

Once again, I like to take this opportunity to thank the AGM 2004 working committee and the Volunteers who put in a lot of effort and hard work in preparation of the AGM, and attendance of the membership to form the required quorum for the meeting and the supports displayed by the membership during the meeting. All these contributed to a smooth and successful AGM 2004. Finally, I like to thank the Board members for their willingness to commit to MSBCA-Calgary their time and efforts for another potentially successful year.

Khin Chew

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the editorial

I recently discovered that I have been a part of MSBCA since its beginning in '89. However, I have to admit that my memories of those days consist mainly of squirming and hoping to get as far away from the cheek pinching and head patting of various aunties and uncles so that I could go play with friends. While the cheek pinching and head patting hasn't stopped and most likely won't until I'm old enough to do some revenge-like cheek pinching of my own, my view of MSBCA has taken some truly unexpected turns. How many times did I sneak down to Chinatown on a Friday afternoon and hope that no auntie or uncle would catch me there and accidentally tell my mom that I wasn't "studying" at the library like I told her I'd be? Only a couple years later, I am now thankful that I had such a remarkable group of people to lead my way. Going past all the eating and the bingo and the dancing... is a community built on the values of 600+ very different individuals. I can only hope that when I have children of my own, they will be lucky enough to have such a strong support base.

I have to admit that I have secretly been eyeing this editorial position for the last year, but never had the

courage to mention it to anyone. I felt that to the members, I was still only Pei Pei and Jeffrey's daughter, a child. How could I succeed where the other editors had already excelled? Even the success of my now partner in crime Tracey didn't help to alleviate my fears. It took many months to finally draw the courage to bounce my idea off of one of the members. To my utter surprise, he responded with genuine encouragement, and told me that the club would be happy to help such young ambitions. Unexpected, yet at the same time it shouldn't have surprised me.

I know that by the time you receive this newsletter, thanksgiving will already be over, but I do hope, that like yours truly here, that you will find something in this club of ours to be thankful for. A couple friends of mine used to joke that my family came halfway across the world only to end up with friends from the same small towns in Malaysia... all I can say now is, what do they know?

Rachel Wong
From the editorial board

Editorial Board
Left: Rachel Wong
Right: Tracey Bong



A Few Words About AGM

Our Annual General Meeting on the evening of Saturday Oct 2 at the clubhouse was a pleasant and smooth one in general. It shows that proper planning and staying with the agenda makes everyone feel easy & relaxed. Before I proceed I would like to say thanks to a few individuals:

Thank you to Daniel & Kim our Masters of Ceremony for keeping us all on course.

Thank you Mr. past President Eric Ng for sharing with us your wisdom and most of all thank you for leading us for the past 3 years. Your dedication and hard work has paved

Thank you to MAS for donating a raffle air ticket from LA-KL-Penang-KL-LA.

Thank you to the Yee Min family, Bill Tong family & Jane Lim family for donating the bottles of champagne.

Thank you to our new president Mr. Khin Chew for speaking from his heart his objectives & outlook for MSBCA in the coming year.

We met the required attendance of over 1/3 of the membership to form the quorum and we were able to proceed with the AGM. Although the evening started off with a standing only event we ended up putting

help not just ourselves in areas of sports & cultural demonstrations, settlement of new immigrants and providing scholarships to our youth. But we will also continue to do charity work to help communities who are less fortunate. If I may repeat myself over & over again the success of the club depends of 4 key factors which are

1. sound financial management
2. team oriented and dedicated committee group to lead MSBCA
3. dedicated pool of volunteers
4. strong membership base

So please come join us and together



2003/2004 Board of Directors
From L-R: Eric Ng, Khin Chew, Jesse Cheah, George Chin, Sonia De Rozario, Joyce Wong, Ken Preston, Priscilla Wong, Cliff Son, Daniel Sario
Absent: Lin Wah, Yeuchuan Choo, Christopher Chung, Tony Quek, Jik Chan, Anthony Wong, Keng Wei Chew



2004/2005 Board of Directors
From L-R: Khin Chew, Eric Ng, Joyce Wong, Geraldine Sng, Jesse Cheah, Peter Cheng, Jennie Soo, May Lee, Rachel Wong, Tracey Bong, Jane Lim, Priscilla Wong

the way to the continuing success of MSBCA-Calgary.

Thank you Mdm past Treasurer Priscilla Wong for dedicating your endless hours for doing the pain sticking detail work of balancing the books and liaising with our external bookkeeper & auditor.

Thank you to all who prepared & served the food/dessert. It was truly a 1st class service to sit & be served!

out a few chairs which turned out to be a better idea after all. Another lesson learned from 2004 AGM is we should have nominees for all executive positions prior to the meeting. i.e. The president, 3 vice presidents, secretary & treasurer position. Other than that I believe there is an upbeat feeling about the future of MSBCA. Like all past years we will continue to work together as a community to

we will grow & plant a fertile seed for the future. Our apologies if unknowingly we caused any member to get upset but please know we all share a common goal to make MSBCA a great association.

Regards,
Encik Secretary

October 6: Seminar at MSBCA-Calgary Clubhouse

"All the attendees were very pleased about the choice of the venue, which definitely had more character, decoration and atmosphere than a hotel room. The background music was also a very nice touch.

The food was excellent and enjoyed by all. The little attention from Geraldine, such as a "little lunch bag" for everyone to take away was very appreciated by all.

As you could see, we did not hesitate to move the furniture around to suit

the classroom style training. Do not worry, when time comes, we will be back. Nothing else to add or change, the support received by all of you is fantastic.

Again, a great thanks to all of you for a very successful evening. Looking forward to meet all of you again soon, here or There. Let me know when and if any of you come to Vancouver.

Best personal regards.
Jacques"



MAS Oct 6 Seminar at MSBCA-Calgary Clubhouse



Presentation of MAS Souvenirs from Jacques & Karen

MSBCA Scholarship Fund

The MSBCA Scholarship Fund enables MSBCA to recognize and reward our children's successful completion at each level in the educational process. Members are eligible for the annual awards for their children from this fund providing that they meet the following criteria:

- * The student must be a child of a member in good standing and the membership must have been effective for at least one year in 2004, and two consecutive years thereafter.
- * The child or any member of the family have been an active volunteer in MSBCA.
- * The student must have at least one of the four core subjects (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts) in the final report card.
- * Bonus Award for high marks is based on the final mark average from all four core subjects (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts)
- * The student must be there to receive the Award in person. If it is not possible, the Committee will consider it on a case by case basis.

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Off to Las Vegas!

By: Geraldine Sng

Las Vegas. Who would've guessed that the largest city in Nevada – widely referred to as “The Entertainment Capital of the World” or “Sin City” because of its widespread legalised gambling and variety of adult entertainment – was originally settled by Mormons in 1854?

Ironically, Las Vegas, from Spanish means “The Fertile Valleys”.

When Calgary was experiencing its wet and overcast weather this summer, my husband and I decided to go somewhere warm, vibrant and colourful. So, off we



went to Las Vegas for a 4-day vacation.

When we arrived at 9.40pm, we were whisked off to The Aladdin by a friendly coach driver (James), who gave us a running commentary about his town. Incidentally, the Aladdin is one of the oldest hotels on the “Las Vegas strip”, before it was completely torn down, re-built and refurbished. The “strip” as it is popularly referred to, is about 3 miles long (approx. 5km) stretching from The Stratosphere (north) to Mandalay Bay (south).

1st order of the day – what to eat? (Typical Singaporean)

After checking in, we decided to go for supper at Zanzibar (at the Aladdin), which served surprisingly good Chinese food. Highly recommended: chicken chow mein, beef chow fun and fried rice. Interestingly, we found the beef chow fun equivalent to the famous char kway teow by the MSBCA's own Jesse Cheah! The slices of beef were tender and the stir-fried noodles very fragrant. As always, the North American portions were very generous. Side note: Jesse, shall we open a restaurant in Las Vegas serving Malaysia/Singapore cuisine?

After supper, we decided to watch the famous water fountain show (people, this is truly spectacular and NOTHING like Sentosa's version) fronting the famous Bellagio hotel. If anyone remembers the final scene of Ocean's 11 with Brad Pitt and George Clooney, this

was where the scene was shot. It was about a 5-minute performance and it was simply breathtaking. The performances repeat every 15 or 30 minutes (depending on the time of day) and there are a few different shows to see each time (with accompanying music).

True to Las Vegas form, there are slot machines everywhere you go to entice you to “try your luck” – from the airport terminal to the convenience store, and even in / near restrooms! James told us about the ‘million dollar room’ in The Bellagio where the MINIMUM bet is US\$1 million!!! Realizing that was a *little* over our budget, we decided to explore the rest of Vegas in earnest. So what is there to do if you don't gamble? Plenty...

Well, to begin with, the entertainment scene (and I don't mean the naughty adult shows) is buzzing with life. The streets and hotels literally come alive in the night with colourful neon lights and signs. No expense is spared in the architecture and grandeur of the hotels; from multi-million original paintings in The Bellagio (which was named after a little town in Italy) to the marble statues in Caesar's Palace, or the Grand Canal & gondola rides in The Venetian.

The next morning, we decided to try the famous buffet at the Spice Market (also at the Aladdin), which featured cuisine from around the world – Chinese, Italian, American and Asian. We decided to go before the restaurant was open and luckily our *kiasu-ism* paid off. Half an hour before the restaurant was open, there were already about a dozen people queuing up and by the time it was open, there were probably about 150 people queuing up. Looks like “*kiasu*” is more universal than we thought... The buffet was so *sedap* and was great value at Can\$20 per person!

After lunch, we felt like we ate for the whole week so we decided to walk it off. Just as we stepped out of the hotel, we were hit by a wave of heat – it was 45 degrees C in the shade – close to a sauna and we could feel ourselves melting away. After being acclimatised to freezing Canadian weather, we had to make a stop at every hotel we came across to cool down before heading off to the street again – it was pathetic but hey, we wanted to see the rest of Vegas...

Elvis isn't dead, he's moved to Vegas

Our first stop was to visit Madame Tussard's museum, located by The Venetian. Famous for its life sized wax figures of celebrities, we decided that it would be an experience to visit at least one of the museums. I was ‘fortunate’ to take some Kodak moments with

Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Nicholas Cage, Jodie Foster, Meryl Streep (my favourite actress), The Kennedy's and Princess Diana (boy, she's tall) to name a few. Oh and of course, Elvis was there...

After that, we decided to try our luck at getting tickets to watch “O”, the “flagship show” by Cirque du Soleil. It is resident at The Bellagio and since this show will never travel (unlike other Cirque shows), we decided that we had to see it. Unfortunately they were sold out (of course). Every single ticket for every show over 4 days – sold out. Apparently people buy these tick-



ets months ahead. However, we were informed that there is a stand-by line that begins 2 hours before each performance, to pick up those tickets that were not collected. We were really determined to see the show, so we started queuing at 5pm. At 7.20pm, luck was on our side – we were holding 2 tickets and we were only about 8 rows from the stage. But was it worth the wait?

“O” Canada!

“O” is probably the most spectacular of the Cirque shows, as the storyline revolves around a magical world surrounded by water – the stage is built around a huge tank of water, and when necessary, the cir-

...Continued on page 7

SUNDAY LUNCHES ARE BACK!!

Mark down your calendars!

Here some upcoming lunches held at the Clubhouse

Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Prices to be announced.

Oct 24 Calgary Char Kueh Teow by Ah Hock

Nov 14 Penang Laksa by The Crispy Birds

Nov 28 Mee Siam by Adeline the music choreographer

Summary of First Committee Meeting

It is only fair as secretary to say a few words about our 1st committee general meeting held on Oct 5 Tuesday just 3 days after our AGM. Attendance was 100% and the meeting was wrapped up by 9 pm. The meeting was an ice breaker for 6 first timers to the committee but everyone portrayed a very positive enthusiastic commitment to MSBCA's Board 2005 after we went round the table sharing personal information & goals. Can we as members ask for anything more? The answer is absolutely NO! In fact one of the many bonuses that we as committee will learn is our personal relationship skills. I remember when my father first took me to the pool I think nothing of it just like any ordinary kid. After the routine weekly fun in the water it came to me naturally to float, dive, paddle around and have no fear whatsoever about water. Funny, but such is life sometimes where we all learned things naturally as the circumstances arises. Being a committee member is no different. It is a chore to others but I hope all of us will mature from it and maybe one day you can apply the things you learned & benefit you. That is the beauty of volunteerism where the rewards are very subtle .

Thank you Mr. past secretary Ken Preston for holding this position so many times that it is almost an expected duty from him. We respect your decision to spend more time with your family and pursue your other projects in life. We all should as well but if MSBCA is a mother who can speak she would also say thank you and you are most welcome to come back anytime to take this or any other position again in the future.

Because we do not have the luxury to discuss issues to the nth degree in our general meetings we had to assign task to various individuals. As our president had mentioned

earlier a sub-committee will plan events for the calendar year and propose to the board at next general meeting on Oct 27. By the way, it was voted to have our committee general meetings on the last Wednesday of the month at 6 pm in the clubhouse. We hope to share with members in the November issue all our upcoming events.

Portfolios for every committee member has been assigned as mentioned in the president's message such that the workload & responsibilities this year are more fairly and evenly distributed.

Finance

Thanks to the efforts of previous committee members we are once again financially sound enough to carry on our activities. However we will still have to work hard to ensure that we budget ourselves carefully this year so that we won't have too much financial difficulty when the season proves to be less fruitful.

Membership

Ongoing efforts to call back past members and looking for new members not only falls on the president but to all of us. But this year our president has decided to have accountability on this portfolio.

Social/Cultural

Sunday 'Hawker Style' lunch has already been planned for October till November but there is more to come! Besides our major calendar events like CNY dinner and Cultural Night please stay tuned for our other calendar events.

Newsletter

It now goes down to MSBCA history books that we have the youngest committee members - Tracey Bong & Rachel Wong. Our president is very keen on seeing them form a youth group. Again stay tuned. Our edi-

tors will also try and reach out to the MSB students at U of C. We would also like to make contact with the Canadian Embassies in the 3 countries to offer help to either newly arrived foreign students or immigrants. This has always been our mandate so all we're doing is "Walk the Talk."

Building

Managing it such that the clubhouse is operating satisfactorily and keeping it clean & neat is an ongoing goal. Of course we would like to generate more income by renting our clubhouse to members & non-members. A proper rental contract should be ready shortly.

Sports

Our community exist because we offer our members an opportunity to come out as a family to exercise & have fun. Participation in sports is a key factor in bringing harmony & peace to all.

Bingo & Casino

This will truly be a trial year for us as a community because we have taken on more Bingos and 90% of the events will be full events i.e. not sharing with another group. Moreover we will have a Casino on Feb 26 & 27 2005. I beg all of you members to help us in this endeavor as much as possible because we will need more volunteers than ever. Please help us to help volunteers from the burn out syndrome.

Thank you members & readers for taking time to read our newsletter which is a tool we use to share information with all members. We would gladly like to hear from you if you have any suggestions.

Regards
Encik Secretary

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Harry Win



Jesse Cheah the Secretary for 2004/2005

Off to Las Vegas cont'd

cular, central part of the stage (or sections of it) can submerge, transforming the performance area into an indoor pool! Sometimes, they would merely submerge the entire stage a few inches, to give the illusion that the performers were walking on water!

If you've seen any Cirque shows before, you can imagine the sort of dazzling stunts they were able to pull off with a stage that could become a body of water! We sat in awe watching the high divers, flying ships, synchronized swimmers, fire jugglers, contortionists – and of course the music and sets were mesmerizing...

If only we could travel like David Copperfield...

After the performance at 9.30pm, we rushed to the MGM Grand to watch the infamous David Copperfield who was doing special performances for a limited time. This time we were about 3 rows from the stage, which is VERY DANGEROUS if you know what Copperfield does to (with?) his audience. His entrance to the stage was mind-boggling – a metal platform was raised in mid-air and within seconds of covering it with a black cloth, he appeared sitting on a Harley Davidson motorcycle (hanging right over our heads). How did it get there?

As the night went on, I was convinced he had supernatural powers and it was not just an illusion. If you've ever seen his TV performances and thought: "wow", you would be spooked when you see how he made things and people disappear right before your eyes. They were always plain sight, yet they disappeared. He reunited a father and son "live", by transporting the son to Phuket, Thailand! For his finale, he made 13 people from the audience disappear on a raised plat-



form and they re-appeared at the back of the theatre. It was just amazing.

This was indeed the highlight of our trip, to watch two spectacular performances in one evening – we were tired but happy. On our next trip, I am hoping to catch Celine Dion, the new Cirque du Soleil show at the MGM Grand and to visit The Grand Canyon. If



anything, we proved to ourselves that Vegas is a lot more than just gambling...

The next morning we checked out of the hotel and since our flight was not till 10pm, we had the entire day to discover Vegas. As we went walking in search for lunch, we came across a restaurant called China Star. It was Can\$12 per person for the lunch buffet and they serve everything from Japanese, Western, and Chinese to Mongolian BBQ. The service was superb and we highly recommend (4-star) this place to anyone visiting Vegas (contact us if you want directions).

By 6pm, we were shuttled to the airport and had to leave Vegas behind. While waiting at the airport terminal, I decided to try my luck on the slot machine one last time.

So did I hit the jackpot?

As the saying goes, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas".

September's Volunteer Picnic





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Keyboard Café (seniors class)

Halloween Bash!



Theme: Halloween/Blast from the Past

Date: Oct 30, Saturday

Time: 6:30pm - 11pm

Location: MSBCA Clubhouse

Food: Adults - Laksa Noodle Soup, Children - Fried Noodle, & desserts.

Costs: prices include Sarawak Laksa
Adult (13+): \$10/\$12
Kids (5-12): \$5/\$7
Kids (4 & under): free
Money to be paid at the door.

Reservations: Joyce Wong
220-1518 (no calls after 10pm please)

Others: Costume Contests,
Treat Bags for the children.
Pumpkin Carving Contest

**Costumes are OF COURSE
welcomed and encouraged!**

**LOOK FOR OUR NEW AND IMPROVED NEWSLETTER FOR
THE NOVEMBER ISSUE!**