

# 新年好



# msbca

NEWSLETTER since 1989

## FEBRUARY

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5

malaysian singaporean bruneian community association

(non-profit organization)

new website: [www.msbcacalgary.ca](http://www.msbcacalgary.ca)



PRESIDENT  
KHIN CHEW

Dear members;

I can't believe another month has flown by, and it is time again we communicate.

The January 21, 2005 Tsunami Relief Fund Raising Dinner, which

was carried out at the Telus Convention Centre, was attended by around 700 guests and raised \$41,000.00 that was donated to Red Cross on the same night. It was the first joint venture event that MSBCA got involved in, and it really was a learning experience for us. I like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for the time and efforts they have put in to get this event going, one of our four Social Directors, May Lee, who had been heavily involved in the event, all MSBCA Board members, members, family members and friends, DPH Engineering, all sponsors, the media, and everyone else for all the supports.

The Sunday lunch on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005 brought in a net profit of \$200.00 that was donated to Red Cross for the Tsunami Relief. Thanks to Lee Pow and team mates.

With Chinese New Year just around the corner, the Social Directors are busy preparing the program for the event that is to take place at the Treasure of China Seafood Restaurant on Saturday, February 19th in Chinatown. Along with the other programs will be silent auction of one MAS return air ticket from Los Angeles to Kuala Lumpur, thanks to Mr. Jacques Malaspina who went out of his way to obtain the air ticket in time for the CNY Dinner 2005. Mr. Jacques Malaspina had made a special effort to attend our CNY Dinner 2005, and he will personally present the air ticket to the winner. In addition to the air ticket, Encik Bahruddin Sulaiman, VP Canada for Tourism Malaysia, has agreed to complement the MAS ticket with 3 nights, "5 stars" hotel accommodation in Kuala Lumpur, single or

double occupancy, inclusive of return airport-hotel transfers and city tour.

With all these goodies, the CNY Dinner 2005 tickets will definitely be a sold out, so, purchase your tickets asap to avoid disappointment.

Just a few reminders:

The MSBCA-Calgary Cultural Night is planned for Saturday, May 28, 2005, at the Beddington Community Hall. More details will be announced at a later date.

All Casino volunteers for the February 26 and 27 please remember to check your names and times against the volunteer list and do not forget to bring your photo ID's.

Together with my wife Siew, and the Board members, we wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. See you at the CNY Dinner 2005 on February 19, 2005.

Khin Chew



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# the editorial

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Electronic Copy is also available:		
<b><a href="http://www.msbca.ca">www.msbca.ca</a></b>		

Here's a couple of numbers for you:

283,543 – The estimated number of deaths resulting from the SE Asian tsunami (not including those expected to die due to disease, hunger and other factors). This figure includes the 132,197 listed as missing in Indonesia and 5,669 in India.

\$1.8 billion USD – The amount raised by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in comparison to the \$2 billion contributed throughout the entire eight decades of Red Cross operation prior to the tsunami. (According to the head of the French Red Cross Association, Jean-Francois Mattei)

\$425 million CDN (roughly \$350 million USD) – The amount of money the Canadian government has pledged to aid those victims (as of January 11th 2005)

\$350 million USD – The amount pledged by the Bush administration. This figure does NOT include American military forces which are also being sent overseas.

Why the numbers? In the days following the tsunami disaster, Jan Egeland, humanitarian aid-chief of the United Nations called the United States "stingy" in their donations towards foreign aid. Although in some cases, the States has been the largest contributor in terms of actual amount, its foreign development aid according to the OECD statistics averages only 0.14 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

However, these numbers do not include the dollars used in indirect aid. When you factor in U.S. military contributions (the Americans spend 420.7 billion a year), even if the U.S. were only to utilize 0.00083 per cent of its military resources, that would double their efforts towards tsunami aid (when speaking of indirect aid, I mean use of military aircraft, ships and troops).

So while the U.S is being reprimanded by members of the United Nations for failing to surpass the contributions made by other, less wealthy countries, we should be reminding ourselves that indirect aid is just as important as direct financial aid. Were these statistics to include non-direct financial aid, the U.S.'s contribution to the welfare of the world would be unsurpassed – especially lately in SE Asia where it is apparent that they use more than 0.00083 per cent of their forces.

Perhaps instead of focusing our arguments on who has donated what to tsunami aid, we need to look at the bigger picture. Twenty five years ago, the United Nations asked countries to donate at least 0.7 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to foreign development aid. Since then, only five Scandinavian countries have given at least that amount, with Norway leading at one point at 0.92 per cent – those numbers have since dropped and a new report underway.

Egeland later retracted his initial comment towards the U.S to say that wealthy nations in general do not provide enough to help less developed countries. It's sad to see that not a single country in the world manages to give at least one per cent of their GDP to foreign developmental aid.

It's taken 80 years for the Red Cross to reach \$2 billion in donations, one major disaster to nearly double that amount. Instead of attacking the United States and arguing that only their financial donations count, perhaps its time for the world to take note. How long will it be before wealthy countries donate at least one per cent of their GDP? When will they realize that the world is still in need?

Rachel Wong  
From the Editorial Board

# events

## Tsunami Fundraising Dinner - January 21, 2005

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, the Calgary Committee for Tsunami Relief presented *Calgary Reaches Out*, a fundraising dinner and cultural event supporting tsunami victims. Members from the Thai Canadian Association, the Canadian Indonesian Social Club, the Sri Lanka Canada Association, the India Canada Association of Calgary, the African Community Association of Calgary, MSBCA, and several other communities helped attract a crowd of over 600 who attended the event held at the Telus Convention Centre. MLA Wayne Cao, who helped organize the charity dinner was present as well as Mayor Dave Bronconnier. This event was especially important as it was the first where Calgary's cultural communities joined efforts in order to host a single event. MSBCA is hopeful that such events will be held more

often in the future, as it is an excellent way to strengthen our ties to the Calgary cultural community. Organized in less than three weeks, *Calgary Reaches Out* was a major success and a total of \$41,000 was raised and donated to the Red Cross for victims of the South East Asian tsunami.



MSBCA Members



L-R: Viney Dey - INCA (India Canada Association), Al Alam - Canadian Indonesian Social Club, Khin Chew, Suranga Wijeyesuriya - Sri Lanka Canada Association, Geetha Ramesh - INCA, Michael Embae - African Community Association of Calgary, MLA Wayne Cao, Ram Changkalath - INCA.



Donations for the auction



Your COMPLIMENTARY  
CNY Dinner 2005  
AIRLINE TICKET SPONSOR  
1 MAS Ticket (LA/KL) + 3  
nights free stay from Tourism  
Malaysia (for Silent Auction)

● ● ● ● ● ●  
**Sunday Lunch  
Announcement**

For February

**February 6th**

- Chicken Biryani by Geraldine -

**March 6th**

- Prawn Noodle by Juliet Teng -

● ● ● ● ● ●

## Chinese New Year Banquet

**Saturday February 19th 2005**

Tickets:	Members	Non-Members
4 & under:	Free	Free
5-11:	\$8	\$12
12-17:	\$15	\$20
18 & up:	\$25	\$30

**Treasures of China**  
130 - 3rd Avenue SE, doors open at 6PM

- MAS ticket
- Lion Dance
- Magic Show
- Martial Arts Demonstration
- Red packets
- Scholarship Fund
- Raffles, door prizes
- Karaoke, dance and more!

Call Jane Lim 375-0828 or Jennie Soo 280-0327

# Sports Update “Friday Nights”

January 7 to June 24 2005

Total 24 sessions @ 2 hrs

**4 courts - 8PM to 10PM**

## Talisman Centre

**Prices:** (non-bingo prices in brackets)

Single \$65 (\$75)

Double \$130 (\$150)

Family \$160 (\$190)

**Drop-In Fee:** \$5/person/  
session

No prorate fee.

Fees will be reduced by  
50% after March 15th.

## Change of address???

Let us know by  
sending a letter to:

**MSBCA Newsletter**  
**c/o MSBCA Cultural**  
**Centre**  
**#301, 114-3 Ave SW**  
**Calgary AB T2P 0E7**

## VOLUNTEERS FOR BINGO!!

We need 16 volunteers for  
Sunday March 27, 2005 eve-  
ning @ 5:00PM

Call Jesse Cheah  
@ 274-3541



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## 2005 Membership Renewal.

Please note that deadline for membership renewal is **February 28, 2005**. You may renew your membership by mailing your cheque to MSBCA-Calgary clubhouse, to the attention of Khin Chew. You may also e-mail [Kchew@shaw.ca](mailto:Kchew@shaw.ca) if you are using your Bingo Points to renew your membership. Failure to renew your membership before February 28 will see your Bingo Points default to 0 and your membership default to New Member, which will affect scholarship award to your children because you need to be MSBCA-Calgary member for two consecutive years in order for your child/children to qualify for the scholarship award.

**\$250 lifetime membership cost!**

## Looking for a central venue to hold a meeting, presentation or a social event in downtown core?

MSBCA Center has a full feature restaurant-style kitchen with large open space of about 1000 sq feet. We have a seating capacity of 80 people.

**#301, 114 - 3 Ave SW Calgary  
AB T2P 0E7**

- members (inclusive of sound system):
  - 4 hours \$60
  - full day \$110
- non members (not inclusive of sound system):
  - 4 hours \$80
  - full day \$130
- Additional \$100 will be applied for the use of the sound system

### DAMAGE DEPOSIT FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS (refundable):

- building rental \$100
- sound system \$400

For more enquiries, contact Eric Ng @ 280-4165 or Geraldine Sng @ 242-2621.

YuMei Xun, a new member who recently immigrated from China, is seeking employment as a Project or Controls Engineer. YuMei has worked in Singapore with an Instrumentation Engineer from Canada who is presently working in China. YuMei can be reached at 390-9935.

# feature story

## of Kon Loh Mee, Murtabak & Laksa - a.k.a. Our Singapore Trip

by Geraldine Sng & George Heng

Ask any Singaporean about the source of their national pride and 2 things will always come to mind: Changi Airport and the food... The first we had already experienced upon our arrival (and much to our pleasure after a long flight); the second was to be experienced at leisure, time and time again (also much to our pleasure)...

What can we say about Changi? In our opinion, it's the best airport in the world, period. Sure, maybe having a few more signs or thoughtful conveniences (e.g. washrooms everywhere & information displays every 5m), may not mean much at first, but after a 26-hour flight, every little bit helps. And the fact that you can clear immigration & customs, and get your 6 pieces of checked-in baggage in less than 15 minutes says a lot...

As for the food – well it was great to see family & friends again, even if some of those “friends” were familiar dishes you couldn't wait to eat! Let's see: there was Ah Seng's famous “kon loh mee” at Dunman road; fried hok-

kien prawn mee at Tanjong Katong; “yong tau foo” & “mee rebus” from Haig Road; “samsui chicken” from Soup Restaurant; “chicken rice” from Yet Con; “kaya toast” from Killiney

This dish is so rare and delicious, it made eating it *almost* a sin; after all, here was a delicacy that you couldn't buy even if you had the money...

Yes, the biggest problem on such a



Café; “goreng pisang” from Maxwell Road Hawker Centre, and last but not least, “chicken murtabak” from Zam Zam restaurant.

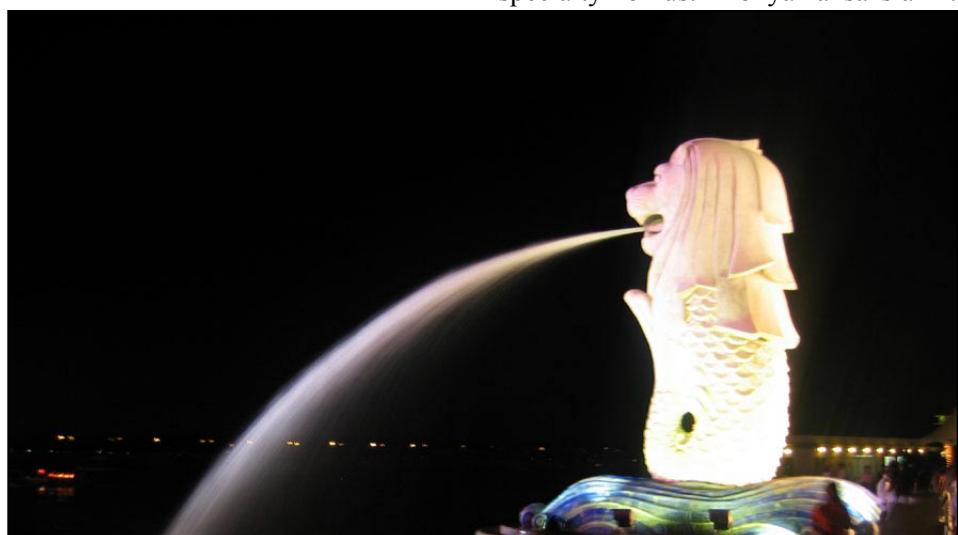
And to top it off, our great grand aunt, a 100% true-blue *nonya bibik*, made her specialty for us: “nonya laksa siam”.

holiday was to ensure that, amidst the daily dinners, treats, hawker food and home-cooked meals, you didn't overeat... so we made it a point to follow a strict work-out regimen: one-and-a-half hours, four times a week, to ensure guilt-free eating!

While some of our favourite eating haunts had moved, many others were still there. We were also struck by how almost all the Hawker Centres had changed: refurbished, rebuilt, cleaner, brighter, and more pleasant.

In short, the weather was obnoxious – 32 to 34°C for the month that we were there; the traffic was insane; the crowds totally intimidating (Singapore is smaller than Calgary and has 4.4 million people), but the food was great, and the company unsurpassed.

It made the 26-hour journeys to-and-fro worthwhile...



Top right: Singapore River. Above: The Merlion in Singapore.

Pictures taken from <http://sxc.hu/>

# gaming/bingo

## Bingo and Casino Update

Casino 2005 @ Casino Calgary 1420 Meridian Road NE tel: 248-9467

	<b>Feb 26 (Sat)</b>	<b>Feb 26 (Sat)</b>	<b>Feb 27 (Sun)</b>	<b>Feb 27 (Sun)</b>
	10:30 am - 7:30 pm	7:15 pm - Close	10:30 am - 7:30 pm	7:15 pm - Close
<b>General Manager</b>	Khin Chew	Lily Chiew	Kim Roe	Priscilla Wong
<b>Alternate GM (10:30 am to 2:00 pm)</b>	Eric Ng	Not Required	Eric Ng	Not Required
	10:30 am - 7:45 pm	7:30 pm - Close	10:30 am - 7:45 pm	7:30 pm - Close
<b>Banker</b>	Khin Chin	Jennie Soo	Teng Hau Chong	Jesse Cheah
	11:00 am - 7:30 pm	7:00 pm - Close	11:00 am - 7:30 pm	7:00 pm - Close
<b>Cashier</b>	Jane Lim	Tony Quek	Juliet Teng	Kok Sim
<b>Cashier</b>	Pui Chin	Andrew Chiew	Wendy Lee	Sue Law
	11:00 am - 7:30 pm	7:15 pm - Close	11:00 am - 7:30 pm	7:15 pm - Close
<b>Chip Runner</b>	Bradley Martin	George Chin	Ken Lee	Calvin Chew
<b>Chip Runner</b>	Ron Chiang	Karen Boon	Nelson Chan	Chua Siang Kok
		10:00 pm - Close		10:00 pm - Close
<b>Alternate GM</b>	Not Required	Jeff Wong	Not Required	Alvin Kang
<b>Count Room Supervisor</b>	Not Required	Peter Tan	Not Required	Kim Chan
<b>Count Room</b>	Not Required	Cliff Son	Not Required	Jack Ng
<b>Count Room</b>	Not Required	Jessie Son	Not Required	Ah Chee
<b>Count Room</b>	Not Required	Jenny Lewis	Not Required	Jik Chan
<b>Count Room</b>	Not Required	Khoo Mok Yong	Not Required	Chiew Keng Wei

Attached is the Casino schedule for Feb 26 & 27. My apologies for not being able to call each and everyone of you to confirm the time slot I've allocated. So if the time assigned isn't suitable please give me a call & I'll do my best to re-schedule. For those names that are shaded I need you to let me know if you can help volunteer. All other person names listed have already indicated they would like to volunteer for casino.

Some of the rules have changed slightly in particular only people in positions for General Manager, Alternate GM, Banker & Count Room Supervisor need to sign form. But everyone must bring in their photo ID. Some pointers & rules for volunteers:

1. No alcohol and gambling(including slot machines) before/during/after your shift for the entire 2 day event.
  2. Volunteer assigned to a position at the beginning of the casino CANNOT change to another position during the 2 day event.
  3. All volunteers MUST have a photo identification with them at all times during the casino event.
  4. All volunteers must sign in before their shift.
  5. No outside food or beverages are to be brought into the casino unless person has special dietary restrictions.
  6. Budget \$300 per day for concession.
- Volunteers covering 10:30 am - 7:30 pm shift are entitled to 2 meals. 10% tips automatically added on to the final bill.
7. Please arrive on time for your shift.
  8. Please notify myself at 880-8885 at least 2 weeks prior if you need to cancel.
  9. Please park anywhere. General Manager & Banker have their own designated stalls.
  10. Hospitality Suite is equipped with TV, VCR, fridge, microwave and complimentary coffee.
  11. No smoking in Hospitality Suite, Cash Cage & Count Room.

*Continued on page 7...*

# other

## Casino Update Continued...

12. Casino operates from 12:00 noon - 2:00 am but Count Room typically leave later to reconcile the money.
13. If desired a security guard can escort any volunteer to their car at the end of their shift.
14. Training & support will be provided by the Casino staff people for all the above positions. We will have 2 paid employees during our 2 day event. I.e. the Cash Cage Advisor and Count Room Advisor.
15. Thank you and have fun!

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## Scholarships Awards

### Grade 6

Chai, Russell  
 Lee, Nicholas  
 Quek, Natradee  
 Vogt, Stephanie  
 Robert Chow

### Grade 9

Ng, Cheryl B  
 Chan, Benjamin G  
 Gupta, Grismika  
 Son, Claire  
 Quek, Tanapat  
 Martin, Mayme  
 Tong, Kelvin W  
 Roe, Matthew

### Grade 12

Tan, Amanda  
 Yow, Jessica Shijia  
 Khoo, Ee Harn  
 Wong, Whei  
 Liew, Li Ming  
 Tong, Felicia Wen Yi.  
 Wong, Ben J.  
 Chian Shyan Leong

*If you have submitted your child's name and it is not on the above list please contact Priscilla - 275-5613 as soon as possible.*

## January 23, 2005 Sunday Lunch

Proceeds of this sunday lunch were donated to the Red Cross for tsunami efforts.



Lee Pow, master chef for the day and Jane Lim to lend a hand.



Mee Soto, dish made by Lee Pow



Peter Tan, Tony Quek and Jennie Soo

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Tan Tuan Sing enjoying his Soto.

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MSBCA Newsletter has a readership of approximately 200 families and organizations.

**contact:**

ads@msbcacalgary.ca

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Harry Win

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