



From the President's desk

Despite the high price in gas and the huge increase in airfare due to fuel surcharges, families have continued to travel out of Calgary for summer retreats.

The weather in Calgary had been great for summer activities. So for those that spent most of the summer in the city, they had opportunities to take in the Heritage Day celebrations and folk festival at the Prince's Island Park, enjoyed the salsa festival in Kensington, tasted the Curry Noodles on July 22 prepared by Morley Chien at the clubhouse and some of you were probably involved in rafting down the bow organized by Jill Heng.

Thanks also to Adeline and Phillip Chan who organized Singapore National Day celebrations at the clubhouse on August 4. We had a great treat of Singapore Laksa delicately prepared by Adeline and her volunteers followed by traditional local desserts — Kueh Lapis, Kueh Ko Sui and Ice Kacang. Phillip had the crowd entertained with Singapore trivia and jokes.

The Malaysia Merdeka 50th Anniversary celebrations on August 25 promises to be another function featuring local cuisine from Malaysia. The MSBCA committee is also planning a volunteer appreciation night at the clubhouse in September with a special menu and surprise entertainment.

While on the topic of volunteering I would like to acknowledge the remarkable performance of Peter and the Kung Fu students at the cultural night. It was an oversight on our part when they were not mentioned in the July newsletter. The Kung Fu/Tai Chi classes will always be an important Sunday activity for MSBCA.

We will be starting Badminton again in September and Jesse is organizing a Badminton Tournament for September 28. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Golf Tournament, as the registration was low.

Our Editor's term will end at the end of September. We are presently looking for aspiring individuals who have the ability to write articles, are good at photography and proficient at publications design to take on this challenging position. The committee would be very interested to hear from you.

In addition, as the Annual General Meeting is just around the corner, I would like some of you members to consider joining the 2007/2008 committee to help run MSBCA for the coming year.

After a terrific summer I'm sure most of you are rejuvenated and ready to deal with another year of excitement and adventures.

Daniel



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Editorial — A larger role for cultural associations?



"...these associations have an additional responsibility: a civic duty to look beyond themselves and make positive contributions to society by engaging the community at large and integrating newcomers into the fold."



In the wake of several deaths and shootings in Calgary, I am compelled to ask if there was something more that ethnic associations and cultural groups could do to stem this disturbing wave of violence that seems to be taking root in our fair city.

Though I do not have hard numbers, it would appear that most of the drive-by shootings are mostly ethnic and / or gang related. Was there something that could have been done, from a cultural perspective?

The origins of cultural associations can be traced far back into North American history. The Chinese, for example, have a chequered past on this continent, for over a hundred years. Our forefathers helped build the Canadian Pacific Railway in this country, and yet were subject to racism, hardship and even governmental discrimination (through the infamous head tax).

Indeed, "Chinatowns" sprang up all over the continent simply because of the need to keep the Chinese populace away from the "locals". While viewed as Asian Ghettos back then, it is ironic that today, Chinatowns serve as historical places of interest, as repositories of culture, commerce and cuisine. The cultural associations served as

a "safe haven" for immigrants of a specific ethnic group or dialect to congregate amongst others of their "own kind", obtain assistance and develop their own support system. Today, many of the issues that our forefathers faced have since abated, though new ones have arisen.

How can cultural associations rise to the challenge of integrating newcomers into the Canadian way of life, before said individuals become recruited by gangs and other criminal elements?

While hosting social and culinary events are the norm, these associations have an additional responsibility: a civic duty to look beyond themselves and make positive contributions to society by engaging the community at large and integrating newcomers into the fold.

If Calgary has grown from 400,000 to over a million in the space of over fifteen years, but associations' memberships have proportionately remained more or less constant (or in fact, declined), we have to ask ourselves why. Are we doing enough? And if not, how can we do more?

We owe it to the community, but more importantly, to ourselves to find out. GH

Singapore's National Day Celebrations—Jesse Cheah

On behalf of the committee, we'd like to thank MSBCA members Philip & Adeline Chan who stepped forward to help lead the above event.

Of course Philip & Adeline could not have executed such a pleasant evening of great food and entertainment without the help of committee and other members.

With a crowd of about 70 people in attendance, our clubhouse was pleasantly full and well-utilized that night. Although Mr. Foo Chin Kwok, the Consul General of Singapore couldn't be with us, his well-wishes and goodwill were definitely present amongst Singaporeans and non-Singaporeans alike.

Appropriately, the main course of

the evening was Singapore Laksa, was well liked by everyone. The soup tasted really authentic and the crunchy prawns gave it an added punch.

The traditional ice-kacang dessert made the meal complete, and it almost felt as though one was enjoying it at an authentic Singapore kopi tiam. I must say the crowd did very well when the trivia questions prepared by Philip and Daniel began.

Some of us, especially those "kiasu" Malaysians also had the opportunity to learn and update our understanding of the history and geography of our southern neighbour.

That we actually wanted to win the prizes was purely coincidental, of course!

Last but not least, thanks to every volunteer who helped make Aug 4 another memorable Singapore night.

It is only with continuing volunteer effort and support that each one of us can savor & remember the special moments throughout the year in our own little way.

Three cheers and happy birthday greetings to Singapore and all its citizens from a tiny clubhouse in Calgary, Alberta called MSBCA. We had a blast!



Sunday Lunch: Curry Laksa Noodles – Daniel Sario

Thanks to Morley for cooking, Julia for helping in the kitchen and Jesse for helping in the preparation of ingredients for the Sunday Lunch of Curry Noodles held on July 22.

The event was another success; we sold about 45 bowls of delicious curry laksa noodles.

For those of you that missed out, not to worry — there will be other opportunities to taste Malaysian cooking in the next couple of months.



Rafting down the Bow River — Daniel Sario

It was definitely a memorable outing. We started off together at Bowness Park in 5 rafts. I was fortunate to be in the raft with Cliff Son & family and Ben and daughter Melissa.

Even before we started off, there were signs of evil intentions from the other rafts in the form of water fights.

So we took off and paddled away from the crazy hooligans. What a peaceful serene sight from the river.

We were enjoying the tranquility and out of the blue comes charging Kelvin Chiew who started the water fights.

Claire, Justin and Melissa did not mind getting wet as they were jumping in and out of the river.

We stopped at Edworthy Park for lunch and started off a half hour later enjoying the gorgeous view of the city of Calgary from the river.

More water fights followed but sad to say we had to end our journey shortly at the Calgary Zoo.

Thanks to Jill who organized the event, and everyone who came along for the ride!



Announcements

**MSBCA Editor 2007/2008
(Paid Position)**

The successful candidate shall:

- Have strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Have strong command of English and able to compose and write articles for the newsletter.
- Be proficient in organizing and laying out articles in the newsletter
- Attend MSBCA functions to take photographs and prepare articles for the newsletter.
- Be responsible for the advertising space/clients for the newsletter.
- Be responsible for the cost of printing and liaising with the printer.
- Be responsible for mailing out the newsletters to members (as well as folding, labeling and stamps)
- Be responsible for liaising with the webmaster.

Please submit your proposals and expectations to MSBCA secretary Ken Preston.



**Spread
the word**



Merdeka Night 2007

Date: 25 August 2007

Place: MSBCA Clubhouse

Time: 6:30 p.m.- Midnight

Tickets:

Members: Adult: \$10
Children \$5 (7-14yrs)

Non-Members: Adult: \$14
Children \$8 (7-14yrs)



Dinner: Menu to be announced

Cooks: Julia Sario & Lily Chiew

Maximum number of people: 90

Deadline to register: 20 August

Tickets:

Call Jill Heng @ 686-8448
Daniel Sario @ 274-0338
Kim Roe @ 289-6096

MSBCA Calendar

Sundays: Martial Arts & Tai Chi
(see update on this page)

August:

- 4 - Singapore's National Day celebration
- 16 to 19 - Camping @ Mt. Kidd in Kananaskis Country (please call Kim Roe @ 289-6096 or Jesse Cheah @ 274-3541 to book your spot)
- 25 - Malaysia's Merdeka Day celebration
- 25 - Golf Tournament — cancelled

September:

08 - MSBCA picnic @ Bowness Park. Venue may be moved to the Club. Details to be announced.

October:

- 13 - MSBCA AGM Luncheon meeting at the Club. Free for all, starting at 1pm. Please come and support the club.
- 27 - Halloween party. Details to be announced.

November 2007 - January 2008:

Events to be announced

February 2008:

8 - Chinese New Year Dinner @ Regency Palace



Reasons why you are Chinese (at last)

- 39. You always know someone who can get you a good deal on jewelry or electronics.
- 40. Even if totally full, when someone suggests throwing away the leftovers at the table, you will finish them.
- 41. When you visit homes, you bring along oranges (or other produce) as gifts.
- 42. You fight over who pays the dinner bill.
- 43. You major in something practical, like engineering, medicine or law.
- 44. You are 30 yrs old, you still live with your parents, and they prefer it that way.
- 45. You are 30 yrs old and married, you live in an apartment next door to your parents, or at least in the same neighbourhood.
- 46. You eat every last grain of rice in your bowl, but decline to eat the last piece of food on the table.
- 47. Your favourite number is 3 or 8
- 48. You know why we must end this with 48.

For non-Chinese - ask your Chinese friend if you don't get some of the nuances...

Hope you enjoyed this series — for if you can't laugh at yourself, whom can you laugh at?

Adults' Tai Chi & Kids' Kung-fu Classes

Please note that the last Tai Chi class for adults and Kung-fu class for kids (before breaking for summer) will be held on 17 June. Classes will resume in the Fall on 16 September.

See you then!

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements



**MSBCA Fall 2007 Badminton Schedule
(excludes 28 Sept)**

- 14 Sep to 14 Dec (13 sessions)
- Every Friday night, 8 pm - 10 pm
- Venue: Talisman Centre

Cost:

- \$39/\$65 — single*
- \$117/\$195 — family*

MSBCA 2007 Badminton Tournament

- 28 Sep, \$10 per person
- Prize money for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

**MSBCA Winter 2008 Badminton Schedule
(excludes 8 Feb & 21 Mar)**

- 11 Jan to 27 June (23 sessions)
- Every Friday night, 8 pm - 10 pm
- Venue: Talisman Centre

Cost:

- \$69/\$115 — single*
- \$207/\$345 — family*

*Note: The lower rates are for players who volunteer to organize for a Sunday fund raising lunch towards badminton. The higher rate still requires players to volunteer for at least 1 MSBCA event e.g. upcoming Casino on Mar 21 & 22.

Clubhouse Rental

Holding a meeting, presentation or social event?

The MSBCA clubhouse features 1000 sq ft of space, a licensed commercial kitchen, state of the art audio and video equipment, plus a seating capacity of 80 people.

Rental Rates & Terms (with effect 1 May 2006):

Rental Hours: 9am to midnight

Members (including sound system):

Mon-Fri: \$120

Sat-Sun, Holidays: \$150

Non-members (excluding sound system):

Mon-Fri: \$160

Sat-Sun, Holidays: \$200

An additional \$100 is chargeable for the use of the sound system

Damage Deposit:

Mandatory for ALL (refundable if there is no damage or loss to property):

- Building rental \$100
- Sound system \$400

With immediate effect, there will be a cleaning surcharge of \$50.00 if the clubhouse is not properly cleaned after each rental. If applicable, this will be deducted from the damage deposit.

For more details, contact:

Eric Ng @ 280.4165

email: deluxeric@shaw.ca

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements

Sunday Martial Arts & Tai Chi Classes (Fall schedule)

Kids' martial arts classes (11.45 am—12.45 pm) and adults' Tai Chi classes (12.45 pm-1.45 pm) every Sunday.

Instructor: Tan Chin Hock
Venue: MSBCA clubhouse

All members are welcome!

Change of address?

If your contact info is not up to date, you may be missing out!

Please contact Ken Preston @ 279.1828 to keep your details current!



Got something to say?

Send your questions, comments or articles to: editor@msbcacalgary.ca

Note: the newsletter is now a monthly publication.

Submissions for the next issue are due by the 15th of each preceding month.

Advertise with us!

Rates per issue:

2.75" x 3.00" — \$15.00
5.50" x 3.00" — \$30.00
Other sizes — enquire

Email: editor@msbcacalgary.ca



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Membership renewal

You may renew your membership by mailing your cheque to the MSBCA, attention: Ken Preston.

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