



From the President's desk

It is only proper that I begin this message by wishing all of you "Selamat Tahun Bahru" and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year 2007.

Compared to my New Year's Eve experiences at the Singapore waterfront, you band of "die hard" MSBCA fans — from what I read — had an even more fabulous party of fun, good food, games and dancing at the MSBCA Clubhouse. I am truly envious and in turn would like to thank the organizers, Eric, Jesse, Kim, Jill and Sherry for a job well done.

The year 2006 ended with a number of activities starting with the Halloween Night, The Nasi Lemak Scholarship Fund-raising night, the Children's Christmas party and ending with the New Year's Eve party. The calendar of events planned for this year look even more exciting: Penang Laksa Lunch, Brunei Night, Chinese New Year dinner, as well as cultural & heritage events to follow.

This committee is very serious about making sure we dedicate this year to activities for you, our members. However your decision to become MSBCA members should not be just to attend our "Makan " sessions.

The Kitchen Club under Jill Heng is encouraging cooks to join the club especially those that have not showcased their secret recipes or those that are just interested in learning about cooking.

We are also looking for volunteers for our "Clean-Up Crew" to clean the kitchen and hall after each function.

The Social Club under Kim Roe is looking for talented performers and musicians to participate in the Calgary Heritage and our Cultural Night activities in the summer. Be an active part of this association, provide us with ideas and feedback on your expectations.

We have also signed an agreement with George Heng to edit and produce our monthly newsletter for the duration of this term 2006/2007. I would like to thank George for his professionalism and his willingness to continue to provide his services to MSBCA.

Thanks to the on-going hard work of our dedicated members and committee, we will be able to raise sufficient funds to give out scholarships to our MSBCA members' children at this year's Chinese New Year Dinner.

A section describing qualifying guidelines and the application process can be found in this edition of the newsletter.

I encourage everyone to continue enjoying our activities and membership privileges at functions by renewing your membership.

Meanwhile stay tuned for this month's activities. Come visit us at the clubhouse for Tai Chi and martial arts lessons or just to meet the folks.

Hope to see you here sometime!

Daniel Sario



"Thanks to the on-going hard work of our dedicated members and committee, we will be able to raise sufficient funds to give out scholarships to our MSBCA members' children at this year's Chinese New Year Dinner."

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Editorial — Seeing the invisible



"Perhaps the saddest thing is to have newly-arrived immigrants leave, never to return.

That, to me, is an indication of a systemic failure."



In one of my earlier editorials, I had brought up the subject of alienation; how easy it is for us to become alienated, and what we can do to nip it in the bud. However, taking action can only be accomplished if we first see the "invisible people" in our daily lives or routine.

You know whom I'm referring to — the quiet co-worker who no one wants to hang out with; the person who brings your coffee in the morning; the one who cleans the offices at night; the new neighbour who just moved in; the cashier at your grocery store; the postal clerk, and so on. Many people whom we deal with on a regular basis are invisible to us.

The inability to see these people can have a devastating effect, or trigger a chain reaction of events with undesirable outcomes.

Unfortunately, this happens all the time, even within our small community. Two people recently left us, to return to their country of origin. I wouldn't say "home" because Calgary was supposed to be "home", but it didn't work out that way, for one reason or another.

Perhaps the saddest thing is to have newly arrived immigrants leave, never to return. That, to me, is an indication of a systemic failure — the city failed them, the province failed them, the country failed them, and yes, we — their fellow immigrants — failed them. But what about their own responsibility in

this, you may ask?

I am convinced that they did whatever they could to "make it" here due to one simple fact: no one would go through the process of uprooting themselves to settle in another country, only to reverse their decision, unless they had no choice.

I don't know why they left, as I too am guilty of not seeing these invisible people in our midst. Was it because of work, or the lack of it? Did they feel cut-off, or lonely? Was it due to financial pressure, or lack of a place to stay? Did they have problems integrating into society? We'll never really know because none of us "saw" them, or bothered to take the time to find out.

It's true that immigrants are faced with many issues and problems that their new lives may bring, but the one thing that perhaps strikes me as the most heartbreaking is to "not be seen" by others.

Although one person can't solve the world's problems, I've heard it said that "many hands make light work". Surely a community — even one as small as ours — can find the resources to pitch in and help those in need?

I believe it can, but we first have to find a way to make the invisible, visible.

GH

MSBCA Kids' Christmas & New Year's Eve Party 2006 — George Heng

The MSBCA's children's Christmas party was held on 2 December 2006. This annual event is a great way for both kids and members to have a day of food and fun to celebrate the joy of the season.



This year, the MSBCA played host to 5 children from the "Kids Up Front" Foundation, which is dedicated to creating special experiences for kids to heal, bond and unite.

The new year was ushered in with style at the MSBCA's New year's eve party, which featured a spicy catered Indian-themed meal, Bingo, a live DJ, a street magic performance by Jesse Lim, lots of bubbly and even more dancing!



Apart from the great food, there was a magic show, games with prizes, "limbo rock", carols, and of course, a visit from Santa!

The evening's events also included such games as the ever-popular "Identify your spouse's foot" and "How well do you know your partner", much to the delight of the onlookers.

As the clock counted down the final seconds of 2006, the party animals broke out the champagne, spread well-wishes all-round and strutted their stuff into the wee hours of the morning.

A big "thank you" to everyone who helped out and attended both events!



MSBCA Bingo Points update

Bingo Points updated to Dec 31, 2006

Bird, Diana	60
Bong, Ah Nga	70
Bong, Jimmy	30
Bong, Tracy	20
Chai, Peter	40
Chan, Jik & Yen	35
Chan, Kim Yee	20
Chan, Nelson	20
Chan, Rosana	30
Cheah, Jesse & Melissa	27
Chee, Leong	14
Chee, Ah	20
Cheung, Paul & Anna	1
Chew, Khin & Siew	14
Chiang, Ian	11
Chiang, Ron	9
Chien, Rachel (Morley & Andry)	10
Chiew, Andrew & Lily	15
Chiew, Calvin	60
Chiew, Clara	10
Chiew, Keng-Wei	5
Chin, Ching Fatt	70
Chin, George & Karen	17
Chin, Khin & Cindy	20
Chong, Alex Lye	2
Choo, Yeu Chuan & Janette	0
Chu, Kam	65
Chung, Chris	10
Gigi	5
Heng, Peter	10
Kang, Ferlin	10
Kerr, Angie	10
Khoo, Mok Yong	24
Koong, Nora	5
Krishnasamy, Terrance & Sonia	50
Lau, Fred	30
Lee, Brenda	20
Lee, Ken	15
Lee, May & Jean-Michel	25
Lewis, Jenny	40
Li, Raymond	20
Liew, Peter & Megan	14
Lim, Jane	80
Lo, Michael	10
Looi, Kok Sim	20
Ng, Eric	10
Ng, Jack	20
Ng, Keith	10
Roe, Kim	15
Rumjahn, Conrad, Rebecca, Arthur, Lara	90
Sario, Daniel, Julia & Pam	35
Son, Cliff & Jessie	18
Soo, John & Jennie	166
Tan, Edmund	53
Tan, Jack	6
Tan, Irene	110

Tan, Tuan Sing	8
Tang, C.K.	20
Teo, Ah Eng	20
Win, Becky	100
Wong, Grace & Keith	20
Wong, Joyce	27
Wong, Priscilla	90

Note: Members with 0 points have not been listed. Bingo points updates will no longer be published in the newsletter. Please contact Sherry Tay if you wish to check your points balance.



**MSBCA Chinese New Year
Banquet 2007 Adults' Menu**

**Venue: Regency Palace
328 Centre St. SE**

Assorted cold plate combination

Deep fried shrimp ball

Stir fried scallops w/fried milk

2 live lobsters w/roasted garlic

Chinese mushroom & vegetables

Roasted chicken w/special sauce

Steamed pickerel w/soya sauce

Fok Chow fried rice

Seasonal fruit

Red bean soup

Announcements

MSBCA CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET 2007

Date: Feb 23rd 2007
Place: Regency Palace
 328 Centre Street S.E.
Time: 6 pm (doors open)
 7 pm (program starts)
 7 pm (children's buffet)
 7.30 pm (adults' dinner)



Tickets (members):
Adults' dinner: \$ 30 (10 course)
Children's buffet: ages 2-4 yrs. - \$4
 ages 5-12yrs. - \$10
 ages 13-17 yrs. - \$20

Tickets (non-members):
Adults' dinner: \$ 35 (10 course)
Children's buffet: ages 2-4 yrs. - \$6
 ages 5-12yrs. - \$15
 ages 13-17 yrs. - \$25

Please book your tickets by 17 Feb 2007:
Kim Roe: 289-6096
Jill Heng: 686-8448
Melissa Cheah: 274-3541
Jennie Soo: 280-0327

Please call Kim Roe if you have any questions.



\$\$ Retail Corner \$\$

MSBCA has the following items for sale:

Sarawak Laksa Paste (Barrett's brand):

\$8.00 (600g)
 \$4.00 (300g)

Sarawak pepper (200g)

\$5.00 (white, ground)
 \$5.00 (black, corns)

Please contact the committee if you're interested in purchasing these items.

While stocks last!



MSBCA Calendar

(Volunteers for events are most welcome!)

Sundays: Martial Arts & Tai Chi
(subject to clubhouse rentals and events)

January:

21 - Sunday lunch

February:

03 - Brunei Night celebrations

23 - CNY Dinner (Regency Palace)

March:

18 - Sunday lunch

April:

07 - Easter night

May:

19 - Mosaic of flavours

June:

23 - Cultural night

30 - Camping starts

July:

Sunday lunches - to be announced

August:

Heritage day - details to come

September:

08 - MSBCA picnic Bowness Park

MSBCA CHILDREN'S SCHOLASTIC AWARDS

The MSBCA Scholastic Award enables MSBCA to recognize our children's successful completion of each level in the educational process.

Members' children are eligible for the annual award provided they meet the following criteria:

- The student must be a child of a member in good standing and the membership must have been in effect for a minimum of two consecutive years.
- The child, or any member of the family, has been an active volunteer in MSBCA.
- The student must have one of the four core subjects (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts) in the final report card or transcript.
- Bonus awards for the highest mark is based on the final mark from all four core subjects (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts).
- The student must be at the award ceremony in person to receive the award. If it is not possible, the committee will consider it on a case-by-case basis.

Deadline for submissions - February 11, 2007

Send applications to:

MSBCA

Attn: Ken Preston

#301, 114 - 3 Ave. SW

Calgary, AB T2P 0E7

or

E-mail to prestonk@telusplanet.net

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements



MSBCA 2007 Badminton Schedule

- 5 Jan to 22 June (25 sessions)
- Every Friday evening, 8 pm - 10 pm
- Venue: Talisman Centre Gym 4

Fees (members only):

- \$63 — single
- \$126 — double
- \$175 — family

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: deluxe.eric@shaw.ca

2007 Membership renewal

Please note the deadline for membership renewal is 28 February, 2007.

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

**MSBCA
Attn: Ken Preston
#301, 114-3rd Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0E7**

You may e-mail prestonk@telusplanet.net if you are using your Bingo Points to renew your membership.

Failure to renew your membership before 28 February 2007 will see your **Bingo Points default to 0** and your membership **default to New Member**.

This will affect scholastic awards to your children because you need to be an MSBCA Calgary member for two consecutive years in order for your child / children to qualify for the scholastic award.

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements

Sunday Martial Arts & Tai Chi Classes

Kids' martial arts classes (11.30 am—12.30 pm) and adults' Tai Chi classes (12.30 pm-1.30 pm) every Sunday have resumed.

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

Please note: the newsletter is now a monthly publication.

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



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