



From the President's desk

Summer officially begins in a week. It's amazing how at this time of the year everything seems to come alive. The sun rises about 5am in the morning and sets at about 10pm giving us about 17hrs of daylight.

Colourful flowers are in full bloom with first the tulips and now the irises dotting most gardens. Families have made travel and holiday plans for the summer.

High school students celebrated their graduation in style and of course our road construction crews have stepped up their efforts to ensure that there is total chaos on the roads.

The month of June at MSBCA is the busiest month of the calendar year. On June 2, MSBCA Dancers performed at the Olympic Plaza in downtown Calgary in conjunction with the Asian Night Market. The dancers were given tremendous rounds of applause and whistles at the end of the performance.

On the following day, MSBCA committee members Jill, Kim, Jesse and Eric - who were accompanied by their families - took part in the "Walk for MS" (Multiple Sclerosis). The MSBCA members were completely satisfied especially having been fed before and after the walk and entertained by musical groups at the event.

Thanks to Kim Roe who organized MSBCA's participation. Meanwhile,

MSBCA adult and youth dancers are making final preparations for the Cross Gala performance on June 17 at the Telus Convention Center with various other cultural groups to welcome the new premier and also celebrate Father's Day.

Other members will be busy at the clubhouse to help skewer chicken meat for the famous "satay" dish to be served at the MSBCA Cultural Night. Adeline and her choir group have been busy tuning up their vocals for their performance at the cultural night.

Kim & Jill met with the cooks and vendors to make sure that all arrangements were complete for the Hawker style dinner at the Cultural Night. There will be the all sorts of local delicacies like the Beef Rendang, Brunei Rojak, Satay, Curry mee, Bacang and Nasi Lemak served at the function.

Stay tuned for more summer activities. MSBCA has arranged for rafting down the Bow River, camping at Kananaskis Country, golfing at Brewster's Ranch, white water rafting, a picnic at Elbow Park and some hiking.

Do come out and take advantage of the programs organized by MSBCA and have fun this summer.

Daniel Sario



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Editorial — Navigating the boom



"A situation such as this is simply not sustainable, not when taxes and the cost of living keep rising and the majority of jobs out there are still hourly-rated."



It seems to be almost every other day that you hear about Calgary's tight labor market — that there are an abundance of jobs and not enough people to fill them. I've often wondered if this is really the case.

Take a quick look at the "career" pages every weekend and you'll notice that it averages about 10-12 pages each time. Naturally, there are many jobs that aren't advertised in the media (for whatever reason), and there are still others that only become available through "head-hunting" agencies.

For a city like Calgary, one would imagine that trying to find meaningful employment shouldn't be too difficult—or should it?

It would appear that most of the "jobs" that are in desperate need to be filled share some similar characteristics, namely:

- they are not full-time;
- they have no benefits;
- there is no paid vacation time, and finally,
- there's no career path.

So are these actually "jobs" per se or are they simply "paid labor"? I would argue the latter. Real jobs are full-time, offer benefits and paid vacation days and generally have a career path — and most of these advertised jobs can be found in the

"career" pages, all 10 to 12 of them each week.

Speaking of which, to put the notion of a "tight labor market" into perspective, by comparison, the "career" pages in a place like Singapore average 55-60 pages each week. And I'm speaking of real jobs here, not just paid labor.

I also know of people who have been trying to find meaningful employment (i.e. a full-time job with benefits) without much success. Why should this be if Calgary were truly "booming"?

Simply put, I believe the "boom" exists only for certain jobs, and certain sectors. Naturally, the spillover effect of the boom has resulted in a skewed demand for paid labor.

Some companies go as far as to intentionally limit the number of hours an employee gets so that they won't be classified as "full-time". A situation such as this is simply not sustainable, not when taxes and the cost of living keep rising and the majority of jobs out there are still hourly-rated.

The economy is due for a correction, though; let's hope the landing will be a soft one. The alternative may be too painful to bear.

GH

Photo gallery



The MSBCA dancers did us proud by giving a stellar performance at the Asian Night Market.



Photo Gallery



MSBCA youths hard at work practicing kung fu during their Sunday classes



Instructor Tan Chin Hock demonstrates the fine art of standing on eggs without breaking them



MSBCA members being put through their paces during Sunday Tai chi classes



Announcements

River Rafting—Bow River



Want to see Calgary from a completely different view? Join us for the MSBCA rafting trip down the Bow River on July 28, 2007.

What better way to spend time together with your family than a gentle raft ride down the Bow. You can even take a dip in the water if you want to cool off!

Our journey begins at Bowness Park at 9:00 am with a stop at Edworthy Park for a picnic (yes, pack along food and drinks) and finishes near the Calgary Zoo.

The whole trip will take 4 to 5 hours. Non swimmer? Don't worry, there is no need to go in the water, although we can't guarantee you won't get a little wet!

All participants must wear a life jacket.

Equipment will be rented from Sport Rent.

Costs are:

Life Jacket - \$3/person

Paddle/oar- \$3ea (2 paddles/raft)

6 person raft - \$55

8 person raft - \$75

*2 weeks notice required to book the raft

Contact Daniel @274-0338 or

Jill @686-8448 to register

Registration deadline: July 14, 2007.



MSBCA Golf Tournament 2007

Location: Kananaskis Ranch Golf Resort

Date: 25 Aug, Sat

1st Tee-Time: 10 am

Cost: \$52 per person

(includes 9-hole green fee, shared power card & sandwich)

Game: Texas Scramble (team of 4 event)

Contact: Peter Loh @ 297-7383 or
peter.loh@gov.ab.ca

Deadline to register: 20 Jun

****IMPORTANT****

Payment: Cheque payable to MSBCA and mail to
attn: Peter Loh; #301, 7015 Macleod Trail SW;
T2H 2K6

We encourage interested parties to call Peter & register as soon as possible as space is limited. There will be at least 5 teams and the winning team will have their names engraved on the MSBCA Challenge Trophy. There will also be other prizes given away. Golfing in the Kananaskis is spectacular on a nice sunny day with the view of the Rocky Mountains in the background. Aug 25 also coincides with MSBCA's Merdeka Day celebration so we hope all the golfers will adjourn to the clubhouse in the evening for food and more partying.

Regards

Jesse Cheah

MSBCA PR Dude

MSBCA Calendar

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

June:

02 - Asian Night Market (MSBCA will be performing at the Olympic Plaza @ 6 p.m.)

23 - Cultural Night

July:

Sunday lunches - to be announced

28 - Bow River rafting

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 - MSBCA Golf Tournament

September:

08 - MSBCA picnic Bowness Park: Site #1

October:

MSBCA AGM (details TBA)



Reasons why you are Chinese (part 1)

1. You like to eat chicken feet.
2. You suck on fish heads and fish fins.
3. You sing karaoke.
4. Your house is covered with tiles.
5. Your kitchen is covered with a sticky film of grease.
6. Your stove is covered with aluminum foil.
7. You leave your plastic cover on your remote control.
8. You never kiss your mum or your dad.
9. You have worn glasses since your were in the Fifth grade.
10. Our hair sticks up when you get up.
11. You'll haggle over something that is non negotiable.
12. You love to use coupons.
13. You drive around for hours looking for the best parking space.
14. You take showers at night.
15. You avoid the non-free snacks in hotel rooms.
16. You don't mind squeezing 20 people into one motel room.
17. Most girls have more body hair than you, if you are a male.
18. You have a Christian name, although you are a Buddhist.
19. You tap the table when someone pours tea for you.
20. You say "aiya" and "wah" frequently.

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 2007 Badminton Schedule

- 5 Jan to 29 June (25 sessions)
- Every Friday evening, 8 pm - 10 pm
- Venue: Talisman Centre Gym 4

Fees (members only):

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

MSBCA 2007 Badminton Tournament

- 6 July, 7 pm - 10 pm
- Venue: Talisman Centre Gym 4

Picture of the day



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

Marketplace—goods, services & other announcements

Sunday Martial Arts & Tai Chi Classes

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:
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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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