



SIEN LOK NEWSLETTER

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“Through a legacy of co-operation, advancing and preserving Chinese Canadian heritage by creating bridges between generations and cultures.”

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Board of Directors

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New Year Banquet	Cori Louis-Smith
Projects	Robert Jim Thomas To
Parks	Jason Luan
Social Club	Lisa Woo
Webmaster	Kevin Wong

President's Message

by Edmond Lee, President

Spring is in the air and after all the excitement from the red mile we now has something else to be excited about. Former directors, Windchill Ha and William Mah, will be expecting their first baby in September (year of monkey). Also, our past president, Allen Wong, and his wife, Sylvia Fong, will welcome a new baby into their family around mid January (another monkey).

For those of you are looking for something to do in the summer, we are happy to announce we are planning to recruit a group of energetic Sien Lok members/volunteers to participate in the **Dragon Boat Race**. Until we recruit a team captain, if you are interested in participating, please email me @ elee@sienlok.org

This 13th annual Calgary Dragon Boat Race and Cultural Festival will be on August 7 and 8 (Saturday and Sunday), at North Glenmore Park on the Glenmore Reservoir. Over 65 teams are expected to come together from across the city to join together to compete, and to experience this unique aspect of the culture and heritage of China. The festival takes pride in being not only a sporting event, but also a free community and multi-cultural extravaganza, with a key focus on fun for people of all ages and walk of life.

This is a good event for our devoted young volunteers to get involved and mingle with more

senior volunteer as we fulfill the Sien Lok Vision statement.

We will be looking for a team name, "Sien Lok Dragons"? Or "Sien Lok Society Snakes"? In any case, "**GO SIEN LOK GO**".

For more information of dragon boat race, please check their web site
<http://www.calgarydragonboat.com>

Please mark in your calendar! September 18 will be our **Picnic in Our Park**. Please bring as many as friends as possible and we will ensure you have enough food and games to guarantee another fun event.

Social Club Update

by Lisa Woo

The 1st Social Club event for 2004 was well attended by members. We had 50 people cheer the Flames into the playoffs. The night started off with supper at The Vietnam Restaurant.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next event will be in September. We have 60 tickets for the Labour Day classic. The cost for members will be \$15.00 and \$25.00 for non-members, one ticket per Sien Lok membership. **Tickets will be on a first come, first basis.**

Please RSVP to lady_of_mine@hotmail.com

An eating extravaganza is up and coming in the fall.

A movie for kids and all ages in Winter 2004.

Watch for more details in the next NEWSLETTER!!!!

Volunteers' Appreciation – May 15th

by Wendy Kit Tsui

It was a cool breezy spring day, perfect for a stroll at the Zoo. There was easy parking and entrance was amazingly easy at the security gates. It was fairly relaxing as people casually stroll about pointing out certain behaviour patterns of the animals. There was an excitement in the air too as Calgarians were pretty hyped up over the Flames, their hockey team playing in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

After finishing their leisurely tour at the zoo, 107 volunteers and friends started to gather at the Tropical Oasis Room for the evening's event. The response was overwhelming. The servers had to set up an additional table in the hallway for the occasion. That was because this group of volunteers wanted to sit together and their table just happen to be right next to the buffet!!

Everybody was friendly and chatty as they meet up with new and old friends. The meal was excellent with dessert being the best part. The peacock outside the window provided the visual entertainment as guests enjoy their meal. They were also pleasantly surprised as each of the volunteers were handed out a Famous Players Coupon along with their Certificate of Appreciation. John Ni, one of the volunteers, later commented that he was going to buy a frame for his certificate and membership card. He was that proud of being a part of the Sien Lok Society.

We had an opportunity for final group pictures before the sun went down. The pictures are posted on the website for public view. Would the volunteers come back next year?? Yes, definitely. It was rewarding to be part of something that has so much vitality and energy.

The Sien Lok Directors would like to thank each one of you for volunteering and to make our events successful.

Don't forget the **Picnic in Our Park** is coming up **September 18th** and we need lots of help. If interested, please contact Wendy Kit Tsui at 266-9604 or kit.tsui@rbc.com.

Senior Visitations

by Cori Louis-Smith

The Sien Lok Society completed their annual Senior Visitations this past Sunday, June 13th. We packaged up about 160 fruit plates, and delivered them to 18 of the nursing homes in Calgary. Once again, this event was very successful, thank you to all the volunteers and directors for your help.

Picnic in Our Park

by Pamela Fearon

It is that time of year again! We are planning for the annual Picnic in Our Park.

Please mark your calendars and join the festivities on Saturday, September 18, for food, fun, and frolicking. There will be entertainment, games for the young ones, and lots of food!

This event is open to the public and provides an opportunity to showcase the beautiful Sien Lok Park to the general public. Please spread the work and bring your family, friends, and coworkers.

If you have any questions regarding the Picnic in Our Park, please do not hesitate to call me @ 249-0236 or pfearon@sienlok.org

Calgary Mandarin Bilingual Program Proposal

by Jason Luan

Sien Lok Board endorsed a proposal for a comprehensive Mandarin Bilingual Program in the public school system. The proposal was made to the Calgary Board of Education

(CBE) by a group of parents. It proposed to establish a comprehensive Mandarin program that:

1. integrates weekend Chinese private schools within the bilingual Mandarin program piloted in CBE;
2. begins with 50% Mandarin program at Kindergarten to G.6, then 30% Mandarin at G.7 - 9, and selective Chinese courses at G.10 -12;
3. is located in NW Calgary (Brentwood, Dalhousie or Varsity);
4. offers Mandarin International Language and Culture Classes throughout the city in other regular schools.

Intended benefits:

1. Children will be well-prepared for the future, as Mandarin is increasingly identified as a highly desirable global business language in the 21st. century;
2. Families do not have to pay out of their own to sustain weekend private Chinese Schools;
3. Chinese culture and language will be sustained and integrated into the Canadian Multicultural society.

For further details of the proposal, please contact Sara Makarenko at (403) 262-7648, or email: saramak@shaw.ca

Sien Lok Rallies to Support the Calgary Learning Centre

by Pamela Fearon

Sien Lok Society teamed up with Lovse Surveys to enter a team in the Calgary Learning Centre's Third Annual Country Car Rally. The event was held to raise funds for children's programs. Some of the programs provided by the Centre in the community include several early intervention/family literacy programs that have a high Chinese new immigrant population.

The rallyers were: Thomas To, Albert Low, Kevin Wong, and Robert Jim. While the team did not place in the top five, at least they did not win the prize for most "directionally challenged"! Great fun was had by all and plans are underway to develop a theme for next year's team! Check out the website for a team photo.

Partnering with Other Associations

by Pamela Fearon

The Sien Lok Society prides itself on its inclusiveness and willingness to work with other associations for the good of the community.

For example:

- We have worked jointly with the Chinese Christian Wing Kei Nursing Home Association on several events,
- Supported other organizations through participation at fundraising banquets,
- Supported students through bursaries at several Calgary post-secondary institutions and the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, and
- Provided volunteer opportunities for youth such as members of the Scout 288 Troop.

To this end, the Board is currently exploring ways to work together with the Calgary Chinese Community Services Association.

Your input with respect to the type of support we provide and additional organizations/associations with whom we may partner would be appreciated. Please email your suggestions to pfearon@sienlok.org or send a letter to Sien Lok Society of Calgary, PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley, Calgary, AB, T2P 4K3.

2005 Centennial Celebration

by Robert Jim

Sien Lok Society of Calgary is currently working on a special project to commemorate Alberta's Centennial in 2005. The project will honour our past and celebrate our future. Additional information will be provided in the next newsletter.

A Little Humour

from Golf Jokes.com

True bravery is, arriving home late after a boy's night out, being assaulted by your wife with a broom, and still having the guts to ask: "Are you still cleaning, or are you flying somewhere?"

Call for Suggestions

If you would like something specific included in Sien Lok's quarterly newsletter, please let us know. This newsletter is intended to keep the membership up-to-date on events and activities and provide opportunities for involvement. Please contact us by phone, email, or regular post.

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