



SIEN LOK NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 20150, RPO BOW VALLEY, CALGARY, AB, T2P 4K3

TELEPHONE: (403) 874-SLSC (7572)

EMAIL: INFO@SIENLOK.ORG WEBSITE: WWW.SIENLOK.ORG

EDITORS: SANDY KWONG AND KIM FUNG

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

Inside this edition . . .

President's Message
 Chinese New Year Banquet - Cori Louis Smith
 Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Thomas To
 Senior's Visitation - Submitted by Sean Chu
 Picnic In Our Park - Sharon To
 Call for Volunteers - Wendy Tsui
 Digitization Project - Kim Fung
 Special Announcements - Sharon To
 What's Happening with Sien Lok Park? - Robert Jim
 Upcoming Events

Board of Directors

President	Thomas To
Past-President	Edmond Lee
Vice-President	Sandy Kwong
Treasurer	Ka-Yee Wong/Katie Fok
Secretary	Sharon To
Communications	Sandy Kwong/Eileen Tam
Director Emeritus	Ray Lee
Fundraising/Casino	Cori Louis-Smith
New Year Banquet	Cori Louis-Smith
Legal Counsel	Allen Wong/Kevin Wong
Volunteers	Wendy Kit Tsui
Archives/Newsletter	Kim Fung
Memberships/Social Parks	Eileen Tam Robert Jim/Edmond Lee/ Carl Wu/Sandy Kwong/Ray Lee
Scholarships	Thomas To/Jason Luan/ Mary Yuen Sears (Secretary)
Digitization Project	Thomas To
Webmaster	Thomas To/Ray Lee/Kim Fung
Director	Kevin Wong Lisa Woo

President's Message

by Thomas To, President

As I started writing this message, I realized that I have served half of my term as the President of Sien Lok Society. Time has gone by so quickly, but where did it go? Well, let's see...

Starting with November 2005, we had our successful Casino event where many volunteers helped out. In January 2006, 650 guests graced our Chinese New Year Banquet at the Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant. As usual, this was our biggest event of the year. Then in the spring, over 100 Volunteers and Sien Lok members attended our Volunteer Appreciation and Fun Money Casino event in May. June marked our annual Senior's Visitation, in which we provided fruit baskets to seniors who are living in nursing homes isolated from the familiars of a Chinese environment. In September, we served and entertained over 1000 people at Sien Lok Park at the Picnic in Our Park function, and most recently, we held our AGM last October, in which 125 people attended the event. Please read more about the Senior's Visitation, Picnic in Our Park and the AGM in the following pages.

In addition to our numerous events, we have also provided financial support to The Nickle Arts Museum at the University of Calgary for the *Collecting China - Beyond the Curio Cabinet* exhibition, to the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Calgary for the *Chinese Speech Contest*, and also to the Calgary Chinese Community Services Association (CCCSA) for a

number of their events (*Shall We Dance, I love Chinatown, 2007 Chinatown Safety Calendar and the After School Project*). As well, we supported the Calgary Chinese Orchestra in their 2006 Annual Concert, *Chinese Music Night* as well as the Calgary Chinatown Senior's Centre Foundation, for the farewell banquet for Consulate General Song of the People's Republic of China. Furthermore, we also presented our annual scholarships to the Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, Mount Royal College and S.A.I.T. this year.

The Digitization and the Sien Lok Beautification Park remain as ongoing projects.

The Directors have shown tremendous leadership that enables the Sien Lok Society to continue to benefit our community at large. They are the key players to the accomplishments and endeavors of the Sien Lok Society. Thank you to all of the Directors.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped throughout the year, and who continue to demonstrate their dedication and support to us. It is your involvement as a member, director, and volunteer that makes all of our events a great success. We are proud of Sien Lok's past accomplishments, and we look forward with anticipation, to another great year!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

Chinese New Year Banquet

by Cori Louis-Smith

Just a reminder:

The Sien Lok Society's 38th Annual Chinese New Year's Gala

Year of the Pig

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant
328 Centre Street S.E.

\$75.00/person

Dress Code: Formal

For tickets please contact Cori Louis-Smith at (403) 256-5687. Please note that there are only a limited number of tickets left.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

by Thomas To, President

This year's AGM was business as usual, although it was a fun and social event as well. 125 people attended our AGM on October 25, 2006 at the Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant. The attendees included current members, families and special guests.

The AGM is a time for new members to join the Sien Lok Society and for existing ones to renew their membership. If you were unable to attend the AGM, and would like to either join or renew, you can still complete the attached form on the back of the newsletter, and send it to us with your cheque payment. As a member, you will receive our quarterly newsletter to keep you informed of our many activities and events.

Mary Yuen-Sears and Edmond Lee were the emcees for the evening. This was Mary's first

opportunity at being an emcee, and she did an outstanding job, while Edmond entertained the crowd with his usual spontaneous humor and wit.

Robert Jim did a tremendous job in creating a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted various Sien Lok events throughout the year.

Ray Lee updated us on the progress of the Digitization Project in which Sien Lok has partnered with the University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University. The current focus of the project is to record the oral histories of southern Alberta Chinese Canadians. Among our guests for the evening, we were honoured to have Paul Dofoo, Mary Dayton and Bill Lee, all who were interviewed for the project. Please see the Digitization article for more details.

The door-prize draw was very exciting for everyone, and there were many lucky winners this year. We would like to express our thanks to the guests who generously donated the prizes for the event.

Again, we would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers for their assistance in making this year's AGM a great success. Your help is greatly appreciated!

To end the evening, the Board of Directors presented Cori Louis-Smith with a little birthday treat, and wished her a happy one by breaking out into a full chorus. Boy was she surprised!

Senior's Visitation

Submitted by Sean Chu, Calgary Police Service

After hearing about the Senior's Visitation from a few Sien Lok Society members, Karen and I thought that this would be a very good opportunity for our kids, Jasmine (5) and Sienna (3) to learn about respect and sharing. We explained to them why we were participating, as it is a Chinese custom to respect our elders.

As the date of visitation got closer, the kids were excited about the visiting trip as an adventure.

One day, we noticed that Jasmine was going through her plastic dress-up jewelry and she was putting a number of necklaces in a bag. We were curious as to what she was doing so we asked her. She told us that she was going to share her necklaces with the elders. Needless to say we were surprised and happy that she understood the concept.

On the day of the visitation, the kids were eager (but shy) to present their gifts to the elders. At the third stop in the Bowness area, Sienna presented the fruit basket and Jasmine presented her gift of necklaces to an elderly lady. The gifts were received with great enthusiasm, despite the language barriers between them.

A few months later, I saw an old friend at a Chinese function who mentioned that her 90-year old grandmother had met my family. I was lost for a moment until she said her grandmother thought that the pearl necklaces Jasmine gave her were real. She then told me that her grandmother hasn't stopped talking about the wonderful visit since. At that moment, I truly felt warm inside and thankful.

Hats off to the Senior's Visitation Volunteers, and our thanks to the Sien Lok Society for giving my family the opportunity to give a little back to the community. Please count my family in again for the next Senior's Visitation.

Picnic In Our Park

by Sharon To

What a great family event! We had approximately 1000 attendees at our annual Picnic in Our Park on September 10, 2006 at Sien Lok Park.

The entertainment consisted of a Lion Dance, a Kung Fu demonstration, a Tai Chi demonstration from the Calgary Chinese Community Service Association (CCCSA), music from Linshia Luan who played the flute, and Kailie Luan who

played the long zither. These two young girls were magnificent! Linshia and Kailie have been taking lessons from the Calgary Chinese Orchestra.

There was an opportunity to view the inside of an EMS Ambulance and a Police van, which many people enjoyed. We also had an exciting draw prize where everyone was anxious to be one of the lucky winners.

Robert Jim, our Parks Director, organized the ceremony for the Wall of Names restoration in which Solicitor Harvey Cenaiko and MLA for Calgary Varsity Harry Chase attended. Please also see the "What's Happening in Sien Lok Park?" article by Robert Jim for further details.

We served free hot dogs, potato chips, cookies, juice, coffee donated by Starbucks, Fruit Gushers and Fruit Rollups donated by the Canadian Parks & Recreation Association and General Mills. We would like to thank these sponsors for their generous donations.

Afterwards, some of the attendees danced to music provided by Stardusk Sounds where Nataline Chan (2 years old) and a senior citizen joined in the fun.

We would like to thank all the Volunteers for their time and support to make this event a great success.

Everyone had a great time. Photos can be viewed on our website at www.sienlok.org. We hope to see everyone again at next year's Picnic in Our Park!

Call for Volunteers

by Wendy Tsui

We are looking for volunteers over the age of 14 to help out at the upcoming Chinese New Year's Banquet, and volunteers over the age of 18 to help out with the Casino event. The Chinese New Year's Banquet will be held on Saturday February 24, 2007 at the Regency Palace Restaurant, while the Casino will be held on Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday May 16, 2007 at Cash Casino. Anyone who has volunteered at any of these events knows that it can be a lot of fun. Various duties include set up, coat check, silent auction, ushering, stage assistance, photography, and others. If you or anyone you know is interested, please call or email the following individuals:

For the Chinese New Year's Banquet:

Wendy Kit Tsui
kit.tsui@rbc.com
 266-9604

Mary Yuen-Sears
maryyuensears@telus.net
 616-3636

For the Casino Event:

Cori Louis-Smith
 256-5687

Digitization Project

by Kim Fung

New interviews of Southern Alberta Chinese Canadians for our Digitization project and other updates are now available for your review at www.ourfutureourpast.ca/multiab/chinese.html.

Profound and enlightening oral histories from some of our Sien Lok members include Paul Dofoo, Mary Dayton and Bill Lee, all of which (and others) can be found when you click on the **Southern Alberta Chinese Oral Histories** link, and then on the **Browse Oral Histories** link. If you have some time, please take the opportunity to view and listen to these extraordinary

personal accounts of Chinese Canadian experiences.

We are still welcoming candidates to participate in the Southern Alberta Chinese Canadian Oral History project. If you or anyone you know would like to be considered, please go to the **Southern Alberta Chinese Oral Histories** link mentioned above for more information.

Special Announcements

by Sharon To

Congratulations are in order to Ray Lee (Emeritus Honorary Director of the Sien Lok Society) who has been appointed as a Citizenship Judge. He was sworn in on December 14, 2006 in Ottawa.

To mark this special occasion, the Chinese community is having a Gala Banquet in Ray's honour. Details are as follows:

Event: **Gala Banquet in honour of Ray Lee's appointment as Citizenship Judge**
 Date: **Friday, February 2, 2007**
 Place: **Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant**
 Time: **6:00 pm**
 Cost: **\$30.00/person**

The organizing committee is planning to have 50 tables. If you are interested in attending, please contact Edmond Lee at adavenue@telus.net or phone him at 870-8888. Edmond can make arrangements so that we are guests from the Sien Lok Society. Deadline for booking a whole table is January 15, 2007. Seating arrangements for whole tables will be arranged close to the stage if possible and will be made by a Chinese community representative.

What's Happening with Sien Lok Park?

by Robert Jim

Several things have happened since our last newsletter. The restoration to the Wall of Names monument has been completed and there was a re-dedication ceremony performed at the Picnic in Our Park celebration in September. The Sien Lok Society would like to extend our thanks to Cohos Evamy, Ledcor Construction, Victory Tile and the City of Calgary for their efforts in the restoration. The restored monument looks fantastic.

The City of Calgary Parks Department has installed a new power outlet adjacent to the Pagoda. This power source will make it easier to stage events in the park. Thank you Jason Luan and the City of Calgary for completing this work.

Carl Wu has been soliciting quotations for the repainting of the existing Pagoda and it appears that this work will be completed sometime in the late spring or early summer. Stay tuned for more details.

Peter Wiseman, Landscape Architect, met with some members of the Parks Committee late in the fall to discuss ideas for the new Park Master Plan. Peter will be incorporating these ideas into sketches to be discussed at a workshop to be held in late January or early February. We would like to extend an invitation to any Sien Lok members who would like to participate in this workshop to contact myself by email. (jimr@cohos-evamy.com). The Master Plan is important because it will help to provide us with a vision for the park moving forward.

If there are any suggestions or concerns that you have about the Park, please feel free to approach any of the Park committee members. We want to ensure that park serves the needs of the Calgary community, and that includes you!

Upcoming Events

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the following Sien Lok events planned for 2007. We are still working out the details for some of the events that we will announce later.

Chinese New Year Banquet (Year of the Pig)

- Saturday, February 24, 2007.
- Regency Palace Seafood Restaurant, located at 328 Centre Street S.E.
- \$75.00/person
- Dress code: Formal

Casino Event

- Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 16, 2007
- Cash Casino, located at 4040 B Blackfoot Trail S.E.

Senior's Visitation

- Sunday, June 10, 2007

Volunteer Appreciation and Social Event

- Sunday, June 24, 2007

Picnic In Our Park

- Saturday, September 15, 2007
- Sien Lok Park, located on the corner of 1st Street and Riverfront Street, S.W.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Call for Suggestions

Please let us know if you would like something specific included in Sien Lok's quarterly newsletter. 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.

Sien Lok Society of Calgary
 PO Box 20150, RPO Bow Valley
 Calgary, AB, T2P 4K3
 Telephone: (403) 874-SLSC (7572)
 Email: info@sienlok.org
 Website: www.sienlok.org

Please advise Sien Lok Society if you have a change of address, telephone number, cell phone number, or email address. This will ensure Sien Lok is able to maintain communication with its members.

\$1,500/bench

NAME A BENCH!

Send us your submission to sponsor a bench within the heart of Sien Lok Park

A Plaque will be inscribed & placed on top of the bench in Sien Lok Park.
A Tax Deductible Receipt will be issued for this purpose.

INTERESTED APPLICANT *please fill in your submission -*

NAME: _____

PHONE (home): _____ (work): _____

Address: _____

Bench (how many): _____

Tax Deductible Receipt Required: Yes _____ No _____

The followings are some samples for your review. The plaque is 12" x 3" and will be engraved in bronze lettering. Interested parties please contact _____ for more information.

12"

Dedicated to:
 Frank and Jenny Lung in recognition and appreciation
 of their support to the Chinese Community
 With Love from their Family

3"

LOVSE SURVEYS LTD.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS

Sien Lok Society



info@sienlok.org (403) 874-7572

Volunteer/Membership Sign-up (2006 – 2007)

Send form and cheque to:
Sien Lok Society
PO Box 20150
RPO Bow Valley
Calgary, AB T2P 4K3

\$5.00 Annual Single Membership
\$15.00 Annual Family Membership

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Business Tel _____

Home Tel _____

Cell Tel _____

E-mail _____

Method of Payment:

Cash _____ VISA _____ Cheque _____

This sign up is for a single member _____

Family members _____

Additional family members: _____

I would like to volunteer for:

Chinese New Year Banquet _____

Casino _____

Communications _____

Creative Writer _____

Seniors Visitation _____

Social Club _____

Park Beautification _____

Picnic in Our Park _____

Social Club _____

Special Projects _____

Comments: _____
