



# SIEN LOK NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR: SANDY KWONG AND PAMELLA FEARON

**“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

President	Edmond Lee
Past-President	Allen Wong
Vice-President	Pamella Fearon
Treasurer	Ka-Yee Wong
Secretary	Sharon To
Communications	Sandy Kwong
Director	Peter Fung
Director Emeritus	Ray Lee
Fundraising	Philip Slen
Legal Counsel	Allen Wong Kevin Wong
Membership/Volunteers	Wendy Kit Tsui
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

This has been a very busy year for the directors and members of Sien Lok Society. With Alberta's Centennial, came many opportunities for Sien Lok to consider: Chair Emeritus, Raymond Lee, is a Centennial Ambassador and Sien Lok's joint Centennial project with Swan Group is the Builders and Patriots: Portraits of Chinese Canadians.

Check out the report by Robert Jim on the photo exhibit Sien Lok and Swan Group are presenting September 18 through October 2 at the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre. The co-Chairs, Robert Jim and Sharon To, have done yeoman service pulling this event together. We extend special thanks to Richard Li and Swan Group for its support and participation in this exciting venture. It promises to be an event to remember.

A number of Sien Lok members took part in the 2005 Calgary Chinese Orchestra Music Night. It was held on Sunday, August 21, at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Featured at the event was the B.C. Chinese Orchestra—the largest Chinese orchestra in North America.

The event was a special blend of traditional and modern Chinese music.

## AGM and Call for Directors

by Kevin Wong

On **October 26, 2005**, we will be holding another Annual General Meeting (AGM). The meeting will commence at **6:00 pm** at the **Treasures of China Restaurant**. The Treasures of China Restaurant is located at **130 - 3 Avenue SE**.

If you have attended our last few AGM's, you will know that like virtually everything Sien Lok does, our AGM's are actually enjoyable: a rarity among such events.

Expect another evening of enjoyable socializing and another presentation of the Year in Review.

This year marks the end of another two-year Director's term. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in becoming part of the next slate of Directors please let us know by e-mail at: [info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org).

As any Sien Lok Director can tell you, a term as Director is a fantastic and fun chance to engage, promote, and preserve Canadian Chinese culture. Volunteering for Sien Lok provides wonderful networking opportunities with remarkable social and business avenues.

Perhaps, most importantly, Sien Lok also boasts another rarity among non-profit organizations: at our Director's meetings, and at every event we host/organize, we laugh, constantly.

If you think being an attendee at a Sien Lok function is enjoyable, words cannot describe how much fun we have as Directors planning and organizing our events.

We hope to see you at our AGM, and moreover, we hope you'll choose to join us as a Director.

And please, feel free to spread the word about the AGM and our call for Directors.

## Builders and Patriots: Portraits of Chinese Canadians

by Robert Jim

Sien Lok Society and the Swan Group will be holding a world-class historical photo exhibit (free) from September 18 - October 2, 2005 (9:00 A.M.- 9:00 P.M.) at the Chinese Cultural Centre. The exhibit clearly exemplifies the mission of the Society that seeks to "...advance and preserve Chinese Canadian heritage by creating bridges between generations and cultures."

The exhibit consists of two parts. The first, **Reflections: Images of Chinese Women in Canada (A Historical Photo Exhibit)** chronicles the arrival of the first Chinese women pioneers and the subsequent Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923. It demonstrates how these women tested boundaries and created new opportunities for themselves and other immigrants, as entrepreneurs and workers. The patriotic activities of Chinese women, who helped raise millions for the war effort, is also displayed. The exhibit concludes with the close of the war, the repeal of the Exclusion Act and the reunification of families in 1957. The exhibition has traveled to: Macao, Hong Kong, Guanxhou and Chengdu.

The second part, **Southern Alberta Chinese Photo Exhibit—a joint Alberta Centennial Project** features over 40 pictures from the vast local archives collected by Calgarian **Paul Dofoo**. These photos include the original seven Chinese families to move to Calgary and the first Chinese woman to go to university in Alberta.

On **September 21**, Sien Lok Society of Calgary and **Swan Group** hosts a gala reception to open the exhibit. **Her Honour, Mrs. Mary Kwong**, will be cutting the ribbon to open the exhibit. Invitations were mailed to all current and past Sien Lok members, members of the Calgary Chinese Community, politicians, and prominent Calgary business leaders. This is a private reception. Invitation only.

## What's Happening in Sien Lok Park?

by Jason Luan and Thomas To

To build a culturally unique and scenic park such as Sien Lok Park is one thing. To maintain its beauty and sustain its cultural heritage is something else that requires a great deal of time and effort. The Sien Lok Park Committee consists of five board members (Thomas To, Ray Lee, Sandy Kwong, Peter Fung, and Jason Luan) who are working hard on your behalf to keep up the beauty of the Park.

Firstly, some repair work was completed early this spring, fixing up the falling panels supporting the Lion Statues and repaving the pathways adjacent to the Lions.

Secondly, we worked with the City of Calgary, installed eight new low-maintenance benches surrounding the Wall of Names monument and the open circle area.

Thirdly, we are partnering with the City of Calgary, Downtown Beautification Initiative, to install unique Sien Lok banners in our Park. Keep tuned for further development of this initiative.

Fourthly, we are currently looking for contractors to repair and repaint the Gazebo on the south end of the Park. If you have someone to recommend for this piece of work, please contact any of the Park Committee Members or Jason Luan, Phone (403) 268-5054.

Last but not the least, the site west of Sien Lok Park (old Greyhound Parking site) will be redeveloped as a residential development and with a very small commercial/retail component. The developer and their Architect met with some of the Sien Lok Directors to discuss the project and collect our thoughts and concerns on this project.

This development is still in the very preliminary planning stage. They need to have discussions with all the Stakeholders and apply for Development permit and re-designation of land use prior to commence for construction. Realistically they are still at least couple years away before breaking ground.

The Directors or the Park Committee will advise the membership of any new developments and ensure the integrity of the Sien Lok Park is preserved and the new development blends in with our future plans.

## Sien Lok Casino Night

by Philip Slen

Sien Lok casino night (actually two nights) is an important fundraising event for the Society. It is also a lot of fun for our volunteers who enjoy the atmosphere and excitement that is a casino. It is held once every 18 months. This year Sien Lok will hold its sixth fundraising casino on Friday, November 25, and Saturday, November 26, 2005.

If you are interested in helping out, call either Philip Slen @ 708-8647 ([pslen@sienlok.org](mailto:pslen@sienlok.org)), or Annie Louis @ 269-2279.

## Chinese New Year Banquet

by Cori Louis-Smith

Well, it is that time of year again. Planning is underway to bring in the **Year of the Dog** on **Saturday, February 11, 2006**. If you are interested in assisting with the organization, please do not hesitate to join the committee by contacting Cori Louis-Smith @ 660-6653.

If you have any suggestions for entertainment or silent auction items, please do not hesitate to come forward with your ideas. We like this to be a party for everyone to remember!

## Volunteer Appreciation/Past Members Reunion

by Wendy Tsui

The weather was beautiful on that picturesque Sunday morning at the ATCO Centre (Canada Olympic Park) as members/volunteers old and new come together to enjoy a feast of a brunch with the park as a backdrop.

The tables were decorated with beautiful centerpieces and there was soft music playing over the speakers. The buffet had an array of display that was a feast to the eyes as well as to the stomach. We had roast beef, ham, eggs, pancake, fruit platters, cold cuts, potatoes, vegetables and last but not least the “dessert”. That was the best part – the dessert. There must have been at least 10 or 15 varieties. They actually have an in-house pastry chef who whips up these delicacies.

We decided to spoil our members/volunteers by obtaining over 40 door prizes. A lot of our guests did not leave empty handed – thanks to our organizing committee, Lisa Woo, Thomas & Sharon To, and Wendy Tsui.

The highlight of the Sunday brunch came after the meal. We had a glimpse of the Digitization project in action. There was a short video of the interview with Paul Dofoo. The film was so captivating; you can hear a pin drop while it was playing.

All in all, it was fun and rewarding to those who participated. Last year, the event was at the zoo, so next year we will need to top all that. Remember to put this on your next year’s calendar.

Once again, thank you to all the volunteers who come out to help us make our events successful.

## Senior’s Visitation

by Cori Louis-Smith and Sharon To

Sien Lok’s annual visit to seniors took place on **Sunday, June 26, 2005.**

To demonstrate the value of the visits, following is the text of a note received from a senior at a nursing home.

“Dear Members of the Sien Lok Society of Calgary,

Just a little note to thank you so very much for the delicious plate of cookies and fruit. Although I am not of Chinese ancestry, I guess I am the closest person at Carewest Royal Park because I am of Japanese ancestry. It is very thoughtful and kind of you to remember people who are in nursing homes. Two or three years ago a couple of members from your society visited me and as I did not know your address or phone I was unable to write to thank you. At this time I would like to say a “double thank you” for the “goodies”.

Sincerely,

**Mary Minamide**

Notes like this encourage the volunteers to come back every year to help. Thank you to all the volunteers. You have made a difference.

## Sien Lok Society Membership Benefits

by Wendy Tsui

Why join the Sien Lok Society? Well, our members tend to be very loyal. We’ve had the same members now year after year and still growing. New members feel welcomed and make friends during our social functions and so they come back year after year. It’s a tradition like Christmas gatherings. You come to expect to see your friends at these Sien Lok functions

and to have fun. The membership is just a token (\$5). Once you get your name on the newsletter, you get to be informed of the upcoming social events.

There's also a sense of pride that you're contributing back to the community by being part of a non-profit organization that's trying to make a difference. To be involved in projects like the Sien Lok Park, the digitization project, our picnics, or the annual Chinese Banquet.

It gets even better if you sign up with your friends or family members. We can use some help at the upcoming casino and Chinese Banquet. Give us a call at 874-7572 or email us at [info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org)

## 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](mailto:info@sienlok.org)  
Website: [www.sienlok.org](http://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.

# Sien Lok Society



[info@sienlok.org](mailto:info@sienlok.org) (403) 874-7572

*Volunteer/Membership Sign-up (2005 – 2006)*

*\$25.00 Includes AGM and one membership*

*\$ 5.00 Single Membership Only*

*\$15.00 Family Membership*

## Annual General Meeting

October 26, 2005

Treasures of China Restaurant

130 – 3 Avenue SE

Time: 6:00 p.m.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque \_\_\_\_\_

This sign-up is for a single member \_\_\_\_\_

Family members \_\_\_\_\_

Additional family members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 : \_\_\_\_\_  
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