CBA NEWS
Dec 2008

Year of the Rat

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

CBA NEWS

Justice has finally run its course

SYSBS dissolution and return of assets to the Chinese community through CBA

BY DAVID CHANG

Whereas the Rules of the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society (SYSBS) spoke of burial benefits for its members and families, and whereas many past members and founding members were buried at the Chinese Cemetery, the Society was able to make four million (Ja) dollars available to the Restoration of the Chinese Cemetery at a time when funding was needed the most. One million dollars was also transferred towards the repairs and maintenance of the Chinese Home for The Aged.

On September 30, 2008, our mission to recover the assets of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society has reached its final chapter.

At the Special General Meeting of members held at the CBA Center, all members present voted to voluntarily wind up the Society and transfer all its assets to the Chinese Benevolent Association to be used for its many projects.

We must extend our sincere gratitude to members who readily joined in to resuscitate the Society in order to make it possible for us to return the control of the assets of the Society to the Chinese Community through CBA.

Special thanks also go to the many Jamaican Chinese abroad who assisted in ways they could to make this noble endeavor possible.

18 Trinidad Terrace

To the many persons who have worked hard in the past trying do the then impossible, we owe the success of this mission to them for their keeping the hope alive!

All that is left now is for the SYSBY Management Committee to finalize the transfer of the property at 18 Trinidad Terrace to CBA and close its book to the relief of many of us in the Chinese community, who for many years had expressed deep concern about the possibility of what we have just accomplished.

A final account of The Society will be made available when it is ready.

Although there are still several unanswered questions, we rest at this point and hope they will be solved from a different approach.

Justice has finally run its course!

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Celebrate the light of love this Christmas

From the Editor

Phyllis Kong, Editor

Another year is passing already and here we are at the end of our term in office December 2008. CBA President Wilson Look Kin gives a full report of activities and highlights our achievements during 2008.

Of course, we could not overlook the achievements of individuals from our community, particularly as they have been recognized nationally and internationally this year for their contribution to the greater good, as a result of dedication and hard work in their respective fields (see page 4). These attributes, we acknowledge, characterize our Hakka people and we are proud of that.

A new team of officers for 2009 has been elected to serve you in the coming year. We welcome new CBA officers Natalie Shim, Greg Hugh Sam, Clarence Chin Fatt, Melvin Chin, Willie Chong, Wayne Chang, and Marcia Harford. We thank those retiring from office for their contribution this past year: Ventry Foo, Maisie Lau, Patrick Chin, David Chuck, Laura Chang, Paula Lee, David Chang. We expect, however, they will continue to serve in other ways. The full 2009 team, headed by re-elected President Wilson Look Kin, is listed below.

Christmas Gifts

Christmas is a time for giving and the earthly gifts we receive might bring value for what they're worth. The gifts of real value and worth, though, are the spiritual gifts we receive, known as the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, and are not altogether dissimilar to Chinese philosophy: ***Wisdom*** perfects speculative reason in judging truth; ***Knowledge*** perfects practical reason in judging truth; ***Understanding*** or common sense perfects speculative reason in apprehension of truth; ***Judgement*** or counsel perfects practical reason in apprehension of truth and allows prudent response in research of reason; ***Courage*** or fortitude allows firmness of mind in doing good and in enduring evil; ***Piety*** is to pay worship and duty to God as our father; ***Wonder in Awe*** or Fear of the Lord is explained as filial fear of offending one's father vs. servile fear of punishment, knowing God is all-powerful.

The first four of these gifts direct the intellect, while the latter three direct the will towards God as our father.

May you be blessed with these invaluable spiritual gifts this Christmas.

CBA Officers 2009 elected at AGM

Remember to pay your dues
Call CBA 977-3059 for info

At our Annual General Meeting held Sunday, 26th October 2008, at the CBA Centre, Wilson Look Kin was unanimously returned as President of the Chinese Benevolent Association. He will serve the final of three consecutive years in office, which is allowed under the constitution.

Election proceedings were conducted by Johnny Chuck, Chairman, and recorded by Marcia Harford, Recording Secretary. David Chang served as Returning Officer with Scrutineers Vincent J. Chang, Cynthia Lyew and Doreen Chin.

The full slate of officers elected to serve the one-year term for 2009 is as follows:

President:	Wilson Look Kin
Vice President:	Neil Yap Sam
Hon. Secretary:	Natalie Shim
Treasurer:	Cynthia Lyew

Nine Other Committee Members:
Greg Hugh Sam
Sharon Wan
Lloyd Hoo
Karen Lee
Phyllis Kong
Sandy Chung
Clarence Chin Fatt
Willie Chong
Eldores Yap

Reserve Members:
Melvin Chin
Jimmy Lowe

Supervisory Board:
Robert Lee
Vincent J. Chang
Johnny Chuck
Marcia Harford
Tommy Lyew

Reserve Supervisors:
Wayne Chang
Dalton Yap
Exley (Busta) Ho

The new team will be sworn in early January 2009 when it will immediately commence its term in office.

Commemorative hand-over of assets of SYSBS by trustee Jimmy Lowe to CBA President Wilson Look Kin. Announcement of the winding up of Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society and return of assets to the Chinese community was made at the Annual General Meeting of the CBA on October 26, 2008.

The President's Report 2008

It is my duty and honour to present to you the President's Report of the Chinese Benevolent Association for the period November 1, 2007 to October 30, 2008.

Your elected Committee of Management has followed your mandate of maintaining, nurturing and enhancing those aspects of our culture which have been bequeathed to us by our forefathers from our ancestral homeland and to better serve the interests of the Chinese community and the wider community through our programmes of Outreach.

CBA Award: On November 25, 2007, we conferred the CBA Lifetime Achievement Award to our member Professor Abraham Anthony Chen in recognition of his lead membership of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) team, who shared in the award of the prestigious Nobel Prize for Peace 2007. Anthony has recently received Jamaica's highest civilian honour – The Order of Merit – of which there can be only 25 living awardees.

Chinese Language Instruction: Until the departure of our Mandarin teacher Qi Yu in July, we have continued our programme of Mandarin instruction for members' children and adults, serving both our membership and the wider community.

Our executive member Maisie Lau has now relocated to Hong Kong and volunteer Mary Chen See, to Canada. We owe them our particular gratitude for their devoted duty to the guiding and promoting of our culture amongst our young children. We will appreciate Mary's continued visits to assist us in culture.

Downtown Business Community: We continue to host meetings to facilitate greater interaction with Governmental Authorities in the areas of crime prevention, public health, labour laws and social issues.

In response to the wishes of the resident Chinese community, we have spearheaded efforts to provide some measure of relief to our kindred folk in China at the time of disastrous flooding in China during Chinese New Year, by raising $3.5M and, again, later in the year when we raised $5.5M for the Great Earthquake victims. These gestures of support were particularly well received by China and have resulted in even greater donations and assistance to the wider Jamaican national community.

CBA Outreach: In the wider community, CBA has donated $300,000 to the Jamona Basic School, which adjoins the Chinese Cemetery, and $250,000 to the Jamaica Red Cross to assist in relieving the plight of those who suffered from tropical storm Gustav.

Chinese Home for the Aged: We have undertaken the refurbishing of the home to create a more 'homely' environment having now decided that there will be no relocation to Russell Heights at this time.

The above pictures show scenes at the AGM held October 26 at CBA Centre

We regret to advise that two of our residents have passed away (Chin Yuen Fatt died October 14, 2008 and Mr. Chin died August 25, 2008), leaving only one resident (Joe Tai) who is not in the best of health. Two applicants are expected to be admitted in the home shortly.

We are indebted to executive member Lloyd Hoo for his services at the home, and to the Chinese business community for their contributions of meals and food supplies.

(Continued on page 7)

Kudos to our high achievers 2008

National Honours

In a colourful ceremony at the National Indoors Sports Centre in Kingston on Heroes Day, October 20, 2008, the Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Kenneth Hall, presented the annual Jamaica National Honours and Awards to selected citizens for their achievements and dedicated service to Jamaica.

Leading the list of honourees was Nobel laureate and climatologist, Professor Abraham Anthony Chen, who was conferred with the Order of Merit (OM) for his contribution in the field of climatology and geology. The Order of Merit is the nation's third highest honour and is not awarded to more than two persons in any one year. Anthony was one of two such persons honoured this year.

Michael Lee Chin

Of the six recipients of the Order of Jamaica (OJ), banker Michael Lee Chin was recognized for outstanding service to business and philanthropy; and the Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP, for outstanding service to religion and the care of the poor. The Order of Jamaica is the fourth highest national honour.

In a separate ceremony on October 26, upon his return to Jamaica just a few days after Heroes Day, bandleader Byron Lee was conferred with the Order of Jamaica by the Governor General. In attendance at this special ceremony were Prime Minister Bruce Golding, Minister of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports Olivia Grange and close family and friends. Sadly, Byron Lee passed away on November 4, 2008.

STGC Hall of Fame

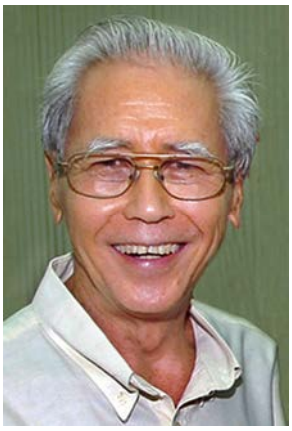
During the 1940-60 era, a large number of Chinese boys from our community were educated at St. George's College. They represented 43% of the student body in 1950. At St. George's, they received a strong academic foundation particularly in the science subjects, which prepared them to do well in exams. A large percentage of the students who excelled in the Cambridge exams were our Chinese boys. This allowed many of our boys to continue higher learning at the university level and to enter such professions as engineering and medicine.

In 2000, St. George's College celebrated its 150th anniversary and at an event to mark the occasion, the STGC Hall of Fame was inaugurated. Among those inducted that first year were two of our national honourees. They are Byron Lee (Class of 1952) and the Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP, (Class of 1956). Another inductee in 2000 was Dr. Herbert Ho Ping Kong (Class of 1956)—a high achiever also recognized.

Professor Anthony Chen

This year, one of our other national honourees was also recognized by his alma mater St. George's College. He is Professor Anthony Chen (Class of 1956) who was inducted in the STGC Hall of Fame 2008 on October 18.

Professor Anthony Chen is internationally recognized and an outstanding



Professor Anthony Chen

contributor to Science. As former Head of the Climate Studies Group in the Department of Physics, UWI Mona Campus, and a member of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared in the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, Professor Chen's contributions to energy and climate change issues in the Caribbean have earned him the accolades of his peers and distinguished him as a **Georgian Man of Science**.

Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP

For service to Religion and Social Services, the Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP (Class of 1957) was inducted in the STGC Hall of Fame 2000. He is Superior General of the religious congregation Missionaries of the Poor, which he founded in 1981. Fr. Ho Lung actively ministers to the poor through the homes run by his religious order. He is a former English teacher at St. George's College and the University of the West Indies. The excellent musical productions of "Fr. Ho Lung and Friends" attract large audiences to each performance. The current production is "Yes!"—a musical journey of faith and love in the story of one man's battle for the soul of Jamaica.

AFJ 2008 International Humanitarian Award

This year, the American Friends of

Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ho Lung, MOP

Jamaica (AFJ) honoured Fr Ho Lung with the AFJ 2008 International Humanitarian of the Year Award at its fourth annual Miami Gala on May 10, 2008, at the Ritz Carlton in Coconut Grove, Miami. The AFJ is a non-profit charity organization with service and philanthropy at the core of its mission. Past AFJ honourees include former United States president Ronald Reagan, music entrepreneur Chris Blackwell, American fashion icon Ralph Lauren and his wife Ricky, Sandals' founder Gordon 'Butch' Stewart, and Jamaican billionaire and philanthropist Michael Lee Chin. AFJ's current president is Sue Cobb, former United States ambassador to Jamaica.

Dr Herbert Ho Ping Kong

For service to Science, Medicine and Education, Dr Herbert (Herbie) Ho Ping Kong (Class of 1956) was inducted in the STGC Hall of Fame 2000. Chief of Medicine at Toronto Western Hospital then, Dr. Ho Ping Kong has received several major awards as a teacher in internal medicine, earning the designation of "Most Recognized Teacher in Canada" within the medical field.

In congratulating Dr. Ho Ping Kong, one of the STGC old boys has said that it was because of people like Herbie, he was proud to be a "Georgian".

ACPJ 2008 Recognition

This year, honoured for lifelong service and care for the less fortunate, the Association of Consultant Physicians of Jamaica (ACPJ) recognized the invaluable contribution of Dr. Herbert Ho Ping Kong at their 6th annual banquet held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on September 13, 2008.

Dr. Ho Ping Kong is presently senior consulting physician at the University Health Network (Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto General Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital) and professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

A 1965 graduate of the University of the West Indies, Professor Ho Ping Kong migrated to Canada in the early 1970's and joined McGill University as an assistant professor of Clinical Studies. After 10 years in Montreal, he was designated a lifetime honorary consultant physician at the Royal Victoria Hospital, for his contributions at McGill.

Some of Dr. Ho Ping Kong's core work included the advancement of research in sickle cell anaemia, renal and heart failure, and other aspects of internal medicine. His most recent contributions have been in the teaching, practice and leadership of medicine.

"You Make Us Proud"

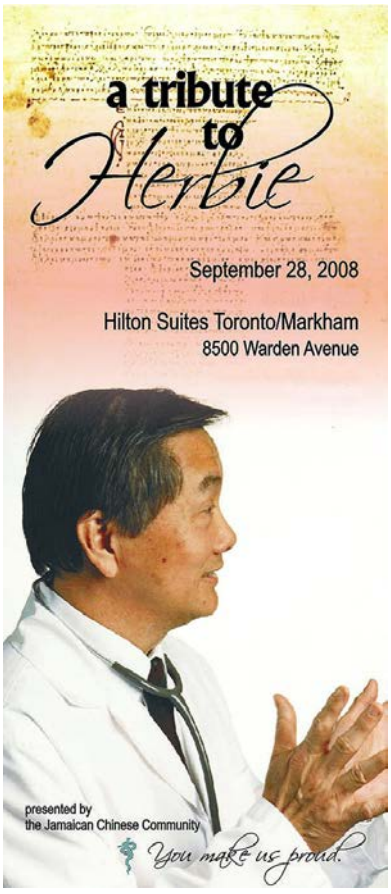
In addition, the Jamaican Chinese community in Toronto recently paid tribute to Herbie at a luncheon in his honour on September 28, 2008, at the Hilton Suites Toronto in Markham.

The tribute read in part: Dr. Herbert Ho Ping Kong is a truly "renaissance man" who has earned the distinction of being a Canadian "National Treasure". No task is ever too small. He walks with great humility and possesses a calm and quiet demeanour with a genuine care for everyone in his community and the greater communities. In his role as teacher and mentor, he has been and continues to be an exemplary role model to hundreds of

people in the field of medicine, many of whom have gone on to become top of their field around the world. He continues also to be of great service to individuals and groups within the Jamaican Chinese community—never tiring of tending the sick from all walks of life and from near and far.

Dr. Herbert Ho Ping Kong is the first recipient (2004) of the Gladstone and Maisie Chang Endowed Chair, in the Teaching of Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto and the University Health Network.

In honouring another great person from the community in Dr Herbert Ho Ping Kong, the Jamaican Chinese community in Toronto granted him the **"You Make Us Proud**" recognition.



The auspicious animals

Dragons have been associated with Chinese superstitions for thousands of years. In Chinese culture, the dragon is a divine being, capable of bestowing happiness and good fortune, not a fire-breathing monster. Phoenixes are auspicious and generally represent the female gender. Together, they make a perfect couple in Feng Shui as they complement each other in creating yin-yang balance. This celestial couple is the symbol of everlasting love and marital happiness. The Dragon when placed together with the Phoenix not only strengthens relationships. It can even relight the fires of a kindling relationship with the fiery energy of the Phoenix.

Aside from those mentioned above, other animals are auspicious too. Lions are fierce and powerful – and therefore great animals to have as stone statues guarding your gate. Tortoises are revered for their longevity, something which cranes can also represent, and tigers are symbols of strength and health.`

Buddha's thoughts

- Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue.

- On life's journey, faith is nourishment, virtuous deeds are a shelter, wisdom is the light by day and right mindfulness is the protection by night. If a man lives a pure life, nothing can destroy him.

龙 The Dragon passes on

Popularly known as "the Dragon", Byron Lee of Byron Lee & the Dragonaires fame passed away on November 4, 2008, after a valiant battle with cancer that was diagnosed two years ago.

According to Prime Minister Bruce Golding, "Jamaica, and indeed the world, has lost another great music pioneer with the passing of Byron Lee, one of the greatest band leaders ever to grace the entertainment stages of the world".

For more than 50 years, Byron Lee & the Dragonaires have provided 'big band' musical entertainment at home and abroad with the popular sounds of Jamaican ska, rocksteady, reggae, soca and other musical genre.

An STGC old boy of the 1950's, Byron Lee unwittingly started his musical career at football victory celebrations with his schoolmates in makeshift fashion using a guitar, pots and pans, and whatever made musical noise. The rest is history as regards his career in music.

Awards

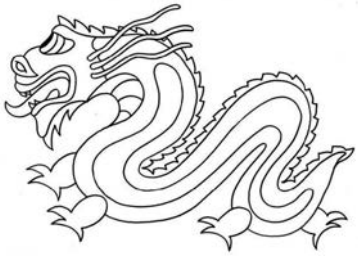
At the St. George's College 150th anniversary celebration banquet on September 2, 2000 at King's House, Byron Lee (Class of 1952) was inducted in the "Hall of Fame" during its inaugural ceremony, for outstanding achievement in the field of the Arts. As a pioneer in the development of Jamaican popular music and in playing it on the world stage, Byron Lee brought recognition to his country and made his alma mater proud.

Byron Lee has also been bestowed with national honours by the Government of Jamaica, in recognition for his contribution to the fields of music and entertainment both locally and internationally. He was awarded the Order of Distinction in 1982, upgraded to Commander level on October 15, 2007, and the Order of Jamaica on October 26, 2008.

In addition, as we have previously reported, Byron Lee was accorded the Hakka Achievement Award 2008 in a ceremony at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto in June of this year, at the culmination of the Roundhouse Reunion 2008 (Toronto Hakka Conference).

Perhaps Byron Lee's greatest achievement has been to stage the well organized annual Jamaica Carnival road march for the public, more than 10 years ago. The event has brought thousands of people together from uptown, downtown and from all walks of life, in a camaraderie of carnival spirit, dancing to the joyful noise of soca music in the streets of Kingston without fear. There were no reports of criminal activities during the event. Amazing as that has been, even to Byron Lee himself, the overwhelming positive response and support of the Jamaican people for the "Dragon's" successful efforts at national unity must have been an awesome experience and the most satisfying award.

May his soul rest in peace.



CBA President Wilson Look Kin

President's Report 2008

(Continued from page 3)

Sports: Robert Lee has completed 10 years of organizing and staging of successful CBA Badminton tournaments during the summer. There is need for greater youth membership and participation in the sport.

CBA Gym: This continues to be open to members only and has performed satisfactorily but there is need for greater enrolment of members to enable the gym to become at least financially self-sufficient.

Chinese Cemetery: It is a traditional Chinese belief that one's good fortune is related to the happiness of one's ancestral spirits, and the Ching Ming (Gah San) festival continues to be faithfully observed. This year we were pleased to welcome members of the Chinese Embassy to CBA Gah San.

The completion of the perimeter and front walls and of the entranceway marks the end of Phase 2 of the Restoration project. This was done at a cost of $16M and was funded from donations of CBA and its members in their individual or corporate capacity. Robert Lee is to be commended for his dedication to completing this project.

Temple Restoration at 127 Barry Street: The roofing and ancillary structures have been replaced at a cost of $2.7M, and restoration of the altar has begun.

Kuan Kung Altar: The Kuan Kung altar has now been installed in the north east section of the CBA Centre, in recognition of the indigenous Chinese religion of 2000 years and this great warrior who has been deified as the god of defence and protection as well as good fortune.

Spring Festival: We staged an extremely successful Spring Festival garden party in celebration of the Year of the Rat, for which Karen Hugh Sam Lee and her entire team are highly commended.

China National Day: We celebrated the 59th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China with a garden party on October 5, 2008. The very heavy rains on that day were, however, a dampener. We recognize the contribution of Lesa Hugh Sam in helping to organize this event.

Saturday Night Social: We are indebted to Sharon Wan for cheerfully hosting all of our Saturday night socials for members this year.

Information & Communication: We also thank Phyllis Kong and David Chang for keeping us informed by maintaining our newsletters and yearbook.

CBA Properties – Heritage Issues:

39 Russell Heights: In November 2007, we resolved the long standing issue of legal ownership through the Registrar of Lands' issuance of the title to the Chinese Benevolent Association.

Boundbrook, Port Antonio: Through the efforts of PAAC founding member Mr. Jimmy Lowe, we are in the last stages of finalizing the gifting of this property from the founding members of the Port Antonio Athletic Club to the CBA.

1 North Street – CBA Public Clinic and Chinese Home for the Aged: Very active legal steps are being taken to effect the transfer of this property to the CBA. As all the trustees in whose names the property is held have been dead for many years, this transfer is expected to be problematic.

122 Barry Street: After three years of consideration of application, approved plans for the construction of a three-unit commercial building were received this year, as well as the Order for Demolition of the existing derelict structure.

Financial feasibility has been conducted but the present Executive Committee holds the view that CBA should not incur debt to construct the commercial building. The alternative to construct and operate a car park for 10 vehicles at a cost exceeding $1.5M was deemed not attractive.

18 Trinidad Terrace: The committed action of 25 members of the CBA to resuscitate the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society and to file a caveat forbidding the transfer of the purportedly donated assets of and belonging to the Chinese community in Jamaica has now been determined irrevocably.

Having achieved its mission, the Sun Yat Sen Benevolent Society was voluntarily dissolved by special resolution and assets valued at $80M are now being returned to the Chinese community through the Chinese Benevolent Association.

Jamaica China Friendship Assoc: To foster closer understanding with other relevant associations, the President addressed the Jamaica China Friendship Association at their meeting on September 27, 2008 at Stella Maris. The subject was "From Humiliation to Transformation" — which traced China's journey from the humiliation of the years of the opium wars, its impoverishment, reformation and current economic transformation during the period 1840-1990.

My term of office for 2008 now closes and I wish to express my sincerest thanks to all members of the Committee of Management and Supervisors, and Administration Manager Doreen Chin for their unstinting support together with the wider membership who have made this possible.

- Wilson Look Kin, President

China National Day

Though played out in a low-key way this year, the traditional CBA garden party celebration of China National Day—the 59th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China—was held at the CBA Centre on October 5, 2008.

Heavy rains in the afternoon literally put a damper on things and deterred many of our loyal friends from attending the event,

But the show must go on—and the variety concert organized by Lesa Hugh provided entertainment for those in attendance. As has been customary, the show was opened with the national anthems of Jamaica and China, sung by the CBA Children Choir in English and Mandarin, respectively.

A lovely violin recital by Vivien Huang (age 10 years), Susan Huang (age 8 years), and Christine Lee Fatt (age 10 years) was delightful. They played a famous Chinese piece and a medley of "Andantino", "Lightly Row" and "Allegro". A little older Simonne McFarlane (age 13 years) performed a dance "Sailor Girl" and two songs "Where the Boys are" and "L.O.V.E." This young lass displayed much potential for greater things in her executions.

A bamboo dance called "Tinikiling" was performed by our Philippino friends, which revealed the presence of another ethnic minority group in Jamaica that we don't hear about.

Highlight for the evening's entertainment show was the performance by Wing Lung Kung Fu Association, whose thrilling displays excited the audience.

The show was hosted by Vincent J. Chang and Mary Chen See.

Authentic Chinese cuisine was served at dinner-time, of course.

Our VIP guests included Chinese Embassy Charge d'Affairs, Mr. Liu Kan, who represented the Ambassador, and the Hon. Delroy Chuck, Speaker of the House in the Government of Jamaica.

Independence Float Parade

CBA executive members Neil Yap Sam and Karen Lee participated in the float "Ancestral Passion", as part of the Jamaica Independence float parade celebrations on August 6, 2008. They represented our Chinese ethnic group in Jamaica, in keeping with the "Out of Many One People" motto for Jamaica.

A possible "Miss CBA" contestant??
aka "Miss Saturday Night"

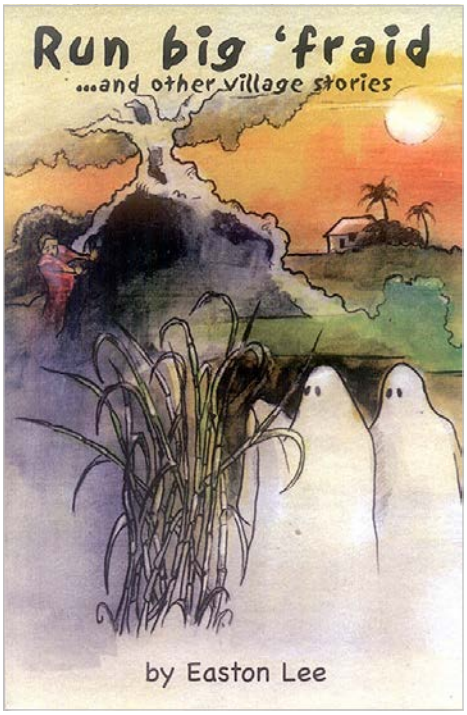
CBA Outreach

Recently, the CBA has reached out to the wider community in making charitable donations to those in need, under our CBA Outreach Programme.

Photo to the left shows Jamaica Red Cross representative Miss Hope Munroe receiving CBA donation of $250,000 from Vice President Robert Lee, towards the hurricane Gustav relief fund for victims of disaster.

Photo to the left, bottom shows Monsignor Richard Albert, founder of the St. Patrick's Foundation—a social services network in Jamaica—receiving boxes of clothing for the needy from CBA Vice President Robert Lee. Through a CCA-CBA joint effort, these items were donated by the Caribbean Chinese Association of Toronto, whose membership includes Jamaican Chinese, for distribution in Jamaica.

Easton Lee's new book



The book is available at Kingston Bookshop

This collection of short stories, like my first two books of poems, are tales and lore from my childhood. They are all true, none is invented but names have been changed for obvious reasons. This time they are mostly in prose and the reported speech in the vernacular.

Growing up in a grocery shop in a rural Jamaican village, you could not escape hearing the stories, the gossip and the news you did. You heard "the good, the bad and the indifferent".

Day after day, everyday, every hour of the day there was someone at the counter relating the happenings, sometimes in the most graphic and explicit detail, about everybody and anybody. Much private and confidential information was spoken as these tales were exchanged. One of the most amusing and usual prefaces to a piece of gossip was, "No say a me say, but meck mi tell you 'ow it go".

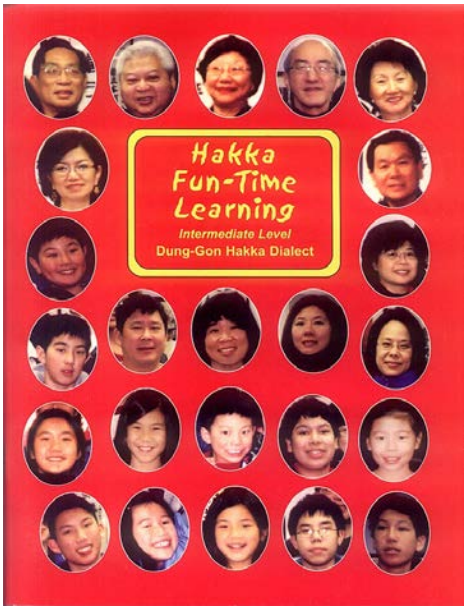
So these stories are about rural people as they lived their lives in a remote Jamaican setting. Some are sad and may perhaps evoke a tear; others amusing, making you laugh; one or two are a little risqué; still others might make you think. Many have much to teach us about ourselves and our people in those times of our grand and great grandparents, how they survived at a time when there were none of the modern amenities and conveniences we now take for granted. You may learn something of our ancestral lore and ancient wisdom, much of which we have lost or discarded or forgotten in our embracing of alien cultures. These are certainly glimpses of what life was like for our people not so long ago.

It is my hope that you enjoy reading these stories as much as I enjoyed recalling them.

- Easton Lee

TTA publishes Hakka Learning Books

Were you ever asked the question, *"Ngee siang mak-gai?"* And were you able to reply? Would you like to be able to reply with confidence, *"Ngai siang…(family name)?"*



Have you ever wanted to converse with your elders and wished you could? Where and how would you begin to learn the Hakka dialect of your ancestors?

It is with these questions in mind that the Hakka Fun-Time Learning Programme was developed at the Tsung Tsin Association of Ontario (TTA). And to this date, continues as Hakka Conversational Classes for its members and friends.

To further ensure and enhance the success of this programme, organized by the Cultural & Social Committee, three books have been published to share this language of some of the over 65 million Hakkas scattered all over the world.

The **Hakka Fun-Time Learning for Grand-Kidz** books and the **Hakka Fun-Time Learning—Beginner Level** books are complemented with audio recordings on cassette tapes and compact discs. Many thanks to Baslin Chong and Cecil Hugh Sam for volunteering their technical services to produce copies of these cassette tapes and C.D.'s.

The **Hakka Fun-Time Learning—Intermediate Level** books cover the entire curriculum to date in English with Hakka pronunciations and Chinese characters.

All three books include Hakka nursery rhymes and poetry which many Poh-Pohs have sang, recited and taught to many grand-children over the past generations.

As well, all three publications are dedicated to all the past students and their parents/grandparents who recognized the need to learn the Chinese dialect of their forefathers. Special thanks to the Hakka teachers Ivy Williams, Basil Lee and Rudy Chen for their dedication, patience and desire to perpetuate the indomitable Hakka spirit and culture through its language.

These valuable publications would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Basil Lee, Rudy Chen, Patrick Lee, Karen Ho Tom, Denise Yap Sam, and myself who all

The Year of the Ox 2009 will mark 125 years since the third arrival of indentured Chinese labourers in Jamaica on July 12, 1884, aboard the German steamer "Prinz Alexander". The total of 696 Hakka persons landed were, for the most part, from the three counties of Dung Guan (Dongguan City), Bao On (Bao'an District in Shenzhen City), and Fui Young (Fuyong Town in Bao'an District of Shenzhen City) in Guangdong Province of southern China.

share the common belief that "to lose one's language is to lose one's culture and identity".

Have a fun-time learning and speaking while appreciating one of the oldest Chinese dialects!

- Carol M. Wong, Chairman,
TTA Cultural & Social Committee

***Note**:* These Hakka Learning books were launched at the 2008 Toronto Hakka Conference held at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, Scarborough, in the summer. They are of our Dung-Gon Hakka dialect and it is believed they are the only publications of this kind outside of China.

The books are ridiculously priced low for wider distribution because the TTA's focus is to keep our language alive. The Chinese elders are giving them as Christmas gifts to their younger generation.

In Jamaica, the books and audio recordings are available at the CBA Centre. We urge members to share in the desire to keep our Hakka language and culture alive by the use of these books.

CBA FITNESS CENTRE

CBA Centre, 176 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6
Tel: 977-6053, 977-3059

GYM MEMBERSHIP RATES:

Annual	$18,000.00
6 Months	$10,000.00
3 Months	$ 6,000.00
1 Month	$ 2,500.00
Daily	$ 300.00

*Students 10% discount off the regular rate
(Parents of students under 18 years should be paid-up members of CBA).
Guest accompanied by a Gym member $400.00 per visit
(Maximum 4 visits per month)

GYM OPENING HOURS
Mondays - Fridays:
6:00 am - 9:00 pm.
Saturdays:
8:00 am. - 3:30 pm.
Sundays: CLOSED

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Gym Membership is open to all paid-up members of the Chinese Benevolent Association, subject to verification by the Centre Manager.
- Gym fees are payable promptly on the due dates prior to commencing workout, unless otherwise specified. If the Gym membership overlaps February, the member is required to pay the CBA annual membership fees in advance.
- NO REFUND will be issued to members once you have started using the facilities.
- Gym fees are not transferable.
- Any member requesting an upgrade on their membership must do so within 2 weeks of joining the Gym.
- Students should be between 16 - 21 years. Students 18 years & over must be paid-up members of the CBA.
- Additional information in POLICIES & GUIDELINES for the CBA Fitness Centre. *(See over)*

CBA Annual Yearbook 2009

Our indefatigable David Chang will once again undertake the huge task of literally putting together the CBA Annual Yearbook for 2009. The publication will be released at the CBA spring festival garden party celebration of Chinese New Year—the Year of the Ox—on Sunday, February 1, 2009, at CBA Centre.

We ask advertisers for their continuing support of the CBA in keeping alive our cultural heritage through various social and cultural activities as well as the maintenance of benevolent projects long established by generations before us for the benefit of our community, while also sharing with the wider community for the greater good.

Please contact CBA 977-3059 or David Chang 906-7011-3 to place your ads in the upcoming CBA Yearbook 2009, and to sponsor the continuity of the CBA while promoting your goods and services.

CBA NEWS

CHINESE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

176 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6, Jamaica, W.I.

Phone: (876) 977-3059, 977-6053
Fax: (876) 977-4364

Email:
chinesebenevolentassociation
jamaica@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

CBA Children Christmas Party

Sunday December 14

The CBA Children Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the CBA Centre.

Come and see Santa Claus. There'll be lots of fun with games, prizes and surprises to amuse our younger ones.

Contact Lesa Hugh Sam or Natalie Shim at CBA 977-3059 for further info.

The Chinese Cemetery in Kingston

CBA Spring Festival—February 1, 2009

The Chinese Benevolent Association invites you to participate in its Annual Spring Festival Garden Party on Sunday, February 1, 2009, in celebration of the Chinese New Year—the Year of the Ox—at the CBA Centre, 176 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6.

Although the Chinese New Year festivities traditionally encompass a marathon 15 days of feasting, visiting relatives and ancestors, ritual provisions and lavish celebrations, CBA condenses this experience into an evening of cultural extravaganza.

In sharing our culture, we will also celebrate the 125th anniversary of the third arrival of Hakka Chinese in 1884 from the Guangdong Province of southern China.

Come and enjoy our Cultural Pageant. We have a line-up of the most attractive, beautiful and congenial, interesting and intelligent contestants. Choose your favourite contestant and cheer her on as she covets the crown of "Miss CBA 2009".

No Chinese New Year celebration would be complete without the traditional Lion Dance, which will be performed by the Wing Lung Kung Fu Association.

Don't miss the cakes and other items on sale. Remember, sweets bring the promise of a sweet year. Indulge yourself at the range of booths, reminiscent of a real New Year's market, and try your luck at winning the gate prize of a trip for two to any current North American or Caribbean destination, except Los Angeles and Toronto, courtesy of Air Jamaica.

Gates open at 3 p.m. See you there!

CBA Gah San
Sunday April 5, 2009
The Chinese Cemetery
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.

Security will be provided