

ANNUAL REPORT (1999-2000)

Time flies. It has been another year and it gives me great pleasure to report what we have done in the course of this year as follows.

Alumni Day at Valleywood Club - June 12, 1999

We have managed to secure free trial membership for the benefit of members for the month of June 1999. An Alumni Day was organized for members to try out the facilities and receive briefing from the management of the Club. A tennis coach was arranged to give free lessons. Over 30 members attended on that day. They tried out the gym facilities, tennis courts and swimming pool. It was a sunny and bright day and every one had a good work-out.

Annual General Meeting - June 26, 1999

The function took place on the campus of the University of Toronto. It started off with a campus tour.

After that, the Annual General Meeting was convened and was well attended by members. The Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement was reviewed and adopted. The new committee or board of directors was duly elected. We welcome the addition of 3 new directors namely Dr. John Chan (medicine), Mr. John Liu (social sciences) and Mr. Eddie Cheung (arts).

The occasion finished off with a buffet at Hart House and address from Professor Ian Orchard, Vice-Provost, Students who enlightened the congregation on, amongst other things, the admission policy and requirements of University of Toronto.

Algonquin Wilderness Adventure - July 17 & 18, 1999

The adventure took place at the legendary Algonquin Park where we were close to nature and its wildlife. We have received an unexpected and overwhelming response to the event. There were altogether 46 persons participating.

It was a once in a life time experience for some. The accommodation was tents and sleeping bags. We enjoyed good weather although earlier weather forecasts reported otherwise with a thunder storm brewing in the Greater Toronto Area. For us, it was mostly sunny with occasional overcast.

We started off with a packed lunch. Then the party was split into two groups. One group went canoeing while the other enjoyed a hike through the wilderness. It was an exciting experience for many. We were provided with a war canoe used by the first nation natives. We paddled from one end of the lake to the other and this demanded team work and efforts and was a great challenge. The other group was taken for a hike along a trail that

took us through the wilderness. From time to time, our guide leader pointed out the various edible plants - there was plenty of green salad but without dressing! The trail was challenging for some but all was able to successfully negotiate to the end of the trail where the two groups switched over.

One of the main events of the trip was an address from a First Nation speaker who holds two bachelor degrees and is heading for a Master degree. He sees it as his mission to bring the culture of his people to the public. He wishes to see different people of different cultures living harmoniously together. He did his job well explaining various aspects of his culture including language, songs, pipe-smoking etc.

All in all, every one had a nice time. It was a time to get together with family, alumni and friends. It was also a time to share and to learn about other people, other culture and most importantly the art of living together harmoniously.

This trip has well served our HKUAA (Ontario)'s objective, amongst others, to encourage educational, intellectual and cultural activities among members and with the local community!

Welcome to HKU Exchange Students - September 17, 1999

It is exciting to learn that the younger generation in Hong Kong is now much more energetic and inquisitive. It brought along 5 young people from Hong Kong with no families or ties in Ontario but simply with a view to learning more about the world at large. We are glad to be host to Henry YIM, Astor SHEK, Gigi CHUNG, Alice KWOK and Winnie TANG. They are now respectively studying as exchange students at University of Toronto, York University and University of Western Ontario.

In honour of these exchange students, our Board of Directors hosted a dinner extending a warm welcome to them on September 17, 1999. We shared our experience and learned from them the latest development in Hong Kong particularly about the younger generation, their education, their aspiration and their outlook. It was informative for everyone both for the newcomers and our alumni. And the atmosphere was warm and friendly.

With these exchange students, it has also given us the opportunity to participate in the Mentorship Program recently organized by HKU in HK. The Program is designed for a particular student to have an alumnus to be his/her mentor so that the student may be able to better expose to real life and career.

We have taken this opportunity to arrange mentors for these 5 exchange students from HK. Hopefully, this will make the exchange students more at home and provide them with a helping hand whenever they feel there is a need. We sincerely wish them all the best and a fruitful year to come!

‘‘Citizen Hong Kong’’ - November 4, 1999

The Hong Kong University Alumni Association of Ontario co-hosted a gala film show with the Fairchild Media Group to raise funds for the HKUAA (Ontario) Chinese Cultural Heritage Award Fund.

The Gala was held in two shows on November 4, 1999 at the Markham Theatre For Performing Arts. A special souvenir book was produced for distribution to guests.

Both showings of the documentary "Citizen Hong Kong" were completely sold out. Over 800 sponsors, guests, alumni and members of the public attended the Gala. We have raised funds of more than \$8,800.00 for the Award Fund.

A reception was held before the second show to welcome the director and producer of the film. Among the many distinguished guests were Senator Vivienne Poy, Markham Mayor Don Cousen, Mr. Zhou Xing-bao, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Director of the film Ms Ruby Yang and Producer of the film Mr. Lambert Yam.

The event attracted impressive coverage in the mass media. The community at large is keenly interested in the message conveyed by the film as well as the thoughts and ideas of the younger generation of Hongkongers. It has indeed served the function as a bridge for promoting better understanding of the Chinese culture within the context of Hong Kong. The Gala could not have taken place without the generous support of all the sponsors, the co-host and all the volunteers. Congratulations to the organizing committee and all the directors who worked so hard as a team to make this event a success.

Spring Dinner - January 25, 2000

The Alumni Association has arranged for a Spring Dinner held at the Mandarin Restaurant to usher in the Year of the Dragon.

To mark the occasion, we have the special honour of having Mr. Martin LEE, Q.C., an alumnus, legislative councilor and leader of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong, to be our guest of honour and speaker. Mr. Lee gave an address bringing us up-to-date developments in Hong Kong particularly on the political front.

We were also entertained by Mr. Henry Yim, a HKU exchange student, who well demonstrated the bringing together of the eastern and western culture by playing a traditional Chinese song on his saxophone.

THE HKUAA (ONTARIO) CHINESE CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARD FUND

The Award Fund continues to be the proud sponsor of the scholarship to the three winning teams of the 9th Inter-Collegiate Chinese Debate Competition. This competition promotes the use of the Chinese language in the art of debate amongst university students in Ontario. The prizes were given out in January 2000.

In addition to the scholarship set up with the International Student Exchange Office of University of Toronto last year, we have successfully negotiated with York International of York University to set up a similar scholarship. With the funds raised from "Citizen Hong Kong", we have now established a perpetual annual scholarship with York University in the sum of C\$1,000 to sponsor a York student (irrespective of race, age, nationality, language) to promote or pursue Chinese culture and heritage by studying for credit in Hong Kong preferably at the Hong Kong University and to share that academic experience with York students and the community upon return, thereby furthering an understanding of Chinese heritage and culture. The recipient must be a registered York student residing in Ontario with financial needs and having been selected to participate in the Hong Kong University-York University Exchange Program.

In meeting with its objective to promote Chinese culture and heritage, the Chinese Award Fund also sponsored and helped to publicize the Beijing Dance Academy Performance in Toronto held on April 16, 2000 at the Seneca College.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

2nd Joint Function with other North American Alumni chapters in Vancouver, B.C. - July 3 & 4, 1999

We are pleased that our representatives attended this year at the Joint Function hosted by the B.C. chapter of HKU Alumni Associations for alumni members in North America. It was an occasion to meet old friends and new acquaintances.

Luncheon Address by Mr. Stephen Lam, Information Co-ordinator, HKSAR - July 12, 1999

Our association was invited to attend and was represented at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Hong Kong Canada Business Association at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre for Mr. Stephen Lam, Information Co-ordinator, Office of the Chief Executive, HKSAR. Amongst other credentials, Mr. Lam was formerly a Director of the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in Toronto. Mr. Lam's address was titled "One Country Two Systems - Two Years After Reunification" and covered the recent developments in Hong Kong including the right of abode issue, the establishment of the cyberport, the negotiation to set up a Disney Theme Park etc. The message was encouraging.

Luncheon with Mr. Kerry McGlynn, Deputy Director of the Information Services Department, HKSAR - February 16, 2000

Mr. McGlynn has worked for the Hong Kong government for 25 years in various senior positions including as a press secretary to the former Governor Chris Patten before the changeover. He was closely involved in the negotiations leading to the Sino-British Joint Declaration in Hong Kong. During the luncheon, he shared his wide experience dealing with both the former and present Hong Kong governments before and after the change of sovereignty.

Annual Banquet of the Federation of Alumni Associations of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Ontario) - February 26, 2000

We were honoured to have been invited as a guest at this annual dinner of a fellow university alumni association with which we have established strong ties and have laid a foundation for future co-operation with respect to functions of common interest to alumni of both associations.

Visit by Hong Kong's Chief Executive TUNG Chee Wah - April 4, 2000

Having missed his intended visit to Canada last year, the Honourable Mr. Tung graced the City of Toronto by his visit in April, 2000. Our association has managed to secure seats for our alumni members to attend a luncheon meeting with Mr. Tung during which he enlightened the community by giving a first-hand account of the latest issues facing Hong Kong such as recovery after the Asian financial crisis, prospects for 2000 and beyond, innovation and technology for Hong Kong, capitalization on China's accession to the World Trade Organization, implementation of "one country, two systems" and investment opportunities for Canadian corporation in Hong Kong.

CLOSING REMARKS

It has given me great pleasure to have led the Association into the Millennium. I must also dedicate my sincere appreciation for all the support from my fellow colleague directors, our alumni, friends and the community at large.

Prepared by:
K.B.Ng
President
May 2000