


CANADIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
OF
THE CANADIAN SCHOOL IN WEST CHINA
Fall 2016 Vol. 2 No. 3

CANADIANS IN CHINA
Old Photographs From Sichuan - 1892 - 1952
加拿大人在中國

Friday, October 14th - Tuesday, 18th, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
at the
Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto, 5183 Sheppard Ave East, Scarborough
<http://www.cccgt.org/index.php/en/contact-us>



This photo exhibit is a gift to Canadians from a group of Chinese historians, artists and corporate donors who created the "Old China Photo Project". It recognizes and appreciates the courageous Canadians who made Sichuan, China, their home from 1892 to 1952. The work they did contributed to medical and educational modernization in China, leaving a lasting footprint and a long legacy of friendship between two far away lands.

Exhibit Sponsors:
Old Canadian Photo Project Team, Peace To The World Beijing Galleries
China Southern (Group) HK Ltd.
Thanks to the Canadian School Alumni Association and
The Alumni of West China University Canada Chapter, for providing local support

Editor: Patricia Brown

Definition: If your parents were missionaries in China and/or if you attended the Canadian School in Chengdu, you are a Mish Kid-1. Mish Kids 2 & 3 are related to Mish Kids-1, child of, or grandchild of.....etc.

Website Information: Please visit our website established by the Canadian School Association, just click on the address below. Website managers are Yingming Zhang and David Walmsley.
www.cschengdu.ca

Greetings from the Editor

It has been a year since I assumed the role as editor of this newsletter. I looked up the definition of “editor.” It said in the dictionary that it is a person who is a lover of words, who polishes a publication by refining and enhancing. The editor is seen as a gatekeeper.....

As soon as I saw that word, I thought of the gates in West China; the ones I had seen in long ago pictures; those doors that many of you will remember travelling through to go about your daily tasks; the ones that kept you safe. May your travels through publications such as these bring smiles, connection to old friends, and refresh your understanding as we seek to inspire new generations about the legacy that is.....West China.

May I also take a moment here to wish everyone near and far a Christmas Season that is filled with the joy and love of friends and family. Merry Christmas to all.....on behalf of your CSA Executive!

Blessings,

Pat

Meet the Executive Continuing on where we left off....

David Walmsley:

David’s father was a “Mish Kid”, Omar Walmsley (1925-2012, son of Lewis and Constance Walmsley; dad was a grandson of Omar and Retta Kilborn. Marion Walker (Walmsley) is my aunt; Gail Walmsley and Debbie Kirton are my cousins. In 2010 I was fortunate enough to have the great experience of travelling to China with a group to attend the grand opening of the “Old Photo Show”, at a permanent museum in Xinchang Town, 50 km from Chengdu. Also in 2010, I was honoured to be asked to join the CS Executive; being the first one from the next/younger generation. I wanted to help out with the annual “Reunion Meal”, to try to ensure this event would continue. It is a day when “Mish Kids”, their families and friends come together to share a meal, tell stories about the history that they shared in China. It is our common thread and it is truly amazing.

Executive Report:

Earlier this year and likely even before that there was talk of how to bring the OCPP to Canada for people to see and enjoy. A sub-committee was formed to work on the job of making this a reality and the show was booked into the Arts Hall at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Markham Ontario for 13-19 October, 2016. The arrangement was that the OCPP Chinese organizers would bring the exhibition to Toronto to coincide with the 74th Annual Reunion of the Canadian School in West China that occurred on Saturday, October 15th.

At this point, perhaps a bit of background information might be in order.

The **Old China Photo Project** tells the story of Canadian missionaries in China from 1890 to 1950. Among its many contributions, the Canadian mission, working with 3 other missions, established the West China Union University (WCUU) in Chengdu. Although the missionary effort came to a halt with the founding of the People's Republic of China, the story did not end there. The career trajectories of the hundreds of Chinese WCUU graduates contributed to the development of Western medicine, medical education, nursing, dentistry, and other higher education in Sichuan Province in China.

Dr. Omar Kilborn, in partnership with his wife, Dr. Retta Gifford Kilborn and their colleagues, led a courageous effort to build a medical college in the most remote part of China. Their vision was to build the foundation for medical education and a modern medical system to serve a population of 60 million in West China and beyond. This was a strategic departure from the traditional missionary approach of setting up clinics that provided primary care along with religious information. They worked tirelessly to achieve this vision, and what began as a humble medical clinic grew into one of the largest medical care and teaching centre in China.

So who are the people involved:

The Chinese Partners:

The Old China Photo Project Team led by Project Director Ms. Xiang Suzhen. The OCPP is a group of volunteers, mainly from Sichuan, who have worked on the research and collection of missionary photographs for about ten years. This is the team that brought the exhibit to Toronto that includes photos selected from the much larger exhibit housed in a permanent museum in Xinchang China, an historic town about 75km west of Chengdu.

The Canadian Partners:

The Executive Committee of the Canadian School Alumni Association, (CSAA) chaired by Mrs. Phyllis Donaghy. The Canadian School was established in Chengdu, Sichuan in 1910 for the children of missionaries, and continued until 1950. Most Canadian missionaries and their families left in 1949 after the establishment of the Peoples' Republic of China. Today the CSAA

includes graduates of the Canadian School along with descendents and associates. The Alumni continue to meet annually, and their connection with what is now known as West China Medical Centre of Sichuan University has continued to the third and fourth generation!

The West China University of Medical Sciences Alumni Association-Toronto Chapter:

Heather Hui Wan, President. This association has 150 members

OCCP Team at opening of Exhibit in Toronto





The Program

As is this newsletter, the focus at this year's "Canadian School Reunion" has been the work of the OCPP and others here in Canada to bring the "Old Photo" exhibit to Toronto.

Phyllis Donaghy, Chair of the Canadian School Association tells us, the annual reunion was held on October 15th this year, at the Dragon Legend Restaurant located in Markham Ontario. Once again there was a large turnout, with 142 people in attendance. It was our pleasure to include in that group a large contingent of "West China Union University" Alumni Association, as well as the "Old China Photo Project" team from Chengdu, founded by Suzhen Xiang to inaugurate the official opening of the show in Toronto. Other special guests included the Vice Consul from China to Canada, Dr. Peter Kopplin, MD FRCPC, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Mr. Shen Zaiwang, Cultural Exchange Advisor of OCPP, Ms Lin Pufen, wife of Mr. Zhang Biao who was the chief advisor of the project, Dr. William Zhang to name a few.

The photo show recognizes and honours the legacy of those spirit driven descendants who made West China their home over 100 years ago. The work they committed to do left others a lasting contribution in such fields as medicine, dentistry, nursing and education while forging a multigenerational connection that no one ever saw coming!!!

In his address at the exhibit, Shen Zaiwang tells us, "At this moment we deeply miss those missionaries. Over a hundred years ago they crossed the ocean and took junks up the Yangtze River to West China. They overcame many difficulties to build hospitals and schools in Sichuan, introducing modern civilization. They spent their life and devoted their talents in China. Some families have had several generations serving in Sichuan. Some lost their lives in China. Someone, over 100 years old still lives in Beijing! We would like to extend our highest respects to them.

The photo team's founder Suzhen Xiang, had this to say in her address: "Another year, we're here together again. It was here at the CS Reunion in October 2006 when Bob Edmonds first read to you the letter I wrote to him. Since then, 10 years has passed. During these 10 years, we held 7 exhibitions and organized 4 "Coming Home" trips. I am happy to see that now many Chinese people are getting to know the contributions your ancestors had made to West China, and also, many CS Kids get to come back to China, their home too. I have to admit that is not the easiest thing I have done in my life, we have had our ups and downs, but it's been an amazing journey!"

Marion Walmsley Walker in her farewell dinner speech for the OCPP group held October 21st had this to say: "we have worked hard to make this show a success in Canada, BUT I do not believe that we have worked as hard as this great China Team of the Old China Photo Project, led by Suzhen. We had 150 guests at our luncheon on Saturday. And four hundred people, both Chinese and Canadian visited the show before it closed on Tuesday"

The official opening and ribbon cutting for the Photo Show held at the Chinese Cultural Centre in Scarborough took place at the restaurant with great fanfare and photographs. Everyone then made their way to see the show which was deemed a great success. The exhibit has been given to us by the OCPP team and arrangements are being made to take it to various parts of Canada on request. The first showing will take place in Georgetown from Jan-Feb. Details to be confirmed.

Also at the luncheon, Betsy Anderson gave a brief report on her trip to China last fall with a group from the United Church of Canada. There they met with the Christian Council in China. It is believed that there are 38 million Protestant Christians in China today. The church they attended holds 4 services each Sunday, and they are packed! What a wonderful testament to our parents and grandparents who heeded the call and went to China!

There may be some readers interested in some of the speeches given at the dinner etc. I have some in email format, please get in touch patbrown3709@rogers.com and I can let you know what I have.

Memories: Having received emails from alumni on their experiences growing up and living in West China, in this edition I would like to share those memories of Edith (Walker) Woodbridge. I had asked her about winter, about Christmas, was there snow? These are her memories.....

Yes, there was snow one Christmas...very unusual actually, and so unusual that we had to put on some large size running shoes in order to go out and play in it when we lived in Penghsien. Winter was cooler out there, because our Christmas picture showed us wearing warm coats, but brother Don just had a suit coat.

January 5, 1934, an excerpt from one of her mother's letters Edith says:

"We are at Rackhams and Edith is at school, in a class with Vivian Anderson"

The family were in Chungking at the Agency awaiting word of my brother Don's brain operation in Peking/Beijing. We were with the Veals over the holiday where they entertained a large group (26) for Christmas dinner, Mom finally receiving word to take herself and the 2 children to Beijing on the river steamer, along with 5 big trunks, 3 steamer trunks and a pig skin box.....all of their earthly luggage! On the trip the ship got stranded due to the low river water and had to move very slowly through that part, while another stranded ship watched us navigate our way through!

I can only imagine.....

Also shared in this email to me, were notations her father, J. A. Walker had written down in 1935. One of these was titled: "**The Missionary Enterprise**" and was a quotation from Dr. W.W. Pinson.

"The Missionary enterprise is the supreme adventure of history. It is the challenge of hope and courage in a world of paralyzing fears and demoralizing futilities. It is the sole claimant as a moral substitute for war. It is the only accredited messenger of good news to a bewildered world and a lone champion of love and goodwill in a world of hate and war. Any lowering of its standards or lessening of its power or cheapening of its motives is the betrayal of the race and a yielding of the only fortress that flies the flag of brotherhood."

The Library:

A new book offering has come to light, sent in by Don and Liz Willmott. The book, titled: **“Fact in Fiction: 1920’s China and Ba Jin’s (novel) Family”** is by author **Kriston Stapleton**, a professor at Syracuse University in New York State. The book tells in detail about such things as the economy, the gentry, the warlords and protests, slavery and more. Anyone who grew up in China, who lives there now, and whose roots are in Chengdu would find this book fascinating. The reader is provided with detailed information about the context in which the missionaries and their institutions operated and makes reference to these as part of describing the complex urban environment and culture in which Ba Jin lived his real life. There are photographs taken by The Mullet’s, The Willmott’s, The Spooner’s and Beech’s in the book, the Chengdu Wall and Gates, taken by missionaries for their own personal files. The front cover features a Mullett photograph of a street below taken from above, and is stunning!!

This book is available on Amazon.ca for \$34.00 for those who are interested, and there may also be a copy available on loan from the CS Association.

For your information:

If anyone would like a copy of the brochure that was produced for the exhibit in Toronto this past October, of the “Old China Photo Project”, please get in touch with your newsletter editor, at patbrown3709@rogers.com and I will try to get one out to you.

“The Mish Kids Club”

CS Alumni of the Canadian School in West China

Doris (Hibbard) Rundle, Muriel (Kitchen) Tonge, Gwen (Kitchen) Heatherington, Beth (Lutley) Leach, Malcolm Reed, Elinor (Reed) Knight, Dorothea (Hoffman) Smale, Dave Spooner, Marion (Walmsley) Walker, Betty Bridgeman, Steve Endicott, Marion Endicott, Neil Bell, Bob (Killy) Kilborn, Phyllis (Allen) Donaghy, Marion (Allen) Reilly, Dora Stinson, Maurice Stinson, Kay (Veals) Wray, Peter and Eric Webster, Diana Maver, Olav Kitchen, Joan (Rackam) Good, Bill Hibbard. Edith (Walker) Woodbridge, Bill Gentry, Helen Bacon, Wendy (Foy) Canning, Frances (Kilborn) Hilliard, Jean (Kilborn) Hooper, Anne Kenard, Dorothy (Bacon) Kerker, August Lovegren, Mary (Struthers) McKim, Bob Parker, Enid (Walmsley) Sills, Ted Smale, Doug Smith, Gwyn (Allen) Smith, Foster Stockwell, Muriel (Brown) Milne, Isobel (Brown) Crook, Julia (Brown) Baker, Judith (Outerbridge) Walker, Edith (Walker) Woodbridge, Peter Webster, Bill Willmott, Don Willmott, Ruth (Smith) Winslow

Please excuse if any names have been omitted

In Memory

Ruth Elizabeth VOGT

VOGT, Ruth Elizabeth (née Johns) On August 26, 2016, Ruth Elizabeth Vogt (née Johns), loving wife and mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, social worker, beloved friend to many, virtuoso scrabble player, dedicated bridge player, died in her sleep. Ruth was born on May 24, 1920 in Chengdu, China, where her parents were teachers and United Church missionaries. There she spent the first five years of her life. She was 11 when the family moved to Hamilton, Ontario where she survived the lively ordeal of living with three older brothers - Martin, Harold and Paul - and her twin brother Edward. And it was there, at the age of 12, where she first had her eye on young Arthur Vogt, the man who would become the love of her life and her husband for almost 65 years. They were married on December 6, 1941 Ruth was a dedicated mother and wife but she was not content to be a stay-at-home mom. She had graduated in the year of her marriage with a Bachelor of Arts degree from McMaster University, but her goal was to become a social worker. In the mid-50s she began taking courses while continuing to run a lively household. In 1964 she graduated with a social work degree from McMaster and for the next 21 years she worked for various agencies in various cities until her retirement in 1985. Ruth was truly a people person, always keenly interested in the lives of her family, an interest that extended outwards to her many nephews and nieces. Ruth and Art's involvement with the United Church ensured a larger community. People easily confided in her and she offered a genuine warmth to all she met. The house - and the summer cottage that was Ruth and Art's pride and joy - were often filled with an eclectic mixture of people of all ages and backgrounds. It was very important to her that they felt welcome, and she brought a grace and easy generosity which ensured they did so. Ruth's retirement brought a terrible blow, as her second son, Gordon, succumbed to cancer at the age of 37. For a time, she became more involved in the church and its discussions around changing attitudes to marriage, sexuality, and the church's proper role in society. In 2002, when she and Art moved into a seniors' residence in Toronto, their church-life waned and yet their values of compassion, and warmth towards others remained. When Arthur died in 2006 and Ruth was suddenly alone, she was able to feel blessed at having had such a long and beautiful marriage. And yet she was not to remain alone for long. One year later she began to socialize with a lovely man named Fred Kahn. It was a late unexpected blessing. They had four years together before Fred's health declined and he died in 2012. For the last four years of her life Ruth suffered from dementia: a time of frustration, sadness and more suffering for her, as her memory faded rapidly. And yet even in this compromised state, her fundamental grace remained. She was no longer able to recognize most visitors, and yet she always tried to have a courteous word of greeting and a word of thanks as they left. Whether family, friends, or strangers, to her they remained important and to be honoured. In this way she was true to herself to the end. Ruth will be missed by her three surviving children, David, Bruce and Lynn and their families, by her grandchildren, her great-grand-children, her many nephews and nieces - and by many others whose lives she touched over the years. There will be a celebration of her life this coming autumn to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Reverend J. Newton Reed

The Reverend J. Newton Reed, in his 93rd year, died Saturday, November 12th in the comfort of his home, leaving behind his beloved wife of 63 years, Pauline (nee Scully), his five children Susan (Gary Faulkner), Paul (Eleanor), Mark (Karen), David (Chrystal), Arleane (Tim Ralph) and nine grandchildren, Daniel (Miriam), Sarah and Jonathon, Richelle, Samantha, Katrina, and Liam, Benjamin and Erin, who mourn his loss but admire, and try to emulate, the love and generosity he showed to everyone all his life. He was predeceased by his China missionary parents, the Rev. Fred and Anne Reed, his sister Dorothy and brother Donald. He leaves a sister Elinor in Oregon and brother Malcolm (Toronto).

Born and having lived his childhood in China, he finished his high school education in Oshawa, then enlisted with the Ontario Regiment for the remainder of WW II. At the University of Toronto he graduated from Victoria College and Emmanuel College and was ordained in 1953.

During his ministry in Preeceville, Saskatchewan (3 years) and Sunderland, Ontario (15 years), his activity in the Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church of Canada, his teaching in Uxbridge Secondary School, and his numerous sport activities (himself and with youth), and as padre of the Uxbridge Legion, he has touched so many lives.

His interests were sports of all varieties that he played, coached, managed and refereed but especially soccer and badminton; the outdoors - gardening, camping and cottage; canoeing; writing stories and poetry; travel - especially in Canada coast to coast to coast; music; and conversation. He played in many Canadian Masters Badminton tournaments winning a roomful of medals and awards and continuing with recreational play until age 90.

There will be a Service of Celebration of his life on Saturday, November 26th at Cambridge Street United Church, Lindsay with visitation at 10:00 a.m and service at 11:00 in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments downstairs.

If he could he would thank the CCAC ladies who took such tender care of him in his last weeks, and his doctor, Sara Ahmed.

In memory of Newton donations may be made to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, Doctors without Borders, or the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes food bank. Online condolences and information through Low and Low Limited funeral directors in Uxbridge.

Nolan, Ona “Noreen” (nee Anderson)

Peacefully, at Park Lane Terrace, Paris, formerly of Mississauga, in her 94th year. Beloved wife to the late Wilf (2000); loved mother to Jim (Wella), and Bob; cherished grandma to Joshua. Also survived several nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by parents Roy and Jenny Anderson; sisters, Vivian (Vee) Wilson and Jean Chittick and brothers, Ryerson Anderson and George Anderson.

Cremation has taken place,

The Family will greet friends at Assumption Cemetery in the Cemetery Chapel from 1:00pm to 2:00pm after which the graveside gathering will take place for interment.

Donations to Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated

Online condolences or donations may be arranged through

www.wmkippfuneralhome.com or by contacting Wm. Kipp 519 442 3061.

Special Thanks to the Nurses, Staff and Management at Park Lane Terrace for their constant care of Noreen during her stay, especially Heritage Court. We know that Noreen was well loved.



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