



**CHINESE CULTURAL CENTRE OF GREATER TORONTO**

大多倫多中華文化中心

Report of the Board of Directors  
For the year ended October 31, 1999

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT**

*Dr. Ming-Tat Cheung*

Two years after its official opening, the Centre has already become a focal point for the Chinese Canadian community.

More than 40 regular classes, including Chinese language, brush painting, calligraphy, Go chess, tai-chi, social dancing and mathematics, are conducted each week at the Centre, and the number of programs is growing daily. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Yvonne Chiu on behalf of the Centre for her contribution in planning these extremely popular programs. Although she is no longer with the Board, she has agreed to remain as an Honorary Advisor to continue to share her irreplaceable expertise.

Along with its regular programs, the Centre has hosted and organized many other activities, including the Annual Gala Dinner, Cathay Pavilion for the Metro Toronto Caravan, Health Awareness Day, Canadian GO competition, Great Sedan Chair Race, Mid-Autumn Harvest Moon Festival, Career Fair, Youth Conference and Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Business Conference. Some of these activities have become annual events. Through the Centre, student exchange programs have also taken place between Toronto and cities in China.

Recently, the Centre received a grant of \$125,000 from the provincial Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation for the development of the Volunteer Action Online program. The goal of the program is to provide community internet access to a database of volunteers. We will continue our pursuit of maintaining accessibility through this internet link with the community. We are in debt to Director Tony Wong and members of IT Committee for their efforts and contribution to this program.

Although the Centre has firmly established itself as an integral member of our community, it remains a young organization. Its operation relies heavily on the continuous support of the community. In order to fulfill the Centre's mandate of serving the community, as well as to ensure the completion of Phase II, fundraising remains essential. In this regard, we are very fortunate that Mrs. Irene So, the Vice President of CCC, will continue to serve as our fundraising chair.

Our project planning committee, working under the leadership of Mr. Brian Chu, has continued its diligent efforts. The design for Phase II's multipurpose theater/auditorium with retractable seating has now been finalized. This magnificent design will undoubtedly complement and further enhance the beauty of the Centre.

Recently, the Board took a large step forward by appointing Mr. Stephen Siu, formerly the Information Officer for the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Toronto, as our Executive Director. With his experience and community network, we expect a even more successful future for CCC.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers, staff and directors for their contributions of making CCC such a great place to be.

## **REPORT OF THE PROJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*Mr. Brian Chu, Chairman*

Work on Phase II has begun in earnest. Conceptual Design has been completed and many of you who attended Gala 2000 will have seen the model of both Phase I and the new Phase II in the Silent Auction room. Phase II will be integrated with Phase I and continuity in design and look will be maintained. The Conceptual Design embodies the concepts of order, connectedness, expressiveness, flexibility, openness, function and symbolism.

Phase II will feature a Glass Clerestory at each end to bring natural light into Phase II. The roofline will again be reminiscent of a Chinese brushstroke, thus adding another character to the Chinese Cultural Centre.

Phase II will include a Multi-purpose Hall that will allow the CCC or other users to present all-manner of live presentations. There will be a stage, dressing rooms, wardrobe room, retractable sloped seating and a projection system. When the seating is retracted the flat floor will be used for many activities that require a large surface area such as dancing, sports, martial arts and banquets.

Finally, Phase II will house the CCC's Chinese School. There will be 10 classrooms added to the CCC to allow a complete range of Chinese language and culture courses to be offered to the public. Storage space will be amply provided including lockers for students.

The realization of Phase II is imminent and only awaits your continued support!

## **REPORT OF THE FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

*Mrs. Irene So, Chairman*

Since the grand opening of the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto in 1998, the Centre has rapidly established itself as an integral member of our community. Drawings of the addition have recently been received and when completed, at a projected cost, at this stage of \$8,500,000, Phase II will house a multifunction auditorium and a Chinese School. Both entities will be state-of-the-art and be equipped with all the latest technology. The auditorium is essential to our needs so that the many artists, be they dancers, singers or opera performers will have a building that is appropriate to display their particular art. I would therefore ask that everyone view our Phase II fund raising not so much as the fund raising campaign for a building but as an investment in the preservation of our heritage, languages and culture.

Since the grand opening of our centre, the utilization of the Centre by diverse groups increases rapidly. We have organized not only cultural and educational programs, but also business activities for the public. Over the year, we have organized many fundraising activities, including Annual Gala Dinner, Hong Kong Day at Woodbine Racetrack, Chinese New Year Banquet, etc. Moreover, other business, cultural and social functions like Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Business Conference, Health Awareness Day and the Great Sedan Chair Race also have fundraising component. They are well received by participants and help our bottom line as well.

The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto is your centre for learning and gaining a greater understanding of Chinese culture. We encourage everyone to visit the Centre and participate in the many programs and activities in the splendid building. But, don't forget, we need both your continuous financial and spiritual support.

## **REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

*Mrs. Lena Wong, Chairman*

The 1999-2000 year was another busy and demanding year for this committee. Many changes and challenges kept us from losing our concentration. I would like to thank our fellow Directors for their great ideas and kind support. I must thank Mrs. Yvonne Chiu, Honorary Advisor, for her precious advice and contribution. Special thanks to our staff members for their dedication and co-operation, although Mrs. Anita Leung is no longer with us, her effort and contribution is much appreciated. And I am indebted to our Mr. Patrick Yiu, Fausto Chang, Tina Wong and Christine Fung for their special help in keeping the program department in good order.

Programs cannot run without sponsorships. I am most grateful to our many sponsors, which supported us and showed great faith in our projects. Special appreciation is extended to the Culture Ministry of the Peoples Republic of China through its Culture Consul Xiang, the City of Toronto, Toronto Arts Council and Royal Ontario Museum.

We are also greatly indebted to all our volunteers; at this moment we have approximately 140 active volunteers helping us in running special events as well as operations. Thousands of hours were contributed to the Centre. In December 1999, a Volunteer and Staff Recognition Dinner were held, over 120 attended and plaques of appreciation were awarded.

The cores of the Chinese Cultural Centre's programs are:

### **Chinese Cultural Courses**

Between September 1999 and June 2000, we have coordinated a total number of 133 courses, with an enrolment of 1274 students, bringing in a net profit of over \$20,000.00.

Except the original established courses such as Chinese Calligraphy, Cooking and Dim Sum Classes, Chinese Watercolor Painting, Mandarin Classes, Cantonese Opera Singing, Dough Flower Making etc. We have also introduced new courses like Tai Chi Sword, Qigong, Picture Mounting, Ballroom Dancing and Beads Ornament Class. Our major planning for the coming year is to establish a variety of Chinese Music courses like Erhu, Dizi and Zhengs etc.

### **Children's Courses & Programs**

Chinese Cultural Summer Camp was held in July 1999. Over 100 children enrolled. Chinese Art and Culture were taught at this camp and this was a two dialect training camp. This camp generated a profit of \$17,000.00. We are anticipating a larger crowd for the year 2000.

We were invited to participate in the celebration of the Chinese New Year with the Unionville Library on January 29, 2000. 40 children attended the event as we offered demonstration of Chinese arts and performances. Various media groups covered this event.

The March Break Camp 2000 once again was a great success with a full enrolment of 31 students. At the end of their one- week event, the students performed a very amusing opera. This function was a partnership with the Canadian Opera Company.

We also provided programs and support for our young people:

Our **China Study Tour** went to China in August 1999 with 20 students. They were awarded by Toronto District School Board with Grade 12 Social Science Study Credit, but more importantly this tour gave them the opportunities to further appreciate the Chinese culture, as well, the fun and joy of the tour definitely made the trip to be one of the most memorable experiences in their life. Many of these students are now become active volunteers in our Centre.

The **Career Fair 1999** was held on October 2 with an attendance of around 500. Majority of the attendees were walk-in public, many of them spoke Mandarin and were professionals from China. Their presence certainly casts another perspective in various talks and seminars.

### **Community Festivals and Celebrations**

Caravan 1999 was an exceptional event held in late June and early July. The 10- day program attracted an enormous amount of people visited our Centre. Program included Lion Dance, Chinese Folk Dance, Arts and Crafts Demonstration, Kung Fu Demonstration and Children Drama Performance. Thanks to the help of hundreds of volunteers in organization and preparation of programs. In the culture point of view, this event was a great success. We were awarded five prizes which include winner of Traditional Show, winner of Exterior Theme Award, 1st runner-up of Interior Theme Award, 2nd runner-up of Zen Kossar Award for Best Pavilion and the Chairperson of the Year Award.

The Mid-Autumn Harvest Moon Festival was held on September 25th. Over 1000 people attended. Program included art and craft station, exhibitions, performances and demonstration of arts and storytelling of the festival. This program was in conjunction with the Great Sedan Chair Race. Eight teams participated the race. It was fun and exciting. The contribution of the Toronto Arts Council was much appreciated.

Confucius 2550 anniversary Dinner was held November 1999. Over 400 guests attended the event.

Chinese New Year Celebrations – We held 5 different functions in 5 different locations in celebration of the year of Dragon.

#### Chinese New Year at CCC

Chinese Folk Dance, Chinese Opera Singing, Fortune telling and special new year's lunch specialties were arranged for this occasion. There were also crafts making and lucky draw.

#### Chinese New Year at Skydome

Booth was set up at the Skydome in promoting the programs of CCC from February 4 to February 6. Flyers and membership applications were handed out. The overall evaluation was good.

#### Chinese New Year Dinner – Golden Dynasty (Pacific Mall)

A dinner was held on February 11. 400 guests attended. It was a 10- course meal with lots of fun and games.

### Chinese New Year at FCC

The CCC helped with the celebration of the on February 13. We offered one hour of craft and arts activities for the children.

### Chinese New Year at ROM

This was held on February 18th and 20th 2000. Same as the past years, we did arts demonstration, crafts for children, lion dance and Chinese opera. Three movies from the Cultural Consul of the Peoples' Republic of China were shown. Many brochures with regard to the programs of CCC were distributed. The event was well covered by the media.

### Dr. Hin-Shiu Hung Art Gallery

In September, the gallery held the Toronto Arts Week exhibition with the works of four Scarborough artists. Between October and December, there were numerous photo and picture exhibitions prepared by individuals and groups, the Feng Fa Si, Henan Association of Canada, Accells and Dr. Jack Li. Other than individual exhibitions organized by the general public, we have coordinated several inspiring exhibitions in our gallery. In November, the Confucius Exhibition in conjunction with the Confucius Anniversary's activities. The Tigers and Dragons Exhibition of Chinese's Festival Hats was started on February 4th and was greatly admired by Lady Betty Tung and Mrs. Stanley Ho when they visited our Centre. The opening of Silk Road Display were held May 15, this exhibition will be on until the middle of June. We are featuring artifacts from ROM and Gansu. We were grateful to two curators from China, Mr. Zhang Lisheng and Mr. Cao Guo Xin for their enlightening talks on this wonderful display.

### Group Tours

Since July of 1999, many organizations visited our Centre. These groups included many community centers such as Woodgreen Community Centre, Chinese Senior Support Services Associations, Chinese Information Community Services etc. We also attracted quite a few schools such as the Crestwood School, York School and St. Barnabas School. I am confident that these group tours will serve as a fine tool in promoting our Centre as well as the Chinese culture.

## **REPORT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

*Mr. Tony Wong, Chairman*

The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto is one of the most technologically advanced centers in North America. The Information Technology committee is charged with the responsibility of technological requirements of the Centre. The committee is composed of a team of volunteer IT professional who donated their time to address the technological needs of the centre.

The centre was granted \$125,500 from the Volunteer @ction.online program of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation of the Government of Ontario. This grant enables the Centre to develop an interactive bilingual (Chinese and English) Web site to facilitate volunteering and improve access to information on arts and cultural events and activities in the Chinese community to the public at large.

A web site will be developed to house promotional information from participating organizations. A central event calendar will be posting all events of the Chinese community. Volunteer requirements of each event will be listed. The public can register to volunteer for events on line. This project should be finished on or before December 2001.

The committee formed five teams to handle this project:

- Technology
- Web design and development
- User
- ISP
- Change management

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm in the past year. The IT section of the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals and the Chinese Canadian Information Processing Professionals helped the committee in the application process for the ministry grant, and their effort is greatly appreciated.

## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

*Mr. Michael Chan, Director, Administration*

The administration department consists of three members of staff supervised by the Executive Director

The Administration Co-ordinator  
The Administrative Assistant &  
The Superintendent

They are responsible for the upkeep & day-to-day running of the office and centre. 1998 was the year that the administration department had to deal with the setting up and teething problem of the centre. Most of year 1999, however, were spent in defining the internal processes and bringing the centre up to speed.

To mention a few, the following tasks were accomplished in year 1999

- The setting up of various processes for all administrative activities
- The installation of internal & external signs of the centre
- The installation of Donor Wall
- The installation of Confucius statue
- The negotiation & follow up with sub-contractors to rectify defects of building
- The successful organizing of the Hong Kong day at Woodbine August 1, 1999

The administration department has a busy and exciting year. In spite of a few negative turnovers and transfer of staff the department can still be able to meet all the challenges and deliver most of the work on time without any major inconvenience to the members and visitors of the centre.

The major responsibilities of the administration department can be summarized as follow:

- The answering of phone inquiries
- The leasing of centre activity / function rooms
- General maintenance & upkeep of the centre
- The control & approval of centre expenses
- The provision of administrative support to Program & Marketing department in staging their functions
- Venue setup