



北美風沙 The North American LaSallians

Nov 2012

Reader's Mail

Editors: We received this message from Paul Lee (1963) the first day after the release of the October newsletter and were permitted to publish it in its entirety here with the kind permission from him.

Hi There,

Re: Giving a hand to La Salle boys going to study overseas.

Just to share some personal experience with you.

I graduated from La Salle (F 5 in 1963) and also from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). For the past 10+years I have been one of the mentors of a group of alumni of CUHK which was set up to help CUHK students coming over to study at the University of California at Berkeley.

We purposely leave the academic side of their studies (registration, choice of subjects, arrangement of dorm accommodation.....) to the University.

We concentrate on the non-academic side --- the adjustment to the local environment. We feel strongly that the earlier they get familiar with the community here, the earlier they can concentrate on their studies. We therefore provide advice and/or help before their arrival, if possible, and/or immediately upon their landing. The advice will include the weather, clothing, transportation (means of, fare system...), how local people speak (American versus British or Hong Kong English...), the formation and functioning of the political and governmental structure (how they affect the lives of the ordinary people...), the lives of the people here (their racial/ethnic composition, their daily living, food, clothing, attitudes toward race, work, rest, privacy, government,,,,,,,,),.....

These are just my experiences. I am sure the officers of the local LSCOBAs will know what is the best to do.

Paul Lee

Reminders

Edmonton

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date Nov 2, 2012 (every first Friday)
Time noon
Venue Urban China Restaurant 潮樓大酒樓

Grey Cup Party

Date Nov 25, 2012
Time 3:30pm - 8:00pm
Venue Finnagan's Bistro Bar & Billiards
Contact billshwong@shaw.ca

San Francisco and Bay Area

Bimonthly Lunch gathering

Date Nov 3, 2012 (1st Sat of every other month)
Time 12:30 pm - 2:30pm
Venue Fu Lam Mum
153 Castro St, Mountain View, CA 94041.
Contact sf@lscoba.com

Southern California

Monthly Dim Sum Gathering

Date every first Sunday
Time noon to 2 pm
Venue Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park

Toronto

New Year Eve Dinner

Date Monday December 31, 2012
Time 7:30 pm - 1 am (dancing starts 6:30 pm)
Venue Regal Chinese Cuisine & Banquet Hall
富都名宴
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 107,
Scarborough (Finch & McCowan)
Price \$68/person
RSVP shihangfong@yahoo.com or
jcchang@mcl-miley.com

About this newsletter

This newsletter is aimed at providing an electronic platform for communication among La Salle College old boys residing in North America. However, it shall not be used as a tool to promote any personal agenda. The editorial board therefore reserves the right to review and edit all submissions to ensure that no inappropriate contents appear in any issue of this newsletter. The editorial board also reserves the right to reject any submission that is not in line with the objective of this newsletter. Please send all your communications to editors@lscobaedm.org.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email (with subject line: subscribe) to newsletter-lscobaedm.org-subscribe@lscobaedm.org.

Newsletter Committee comprises of the following members:

East Coast (USA)	Christopher Tse (1965) , Peter Lai (1967)	Southern California	Eddie Shek (1985)
Toronto	Felix Leung (1985), Kevin Kwok (1988), Jimmy Chang (1966)	San Francisco Bay Area	Ephrem Fung (1976) Ambrose Lee (1998)
Vancouver	Victor Leung (1977)	Edmonton	Calvin Chan (1971)



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Chapter News

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

SF Chapter Bimonthly Lunch gathering

Format: The first Saturday of every other month, venues will be rotated.

Upcoming bimonthly lunch gathering:

Date	Saturday November 3, 2012
Time	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Venue	Fu Lam Mum
Address	153 Castro St, Mountain View, CA 94041.

Please feel free to contact the Chapter committee for further info at sf@lscoba.com

Edmonton Chapter

Grey Cup Party

Date	Sunday November 25, 2012
Time	3:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Venue	Finnagan's Bistro Bar & Billiards 13560 - Fort Road
Contact	billshwong@shaw.ca

Toronto Chapter

Annual New Year's Eve Dinner

Last year, this most popular annual family event was moved to a new venue. We heard nothing but good responses. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am inviting you, your family and friends to attend the Toronto OBA Chapter's annual New Year's Eve Dinner.

Date	Monday December 31, 2012
Time	7:30 p.m.- 1 a.m. (warm-up dancing starts at 6:30 p.m.)
Venue	Regal Chinese Cuisine & Banquet Hall 富都名宴 1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 107, Scarborough (Finch & McCowan)
Featuring Live Band	Synergy (led by old boys)
Price	\$68/person
Contact	shihangfong@yahoo.com , or icchang@mcl-miley.com , or any director

Note that the ticket price is the same as it was last year.

Our annual New Year's Eve Dinner has become very popular through the years, and it has been a sold out event for the last few years. To reserve your tickets, please contact your favourite director or any e-mail listed above.

Jimmy Chang (1966)
President
LSCOBA Toronto Chapter



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Toronto Chapter

2012 Annual BBQ

We have been holding our annual BBQ every August for quite some time. Same tasks, same shopping list, same delegation, same location, but if we do not spare sweat...



Group photo



way more than 5 fish and 2 loaves

A big hand for Paul Khoo (71) and numerous helpers who contributed to another successful event.



Iron man 2.0: Vincent Ho (88)



Iron man 1.0: George Fung (52)



Salute to the chefs! from left: Paul Khoo (71), Peter Chan (73), Felix Leung (85), Paul Wong (72)



Our table tennis champs :
Eric Yu (80), Kevin Kwok (88), John Keung (65)



Jimmy Chang (66), Philip Wong (67), John Yeung (73)



Remembrance Day

In Flanders Fields (part 1)

And other storied European battlegrounds

William Lai (1961)

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*



*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*



*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

(Then) Major John McCrae
3 May 1915

Preamble

One of the great things about a La Salle College education, as I experienced it, was the breadth of knowledge that it imparted. This body of knowledge encompassed a wide spectrum of subjects, spanning Greek mythology, world histories including those of China and Europe, geographies of all continents, cultures and folklores of many lands, the sciences, literature and, of course, Biblical chronicles.

For me, these teachings sparked a desire to visit the fabled locales cited in many of the texts that we studied. I have been able to visit some of these sites through the years. On this particular tour in May/June 2012, we (Vivien and I) concentrated on the historically significant battlefields of Europe, with a Canadian emphasis.

Troy

The location is technically not in Europe, but in Turkish Asia Minor, and we visited the site several years ago. But I thought I'd include it here because my interest in this place was spawned by studying Greek mythology at LSC, and it was the location of one of the epic battles that marked human history.

In Homer's accounts, the legend of Troy and the Trojan War, supposedly occurring in the 12th or 13th century BC, is a very complicated story involving many cross-conflicts amongst several deities. In essence, the Trojan War was incited by the alleged kidnapping of Helen by Paris of Troy from her husband, the Spartan king, Menelaus. To rescue Helen and to avenge the abduction, the Achaeans (Greeks) sent a large military force to Troy, which ended up in a decade-long siege of the city.

The Trojan War story ended with the sacking and destruction of Troy, and recovery of Helen. However, by then, Helen had changed her allegiance and married her abductor, Paris, who was killed in the war. Menelaus found Helen and was going to put her to death for her unfaithfulness. But he was still so engrossed by her beauty that he spared her life.

Two legendary occurrences in this story of Troy end up in our daily parlance. One is Achilles' heel. Achilles was one of the prominent Greek military leaders at the siege of Troy. The story was that his mother had dipped him in the River Styx which provided the equivalent of modern-day body armour protection. But in doing so, she had to hold Achilles up by one heel, and she forgot to dip him in the river again to cover the exposed heel. Hence, all of Achilles' body was immune to attack except for the one heel. As it happened, in the Trojan War, Achilles was shot through that vulnerable heel and died of the wound. Thus, a metaphor was created; henceforth, a vital weakness would be known as an Achilles' heel.

The other well-known fable is, of course, that of the Trojan Horse. After repeated failures to capture Troy, the Achaeans devised a



Vivien and the Trojan Horse



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plan whereby soldiers were hidden in a wooden horse to be left outside the gate of Troy. The rest of the Greek force left the combat zone, giving the impression that they had withdrawn. One man was left behind and, when the Trojans came out to marvel at the ornate structure, this man assured the Trojans that it was safe to take the horse into the city. We know the rest of the story after the wooden horse was taken into Troy. The clandestine Achaeans emerged from the horse and took the city by surprise. The Trojan Horse became an expression of deception, military or otherwise, with devastating results.



At the walls of Troy, legendary site of the Trojan War



The Trojan Horse was supposedly brought into Troy along this ramp



View from Troy across the plain of Ilium to the Aegean Sea

My namesake

The year 1066 was a most pivotal one in English history. The events of that year changed the face of England forever. That was the year when Duke William of Normandy did what no military leader before or after him had been able to do – conquer England, at the Battle of Hastings. Duke William became known as William the Conqueror. He was crowned King William I. After the conquest of England, William started an extensive program of castle construction, including the famous or infamous Tower of London, a symbol of brutality in history. He also ordered the compilation of the Domesday Book which recorded in detail the survey and valuation of all properties under the King's jurisdiction. It remained the most sophisticated and comprehensive public record until censuses came into being in the 19th century.

Prince William, the current Duke of Cambridge, will be King William V when he accedes to the throne.

Vivien and I had visited the site of the Battle of Hastings in southern England in 2010. On this 2012 trip to Europe, we passed through Caen, France, where William the Conqueror, who died in 1087, is buried at the Abbaye-aux-Hommes which he ordered to be built years earlier.



Hastings battlefield, looking back at the Hastings Abbey

I remember my mother telling me when I was a kid that I was named after William the Conqueror. Believe it, or not.



Battlefield at Hastings, looking from the Abbey



At the tomb of William the Conqueror, Caen, France



Outside Abbey where William the Conqueror is buried

Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon met his Waterloo at, well, Waterloo, just south of Brussels, Belgium, in 1815. The site is now a very popular tourist attraction, landmarked by the Butte du Lion, or The Lion's Mound. The conical-shaped mound was built between 1823 and 1826 at the spot where the Prince of Orange was fatally wounded. The hilltop is adorned by a sculpture of a lion looking south at the then French frontline. The summit, reached by climbing some 226 steps, affords a spectacular view of the whole battlefield which is preserved in much the same way it was.

At the visitors' centre, a package can be purchased for about €15.50 to visit all the points of interest in and around the battlefield, plus documentary films on the battle. The package includes a guided battlefield tour on a trolley bus, with the guide giving a blow-by-blow account of the progress of the battle at the very spots where these blows actually occurred. In a separate building,



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there is a stunning 360-degree panoramic pictorial depiction of the battle. In yet another building is the wax museum containing life-sized mannequins of the players of the battle and more. One can also do a self-guided walking tour of the battlefield and visit the many monuments erected at strategic spots in and around the field. The ticket price also includes the access to the Lion's Mound, Napoleon's headquarters south of the battlefield, and Wellington's headquarters which is now a museum, in the town of Waterloo itself.



Table supposedly used by Napoleon to pour over battle maps

The Battle of Waterloo is often portrayed as an English-French war. In fact, soldiers of other nationalities were also involved, including Dutch, Belgian, German and Prussian troops. The combatants numbered some 72,000 on the English side, and 76,000 French. Combined casualty was more than 47,000.



Wellington's headquarters

Napoleon himself survived the battle, but was exiled to St Helena where he died six years later. His tomb is in Paris. Wellington went on to become a politician with moderate success.

There are numerous cities, towns and places named after Waterloo. In Canada alone, three cities are named Waterloo, in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

For us La Salle Old Boys, Waterloo has an entirely different meaning altogether. It was along Waterloo Road between Boundary Street and Prince Edward Road, where the Kam Wah store and No. 7 bus stop were, that we used to hang around and watch Maryknoll girls.



Vivien on the Lion's Mound overlooking the Waterloo battlefield



A panoramic view of the battle from a similar angle



Ground level view of the Waterloo battlefield



Me at the base of the Lion's Mound



Napoleon's headquarters



Wellington's desk

World War I

Gallipoli

A century after Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, another army (this time our allies) met its Waterloo, at Gallipoli, Turkey.

We visited this site several years ago. It's included here as it is consistent with the WWI theme.

It was 1915 and Winston Churchill, the First Lord of Admiralty at the time, grew impatient about the Allies' progress at the Eastern and Western fronts, and wanted to create a third front at the Dardanelles. The Ottoman Empire (we learned about its history in La Salle), predecessor to Turkey, was a partner with Germany, alongside Austria-Hungary, together known as the Central Powers. The



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beachhead chosen to land the Allied forces was Gallipoli on the eastern shores of Turkey. The attacking force consisted mainly of Australian and New Zealand troops, known as the ANZAC, plus some British and French elements.

The Gallipoli campaign turned out to be a military disaster for the Allies. They had grossly underestimated the resources, capabilities and resolve of the Turkish defenders, and chose the wrong spots for the landings. The terrain, with narrow beaches and steep hills, was ideal for defending the territory, but hellish for the attackers. The campaign lasted some eight months, and the Allies got nowhere. They suffered over 200,000 casualties, all for naught. They finally withdrew at the end of 1915 and beginning of 1916.

The battle conditions on the ground were as horrible and brutal as they came in the First World War, with rat-infested and perpetually wet trenches, poor sanitary facilities and some would say poor leadership. Mel Gibson's movie, *Gallipoli*, portrays the conditions quite well.

The connection of this battle to Canada was the Newfoundland Regiment, fighting as a British unit at the time, which was deployed to Gallipoli in September 1915. The Regiment saw relatively little action compared to the units which landed earlier, though it did suffer some casualties. The unit served mostly as the covering force for the evacuation from Gallipoli. The same Regiment was to play a more significant though not less tragic role in France later in the war.

Gallipoli was somewhat of a national trauma for Australians and New Zealanders. When we were there, we saw many Australians touring the battle sites paying homage to their ancestors who fought there. Some walked the beaches in sombre thoughts, some videoed seemingly every grain of sand on the beach, and some muttered to themselves as if trying to reconnect with loved ones lost in the battle. The scene at Gallipoli is a moving one even to this day.



ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, 1915 - note the distinctive peak, known as the Sphinx, in the background. From Wikipedia



Frontal view of the Sphinx from the beach



Looking out to the sea from below the Sphinx



One of the beach battle sites at Gallipoli



Trench at Gallipoli



Monument at Gallipoli

Canada's World War 1 - For King and (a sovereign) Country

Canada entered World War 1 as a collective subject of the British Empire. When war was declared by Britain, there was no question that Canada, then a "Dominion", would be in the fight as well. Over 600,000 Canadians served in WW1, out of a population of about 7.8 million. The Canadians fought in many battles during the war. The most prominent battles involving the Canadians were the Second Battle of Ypres, Battle of the Somme, Battle of Vimy Ridge, and Battle of Passchendaele. In total, Canada suffered some 241,000 casualties, amongst whom about 67,000 were fatalities.

On this driving tour in May/June 2012, we were able to visit many of these battle sites.

The Second Battle of Ypres (1915)

The First Battle of Ypres was fought in the previous year by the British and French Forces which managed to push the Germans into a concave bend, known as the Ypres Salient. In April 1915, the Canadian troops were deployed into this Salient. The Germans, holding the higher ground, then decided to attack the occupiers of this bowl-shaped piece of land, and introduced a new weapon, poison gas. The "Second Battle" actually consisted of several battles, culminating in the Battle of Passchendaele, the terrible



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conditions of which were so faithfully reproduced in the TV movie, *Passchendaele*. At the end, the Allied forces were successful in thwarting the German advance.

This Battle of Ypres was Canada's first major operation in the war. It established the Canadian army as a formidable force to be reckoned with by friends and foes alike.

It was also during this battle that John McCrea wrote his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, thereby originating the poppy as a symbol of sacrifice and remembrance. He allegedly wrote the poem after burying one of his friends killed in combat and while he was sitting at the back of an ambulance in an advance dressing station at a place called Essex Farm, just north of Ypres. We were able to visit the exact spot he was said to have written the poem.

Unfortunately, John McCrae did not survive the war. He died of pneumonia and meningitis in January 1918 in Boulogne, France.

There are several Canadian memorials in the area and some roads are named after Canada and Canadian units, e.g. Canadalaan, Princess Patricia Str.



Poppies across the street from Essex Farm where McCrae was stationed



John McCrae memorial – his hand-written poem is reproduced in the right panel



Exact spot where McCrae wrote In Flanders Fields



Passchendaele memorial



Canadian memorial at St Julien



Princess Patricia memorial



Hill 62 where Canadians were engaged in fierce fighting

Battle of the Somme (1916)

The Battle of the Somme was planned as a major offensive to punch a hole in the German line through which a decisive blow to the German war machine would be struck. It was also the first time that tanks were used in battle. The battle was preceded by a long stalemate of trench warfare. The only way to advance that the general could think of was trying to overwhelm the enemy by sheer numbers of soldiers in massive frontal attacks by "going over the top", a familiar scene from movies and documentaries about WWI.

Canadian troops were engaged in various stages of the battle, and furthered their reputation as a fierce military force. The Somme cost Canada over 24,000 casualties. But the most horrific, amongst the indescribable terrors experienced by all combatants, was suffered by the 1st Battalion of the Newfoundland Regiment at Beaumont-Hamel, France. It lost two-thirds of its entire strength in less than an hour "going over the top" into No Man's Land, basically being slaughtered by walking into a well-prepared German machine gun firing line.

The battle ground is now a memorial site which we visited. Tourists now can enter the preserved trenches on both sides and stroll into parts of No Man's Land. Looking at the battleground, one could not help but wonder why the generals of the day, presumably extraordinary men in their high positions, could only think of such stupid tactics that resulted in the needless loss of life en masse with no appreciable advantage, an outcome that could easily have been predicted just by viewing the terrain.



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Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial



The noble bronze caribou is the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment



Entrance to Newfoundland memorial



Trenches at Beaumont-Hamel



The former battleground is still a danger zone



Vivien walking on No Man's Land

Vimy Ridge (1917)

Of all the battles in WWI that proved the mettle of Canadian soldiers, the Battle of Vimy Ridge was the most momentous for Canada as a nation-building act.

By 1917, the war had been going on for over two years with neither side gaining much. In an attempt to break this stalemate, the Allies planned an all-out offensive around the area of Arras, France. The Canadians were tasked to take Vimy Ridge. The Germans had captured the ridge earlier in the war and had fortified it with a very complex system of defensive works manned by highly trained soldiers. The Allies, with no initial Canadian involvement, had tried to retake this ridge in 1914 and 1915 unsuccessfully with disastrous results. In this new offensive in 1917, all four divisions of the Canadian Corps would fight as one formation under Canadian command, the first time this order of battle was allowed in any warfare in which Canada was engaged as a subsidiary of the British forces.

There were extensive preparations for the attack, including vigorous training, elaborate tunnelling to house men and materiel, digging under German trenches to be blown up at the time of attack, and gathering intelligence about the German defences. All these preparations paid off handsomely as it took the Canadians only four days to capture the ridge, a feat that no other Allied nation had been able to achieve before. The victory was a nation-defining moment for Canada. Canada won the campaign as a unified national force under her own command. It has been said that Canada was a colony at the foot of Vimy Ridge and became a country on top of it.

Vivien and I arrived at the Vimy Ridge memorial site quite early in the morning. It was a cloudy daybreak. We were very surprised that we were the only visitors there at the time. It was a long walk from the parking lot to the site. We made our way towards the monument with no soul in sight. There was still no one around when we arrived at the foot of the monument. For the better part of an hour, we had this world renowned memorial and the ultimate Canadian icon all to ourselves. We went around the monument and inspected every aspect, every angle of the statue without hindrance and without people blocking our view. We took all the pictures we wanted without the pictures being contaminated by unwanted characters in view. The setting was very serene and the figures on the monument evoked senses of awe, respect, remembrance, and sorrow, but also pride. I could never have imagined that we would be able to "possess" this symbol of nationhood so completely in the way we did. As time passed, visitors began to arrive and we could see people approaching the memorial from a distance. We eyed these little approaching figures as intruders.

The monument itself consisted of the two now well-recognised pylons adorned with many larger-than-life-sized sculptured figures symbolising valour, honour, sacrifice, hope, charity, faith, and yearnings for knowledge, justice, truth, and peace. The most poignant figure is that of Mother Canada mourning the dead, placed at the front and centre of the memorial.



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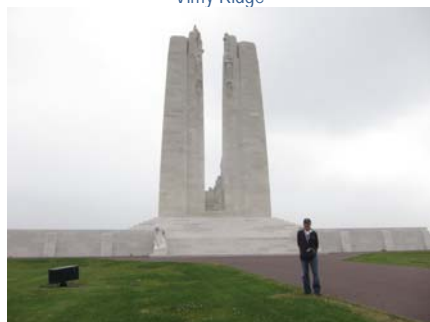
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We also joined a guided tour of Vimy Ridge which showed the overall battleground and some specific trench positions occupied by each side, plus a tour of the preserved bunkers. Some of the opposing trenches and bunkers were less than a stone's throw away literally. One can see how in some reported cases the rival soldiers could share the camaraderie rather than mutual animosity, albeit only for a brief moment, or how frightening it would be to think that sudden death could occur when somebody in the next trench threw something at you with ease.

We returned for a second visit the next morning in somewhat better weather before moving on, rather reluctantly.



Vimy Ridge



Vimy Ridge



Vimy Ridge from the front



Inside the trenches



Dwarfed by Vimy Ridge



Battleground on Vimy Ridge



Underground bunkers at Vimy



Mother Canada



Mother Canada and Vivien



Trenches at Vimy Ridge



Vimy Ridge Memorial from a distance
(to be continued ...)





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Visit to Honolulu

Joe Alano (1975)

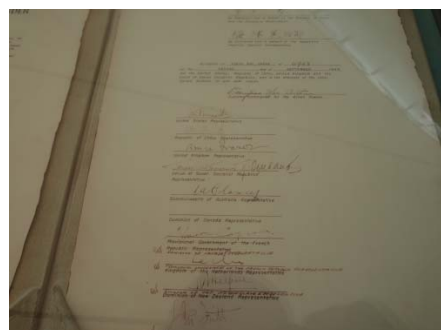
Joe shares had a family vacation in Honolulu this August and this article is a reflection of his own personal view only. The article title was inserted by the editors

Editors

Honolulu has quite many historic sites and interesting places to visit. I went out of my way to check out China Town and look for any historic reference or monuments to Dr. Sun, as I knew his early formative years were spent in Honolulu. Now here's an historic figure that is loved and respected by billions, a man who called Hawaii home in his youth...no silly, not Obama the under achiever, I mean Dr. Sun Yat Sun(孫文 / 逸仙, 中山先生). Sure enough I found a statue of him. There are inscriptions on the base that detail his experience and achievement in Honolulu. They still fly Blue Sky, White Sun, and a Wholly Red Earth (青天, 白日, 滿地紅 *Qīng Tiān, Bái Rì, Mǎn Dì Hóng*) flag there.



Also went on the USS Missouri, the battleship that Imperial Japan signed their surrender. You know, before I went to Hawaii, I planned to in future years visit Japan. I don't have the desire anymore. There is a large Japanese population there, and we were exposed to many things Japanese, arts, cultures, dances, and food. You know what I found? First, by the 9th day there, I was Udon and Ramen out. Please, a Big Mac will do. I found most things Japanese are bastardized things Chinese. Their writing of course. Their Kimono, no big deal, Tang dynasty fashion. Really, take a closer look at things Japanese, they are all twisted bastardized things Chinese. Some of the Han characters in their writing are not even real words! They made them up through the centuries (half bucket of water – 半桶水). This is



what I mean by bastardized. And a lot of their arts and food are Chinese copy and like the Chinese saying "Drawing a snake and adding legs (畫蛇添足)". And oh yes, I did get some satisfaction seeing and standing on the exact spot where they surrendered. They got away just about scot free from their crime committed in China. Sure they got nuked. I myself don't think that was nearly enough to even the score of Nanking, 'cause it was the Americans that nuked them to even the score of their Pearl Harbour. I don't think the Chinese got their turn yet. Maybe it will come.

Notes: The Canadian representative, Colonel Lawrence Moore Cosgrave, signed below his line instead of above it on the Japanese copy, resulting in everyone after him to sign one line below the intended one. This was attributed to Col. Cosgrave being blind in one eye, as he lost its sight during WW I. When the discrepancy was pointed out to General Sutherland, he crossed-out the pre-printed name titles of the Allied nations and rewrote by hand the titles in their correct relative positions. This alteration was initially not acceptable to the Japanese, in order to make it so, Sutherland then initialed (as an abbreviated signature) each alteration; and the Japanese representatives did not demur further. (From Wikipedia – "Japanese Instrument of Surrender")

Hero Behind the Scene

The article next page appeared in the *Edmonton Archdiocese* on May 14, 2012. Chris is from class 1965 and is currently enjoying life after a well-deserved retirement. He was the CEO of CSS (abbreviation for Catholic Social Services) before retirement.

His quiet direction served CSS well

Hong Kong born Chris Leung applied his many skills as the social service agency grew

RAMON GONZALEZ
WESTERN CATHOLIC REPORTER

After more than 30 years of dedicated service to Catholic Social Services, CEO Christopher Leung is calling it quits.

The Hong Kong native is expected to retire at the end of May but vows to continue helping the agency in other ways.

For the time being, his retirement plans include going on vacation to British Columbia in the summer and to Hong Kong in the fall.

About 300 people attended his retirement party at Santa Maria Goretti Hall April 12. There is no word on who will replace him as CEO.

Leung, 64, thanks the founder of the organization, Msgr. Bill Irwin, for his remarkable career with CSS, which saw him rise to the pinnacle of the largest multi-function social service agency in Canada.

Over the last three decades Leung has acted as vice-president of administration, senior vice-president, associate chief executive officer and, since April 2002, chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services, Catholic Charities and the Sign of Hope Society.

Irwin knew he wanted Leung to work for him at Catholic Social Services soon after he first met him in Hong Kong in the early 1980s. The priest was in Hong Kong for an international conference of social workers.

At the time, Leung was assistant to the president of Caritas Hong Kong and had been asked to show the visiting Irwin the agency's programs.

At the end of the visit, Irwin asked Leung if he wanted to work for him at Catholic Social Services in Edmonton.

Leung said reluctantly that he would consider it. A month later he received a letter from Irwin saying he had put

'I believe in the principles of accountability, collaboration and transparency.'

Christopher Leung

in an application for Leung to come to Edmonton. A month later he received another letter from Irwin asking him to resign his job with Caritas because he had everything ready for him to begin working at CSS.

It had been relatively easy for the priest to get a work permit for Leung because nobody in Canada could match his qualifications and he needed a versatile executive.

Leung's background is a unique and happy combination of social work and business management. He is a registered social worker in Hong Kong, Canada and England, has degrees in social and public administration as well



Catholic Social Services CEO Christopher Leung is retiring after 30 years of dedicated service.

as a doctorate in management. That combination of skills, talent and education made him uniquely fit to help Irwin lead the agency.

On one hand, Leung was in turmoil because he didn't want to uproot his family and leave a promising career in Hong Kong for something virtually unknown.

On the other hand, he was excited about the possibilities and wanted to give his daughter more educational opportunities in Canada. He said "yes" to Irwin.

His boss at Caritas didn't want Leung to leave and when he failed to persuade him to stay, he asked the bishop of Hong Kong to talk to Leung.

The prelate tried his best. He even offered Leung a year leave to come to Canada and convince himself that things in Edmonton wouldn't be as rosy as presented. Leung turned down the bishop's offer.

In Canada, things turned out better than expected for Leung and his family. He worked hand-in-hand with Irwin for 20 years, often replacing Irwin in his absence. In 2002, Leung became president and CEO.

His wife Shirley worked for the provincial government as a social worker until her retirement. His daughter Rachel completed two different professional degrees and now serves as a registered dietitian at the Misericordia Hospital.

"I have been so blessed," Leung says.

From the beginning, Leung has been responsible for the administrative structure and infrastructure of the agency — making sure things are done in a cost-effective way.

His first job was to build the agency's head office on 99th Street. He has also had a hand in building the agency headquarters in Wetaskiwin and in Red

Deer, which should be completed in a few months.

Leung also set up policies and procedures and the appropriate administrative functions for Catholic Social Services so the agency could operate in an efficient way.

At one point Leung convinced Irwin to have an outside agency accrediting Catholic Social Services and looking at its services with a critical eye. For years, CSS has been reviewed every four years by a New York accreditation agency.

Leung is also widely recognized as the driving force behind the Rotary Centre for New Immigrants and for the agency's initiatives to help the homeless.

"He's done a lot of positive, tangible things, but I think Chris' greatest gift is he is very much a servant leader," said CSS official Marc Barylo.

BEHIND THE SCENES

"He set an example for all of us to follow. He was never one for the limelight. He quietly behind the scenes made things happen without caring for credit. He tries to pass the credit on to others, much like Father Bill did."

Barylo said many of Leung's decisions are based on his commitment to God and his Catholic moral principles. "He is very much a person of integrity and he wants to be his brother's keeper."

The last 31 years have not been without challenges. During economic booms, for example, he found it difficult to retain staff. Many employees wanted to make more money and would leave the agency for better paying jobs. During the last economic boom he had to deal with a 25 per cent staff turnover.

Leung says his appointment as CEO 10 years ago was a surprise to many people, including him.

Yet, the biggest challenge came when

Irwin died in 2004. Many people wondered if the agency could ever survive without its founder, who was the agency's "tower of strength." Leung proved it could not only survive but also excel.

To allow that to happen, though, he had to introduce bold changes to the way Catholic Social Services was run.

GOVERNANCE MODEL

Slowly but surely he moved the agency from a corporate model, where the president calls all the shots, to a governance model, where the board of directors sets the direction.

"I believe in the principles of accountability, collaboration and transparency," Leung says proudly. Eventually he even removed the word "president" from his title, becoming just the CEO.

When he took over as CEO, Catholic Social Services had an annual budget of \$42 million. Now the agency's budget is \$72 million, with well over 100 programs, 1,600 staff and 2,100 volunteers.

"I have worked with Chris since 1987 and he has always been a thoughtful, dedicated and hardworking member of Catholic Social Services," said Kevin Feehan, chair of the board of Edmonton Catholic Charities and Sign of Hope.

"He has always striven to ensure that Catholic Social Services lives up to his mission as a truly Catholic organization that is dedicated to the social justice mission of the Church."

Feehan, a city lawyer, said Leung has always had as his primary focus helping those in need, including people struggling with family violence, immigration issues, mental health, addiction issues and diseases like HIV/AIDS.

"Chris has been tireless in the work of the Lord and has been a credit to the memory of Msgr. Bill Irwin."



School News

Excerpts from <http://www.lasalle.edu.hk>

2012-10-28

Dr Wong Medical Seminar at LSC

Dr Roger WONG, an old boy of LSC now resident in Vancouver presented a seminar on Sunday 28th October to over 50 LSC old boys who are presently studying medicine in Hong Kong. On Monday 29th October Dr Wong will conduct several workshops at LSC for F5-F6 students considering a career in the medical profession. Dr. Wong is a Clinical Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia (UBC), Assistant Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education of the UBC Faculty of Medicine, and Associate Programme Director of the UBC Internal Medicine Residency Programme. Dr. Wong is also Consultant Physician and Head of the Geriatric Consultation Programme, Vancouver General Hospital. Dr. Wong is also the President of the Canadian Geriatrics Society and founded the state-of-the-art Acute Care for Elders Units (ACE) in Vancouver, which has been implemented nationally and internationally.



2012-10-27

University of Southern California (USC) visits La Salle College

On Friday 26th October Mr David Park from the Office of Admissions of USC visited La Salle College along with his Hong Kong office colleague, Ms LEUNG. Mr Park and Ms Leung had the opportunity to meet with students who may be considering studies in the USA. USC is one of the largest private research universities in the USA and attracts world-class professors and students. Some more recent LSC old boys who have studied at USC include: CHAN Johnson (07), HO Kiu (01), WONG Denis (07), and MA Edward (89) who went on to study at Berkley and Stanford. www.usc.edu



2012-10-24

LSC Old Boys (San Francisco) Present a Silicon Wafer to the College

Attached are photos of a silicon wafer, a gift from the OBA (San Francisco Chapter) as a memento of the 80th Jubilee of the College. Mr Chris NGAI (1978) a graduate of UC Berkley works at Applied Materials, Silicon Valley, and is presently searching for new elements within the periodic table that will be able to energise nano wafers for microchips as small as cells of the body. Please refer to the following links for more information. Thank you to the OBA San Francisco Chapter. http://iisme.org/etp/Silicon_Wafer_Processing.pdf



2012-10-22

School Outing

Monday October 22nd Forms had a school outing with most Forms having BBQ's. Form 5 students were assigned to assist a class from Forms 1-4. Even though the parks were crowded with what seemed thousands of students, BBQ's were found and fun seemed to be had by all. The F1-F2 Teachers were treated to a tasty BBQ courtesy of Mr LO.



2012-10-21

Completion of the 80th Jubilee Development Projects

Most of the 80th Jubilee development projects are nearing completion and I have attached some pictures as an up-date for everyone. The Projects included: refurbishment of the **College Chapel**; renovation of the **Front Entrance and Office**; replanting of the **Garden**; refurbishment of the **Gym Gallery**; redevelopment of the **Fitness/Weights Room**; refurbishment of the **Squash Courts**; replacement of the **Air-Conditioning** on all floors; replacement of the **IT Backbone**; and development of **Wi-Fi** campus wide. I would like to thank the La Salle Foundation, old boys, parents, the PTA, students, and the EDB all who have contributed significant funding for these projects. But, there is still much to be done as the gym, hall and lecture theatres all need refurbishing after 30 years wear and tear. Thank you most sincerely. Br. Steve



2012-10-21

Australian Mathematics Awards 2012

LSPS had 3 Year level awardees (LEE Wan P4, HO Chi Chuen P5, LEE Kai Fung P5) and La Salle College had 4 awardees in the 2012 Australia Mathematics Competition. Awards were presented by Prof Taylor of the Australian Mathematics Trust and Mr Tighe, Australian Consul-General, at PolyU on Saturday 20th October. The order of Awards is: Medallist, Prize, High Distinction, Distinction. A medal is awarded to the top 1 or 2 students in a Form/Year, and a High Distinction is awarded to the top 2% in the exam. The exam includes Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Pacific, and Bulgaria. La Salle College boys were 2 of the 6 Hong Kong Medallists. YU Hoi Wai who was in F1 in 2011/12 was awarded High Distinction for the F1 exam and was a Medallist for the F3 exam.

Medallists: TANG Dik Man (F3), YU Hoi Wai (F3)
High Distinction: LEE Kwan Yuen (F3), YU Hoi Wai (F1)
Prize: WONG Chun Hei (F2)



The programme emcee was master WONG Wing Hang from La Salle College. www.amt.edu.au

2012-10-19

2012-2013 Inter-school Swimming Championships

2012-2013 Inter-School Swimming Championships An excellent day for La Salle College swimming with tremendous team spirit showing true Lasallian courage, valour, determination, mental toughness, and that 'never say die' attitude. La Salle College cheering could be heard all over Hong Kong as their classmates called their brothers home. Tremendous support from mums, dads, and old boys added to the excitement. The results were:

La Salle College 3rd Overall
C Grade Champions
B Grade 4th Overall
A Grade 3rd Overall





2012-10-19

La Salle College Chinese Debating Team Wins the Hong Kong Junior Chamber International (JCIHK) Debating Competition



La Salle College Chinese Debating Team won the final of the Junior Chamber International (JCIHK) Debating Competition against Queens College. The final was held on October 6th and was entitled 'We Unite for a Better World 2012'. JCI is an NGO founded in 1950 to provide "opportunity for the young people to develop their leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship, and fellowship necessary to create positive changes". Thank you to Mr Kuk, coaches and team members. It was an exciting final as the two Colleges from the Inter-school Chinese Debating Championships, La Salle College and Queens College, met again.

www.jcihk.org

2012-10-11

CHOI Chu Yin 2012 Asian Junior Champion Fencer

Over 40 countries attended the 2012 Asian Junior Fencing Championships in Bali, Indonesia, from Sep 29 - Oct 8, 2012, including China, Japan, and South Korea. La Salle College boys achieved remarkably well winning the Cadet Boy's Foil Championship and 2nd in the Cadet Boy's Foil team event.

Cadet Boy's Foil Individual Champion - CHOI Chun Yin Ryan (F4B)

Cadet Boy's Foil Team 2nd Overall - CHOI Chun Yin Ryan (F4B) and TANG Pui Ting Thomas (F5A)

Congratulations to these boys and thank you to the coaches and old boys.



2012-10-09

YU Hoi Wai Awarded Gold at the Hua Luo-geng Cup Mathematics Competition

The 4th National Hua Luo-geng Cup Mathematics competition was held in Macau from the 13th – 16th August. Participants came from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Singapore, and the United States. YU Hoi Wai (2E) won the Gold Medal, First Class Honours Award, and the Best Solver Award. Congratulations to YU Hoi Wai, the Maths Team, and teachers.



2012-10-08

HO Long Hei 2nd in the Science & Technology Competition

HO Long Hei (6F) an avid scientist for many years competed in the Guangdong Science Centre's Science & Technology Innovation Competition and was placed second for his invention that generates power from the movement on the surface of water.



2012-10-08

Western China Mathematical Competition

The Western China Mathematical Invitational Competition 2012 (CWMI) was held in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China (內蒙古呼和浩特) from the 26th September to Oct 1st. There were about 100 participants from China, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Mongolia and Singapore. The Hong Kong Team consisted of 8 members, two from La Salle College. HUI Pak Nam Jeffrey (5F) won Second Class Honours and TANG Dik Man Damian (4G) won Third Class Honours. Well done!

