



MCAO Newsletter

www.chinesemauritiusassociation.com

Rose Hill in the 50's & 60's ... Recollection of a Town

By Peter Fong (with Philip Wong)

The year was 1951. I was a little boy of 6 years old, freshly arrived on this beautiful Island of Mauritius from Hong Kong. My parents had decided from the very start to live in that peaceful little town called Rose Hill. The nearest neighbouring town is Quatre-Bornes, a smaller municipality to the south and then there is Curepipe another few miles further on. Immediately to the north is our *ville-soeur* of Beau Bassin, with Port Louis, our capital city, another few miles further north.

My early school days began at *Bon et Perpétuel Secours (BPS)*, an all-girls secondary school run by Catholic nuns in Beau-Bassin. My elder sister Alice had been admitted there and she 'dragged' me along to attend Kindergarten there. I was fortunate enough to have the chance to ride on the local train daily, the only reason I accepted to go to school. What a pity! Only a few years later we were to see this train service abolished. At BPS, I met my very first childhood friend, Pierre Siou. He was quite a charming chap. A joke he has been telling his friends years later was that we were both kicked out by the nuns because we were chasing the little girls around. Maybe it's true, I can't remember.

As I grew older, I changed school (maybe I was really kicked out from BPS) and attended primary school at *St. Enfant Jésus*, another Catholic school, this time run by priests. My classmates in those years were Robert Konfortion, Marc Ng Wing Keng, Eric Lam and Joe Leung. What? No girls? It cannot be! It was an all-boys school. But we got to play "*canettes*" (marbles) on the school ground and got ourselves big lectures from our parents for soiling our clothes in the dust of the playground. Since we could not afford to buy a real ball (never heard of pocket money in those days) we used our old socks and stuffed them together to form a ball and kicked it around in front of St. Ignace Chapel, the priests' residence. We made so much noise and kept the clergy away from their meditation. We

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Rose Hill in the 50's & 60's ...Recollection of a Town	1
MCAO Annual Christmas Party 2018	5
My Journey from Mauritius to Canada	6
Hakka Sayings	8
MCAO News	9
Laughter...the Best Medicine	10
MCAO Sponsors	11
MCAO Membership	11
Contact Us	11
Picture Gallery	11
A Word from Our Sponsors	12

would keep on playing until the priests would come and kick us out! Then we ran to Cinema Royal or Cinema Hall. We begged the "*portiers*" (doormen) to let us in for free to watch some western movies playing at that time. I remember one of the movies was called, "*Le train sifflera trois fois* (High Noon)". A nice song '*Do not forsake me*' was featured in that movie. And then when we got home - don't laugh: the "*punaises*" (bed bugs), residents in the '*poulailler*' section of the movie theatre, had hitched a hike on our clothes to our homes. Our parents were not too pleased!



Revisiting St Enfant Jésus RCA School (2012)

The main street of Rose Hill (Route Royale) ran through the centre of the town for a couple of miles in a North-South direction. Beginning at the north end, there was the local police station and going south from there, we would run into *La boutique Yong Kan Chung*. It was a one-of-a-kind landmark of the town because of its unique old colonial-style construction.

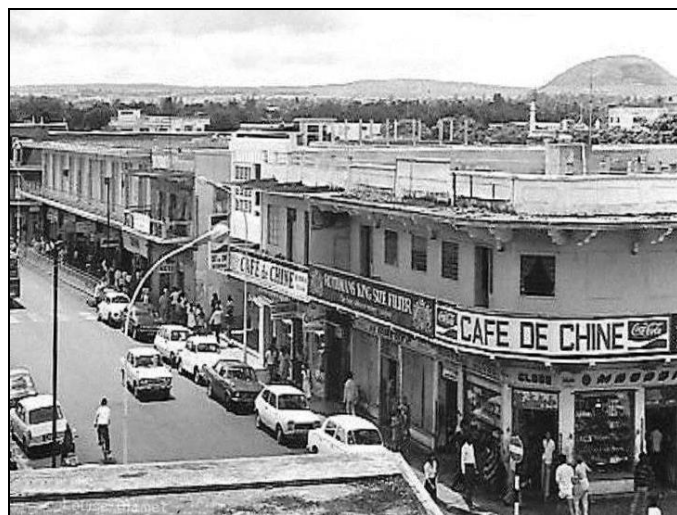


La boutique Yong Kan Chung (1953)

A bit further to the west, we had the local “bazaar” (market) and the Sports Stadium. Back on the main street was *Chung Tung Store* and its famous “pâté” (puff pastries with meat stuffing) that melted in your mouth. On the same side were *Magasin Chung Fat*, *Magasin Lim Sam*, *Magasin Intéressant* (Wong Too Yuen) and *Magasin Paris* (Tang Ah Tiam), which happened to be the smallest shop in town with a footprint of only 4ft x 16ft. What's amazing is the shop is still in business to this day. Heading further south towards the Plaza Theatre, we would come to the restaurants *Café de Chine*, *Lion d'Or* (Eric Lam), *Magasin Bleu Rouge* (Ng Sui Hing), *Café de France*, *New Hong Kong Store* (Roger Kim Lim) *Magasin Eros* (Lan Hin Lit), *Studio Alhambra* (Choo Fu Young & Ah Fan Lau), *Tabagie Pacific* (Ng Cheng Hing), *Restaurant Hollywood* (Lam Kin Kong), *Tabagie Andrex* (Ah Yim) and *Librairie Le Cygne*. This bookshop held a special place in my thoughts ... aah, those very pretty girls working in there! I spent most of my pocket money buying comics just to get the chance to chat with them. Other shops on the main street were *Magasin Venise*, *Magasin Erres Radio* (owned by Lo Thiap Hing, a very nice and generous man), the ice cream parlour owned by Pat Co, *Magasin Bon Pasteur* (Jerry Chan Wai Ling & Andre Chung), *Music Store Anzi* (Ah Kaye), and lastly, *Unique Store* where pretty Mimi at the counter served Fanta, Coca and “gateaux Napolitaines” and there goes the rest of my pocket money! Very emotional for me when I think about all those dear old friends of mine and some have already gone to a better world.

The local Chinese community, apart from those operating the high street retail stores described above, included many who would run the small local grocery-type stores, affectionately known as *la Boutique Chinois* all across town. These extremely hard-working and simple people consisting of mostly husbands and wives would open their

shops for 6½ days a week. And don't think that once the shop closed that would mean the day is over. Oh, no! Customers would still knock on the side window after hours. And the “comi” (shop assistant) would be obligated to serve them even for a ¼-lb of sugar or a cigarette or two. No rest for them as they struggled to make a living for themselves and their families. A lot of selfless efforts would be made without even a second thought just to ensure that a better education and hopefully a brighter future could be had by their children. Talking about sacrifice!



Rose Hill Town Centre (1960)

Also, I want to pay my tributes to other parts of Rose Hill. There is *La Boutique Wan Sai Cheong*, *Cascade Store* (Ng Wing Keng), *La Boutique Boundary* (Ng Yan Luk), *La boutique Sit Yee* (Eddie) at the foot of *Montagne Corps De Garde*, *La Boutique Lim Ka Lan* (Paul, my good friend from the Scouts days), *Chantier Rié* (Robert Lee Shing Man family), *La boutique Wan Fook Cheong* where all the St. Andrew's College kids had their breaks of Coca and “gateaux”.



La boutique Lim Ka Lan (2012)

We had such hard-working families like the Ng Ping

Man's who had a home business for making local shoes. It has been such a long time; many names have faded away from my mind. They are the ones that made our beloved Rose Hill a booming town in the late 50's. They were the immortal heroes of Rose Hill. I salute them!

This generation of dedicated people seldom took time off for some rest or relaxation. There are only two occasions when they would all come out in large numbers to socialize. One would be for watching and cheering the local basketball team and the other, for watching the occasional Chinese movie.

In the mid-50's, my dad formed and coached an all-Chinese basketball team in Rose Hill called *Wild Cats*. In a very short time they had become a good team. They competed well against the traditionally strong all-white teams of *Dodo* and *Faucon* from Curepipe, and the other all-Chinese team of *Dragons* from Port Louis. The main *Wild Cats* players were the Young brothers (Ah Peng and Ah Meng) and their cousin Ah San Young, the Fong brothers (Baldwin and Victor, my own brothers actually), Andy (Tarzan) Leung, 'tit Jean Ah Chuen, Kwok Siang and a few others. However, by the late 50's, most of these players had left Mauritius for further studies and a better life in England. Subsequently, the team was dissolved.



Wild Cats Basketball Team (1955)

Occasionally our local Chinese community would have the opportunity to watch some Chinese movies imported from Hong Kong by local personalities such as Honourable Jean Ah Chuen. Typically, the movies were screened at the Plaza Theatre and they would be the talk of the town for a while. From every corner of Rose Hill, all the local Chinese inhabitants would come out to watch the movie with their families. People were nicely dressed as if for a big special occasion. The two most famous movies were "*The Kingdom and the Beauty*" (江山美人; Hakka: *Kong San Mi Ngin*)

and "*Butterfly Lovers*" (梁山伯 祝英台; Hakka: *Liong San Pak, Zuk Yin Toy*). *Ala zotte tout plorer là!* There were no Kleenex tissues in those days and they used their handkerchiefs. The movie theatre was at the centre of a beautifully-designed building with a rich and unique architecture. Built in 1927, it was originally intended for live theatre and shows. Above the ground floor was the balcony (*loge*) section that had private boxes with 4 seats in each. Above that were four levels for regular audience. The highest level just under the rafters was the cheapest section, affectionately known as the '*poulailler*' (chicken coop). Right above the stage and cinema screen was a big impressive panel of ancient Greek paintings ... very, very classy-looking! On either side of the theatre, there were two large identical halls noted for their elegant glass-windowed façade. The left side housed the Town library while the right wing was used as a big banquet hall where the Chinese community, particularly the well-to-do, used to hold wedding parties. Everybody (almost the entire Chinese community of the town would be invited - *tout dimoune konne tout dimoune*) would come to celebrate the happy event with the newlyweds. And it always ended with "*ène grand bal*". *Ala zotte danser la!*

Then came the 60's accompanied by a big change on the horizon. Little kids of earlier days were kids no more. They were teenagers now, quiet, simple and obedient... yes, very obedient to their parents especially the girls and the poor teenaged boys would have a tough time to coax them out. And if by chance they were able to sneak out, *aaah... zotte les coeurs faire boum boum boum!* New ideas, new life-style were in the air. And who can forget the new hair style *à la James Dean*, the heart-throb star of the day? And the famous quote "*Gnette li! Pé tappe la pose James Dean*" was around the whole town.



Plaza Theatre (1963)

The next phase of my life was the high school days. I was admitted at St. Mary's College, an all-boys school

(again!) run by Catholic Jesuit monks. Some of the contemporary Chinese students at the college were Robert Konfortion (again!), Vincent Ah Chuen, Jacques Chan Yu Tin, Martin (Francois) Kim Lim, Max Wan Sai Cheong and Cyril Lau Thi Keng. We were all great friends in those days even if we were not in the same class. Sad to say, I was not the brightest student in my class, too many distractions outside the classroom! I was seated by the window, watching all the pretty Loretto and Queen girls walking down the street. We had great sportsmen in Max and Martin in football, Vincent and Jacques in basketball. And sometimes some of us would skip school and played rummy "*en bas la riviere Jardin Balfour*". Once I nearly drowned in that river but fortunately Jacques Chan Yu Tin came to my rescue. Crazy time those school days!

The main local rival of St. Mary's College was St. Andrew's School, an Anglican college located just a few blocks down the same street. Their students were the lucky ones – it happened to be a co-ed school. The irony of it is that the St. Andrew's school kids thought the St. Mary's college students were the lucky ones ... new buildings and great sport facilities. St Andrew's school was different in many ways. They had girls in their classes. Let me re-phrase it, pretty girls everywhere you look ... no need to look out through the window! And St. Andrew's students were well known for their academic prowess while St. Mary's were known more for their sport achievements... *content zouer, pas content apprane!*

Then, there were the all-girls high schools. My favorite one was of course College Lorette ... aaah! so many pretty girls there! The other was Queen Elizabeth College - the girls there were a bit snobbish (*cateau vert, les ailes blancs*) because they thought they were better than the Loretto students. Some of the naughty ones would sneak out during lunch break time to meet boys down that famous river behind the school building. That I know well...for I was one of the boys!

In the 60's, there were many changes coming to the younger generation of the Chinese community who were being mobilised to help with social issues in the community. First there was the volunteer group of *Legionnaires of Mary*, which went around the four corners of Rose Hill to help the "*boutiquiers*" spiritually as well as to address other social needs they may have. A new young priest, *Père Ah Kong*, came onto the scene in Rose Hill at the same time. As the first Sino-Mauritian priest, he was well loved by everyone. A priest who did not distinguish between rich and poor, he treated everyone equally. He was truly a priest of the people, not like some 'other' priest of some 'other' town. He first started the *Mission Catholique Chinoise* of Rose Hill,

and then the Chinese Student Association, known simply as C.S.A, for the young generation.

Père Ah Kong also started the first Chinese Boys Scouts of Rose Hill with the collaboration of Scoutmaster Raymond Wan Sai Cheong, who subsequently recruited his three younger brothers Regis (who is now the priest of St. Ignace, Rose Hill), Francois and Roger to expand the movement. They were followed by Cyril Lau Thi keng, Marc Ah Chuen, Jacques Chan Yu Tin, Bobby Ng Cheong Tin, Andre Wong, Paul Lim Ka Lan, Laval Ng Ping Man and ...oh! nearly forgot... me too! I convinced the director *Frère Rémi* of St Mary's College to let us have the playground for our weekly scout meeting and to kick football too. And that was the beginning of the legendary 27th Roman Catholic All Chinese Boys Scouts of Rose Hill. And many, many others followed later through the years.



27th Roman Catholic All Chinese Boys Scouts (1964)

Père Ah Kong was not one to rest on his laurels. As his next project he started the Cubs group for the younger kids, supervised by our dear Chieftains Luise, Monique, Emilie, Bernadette and May. And finally, Father Ah Kong has one more task to achieve: he formed *The Chinese Girl Guides* of Rose Hill. And the rest is history.



The Chieftains (1964)

Then there was the church choir of the *Mission*

Catholique Chinoise in which Père Ah Kong was also involved together with another prominent “Rose Hillien” in Kwok Siang (Mr. Kwok). Kwok Siang gathered a group of young people with great voices to form the choir group. I still remember some of the names: Gladys, Gisèle, Blanche, Monique, Antoine, Luise and many others. When the 5:00 pm mass at *L'Eglise Notre Dame de Lourdes* was over, the whole crowd would congregate at the St. Ignace Community Centre also known as Limka Hall. There, free Coca, Fanta, and “gateaux” were provided for everyone, a generous donation by the Chinese business men of Rose Hill. Young girls were performing Chinese traditional dances on the stage, Ah Sin “*tappe chanté Cliff Richard*” with Ah Ming “*lors so la guitare*”. Miss Mauritius Double Ten of that year, Ah Yit (Kim Lim), a charming and great singer performed the song ‘*Goodbye Jimmy Goodbye*’ - not a dry eye in the audience including mine! Some boys were trying to ‘*serre coin*’ and got the brush off and “*perdi points...*”. Of course, I was one of them too. Ayaal! Everyone was having such a great time!



C.Y.C. Dance Members at Limka Hall (1961)

There was also a popular youth association called “Chinese Youth Club” (C.Y.C.) that was formed by Robert Chung Tung. Among the early members were Cyril Lau (again!), Vincent Ah Chuen, Mino & Ah Ming Ng Sui Hing, Silvestre Ng Kam, Martin Kim Lim, Jean Ng Wing Keng, Joseph Wong Too Yuen, André Wong, Jacques Chan Yu Tin, Ah Sen, Ah Shun Yee, Ah Sin, Peter ‘*Barbelliste*’ and me ... of course. Among the girls, there were Gisèle, Blanche, Gladys, Monique, Jocelyne, Ah Man, Mimi and many others.

For Chinese New Year in 1961, we had a very memorable picnic. For the first time, C.Y.C. chartered a local bus to take us all on a day trip to Mont Choisy. We sang and danced the Sega, “*bouze bouze lé rein*” in an already “*bouze bouzer*” old bus all the way to the seaside. The girls had prepared corned beef salad, “*macaroni saumon*”, “*la langue boeuf roti*”, “*vindaye poisson veille rouge*”, “*mine frires*”,

“*vooyens*”. *Zotte banne tentes ti bien rempli avec bon bon manzer...* Those dishes were so good that they still remained in my mind up to now especially when they were prepared by certain young girls... *Mari bon la!* Lots of young hearts were fluttering that day too. Everyone had a great time. And years later, people were still telling stories about that outing. Of course, with time a little “salt and pepper” had been added to those wonderful stories. Ha! Ha!



C.Y.C. Picnic at Mont Choisy (1961)

Now thinking back in my quiet little corner in Whitby on this cold winter night, I am wondering what is happening to that little town of mine? Does the Chinese community still have the same values of those bygone days, or have they all ‘gone with the wind’? The answer may just be ‘blowing in the wind!’

No matter what, we will always remember those fabulous years of old and let us all (*Rose Hilliens*) raise our glasses and sing one more time:

“...*Those were the days, my friend,
We thought they’d never end...*”.

MCAO Annual Christmas Party 2018

By Philip Wong

The happy times and rejoicings of past Christmases were still fresh in our minds. The MCAO Christmas party was upon us again this year-end. If the family gatherings of the last two years were anything to go by, we could look forward to some fun-filled moments. Luckily for us we decided to put down our names early and sure enough all available tickets were sold out in no time.

On this December 15, 2018 the guests did not have any inclement weather to contend with. Still after more than

one-hour drive on Highway 401, we arrived in good time at Saint Jean de Lalande Catholic Elementary School. At the gym a welcoming party was there to greet the guests and guide them to their seats. At our table they have thoughtfully placed two plates full of “gateaux piments”, samosas and vooyens. This is a good start!

Soon we were in a holiday spirit and busy reconnecting with friends and acquaintances. So many familiar faces, and so many more new ones too! The larger venue of this year was helpful and allowed the members to move around a bit more easily. It also meant having to wave to people further away while we chatted with those close by.



As we looked around, we could see Christmas decorations on display on the tables, especially on those at the entrance. The centerpiece, without a doubt, was the pink “Napolitaines” cakes arranged in two conical Christmas trees. What an ingenious idea! Those of us who grew up “dans la campagne” will remember the pink cake coating seen in “vitrine gateaux dans la boutique”.

The wider hall has permitted MCAO to cater for more guests. As compared to last year, there were clearly more people in attendance (one estimate puts it at well in excess of 225). This was probably a reflection of the increasing membership of MCAO. Many parents have brought their young ones with them to share in the fun, and in the process were helping us sow the seeds of our future growth.

Music filled the air, “La joie, dans l'air”, in this festive atmosphere. There was solo and group singing too. The dancers wearing red tops and Santa hats performed line dancing on the stage. Other members took to the dance floor to show their prowess. The tables, decked out in red and green, were arranged in such a way that we could all observe the comings and goings. This organising committee must have put in a lot of heart into it and thought of everything.

A number of older members were seated, chatting and watching the show, 看跳舞唱歌 *kàn tiàowǔ chànggē* (Hakka: *kon tiao voo, zhong kor*). Our regulars recognised a number of our founding members such as “Kam Pak Meh” and “Ah Yee Ti”. We also made sure we acknowledged the other senior members, who have honoured us with their presence. It was an opportunity to show our respects to the elders. We should do that more often, 喊大人 *Hǎn dàrén* (Hakka: *Ham tai ngin*).

To anyone taking note, the event looked well planned and executed. The MC was able to direct guests to three food stations conveniently located at the center. In no time, the volunteers, wearing their cute white gloves, finished dishing out the food to the lines of diners. The party goes cheerfully tucked into the hot food. The treats at the table were typical of what we knew growing up in Mauritius and the dinner itself was Canadian. The diverse combination worked out quite well.

Well done, leaders and volunteers! We thank MCAO for bringing so many people together and making the annual feast possible for us. We would like to show our appreciation for the music and dance, for the food and, most importantly for good company. 加油! 加油! Jiāyóu! Jiāyóu! Allez MCAO! Shall we meet again next year?

My Journey from Mauritius to Canada

By George Wan



On September 27, 2018 I reached a milestone in celebrating the 50th anniversary of my arrival in Canada as a landed immigrant. I left London, England by train to Liverpool where I boarded the Canadian Pacific's “Empress of England” for its journey across the Atlantic Ocean to

Montreal, Quebec. A week later the ship entered the St Lawrence River and arrived in Quebec City the following afternoon when Canadian immigration officers came on board to process all passengers and I became a landed immigrant on that day.

In the 1950's there were approximately 21,000 Mauritians of Chinese origin or 3% of the total population and

unemployment on the island was around 30%. The job prospects for students graduating from secondary schools were very limited and many Mauritians started to emigrate to London, England as there was no restriction for entry to the United Kingdom for British subjects from the colonies.

After attending primary school at St Enfant Jesus in Rose Hill, I started my secondary education in 1953 at the Royal College School, Port Louis, known also as "*La School*" for short before it became the present-day Royal College Port Louis. By spending most of my teenage years in Port Louis I was able to meet many high school students from the Chinese community in Port Louis through the Chinese Students Association, Port Louis which was founded in the early 1940's by three high school students, Regis Lam Po Tang, Kiat Ng Lun and my brother Alfred. Members benefited from many of its activities such as basketball, volleyball, table-tennis (CSA members won island tournaments), bi-annual camping under tents, and participating in the annual drama competition between students' associations. The emblem of the CSA was the "Phoenix", the mythical bird which is always rising from its ashes. It was wisely chosen by the club founders with the hope that future generations of students would keep the Association alive, but unfortunately it became extinct like the dodo.

After leaving secondary school in 1959, I was successful in obtaining a position as clerical officer at the Colonial Secretary's Office in the Government Civil Service with a monthly salary of Rs 275. My objective was to work for a year or two to save enough money to pay for my trip to England for further studies.



"La Bourdonnais"

In June 1960, I was accepted as a student in the Pathology Department of the Royal Free Hospital in London to start a 7-year course of study in Medical Laboratory Sciences leading to a Fellowship of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences. I left Mauritius on September 17, 1960 on board of the *Messageries Maritimes* passenger

ship "*La Bourdonnais*", one of four sister ships with "*Ferdinand de Lesseps*", "*Jean Laborde*", and "*Pierre Loti*".

The journey from Mauritius to Marseilles (France) took 30 days with stops at the following ports: Le Port, Pointe des Galets (Reunion), Tamatave and Diego Suarez (Madagascar), Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania), Mombassa (Kenya), Djibouti (Somalia), Alexandria (Egypt), and Marseilles (France) being the final one.



On the Way to Europe

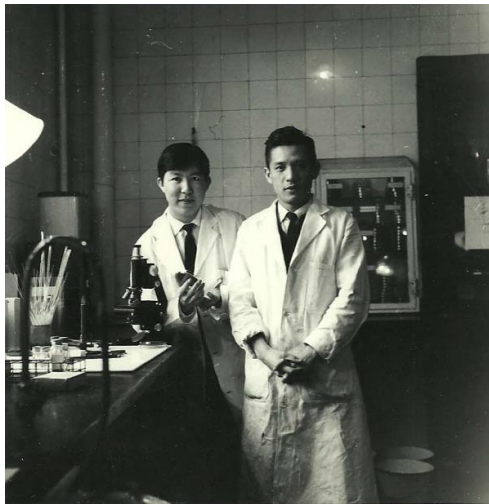
On arrival in Marseilles, a representative from Thomas Cook came on board before disembarkation to help arrange local hotel accommodation, train and ferry tickets to London via Paris for transiting passengers who needed the service. I stayed 2 nights in Marseilles and made a day trip to Lourdes and then spent 3 nights in Paris to visit and celebrate my 19th birthday. The final leg was taking the train to Calais to cross the English Channel by ferry to Dover and board a British Rail train to Victoria Station.

Soon after arriving in London, I was shocked to see children holding a dummy begging in the streets just like in a Charles Dickens' novel. I mentioned it to a friend and he burst out laughing, explaining to me the children were asking "Penny for the Guy" and the dummy was an effigy of Guy Fawkes, one of the men who tried to blow the House of Parliament in 1605. The children were collecting money to buy fireworks for Guy Fawkes or Bonfire night celebrated every November 5 when fireworks would be lit, and effigies of Guy Fawkes burned on bonfires.

The cheapest accommodation in London at the time was a bed-sitting room in a home for £2 per week with basic amenities such as a shared bathroom and kitchen. The first thing the landlord told me was "no cooking with garlic" - the English of that generation must have taken a

dislike to its taste and smell! The bathroom was unheated and had a coin-operated gas meter to heat the water to fill the bathtub. The bedroom was not heated either, so a hot water bottle was often used to warm the bed and keep you warm at night.

Students would work on farms picking fruits and vegetables during the summer to earn money for a vacation on the Continent (Europe). One summer I joined other Mauritian students to work the night shifts at Peek Freans' factory in London and after handling thousands of biscuits on the production line, I stopped eating biscuits for 5 years! Another way of earning additional money would be to try to get "extras" roles for Chinese or Asian crowd scenes in the once vibrant British film industry. Fellow Mauritians in London would let each other know whenever castings were being called and an "extra" would be paid £25 less actor's union fee. In the summer of 1962, I was offered one of the "extras" roles with other Mauritians in the production of "55 days at Peking" starring Charlton Heston. The film was being shot on location in Spain for six months and free accommodation was provided for those hired in London. But somehow, I decided to give up the bright lights of Tinseltown and chose instead to continue my studies, since I still had five years to go! If you ever watch the movie, you might recognise a few Mauritians in it.



Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London

After obtaining my Fellowship in Microbiology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion early in 1968, I decided to emigrate to Canada where many senior postings were advertised. I was offered two positions, one in the Microbiology Department of the new medical school at Sherbrooke University, Quebec and the other one in the Haematology Department of St Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia, Ontario. When I arrived in Montreal, the Microbiology laboratory in Sherbrooke was not ready

and was not due for completion for another six months. I then made the decision to go to Sarnia instead.

The trip from Montreal to Sarnia by train was just over 12 hours with a change of train in Toronto. The head of Histopathology, who was from Scotland, came to meet me at the train station and he and his wife were kind to accommodate me in their home until I found a suitable place to live. I will always remember their kindness and generosity in welcoming me in their home.



First Car, First Winter in Canada

The local YMCA had a list of apartments and rooms available for rent in private homes and I found a suitable one within walking distance of the hospital since I did not have a car yet and the public buses at the time did not run after 19:00 hr in Sarnia. I met my landlady, a widow who was living alone and for a room and half-board, she would charge me \$25 weekly and that included doing my laundry and ironing too! Thus, I was set to start my new life in Canada.

Hakka Sayings (客家俗語)

By Mike How & Clifford Lam

Laan Koot Téyw (懶骨頭)

Idiom to describe a lazy person. The phrase literally means "lazy bones", which is also in the English vernacular.

Maai Koot Téyw (賣骨頭)

Expression used when referring to a little girl. Generally used in an 'affectionate' way without any bad undertone. Translated literally, it means: "Selling bones".

Siw See Ngjin (羞死人)

Phrase used to tell somebody (for example, a child) that he/she should be ashamed for doing something that was not nice.

Poong Tai Kiok (捧大脚)

Idiom used to describe the action of someone who panders to people of higher stature in order to curry favour with them. Literally translated, it means *"supporting a big foot/leg"*.

Tiaam Nga Li Tchi (尖牙利齿)

Describes the state of someone who is ready to do battle just like an animal would bare its teeth as a sign that it is ready to fight! *"Tiaam nga"* means *"sharp teeth"*, which is reinforced by the term *"Li Tchi"*, also of the same meaning.

Sah Saang Kwee Kiow (蛇声鬼叫)

Describes a situation when someone tries to make a big deal out of some insignificant thing, similar to the English idiom *"to make a mountain out of a mole hill"*. Translated literally, it means *"Snake voice, ghost's cry"*.

MCAO News

**Basic First Aid Workshop**

A workshop on **"Basic First Aid"** was held at the Parkway Forest CC on December 1, 2018. It was presented by Peter Lam from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The presentation was excellent and very informative and was well received by the large and appreciative audience that was present for this important subject.



Basic First Aid Workshop (December 2018)

MCAO Christmas Party

The MCAO Annual Christmas Party was held on December 15, 2018 at the St Jean de Lalande Catholic Elementary School in Scarborough.

The event was a great success with a full-packed house on-hand to celebrate this special holiday event with an excellent program of line dancing and karaoke singing.

A special thank-you to the entire organising team and to all the members and guests without whom the party would not have been the success it was.



MCAO Christmas Party 2018

Milestones

Two of our long-time members, Peter Fong and George Wan, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Canada. We congratulate them on this historic milestone!



Peter & George...50 years later

New MCAO Banner



Work on the design and production of a new banner for MCAO has been completed. A very special thank-you goes to Terence Leung who has kindly donated time, effort and expertise to design the artwork for the new banner.

Acknowledgement

A special note of appreciation goes to Roger Ip Wan Shek for holding another watch-battery replacement session at the MCAO Mix & Mingle on Feb 2, 2019. Proceeds from the service were donated to the club for its on-going activities. Thank-you, Roger!

MCAO Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is provisionally set for April 20, 2019. Stay tuned for further details as they become available.

Laughter...the Best Medicine



The Geography of a Woman

Between 18 and 22, a woman is like Africa.
Half discovered, half wild, fertile and naturally beautiful!

Between 23 and 30, a woman is like Europe.
Well developed and open to trade, especially for someone of real value.

Between 31 and 35, a woman is like Spain.
Very hot, relaxed and convinced of her own beauty.

Between 36 and 40, a woman is like Greece.
Gently aging but still a warm and desirable place to visit.

Between 41 and 50, a woman is like Great Britain.
With a glorious and all conquering past.

Between 51 and 60, a woman is like Israel.
Has been through war, doesn't make the same mistakes twice, and takes care of business.

Between 61 and 70, a woman is like Canada.
Self-preserving, but open to meeting new people.

After 70, she becomes Tibet.
Wildly beautiful, with a mysterious past and the wisdom of the ages.
An adventurous spirit and a thirst for spiritual knowledge.

The Geography of a Man

Between 1 and 100, a man is like North Korea and the United States:
Ruled by a pair of nuts.



À la suite d'une dispute, un couple ne se parle plus....
Aucun ne veut rompre le silence. Soudain le mari se souvient qu'il doit se lever à 5:00 du matin pour prendre l'avion en vue d'un rendez-vous d'affaires important. Il prend un bout de papier et écrit : « Réveille-moi à 5 heures, je dois prendre l'avion ». Il le place bien en vue....
Le lendemain, il se réveille à 9h; furieux, il se lève et aperçoit un papier sur sa table de nuit sur lequel il lit : « Il est 5h, lève-toi »'.

Ne jamais sous-estimer une femme...

MCAO Sponsors

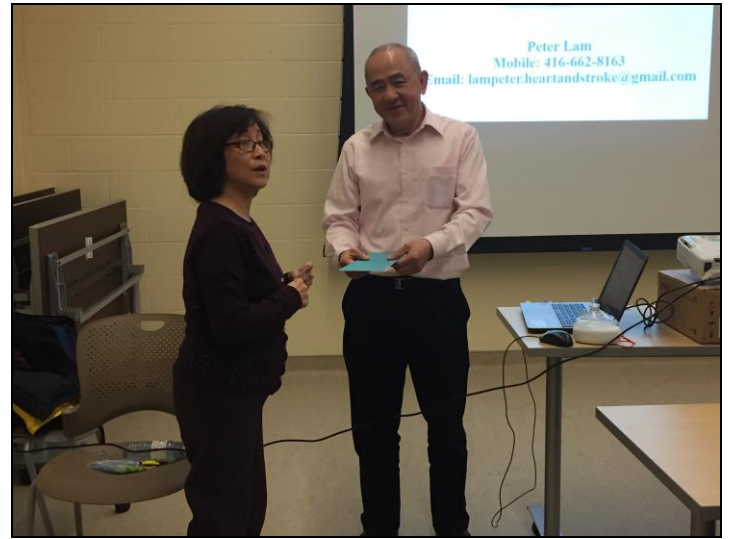
MCAO wishes to extend a deep and sincere thank-you to all its sponsors and members for their generous financial and in-kind contributions to help the association deliver on its mission objectives. Their generosity and support are truly appreciated.

Please support our Sponsors with your business!

For donations and sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Joyce Leung (jmcleung@yahoo.com) or

Allan Wan (647-824-3343).



MCAO Membership

New members are most welcome! For new membership enrolment, please contact:

Joyce Leung (jmcleung@yahoo.com)

Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments, please email us at: clubmcao@gmail.com

You can also visit our website at:

www.mauritiuschineseassociation.com/

Picture Gallery

Basic First Aid Workshop (December 2018):



MCAO Christmas Party (December 2018):





A Word from Our Sponsors...

Le Kato Bay Residence...*your place under the sun*

Impasse Jolicoeur - PEREYBERE (Mauritius)

Located 250 m from Pereybere Beach, **Le Kato Bay Residence** offers modern and stylish accommodations and features an outdoor saltwater pool.

All units are equipped with air conditioning, safety deposit box and have a large terrace/balcony. The apartments also offer a kitchen with dining area.



Facilities:

- Free WiFi
- Free Parking
- Airport Shuttle

Contact Info:

Tel/Fax: (230) 263 2878/2879

Email: lekatobay@gmail.com

<http://www.katobay.com>

Fortune Eight Restaurant



Located in the heart of Chinatown in Port Louis, **Fortune Eight Restaurant** is the definition of excellence in creating a fine dining experience.

Fortune Eight specializes in Southern Chinese cuisine and continues to earn praise for its consistent and great quality of Hakka dishes. Our specialties include our signature steamed fresh chicken, steamed pork belly with Moy Choy, and succulent seafood dishes.

華天大酒樓

午餐 - 晚飯 - 宵夜

舉辦婚宴, 喜慶宴會

豪華大廳, 氣派非凡, 正宗道地, 尊貴享受

接受預訂

Address 22 Emmanuel Anquetil Street
Port Louis, Mauritius

Tel: (230) 216 9357 / 9363

Web Site: fortuneeightrestaurant.mu

Hours: Mon-Sun 10:00AM - 2:00PM
5:30PM-10:00PM

PHARMCARE I.D.A. PHARMACY

Jean-Paul Li, B.Sc. Phm.

Pharmacist/Owner

Tel 416 -245 -1221 Fax 416 -245 -1448

Pharmcarecentre@rogers.com

882 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, ON M3K 1E7

Mon-Fri 09:30am - 6:30pm | Sat 10:00am - 3:00pm

