



Cruising Along with the Chamber at the Nautical Nostalgia Ball

by: Anne Macdonald

On Saturday 28th May, 1994, the Ballroom of the Conrad Hotel was packed with Canadian Chamber members and their guests, enjoying a gala evening at the Chamber's 6th annual Spring Ball.

The theme was "Nautical Nostalgia", and a sell-out crowd enjoyed a fine dinner before dancing the evening away to the sounds of a big band. The Ballroom twinkled with fairy lights, and the black and white art-deco atmosphere was reminiscent of a cruise ship in a bygone era. For those needing a break from the action, there was the opportunity to review the items up for bid in a silent auction. Items ranging from the luxurious and exotic -- such as travel opportunities, to the artistic -- jewellery and artwork, to the practical -- a mobile phone, were all available to Chamber members at potentially bargain prices.

Hong Kong Ferry, and Kader Industrial, and to the Gold Patrons: Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Chevalier Group, Fontana Enterprises, Hutchison Whampoa, Lamko Tool & Mold, and The Royal Bank of Canada for their support of the Chamber. As well, thanks go to Mr. Henry Yip of Kai Tai Construction and Engineering for helping to procure the sand and bricks used to hold the banners in place and to Maureen Anderson for organising the banners.



Incoming president, Barry Macdonald and outgoing president, Eliza Chan

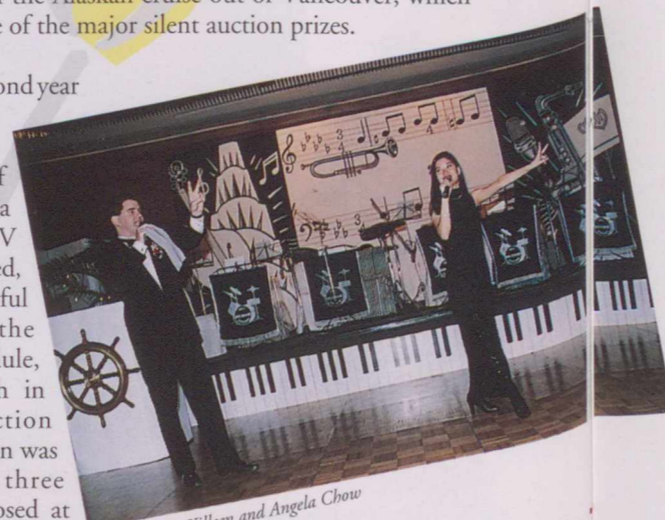
The evening commenced with a wine reception, providing both an opportunity to mingle and an initial look at the items available for auction. Under a ceiling of colourful bunting, the atmosphere was enlivened by the background strains of the New Orleans Jazz Band. The receiving line of Chamber President,

However, the children were not yet ready to go home. Before dinner was served, guests were asked to dig into their wallets for The Balloon Bust Raffle. The children circulated among the tables selling balloons, many of which contained a slip entitling the winner to a special prize. Emcee, Mike Killeen, requested balloon buyers to hold off on checking for prizes until all were sold, but was drowned out by the sound of popping balloons. In the end it did not matter, as the balloons sold very quickly. Who could resist the youngsters in their sailor outfits!

A special thanks to Wendy Nesbitt for co-ordinating the raffle, and to Hongkong Telecom for sponsoring the raffle by donating the balloons and phone cards. In addition, a thank you to everyone who generously provided raffle prizes.

Special guests at the Ball were Commissioner and Mrs. Higginbotham, The Honourable Bob Rae, Premier of Ontario, Mr. & Mrs. Allan Zeman, Mr. & Mrs. Y.C. Chow from the Chevalier Group and Mr. & Mrs. William Fung, of Cunard Line Limited, donors of the Alaskan cruise out of Vancouver, which formed part of one of the major silent auction prizes.

Returning for a second year engagement were emcees Mike Killeen, of Wharf Cable, and Angela Chow, an MTV veejay. As expected, they did a masterful job keeping the evening on schedule, and interest high in the silent auction prizes. The auction was divided into three sections which closed at



Emcees Mike Killeen and Angela Chow

different times over the course of the evening. This heightened suspense, as guests were told only that a section was about to close, not which auction items were included in that section. So bidders were never certain until their name was called, whether their last bid was going to be successful.



Eliza Chan, John Higginbotham, Robert Jewkes, Y.C. Chow, and Chen Ke Qiang

Congratulations to Michael Holmes the highest bidder on two connoisseur class return tickets to Los Angeles and a five-day Royal Caribbean cruise to Baja Mexico, courtesy of United Airlines. A second thank you to United Airlines for a package of two connoisseur class tickets to Singapore plus a three-day cruise to Penang. Linda Marett will be enjoying this fabulous vacation.

Other travel packages included a trip to the private resort of Amanpulo in the Philippines, courtesy of Amanresorts and Cathay Pacific; a stay at the Holiday Inn in Phuket donated by Dragonair and Holiday Inn Worldwide; and a second vacation package in Thailand, this time to Bangkok and Koh Samui, courtesy of the Regent and Mandarin Hotel Groups and Canadian Airlines. These packages



Dr. Benny Chan of Hongkong Telecom presents the Voyageur Award to Greg York

were won by William Brown, and Richard Jolliffe who successfully bid on both the Thailand vacations.

If you wanted to remain closer to Hong Kong, you could have bid on a night at the Hyatt Regency Macau, including helicopter transport from Hong Kong. Michael Holmes will be jetting to the Portuguese enclave -- which will provide a contrast to Mexico! And if you preferred to stay within Hong Kong territorial waters, there were three junk trips to choose from. Richard Webb won the dinner cruise on the Hongkong Bank junk and Earl Klein was the highest bidder on the other two junk excursions donated by Baker & McKenzie and a champagne cruise courtesy of Credit Suisse Bank.

Rounding out the auction, Duty Free Shoppers donated a crystal decanter; Kai-Yin Lo two pieces of her striking jewellery; Spectrum provided six box seats for the Digital Ladies Open Tennis; Teresa Coleman Fine Arts Limited, two pieces of antique embroidery; and Hongkong Telecom, a mobile phone.

An eclectic array of prizes, successfully bid on by Peter Tulloch, Frank Sixt, Michael Holmes, and the last two items, by Gil Stadf.

Many thanks to all of the donors of auction prizes, and everyone who supported the Chamber by placing a bid.

The Ball also saw the presentation of the 2nd Annual Voyageur Award. Sponsored by Hongkong Telecom, The Hongkong Standard, and Sing Tao, this award is presented to recognize the efforts of a Canadian entrepreneur working in Hong Kong. This year saw Greg York and his company, Interpacific Data Management, applauded for developing PC products for telecommunications applications. The Chamber thanks the sponsors and the Scholarships & Awards Committee for their efforts in saluting Canadian business in Hong Kong.

It was not only the bidders at the auction who came away winners. All guests at the Ball were given an upgrade certificate, courtesy of United Airlines, entitling them to a free upgrade from economy to connoisseur class on any United flight. Many thanks to David Solloway at United for this gift.

Some of the people behind the scenes, without whom the Ball would not have been such a resounding success, are: Martell who provided the wine for the reception and for dinner, Artland who produced the banners, and Helen Lai at Graphics Circle for her ideas in creating the "passport" programme and all other printing. In addition, the German-Swiss International School Big Band, who kept the dance floor hopping until 1 a.m.

Finally, the Ball Organizing Committee, under the inspired leadership of Angela Gawreletz and Margaret-Ann Young, worked long hours to ensure the Ball would be a success. From developing the concept many months ago, to the decoration of the Ballroom on the morning of the 28th, many meetings were held and many ideas investigated. Due to the Committee's enthusiasm, the end result was a fabulous evening that will be remembered by all!

The Ball is the Chamber's major fund-raising activity during the year. Due to rising costs, the Chamber is increasingly reliant on the Ball to raise money to ensure its continued smooth operation, and its ability to present an interesting and full calendar of events to members. Thank you once again to the Patrons of the Ball, and all those who supported the Chamber by providing their time, talent, or financial support. This evening would not have been possible without you.



Ontario Premier, Bob Rae, Barry Macdonald, and Allan Zeman

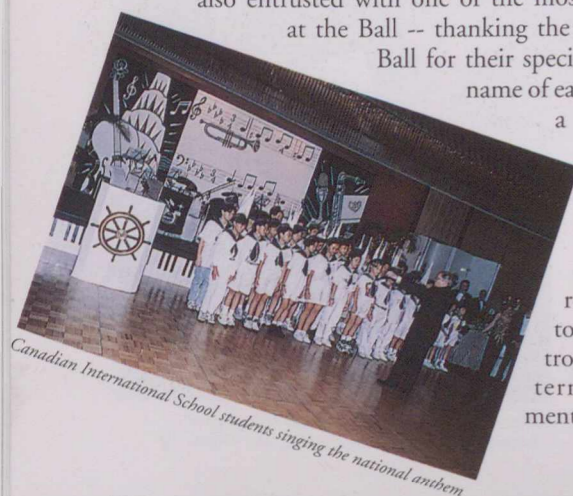


The receiving line (l-r): Barry Macdonald, John Higginbotham, Leslie Henderson, Angela Gawreletz, and Margaret-Ann Young

Eliza Chan, incoming President, Barry Macdonald, Commissioner for Canada, John Higginbotham, Executive Director, Leslie Henderson, and Ball Committee Co-Chairpersons, Angela Gawreletz and Margaret-Ann Young, welcomed all guests.

The buzz of conversation was broken by a refrain that was nostalgic for many of us the theme from "The Love Boat", announcing the call to dinner. The formal part of the evening's festivities started with the singing of "O Canada" by a choir from the Canadian International School. These young "sailors" were also entrusted with one of the most important duties at the Ball -- thanking the ten Patrons of the

Ball for their special support. As the name of each patron was read, a banner with their corporate logo was unfurled and prominently displayed at the edge of the Ballroom. Special thanks to the Platinum Patrons: California International Investments, Henderson Land,



Canadian International School students singing the national anthem