

Editor's Column

Editor - K.C. Yam

Life in Vancouver can be dull or interesting depending how you look at it. It is peaceful, quiet and layback during the summer months! The inflation rate is still hovering around 1% and apart from the loonies having a free fall, the economic climate is relatively calm. Sure, the price of million dollars home is falling because of the Asian Economic Storm, but we just cannot blame everything on the Asian crisis. A majority of our members have settled in Vancouver for more than 5 years and for those who have come here recently will likely try to make Vancouver their new home! It is important for us new settlers to understand the cultural and structural differences of our newly adopted country and the vibrant autonomous City from where we all come from.

We must realize that we have left a DEVELOPING City and are now living in a DEVELOPED country! The main difference between "developing" and "developed" is that there are always changes (usually newer, bigger or even better) in the former description while the latter word means everything is in its steady state - therefore, do not expect drastic changes! The other difference is the governance of a City State and Sovereign Country. Can you name a "Country" that the civil servants are being rewarded with a housing allowance?

Surely, Hong Kong and Canada are both running the market economy. But this is where the similarity ends. Because of the above-mentioned differences, you will never expect the amount of speculative gain or loss in Canada as in Hong Kong. Coupled with the fact that the population density is less in Vancouver than in Hong Kong, you will never expect

the kind of business volume you may have experienced in Hong Kong. One may need extra patience and effort in looking for job or developing a business in Vancouver.

One of the main purposes of our Association is to help our members to assimilate into the main stream society. During the past few months the Association had organized three talks that hopefully will help our members to sort out their personal taxes, maintain their homes and looking for jobs.

As usual, your Editor laments the lack of articles from members! Possibly he has not spelt out good examples of articles for guidance. He listens to the advice from members and the Editorial Committee now decided to dedicate a "Lifestyle" section, which would include EVERYTHING, ANYTHING that will enhance life in North America. This NEWSLETTER never attempts to compete with newspapers, magazines or other information disseminating media, such as the Internet or TV. Writers who have actually experienced write the articles and this make our NEWSLETTER unique. Do the topics of this issue interest you? We welcome your contributions in the next issue - or else - you can suggest the topics and make our staff writers work!

You will probably notice that there is a change of member in our team of Editors/Staff writers. Ms. Amy Soo has left Vancouver for H.K. in May. I must thank Amy personally for her tremendous contributions to the production of the NEWSLETTER and I can assure you, Amy, that together with our new team member - Francis Chan, the newsletter will maintain the same excellent job standard set out by you.

The 2nd Annual General Meeting will be held on
October 3, 1998, Saturday 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m. at
Kwantlen University College
8771 Lansdowne Road, Richmond

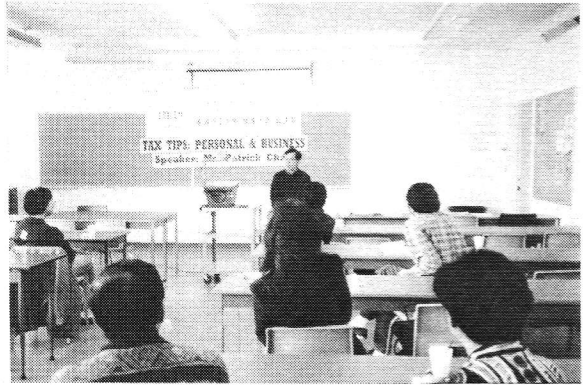
WATCH OUT FOR DETAILED PROGRAMME ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE MAIL!

Any comments and suggestions, please email us at <ntpuwca@polyu.edu.hk>

98 上半年度學術性活動

稅務講座：

員生會獲得校友會員陳子強會計師拔刀相助，主講有關個人及小型生意的稅務問題。該講座於三月十四日上中假 B.C.I.T. 的 Burnaby Campus 舉行。該天出席講座的人數，不算太多，但氣氛熱烈，融洽。陳先生的講解，深入淺出，生動有趣。他經驗豐富，所以能夠指出很多大家都關心的稅務問題，而出席者所提出的疑問亦得到陳先生清楚的解答，特別是一些灰色地帶的問題，例如，出租房子的稅務問題和回流時申報非居民身份的得失等，都很有參考的價值。



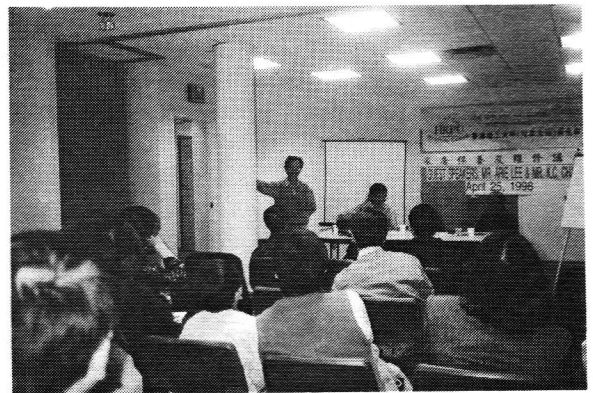
如何報稅最「著數」——稅務講座

家居保養及維修：

家居溫哥華，大多數人都是住在木蓋的房子，而蓋房子的建築公司水準參差，房子的質素也就有好有壞。所以在購買房子時應該注意的事項和房子的保養維修要點，便成為大家關注的問題了。

員生會因應會員的意見乃於四月廿五日舉辦了「家居保養及維修」講座，請到兩位專業人士主講，其一為驗屋專家李志輝先生，另一位則是我們的會員，現任職於卑斯鐵路局(B. C. Rail)的陳國全先生。

李先生主要講解購買房子時，應該要檢查的地方，和一般房子的保養維修問題，他特別指出我們應注意屋頂的清潔和保養、地基的變化，和汽車通道(Drive way)的保養等，他提供的知識極有實用價值。陳先生則主要講解用電的方法和家居電器使用的安全問題等。



這個問題真難辦



各位，我的房子毫無問題

工作坊：

大家移民來到加拿大，當然在生活上會遇到很多適應的問題，當中就業或創業乃是大家特別關注而且也是很困難的一個問題。員生會為了讓會員可以有機會分享大家的經驗，乃於六月六日舉辦了「職業資訊及經驗交流工作坊」(Career Workshop)。

工作坊以小組分享的形式進行，我們一共邀得十位會員會介紹他們的入職或創業經驗，當中包括，地產、財經、醫療、貨運、電腦、旅遊、電力及電工、社會服務、室內設計及建築、職業治療等行業。他們的經驗彌足珍貴，而參加的會員亦熱烈參與討論和提出疑問。

這次工作坊有四十多位會員出席，大家都能夠親切討論和分享，除了可以得到有關行業的入職資料和創業經驗外，更是一個大家互相交流共聚的社交活動。



這份職業一定很吸引



要做地產，就要……

話別 蘇邵麗娟女士 Ms. Amy Soo



新舊理事歡送蘇邵麗娟女士

本會得以於加西成立並逐步發展，會員增加到一百八十多人，端賴一班熱心的理工員生由創會而至今日一直全情投入推動會務，有以至之。在這班熱心的會員當中，蘇邵麗娟女士尤為突出。她由開始提出要組織加西員生會這意念便參與工作，是主力的籌辦者之一，亦是連續兩屆的理事；蘇女士除了全力推動本會的公共關係工作和通訊的出版工作外，亦參與所有活動的籌劃實本會之中流砥柱。可惜蘇女士於本年五月回流香港重投理大，主持推動理大的對外交流活動，不能再直接為本會服務，但蘇女士答應會繼續支持本會。本會亦於此謹祝蘇女士工作和生活愉快。並希望她經常返回溫哥華渡假並參與本會活動。

歡迎 潘宗光校長訪溫

節目一：港式燒烤

潘宗光校長伉儷乘往渥太華出席校長會議之便，特安排訪問溫哥華，探望我們的加西員生會。潘校長於七月三十一日抵達溫哥華，並於八月一日上午參加員生會在Barnet Marine Park舉行的港式燒烤節目。員生會會員及家屬合共六十多人參加這次燒烤聚會。活動開始先由校長發令，參加者分成四組進行遊戲比賽，各參加者，不分男女老幼，全情投入，大家都玩得很開心；隨後，是燒烤及聯絡情誼的時間。各會員都有機會跟校長懇切暢聚而感到很高興。



齊來影張全家福



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80198

潘宗光校長訪溫

節目二：聯歡晚宴

該天晚上，員生會假東海海鮮酒家設宴歡迎潘校長伉儷；是晚另有約五十位會員出席該宴會，潘校長致詞中強調香港前景不會灰暗；而母校理工大學在經濟低迷的環境下仍有長足發展，母校因為以實用(Practical)為主，而非重點研究大學，故畢業生在就業上比較佔優。除了向大家致詞之外，潘校長更與各會員懇切交談問候，而東海的食物質量不差，故參加者皆感這次與潘校長共聚十分暢快。



各路英雄（一）



各位鄉親父老，這個問題...



各路英雄（二）



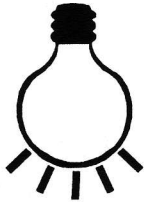
三朝元老



各路英雄（三）

工作坊部份講的節錄：

在B. C. 省，要成爲一個電器工，是需要政府認可資格。取得資格的途徑有二：



第一是在加拿大接受電器學徒訓練，第二是持有外地學徒訓練的證明和有關的工作經驗，便可向工業訓練學徒局申請審核和進行考試，考試成功便獲盼發電工執照，亦所謂(T. Q. Trade Qualification)。如再考獲 Inter provincial 的電工執照，便可在加國各省從事電器的工作。詳盡規例可查閱 B. C. MINISTRY OF LABOUR 網頁。地址是：
<http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca>
 最重要的考試科目是加拿大電器規例(Canadian Electrical Code)。我建議先修讀此有關課程，而受課程就由以下服務機構提供：

Canadian Electrical Code Technical Education Service
 7850 Old Orchard Road,
 Sardis, B.C. V2R 1A9
 (604) 797-9831

考獲牌照後，當可選擇被僱或自僱。要創業，首先用T. Q. 向省政府電申請電器承建商牌照，再向市政府申請商業牌照。用家中作寫字樓和購買部小型客貨車和工具便可開業。

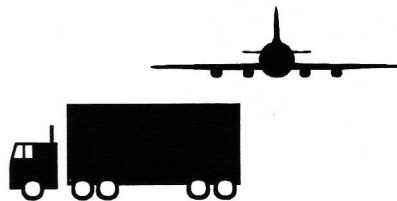
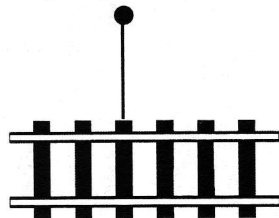
K. C. Chan
 B. C. Rail 電機工程部

海陸空貨運業：

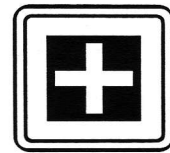


溫哥華位於通往亞洲 Great Circle 航行西北美洲最後一個大城市。這幾年海空貨運發展相當蓬勃。再加上美加自由貿易協議，加速了Trans border 貨運的發展。加入這行業工作不難。學歷基本要求是商業文憑，擁有運輸專業知識和學歷固然好，但亦可找到顧主，邊做邊學。有了工作經驗，可以考取 IATA (International Air Freight Transport Association) 或其它航務 Freight Forwarder 公會如 CLIFFE 的專業證書。

Jimmy T. M. Leung,
 FIF Freight Systems, Canada, Inc



如可在 B. C. 省重任職註冊護士：



加拿大是承認香港的護理教育和訓練的。每一個省都有個別的護士註冊局，在B. C. 省，RNABC(Registered Nurse Association of B. C) 負責護士註冊，註冊條件是核對申請的護理訓練是否和加拿大相同。它會要求在香港的護士學校將受訓紀錄直接寄往 RNABC：如所有課程合乎標準，申請者便可參加一個公開試。此護士資格公開試題內容各省相同，故需要全加各省市同時進行。如B. C. 省在早上九時開考，大西洋省份就要下午一時開考了。再者，不論來自英國、澳洲、紐西蘭，或在加拿大護士學校畢業的，都需通過同一公開考試才可註冊執業。雖然加拿大的醫療制度比香港各有分別，但在護理工作上兩地沒有大分別。所用的儀器同在香港的差不多。香港新醫院的設備還會比溫哥華醫院還要先進。

Jenny Ho, R. N.

TRAVEL Buggy by bigfoot

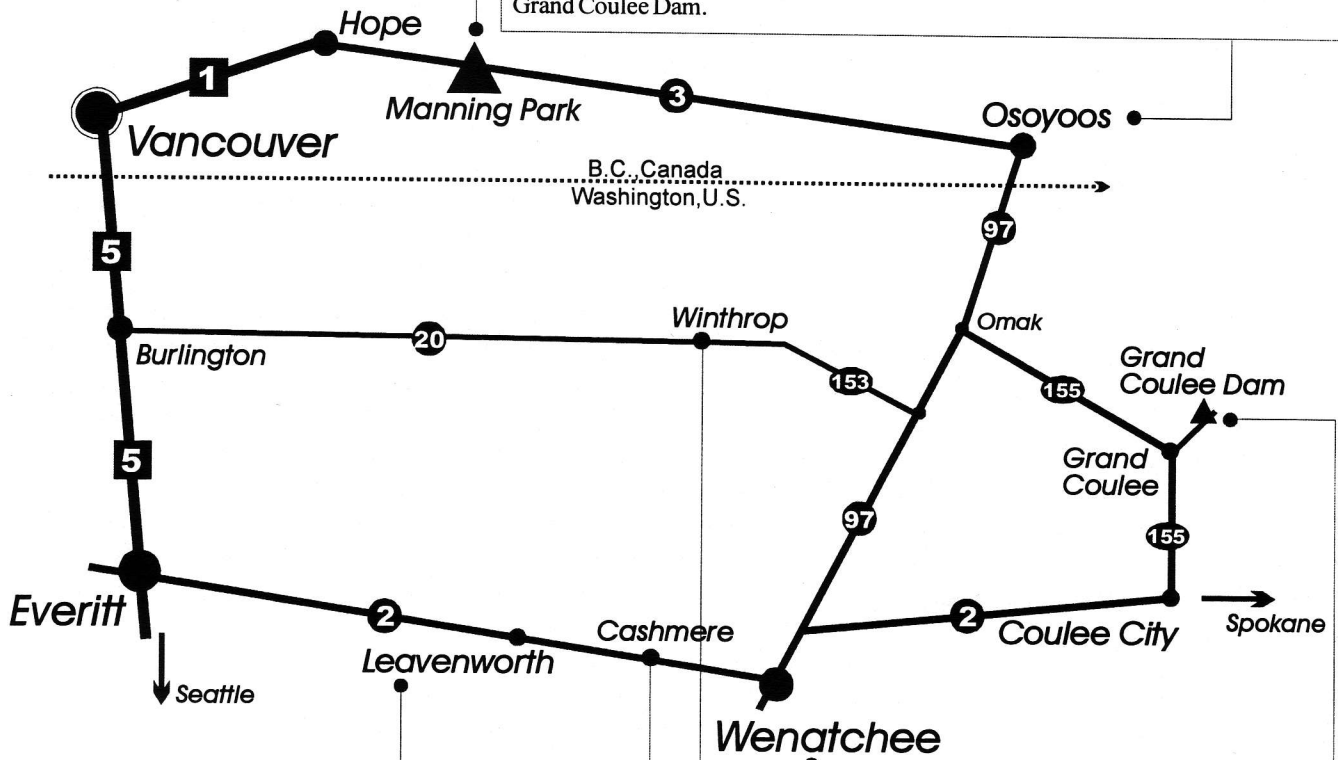
The long summer day is still with us by the time you receive this NEWSLETTER. You may take the opportunity to treat your family a short trip to Southwestern BC and Northwestern Washington State. The route takes three days to a week depending on how you plan your sightseeing spot.

Highlights of Scenic Spots:

Manning Provincial Park - Its Blackwall Peak is accessible by road. Hiking trails lead to some of the park's scenic attractions. Do book your accommodations in the Park if you are keen on attempting all the trails, if not, you can easily find motels at Princeton, which is 61km away.

Osoyoos - This small Spanish style town is very cozy and is located at the hottest spot in BC. You may like to take the opportunity to relax in the pool, and spend a day or two visiting the orchards and vineyards in surrounding the area. A replica of a Dutch windmill, located just east of Osoyoos, is still used to grind grain into flour. Guided tours are available to the public.

The Spotted Lake is located 8Km west of Osoyoos. This lake has a high concentration of minerals, such as magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride and sodium carbonate. Except in spring and after heavy rains, the lake is almost dry. Evaporation reduces it to mud pools covered by a few centimeters of water. The pools shimmer in hues of green and blue as the dissolved minerals reflect sunlight. There is a health spa nearby; you may try a treatment of arthritic and rheumatic ailments with the warm mud from the lake. From Osoyoos you cross the border to Washington State and drive south on HWY97 to Grand Coulee Dam.



Leavenworth - This town models after a Bavarian village. You can relax in this small German town and join white water trips from there.

Cashmere - Take a rest on your drive on HWY2 by visiting the Applets & Cotlets Candy Kitchen at 117, Mission Street in this small town. The factory tour will show you how fruit and nut candy candies are made.

Winthrop - This small town (pop. 400) recaptures the spirit Old west with a colorful main street. The buildings and décor are reminiscent of the 1890's, when the town was booming with mining activities in the surrounding area.

Wenatchee - Its surrounding area is one of the world's largest producers of apple. You will find all kinds of exhibits that are related to the apple industry there.

Grand Coulee Dam - The Dam harnesses the Columbia River for irrigation, power and flood control. The dam is 550 feet high, 500 feet wide at its base and 5,223 feet long. The massive spillway becomes a gigantic white screen for laser show when it releases water after dark during the summer months. Make sure to arrange your itinerary so that you can stay overnight at the motel close to the dam to enjoy the laser show. The Dam also opens for guided tour, allow 2 hours minimum.

[ITF] Style

THE 5-Ws OF DANCING

What are Ballroom and Social Dances?

Ballroom dances can be divided into two main streams - namely, Standard and Latin. Standard dances consist of Waltz, Tango, Slow Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz and Quick-step. They are further divided into International, American Smooth or other individual national Styles. Latin dances consist of Cha Cha, Rumba, Samba, Jive and Paso Doble. There are also Social dances like Mambo, West Coast Swing, Rock 'N' Roll, Merengue, NightClub 2-step and the social equivalencies of ballroom dances.

When we should learn to dance?

As early in life as possible — when you and your partner are ready. Dancing is best to learn when you are young and agile. But, it is never too late.

The important thing is that you and your partner are psychologically prepared to undergo this learning experience together. The learning process is different from learning a new skill, starting a MBA or PhD program on your own. Both of you are learning an artistic motor skill together, and both of you must “work” together to make dancing happen. Dancing may be the only thing in your life that you and your partner have to do together in public under external control - the beats and tempo of music.

Where to learn to dance?

Your local community centre may offer dancing lessons; you can take group lessons from professional dance teacher or if you are so interested, take some private lessons in your instructor's studio. A group dance package usually consists of 8 – 10 lessons. Each lesson is usually 1 – 1.5 Hours. Some instructors will teach only one type of dance per package. It has the advantage of consolidating one type of dance before embarking to learn another dance. The student can definitely dance at least the basic pattern of that dance after one package of lessons. However, the student must be committed for the duration of the package, because it will be hard to catch up if you miss one of the lessons. Usually there is no refund for a missing lesson.

Some instructors like to teach, say, 4 kinds of dances in an 8-lessons package, i.e. a new dance for every two weeks. Usually, the students can buy package of lessons and attend the lessons he/she wants during a fixed period, say, within a year. While this arrangement give the students flexibility but 2 lessons for one dance may be too much for most learners to master at one single attempt.

Your instructor's studio will usually have dance parties during the week. The cost of these parties are not expensive, for example, in Vancouver B.C., the prices vary from CAD \$4.00 during the weekdays to around \$10.00 during the weekends. These parties run from 8.00p.m. to midnight. Since the studios are not licensed to sell alcoholic drinks and indoor smoking is banned (in Vancouver), the atmosphere is very healthy and dancing becomes a real sport.

Local restaurants or nightclubs surely have dance floor, but the floor area would tend to be small for commercial reason! You may not like to practice your International Style Modern dances there but it is a good place to go if you have to socialise with friends and you can still practise some social dances there. You can burn a few calories by dancing after a heavy meal!

Why we go to dance?

Dancing is a physical exercise that you can do with your partner together. It is fun, a good way of meeting people, making friends, developing confidence, and a pleasant form of self-expression. Corrdinating mind and body, it brings about the development of the personality of the individual.

Dancing is an indoor sport that you can do all-year round. If your do it regularly, you can definitely trim a couple of inches from your waistline. If you can able to develop a mutual interest which you can share with your partner in life for the coming golden years is indeed a successful achievement.

Who will be your dance partner?

Naturally, your partner in life if you are both keen on dancing for fun and enjoyment.

On the other hand, if dance partner refers to partners in performing or competitive dancing, we may open a Pandora box altogether. There are tons of reasons that the husband or wife cannot be dance partner in this sense. Moreover, marriage vow does not contain a clause that one of the partners has to be dance champion! Do not despair if you really want to compete and your partner in life cannot keep up with you. Your dance tutor can dance with you in the PRO-AM (professional-amateur) competition. Or you may match with another dancer who likes to perform or compete with you. However, this is a touchy problem to be worked out between a married couple!

Changing dance partner can be easier for single person. It may have its own problem but it is different from the problem faced by married couple! However, single person has the advantage of dumping a mediocre dance partner with no string attached. He or she can move up to higher level by dancing with higher proficient partner. But when a person is dancing with his/her partner in life, one may need more patience and tolerance to accommodate the differences in learning ability of one's counterpart.

However, apart from competition, it is fun to exchange partner in dancing. When you are ready to dance with someone apart from your regular partner, it means you are proficient and confident in your dancing. It will take a while if you are doing International style but it is not so in social dancing, for example, a dancer is expected to dance with any partner in West Coast Swing. You are trained to do so in the first lesson.

When you are ready, just step onto the dance floor and happy dancing.

BY ROUGE DANCER

BENEFITS OF BALLROOM DANCING

Ballroom dancing strikes me as the ideal activity to provide common ground between women and men who wish to find or sustain romance. I know I could forgive a woman a lot if only she is a good and willing dancer. I find other important benefits in ballroom dancing. It offers intrinsic joy. It's sheer pleasure to dance myself into the a frenzy several nights a week, coming home at midnight, exhausted yet exhilarated, feeling vibrantly alive. Ballroom dancing also offers healthful exercise along with easy gregariousness. I often used to dread those long evenings when I would spend too much time eating big meals, drink too much beer, watch too much TV or get into arguments with people. Now I go off to places like the Vancouver Ballroom Dance Club, the Grand Ballroom, Danny's Dance Hall or the Fraser Fitness Centre. There's usually a reasonably friendly crowd and delightful music in a setting free of smoke and alcohol. And instead of just looking at women I can go right up and ask for a dance...Granted—Ballroom dancing presents its share of challenges. Most women still want to be asked to dance, so men have to do almost all the asking. It can be frustrating to coordinate one's steps with those of partners at a different level of skill. Learning complex dance routines with a partner is sometimes charged with tension, but also great training in getting along. And it may take a few years—and several thousand dollars in lessons—to become a competent international-style ballroom dancer. For me the benefits of ballroom dancing are worth it. What almost anyone with the right spirit can find in ballroom dancing is a pleasurable and healthy exercise, a party to go to every night, and a magic key to the hearts of the opposite sex.

(by Kurt Preinsperg - A version of this article was presented to SHARED VISION TOASTMASTERS)

我愛神仙

張啓銓

飼養神仙魚跟飼養其他熱帶魚類有極大不同，養殖的樂趣肯定會較飼養其他類別大得多。樂趣包括：

(一) 體型大。成魚可發育至身長四、五寸，甚至有手掌之大。

(二) 發育快。初生小魚看似塵埃大小，八個月後成長至三寸多，體型以幾何級數擴張。

(三) 聰明敏銳。離老遠見人便搖頭擺尾，動態如犬，使主人有被受歡迎的感覺。

(四) 壽命長。對於懂曉飼養技術者，此寵物可陪伴主人長達八年之久。

(五) 自選固定伴侶。雌雄魚一經互相認同後，其他「魚」等莫能介入。

神仙魚適宜在北美水質生活。飼養室內，給予暖管，便沒有溫度的問題。飼養者不需花太多金錢和時間，便可使室內增加了一些生命活力、是有其娛樂價值的。繁殖神仙魚亦帶來一家人不少樂趣。更且，繁殖神仙魚本身亦可以發展成爲一門生意。在溫哥華，筆者間接認識一位華人，他的家居生意便是飼養熱帶魚，出售予零售商，據云亦有不錯的收入。

神仙魚是卵生魚類，繁殖技藝是一門極富挑戰的學問。雌魚每次產卵數百至十千，但死亡率是每天約一半計。筆者飼養至今，仍感覺在此門學問上學極度不夠。子魚出生後，每天好像在進行淘汰賽般，離去的在子魚缸內連魚骸也找不到。通常每期由子魚出生至穩定生存，約要一個月時間。在此期內，便使我們一家人充滿了緊張和失敗感。每天下班回來，都到魚缸旁問自己同樣的問題：今天又會餘下多少尾？但無論放下多少努力，一個月後成績表出來，每次也不過十尾會長大。若靠此數目去出售，相信要窮死了。但是，追尋一種學問、接受挑戰也是生活的一種樂趣呀！

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

Spirits, wine and beer are freely sold in supermarkets in Hong Kong. The provincial government in Vancouver tightly controls their distributions; they can only be bought in government-owned liquor stores or a few of the licensed Beer & Wine stores. Consuming of alcoholic drinks in public parks, beaches are prohibited in Canada. Therefore, do not bring a case of beer to your favorite BBQ spot in the public park! Even using a used beer carton box to carry things around in the parks may invite challenge from the police. And, yet you can consume alcoholic beverages anywhere in Hong Kong.

However, the sales of wine and beer brewing kits are freely available in Vancouver. The ingredients of wine and beer making – grape, grape juices, sugar, malt, grain, hops, and yeast – are indeed agricultural products. As they are just ordinary food products, they are exempted from the federal and provincial sales tax. There is no way the government to tax the alcoholic contents of your home brew. You can make as much wine and beer for your own consumption in your own home and the operation is perfectly legal. On the other hand, it is illegal to make beer and wine at home in Hong Kong.

Two Raw Salmon Recipes

1. Sashimi

A fair size sockeye, filleted and skinned, with all bones removed. Cut in suitable size, cleaned and dried with paper towel. Individual wraps each piece with plastic wrap and keep them in the freezer.

To eat, defrost, cut in sashimi sizes.

2. Gravlax

5-lb fresh sockeye or red spring salmon, filleted with skin on, but with all bones removed. In a glass Pyrex dish, place half of salmon, skin down. Cover with seasonings. Place other half of salmon on top, skin side up. Cover dish with plastic wrap. Put weight on top of salmon. Refrigerate 3-4 days, turning the salmon once every day.

To eat as an hors d'oeuvre and serve with Honey Mustard Sauce.

Gravlax seasonings: ¼ cup coarse salt, 1/4 cup sugar, 3 Tbsp white peppercorns-coarsely grounded, 2 large bunch fresh dill-chopped.

Honey Mustard Sauce: Whisk together 6oz Dijon mustard, 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise, 2 Tbsp. honey, and 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice)



Fish & Fat

Different varieties of fish vary significantly in fat content. Without going into scientific details, for easy reference, here is a listing of some low-, moderate-, and high-fat fish.

Low-Fat Fish - Catfish, cod, cusk, flounder, grouper, haddock, halibut, monkfish, orange roughy, perch, pike, redfish, red snapper, shark, sole, turbot, and whiting.

Moderate-Fat Fish - Carp, mahimahi, pollock, pompano, sea bass, and swordfish.

High-fat Fish - Bluefish, butterfish, mackerel, salmon, shad, trout, tuna, and whitefish.

Fish oil is high in omega-3 fatty acids, a type of polyunsaturated fat. Omega-3 fatty acids have an anti-inflammatory effect and may help control blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Your Restaurant Recipe



How much does a \$100.00 meal in a restaurant will cost you, taking into account when the merchant or government is getting their hands in your pocket, in Hong Kong as compared to various Canadian cities?

Tips are not included in these examples because how to reward a service is very subjective and for a reason which will become clear at the end of the passage.

The meal will cost \$110.00 because of the so-called 10% service charge, pocketed by the merchant in Hong Kong.

It will cost \$107.00 in Vancouver, Calgary or Toronto. The extra \$7.00 is the 7% GST (Goods & Service Tax) levied by Federal Government.

The same meal will cost \$115.00 in Halifax because the Federal Government and Nova Scotia provincial government agreed to "harmonized" the GST and PST (Provincial Sales Tax) into a 15% HST (Harmonized Sales Tax)

New Brunswick has the same HST as in Nova Scotia; therefore the same meal will cost you \$115.00 in Moncton.

This meal will cost you a princely sum of \$117.70 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island because it has a system of "tax on tax". The GST there is still 7% (thank Heaven) but the PST is 10%.

In Provinces where HST is levied or practicing the "tax on tax" system, the tips may be considered as one of the expenses, the government there is quite happy to include your tips to your \$100 meal cost and then calculate the tax.

人物誌

陳子強
會計師

人生如競技遊戲。移民只不過轉了場地，換了規則。若非全心投入，盡力演出，很難取得佳績。

若把理工大學的發展分成「工專」、「理工」和「理大」三人階段，陳子強是屬於「理工」的一代。他在一九八一年高等會計文憑畢業，隨即加入「安永會計師行」工作。三年後，獲公司派往英國工作，接受深造。

英倫兩年，紮實了專業基礎，也擴闊了視野。一九八六年回到香港，基於對生活質素的追求，加上「九七政治」的疑慮，開始考慮移民，就如很多港人一樣，加拿大和澳洲都是新家園的候選對象，最後選定加拿大。說來也有點奇妙，陳子強說，當時不選擇澳洲，主要是因為它地處南陸，與世界各地好像有些隔離，令他感覺得澳洲很遙遠。反之，加拿大與香港的距離雖然更遠，但感覺上卻較為接近。同時，他有一位姊姊早已移民加國，他選擇加拿大便頗順理成章了。

一九八八年陳子強夫婦告別香港，抵步溫哥華，揭開了人生的另一篇章。陳子強卻不必抵受太大的新移民陣痛。他有多數新移民所羨慕的落腳點。他以原公司僱員的身份，調職到溫哥華。抵步後便即上班，繼續會計行業的工作。

這個本來是不少人企望可以終期一生的職位，卻只是陳子強在加國事業的起點。事實上，他的上司也告訴他，以他的資歷，工作上完全可以應付裕如，並無考取其他專業資格的需要。他最初也以為如此。後來有兩件小事觸發了他打破現狀的想法，決定進修考取加拿大特許會計師（C A）的資格。在他任職的會計師行內，有一位華裔合夥人。十年前，華人在此地晉升為國際級會計師行合夥人，還是鳳毛麟角。於是成為陳子強羨慕的對象。他想到了母親的座右銘：「與其臨淵羨魚，不如退而結網。」便起了進修的念頭。其後，他跟多倫多一位朋友通電話，知道他正埋首苦讀，應付C A的筆試，更加強了他考取C A資格的決心。

工餘自修並不是那麼容易。大部分報考C A的都是見習生，正在實習期間，並無固定的職責，不須侍候指定的客戶。考試時，可以名正言順地溫習。陳子強卻是在職經理，公司並不提供進修的優惠。上班時固然忙於工作，下班也不定時，而且只能拿取無薪假期往考試。更有甚者，要抵受一個無形壓力同事們都知道你己報考C A，一旦落第，如何容身？陳子強終於在一九八九年報考，翌年成功考取了C A的資格。

到了一九九三年，陳子強的事業又踏入一個新里程。他跟幾位同事，毅然辭去優薪厚職，合夥開設會計師行，自立門戶。旁人看來，陳子強的移民路途一片平坦，安居樂業輕易的手到拿來。看深一層，他安頓得這麼暢順，跟他的移民態度不無關係。

陳子強認為，移民生活只有積極參與一途。他說，試看我們孩童時玩「拋手巾」，遊戲雖是那麼簡單，但身在其中，卻是樂此不疲。陳子強選擇了商會和社會服務機構作為他投入新社會的途徑。移民的頭四年，陳子強主要加入了商會的義務工作。他謙虛地說：初時人地生疏，商會並無熟人，於是厚著面皮，查詢有那些用義工的地方，便毛遂自薦。其後參與的社團越來越多，先後加入了「加台商會」、「港加商會」、「愛心溫情基金會」和「中僑互助會」等組織。他說，參與這些不同組織的活動，最大得益是廣交朋友，結識到來自不同背景而又生活積極的人，受到他們的薰陶和激勵。

陳子強總結經驗，認為我們來到了新的地方，參與新的遊戲，首先一定要學好英語，才能投入，才能盡興。其次，我們要放下包袱，不要讓以前在港的高職位成為我們的負擔，拖慢我們的腳步。很多新移民都有一個通病，由於放不開懷抱，凡事便遲疑，人就變得日漸消沉，往後更難踏出第一步。

當然，陳子強毫不諱言，他的移民際遇比較幸運，不應對際遇較差的移民加以挑剔。但是，他還是深信，三心兩意於港加之間是移民的大忌。一天放不下香港，一天便不會全心全意投入加拿大，適應便更加困難。不過，陳子強馬上補充，不拖著香港的尾巴，並不等於永不回香港，只是既然來到加拿大，便先要一心一意投身在這裏，學習此地的遊戲規則，利用各種渠道，擴闊人際網絡，充實自己。

以會計這一行來說，專業上不斷進修和提昇是必然的了。今日的溫哥華，華人專業會計師（包括C A、C G A、C M A等）多的是，個人須要不斷進修，擴大專業範圍，才可以配合新的發展。即是之故，陳子強月來已經挑燈夜讀，準備在八月考取中國「註冊會計師協會」C P A的資格。

談到回流的現象，陳子強慨歎地說，一年前，有些新移民聽到一些言論，急於在一九九七年七月前回流，以保留香港永久居民的資格，方便日後工作，因而放棄了吸取加拿大的經驗和資歷，實在是本末倒置。他認為，我們若專注於自己的專業、增強個人的能力，就不必斤斤計較香港永久居民的資格，若有用得著專業的機會，就算沒有香港永久居民資格，我們也一樣可以回去服務的。他坦言，移民是要付出代價的，既已放棄了香港的事業，而又兩手空空，循著舊路走回去，豈不是付出雙重的代價。若要回流，就要加強自己的裝備，掌握好新本領，走一條新的路，這樣的回流才划算。

如大部份新移民，陳子強也覺得溫哥華的生活環境，實在是理想不過，比長大的香港，工作過兩年的英倫，都優勝得多。他直言沒有回流的打算，也不否定將來會往香港或中國工作的可能。去與留都是按事業發展的需要而定，甚麼地方都在考慮之列。

陳子強育有一子，今年五歲，談到孩子，他說下一代的挑戰跟我們的不一樣。譬如語文，他擔心他們會失去中文的優勢。目前西方對中國的商務來往，很多都靠華人作橋樑。隨著這一代的老去，我們的孩子能寫、能讀、能講中文嗎？他們能繼承這一代中介作用嗎？因此，陳子強認為，本地的中文教育固然有傳承文化的大任務，訓練下一代的語文能力也很重要。未來的日子，中文是一個很有用的工具，一旦不懂運用中文，我們將失去競爭優勢。他的兒子，一早已入讀中文班，學習國語。他更希望日後有機會把兒子送到香港或中國生活一段時間，學好中文。

加拿大尊重個人自主、生活自由，這點我們都各有體會。陳子強卻有一句警語，道出港加兩地生活的特點：香港生活，豐險「由人」；加拿大生活，豐儉「由己」。

各位同意嗎？

● Opinions expressed are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the official view or position of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association. ●

Layout, English & Chinese typesetting, and Graphics Design by:

Act I Productions - Graphics Design, Screen Printing & Printing - act_1@hotmail.com