



Editor's Column

Editor - K.C. Yam

The Association will celebrate its third Anniversary same time next year. Are you happy that the Association has served the purposes as laid down in the Constitution? Has the Executive committee done the job adequately? How about asking ourselves, are we actively supporting the Association – participating in the Association's functions and maintaining good standing membership. The latter is not difficult to achieve, all you have to do is to pay the annual membership due. It sounds blunt, but.....

The Association can only function if there are members. Thank you for your continual support!

The Association also needs your network to look for friends and acquaintances who have some "monetary" links with TC, POLY, or POLYU to join as member. "Monetary" links mean those who had been paid a salary (staff) or had paid a fee (student). We have a membership drive going on! You may have received the flyer for this exercise and we trust, with your effort, our family members will grow when we celebrate the third Anniversary.

Speaking of support, the NEWSLETTER Committee is always crying for help. How do you like the LIFESTYLE section? In this festive season we have turkey and wine for your enjoyment. Incidentally, there will be a culinary art section in future issues because Mickey Tse has agreed to share his experiences and knowledge with us. Mickey is a graduate of IMCS & HCIMA and is now teaching culinary art in Vancouver.

Language is a system of communication that supposes to bring people together. Indeed, English serves the function of bringing all the ethnic groups together in India, where there are over 57 languages with different ways of writing or speaking. Canada has two official languages –

English and French. But in the whole North America there are over 230 million people whose first language is English, the chance of preserving French as a language is indeed, an uphill battle. While we can understand why the Quebecois fight so hard to preserve their culture, we can also see the devastating effect of language - it can divide a country.

Even there was no danger of upheaval in Hong Kong; the issue of teaching in mother tongue has ignited strong and bitter debates. One argument is that Japan has long used mother tongue education. She still maintains leadership in commerce, engineering, production techniques and science. She must have teams of brilliant and powerful translators both in the public and private sectors, bringing up-to-date knowledge to the people. It is true one can learn better in their own mother tongue and indeed, many immigrants' children are tested for their proficiency in their own language before they are allocated to ESL class. The theory is if one cannot master one's own mother language, how can one learn a second language.

Having moved to Western Canada, we all realize the importance of the English Language in the mainstream society. It is true we can get by without using English when we are living in the Lower Mainland, where we have banks, shops, and government offices, which bend over their backs to accommodate us. Indeed, we are spoiled. We cannot blame on the proliferation of Chinese media or friends that we are seeing each day for our lack of chances to practise our English. We need discipline and endeavour to gain English language experiences. There is an article about the Language Proficiency Test (LPI) in this issue. Not only our sons and daughters have to pass this unique BC English test to progress in their University or College education; we parents may have to take the test to get into certain professions.

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

Editors / Staff Writers: K.C. Yam - e-mail: gyam@bcit.bc.ca; Francis Chan - Fax: 270-6008

Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association
#140-8380 Lansdowne Road, Suite #157, Richmond, B.C. V6X 1B9

一年一度周年聚餐

員生會一年一度之盛事乃週年聚餐，今年已是第三屆舉行，每一次週年聚餐都深得會員的支持，踴躍參加。今年的週年聚餐於十一月廿一日(星期六)假溫市中心悅海大酒家舉行，這次一共有一百二十位會員、家眷及親友參加，筵開十二桌，場面熱鬧，氣氛熱烈。

今年，我們再次邀請到會員 Mr. Philip Ho 出任司儀，何君風趣幽默，妙語如珠，使晚會生色不少。晚會於六時卅分開始接待，會員亦陸續抵達，彼此互相問候，共道近況，十分融洽。到七時卅分，聚餐晚會正式開始，司儀於邀請各人入座後，隨即請副會長任健藻先生致歡迎詞；由於會長傅德枋先生因公事前赴香港，未克出席是次晚會，故由副會長主持大局；副會長於致詞中，除了多謝大家參加這次盛會外，更多謝各會員於過去兩年多以來一直對員生會積極支持，他希望大家能夠盡歡且繼續投入員生會各項會務中。歡迎詞後，晚會進入歡樂遊戲時間，由活動統籌(Program Coordinator)劉黃碧蘭及李平兩位主持兩個遊戲，其一為「人名 BINGO」，另一則為「成語拼圖」，這兩個遊戲緊張而又有趣，大家都玩得很開心，且每一台的會員及親友都能發揮合作精神，齊心協力，共同參與。遊戲過後由會員統籌趙藝群女士主持台面獎品抽獎，每一台都有兩份台面獎品，其一為員生會特別預備的文房四寶一套，深得中獎者的喜愛。至此已是八時十五分，而晚會亦進入高潮，晚膳正式開始，是晚的菜式不錯，大家都很满意。

晚會的尾聲是幸運抽獎，這次週年聚餐得到會長、副會長、永高遊旅、東海堂、香港理工大學、及 International Sources Ltd.等贊助捐出獎品，而員生會亦購買了三份水晶擺設，合共有廿一份獎品供幸運大抽獎，無論得獎與否，大家都很高興。

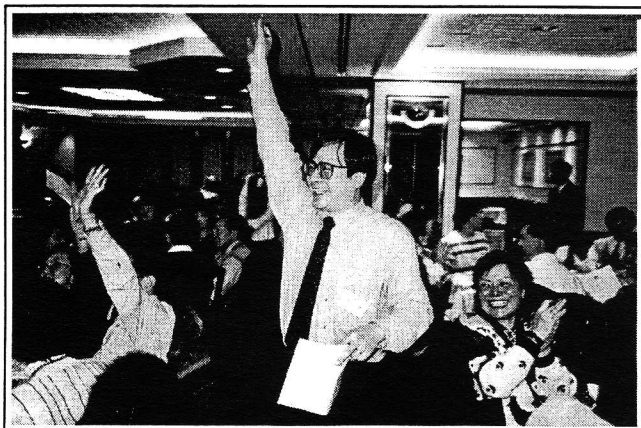
幸運抽獎後，副會長請各系或各部門的老師、同學及職員們分別拍照留念，使氣氛更推至高峰，而晚會亦在這熱烈氣氛中結束。



周年聚餐工作人員合照



“我腳底今後舒服晒！”
— 會長之腳底按摩器得獎者



最燦爛的笑容



“去威士拿旅行玩得開心” — 永高

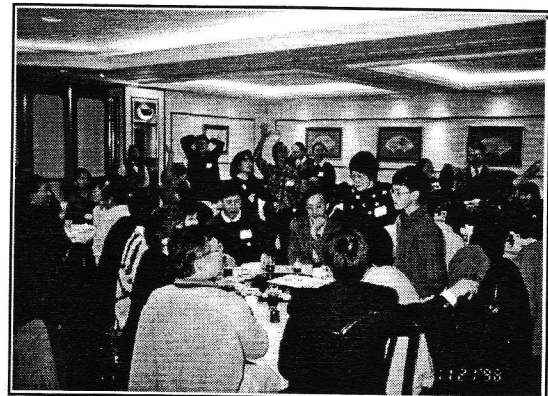
** you can pick up the group photo at the up-coming events - see pre-announcements in page 5 and the notice in your mail.



會員、親友、家屬齊心合作



人強馬壯的社工系



“我儘拼好圖了”



航海系都不弱



人人有份???



Admin. 就清一式女士——男士是家眷！



唔通無女士讀工程？

第二屆會員大會

第二屆會員大會已於十月三日，星期六假列治文崑崙學院(Kwantlan University College)舉行，雖然當天下著大雨，但仍擋不了會員的熱誠，總共有三十多位會員出席該天的大會，有機會聚首一堂，大家都感到很高興。

傅德柵會長於其會務報告中詳盡報導本會過去一年所辦的各項活動，當中包括三次講座、一次職業資訊工作坊、週年聚餐、港式燒烤及歡迎潘校長的聯歡晚膳等，此外，由任健藻副會長領導通訊編輯委員會，並親任主編，於去年一共出版了三期通訊；使那些未能出席各項活動的會員亦能夠知道會務的發展和各項活動的情況。

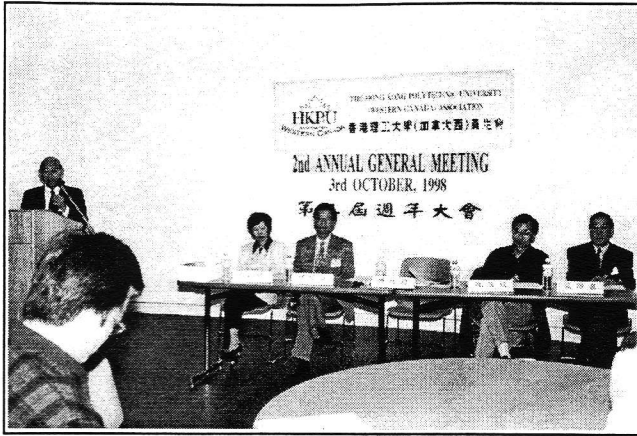
在會上傅會長亦提醒會員留意於所有團體均會出現的光環現象，即所有團體於成立之初，由於會員熱誠投入，踴躍參加活動，會務發展迅速，該團體好像一個耀目的光環，但一兩年過後，會員的熱誠逐漸冷卻，對會務及活動開始冷淡，光環便會漸漸淡出，會務會日走下坡；故傅會長呼籲各會員積極提出意見，使理事會可以因應會員的興趣及需要去籌辦有吸引力的活動。

義務司庫吳沛泉先生則向大會作出詳盡的財務報告，吳先生報告中指出本會財政健全，不單能夠收支平衡，且能保留洽當資金。

在會務及財務報告後，大會隨即舉行理事選舉，據本會會章本年度有四位理事需退任，此四位理事包括傅德柵先生、任健藻先生、吳沛泉先生及蘇邵麗媚女士，此外現任理事中先後有蘇邵麗媚女士、梁啟全先生及 Mrs. Helen Tai 等因私人事務而請辭，故必須於是次大會中最少選出六位理事替補空缺，跟繼續留任的三位理事組成新一屆理事會，而新一屆理事會的選舉結果如下：

President:	T.N. FOO	279-7180
Vice-President	K.C. YAM	732-8721
Hon. Secretary	Francis CHAN	270-0077
Hon. Treasurer:	P.C. NG	944-6648
Public Affairs Coordinator:	Danny CHAN	267-0610
Program Coordinator:	Priscilla LAU	263-0292
	Francis LI	179-7180
Membership Coordinator:	Fleming WOO	272-3962
	Helen CHIU	275-2182

這次會員大會我們邀請得卑斯省 Language Proficiency Index (LPI)的總評分主任 Mr. Alban Goulden 主講 LPI 如何應用於卑斯省內的大專院校，Mr. Goulden 的講解生動有趣，內容充實，無論對學生、家長或準備應考的人仕都十分有用。講座後，會員共晉茶點並熱烈討論，而大會亦在熱烈氣氛中結束。

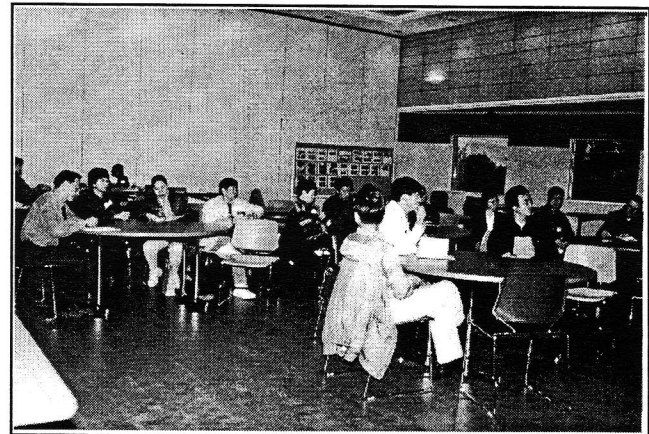


主持臣頭

專題講座—L P I 的應用



問題



聚精匯神

Coming Events 1999

January	Lifestyle Workshop
March	Spring Dinner
April / May	Talk / Workshop
June	Picnic / BBQ / Hiking
July / August	Driving Trip (outside Greater Vancouver)
October	AGM

The Executive Committee members welcome your suggestions and inputs so they can organize better programs for you!!

Language Proficiency Index (LPI)

(Excerpts from the talk by Mr. Alban Goulden, Chief Marker, LPI)

Why does the LPI exist?

Partly because post-secondary institutions and some professional bodies require a functional literacy test which is consistently accurate.

Who has to write the LPI?

Post-secondary students who wish to take university-level English course at most colleges and universities in B.C. The Justice Institute-Corrections Branch and some professional programs such as the Real Estate Board and Notaries Public also require the candidate to achieve an acceptable level in the LPI test.

Who don't have to write it?

Those students who received an "A" in English 12 as a final grade (the year's work plus the provincial examination results combined). In addition, those students attending institutions, which do not require it and/or, have their own test (e.g. Simon Fraser University).

So some institutions, which do not require it, accept it?

Yes. Most colleges do even if they have their own test. The LPI advantage is that it is portable: if you are not sure where you are going, writing it will allow you flexibility.

What, exactly, is the LPI?

It is a test of your functional literacy. It has four parts. Part I and II test grammar and usage: you must identify possible errors in 20 sentences. Part III tests reading comprehension and involves answering questions or writing brief summaries of prose passages. Part IV requires an expository essay – that is, one that develops some central claim, idea or opinion – of between 300 and 400 words. Writer chooses one of the six topics.

How does the LPI essay measure the writer's level of functional literacy?

The essay is marked holistically: expression, organization, and content carry equal weights. The marker is looking for how clearly the writer communicates in terms of word choices, structural accuracy, organization, content and development.

How is the LPI scored?

The same Marking Committee marks all LPI test papers. The LPI places your writing within one of 6 levels.

How do I apply?

Contact the LPI Office at UBC. The address is University of British Columbia, Rm. 6-2125 Main Mall Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4. Fax: (604) 822-9144. Tel: (604)822-4146.

How much lead-time do I have to apply and write?

That depends on individual institutional requirements and how full sittings become. There are sittings throughout the year. There are writing sites around the province. Contact post-secondary institutions and LPI for more details well in advance.

How much does it cost?

As of 1997, \$35 per sitting.

May I write it more than once?

You may write it as many times as you require. However, we encourage students with problems to avail themselves of tutors, courses, and/or a review (after writing the LPI at least once). You can request review of your test paper with LPI markers; they will go over specific test with you and offer advice. A review lasts for 30 minutes, take place at UBC, and currently costs \$15. Contact the LPI Office for more information.

How do I receive the score?

Approximately four weeks after writing, you will receive a copy of the score in the mail at the address you put on the test paper. This score will also go to all post-secondary institutions using the LPI.

(Note: The Editor had personally taken a LPI test 7 years ago when he took a part-time evening course at Langara College. He found that experience in using the English language was very useful in helping him to pass the test. Experience means using English in daily lives - at work, at home or at play. Reading and listening help a lot. He also found that the test did not bias against ESL speakers. He met quite a few English as first language speakers who had to take the test more than once to achieve the required level.)

THE MEANING OF LPI TEST SCORES:**Level 6**

Score: 36 to 40 out of 40

Writing of high competence. Exceptional expression and discussion with few minor errors.

A semi-professional quality of expression.

Level 5

Score: 30 to 35 out of 40

Most common score: 30/40

Clearly competent writing with no more than several error per page.

Minimum requirement of University English courses and for the highest level of college university transfer courses. University of British Columbia and the Justice Institute-Correction Branch requires this level as minimum.

Level 4

Score: 24 to 29 out of 40

Writing of basic competence with no more than several errors per paragraph. Minimum requirement for college university transfer courses. Some professional programs such as the Real Estate Board and Notaries Public require this level as a minimum.

A 26/40 indicates good basic writing skills; a 25/40 indicates satisfactorily basic competence; a 24/40 indicates borderline competence. Some colleges demand that the writer with 24/40 must also achieve a minimum 6/10 on both the Sentence Structure and the English usage section of the LPI.

Level 3

Score: 18 to 23 Out of 40

Writing of insufficient academic and professional competence. Some form of upgrading course is required such as English as a Second language (ESL) or Basic Adult Education.

The essays scored at this level indicate native speaker levels of illiteracy or English as Second Language deficiencies.

Level 2

Score: 11 to 17 out of 40

Writing containing serious ESL difficulties in expression. Basic English language courses are required.

Level 1

Score: 1 to 10 out of 40

Writing that lacks clarity and coherence. Fundamental language training is required.

Holiday Dish - From Page 8

Points to remember:

- O Shape, size, type, bone proportion and quality will affect the cooking time.
- O Preheat your oven up to the preset temperature or for 30 minutes if there is no temperature sensor in your oven.
- O Spread just small portion of stuffing inside the turkey to ensure hot air can circulate inside evenly. That is, do not stuff completely.
- O Baste (or brush with oil) the turkey every 15-20 minutes to prevent dryness. This will prevent undercooking inside and overcooking at the outside.
- O Insert meat thermometer or forks in the center joint to determine doneness.
 - Above 70 degree C. when meat thermometer inserted into center of heaviest muscles or thickest parts of turkey, away from bone. OR
 - Insert steel fork into the center of meat for 10 seconds. The runoff juice colour will determine the degree of doneness:
 - Red – rare
 - Pink – medium
 - Colourless – well done
 - No juice - overcooked

[ITF] Style

Popular Dish for the Holiday *by Mickey Tse*

Nowadays turkey is available throughout the year. Traditionally, North Americans serve turkey at Christmas, New Year Eve, Easter and Thanksgiving. Turkey can vary in weight from 3 to 18 Kg (6.5 to 40 lbs). There are many ways to cook turkey, for example, you can boil it into a stock before putting into the oven; or debone, roll and truss for roasting; or cut into small parts and roasting. However, the traditional way of roasting the whole turkey is most popular and simple.

① To prepare turkey

1. Clean turkey in the same way as chickens.
2. Remove wishbone (i.e. the forked bone above the breastbone).
3. Draw out the sinews (tendon or strong cord in the muscle) from the legs.

② To prepare chestnut stuffing

1. Slit the chestnuts on both sides using a small knife.
2. Boil chestnuts in water for 5-10 minutes.
3. Drain and remove outer and inner skins whilst warm.
4. Cook the chestnuts in a little stock for 5 minutes.
5. Cool chestnut and dice with turkey liver, sausage meat, white bread, thyme, onion and bacon.
6. Set aside a small portion (2 tablespoons) of chestnut stuffing.
7. Roll the rest of stuffing in tin foil and bake it later before serving.

④ To prepare gravy

1. Remove the roast from the pan.
2. Place the pan on stovetop; heat the meat juice to reduce the liquid quantity until juice becomes thick on pan. The reduction process will concentrate the flavour and provide a rich dark color to the gravy.
3. Strain off any excess fat from pan. Add flour to form roux and cook gently.
4. Deglaze (reduce heat quantity) pan with stock and whip the content while cooking. Remove all meat particles from the bottom of pan, check seasoning and consistency.

Ingredients for Roast Turkey

Turkey

Fresh or Frozen 5kg
(Grade A or Utility Grade)

Chestnut stuffing

Sausage meat	500 gm
Chestnut	450 gm
Bacon	150 gm
Onion	100 gm
White Bread	250 gm
Mixed vegetables (onion, celery, carrot)	200 gm
Thyme	pinch
Turkey liver (leave out if missing with Utility Grade)	
Salt, pepper and Stock (Swanson or Knorr chicken broth)	

③ To roast the turkey

1. Preheat oven to 200-230 C (390-445 F).
2. Stuff the turkey with the small portion of chestnut stuffing and mixed vegetables.
3. Truss (i.e. tie the wings and legs to the body) the turkey firmly.
4. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Place the turkey in a roasting tray on its side and coat with oil.
6. Put the turkey in the oven when it reaches the required temperature.
7. Allow resting on both legs alternately and completing cooking with breast upright for the last 30 minutes.
8. Baste frequently, every 15-20 minutes.
9. Test for doneness. (see page 7)

⑤ To serve

1. Bake the rest of stuffing separately in greased tray until well cooked.
2. Remove string from turkey and chaff meat in thin slices.
3. Serve with gravy, cranberry sauce and baked stuffing.

What is wine....?? *by Omopote*

Wine is generally defined as a beverage made by the partial or complete fermentation of fresh grape juice.

Wine uses the natural sugar in grapes to produce an aqueous solution of ethanol. Ethanol is a form of alcohol produced by the action of yeast on sugar. The alcohol contents vary between 7 and 15 percent by volume, depending on the type of wine. The fermentation process produces carbon dioxide. Matured wine should contain very small quantity of carbon dioxide. The presence of 500 milligrams per liter of carbon dioxide in the wine will give you a prickly sensation on the mucous membrane. Only sparkling wine will contain higher content of carbon dioxide to produce bubbles

Wine may be white, pink, or red in color. It may be dry to sweet. Wine connoisseurs use varieties of words to describe the aroma and flavour of wine. They must strike a balance between tannin and fruitiness.

A wine is composed of three major elements:

1. Astringency is due to tannin substances that cause saliva lose its lubricating action, thus causing the mucous membrane to tense up. This gives an impression of coarseness and makes a harsh wine. This component only exists in red and some rose' wines.
2. Acidity is one of four elementary tastes (sweet, salty, acid and bitter). A wine's balance depends on acidity, as well as on the mellowness and tannins (for red wines). Acidity gives wine its freshness and its tang. If it is overwhelming, the wine becomes too sharp, acidulous and green. On the other hand a wine lacking acidity is insipid, thick in texture and heavy.
3. Mellowness or fullness, which is a sweet and unctuous (soft, smooth, rich, soothing) sensation due to the sugar content and especially to the various alcohols (ethanol, glycerol, inositol, sorbitol etc.)



Cheers!!
Happy Holidays!!!

A wine is said to be balanced when these three elements are in harmony. One characteristic may be dominant, but not excessive. Wine tasting is an art with a scientific approach. As quoted by Ribereau-Gayon and Emile Peynaud (Who are they? Must be great wine connoisseurs): "Savouring consists of carefully tasting a product whose quality must be evaluated; submitting it to our senses, in particular those of taste and smell; attempting to know more about it by searching for the expressing its faults and its qualities: studying, analyzing, describing, defining, judging and classifying." One has to acquire a taste of wine and it does not come overnight.

The word [wine] derives from the ancient Greek [oinos]. Wine is [vinum] in Latin, [vino] in Italian and Spanish, [vinho] in Portuguese, [wein] in German and [vin] in French.

There are over 1000 different varieties of grapevines for use in winemaking, but not more than 20 of these are widely known to the majority of wine drinkers.

The young winemaking countries, such as the US, Canada and Australia, they use the grape's variety to identify the wine. However, for countries, which have a long winemaking history, they use the precise location of the vineyards to name their wine. Thus making learning French wine is such a difficult task!

The main varieties of grapes for red wines are:

Barbera
Cabernet Sauvignon
Cabernet Franc
Carignan
Cinsault
Gamay
Grenache (or Garnacha)
Merlot
Nebbiolo
Pinot Noir
Sangiovese
Syrah (or Shiraz)
Tempranillo
Zinfandel

For white wines are:

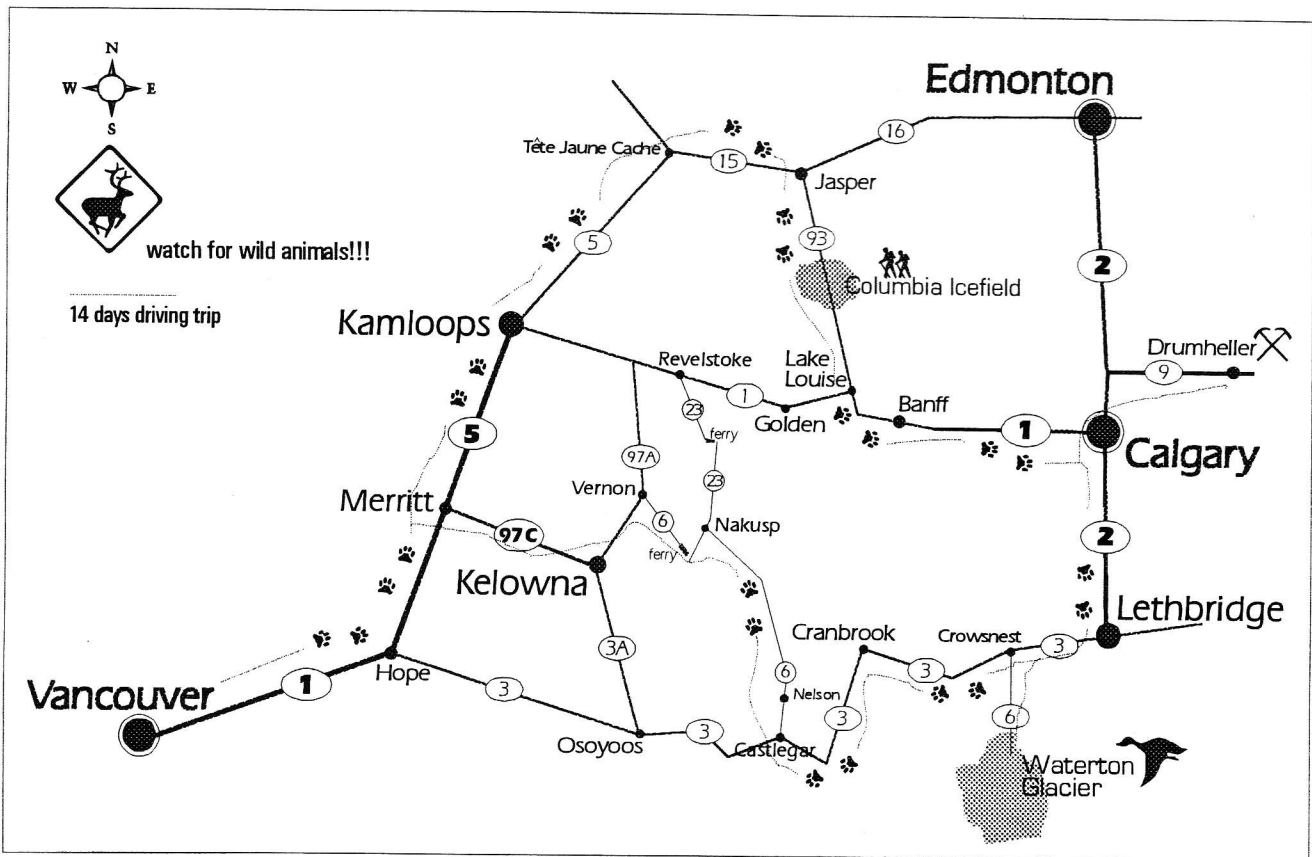
Chardonnay
Chenin
Gewurztraminer
Malvasia
Muller Thurgau
Muscat Blanc
Pinot Blanc
Pinot Gris
Riesling
Sauvignon Blanc
Semillon
Sylvaner
Trebiano (or Ugni Blanc)
Viognier

Ice Wine is a Canadian specialty. The ripe grapes are left frozen in the vineyards and are harvested in below-freezing temperatures, usually in the early hours of morning. Then, the still frozen grapes are immediately pressed, rendered a small precious amount of very concentrated juice with increased sugar and acid levels. Ice wine is exceptionally sweet and it is served as a dessert wine.

TRAVEL
Buggy by bigfoot

At 7,821 kilometers, the Trans-Canada is the world's longest highway. The scenery is gorgeous between the sections in British Columbia and all the way to Banff in Alberta. Yet, it is the most treacherous section of the highway as it winds between gorges. Also there are few sections in the entire route where there are four-lane traffic and a divider lane. Perhaps due to geographical features and lowers population density in Canada, unlike the US Inter-State Highways, service stations and truck stops are sparse and irregularly located along the Highway. You may expect a gas, food and/or accommodation services every 50Kilometers (30 miles) along major US Inter-State Highways.

Therefore, you must allow yourself more time when you are planning a driving trip in Canada. Can you negotiate a U-bend on a steep slope at more than 20 Km/hr? There are plenty of these bends along the Highway, where the posted speed limit is 100 Km/hr on the map. Also, top up your tanks when you see a service station. Since motels are not dotted on the Highway except in towns and cities, should you book your accommodation in advance? There are pros and cons to have your accommodation booked for your trip. You will see the reasons shortly. You have to take extra care when you have to drive on secondary highways.



Bigfoot 1996 14-day driving trip...

The route was truly scenic and very enjoyable. Since it was summer, the tourist season, they booked all the accommodations enroute. Hotel rooms were tight especially in Lake Louise and Banff where they were taken over by Korean and Japanese tourists in those days. As mentioned earlier, motels were not readily available along Canadian highways.

However, Bigfoot misjudged the driving conditions of the secondary Highways at Southern B.C. The roads were pretty straight on the map between Crowsnest Pass and Kelowna. In fact, they were narrow, mostly single lane and winding. There were many uphill and downhill bends to negotiate. The towns of Neslon and Naksup were beautiful. The ferry ride between Fauquier and Needles was tranquil and pleasant. Yet, they could not stay overnight in these towns to enjoy the beauty because they had booked the accommodation at Kelowna.

SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

Population size plays a role in the differences of work practices in Hong Kong and Vancouver. Recall when you went to the Motor Vehicle Branch for your BC driving test, the road test examiner took registration for you, did the test, took the photograph, collected the fee and finally wrote you the receipt. In Hong Kong Transport Department, you probably have met the clerk, shroff (is this colonial Anglo-Hindi term for moneychanger still being used?) and the road test examiner. The workload in Vancouver does not justify demarcating the job into several positions.

For this reason, in Canada you will have to perform some other duties that would be done by your subordinates in Hong Kong. That is the reason why many people says the workers in the Bank, public government offices or even the medical offices are working so slowly in Canada. We stay in one counter for the whole job in Canada while we move from windows to windows in Hong Kong. The actions give us a fast moving feeling.

You will find your pay as manager or engineer does not differ very much from your worker or technician. The tax policy will equalize the take-home pay of every employee. However, all employees are receiving "13 months" of pay in Canada if you consider the 26 Bi-weekly pay cheques as 13 X 2 half-month pay. Honestly, are we kidding ourselves? What is the difference if you are receiving an annual salary, you receive the same amount if it is divided into 12- 13- or 26- equal parts. It would be a difference if you are receiving an hourly-rate for your job, then every single week, day or hour counts. On the other hand, even the annual salaried employees would know their hourly rate if they were paid overtimes in their remuneration package.

What it means is that employees are paid for the time, be it an hour, a day or week while they are working. For this reason, the lunch hour in Canadian workplace is shorter than in Hong Kong. For 9 to 5 jobs, the two-15 minute's coffee breaks may be paid but the lunch break may have no pay. Therefore, employees will prefer a shorter lunch because they are paid "7-1/2 " hours for their 8-hours in the workplace.

Back in Hong Kong where most jobs come with a monthly salary, both employers and employees do not have the concept of hourly rate. In fact, you will easily offend someone by asking what is his or her hourly pay. Therefore, no one say a word about paid overtimes and the employees will take longer lunch hours (at least an hour in Hong Kong while 45 minutes' is the norm in Canada). Employers consider the 13th month pay as a bonus but most employees take it as part of their annual income. During the good years, the 13th month salary is not an issue because often employees in the private sector receive more than a month's bonus. It could be an issue this year because of the economic downturn in Hong Kong.

It may be time to set an employment standard to fix the anomalies of the 13th month pay. Without going deep in the debate of pay equity, we may recall in the good old days when there were "amahs" in Hong Kong. They wanted to pay according to the lunar calendar. There are maximum of 30 days in each month and there is the extra leap month every three years in the lunar calendar. During the times when the "amahs" were weak in bargaining their rewards, the lunar calendar method might has given them the best deal!

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Bigfoot still wishes to visit Naksup again! It is the hidden gem of the Kooteney. It is the home of the famous hot springs. If there is chance for him to take a driving trip to Alberta, on the out going trip he will take the following route.

HWY 1 – Merritt – HWY97C - Kelowna – HWY97 – Vernon – HWY6 – Needles/Fauquier ferry - Nakusp – Route 23 – Galena Bay/Shelter Bay ferry – connecting HWY1at Revelstoke

We may criticize how inferior the Canadian Highways are compared to the US Inter-States. Nevertheless, scenic routes have to cut through mountains, over the gorges and along the lakes. It is not an easy feat to build a road on the side of steep cliffs; you have to drive at leisure pace to savour the natural beauty.

人物誌

陳錦發
設計師

我從事室內設計廿多載，曾處理過的工程有：香港市政局的一些大小公園，銅鑼灣的食街，名店街，一此著名的飲食集團如美心、八百伴、大家樂、大快活、東東云吞麵、德和燒味、麒麟閣……其他還有賓館、店舖、住宅、辦公室、商店、電腦中心、陳列室、快餐中心、美容院、電影院、銀行、會所、診所、餐館、鍾錶珠寶店、花店、學校、鄉村俱樂部及娛樂中心等。工作過的地方有中、港、台、星、泰、澳洲、地中海、美國等。雖工作經驗不算太少，然而移民時；在加拿大的工作經驗卻是零！

在九三年定居於溫哥華。首先是花些時間去認識這地方，及報讀些有興趣而以前未暇去學的；如箝彩玻璃、陶瓷等。也趁機認識些同學和朋友。但想不到在那些興趣班所學到的，後來竟全部可應用於我的工作中。

在此生活一年多以後，對各社區環境有較佳瞭解。遂萌搬遷之念。心想，若能自行設計及蓋建自己的房子多好！一來可住進合自己心意的屋，二來可自行創造在加的工作經驗。查詢後；得悉在此設計及蓋建單戶房屋，並不需要甚麼專業執照。只要申報的圖則符合有關市政府之建屋規格、連同政府認可測量、土質及工程司之圖則與文件一併入則申請，待建屋許可證發出後；便可動工。而整個工程的結構及品質等；經工程師及市政府驗屋員核可便成。

於是；每天孩子上學後，與太太在溫西區作地毯式的每條街流覽。當時大溫區房地產非常興旺，到處大興土木。我看過無數施工中的地盆及開放屋，較別緻的更看上多次，亦認識了些工匠。

買了一間我和太太一步也未走進過的舊屋。因舊業主將其新屋圖則及建屋證都給了我，本來何立即將之拆御建新的。惟不喜其間格與式樣。決定實現我的理想，自行設計蓋建！跟著就忙透了：去市府索取詳細的房屋規格資料，去圖書館借了大量建屋及園藝的書。又報讀了建屋課程（若你本身不是在工程營造方面；已有相當認識和經驗，千萬不要以為讀書後就可妥當地自行建屋！）為能趕快動工，開了多晚通宵！閱讀有關條例及圖書，重新繪製一套圖則。不幸，入則時；剛遇到上市府大罷工！我每隔三天就往市府跑，煩了他們四個多星期才拿到建屋證。還幸圖則百份百批准，一點也沒被修改。

找來一位意大利名牌時裝同名的意裔營造商替我管理工程。以為這樣可使我更瞭解地道的施工細節和程序。後來才發覺該仁兄口才了得、但不精於工程且為人並不老實。還說我不可拿港式管理應用於此。自問我的工作經驗、對工程的認識和安排等都強他很多，他還不懂設計繪圖；尚且有不錯的生意。我為何不何？遂抽身上馬，每日長駐工地。親自安排投標、物料和工序等。擔當了八成以上的工作。該仁兄雖當了我的副手，但當初承諾所付費用；一文錢也不少付他。經過約九個月，終於大功告成！若不是早期的工程被安排得鬆散，施工期還應短些呢。經此工程，我認識了來自世界各地不下有廿個族裔的施工隊。他們有的對我說：雖與我初合作，覺得我將工程安排得暢順緊湊。且他們工作範圍及所用物料等，報價前我已白紙黑字的明確列明；免卻爭議！又因

我本身是設計師，間格、裝璜、水、電、影音、通訊、調溫等的細節早於圖則顯示，與傢具配合。免了設計與營造商不協調；免卻費錢失事之拆改工程。

我的屋成了樣板屋。跟著；替人度身訂造、各具特式屋都陸續進行。這幾年，我建的屋；除了有幾乎是標準設備的全套間睡房，蒸汽、芬蘭浴室，中、西廚，中央冷暖調溫。聰明屋及影院、音訊防盜系統外；好些還有日式或中式茶房，室內泳池及瀑布。還得多謝我一位音樂發燒朋友給我的意見：那黃金率間格及低頻反射等設施，使音響效果提升不少！

讀設計時雖也接觸過攝影及黑房沖印技巧。前年還是選讀了學校局的成人課程攝影班。其後更加入其影會，結識一班志同道合的攝影愛好者；不時相約外影。又參加專題講座，作品技術交流、品評及展覽，皆使我獲益良多。年前因所住地區入屋行竊猖獗。遂往有關部門申請後巷裝設街燈、及鄰舍互助計劃；要沿街請每戶街坊簽名支持。街坊知我業設計工程，有時向我請教些家居維修事項。因而與街坊弄得更熟落。間亦敘會大扯天南地北。跟我以往的一週七天緊張，不時要通宵趕工。假日與家人「遊新界」，其實大部份時間我去了巡察各地盆；家人呆在車裡等我。又或週五傍晚上機到大陸或海外工幹，週初早上回港繼續工作。整年整月都是忙個不了的。與此之生活；對比實在太大了！

移民後；轉換一下生活和工作模式。鬆馳那緊張了半輩子的神經，享受這裡的清新空氣，明媚風光，戶外活動與家庭樂。參加團體，多認識新朋友。甚或將人生從新定位，繼續進修、深造，迎接未來。未嘗一樂事也！我熱愛這裡較閒適，更充實多姿，更「人性」的生活。你呢？

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