



Issue 1 – Fall 2016

# Mauritius Chinese Association of Ontario Newsletter

Mauritius Chinese Association of Ontario, 189 Augusta Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Toronto, ON M5T 2L4

## Inaugural Issue

The Mauritius Chinese Association of Ontario (MCAO) is pleased to publish this first issue of a new quarterly newsletter for the community. It is intended to keep members and friends abreast of news and activities of the association as well as providing a forum for members to share information and experiences of mutual interest. Contributions by members are strongly encouraged to keep the newsletter informative, entertaining and beneficial.

### Note From The Interim President:

*Dear Members and Friends,*

*It is with great pleasure and pride that we witness today the birth of the first Newsletter of MCAO. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of the editorial team from the MAURITIUS CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.*

*Our special thanks go to the following editorial team members:*

*Priscilla & Clifford Lam; John & Mireille Lan; Margaret & Georges Wan Sai Cheong; Michael How; Wan Fee; Georges Chung; Joyce Leung; Allan Wan*

*A special word of acknowledgement goes to the sponsors of this newsletter. Their generosity and support are truly appreciated.*

*Thank you.*

*Allan Wan*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Inaugural Issue	1
MCAO Mandate	2
Our Activities	2
Upcoming Events	3
Membership Renewal	4
MCAO Clubhouse Address & Operating Hours	4
MCAO Sponsors	4
MCAO Volunteers	5
Acknowledgement	5
Photo Gallery	5
A Word from Our Sponsors	6

## A Congratulatory Note...

By Atchong Wong Ah Fat

安省多倫多毛島華人聯誼會會刊創刊誌喜

追溯百多年前，我們的祖先離開錦綉的家鄉漂洋過海前往印度洋之珠——毛里求斯島謀生。隨後他們的後裔更懷抱著祖先們的無畏艱難的龍虎精神前往e.加拿大創業，為謀求更好的人生和孩子們更闊大的前途，他們在加拿大建立更美好的家園。為讓鄉親們能有更好的聯繫機會，在十多年前，他們乃在多倫多創立一毛島華人聯誼會；讓我們眾多鄉親們能聚首一堂，互愛互助地享受更濃厚更親密的人生。

今天，本組織的負責人為着能讓鄉親們更加認識和愛護本會的意識和更積極的聯繫，乃創立此聯誼會會刊。

今天，謹在此創刊的機會，我們謹向辛勤的負責人們、敬致深深的祝福和謝忱！

他鄉聚鄉親，傾訴故鄉情；

端午中秋同祝福，元旦元宵齊歡樂！

謹祝鄉親們快樂！

溫飛

Please see *A Congratulatory Note* on page 4

## MCAO Mandate

*The Mauritius Chinese Association of Ontario (MCAO) is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 2001 by a group of Chinese elders who had newly emigrated from Mauritius.*

*It was incorporated in 2004 with the following objectives:*

- 1) *To establish and operate a centre for cultural and recreational activities*
- 2) *To preserve and perpetuate the traditions of the Chinese Hakka community*
- 3) *To sponsor literacy, musical, educational, and cultural events*
- 4) *To promote harmonious relationships with other communities in Canada*
- 5) *To provide mutual assistance and peer support within the membership fraternity with special consideration to the needs of our seniors*

## Our Activities

MCAO offers a range of activities that promote the health and social well-being of our members, families and friends and the community at large. The following provides details of current and future activities that are planned. Members are encouraged to submit suggestions on other activities that they are interested in participating.

### ■ iPad Workshops

- A series of five (5) training sessions on the use of iPad devices are currently underway.
- The monthly workshops are held at the MCAO clubhouse at 189 Augusta Ave, Toronto, ON M5T 2L4 and take place typically on the last Saturday of the month. The program started in October and runs through to February 2017.
- The workshops are conducted by Stephanie Yu and are open to MCAO members and guests.
- Attendance has been excellent for the first two sessions with over 30 participants attending.

- This training program has been made possible through a grant from the Seniors Secretariat of the Provincial Government of Ontario.

### ■ Conversational Hakka

- As part of our cultural activities, MCAO is offering a series of conversational Hakka sessions for members.
- These monthly sessions take place after the iPad workshops.
- Special thanks go to Michael How and Wan Fee who have volunteered to share their expert knowledge of our mother tongue.

### ■ Board Games

- Bingo, mah-jong, and card games are available at the clubhouse to stimulate our mind and promote mental health, as well as provide opportunities for social networking and recreational activities.

### ■ Social Visits/Peer Support

- As part of our activities to provide mutual support to members, a team of volunteers will arrange for friendly visits to support friends who may be having difficulties due to health related or personal conditions. To join the peer support team, please contact Monique Li Siong (905-812-3735).

### ■ Wellness/Discovery Walks

- Following wellness/nature walks are being planned starting next spring to be followed with family picnic or games, as appropriate. Walk duration is flexible e.g. ranging from 10-30 minutes, or 1+ hour based on personal interests:
  - ✓ Hiking in High Park during Cherry Blossom season in Spring

- ✓ Hiking in Edwards Garden
- ✓ Hiking on nature trails along Toronto waterfront, Don Valley, or Toronto Island

## ■ Photography/Show & Tell

- Members are encouraged to share their special/scenic photographs from recent trips via email or presentation at the club meetings

## ■ Dinner & Ballroom Dance

- Enjoy Chinese restaurant dinner and ballroom dancing on special occasions. To be arranged as needed.

## ■ Get-Away Trips/Excursions

- Trips to Agawa Canyon near Sault Ste Marie (Fall colours), Mont Tremblant, etc. are planned for the coming year. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.  
If you have suggestions for alternative trips or would like to participate in our Discovery walks or get-away excursions, please contact Peter Fong (905-903-0303).

## ■ Educational Events

- Special presentations by invited speakers on topics such as Power of Attorney, Will preparation, etc. To be arranged as necessary.

# Upcoming Events

**Members Forum:** A general Forum will be held on December 3, 2016 to discuss issues related to the future directions of MCAO (future of MCAO clubhouse, 2017 Executive Committee, 2017 Budget Plan, planning of future activities, etc.). All members are strongly encouraged to attend.

**Location:** Toronto City Hall  
Committee Room #4

100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**When:** **Saturday December 3, 2016 (1:00 PM to 3:00 PM)**



**Christmas Celebration:** MCAO members, families and friends are invited to a pot luck get-together on December 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the holiday season.

**Location:** Toronto City Hall  
Council Chamber Members Lounge  
100 Queen Street West,  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2  
(Note that the venue is wheel chair accessible and there is a Wheel Trans drop off point at the back of the building by Elizabeth and Hagerman Street.)

**When:** **Saturday December 17, 2016 (11:30 AM to 2:30 PM)**

**Cost:** **\$5 per adult (free for kids)** to cover the cost of housecleaning required by the City.



**Chinese New Year Celebration:** MCAO in partnership with Club M is organizing a Chinese New Year dinner dance. Come and join us to celebrate our heritage in welcoming the Year of the Rooster. Please buy your tickets early, as space is limited.

For tickets, please contact: Peter Fong (905-903-0303), Allan Wan (647-824-3343) or Monique Li Siong (905-812-3735).

**Location:** **Gold Mark Restaurant, 7501 Woodbine Ave, Markham, ON L3R 2W1**

**When:** **Saturday, February 11, 2017**

**Cost:** **Adult: \$55 or \$500 for table of 10**  
**Child (5-12yrs): \$25; (under 4 yrs): Free**



The Toronto Heritage Hakka Alliance and Club M have kindly invited MCAO members, family and friends to join them in their New Year's Eve Celebration Party

**Location:** **NKS Banquet Hall, 8360 Kennedy Rd Markham ON L3R 9W5**

**When:** **Saturday, December 31, 2016**

**Cost:** Adult: \$55 or \$500 for table of 10  
Child (5-12yrs): \$25; (under 4 yrs): Free

For tickets, please contact Linda Liu (416-568-5889), Robert Yap (416-805-1534) or Edouard Lau (416) 438-8731



**Mauritius Flag-Raising Ceremony:** MCAO has been invited to participate in the planning and organizing of the Mauritius Flag-raising ceremony at Toronto City Hall on March 12, 2017. Stay tuned for further details as they become available.

## 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).

## Membership Renewal

Members are kindly reminded that renewal of their annual membership for 2017 is coming up soon. Renewal notices will be sent out shortly. Your early attention will be greatly appreciated. We thank you for your continued and valued support!

## MCAO Clubhouse Address & Operating Hours

Due to lease termination, the MCAO clubhouse recently moved from its original location on Spadina Avenue to a new temporary facility located at:

**189 Augusta Avenue, Toronto, ON M5T 2L4**



The normal operating hours of the Clubhouse are:

Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays  
From 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Note that the above hours are applicable only until Dec 31, 2016 when the short-term rental lease agreement for this temporary facility is due to expire. Members will be informed as soon as alternate plans are finalized regarding the future of the MCAO clubhouse.

### *A Congratulatory Note... from page 1*

*Recollecting more than 100 years ago, our elders left their beautiful homeland, travelled to the Pearl of Indian Ocean called MAURITIUS ISLAND, to seek a greener pasture.*

*Thereafter, their heirs with the same energetic and fearless fighting spirits, braved the vast sea & ocean, migrated to this great land of Canada to successfully build a much better future for their children.*

*In order to give all our friends, relatives and compatriots the chance of meeting each other, the occasion of socializing among themselves, and most importantly, to promote the spirit of cooperation & help, our elders, more than 10 years ago, founded today's "MAURITIUS CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO", for which we feel immensely indebted and thankful.*

*Today, this association with the goal of further strengthening the friendship and mutual support of its members & our community at large, has given birth to the first edition of our quarterly Newsletter.*

*I am taking this opportunity to salute and heartily thank all our energetic and dedicated members for their success in this undertaking.*

*As the folklore says:*

*"Gathering In Thither Land,  
Divulging Our Homeland Nostalgia"*

*Wishing all our folks a very happy MOON FESTIVAL, CHRISTMAS and CHINESE NEW YEAR.*

*Atchong Wong Ah Fat*

*(Translation by Allan Wan & Mike How)*



## MCAO Volunteers

MCAO is operated and supported solely by volunteers. We wish to express our greatest appreciation to all our volunteers who have so generously donated their time, talent and expertise to ensure the continued operations of MCAO during the recent transition phase. MCAO continues to evolve. **Please join us in volunteering to make a positive impact for the community!**

## Acknowledgement

MCAO gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions provided by the following sponsors of this newsletter:

★ **Jean Paul Li (IDA Pharmacy)**

★ **Christopher Moore (Genest Murray LLP)**

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or comments, please email us at:

[clubmcao@gmail.com](mailto:clubmcao@gmail.com)

You can also visit our website at:

[www.mauritiuschineseassociation.com/](http://www.mauritiuschineseassociation.com/)

## Photo Gallery



Toronto Hakka Festival - July 2016



MCAO Annual Picnic at Thompson Park – August 2016



iPad Workshop – October 2016

## A Word From Our Sponsors...

**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

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