

多伦多廣海聯合會簡史 暨成立第八十五週車 KWONG HOI ASSOCIATION B5TH ANNIVERSARY

FREE 1916-2001

多伦多广海联合会简史 暨成立第八十五周年

加拿大多伦多广海联合会出版

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劉榮健

修志編史的熱潮。 必然的產物。 是故國有史,地方有志,家族有譜。因而今天社團、單位均興起 『史志』,是社會發展,人類文明進步的依據。 因為『人』的記憶有限,所以寫史修志便成了人們

因為『史志』蘊藏社會學、民族學、經濟學和人物傳記的豐富資料。 不僅對學術研究有所參考;對今后工作也可起着指導作用。 有昨天,才有今天;,記取昨天的所作所為,才能邁步走向明天。 因

它,

此,編寫「會史」有其重要的意義。

艱辛的道路。前賢創會維艱,從無到有,從小到大,才奠定今天的基 多倫多 『廣海聯合會』 成立于兹已歷八十五寒暑, 走過迂廻曲折

敗的教訓,留交后人,成為今后工作的一面鏡子,有所參照。 展,貢獻良多,有其不可磨滅的功迹。寫『史』便是把成功的業績,失 翹首回顧,前賢出錢出力,排除千阻萬難,渡過時艱,對會務發

向。惟希會員鄉親不以我愚魯坦誠賜教,共同為發展會務,獲取更大 南。深得内外鄉親鼎力支持。籍此彰前賢之德,亦為今后工作指出路 學淺,如何推進會務、實屬舉措不定。而今,值八十五周年會慶之際, 同仁倡議編寫『簡史』。希冀回顧過去,觀察現在,尋求今后發展的指 今榮健忝蒙鄉親愛戴,推選為當届聯合會主席。惟是榮健才疏

寫于 2000 年冬

成就。幸甚!幸甚!

聯合會簡史

A Brief History of Kwonghoi Leun Hop Wai Association

The Kwonghoi Leun Hop Wai Association is an association of members from the Kwonghoi district of the People's Republic of China. The Kwonghoi District is part of the city of Taishan, in the province of Kwonghoi and located in the south eastern part of the country, Kwonghoi district is situated at the south west section of the Pearl River Delta, with about 115 square kilometres, facing the South Sea and within close proximity to Hong Kong and Macau. Due to its location, Kwonghoi has long been associated with the trade route. The population is about 20,000 and the people resemble close living customs and speaking the same dialect of the Chinese language.

According to the historic records, the of Kwonghoi district natives first started to seek new opportunities abroad in 1848. This was right after the Ching Dynasty losing the "Opium War, "with the British. There was also the social uprising during the "Hargar Fighting" and during the time of several natural disasters. The people had a very hard time living there and for these reasons, the people tried to make a better living elsewhere.

Forced to seek out new opportunities abroad, many of the early pioneers from the Kwonghoi district along with other Chinese entered Canada under the Chinese Immigration Act, They were recruited to work at half the pay of other workers, blasting the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Rockies. After the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian Federal Government passed "An Act to Restrict and Regulate Chinese Immigration into Canada" on July 20th. 1885. The Chinese immigrants only were then forced to pay a \$50 head tax. That amount represented several years of earnings. Since this head tax did not stop the Chinese from immigrating to Canada, the Federal Government passed other acts, on July 18th, 1900 and January 1st, 1900. Finally, the head tax was raised to \$500 in 1904. These measures discouraged but did not stop Chinese immigrants who were fleeing from natural disasters, famine, war and social unrest. To stop them once and for all, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1923. Now Chinese cannot immigrate to Canada at any price.

The Goldrush, attracted the early Chinese immigrants to Canada and considered Canada to be "Golden Mountain". However, our pioneers being in a strange land with strange language and strange customs found a strong sense of responsibility for each other's welfare. There was a need to take care of the disadvantaged one, the sick one, the old one, the financial distressed one, and to promote friendship and to preserve the culture heritage. With these goals in mind, in 1916 a group of Chinese in Toronto, with roots

mostly in the Kwonghoi District, made a great effort in trying to fulfill these necessaies. They rented an office on Bay Street, organized legally and registered a charter as a non - profit organization in Optanio.

In 1947, with the amendment of the " The Canadian Immigration Act", it enabled Chinese in China to be united with their families in Canada. This resulted in newintnigrants and new members to the association. With the greater need to help new members and with the new ideas, enthusiasm and energies of the new members. the Association pursued its ultimate goal of the organization. In 1952, a campaign was started to finance a permanent home. With the member's support and contributions, a new building complex was built in 1955 on Foster Place in Toronto to serve as the association' s new home. This was indeed a milestone since it fulfilled the hopes and dreams of our founders. In the early 1980's, with the record influx of Chinese immigrants, the membership of the organization rapidly grew. It quickly became evident that the association outgrew its facilities and can no longer meet needs of its members. In 1981, the Kwonghoi Association moved to its present home on 189 Angusta Avenue in Toronto.

Since its establishment 85 years ago, whether on Bay Street or on Foster Place or on Augusta Avenue, the Association had devoted all its strength and energy in serving the members, with every opportunity to provide them with the maximum possible benefits and service. The Association made significant contribution

to the Chinese Community by assisting, supporting and participating in many activities that benefited all. In 1935 - 1945 the association made donation for Chinese Government to buy airplanes to fight in the war. Donations were made for flood relief and purchased bonds to support the world war efforts. Within the local community, the Association provided "Sunday Credit Union" which benefited the members who needed financial assistance. Since 1980's, the Association had joined other Chinese organizations in Toronto for many social meetings and as well as many common initiatives such as standing united on the head tax compensation issue and the Canada Immigration Act. The Association also had the privileges of entertaining delegations from the People's Republic of China, supported and financed the Kwonghoi news magazine. The Association's work has extended beyond the local community to the hometown, supporting health-care home for aged, schools, and hospital renovations in the Kwonghoi District. The annual anniversary banquet and scholarship award benefited members and their families over the years.

On this special occasion of celebration the 85th anniversary of our Association, we want to thank everyone who has contributed to this important milestone. We want to pay a special tribute to the founders of the Association, to honour them for their wisdom and vision. We want to honour their foresight in recognizing the value of this Association to the members and to the community. We want to thank them for their self sacrifices and determination in building the foundations for this Association to thrive today. As we reflect

upon our past achievements, we hope that we will continue to serve the members better while marching in the direction of the Canadian mainstream. For us to be successful, we will require your full support, your inputs and your involvement in working together to overcome the challenges facing us today and tomorrow.

The editors of this commemorative special edition, on behalf of Kwonghoi Association's leadership would like to express the deepest appreciation to the members, sponsors, advisors, and writers, speial appreciation for the best wishes from the Prime Minister of The People's Reight Honourable Jesn Chretien, the Ambassador of Canada, the Right Honourable Jean Chretien, the Ambassador of The People's Republic of China to Canada, His Excellency, The Consulate General of The People's Republic of China in Toronto, the Premier of ontario, the Honourable Michael D. Harris, Tony Ianno, Member of Parliament, Trinity – Spadina, and individual organizations from the Officials of The People's Republic of China, individual organizations from the Metropolitan Toronto. Your messages of support have inspired us to further serve the memhers and the community better.

Thank you for all your help and generosity, Without your support, this commemorative special edition would not be possible.

The Editors

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聯合會簡史(英文)序言 劉榮健

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李社 興寶 門僑辦和交流協會 開平同鄉會理事長關和樂 美國劉郁南、黄仁夫 温哥華廣海同鄉會 廣海鎮黨委和政府 加拿大總理克里靖 捷 安大略省長夏里斯 陳炳麟 多倫多雁林體育會 陳新湛 僑辨、僑聯、通訊社 江門僑聯和僑史學會 台山僑辦新寧雜志 中國駐加拿大大使梅平 康樂武館陳郁 國會議員余欣龍 鄭李蘭芳 李湘鑾陳彩鳳 鍾冀潔劍 廣海龍岡親義會 温哥華埠何與國 多倫多四海聯誼社關北堅 廣東文夫館長陳毓錚江 劉華燿 中國駐多倫多總領事周 黄澤演 劉景雲 英國彭康 秦瑞華

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