

THE STUDENT AMBASSADOR

In the Name of Wah Yan

A Report by the Student Ambassador

The Scheme

"Do you know what is the Student Ambassador Scheme?"

"No." This is usually the answer I get when such a question is raised, especially for the lower form students. So let me first have an introduction on the scheme.

Every year in October, three outstanding students will be elected from among the form six students by votes. After that the three students will be interviewed by the Past Students' Association and one of them will be chosen as the Student Ambassador. So, I am the lucky one this year.

As an ambassador, of course my job is to foster the relations and to enhance the communication and knowing between the school, the Past Students' Association and the oversea chapters of the Association as well. To complete my task, I first need to have thorough knowing of the Past Students' Association, therefore, I attend the monthly meetings of the association and help in the functions of the association together with our fellow students. On the other hand, I help in advocating the activities organized by the association at school and recruiting members.

Although the information technology nowadays develops well, it more or less differs from the "face-to-face" contact. Consequently, every year the Student Ambassadors from both Wah Yan Colleges will have a trip to one of the oversea chapters to visit the past students there. This also provides a golden opportunity for the alumni to know more the latest news from their mother schools. This year, our destination is Vancouver.



The Trip

The visit was carried out during Easter Holidays, from 2nd to 9th April 1999. Before the trip, Timothy Leung, the Student Ambassador of Wah Yan College Hong Kong, and I had already spent some time to prepare and contact the person-in-charge from Vancouver, Mr. Larry Yip, through e-mail. Also many thanks to Mr. Douglas Cheung, who had drafted the itinerary of the trip for us.



On 2nd April, Timothy and J were sent to Vancouver by AJRMAJL. J would also like to thank those who said farewell to us in the airport.

Hello! Vancouver

We arrived at the Vancouver Airport at 10:00 a.m. on 9th April of Vancouver time. Two past students, Larry Yip and Michael Lam, came to meet us and we first went to settle down in a hotel in Richmond, a city to the South of the city of Vancouver.

After having our lunch, we went to Granville Island, a shopping centre in Vancouver, to buy some fruits and snacks. We then went back to Richmond, where live many Hong Kong emigrants, and we had a good sleep in the hotel afterwards.

Waking up in the next morning, we met another alumnus, Matthew Wong, in the lobby of the hotel. We travelled to some tourist spots in the South, like Fishermen's Wharf, where seafood was sold. We then visited a Buddhist Temple, where one of the halls was designed by Douglas Cheung, who is our alumnus also. In fact the Buddhist Temple was computerized to improve the management. It was rare in neither Mainland China nor Hong Kong.

We also visited a tomato farm run under a computerized greenhouse. It was run by William Cheuk, a past student, and research was undergoing to study the ecology of the system.

After that, we met another alumnus, Thomas Tong, who took us to the China Town and Gastown, both of which worth visiting. Travelling by Seabus, we arrived at North Vancouver, another city to the North of the city of Vancouver. After a day of visits, we had karaoke at Larry's home, where we enjoyed the singing very much.

Lives in Vancouver

Anthony Kung brought us to an Auto-Show at the B.C. Place Museum on Sunday. Stanley Park was our next stop. It

was a very famous tourist spot where totems were placed. The totems were of different sizes and produced by the Indians. They also acted as a symbol of Canada, especially Vancouver. Timothy and J took some photos before the Lion's Gate, which was a famous suspension bridge in Canada.

On Monday, we went to Dr. Edward Woo's office, where we watched a short production about the Chinese in the early days in Canada. In the afternoon, together with Larry, Ken Suen and Dominic Kwok, we went on a trip to the very North of Greater Vancouver. We visited many places, like Mt. Seymour, Deep Cove, as well as Lynn Canyon Park, where a long suspension bridge was placed over a valley.

Tuesday was a busy day for us. We were picked up by Joseph Hue in the morning. We visited one of the offices of his company, which provided consultant service on the immigration

problems. Then we met the general manager of two Chinese TV and two Chinese radio channels, Joseph Chan, in his office. He led us to visit various departments of the firm. After having the lunch, we visited Daniel Lee, who was one of the Councillors of the city of Vancouver, in the City Hall. Then we went to the Police Station in which Larry Yip worked every day.

In the evening, we attended the monthly meeting of the Alumni Association in a restaurant, where we had a presentation on what were going on in two Wah Yan Colleges in the meantime.

Study in Vancouver

On 7th April, accompanied with William Cheuk and Michael Lam, we visited two universities in Vancouver, the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. We got a lot of information about furthering studies in Canada, hoping that these would be

useful as a reference for the students in Hong Kong.

In the evening, we watched a NBA basketball game with Douglas Cheung at the GM Place, where Vancouver Grizzlies was playing against Denver Nuggets. Although Grizzlies lost in the game, we all enjoyed the match indeed.

The trip was enjoyable and a valuable experience for Timothy and me. Nonetheless, J had to leave on 8th April. Here J would like to present my deepest gratitude towards all the alumni in Vancouver for their looking after us throughout the



whole trip. I am certain that they can offer great help if any of my fellow students or member of staff is going to Vancouver.

Messages

Apart from being tourists, Timothy and I played the role of the ambassador throughout the trip. I think the job was not easy, in any sense of the word, but really enjoyable. Then, how were we doing our job?

As we always say, what we need is a two-way communication, so we had prepared well before we went on the trip. In Vancouver, Timothy and I attended the monthly meeting of the chapter on 6th April, and we explained to the past students in Vancouver the scheme of the Student Ambassador and had a presentation on today's Wah Yan. I concentrated my work on introducing several projects that had been launched in our school recently. I noticed that all of them were keen in knowing what was going on and matters concerning the Jesuit Fathers and the staff.

On the other hand, what messages could we get from Vancouver?

In fact, both Timothy and I were deeply impressed by the enthusiasm of the past students towards our trip and the Alumni Association, which had more than 300 members. Every year the chapter would organize the Annual Ball in October. Even the alumni associations of other schools were invited to join the programme last year. You could see what a great success it had been! Other than that, various kinds of activities were organized. Sometimes there would be some outdoor activities, like fishing, riding bicycles, hiking, gathering, etc. The eager participation of the members made the activities turn out to be great successes.

All the members of the association devoted their effort, not because they could make money, but only because they are all Wahyanites. In the name of Wah Yan, they helped each other in another country far away from Hong Kong.

In Canada, multi-culture is encouraged. However, the success of the Chinese nowadays had not been established in one day. It was made from the sweats, tears and blood of our Chinese ancestors in Canada. One of our past students,

Dr. Edward Woo, has recently directed a programme named as "Canadian Steel, Chinese Gift" (楓骨中華魂). It described how our ancestors in Canada were working a century ago, how they helped in the unification of British Columbia Province with other provinces of Canada, how they built the railway by their blood. In a word, we should be always aware that the success of the Chinese in Canada is due to the work of many ancestors.

Also, we certainly experienced what the power of esprit de corp is like for all the members showed their willingness in helping any of the Wahyanites who are going to Vancouver. This absolutely is what we should treasure.

Even though they had left Wah Yan for a long period, they still cherished the memories of their studies in Wah Yan. I think the spirit of sacrifice of the Jesuit Fathers had been most impressing among all. This also made many of our students contribute much in the community work after their studies. Many of our Wahyanites have joined the Lion's Club and Timothy and I bought two lion dolls in charity fund-raising scheme of the Lion's Club. This can be regarded as the continuation of the spirit of Wah Yan and the Jesuit Fathers into our society.

I hope the Student Ambassador Scheme would be a success in the coming years.

