

The Centennial of The Calgary Kong Har Wongs' Association 1910 - 2010

By Paul K.P. Wong
August 26, 2010

The Wong's Affinity Association in Calgary was established in 1967, and merged by two Wong's associations -- the Wong Kong Har Tong and Wong Wun Shan Society.

The Calgary Wong Kong Har Tong was established in 1910. It was called "Kong Har Inn" when it was first set up. The Inn was located in the same spot at 205 Centre Street South West which was burnt down in early 2010. It was set up to accommodate all single clansmen who were staying in the city and surrounding area, and provided the service to those who were newly immigrated to Calgary from China. When the founders established the Inn, it was also used for social activities, reading and an entertaining place for Wong's clansmen; and they called it as Wong Kong Har Tong.

In December 1927, there was a group of Wong's clansmen intended to start up another organization which was called as Wong Wun Shan Society. Uncles Po Sham and Cheng Kwan who wrote the proclamations led the group to establish the society in 1931. Later on, the group got the money by fundraising to purchase the building which is the location of Wong's Affinity Association today.

In 1966, some younger members got a common vision to merge the two organizations. They were Lung Kwong, Ki Yim, Ming Shun, Siu Kwong, Leang Sek, King Shang, Wai Shun, Shu King, Yuen Wai and Wai Shing. At the end, the Chairman of both parties got the common agreement, and accepted for reforms and merging. Therefore, the Wong's Affinity Association in Calgary was formed in 1967 which was also the first association with two organizations being merged and renamed in Canada at that time.

A minor renovation was done in 1982 due to the front of the building was too old. The major renovation was started in September 1989, and got most of Wong's members support by fundraising event. It took about a year to have the project finished; the building now looks brand new with a retail space on the ground floor and an office space in the basement which is rented out at the present time. In early 1993, the Board of Directors and members also agreed to extend the building at the back. This project was started in August and occupied in November. As of today, the Association has lots of space for entertainment, for members to watch TV or reading; and there is a large area on the mezzanine floor used for the office and board meetings. Furthermore, a Woman's Group for those female members of the association was founded on August 13, 1995 for having their own activities. The first coordinator was Shau King Wong, and the present coordinator is Peony Wong.

The chairpersons of Wong Kong Har Tong between 1952 and 1967 before the merger were Kam Chang and Lung Kwong; and the chairmen of Wong Wun Shan Society were Kung Shun, Yuen King, Ki Yim, Leang Sek, King Shang and Nin Fong. Presidents for Wongs' Affinity Association since 1967 are as follow: King Shang (Fred), Nin Fong, Gam Hung (George), Sai Chung, Jack Sam (Jim), Siu Hei (Jack), Leang Sek (Leonard), Yuet Ying and Kong Foo (Simon).