



January 2007 Newsletter & Events Calendar

Happy New Year! The world welcomed 2007 with fireworks, music, cheers, dancing and kisses. It's now time to implement all those New Year's resolutions, whether it is achieving better health, peace, love or prosperity.

Your entire Board of Directors wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year in 2007!

President's message: What It Means to be a Malaysian.

With Malaysia celebrating this year it's 50th Year of Independence and our Malaysian Association of B.C. celebrating it's 5th Anniversary, it presents a time for all of us to reflect on the question: "What It Means to be a Malaysian and what makes us Malaysians different?"

In my opinion, what makes us Malaysians different is the spirit we all inherit that makes us have "Rumah Terbuka" or "Open House" during our festivals and celebrations.

Once an outsider experiences the true spirit of Malaysian hospitality, they immediately know that Malaysians are different and special. True Malaysian hospitability means that you will invite everyone regardless of race, religion or class to come to your home and share in a special day of celebration by enjoying our wonderful food and hospitality.

This is why it is so important for all of us to ensure that we all instill the Malaysian spirit of hospitality in our children and help mould them and future generations as they struggle to combine two cultures in their present world. We now live in a fast paced lifestyle that makes it easy to be swept away with the latest fads or crazes. But by instilling firm values in our children they will be well grounded as they accept the challenges of life and as they grow they will understand and appreciate where their roots came from and why it is so important to learn and practice the true spirit of hospitality as part of their Malaysian ancestral identity. Have them carry that spirit and identity with pride.

It is for those reasons why it is so important to be an active participant in your local Malaysian Association. Have your friends join us so that as a community we can continue to grow and keep the spirit of "Rumah Terbuka" alive and well in our new Canadian home but never forgetting that Malaysia is where our roots are and that is what makes us who we are.

Announcement:

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that 2 new directors have been appointed to the board following the resignations of Agnes Loh and Steve Chin. **Luke Tham** has been appointed a dual-role of Secretary and Membership Director and as such will be put to task to grow our membership base significantly over the course of the upcoming year. **Robin Lau** has been appointed as Special Events Director, and will be in charge of this years golf tourney as well as looking into additional fun events for our members. All Directors hold office on a yearly basis and are re-elected at the Annual General Meeting each year. This coming year we plan to propose a Special Resolution to expand the number of our Directors in order to continue to grow our organization and to give us the ability (aka manpower!) to organize more events and undertake additional special projects.

Report on Makanfest

Makanfest 2006 was a tremendous success. We were almost at 100% capacity even with the November snow storm (remember that?) which clearly demonstrates how tough our local Malaysians are, especially when it comes to sniffing out the food!!! Everyone enjoyed our delicious Malaysian buffet dinner, followed by door prizes and draws. We were pleasantly entertained by Karaoke songs by our new Vice-Consul Mr. Aliman, the VP of Malaysia Tourism Mr. Haris and Mr Robin Lau. That motivated many others to come up on the stage to demonstrate their singing talent. We even have our own "Elvis" in the Malaysian community. Dancing then continued on till midnight. This coming year we will need to acquire a larger venue to accommodate our growing membership many of whom invited their non-Malaysian friends to the event. The MABC Makanfest celebration was originally started a few years ago to celebrate the Muslim Hari Raya Aidilfitri and the Hindu Deepavali.

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www.mabccanada.com

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Lemme taste-test first! "Eh, must taste, quality control mar?"



Past-Pres Pamela Drakos in sari and her son, Deion



new Vice-Consul Aliman



"I bid 2 lolle!"



"Waah, the food so good, I sapu 5 plates!"



Motivation session: "Come lah, don't be shy! We all friend-friend wat, why be shy?"...Robin Lau and Mr. Haris trying to coax members to join them karaoke-ing on stage.



Costume show: kebayas, baju kurungs, Punjabi suit, sari, samfoo, cheongsam.

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Badminton Tourney:

The annual Badminton tournament will be held on January 20, 2007. Please make sure to get your entry forms in to Kel or Edward. 2nd Malaysian National Day Golf Tournament 2007. Plans are well underway for our next golf tournament and we hope to confirm the exact dates and details in our next newsletter.

Visit Malaysia Year 2007

Malaysia is hosting the world to come and "Visit Malaysia 2007" to celebrate 50 years of Nationhood. The month of August will be filled with a myriad of parades, cultural performances, street shows and carnivals to commemorate Malaysia's independence or Merdeka Day on August 31st. Malaysia has extended a warm invitation to all former residents of Malaysia to return home for a visit in 2007. Better still, bring your friends "home" to Visit Malaysia!

Other 2007 festivals will include:

January 20 to February 4: Flora Festival, which is highlighted by the Floral Parade, featuring beautifully decorated floats from all around Malaysia, along with bazaars, competitions, exhibitions and other activities not to be missed.

Feb 1: Thaipusam Festival: this day of penance and thanksgiving for Hindu devotees is held in honor of Lord Muruga or Lord Subramaniam.

Feb 2-11: Le Tour de Langkawi: a cycling spectacle not to be missed.

Feb 8 – 11: Maybank Malaysia Open 2007: Both amateurs and professional Malaysian golfers compete against the world's best players.

Feb 18: Chinese New Year: marks the first day of the lunar calendar and is celebrated over a 15 day period. This is an exciting time to be in Malaysia, as the Chinese New Year is ushered in with drums, gongs in accompaniment to lion and dragon dances.

Mar 24 to April 22: March GP Sale 2007: Fantastic bargains and discounts in the nationwide sale carnival.

March 24 to 25th: Taman Negara Eco Challenge: Take part in this extreme sporting event as you compete with the world's top mountain hikers, running and racing to ascend and descend the 2,187metre high Gunung Tahan.

Special note from Past-President Pamela Drakos aka "shopping queen".....the month of August is usually when the nation launches "Malaysia Mega Sale" where all the shopping malls, mega department stores launch amazing sales...truly cheap, truly wonderful, and the best thing is that the C\$ is strong vis-à-vis the Ringgit. And you thought Boxing Day is good? Wait till you experience Malaysia Mega Sale!!!! Aaaah, BLISS!!!!

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

New members are joining our organization each month, with some taking out Life Memberships. This means that MABC will be able to undertake more activities and events during the coming year. Some very special events are currently in the planning stage and will be announced in future newsletters. Membership forms are available on our website, so if you know of anyone who isn't currently a member, please make sure to direct them to Gina for a membership form.

MABC Website:

We are working on the final touches to the website, it should be launched in a week, so do mark your calendar to check the website in mid-Jan.

Your MABC Board of Directors for 2006-2007 are:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Telephone #:</u>	<u>Email address:</u>	<u>Occupation:</u>	<u>Where from?</u>	<u>MABC Responsibility</u>
President: Gina Hansen	604-321-6012	gina@sunclubtravel.com	Owner, SunClub Travel	Penang	everything!
Vice-President: Gerald Lau	604-945-3646	gcplau@shaw.ca	President, Invenacom	Kuching	everything too!
Secretary: Luke Tham	604-270-3031	luke_tham@hotmail.com	Owner, Bridgeport Postoffice	KL	Secretary & Membership

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Treasurer:	Helen Yeoh-Leong	604-942-6966	helenyeoh23@hotmail.com		KL	Social
Directors:	Edward Lee	604-879-8616	e99lee@hotmail.com		Malacca	Sports
	Kel Tang	604-803-5843	keltang@shaw.ca	Graphic Designer Madmoles Communications	PJ	Communications & website
	Richard Ong	604-240-0088	richardong@mdi.ca	Ellie Tropical Cuisine	KL	Asst Special Projects
	Robin Lau	604-512-6430	robinlau12155@hotmail.com	Marketing, Toyota Canada	Kuching	Special Events
Webmaster:	Dominic Wong	604-719-3025	dominicw@shaw.ca			Webmaster
Immediate Past-President:	Andrew Annuar	604-218-4536	aannuar@shaw.ca		KL	
Previous Past President,	Pamela Yoon Drakos	604-623-3263	pamela_drakos@hsbc.ca	Investment Advisor Global Private Client Services HSBC Securities (Canada) Inc.	Ipoh	Newsletter editor & coordinator

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