



Raja Perlis and Raja Perempuan Perlis' private visit to Vancouver

Consul General Mat Dris Yaacob hosted a dinner on June 19th at the Pan Pacific Hotel to honor the visit of DYMM Tuanku Raja Perlis, DYMM Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail and Tuanku Raja Perempuan Perlis, DYMM Tuanku Tengku Fauziah. This was a private visit and select members of the local Malaysian community were invited to attend their welcoming dinner. It was a great honor for the guests to personally meet our Royal Family and after a fabulous dinner, we were entertained by Tuanku Raja Perempuan Perlis who sang several beautiful songs and then invited the guests to also sing and participate in poco poco (a line dance from Indonesia that she popularized while she was Queen). To view pictures of the visit, click: www.kln.gov.my/perwakilan/vancouver



Back row left-right: Richard Liew & Margaret Chee (representing MSBCA), Pamela Yoon Drakos, Juliette Leong, Michael Leong, Gina Hansen, Boo Jock Chong,
Front row left-right: Luke Tham, Mrs. Tham, Janice Chong.

Ipoh: a million or not?

At the dinner (above), Jock Chong, Pamela Drakos and Luke Tham got into a discussion about how big (or tiny), IPOH's population was. Pam argued that it was easily a million. Luke started at 200,000 and then moved up to "under 600,000". Jock said it was under 1 million. So we had bets going. Jock said lunch at Sutton Place. Luke was the big shot, said he'd buy dinner for a whole table. So the discussion/debate goes on for at least 20 mins (I think Michael Leong was bored of the conversation already at that point!). Datuk Dr. Menon (who was with the King's entourage, sat at our table) thought that Pam was gonna be correct. So, here we go....

- according to the World Gazetteer site, they calculate Malaysia's 2007 population to be 28 million. They list the 3 major metropolitan areas with the following population:

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- Metropolitan KL (including all of PJ, Subang Jaya etc) 6.9million
- Metropolitan Singapore –Johor Bahru 5.49million
- Metropolitan Pinang 1.7million
- **Metropolitan Ipoh 1.022million**
- **Ipoh city itself is 710,000**
- Singapore proper (ie the country) 3.654 million
- Canada 32 million'
- Metropolitan Vancouver 2.1million

I did not make these numbers up, I just got them from what I consider a fairly reputable website. I went to Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh's website and could not find any numbers. Luke says 710K (Ipoh city). Boo Jock googled to wikipedia and answers.com and came up with 660K and 644K. It is all over the map! Here's an email from Fathol Zaman in response to my query, Fathol is the editor of the Ipoh City Watch publication.

Dear Pam,

The official figure quoted by Ipoh City Council (MBI) and the State Government of Perak is 650,000. The size of the city is 643 sq miles, incorporating the towns of Gopeng and Chemor. So both your friends and you are wrong. The last population census was done in July 2000, the fourth since 1970. Census is held one every 10 years. Since it is 7 yrs past the date, at a growth rate of about 2.2 per cent per annum, the city population can be about 760,000 presently or lower. Migration from the rural areas is not too pronounced as in KL. Sorry for the late reply. I was in KL since Saturday, 8 July 07.

*Cheers.
fathol*

So, who won? Maybe all 3 of should just go for a dutch lunch and call it a truce!!!

FAREWELL TO CONSUL GENERAL MR. MAT DRIS YAACOB

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our Consul General Mr. Mat Dris Yaacob has completed his tour of duty in Vancouver and is returning to a new position in Malaysia the end of July. We have organized a joint farewell (together with MSBCA and MCBC) for him, which will be a harbour dinner cruise on Thursday July 26th. We have reached our target of 70 participants however, we do welcome a few more last minute guests, space permitting. Pls contact Gina, 604-306-1956.

DANCING LESSONS

Helen Leong, our resident "MABC Dancing Queen" is leading a group of members to learn ballroom dancing techniques for both beginners, intermediate and advanced. Lessons will include Standard: Waltz, Foxtrot, Jive, Quickstep. Latin: Tango, Cha Cha, Rumba (our Dancing Queen's favorite!!), Samba. Dancing is becoming more popular each year and it's a great recreational activity for a couple to re-connect with those earlier romantic years. Here's a basic intro to the dances:

The Waltz is continuing to rise in popularity. Today, couples try to project their romantic feelings when interpreting the waltz.

Slow Foxtrot is known as the "dancers' dance" as it allows you to float smoothly around the floor while requiring balance and control.

The Quickstep began as a quick version of Foxtrot mixed with musical jazz influences. It is a very quick and lively dance comprised of hops, skips and kicks.

The Jive is back (in fact it never left). It's a very fast, acrobatic and lively dance that was inspired by the swing music of Glen Miller. It is an American dance of the 40s and 50s but has been tamed by the British. It needs plenty of energy but you can't help but swing to the music.

The Latin Dances...true romantic ballet!

The Tango, most peoples favorite to at least watch, was invented in Buenos Aires, Argentina and is still danced today as the "Argentine Tango" but the international style Tango has been developed by the British into a more genteel form. The hold is very different from other dances, with the lady's arm under the man's, creating a tighter hold for the quick staccato actions and stylized poses. The couples portray sensuality and interplay between them.

Cha-Cha, is Cuban in origin. Cha-cha rhythm is found in much of today's popular music. In this dance, the girl represents a flirt that the man should never really catch. It is an offshoot of the Mambo and the Rumba.

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Samba is a dance from Brazil and is a lively dance distinguished by a downward or dropping action called "Samba Bounce". It travels around the floor with lots of spins and controlled bounces.

Rumba is Cuban in origin and is often referred to as the "Dance of Love"...sultry and romantic. The music is a mixture of African and Latin Rhythms.

Your Committee has planned several exciting Dance Lessons and Practice Sessions for the summer and we invite your participation. Crystal Ballroom, 768 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver has a Summer Half Price Special from July 1-31st for group lessons.

Beginners:	Thursdays	8 lessons 7:30-8:30	Special Promo Price \$45	Regular \$90
Bronze 1:	Mondays	8 lessons 7:30-8:30	\$45	\$90
Bronze 2:	Tuesdays	8 lessons 7:30-8:30	\$49	\$98
Silver:	Tuesdays	8 lessons 6:30-7:30	\$51	\$102
Gold(Latin)	Saturdays	8 lessons 2:30-3:30	\$52	\$104
Gold(Std)	Sundays	8 lessons 5:00-6:00	\$52	\$104

There are also informal practice sessions available every Thursday night at the German Club on Victoria Street, Tuesdays and Sundays at Mr. Dance and Fridays at Robson Square, 800 Robson Street. Please contact Helen/Gina for more information. Happy Dancing!!!!and remember all you single men..... learn to dance and the women will line up for you!!!

p.s....maybe Brazillian Capoeira next????

MAKAN NIGHT

The evening of June 23, members of MABC met at Four Point Sheraton in Richmond for our monthly "Makan Night". Mr. William Tse and his wife, Daisy, owners of Four Point Sheraton extended an invitation to visit their Hotel and welcomed us. It was a very special evening as their daughter was singing that evening and one of her band members is a fellow Malaysian. We also celebrated our "Dancing Queen's" birthday, Helen Leong.



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William Tse also owns the Burrard Acura on Burrard Street and Vancouver Honda on SW Marine Drive. He was one of our major sponsors for a Hole-in-One Honda car for our golf tournament last year. He has extended a very special "deal" for any MABC member who is interested in purchasing a Honda or Acura at his dealerships. If interested call Gina 604-306-1956 for the referral contact.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Mohd Hatta, a young, beautiful lady from Johore, who recently opened her new restaurant called Malaysia House, located at 5750 Fraser Street, Vancouver. She is providing authentic Malay "Halal" cuisine and her specialty dish "Laksa Johore"

ORGANIC FARMS AND WINERY TOUR

Sunday July 15th join us for this interesting tour of local organic farmssee first hand how organic food is grown and why organic food should be your top priority for healthy living. Our guide will be MABC member Peter Young, Manager with Capers Community Market. We now have about 20 people signed up and we are going to do a car pool. There is no charge, just chip in a few dollars to help share the gas and we'll stop along the way for lunch on our own...which was the majority's decision. (See how democratic we are!) Promises to be a fun, relaxing and informative afternoon. If you are still interested in joining us call Gina 604-306-1956 for details.

ANNUAL MABC PICNIC

On August 12th MABC will be holding our annual picnic at Barnet Marine Park in Burnaby from 10am to 2pm. Like last year, which turned out to be very successful, it will be a potluck event... bring a favorite dish to share with everyone. MABC will supply drinks, BBQ chicken prepared by our very own MABC executive chef, Helen Leong, assisted by her BBQ team. We had about 100 people turn up last year, both young and old and the event turned out to be a fun day for everyone and an opportunity to meet your fellow Malaysians. There was a huge spectacular display of Malaysian cuisine from Grandma's curry chicken to nasi lemak, rojak, mee goreng and lots of kuih kuih... there was dancing, sepak raga, children's games. This year promises to be bigger and better. We will appreciate all your help to make this another successful event. If you would like to assist in organizing some events and children's games, please contact Helen Leong, 604-942-6966

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On August 22nd, MABC will be holding the 2nd Annual National Day Golf Tournament at Riverway Golf Course in Burnaby, followed by dinner at Golden Swan Restaurant in Vancouver. Deadline to register is August 8, 2007. Teams are filling up fast but there is still space for a few more golfers. For more information and reservations, contact Gerald Lau at 604-375-1384

NEW MEMBERS

This month we wish to welcome the following new MABC members:

1. Eric Lee and Family
2. Herb Lim
3. Lisa Wang
4. David Au Yeung
5. Philip Woo
6. Tommy Ng and family (Jonker Street Restaurant)

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MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

MABC annual meeting is scheduled for September. If your membership has expired or is expiring soon, please mail us your renewal subscription. Please make checks payable to: Malaysian Association of B.C. and forward to Gina Hansen, President, c/o 1190 Richards Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3E6. Single membership \$10 Family membership \$20. or upgrade to a Life Member...it's only \$200. Please remember that we are a non-profit voluntary organization and it is only through our membership fees, donations and participation in our events that we are able to fund ourselves. Your help and assistance is greatly appreciated.

BUILDING FUND

A special MABC Building Fund Account has now been set up for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of our very own MABC Club House. The following Directors were appointed for the Building Committee:

Chairperson:	Gina Hansen,
Vice-Chair:	Luke Tham
Committee:	Robin Lau

Our Consul General Mr. Mat Dris Yaacob has volunteered to make the first donation of \$1000 from his own personal funds and is challenging all other MABC members and fellow Malaysian to meet or beat his donation. However, all contributions of any size are welcomed. Please attend the MABC Annual Meeting in September for more discussion and information on our MABC Building Club House project.

MALAYSIAN COURT INTERPRETERS WANTED

On July 5th at 7pm Gina Hansen received an email from a company that supplies court interpreters for our courts and they had no one in their registry listed as a Malay interpreter. They required someone to interpret for a young Malaysian who had been arrested in Vancouver and was appearing in court the next morning at 9am. The Canadian Charter of Rights states that anyone arrested in Canada, by law, must receive interpretation of the hearing in their own language. Gina volunteered to go help, since it was a last minute request and provided interpretation services for the young man. She is continuing to provide him with some assistance as he is in the country all by himself and has no one to turn to for advice. The situation related to some incident at a store and someone called the police. If you would like, you can have your name added to the registry as a person that can provide interpretation services in Malay for any future court requirements. You receive a minimum of 2 hours pay, even if the case only takes a few minutes. Contact Gina, 604 306 1956 to add your name and contact numbers. This company was able to locate MABC through our website.

JOIN US FOR A DAY TRIP TO FERNDALE, WASHINGTON STATE SATURDAY JULY 28TH, 2007

On Saturday July 28th at 10:15, join MABC members for a day trip by bus to Ferndale, Washington. The bus leaves at 10:15 from Main Street and 42nd (Free parking on the street if you leave your car) and return at 5pm. Have lunch at the Silver Reef Casino which includes a wonderful seafood buffet. Cost is \$10US and lunch is free. All bus patrons must carry appropriate travel documents, Visa, Canadian Citizen Card or Passport. For more information call Gina 604-306-1956.

TRAVEL IDEAS:

1. cruise sampler one day voyage: Seattle to Vancouver on the Golden Princess departing Saturday September 22nd. Interior, double occupancy, C\$90.85pp plus taxes \$28.01 Total C\$118.86. Includes

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buffet lunch, 5 course dinner, evening snacks, buffet breakfast, evening entertainment and more. Disembark at Canada Place Sunday morning. Balconies from C\$148.35 + \$28.01 taxes Total C\$176.36pp. For reservations call Gina, 604-306-1956.

2. Adventure idea (Whistler): Last weekend, Pam and her family went to Whistler for a short getaway. The sun finally came out after a whole month of awful rain. We tried the Ziptrek ecotour, aiyoh, it was **so shiok lah!** We did the Ziptrek Eagle tour which is their newest zip line. What is ziptrek? It is basically cable lines suspended on really tall alpine trees, and you are harnessed-up and sent zipping across to the other end, incredible alpine views, super adrenaline rush! Check out pics at www.ziptrek.com. Highly recommended, ages 6 and up!

3. Adventure idea (Gua Tempurung in Gopeng, Perak): this is one of the most unknown tourist places in Malaysia. Everyone looking to checkout Perak's awesome limestone caves invariably flock to Sam Poh Tong or Perak Tong...too commercialized. So, here's the secret....Gua Tempurung around Gopeng. It used to be a communist hideout (Chin Peng era) back in the 70s and 80s. It (the cave) was discovered in the late 80's and is now a tourist destination. The best tour is to lavish your strong C\$ on the "Grand Tour" RM22....dress appropriately in shorts/tshirt (bring a towel and change of outfit) and bring a waterproof disposable camera (leave your digital SLR at home). They will take you on a walking tour up steps (a lot of steps, like Batu Caves), and you see the regular cave stuff lah, like stalagmite, stalagmite, cave drawings, skeletons, etc. Then the fun begins at "top of the world" where you go through a series of slides, jumps, cave holes, etc and finally, wading through an underground river (cool water, no smell, very pristine) and out into the open. Seriously lots of fun....even grandmas and grandpas can do this, although it is labelled as "challenging and strenuous". On our tour was an 80 year old grandma, and she had fun! The area around the caves are a Malay kampung and if you have time, ask the Malay tourguide to tell you some ghost stories about the cave (after you finish your tour of course!). Have fun! www.guatempurung.com

Protect your property!

Over 10,400,000 cases of property theft are recorded in the United States each year, as well as over 1,100,000 in Canada. In addition to property crime, devastating natural disasters like Hurricanes, floods and fires are causing billions of dollars of property damage in North America every year... Police officers and insurance agents find that most victims are unprepared and cannot recall every missing item. Invenacom's is a web base company that specializes in storing home inventory data. Invenacom's secure web-based asset management technology allows users to document their valuables in a simple step-by-step process. All data is stored on a secure online server, designed using industry best practice. The application is easy to use and update, and helps users prepare for loss due to theft or natural disaster. If a loss occurs, the technology greatly reduces the time spent with police and insurance agents because it eliminates the significant workload involved in proving ownership of lost property. The technology also assists police in their investigation and crime reporting, which increases the chance stolen property will be found and returned. MABC's VP, Gerald Lau started this company 2 years ago. Gerald Lau currently works full time as a police officer and also maintains this website. He is offering this service for free to MABC members, their families and friends. Simply go to www.invenacom.com and create an account. Once the account is created, you can start to upload all inventory data from your home or business including scanned documents and photos. BE PREPARED!

President's Message: Retire in Malaysia (imagine all the chee-cheong-fun you can eat!)

For many of us there comes a time when we need to start planning for our retirement. While most of us were born in Malaysia, for various reasons: children, education, employment, we moved to Canada and became Canadian citizens. But as always, our hearts, souls and relatives are still in Malaysia. But when you give up your Malaysian citizenship, it is virtually impossible to have citizenship re-instated. So if one is inclined, after a great life in Canada, to return to Malaysia for retirement, and enjoy the sun, sand and

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good life that Malaysia has to offer then consider the Malaysian Government's My Second Home Program.

Originally started as "The Silver Hair" program, (we don't like to be reminded that our hair turns grey as we get older), the name was more appropriately changed to: Malaysia – My Second Home. This program is open to Canadians and citizens of all countries recognized by Malaysia regardless of race, religion, gender or age. The program allows applicants to bring with them their spouses and children who are unmarried and below the age of 18. Successful applicants are granted a social visit pass initially for a period of 10 years, which is renewable thereafter.

How do you qualify? It's very simple. For applicants aged 50 years and younger you simply open a fixed deposit account of RM300,000 and after a period of one year, the participant may withdraw up to RM240,000 for approved expenses such as a house purchase, education for children or medical purposes. If you are aged 50 years and above you may chose either opening a fixed deposit account of RM150,000 or show proof of monthly off-shore income of RM10,000 such as a pension. You may then withdraw up to RM90,000 for approved expenses related to house purchase, education for children in Malaysia or medical purposes after a period of one year. However you must maintain a minimum balance of RM60,000 from the second year onwards throughout your stay in Malaysia under the program.

There are a few other requirements such as a Medical Report for all applicants and you must obtain and maintain medical insurance while in Malaysia.

Why choose Malaysia as My Second Home? There are lots of reasons but the most obvious ones that come to mind are:

1. **Standard of Living.** Malaysia has one of the highest standards of living in the region with all the modern infrastructure and facilities in place.
2. **Cost of Living.** Malaysia has one of the lowest in Asia and will remain so for a very long time.
3. **Weather.** No doubt that while Canada is beautiful in the spring, summer and fall, we all know what winter brings...rain...and cold. Malaysia has weather year round that is pleasant, warm and balmy with moderate rain throughout the year and with resort areas with spring-like weather throughout the country.
4. **Property.** We all know the price of real estate in B.C. So check out how far your funds will go in Malaysia. If you own a modest condo in Vancouver you could sell it and purchase a beautiful, new detached or semi-detached home in Malaysia and with what you have left over you can still afford a full-time maid with a quality of life style that could never be matched in Canada.
5. **Food.** Probably one of the most attractive reasons to retire in Malaysia is food! There is no better place for authentic Malaysian food than Malaysia itself. And if you eat out for 3 meals a day...you'll be hard pressed to spend C\$10 a day.
6. **Health and Wellness.** Malaysia's private hospital network has some of the finest hospitals in the world. With no waiting lists for surgery you will actually receive better medical care in Malaysia than standing in line in Canada. This is an important consideration and the costs for treatment are a fraction of the costs in North America.
7. **Shopping.** Malaysia is a shopping paradise, not only because of the variety of goods, but affordability.
8. **Golf.** While the wife is shopping the men can play on some of the finest golf courses in the world. With over 200 golf courses in Malaysia, the choice is endless and it's very affordable.

Other Incentives. Participants of the Malaysia My Second Home Program are provided with various incentives to make their stay even more comfortable and enjoyable in Malaysia. These include:

1. **House Purchase.** Each participant is allowed to purchase two units of residential property.
2. **Car Purchase.** Each participant is allowed to bring in his/her own personal car or purchase a locally assembled car without the need to pay import duty, excise duty and sales tax.
3. **Domestic Helper.** Each applicant is allowed to apply for one maid.

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4. **Education.** Participants are allowed to bring their children who are under 18 years of age and not married as their dependants under this program and if they wish to continue their education they just apply for a Student Pass.

So if you apply for Malaysia – My Second Home, does that mean you can not return to Canada. Of course not. By participating in the My Second Home Program, you can still receive and enjoy the benefits of both countries. Live in Malaysia during the winter and you are free to return to Canada for the summer. It's the best of both worlds. For more information on Malaysia – My Second Home, call Tourism Malaysia at 1-888-689-6872

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
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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