



MABC October 2007 newsletter

Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

Saturday October 20, 2007
Bonsor Recreation Complex
6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby

Extraordinary General Meeting:
11:00am to 11:15 am
Multipurpose Room

Annual General Meeting:
11:15-12:15 noon
Room 2

Lunch: 12:15 to 1:00pm

President's Message

It is time to plan for our Annual General Meeting and coming events. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all MABC Board of Directors 2006/2007 for their voluntary efforts for another successful year. It is the very spirit and care that hold us all together and especially our members for their active contributions in helping MABC achieve its objectives. I would like to extend an invitation to all Members and friends of Malaysia to join us in 2007/2008. You will notice that we have attached our membership form and I would like to extend a challenge to all our members to hand out our membership form and recruit one new member. Currently we have 200 members out of an estimated 5000 Malaysians in British Columbia and with your help by the end of this year, we would like to achieve a goal of 300 members. Boleh??? The purpose of our membership drive is not only numbers but to create diversity and strength in forming a unique Malaysian community here in British Columbia.

Both myself and the Board of Directors would also like to extend appreciation and thanks to our Consul General and everyone at the Malaysian Consulate's office and the Vice President of Tourism Malaysia and his staff. We have been most fortunate for their constant support and encouragement, which helps MABC continue to grow.

So join us at our coming Annual General Meeting when a new Board of Directors is elected. And remember to come to our Makanfest celebration, which is just being finalized, plus the many new events that are planned for the coming new year. Thank you. Terima kasih, Bersatu Kita Maju!!!!

50th Merdeka Celebrations

by Gina Hansen

In August I had the opportunity to return to Malaysia for 2 ½ weeks of work and a short extended holiday. It was great to take an occasional break to get recharged and refocus your priorities. It was a great experience bringing a film crew from Vancouver that filmed the National Day Celebrations and then continued on to tour areas of Malaysia filming all the different kinds of Malaysian cuisines for a series on the Food Network.

Before the National Day Celebration we attended a special presentation by Tourism Malaysia which was covered by 42 film crews from around the world and we were acknowledged by the Minister of Tourism as the only one from Canada. On August 29th, the eve of the National Day Celebration we had special security clearance to get within filming distance of the Prime Minister and all the Government officials. Highlights of that evening was a major speech by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. In his speech he said "Every Malaysian should be grateful for inheriting a nation that was free to pursue 50 years of achievement.... We should give thanks for the peace that we enjoy in

Newsletter published 11/12/2007

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plenty...We should be thankful that we succeeded in building a nation that is stable, prosperous and peaceful...and now it is up to the present and next generations to continue the legacy of the past generations.” Throughout his speech he continually shouted “Merdeka” and the tens of thousands in attendance would return the shout “Merdeka”. The evening then concluded with a giant fireworks display. The next morning we then returned for the National Day Parade close to the official reviewing stand where Kings, Queens, Princes, Presidents, Prime Ministers and dignitaries from S.E. Asian countries and others arrived in their motorcades to join our King & Queen The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainai Abidin and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah and our Prime Minister on the reviewing stand. Giant television screens were strategically placed so the tens of thousands in attendance could view everything close up. Over 24,000 people including 27 bands marched in the parade which covered every aspect of Malaysian culture, heritage and history from past to present. We were particularly impressed with the display the Malaysian military presented displaying their latest tanks, marine and jungle fighters and new fighter aircraft that did several fly bys. For the first time, British, Australian and New Zealand war veterans who served in Malaysia joined their Malaysian counterparts in the parade. It was a moving event to participate in. The pride and patriotic spirit I used to feel as a kid came back as a reminder that although we are thousands of miles away from our homeland, in a new country, we can be proud of our country of birth and proud to call ourselves “Malaysian”.

Then it was back to work where we spent the day with celebrity Chef Ismail in his famous restaurant, with a buffet of over 170 dishes, where we filmed him preparing his special recipes. We then went on to cover everything from chefs in 5 Star Hotels to strolling down the streets to a Malay Nasi Kandar stall...to a good old fashioned Chinese Kopitiam to a few doors away to the aroma of an Indian mamak stall all which would set your stomach growling. Malaysian food is to die for !!! Eating is a BIG attraction to everyone from locals to tourists.

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

Newsletter published 11/12/2007

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The Malaysian Association of BC (MABC) was founded in January 2002 to promote Malaysia to Canadians and to bring together Malaysians living in BC through educational, economic, social & cultural activities.