

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)

Newsletter



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*The Executive wish all members
very Happy Thanksgiving
October 9, 2006*

From the Executive



In certain respects it is hard to imagine that we are facing the last quarter of our term. Members will recall that our proposed suggestion to amend the Constitution under Resolution G, Article 4, Section 2 (b) was passed at our last Annual General Meeting, held on September 17, 2005. To paraphrase the amendment it means that hereafter all subsequent Annual General Meetings held for the purpose of elections shall be conducted in January, or at the latest February, in order to coincide with the Fiscal Year End of the Casa. We are therefore asking members to consider coming forward to serve Casa in the upcoming election. Formal notices will be mailed to members in due time. The Annual General Meeting will be held the third weekend in January 2007.

It is not too early to seriously think in what capacity you would like to serve. The vacancies to be filled: the Executive; Clubhouse Manager; Editor of the newsletter or on the Social Committee.

Although the two-year term is winding down, don't for a minute think that things will be petering out. Have a look in the following pages of the newsletter to see what we are planning for the Social Calendar.

1st Lusofonia Games

We would like to inform members that an invitation has been received from COJOL (Comissão Organizadora dos 1.^{os} Jogos da Lusofonia) inviting Monica, as President, to attend the inaugural edition of the Lusofonia Games. This promises to be an exciting sporting event of the Association of the Portuguese Speaking National Olympic Committees (ACOLOP) held in Macau from Saturday, October 7 to Sunday, October 15, 2006. Brought together by the Olympic ideal and the common Portuguese language and history, twelve National Olympic Committees from four continents will gather and compete.

Although yet to be decided by CCM (Conselho das Comunidades Macaenses em Macau) it is our educated guess and the assumption of a number of other Casa Presidents, that a Preliminary Meeting to discuss the 2007 Encontro will be scheduled to coincide with the time the Presidents will be in Macau. Going on this premise, the Executive has decided that Casa will not only be represented by Monica but Gloria as well. If the Preliminary Meeting does take place as we expect it will, we hope to be able also to contribute our suggestions as to the planning of the Encontro. Stay tuned for any updates and news.

Cookbooks

We have received a number of requests from members to purchase the Macanese Cookbook launched at the last Encontro. To date we have not been able to get a response from the numerous e-mails to Macau requesting of them availability and price. Monica will look into the matter when in Macau and hopefully arrange to purchase copies of the cookbook. If any member is interested in placing an order, and has not as yet contacted Monica, kindly make your intentions known ASAP. Although the eventual price has yet to be determined, based on the last shipment, the cost should be in the \$30 range.

Library

Just a reminder to members, our Library and its books are available to all members. Should you like to borrow a book, kindly contact David Tavares at 416-282-7738 and he will co-ordinate a time that will be mutually convenient to meet at the Casa. Speaking of books, we recently received a complementary book titled "The Transitions" relating to the Macanese Diaspora and written by Filipe Nery. Mr. Nery has informed us that if anyone would like to purchase their own copy, they can contact the publisher directly at: Author House, 1663 Liberty Drive, Suite 200, Bloomington, IN 47403-5161 USA or by e-mail - BOOKORDERS@AUTHORHOUSE.COM

Congratulations

We would like to acknowledge some of Casa's senior members who celebrated significant milestones this last quarter.

In July, Mercedes Sousa celebrated her 91st birthday. Surrounded by her Casa 'family' at the July Thursday Social, Monica presented her with a bouquet of flowers and the good wishes of all members for a very Happy Birthday.

(Photos available on the website)

In August, Abet Ozorio celebrated being 85 years young. Also in August, Maldred Airosa traveled to Brazil with daughters Mica Airosa and Susana da Costa to celebrate her 86th Birthday with her sons Alex and Fernando.

At the other end of the age spectrum, we would like to congratulate Christopher and Joanne Barradas for the new addition to the family, Julian, who will be baptized in September. This makes him our youngest Associate Member.

Visitors

Arnaldo Sousa, his wife and son, visited from Macau to help celebrate his mother's Mercedes' 91st birthday.

Pedro Antonio da Roza, nephew of 'Ron' and 'Buddy' da Roza from Montreal was visiting from Hong Kong. Ron brought his nephew to the August Thursday Social where they were able to spend an afternoon chin wagging with members.

We are delighted to see our members bring their out-of-town visitors to our events. Casa is a perfect opportunity offered to a visitor to meet, and get reacquainted with old friends.

Welcome back

Casa is happy to extend a "welcome home" greeting to past President Leo Barros, and wife Jan, who have returned to Toronto after a seven-year absence during which time Leo was working in New Jersey. Looking forward to seeing you both again at our events.

Casa - Social Events



Regular Events

As sure as autumn follows summer, the Regular Events held at the Casa will be starting up once again.

Tai Chi – Monica has resumed classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am – 11 am.

Line Dance – Naomi Baltazar has resumed class on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:30 pm. She encourages both the 'regulars' as well as any 'uninitiated' members to come out and have fun. Looking at the popularity of the reality television shows such as "You Think You Can Dance" and "Dancing with the Stars", there obviously is resurgence in the interest in dance. Why not throw away any inhibitions and join your fellow members in an hour and a half of fun and a good workout to boot. If interested, phone Naomi at 647-300-9102.

Yoga – Evening Yoga classes conducted by Farida Samad on Monday evenings at 7 pm have continued through the summer and into the fall. If members are interested in joining this class, kindly phone Marie Helena Yen at 416-291-8689.

NEW Daytime Yoga classes – Farida has kindly offered to hold a weekly daytime Yoga class on Fridays at 10 am. Cost of the lessons is the same as the evening classes, \$50 for ten lessons. Classes will commence if we have the numbers and those expressing interest will be informed of the arrangements. Kindly phone Marie Helena Yen at 416-291-8689.

Dia de Macau

To paraphrase a Chinese Proverb... *'To forget one's heritage is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root'*... and so it is that Dia de Macau celebrations have always held a special place in the Social Calendar of our Casa. Over the years, these annual commemorations become more important and poignant for the aging Macanese Community as evidenced by the strong attendance of 125 members and friends.

This year, the feast of São João Baptista, the patron Saint of Macau, fell on a Saturday so it presented Casa the opportunity to celebrate

Dia de Macau on the actual day, June 24th. As per usual, our celebrations included a Mass followed by dinner.

We decided on an alternate venue to hold the event. This year, the Sisters of St. Joseph's graciously granted us permission, not only to use their beautiful Convent Chapel but also their dining facilities. (Note: Our beloved late Pope John Paul II stayed at this Convent for two nights during the World Youth Day celebrations in 2002)

An invitation was extended to the Portuguese Consul General of Toronto, Dr. Maria Amélia Paiva and the Social Attaché for Social Affairs, Dr. Fernando Gonçalves. Casa was delighted to welcome Dr. Fernando Gonçalves to the celebration as the Consul had a previous commitment so sent her regrets.

By a happy coincidence, Monica Alves' cousin, Rev. Father Alvaro Ribeiro S.J., was visiting Toronto and gladly accepted to concelebrate the Mass with Rev. Father Richard Macdonald S.J., the chaplain of St. Joseph's Convent Chapel. It was particularly special to have Father Alvaro, a Macanese, deliver the Homily. He related the scripture and the readings to the Macanese community as it exists in Toronto, thus adding a 'personal' and even more meaningful touch to the Mass. There also was full participation in the Mass by Casa members. This included: Luiz Xavier who processed with the cross at the beginning and end of Mass; Bernadine Vieira read the First Reading; Francisca Ozorio read the Responsorial Psalm; Anne Brander read the Second Reading; Eddie Cruz read the Prayer of the Faithful in which special remembrances were made for the sick, suffering and Macanese worldwide who have passed on. Cleo Ozorio and Lilia Vieira brought up the Offertory gifts and

Virginia Sanchez placed a bouquet of flowers at the foot of the altar.

Following Mass, everyone congregated in the dining room where there was a welcome speech given by Monica in which Dr. Fernando Gonçalves was officially introduced to the members. Dr. Gonçalves responded with his speech of thanks at being invited to share in our event and he was particularly happy to see the Portuguese flag. All were then asked to rise for the singing of both the Canadian and Portuguese National anthems and the saying of Grace after which dinner was served. Music from the CDs of Armando Santos and that of the Tuna Macaense playing in the background added to the festive atmosphere in the dining hall.

As all good things must come to an end, so did this evening but not without many happy memories of the time spent with friends.

On behalf of the members, the Executive has donated to the Carmelite Sisters a cheque in the amount of \$250.

(Photos available on the website)

Mahjong Event

Thanks to Lucila Carion who suggested and offered to take on the organizing of this fully subsidized event, there were six tables of players who enjoyed an afternoon and evening of mahjong and dinner at Casa on Saturday, July 22, 2006.

(Photos available on the website)

A Day at the Races

And they're off.... an ever popular annual event, this being the 7th consecutive year Casa has attended, thirty four members and guests spent a lovely day together at Favourite's Restaurant at Woodbine Race Course on Sunday, August 13, 2006. Thanks to Celsa Larcina for making the arrangements, our group had front row tables for a perfect

view of the horses. After enjoying the wonderful spread at the buffet, it was down to business. Judging from the excited shouts of encouragement coming from various quarters of the group, there were some close winners and yes, unfortunately some close losers with several photo finishes. You could say, third time lucky for jockey Eurico Rosa da Silva, brother-in-law of member Ana Tang and husband of Claudia Tang. On his third mount of the afternoon, riding a horse called "Sheatown", he streaked home with a convincing win in the 9th Race much to the delight of the family who then gathered in the winner's circle for the photo op. We would like to thank Claudia for giving us the photo which will be posted on our webpage.

(Photos available on the website)

Upcoming events



ROM and Harbor Front

(Saturday, September 16, 2006)

Cecilia Conceição has helped coordinate a guided tour of the Phase One Wing of the renovated Asian Suite of Galleries in the restored Philosophers' Walk Wing. This section houses beautiful art and archeology of China, Japan and Korea. After the tour, we will re-board the bus, which will take us to Harbor Front where we will be able to have lunch at a place of our choice, browse around for a few hours and enjoy a relaxing afternoon. We will then re-group and be bussed back to the Church parking lot. Although the cut-off deadline has passed and we have the required numbers, if you still wish to join this group, please contact Cecilia ASAP.

(Refer to Calendar of Events)

Credit Valley Train Fall Colours Trip

All aboard...Casa has arranged a trip to see the Fall Colours but with

a twist. Instead of seeing the colours from a bus, we will be going on the Credit Valley Explorer Scenic Tour Train. Members who are interested in joining this tour set for Saturday, October 21, 2006, will board a coach from the Church parking lot from which they will be taken to the train station in Orangeville. The train will depart and return to Orangeville with a stop in Inglewood taking approximately 3 hours for the round trip. A light lunch will be served on board consisting of a chicken croissant sandwich with salad and dessert. There will be complementary refreshments such as tea/coffee/water and juice. After the train ride we will be given time in Orangeville to walk about and do some shopping. At a pre-arranged time, we will re-group, board the coach, which will return us to Scarborough.

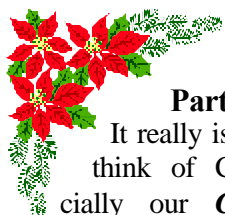
(Refer to the Calendar of Events)

**Bazaar Sunday, November 12
11 am – 3 pm**

The Casa held two Bazaars in the past, both highly successful so we decided to do it again. 10% from all proceeds will go to the Sheppard's Trust for our retired priests.

Our talented members will provide the wares for a Macanese bake table, a white elephant table, hand knitted/crochet items, used discounted books, and the list goes on. Lunch will be available at a minimum price.

Lilia Vieira has kindly consented to take charge of allotting 'tables' for your wares. Please contact Lilia at 416-261-2427 to 'book' a table.



**Casa's
Christmas
Party**

It really is NOT too early to think of Christmas – especially our *Casa's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3rd.*

This year it will be held at the lovely Banquet Hall of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church on Markham Road (entrance on Milner Ave. 2 lights north of the 401. and one light south of Sheppard Ave.)

As it is our "farewell" party of the year (our term as Executives ending December 31st.) we are planning to make this a party to be remembered, that is, with a good attendance from **members**, their **families**, and **friends**. So if you do your part by attending, we'll succeed in ours.

Details and registration forms will follow in the mail towards the end of September. **In the meantime, please keep this date free.**

From our members

The following poem was given to us by Angelina Marques who found it amongst her late brother, Manuel Marques' papers.

On November 11th, let's not forget the sacrifice of all the veterans of past wars and conflicts and our current Canadian young men and women of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan.

"A Canadian Tribute"
by S/Sgt. H.P. McNaughton
Winnipeg Grenadiers, Canada

It really is a pleasure
To sit here at my ease
And pen a little picture
Of the friendly Portuguese

The task should be quite easy
They know not how to hate
Their ways are really friendly
Like their many kind traits

They fought on field of battle
Some died but not in vain
For here their beloved brethren
Keep immortal their good name

They are an asset to the island
And command all due respect
For in all their public projects
You'll find them there on deck

And here behind the wires
They greet you with a smile
From them you get a lesson
How to face the weary miles

You cannot help but like them
They have such charming ways
That help to ease your burden
And brighten all dull days

You bet it is a pleasure
To sit here at my ease
For I guess we'll all remember
The friendly Portuguese

This safety tip is from Tony Gutterres

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get into your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. The blast will be enough to startle human, or animal.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Makes sense...

(e-mail from Sonny de Lemos)
GLASGOW: Eating curry may be a better cure for headaches than aspirin, according to research.

A study funded by the Scottish Executive has found that salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin, occurs naturally in Indian food and that curry could help treat migraines and prevent colon cancers.

Spices such as cumin, turmeric and paprika, all of which are used in curries, are particularly rich sources of salicylic acid, the study said.

Neither does Indian food cause the

side-effects associated with long-term aspirin use, such as internal bleeding and ulcers, the study, conducted by the Rowett Research Institute, found.

"One portion of vindaloo we examined contained 95mg of salicylic acid, more than the amount in an aspirin tablet. A low-dose aspirin tablet contains about 65mg of the acid."

Garry Duthie, one of the study's co-authors, said: "The dietary level of salicylic acid in curry is exceptionally high. I wouldn't recommend a curry a day for headaches, but it is possible that someone with a headache who is a good absorber of salicylic acid might find it went away if they had a vindaloo. The hotter the curry, the greater the possible benefits. A korma, with relatively low levels of spices, would be less effective than a vindaloo or a phal, the hottest curry widely available in UK."

Curcumin, the component of turmeric that gives curry its distinctive yellow colour, is primarily responsible for its healthy effect.

Across the wires



The South China Morning Post, Hong Kong Sunday, June 18, 2006

Hong Kong flush with US\$ millionaires

RICHARD HOLDCROFT and NIKI LAW

Hong Kong has more than 74,000 US\$ millionaires - and the number is predicted to grow to more than 100,000 by 2009. A survey covering six major Asia-Pacific cities - commissioned by American Express and carried out by Datamonitor - shows affluence rising rapidly across the region.

It says wealth has grown so fast that last year 5.3 million people in the

region held liquid assets of at least US\$300,000, a figure 6.2 million people are predicted to reach by 2008. The survey's findings are based on interviews with affluent consumers and the high-end service providers who cater for them, including private-banking relationship managers, prestige retailers and the concierge staff who cater for Amex's exclusive black-card holders.

The survey covers Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, Tokyo, Sydney and Mumbai, and the results are being announced in phases. Increasingly, the report indicates, the question that the wealthy are asking themselves is: "How can I be distinctive in a market where affluence is so prevalent?"

Hong Kong's rich and famous, however, have denied there is pressure to stand out from the crowd of emerging millionaires. According to socialite Kai-bong Chau - known for his pink Rolls-Royce and glamorous outfits - having more rich people around would not affect his spending patterns. "I am not one of those nouveau riche. There are lots of rich people but taste comes in many levels. It is about education and outlook on life," he said. "It's so vulgar to spend money just to stand out. Whether you stand out or not depends on a star quality you are born with. You can't buy it. That's so greedy and reflects bad taste."

A local billionaire, who wished not to be named, added that most rich people preferred to keep a low profile due to security risks. "Some people who get rich suddenly want people to know they have money, but most rich people prefer a low profile," said the businessman, who owns four houses in North America, Europe and Asia. Saying that there was no need to be pretentious, he added that there were plenty of secret hangouts for wealthy people with low profiles. "Some of the res-

taurants we go to are way more expensive than the so-called five-star hotels. People go to The Peninsula to show off. The restaurants I go to look like any other restaurant on the outside," he said.

"Being rich is nobody's business but my own. I rarely go to balls and such [but] I enjoy life. I spend at least seven figures on leisure every month."

The South China Morning Post, Hong Kong Sunday, July 9, 2006

N Korea ultimatum on Macau cash
Pyongyang refuses to return to six-party nuclear talks until it gets back US\$24 million

GREG TORODE and ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea yesterday demanded access to cash frozen in Macau bank accounts before it agrees to return to six-nation nuclear talks.

The demand to retrieve the US\$24 million locked within Banco Delta Asia's vaults is being seen as the clearest signal yet that the US-led crackdown on Pyongyang's Macau-based criminal activities is squeezing the regime of Kim Jong-il.

The deputy chief of North Korea's mission to the UN in New York also warned that any sanctions following last week's missile test launches would be "an act of war", Yonhap news agency reported.

"Removing the freeze on Macau funds is the minimum threshold to resumption of talks," said Han Song-ryol. "If there is such a will, how we talk, whether bilaterally or through six-party talks, is not important."

Senior US and South Korean officials quickly rejected the call. Chun Young-woo, Seoul's leading negotiator with Pyongyang, described it as "unrealistic", while US envoy Christopher Hill said: "This is not the time for so-called gestures of

that kind. "We have a country that has fired off missiles in a truly reckless way that affects ... regional security," Mr Hill said in Seoul.

The funds were seized by Macau banking authorities last September at the urging of the US Treasury Department.

US officials accused Pyongyang of using its long relationship with Banco Delta Asia to launder the proceeds of counterfeit US currency operations and other criminal activities. They described the bank as "a willing pawn for the North Korean government to engage in corrupt financial activities through Macau".

Macau government receivers took over the bank after a run on deposits, and a restructuring plan is now being mapped out.

"We believe the choking of the Macau accounts has hurt the funnel of cash into some of the most sensitive parts of Kim's regime," one Asian diplomatic source said. "It is not just affecting operations, but also the private wealth of senior members of the regime ... and that is hurting Kim directly. The tests suggest a fresh desperation across the leadership."

Mr Hill agreed to China's call on Friday for an informal meeting of the six-party grouping that would allow US and North Korean representatives to meet privately on the fringes.

"What we're not going to do is allow the ... missile launches to divide us," Mr Hill said. "These missile launches have actually brought us closer together."

China and Russia, who make up the six along with South and North Korea, the US and Japan, are standing firm against sanctions. The UN Security Council is set to discuss tomorrow how to respond to the tests, which saw seven missiles fired into the Sea of Japan, or East Sea.

In a report from Dandong , on the

North Korean border, Japan's Yomiuri newspaper said Beijing appeared to have clamped down on the flow of industrial materials to North Korea, with the normally steady cross-border flow of supply trucks all but stopped.

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

HK men live longest, survey finds, by MARTIN WONG

Despite the city's lifestyle and often choking pollution, its men live longer than those anywhere else on the planet and women's life expectancy is second only to those in Japan, a Japanese government survey has found.

The average lifespan of a Hong Kong man is 79, ahead of Iceland and Switzerland with 78.9 and 78.6. Japanese men live for an average of 78.53 years.

For women, it is 84.7, just behind Japan, with 85.49, and ahead of Spain at 83.8. Japanese women have been the longest-lived for 21 consecutive years, but the life expectancy of the country's men dropped to fourth with 78.53 - the first time in 32 years they were out of the top three places.

The figures are based on the Japanese Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry's "abridged life tables" which show how long a population at specified ages is expected to live, provided death-related conditions remain unchanged.

A Health Ministry official said the average lifespan of Japanese men and women had fallen slightly from a year ago because of a rise in flu-induced deaths.

The South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

Monday, August 21, 2006

Lawyer in bid to save coastal forest from development

Rezoning request sets precedent for citizens to protect environment by CHLOE LAI

A lawyer and his family have submitted a rezoning request to the Town Planning Board to protect 100 hectares of forest at Tai Po Kau from development. Ruy Barretto SC described the application as "an important precedent" on how individuals could act to protect the environment and said he hoped others would follow the example. "We hope the government recognises the scientific, ecology, scenic and historic value of the area. All it needs to do is to rezone the area," he said.

The rezoning request seeks to have the forest between Tai Po Road and Tolo Harbour declared a combination of special scientific interest zone and conservation zone. Under such zonings, the only development allowed is that required to support conservation and public understanding of the natural landscape, ecology and scenic qualities of the area.

The Barrettos also suggest nearby Pai Mun Shan should become a conservation area because it is adjacent to and ecologically part of the 460-hectare Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve designated in 1977. They also want to establish a buffer conservation area for the coastal forest, which would include the Tolo pond mangroves below Tai Po Kau.

Their application also seeks the rezoning of a historic house, The Lookout, which was used as the official residence of the Tai Po District Officer, from low-rise residential to historic building.

If the rezoning of the 100 hectares covered by the Barretto proposal, which is all owned by the government, goes ahead, it would effectively expand Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve.

"By preserving the coastal headland and the upper woodland of Tai Po Kau that have different habitats, we

will have much better conservation results. And the birds, they will have protection as they fly along," Mr Barretto said.

The area covered by the proposal is currently zoned a combination of green belt, recreation land and low-density residential development.

The completion of Constellation Cove, a large low-rise residential development, in recent years in Tai Pao Kau highlights the threat to the forest. A petrol station is under construction in the area at present.

Mr Barretto said the rezoned area would not require extra government resources as his family and neighbours would do the conservation work. "Conserving the forest is actually a rather simple job. All we have to do is to prevent fire and make sure no pesticides will be used," he said.

Mr Barretto is optimistic that the board will approve the application. "So far everyone I talked to supports this application. They say it is amazing," he said.

The public has until Friday to give their views on the application. Mr Barretto expects the board to examine the rezoning request on October 20.



The Star Ferry

A ride on the Star Ferry was a real treat for any youngster growing up in Hong Kong, I remember how thrilling it was to sit on the upper deck and watch the water foam against the side as it plowed forward. I remember the heavy canvas that the sailors put down and tied securely to the railings when it rained. If you were not able to get into the covered cabins, you were liable to get wet from the spray of

the water if it was a windy day. I remember sitting in the forward cabin and trying to get as close to the front windows as possible, in the hopes that some of the spray would get on me! The times that I boarded the lower deck was an adventure too, I was that much closer to the water, exposed to the noise and smell of oil, diesel and the likes, and having to be careful not to trip over ropes and chains. I remember in rough weather, when we docked, the ferry would bump against the pier, and we had to hop/shuffle to keep our balance. Then when the gangplank was lowered, we'd try to be the first to step on it to get onto the pier. It was a great adventure.

AND ... one unforgettable day, when I was a starry-eyed teen, with my nose in a movie magazine, there was a rough berthing and I slid/was thrown against my neighbor, I turned to apologize and gasped as the grinning face next to me belonged to none other than William Holden!!! I had to act fast as people were debarking and we were one of the last, so I whipped out what I thought was a sheet of paper and asked for his autograph – he signed it, flipped it over and saw Gregory Peck staring back at him!!! He broke out laughing and jokingly said he knew who *my* favorite movie star was. (*This was the time when it was quite common to see William Holden and other movie stars on the ferry, they were then filming Love Is A Many Splendid Thing*).

Below is an abridged history of the Star Ferry.

On December 28, 1888 it was announced in a local newspaper that ferry service would begin, plying between Peddar's Wharf and Tsim Sha Tsui. A prominent Parsee, Dorabjee Nowrojee, was the founder of the Kowloon Ferry Company (original name).

The original vessels were serviced by coal. However, by 1933, the Star Ferry Company purchased and began running its first diesel engine ferry, appropriately named Electric Star, others were named Golden Star, World Star, Morning Star, and so on. Today, the modern ferries are equipped with air conditioned upper deck cabins and can accommodate two hundred or so passengers.

It was during World War II that the ferries were grounded for 44 months, the longest hiatus in its history. These vessels, under the control of the British Army, amid intense shooting and shelling, managed to evacuate refugees, troops and others from the Kowloon peninsula before ferry service was suspended. When the war was over, the service resumed.

The original fare was HK5¢, then increased to HK10¢ ... these days its still a steal at HK\$1.7 for the lower deck between Central and Tsim Sha Tsui, and HK\$2.2 for the upper deck between Central and Tsim Sha Tsui. The route between Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui charges HK\$2.2. The two Hung Hom routes charges HK\$5.3. This ride is a 'must' for most tourists as the crossings provide breath taking views of Hong Kong and Kowloon, a busy harbor with sampans, small crafts, freighters, huge ocean going ships, aircraft carriers, all flying flags from around the world – it was, and still is, a photographer's dream.

Despite a public outcry, the Government has decided to demolish the landmark pier in the latter part of 2006 to make way for a coastal trunk road and low rise shopping center. The new pier will be expanded to resemble the pier that was used for the Star Ferry before the existing, soon-to-be-demolished pier was built. Such is progress