



# Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto) Newsletter

www.casademacau.ca

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members might be interested to know that I was approached the last week in April by a couple of University of Toronto professors asking if they could interview the Executive and our members. Manuela Marujo, ph.D. is a Senior Lecturer and Associate Chair (Portuguese) at the University of Toronto and Ilda Jaunario teaches at OISE (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) said that they would be participating in the Third International Conference "The Voice and Choice of Portuguese Women in the Diaspora: Macao and Elsewhere" which was being organized and hosted by the Department of Portuguese FSH of the University of Macau. (The first Conference in 2003 was hosted by the University of Toronto, the Second in 2005 at the University of Berkley, California). They both were researching the immigrant experience as it pertained to being a woman and more specifically, a Macanese woman. Although they both said they had come across in their research many books written on Macau, they could not find any books or papers written on the Macanese who immigrated to Canada and more specifically, they could not find anything pertaining to the Macanese women's experiences. Searching through the internet they had come across our web page and were delighted to see that the Executive was an all women's board and so hoped that we would consider sitting down with them so that they could interview us and any other members who might be interested in participating in their research project. They indicated that they

both were heading off to Macau at the end of the week and hoped to be able to have enough background research done so as to enable them to speak on this topic at the Conference. Both Manuela and Ilda hope eventually to produce their research paper by the end of September and said that they would be anxious to share their findings with us.

Despite the time constraints and short notice that was given, the two ladies managed to meet on two occasions with some members. Through contacting the Macao Club next door they met with some of our members who are dual members and on another occasion they met with some of Casas members. They were extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to get an insight as to our own personal experiences choices and identity as Macanese women now living in Canada.

## CONGRATULATIONS ANNE (ALVES) BRANDER



In keeping with the theme of the Third International Conference "The Voice and Choice of Portuguese Women in the Diaspora: Macao and Elsewhere", there is some good news to share.

I think it a fair statement to say that there are few guarantees in life and so if the choices you make

in life's journey lands you in a job or profession for which you have a passion for and which gives you great satisfaction as well contributes to society's well being, you must count yourself among the extremely fortunate. Furthermore, if you know from a young age what this passion is and pursue your goal with a singular determination and are eventually successful in working in your field of interest, then you are doubly blessed. One example of such a fortunate individual is my sister, Anne Alves Brander.

I can attest to the fact that from grade school in Hong Kong, when my friends used to come over to play, Anne would have already made up exercise books and homework and my friends and I were 'subjected' to playing school. From that early age she already knew her path in life. Growing up through her teenage years she was further inspired and challenged by some exceptional teachers and nuns at Maryknoll Sisters School, which further affirmed her calling. She completed her High School education in Hamilton and then carried on to complete her Undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto. She then continued to F.E.U.T. (Faculty of Education of the University of Toronto) where she graduated in 1978 with a B. Ed degree. She immediately started working as a Grade 2 teacher for the York Catholic District School Board. After 5 years she took a hiatus during which time she stayed home to raise her two boys. Once they started their formal education, Anne returned to teaching. It was after 12 years that she reached a decision that she could perhaps use her talents in a different aspect of the education system, the administrative side. While still teaching she successfully completed the Principals Qualification Course then proceeded to take courses towards earning her Masters Degree and was successful in Graduating from Nipissing University with a M. Ed

degree in June 2002. She then applied and has been working in the capacity of Vice Principal for the past 4 years. This March Anne applied for and has just been successful in attaining a position as Principal. The School to which she will be posted this September is St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School.

Unabashedly I admit that I am writing this with great joy and pride but with all the negativity promulgating in the news today, I feel the success stories should be given the light they deserve. Congratulations Anne on reaching this point in your life journey. I celebrate and recognize your accomplishments as a sister, a woman and as a Macanese.

*Monica*

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#### **OUR CASA**

Thanks to the generosity once again of Filipe Nery, we have a copy of his last book, titled "Essays and Poems on our Past and Current Events" for our Library. Anyone interested in borrowing it should contact David Tavares.

#### **NEW ACQUISITIONS**

The Executive decided that it would be a good investment to purchase a DVD machine for the Casa to keep up with the times. Anyone who has tried to rent a movie in a VHS format can attest to the fact that it is virtually impossible to find any recent movies for rent in that format. Upon researching the possibilities, the Executive decided that a multi-functional system would be the most economical and beneficial to Casa. What we have purchased is a DVD/Karaoke machine that will not only play movies and Karaoke discs but also CDs, audio cassettes and can double as a PA system. The unit has been hooked up to the TV in the Common area but is also portable so it can be taken to the smaller halls where we might hold our functions in the future.

» » « «

#### **CONFRARIA DA GASTRONOMIA MACAENSE (CONFRATERNITY OF MACANESE GASTRONOMY)**

Contest for The Logo Creation

The date for the delivery of the works for the above contest organized by this Confraternity has been extended until 5 p.m. of the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

Any information concerning this contest can be obtained though the phone (853) 28533544 or fax (853)28524012 or at [http:// www.apim.org.mo/confraria](http://www.apim.org.mo/confraria).

(signed by)  
*The President of Board of Director  
Hugo Robarts Bandeira*

» » « «

#### **NEWS FROM OTHER CASAS**

##### **AUSTRALIA**

Congratulations have been sent to Yvonne Herrero, President of Casa de Macau Australia Inc. and her Committee in their success at finding a modest stand-alone property at Sydenham (close to Petersham, recognized as 'Little Portugal') for their Casa.

##### **Vancouver**

At recently held elections on May 12, 2007 the following were elected to the Board of Executives for a 2 year term:

President:

Antonio Alberto Carlos Amante Sr.

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Monica De Carvalho

2<sup>nd</sup>VP: Edwina Shuster

Secretary: Cathy Fung

Treasurer: Charles Curry

Parliamentarian: Alexia Haslam

A congratulatory message was sent to Antonio wishing him and his Committee success

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For the real estate market their busy season has begun.

If your house is on the market, or will be in the future, here are a few "tips" on saintly intervention.

Apparently, quite a few real estate agents, catholic or otherwise, believe that St. Joseph can 'move' houses.

In fact, home sale 'kits' vary as to their content. Some contain a plastic statue of St. Joseph which sometimes includes a bag to bury it, prayer cards for distribution to people who will pray with/for you, St. Joseph medals to bury around the property, novenas ... and the list goes on. These kits can be purchased in Toronto shops, mainly those that carry religious articles.

One agent is said to buy St. Joseph medals by the dozens, have a priest bless them (the blessing isn't a requirement, but perhaps a little insurance?). She prefers medals to statues as it is less costly and easier to carry around.

Here are some options for a Proper Burial:

- ▶ upside down facing the house
- ▶ upside down next to the "for sale sign"
- ▶ three feet from the rear of the house
- ▶ next to the street facing the dwelling
- ▶ next to the front door facing away from the home
- ▶ lying on the back and pointing towards the house, like an arrow
- ▶ in the rear yard, possibly in a flower bed
- ▶ in the front yard
- right side up
- ▶ facing away from the house, or
- ▶ simply placed somewhere on the property

Oh, not forgetting Condo dwellers. It is suggested that if there is no place to dig, then put the statue or medal on a windowsill, or inside a closet. It is purported to work as well. You will be surprised what a little faith can do!

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#### **THEN AND NOW – OUR YOUNG MEMBER**

Recently when I was cleaning out my computer and old files, I came across a photo of a little girl looking

shyly at the camera. The picture below was taken at Casa's Christmas Party back in 1994.



Alison – 1994

Alison was also at our 2006 Christmas dinner/dance ... our photos of the party show her dancing away and obviously having a great time.

I then had an idea ... why not follow up on what she is doing today? I contacted her Mom explaining that I would like to bring our members up-to-date on this young lady.

Alison's Mom obliged and sent me the following.

"Alison will be playing in the Nationals for the Ontario Provincial Field Hockey Under 19 team this July. The team is just back from Los Angeles where it placed first among 38 teams in the California Cup. Alison also won gold for the U19 provincial team last summer on Vancouver Island at the outdoor field hockey Nationals and last February in Calgary at the indoor field hockey Nationals.

Alison graduates from Havergal College this year with distinction and as the senior athlete of the year. She has been offered scholarships by a number of universities and has decided on the University of Guelph where she hopes to go into the veterinarian science programme after her Bachelor of Science degree. In the meantime, she will play field hockey for the university Varsity team! "



Alison – 2007

It turns out that not only is she quite the sportsperson, she excels in her studies as well. We wish you much success in all your future endeavors, Alison.

Alison is the daughter of Robert Little and Linda da Rocha, and has two younger brothers. Her grandparents were prominent members of the Macanese community, Therese and "Doc" da Rocha.

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No this isn't the CN Tower, it's the Macau Tower

#### **EXCERPTS FROM NEWS OVER THE WEB**

*(The following article was chosen for its ties to Canada, Toronto in particular – photo not included)*

MACAU–Stanley Ho's wealth is the stuff of legend in Asia. As daughter of Macau's sultan of slots, odds were Daisy Ho would get into the gambling game. But now she is raising the stakes  
Jun 03, 2007 04:30 AM [Tony Wong](#)

Daisy Ho gambled once. She was in her teens and on a Mediterranean cruise with her father, casino billionaire Stanley Ho.

"I asked him for 20 bucks because I wanted to go to the ship's casino," said Ho. He said he would give me the \$20,

but he guaranteed I would be back. He said, "I know this, because the house always wins. And I am the house."

Feeling "absolutely sick" about losing the money, "I've never really been interested in gambling since."

But the U of T-educated Ho, 42, is now playing with far bigger stakes. Daisy and her sister Pansy have partnered with the world's second-largest casino operator, MGM Mirage, to build an MGM Grand hotel in Macau in a 50-50 deal valued at \$1.1 billion (US). And more projects are in the works.

"Its an exciting time because Macau is going through so many changes," said Ho in a rare interview in the pristine boardroom of her penthouse office overlooking Hong Kong harbour.

While Ho, one of Asia's richest and most powerful women, is frequently in the celebrity magazines in Hong Kong, most Canadians wouldn't know that a compatriot is making a major splash in the former Portuguese colony of Macau.

In a wide-ranging and frank conversation, Ho talked about her investment in Asia's gambling mecca and her relationship with her famous father and siblings.

The MGM deal is a separate investment, the cherry on a very expansive topping that is distinct from the role she holds as the deputy managing director and chief financial officer of her father's public firm, Shun Tak Enterprises, with a market capitalization of more than \$3 billion. Ho has helped transform the company from a hydrofoil operator that shuttled Hong Kong gamblers to Macau and back, to a majority property and retail developer, and casino and hotel owner.

Ho has also taken stakes in joint ventures such as a new Mandarin Oriental hotel and a Westin Macau, in addition to building the most expensive condos the city has seen.

The MGM Grand will be one of the priciest hotels in the world when it is finally built later this year with the 600 rooms and 345 game tables. When it's done, Ho and her sister plan to embark on a second casino, the MGM Grand Paradise.

"If you had asked me what I would be doing 20 years ago, I never imagined going to this extent, or on this grand a

scheme. In fact, I wouldn't have imagined working for my father," said Ho. With 50 per cent of the firm's revenues coming from Macau, Ho sees that number increasing in the future, especially from China. Excluding Hong Kong, there are now 21 Forbes-listed Chinese billionaires, double the number only two years ago. In the VIP rooms of Macau casinos, it is not unusual to see clients betting \$100,000 a shot.

For 2006, Shun Tak recorded almost \$94 million in profit, up 82 per cent from the prior year. The company's ferry service had a 13 per cent uptick in traffic to Macau, with new casinos part of the appeal. Ho expects a similar increase this year.

But while things look bullish now, Ho says the firm faced rocky times during the Asian economic meltdown and the SARS crisis. "The company was dealing with high debt at the time, and the property market slowed down – it was a rough ride. But we managed somehow to sail through it."

Now investor confidence couldn't be higher: A \$700 million syndicated loan last year for one of her projects was 20 times oversubscribed with more than 20 major financial institutions participating.

Caught in the whirlwind, Ho doesn't have much downtime. The last time she visited Toronto was in 2005. Her mother, Lucina, has since moved back to Hong Kong, visiting their Toronto property – the only one in the Bridle Path with a 24-hour guard – once a year.

Still, there are marked differences in style. While her father has two full-time bodyguards when he travels, Ho prefers to be without. And while dad is known to travel in one of his Rolls Royces, Ho opts to hop on the Hong Kong Metro. "It's way faster," she says.

She is also a busy mother, insisting on dropping off her two girls, Beatrice, 12, and Gillian, 9, to school every morning before going to work. In fact, her children phoned several times during the interview.

"My younger one once asked: Did you get this job on your own, or did grandfather give you the job?" laughs Ho after getting off the phone with Gillian. "I told her I actually had to work very hard."

Determined to break away from her father's shadow after graduating with an MBA from University of Toronto, Ho worked for several banks in Hong Kong.

Daisy, sister Pansy, and brother Lawrence, all with Canadian connections, are the highest profile of the children. Younger sister Josie is a singer and actress in Hong Kong.

Does her father have a succession plan, Ho shakes her head. "Nobody would discuss that with dad, because for one thing he's still going so strong. He is still very hands-on in business, although he's given us a free hand in the day-to-day operations of the company." Despite her family's high profile, Ho remains behind the scenes. "Not that I'm anti-social, but I really sometimes get tongue-tied with strangers, making small talk, says Ho, in her disarmingly honest way. "I'm not good at the socializing thing."

The former president of the U of T Alumni Association, Ho is also the chair of a scholarship fund that sends academically gifted Hong Kong students on a scholarship to U of T. Her executive assistant, Karen Kwok, and another long-time assistant also went to school in Canada.

"I'm forever grateful to Canada" says Ho. "The two years at U of T doing my MBA were really the toughest I've gone through. I've never worked as hard and it challenged me to my limit, but it helped to develop my strength of character, my perseverance. Sometimes I think – where did I get that? I think it was Canada, it brought it all out."

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### "MADE IN CHINA" Exhibition at the Gardiner Museum

The following is from the Museum's website.

Made in China Presented by: Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art  
Export Porcelain from the Leo and Doris Hodroff Collection at Winterthur.  
Curator: Ronald Fuchs II

Made In China is the Canadian debut of one of the largest and finest collections of export porcelain in the world. A fragment of human history is captured in this porcelain made by the Chinese for European and American audiences. The China Trade of porcelain spanned from the 1500s until the 1800s.

Comprised of pieces donated and on loan to Delaware's Winterthur Gallery, the collection is largely made up of works from American philanthropists Leo and Doris Hodroff's extensive collection.

The late David Howard, an expert on export porcelain and co-author of the exhibition catalogue wrote, "What is particularly encouraging [about the exhibition is] the effect it will have on the understanding of the China trade, which was perhaps the first major international trade undertaken by the new United States."

The decoration of the objects with western symbols and images, such as coats of arms, reveals the self-identity of the importing nations as well as China. Jeffrey Munger and Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art wrote, "An unusually early example of export porcelain is a ewer decorated with the royal arms of Portugal; the arms are painted upside down, however - a reflection of the unfamiliarity of the Chinese with the symbols and customs of their new trading partner."

[NOTE: THE PORTUGUESE PIECE MENTIONED ABOVE WITH THE ROYAL ARMS OF PORTUGAL IS NOT PART OF THIS TOURING EXHIBITION]

The pieces on exhibit at the Gardiner include baroque-style borders of drapery and tassels, depictions from the bible and the commedia dell'arte.

The "china," as it became known, symbolized luxurious living from the moment it was introduced in the west in the fourteenth century. "Since then," writes Ronald Fuchs II, curator of the exhibition, "as many as 100 million pieces of china have been transported to Europe and America--encouraging the development of international trading networks linking Asia and the West, inspiring major developments in the European ceramics industry and revolutionizing the way people drank, dined, and decorated their homes."

The exhibition is categorized according to function, dividing dining and household wares and sculptural work.

The Gardiner Shop is selling the beautifully illustrated 117 page exhibitioncatalogue.

Don't miss the Made in China lecture series.

Starts: May 17, 2007  
Ends: Sep 16, 2007  
Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, 111 Queen's Park, Toronto  
Playing: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
Times: Mon - Thurs 10 am - 6 pm, Fri 10 am - 9 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am - 5 pm  
Cost: \$12 Adults, \$8 Seniors (65+), \$6 Students (full-time, with ID), Free Children 12 and under Free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.  
For more information contact the Museum at 416-586-8080 or visit their website  
<http://www/gardinermuseum.on.ca>

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### MSG IN MOST COFFEE

The food additive MSG (Mono-Sodium Glutamate) is a slow poison. MSG hides behind 25 or more names, such as "Natural Flavoring."

MSG is even in your favorite coffee from Tim Horton's and other brand-name coffee shops!

I wondered if there could be an actual chemical causing the massive obesity epidemic, and so did a friend of mine, John Erb. He was a research assistant at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, and spent years working for the government. He made an amazing discovery while going through scientific journals for a book he was writing called *The Slow Poisoning of America*.

In hundreds of studies around the world, scientists were creating obese mice and rats to use in diet or diabetes test studies. No strain of rat or mice is naturally obese, so scientists have to create them. They make these creatures morbidly obese by injecting them with MSG when they are first born. The MSG triples the amount of insulin the pancreas creates, causing rats (and perhaps humans) to become obese. They even have a name for the fat rodents they create: "MSG-Treated Rats."

When I heard this, I was shocked. I went into my kitchen and checked the cupboards and the refrigerator. MSG was in everything - the Campbell's soups, the Hostess Doritos, the Lays flavored potato chips, Top Ramen, Betty Crocker Hamburger Helper, Heinz canned gravy, Swanson frozen prepared meals, and Kraft salad

dressing, especially the "healthy low-fat" ones.

The items that didn't have MSG marked on the product label had something called "Hydrolyzed Vegetable Protein," which is just another name for Monosodium Glutamate.

It was shocking to see just how many of the foods we feed our children everyday are filled with this stuff. MSG is hidden under many different names in order to fool those who read the ingredient list, so that they don't catch on. (Other names for MSG are "Accent", Aginomoto, "Natural Meat Tenderizer," etc.)

..... If you are interested to read the whole article, contact me and I will forward to you or refer you to the website

» » « «

I wish to thank the following members and friends for their contribution to this newsletter:  
Monica Alves \* Linda da Rocha \*  
George Remedios \* Sonny de Lemos \* Doreen Remedios

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer everyone.

*Gloria, Editor*

In Closing, Remember that

***Life is like an ice-cream cone;  
you have to lick it one day at a time***

*Charles M. Scultz*



**Happy Canada Day**  
July 1



## Encontro

Official Opening: November 26, 2007 – December 2, 2007  
(Reception for participants on November 25<sup>th</sup>)

Your Executive wish to inform members that to date, aside from the List of Hotel Rates, duplicated below, no additional information has been received from Macau. Also, the Hotel rates were sent to us with no directive or instructions. The Executive have since requested clarification as follows:

- 1) Are participants supposed to make their own reservations directly with hotels?
- 2) If the answer to question # 1 is yes, then is there a contact name and email address at each respective hotel to which our questions and bookings can be directed?
- 3) If the answer to question # 1 is no, we assume that the procedure to follow will be to go through the Organizing Committee to book hotel rooms – who is the contact, name and email address of the person in charge?
- 4) When are we going to need to provide the Organizers with *a* list of who is staying at which Hotel, type of room required and for which dates.
- 5) Will the Organizers be providing the Casas with a specific form containing all the Hotel information, (room type, dates of arrival and departure, numbers of persons) which can be filled in by our participants?
- 6) If the answer to question # 5 is yes, when will we be receiving this form?
- 7) When can we expect to receive the program of events?
- 8) When can we expect to receive subsidy information?
- 9) Who is the MAIN contact when we need information/clarification for our members, can we please have a name, telephone number, and e-mail address?

Please be assured that all the Casas are in the same boat – frustrated at the lack of information. When Monica and Gloria were in Macau this past October, all Casas were asked to submit a joint feedback with a deadline of March 31. complied.

**X ----- X ----- X ----- X ----- X ----- X ----- X ----- X**

Please fill in and return to: **The Executive, 4168 Finch Avenue East, P.H. #39, Scar., Ont, Canada, M1S 5H6**

The following are "*contemplating*" attending the 2007 Encontro in Macau and wish to receive all further information as soon as available. We understand that this is NOT a commitment.

We further understand that we will be contacted by the Executive for "*confirmation*" of attendance once we receive a request from the Organizing Committee in Macau to do so.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ |

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

REMINDER: To qualify for subsidy you will have to be members for two consecutive years *i.e.*, 2006-2007.



Just before mailing the newsletter, we received answers to our Encontro questions regarding hotels **only**. There is still no mention about (1) program (2) subsidy, or (3) main contact for any inquiries we may have.

From information received members are to contact hotels **directly and make their own reservations**. In this respect please refer to the list below, which includes the contact information.

Note that Hotel Sintra is fully booked. Please make your bookings ASAP; on receipt of confirmation, please advise the Executive of your hotel particulars. If you do not require hotel accommodation, please let the Executive know where you will be staying and contact information.

#### CONTACTOS DOS REPRESENTANTES DOS HOTEIS

***Hotel Mandarin - Ms. Heidi Chan - Sales Manager***

**Tel: (852) 2881 1742 / (853) 28 567 888 Fax: (853) 28 594 589**

**E-mail: [heidic@mohg.com](mailto:heidic@mohg.com)**

***All the rates are based on minimum 12 rooms***

**Landmark Hotel - Ms. Vivian Lo - Asst. Director of Sales**

**Tel: (853) 795 6039 Fax: (853) 28 781619**

**E-mail: [vivian.lo@landmarkhotel.com.mo](mailto:vivian.lo@landmarkhotel.com.mo)**

***All the rates are based on minimum 8 rooms***

**Hotel Royal - Ms. Sandra Leong - Assit. Sales Manager**

**Tel: (853) 5979185 Fax: (853) 5979179**

**E-mail: [sandra.leong@hotelroyal.com.mo](mailto:sandra.leong@hotelroyal.com.mo)**

**Hotel Sintra - Mr. Billy Lei - Front Office Manager**

**Tel: (853) 7978859 Fax: (853) 28710111**

***Fully book***

**Hotel Emperor - Ms. Cami Hor - Sales & Marketing Dept.**

**Tel: (853) 798 2333 Fax: (853) 28783755**

**Email: [sales\\_2333@emperorhotel.com.mo](mailto:sales_2333@emperorhotel.com.mo)**

***The quotation will be expired on Aug 31.07***

**Ms. Florinda Fung - Sales Manager**

**Tel: (853) 790 3884 Fax: (853) 28785896**

***Attached the room reservation form***

**Note: we did not receive any form nor was the hotel identified for Ms. Fung. It could be for the Metro Park Hotel (Grandeur) as that is the only Hotel not accounted for from the list.**

## REPORT FROM YOUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The regular Thursday Socials have been well attended, averaging 50 members each month. The volunteer Menu planners have worked very well and members have been enjoying a variety of different food.

The Bingo and Minchee Event that took place in March was attended by the maximum number permitted for the Casa. Member comments indicate they enjoyed the event and requests have been made to hold another Bingo Event. Please see Up Coming events for details.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Social committee organized a trip to Casino Rama, followed by a Dinner Cruise on Kempenfelt Bay. The weather co-operated 100% and everyone we spoke to expressed their delight and how much they enjoyed the trip. Over 75 members with some friends attended and this tremendous support is most encouraging to the members of the Social committee.

The next event is Dia de Macau on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to advise that 108 members with family and friends have registered. The Social Committee is busy finalizing plans to make this another enjoyable evening

### Up Coming Events

The next big event is the **Family Picnic at Centre Island** on July 14<sup>th</sup>. For those members who have not been to The Toronto Islands, here is a brief history, obtained from Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation for your information. A list of facilities is also included to prepare you for the visit so that you will be able to enjoy the day fully.

#### **Centre Island and Ward's Island**

The Toronto Islands were not always islands but actually a series of continuously moving sand-bars. Eroded stone of the Scarborough Bluffs was carried westward by Lake Ontario currents to create the islands. By the early 1800's the longest of these bars extended 9 kilometers south-west from Woodbine Ave., through Ashbridge's Bay and the marshes of the lower Don River, forming a natural harbor between the lake and the mainland.

In 1850 the young engineer Sanford Fleming studied the sand-bar movements and calculated that twelve hectares of area had been added to the western section of the sand-bars over the previous fifty years. In 1858, an island was created when a storm completely separated the peninsula from the mainland. Dredging projects have since been undertaken to stabilize shorelines, reduce sand-bar movements, create deeper boating channels and raise land levels

On January 1, 1956, the City of Toronto transferred the islands to Metro Toronto to be developed as a regional park. Over one and a quarter million people visit this park each year.

The Toronto Island Ferry services the islands. The Mainland Ferry Terminal located at the Bay Street and Queen's Quay West intersection is ten minutes walk from Union Station. Public transit to the terminal includes the #6 Bay bus and the Harborfront L. R. T. Abundant user-pay parking can be found nearby.

#### Park Facilities:

- 2 fully accessible washrooms
- 2 fully accessible washrooms-change rooms
- 1 washroom and 1 washroom-change room
- 18 drinking fountains
- 10 water taps
- 21 picnic areas
- 2 First Aid stations

#### Some Special features:

- 4 snack bars
- Carousel Café and Island Paradise Restaurants (licensed)
- Bicycle rental
- Boat rental
- Centreville Amusement Area and Far Enough Farm
- 1 wading pool
- 2 splash pools
- Avenue of the Islands Gardens
- Public phones

We have arranged for a bus to take members, family and friends from Our Lady of Rosary Church (Midland Ave, south of Finch on the west side) to the Ferry dock. There will be 2 pick-ups. One will be at 9:30 a.m. and another at 11:30 a.m. The bus will also make the return trip at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. As there is limited seating on the bus, members will need to decide which bus they wish to take and allocation will be on a first come first serve basis. As Casa is sponsoring the bus, there is no cost for this transportation, but we are requesting \$2 from every adult over 19 for gratuity for the driver, this will be collected on the bus.

However there is a fare for the ferry to Centre Island. The cost for a return trip for Adults is \$6.00. Students (under 19)/Seniors (over 65) is \$3.50, Juniors (under 14) is \$2.50 and for children under 2 there is no charge. The Social Committee will make arrangements to purchase the tickets ahead of time so that those attending would not need to line up on the day. Also as we will be purchasing the tickets in bulk, there is a 10% discount. Tickets will be distributed on the bus for those who take the bus. For those who will be making their own way to the Ferry docks, tickets may be picked-up at Casa on July 5<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

We are praying to St. Anthony to give us good weather that day. This event should be an excellent way for members to get to know not only each other better, but to meet family members too. The park is traffic free and so little kids can run around safely. The Amusement Park has rides suitable for the young and the young at heart.

### **Day at Woodbine, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

This annual event has been popular and once again we have arranged for a fun filled day. Hopefully the September date will be more convenient for a greater number of members, who in the past have been on vacation in August.

### **Bingo/Pizza Bash**

Many requests have been made for another Bingo event since the very successful one held in March. We have arranged to hold one on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Bingo will be in the afternoon, followed by Pizza. Again, because of the number restrictions for the Club House, the event will be on a first come first serve basis.

*Your Social Committee*