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Any gift, big or small, is very important to Yee Hong and to our seniors.

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# Yee Hong Spotlight



Summer 2019

## Yee Hong celebrates Ontario Seniors' Month



### Minister of Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho visits Finch Centre

On June 24, Yee Hong welcomed Minister of Seniors and Accessibility Raymond Cho (MPP Scarborough-Rouge River) to the Scarborough-Finch Centre. The Minister watched a lovely dance performance before presenting gifts to residents.

June is Seniors' Month in Ontario. Municipal and community events are held across the province to recognize seniors for their contributions to our communities and the lives they have impacted across generations.

Numerous events were held during the month at all four Yee Hong Centres in celebration of our seniors, who helped build this province.

*Left: Minister Raymond Cho (right) presents a gift to a senior*

## Message from the **Founder**

Canada's aging trend has outpaced Yee Hong's capacity to serve. We have over 4000 seniors waiting to enter our doors, and the wait can be as long as 10 years.

The provincial government showed its trust and confidence in us, granting an unprecedented 800 new long-term care beds, over 10% of the total bed allocation. This will double our bed capacity and reduce the wait time to a more tolerable two to three years.

It is a golden opportunity to Yee Hong and the Toronto's Chinese Canadian community, but it also represents a huge challenge. Yee Hong needs to raise \$70 million of the \$270 million total construction costs as our equity in the new centres.

To alleviate the suffering of the Chinese seniors on our waiting lists and those who will come later, we have no option but to accept this challenge without any hint of reluctance or hesitation.

The whole Yee Hong family is ready and willing to take on this daunting task, but we need total mobilization of the community to ensure our success. Please give generously to help our cause!



*Above: Yee Hong Foundation Founder Dr. Joseph Wong and wife, Mrs. Christine Wong, with Yee Hong Centre resident Sue Kai (middle)*

## Spotlight on... **Recent Events**

### A look back at our recent events and activities



#### **Yee Hong Golf Classic**

The 2019 edition of Yee Hong's fundraising golf tournament took place on a beautiful June Monday at Carrying Place Golf & Country Club. Over 110 guests attended, and approximately \$90,000 was raised.



#### **Seniors Birthday Parties**

The Foundation celebrates the seniors aged 90 and above at each of our Yee Hong Centres with a Birthday Party event every summer.

The parties are organized and led by student interns from local and Hong Kong universities, who learn about charity organizations, event planning and management, and builds intergenerational relationships.



#### **Toronto International Dragon Boat Race Festival**

Every summer, Yee Hong teams participate in the annual Dragon Boat Festival at Centre Island, including a youth team and a team of seniors from Yee Hong Garden Terrace!



#### **"Unconditional Love" Quilt Lunch**

The successful "Unconditional Love" Quilt Campaign officially wrapped up after 15 years. The female-led fundraising initiative raised \$2.5 million and honours the many women in our lives.

Yee Hong Foundation Chair Dr. Joseph Wong presented Helena and Terry O'Connor a souvenir to thank their contributions to the campaign (above).

## Spotlight on... Interns

Every summer, Yee Hong Foundation welcomes interns from various local and Hong Kong universities to promote cross-cultural understanding and skill-building. Let's get to know this year's group.

### Why did you apply to the internship?

**Sam:** The elderly care system in Hong Kong is severely underdeveloped. I would like to learn from Canada and give advice to future social workers.

**Selina:** I wanted to diversify my experiences to expand my existing skills and develop new ones.

### What have you done during the internship?

**Geepson:** The major part of my job was to organize a residents' birthday party. It gave me the first opportunity to organize an event from planning to execution.

**Cherry:** I also got the chance to do some other tasks, such as doing English-Chinese translations and helping out in some smaller activities.

### What have you learned? What are your major takeaways from the experience?

**Alice:** I learned the importance of being flexible. I learned to be prepared. I learned to trust your team.

**Cherry:** I have developed a better understanding of seniors when I visited the nursing home and talked with senior staff in Yee Hong. Another big takeaway for me is satisfaction and confidence.



#### Sandy Cao

University of Toronto Scarborough  
BA Psychology and Health Studies, Year 2

#### Geepson Chow

Chinese University of Hong Kong  
BBA Professional Accountancy, Year 3

#### Sam Hung

Hong Kong Baptist University  
BSocSci China Studies, Year 4

#### Alice Ko

Hong Kong Baptist University  
BSW, Year 4

#### Selina Lam

York University  
BBA, Year 2

#### Cherry Wong

Chinese University of Hong Kong  
BSocSci, Year 2

**Sandy:** The importance of asking questions. It's always better to be over-prepared than to be under-prepared. Learning how to work under pressure.

**Selina:** I really learned the importance of attention to detail. I was able to learn how to communicate effectively and efficiently depending on the individual.

### What are your general plans afterwards?

**Geepson:** The experience encouraged me to help out whenever we are able to do so.

**Sandy:** I will definitely come back to volunteer for future events!

## Upcoming Events

**Earth Walk 2019**  
**Saturday August 24**  
Yee Hong Finch Centre  
60 Scottfield Dr, Scarborough

**Earth Walk 2019**  
**Saturday September 7**  
Yee Hong Mississauga Centre  
5510 Mavis Rd, Mississauga

**National Seniors Day Dinner**  
**Sunday September 29**  
Markham Event Centre  
95 Duffield Dr, Markham



**Yee Hong Community  
Wellness Foundation**

頤康基金會

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