

University of Manitoba Student's Reunion at Butter & Blue Café

By Edmond Chan

Editing by Ljuba Levstek

Addition the photos by Maryanna Liu

Ping Chow and On Chan arrived in Toronto in July, 2023. Sadly, Ping's mother, who was 96 years-old had passed away and Ping has started the procedure for the sale of mother's estate. Ping was also planning a get-together of some of our classmates from the University of Manitoba. She contacted Maryanna Lui, Peter Chan and his wife Susan. She tried to contact me but Dennis and I were away in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for 10 days. When I returned, I telephoned Ping.

I met with Ping, On, Maryanna, Peter and Susan on the 12th of August. We had lunch in Chinatown then drove to Baldwin Street to the Butter & Blue Cafe to have dessert. The cafe was lively with chatting students. Peter, On and Maryanna went to the counter to order coffee and desserts. Ping, Susan and I found a window seat. I listened to what my past classmates had to say each other. I was able to engage in the conversation too because I had practiced my conversational skills to overcome the challenges of speech caused by my stroke.

Maryanna proudly introduced us to Natasia - her daughter and part owner of the cafe. Natasia was an interesting woman, who managed the cafe, maintaining a casual, relaxed atmosphere, suitable to the student clientele. She is smart and forward thinking. She keeps her cost low and maximizes the efficiency and style of the cafe. She is building up a solid, profitable business

At about 2:30, our group left the cafe and went our separate ways. Peter and Susan are now living in Toronto, having moved from Vancouver 6 months ago. I plan to meet up with Ping and On the following Friday when Dennis & I will meet them at the Hendricks restaurant for dinner.

Maryanna gave me a drive home and I talked about my life. "I thought that I was a regular guy WITH my gimp leg. But I am climbing easier now!" She asked, "Shouldn't your leg be more supple? Maybe you should work it harder. You should be better than this." I said, "I know... I try to...but... My mind is sharp but my body is still slowly moving along!" I shuffled out of her car and my right leg got stuck. When we parted, Maryanna smiled and said, "Take care of yourself. Goodbye Edmond! So long..."

I can't turn my body to wave to Maryanna because my body is so stiff. I didn't see Maryanna leave because I can't move very quickly. But in my heart, I know I have the courage to go forward. Stiffly, I walk over to the lobby entrance. I couldn't manage to wave goodbye to Maryanna. But I heard her car engine roar. She left but I go on...



























