

Character Community



E-News



A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.

A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter

March is Perseverance

I will not give up when things get tough. I will stick to my goals and work hard to achieve them, despite obstacles and challenges.

March 2009

The Road Chosen - The story of Lem Wong

A film by Keith Lock (Lock Kei Kong), 1997

It is the sweat and sacrifice of immigrants that often lift their children to great accomplishments and contribution. This is the legacy of a Chinese immigrant, Lem Wong, celebrated by filmmaker Keith Lock.

Lem Wong was only 14 when he arrived in Canada from China in 1897. His father had died and he had begged an uncle to let him travel with him in the hold of a sailing ship. Together they found work in the Chinese laundries of Vancouver.

Lem had received a genteel education in China, but in Canada his quilted coat, felt shoes and pigtail relegated him to the status of a menial worker. He earned a quarter of a white man's wages. Racism was rampant. There were fears that the frugal Chinese would underbid European settlers in the labour market.

Hopping freight trains, Lem Wong worked his way across Canada, toiling in Chinese laundries, on the prairies, in Montréal, Springhill, Nova Scotia and finally Sydney, Cape Breton Island. After five years, he had saved enough for a two way steerage ticket back to Canton. He found a wife and married in China, returning to Canada alone.

Wong invested in a London, Ontario laundry and faced a head tax of \$500 to transport his wife, her feet still traditionally bound, to his adopted country. In 1914, he opened a restaurant in London, Wong's Cafe. It was described as "the sort of place every fellow wanted to take his girl." He brought in orchestras, helping launch the career of local musician Guy Lombardo, and he ran supper dances. But to Lem Wong, his greatest gift to his new country, and the source of his deepest pride, was the education and accomplishments of his eight children which include three doctors, a professor of chemistry and a lawyer.

Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Keith Lock's tribute to a canny entrepreneur and restaurateur provides a rare insight into the Confucian precepts and dogged determination of many early Chinese immigrants.

This is a story of just one of thousands of Chinese immigrants who risked their lives and faced a difficult road through the government-imposed head tax, personal attacks and job discrimination. But the Chinese in Canada persevered. And today, Chinese-Canadians are an integral part of Canada's multicultural society, forging their own cultural identities.

Source:

<http://www.whitepinepictures.com/seeds/i/3/index.html>



Town of Richmond Hill

Character Community Organizations

- The Amici Centre
- Arts Richmond Hill Inc.
- Between Friends
- Catholic Community Services of York Region
- Community Living York South
- The Curtain Club Theatre
- Girl Guides of Canada York South Div.
- Helpmate Community Information
- Hill House Hospice
- Ja'fari Islamic Housing
- Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
- Lions Club of Richmond Hill
- Music to Care for Your Life
- Opera York
- Optimist Club of Richmond Hill
- Region Of York Recreationists (ROYR)
- Richmond Hill Aquatic Club
- Richmond Hill Canoe Club
- Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce
- Richmond Hill Community Church
- Richmond Hill Community Food Bank
- Richmond Hill Community Sports Council
- Richmond Hill Lawn Tennis Club
- Richmond Hill Model Airplane Club
- Richmond Hill Rams Hockey Club
- Richmond Hill Soccer Club
- Richmond Hill Social & Bocce Club
- Richmond Hill Training Centre
- Richmond Hill Winter Carnival
- Royal Canadian Legion Branch #375
- Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Richmond Hill
- St. Matthew's United Church Health Cabinet
- Stroke Recovery Network
- Top o' the Hill Co-operative Nursery School
- Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital
- Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.
- York Region Support Group of Parents of ADHD Kids
- Youth Assisting Youth

Stories of Perseverance



In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca recording Company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, "We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out." The group was called The Beatles.



When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it did not ring off the hook with calls from potential backers. After making a demonstration call, President Rutherford Hayes said, "That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?"



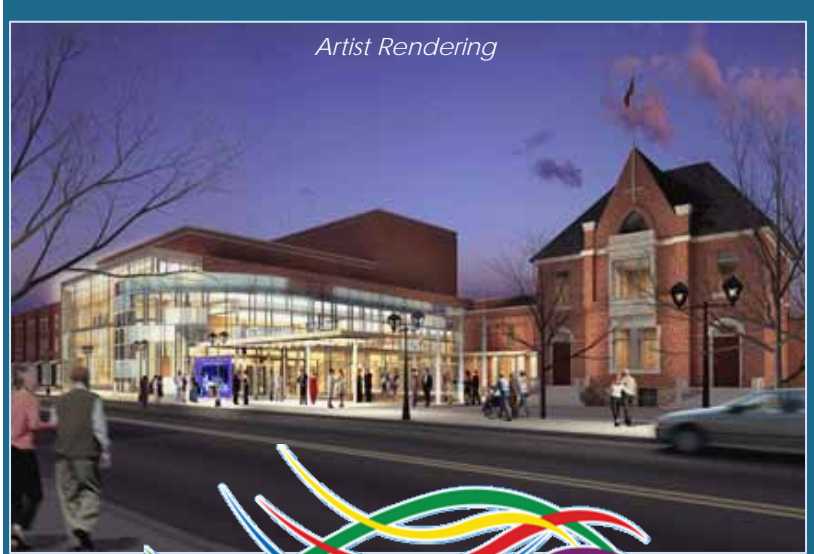
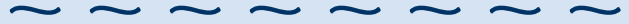
When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2000-step process."

The Moral

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success

achieved. You gain strength, experience and confidence by every experience where you really stop to look fear in the face; you must do the thing you cannot do. And remember, a winner is not one who never fails, but one who never quits! In life, remember that you pass this way only once! Let's live life to the fullest and give it our extreme best.

Source: www.margabandhu.com



Artist Rendering



Perseverance Quotes



"The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't."

~ Henry Ward Beecher



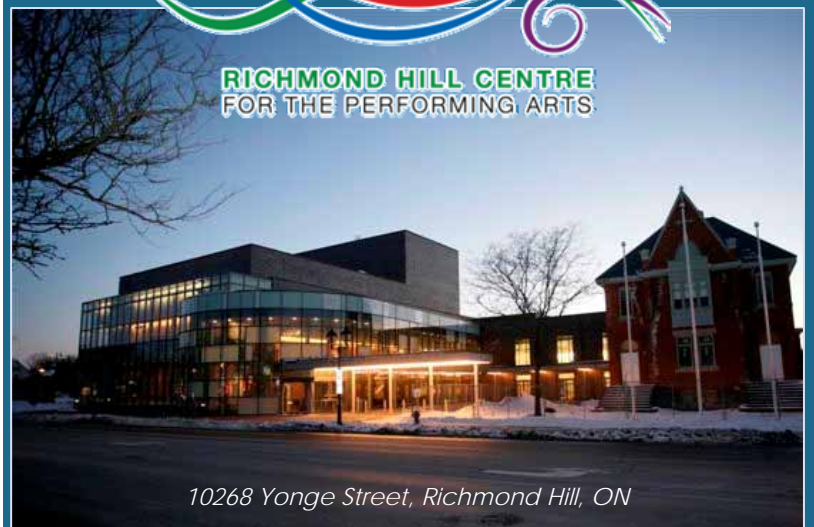
"Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain."

~ Authour Unknown



"When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt



**RICHMOND HILL CENTRE
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

10268 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts Is Open!

After persevering through years of planning, construction and public feedback, the Town of Richmond Hill is pleased to announce the opening of the new *Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts!* Visit www.richmondhill.ca/theatre for a list of performers, tickets and more!

Character Community E-News is a monthly e-mail newsletter to share information about upcoming events within our organization and beyond. If you would like to contribute upcoming Character Community event information, story ideas or photos, please forward it to the Editor, Michelle Lipkus, at mlipkus@richmondhill.ca.

Next Month's Attribute:
April is Respect