

THE CHINESE BUSINESSMEN in Fort Erie.:::

The first Chinese business men that came to Fort Erie in the early 1900's were Laundry men.

- 1915: Charlie Pong and his brother Sam Pong had a small laundry shop on the north side of Jarvis in the middle of the business section, and they remained in business till well into the 1950's. There were no Chinese women in the village at this early date, and it was quite an event when Charlie Pong returned from China with his bride.
- 1920's. The first Chinese Restaurant was the Bridgeburg Cafe, that occupied the ground floor of an old two story frame building that stood on the north side of Jarvis, just above Klauck St. The upper floor was used to house boarders, who were almost all railroad workers. It was not customary for the local villagers to eat out in restaurants, therefore these business men had to rely on the railway men and transients. The menu at the time was typically Canadian, Steaks, Chops, & ice cream. In 1926 when the Murph Teal building was going up on the north side of Jarvis, this old frame building, that housed the Bridgeburg Cafe, came down. The restaurant was the first business to move into the new block. It was operated by two brothers "Big" & "Little" J.P. Lee. Eventually this restaurant moved across the st. into the Gelman building.
- 1920's Mr. H. Chong had his Laundry on the south side of Jarvis St.
- 1920's In the south end, Fort Erie; situated on the river side of the Niagara Blvd. was a small Chinese Restaurant run by Pong Ho. for about five years. It was then operated by Jung Kwong Kun, who sold to Bob Lam in 1930, called the Blue Barn
1927. The Niagara Tavern situated at the foot of Catherine St, has the distinction of being the oldest Chinese restaurant in continuous operation. It was operated for a few years before this date, by the brother of Skippy Wong. Mr. J. Wong ran the restaurant for several years with the help of Wing Fong Wong. In 1927 the business was taken over by Kee Wong, known by the townspeople as Wong Kee. In 1930 he married a bride from Hamilton, and at his death in 1953, May took over the Niagara Tavern with the help of her cook Jimmy.
1929. The Castle Cafe another Chinese Restaurant opened in the spot later occupied by the Bridgeburg Cafe; at the corner of Klauck St. & Jarvis. It was in business for no longer than two years.
1930. Sam Lee opened his Laundry in the Nagg Block on the south side of Jarvis St.
1930. PONG KIM opened for business in a small Laundry shop on the river side of Niagara opposite John St.

cont. # 2.

1930. ING ANG worked as a cook at the Pickwick Arms Hotel
Garrison Road.

1930. WALTER WONG worked as a cook for Dr. Streets staying 30yrs.,
followed by On Lee.

1930. *Blvd* Robert Lam took over the restaurant in the south end opposite
Barn. the Anglo American Hotel, formerly owned by Jung Kwong Kun.
He remained at this location till 1937 selling to Stanley
Joe ; and moving to the Garrison where he opened the Old Fort
Inn later in 1949 remained the Red Dragon.

1937. Robert Lam opened the Old Fort Inn on the Garrison Rd.
(later Red Dragon)

1937. STANLEY JOE took over the restaurant from Bob Lamb
and remained it the New York Cafe. He remained in business
till shortly before his death on July 9, 1965.

1939. Skippy Wong returned to town and opened his restaurant on
the south side of Jarvis at the corner of Klauk St. He
called his place of business The Paradise Grill , and it
remained that till some years later when he remained it
Skippy's. He remained in business till 1965, a total of 26
yrs.

1940. The Willows: situated on the Niagara Parkway at Cozy Dell
was opened by Skippy Wong, but only operated for 3½ yrs.

1945: . The Tic Toc Restaurant was opened on the Niagara Blvd.
Aug9 just north of Bertie St. Mr. Lam owned the building and
ran his taxi business from the ground floor. The rest-
aurant which was upstairs, was operated by PONG HO who
had previously run a restaurant in the south end. In the
middle 40's the business was taken over by Fue Wong, then
turned into two apartments. 172 Niagara Blvd, above
200 cab stand.

1947 Pong Kim ass. of lease 5 yrs. Oct. 10. 1942.

1949. The name of The Old Fort INN was changed to the Red Dragon.

1950 Paul Wong had his Laundry on the east side of Klauk St.

See Lee

1952. Bing Lee formerly of Skippy's Rest. took over the building
on the river side of Niagara Blvd. that had been Shaws
Bakery , and opened a restaurant there. It was later the
site of The Parkview Rest., operated by Ed. Chew Sr. followed
by his son Ed. Chew.

1951. Mr. Chan the grandfather of the present operators, Jack & Dan Chan, opened Georges Fine Food rest. on Walnut St., along with his partner George Gee.

They came to Fort Erie in the 1940's , working for Skippy at his rest. on Jarvis St. During the war they leased the dining room in the King Edward Hotel for two years. They left here and a year later opened up their place of business on Walnut St. After the death of George Gee Jack & Dan Chan the nephews of the other partner took over the operation of the restaurant. In 1977 they opened the Jade Lounge which was built to the east end of the original building, on Mar. 9th.

cont. # 4.

1951. Kenny & Jennie Wong took over the Italian Rest. on the Garrison Rd. at the corner of Main st. and opened the Little Steak House.
- Nov 7th.
1955. Assg. of lease Bing & See Lee to Pat Chew.
1965. Jack Chew and his wife Wendy took over the New York Cafe after the death of Stanley Joe and renamed it HAPPY JACKS.
1967. LOUIE LOUIE & JOE CHONG took over the rest., from Feb. 9th. Pat Chew: The Parkview.
1965. HARRY & JEANNE DONG & EDDIE & ART SETO took over the June. 10. Little Steak House and renamed it KING WAH GARDENS. 544 Garrison Road.
1965. The Dongs left the partnership and the King Wah Gardens Sept. was owned by Eddie Art & Edward Seto.
1966. Harry Dong & Jeanne by the CASA MARIA DOMINION ROAD.
1968. Harry & Jeanne Dong change the name of their restaurant to NAN HAI, specializing in Polynesian and Chinese Food.
1971. Edmund Seto opens first addition to the King Wah Gardens.
1973. HAPPY JACKS 1st addition opened Apr. 22nd. 1973.
1974. Edmund Seto opens second addition to King Wah Gardens.
1975. Parview Rest. opened on the west side of Niagara Blvd. at MAY corner of John St. Louie Louie operator. # 93.
1975. Eddie Chew opens up the May Wah restaurant in the old Park- APR view building on the river side of Niagara blvd. no 90.
1976. 2nd. addition to Happy Jacks Rest.
1977. The Ming Teh restaurant was opened on the river side of Niagara Blvd. formerly the Fisherman's Diner. Operators Siu Kui Cheung & wife Julie Cheung.
1977. On March 9th., the Jade Lounge a new addition to Georges Good Food Rest. officially opened.

cont. page 5.

- 1977: Aug. 3rd. "THE GREAT WALL REST." opened on the Garrison Rd., in the building formerly housing the Dairy Queen. Tom Mok: Prop. Rest closed 1978.
- 1977: Aug. 23. " THE HO HO REST." opened at 179 Garrison road, in the building formerly housing Micheles Rest. George Lipp , and three other partners will operate the business.
- 1978: May 3. "THE ORIENTAL COURT" opened in the old Bank of Commerce building at the corner of the Niagara Blvd. and Forsyth Sts. Phillip Wong owner and manager.
- 1978: may 10. Anthony Ip, 43 of Peterborough and a graduate of the University of Toronto was appointed TOWN ADMINISTRATOR to become effective June 9th.
Left Fort Erie May: 83.
- 1978: "THE HAPPY FAMILY REST" opened on Ridge Road in Ridgeway, with Sam Lee owner and manager.
- 1978: July 8. Eddie Chew of the May Wah Rest., Niagara Blvd. had the old home next to it removed, so that the construction of his new rest. could get under way.
1978. The Great Wall closed.
- 1978: July 25. The Chinese business men of Fort Erie met to organize a Chinese Community Association, to promote Chinese Culture among their people.
- 1979: Jan. The family of Eddie Chew moved into the living quarters above their new Rest; and the Mah Wah was closed so that completion of the move , from the old to the new could be made. The old May Wah Rest., which was built long before the turn of the Century will be taken down to provide space for a parking lot.
The two story section of this building is the original, the addition to the north side having been added by Mr. Shaw in the 40's.
- 1980 : June At the end of June May Wongkee sold "The Niagara Tavern " to the owners of Ontario Bakery, and moved back to Hamilton. A permit was issued to remove the building effective July 2, and on the 8th., work was begun in the morning and by supper time the old Tavern was completely gone. The land is now used for a parking lot for Ontario Bakery customers.

BO BO CHINESES RESTAURANT::: opened Aug . 1st. 1980.

building in south end Niagara St.
formerl. Romando's Italian Rest.

went out of business ... 1987.

the owner of this rest. was a relative
to the owner of the HO Ho rest. on the
Garrison and also a former owner there,
before opening his own place.

No doubt closed , because of too many
similiar rest. in the south end Of the
town.

PARK VIEW RESTAURANT:::

in the early summer of 1981:::

the Parkview was sold by Louie Louie
to his wifes sister: Joanne Jeu:

to her brother: Michael Chan;

The Parkview name was kept,

as Louie Louie retained a third interest.

ParkView Restaurant:::

Michael Chan sold to his older brother
Chin Chan: and bought Shirley's Rest
on Dominion Road::: June 1983.

Resold again 1987::

Mike's Restaurant:::

In June of 1983 Shirley Teal and her
husband Don sold their restaurant on
the Dominion Road opposite Nan Hai
to Michael Chan. They moved in early
June and will be serving Canadian
food.

New Spring Restaurant

Grand opening Feb. 7: 1987. 224 Garrison Rd.
Mini Mall:Hing & Kam Chan.

Beijing Rest.

179 Garrison Rd. Formerly The HO HO.

Alfred Liu of Shoppers Drug Mart is to

enter partnership with Sunny Kung:

Noman Yee:& James Lew. The building is

to be completely remodelled on the inside

and outside.A stand up bar ans a dance floor

will be added in the old Turf room: and the

upper floor will be used for meeting rooms.

Lee's Golden Palace

484. Garrison Rd. opened Nov. 29.1987. Lee famil

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Lee family:::David :Sue: Denise: John: Ringo:Joyce Lee& Michael Lee.

GOURMET'TS GARDEN:::155 NIAGARA BLVD. opened Apr., 95.

ownersççJung Chew:: (from Lee's Golden Palace) nephew Happy Jack
wife Lily

brothers. Jim Chew (from Happy Jacks)))

Alan Lee (Lees Golden Palce) brother- in law.