

China is more accessible

China is rapidly becoming much more accessible to Western visitors. Tourism is growing, new air routes are being opened, and airports and hotels expanded.

All of this is in sharp contrast to the Chinese tourism picture of only a few years ago. Professing a shortage of hotel accommodation, Chinese authorities restricted travel so tightly that only the most dedicated tourists and the most favored business people were able to visit the Middle Kingdom.

A thaw seemed to begin about 1985, when the number of foreign visitors to China rose by 20.9 per cent. Last year, it increased by a further 7.8 per cent, to 1,470,000.

The first non-stop service to China by a North American airline was launched in April, 1986, with a weekly service between Vancouver and Shanghai by Canadian Pacific Air Lines.

FLY TO BEIJING

That carrier, now known as Canadian Airlines International, has just been granted the authorization it has been seeking to add Beijing (Peking) to its route.

Every Tuesday, commencing Oct. 27, CAI will take off from Vancouver, fly non-stop to Beijing, then on the Shanghai, returning non-stop to Vancouver on Thursdays.

Don't forget advance poll opportunity

Three designated advance poll days will be held prior to Ontario's 34th general election on September 10, to provide qualified electors, unable to vote on election day, with the opportunity to cast their ballot.

Designated advance polls are held to accommodate qualified electors who will be unable to vote on election day. Qualified electors may cast a ballot at any of the advance poll locations within their electoral district provided that their names appear on the polling list or on a certificate to vote.

Advance polling will take place September 3, September 5 and September 7 between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Qualified electors unable to vote on those advance poll days may also cast their ballots in the office of their Returning Officer on August 29, August 31, September 2, September 4 and September 8.

Location and times of advance polls will be advertised in daily and weekly newspapers throughout the Province.

In accordance with the Ontario Election Act, advance poll locations are accessible by level entry or ramps, making it easier for the elderly or physically disabled to cast their ballot.

Single parent?

Are you a single parent interested in attending family activities, dances, discussions? Come to Brampton Parents Without Partners membership information meeting to be held, Wednesday, Sept. 9. For time and place call Irene 458-7351, or Collette 456-2982.

Smoke free future

A one-day seminar is being planned for health professionals and health educators entitled Planned for a Smoke-Free Future Oct. 23 at the Old Mill in Toronto.

Enrolment is limited and advance registration is required. Phone 416-864-1112.

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Introductory fare, now being sold, is \$999. Other fares are available that allow passengers to visit additional Asian destinations -- for example, Hong Kong, which is on another CAI route that originates in Vancouver, with an intermediate stop in Tokyo.

(Commencing Oct. 28, that route will be extended from Hong Kong to Bangkok, Thailand, with the departures from Vancouver on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.)

A Japanese carrier, All Nippon Airways, flies on Mondays and Saturdays from Washington, D.C., to Beijing, with a stop overnight in Tokyo.

the other in Shanghai -- in competition with such other U.S. - based chains as Sheraton and Holiday Inns.

In Shanghai, which has lagged far behind Beijing in hotel construction in modern times, 35 hotels and apartment buildings with about 15,000 rooms are being built or have recently been completed.

One forthcoming tourist event of symbolic significance will be the visit to Shanghai of Cunard's Sagafjord for a two-day stopover next March, on her round-the-world cruise. The city is on the broad Huangpu River, which sees a great deal of ocean but rarely a five-star luxury liner.

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Starting next April, CAI will be taking delivery of six new 767ER (extended range) airplanes from Boeing Co. of Seattle. The Vancouver-based airline has an option to purchase eight more of the airplanes, which may be used on long-distance domestic routes and possibly intercontinental flights to Europe or South America.

Carnivale Cruise Lines is providing free air transportation, beginning Sept. 1, to departure points for some of its sailings: From Montreal and Toronto to Miami and Fort Lauderdale for three-day and four-day cruises of Carnivale and Mardi Gras, and from Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton or Vancouver to Los Angeles for seven-day cruises of Tropicales. Cruises are relatively inexpensive, and passengers tend to be youthful.

Travel Today

WARM WELCOME

The addition of landing rights in Beijing, to the established Vancouver-Shanghai service, will be warmly welcomed by CAI.

The Canadian carrier was glad to get a toe in the door of China last year, with the long-sought permission to fly into Shanghai -- the financial and industrial centre of China prior to the 1938 Japanese invasion.

But the airline made no secret of its aspiration to be able to land as well in Beijing, the centre of government in the highly authoritarian country.

The schedule to and from Beijing has been designed to dovetail with CAI's existing routes serving California, Amsterdam and Rio de Janeiro.

FAMILIAR NAMES

Recently the U.S. - based Ramada Inns chain signed letters of intent to launch two hotels -- one in Beijing.

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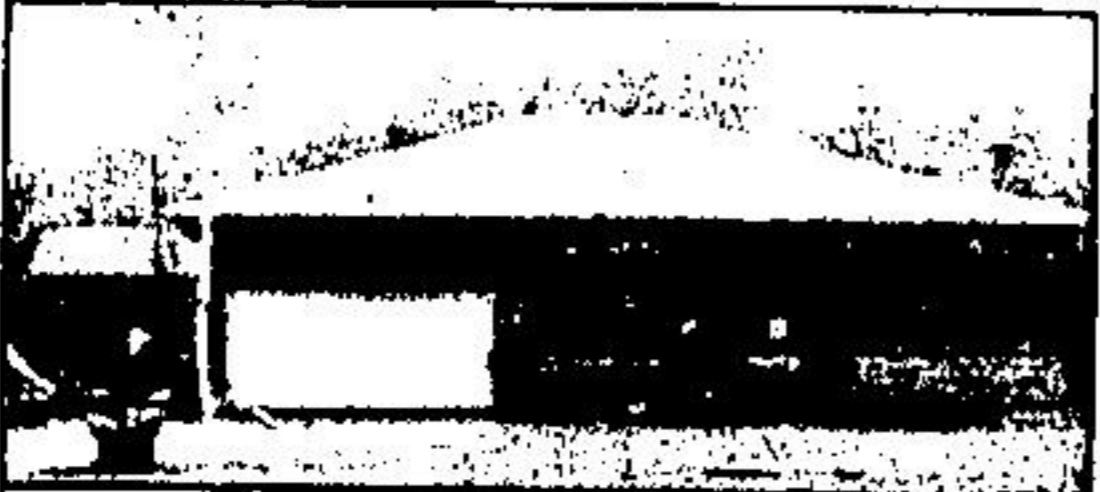
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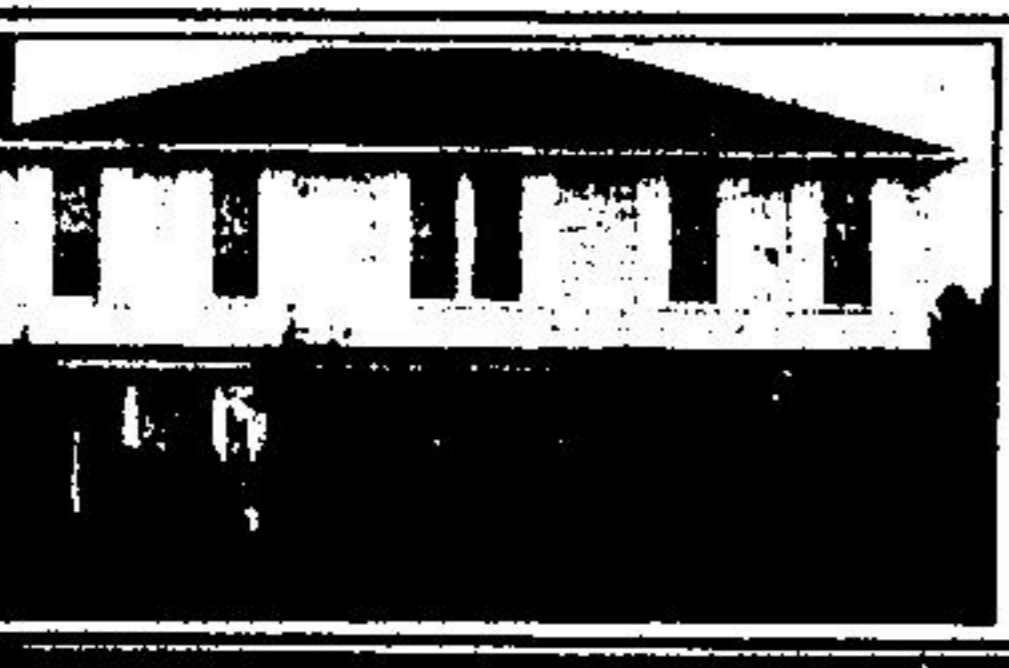


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HOUSES NEEDED

Call Mike for a personal and free evaluation of your home.
(Not intended to solicit homes already listed)