

Jack Wai Yen Lee ('40)



Lee, Jack Wai Yen, C.M.

February 11, 1922 – August 2, 2011

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Jack Wai Yen Lee, who died peacefully on August 2, 2011 in Victoria.

Jack was born in Victoria and educated in the Chinese Public School and Victoria school system, graduating from Victoria High School in 1940. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, receiving a Degree of Associates of Arts, and the University of British Columbia where he graduated with Degree of Bachelor of Commerce.

In the 1940's Jack joined the family business that included import/export and greenhouse operations in Greater Victoria. In 1967 he founded the Chinese Village Restaurant with his brother Henry and Jim Wong.

Jack's involvement in his community spanned his entire adult life. In the Chinese community, he was involved with the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Chinese Public School, Kong Chow Association, Lee Benevolent Association, and dedication of Lee Mong Kow Way in Chinatown. He devoted countless hours to dozens of organizations and associations, including the Victoria Welfare Council, Junior Achievement, Canadian Red Cross, United Way, MacPherson Foundation, University of Victoria, Kiwanis International, Royal BC Museum, Tourism Victoria and Victoria Chamber of Commerce. He received numerous awards for his public service, most notably Member of the Order of Canada in 1989.

While fulfilling his commitment to family, business, and community, Jack still found time to pursue his favourite pastime – golf. He held memberships at Uplands Golf Club, Victoria Golf Club and Gorge Vale Golf Club, and was a founding member of the Victoria Chinese Golf Club.

Jack is survived by wife Lily, daughter Barbara (Eugene), sons Randy (Leslie) and Robert (Karina), eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren, sister Fae (Ying Chow), and sister-in-law Ruby Lee.