



華嚴聖寺廿週年慶

20th Anniversary for Avatamsaka Monastery

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進行籌備

華嚴聖寺經歷廿年蛻變成長，過程峰迴路轉，法師們宿夜匪懈，披肝瀝膽，義工們歇盡所能，凝聚十方助緣，從一幢三千方呎的房子，發展成四萬方呎大樓，達成首段擴建工程，正好趕及寺廟成立廿週年慶典。

先是清理二樓地台，擴建前的二樓地台乃原建築的天臺，蓋著防水瀝青，經長年曝曬，瀝青深陷石縫紋中，需把瀝青清理掉，才可重新用水泥鋪平約一萬方呎的地台。沒有哪家公司願意承包這個工作，即便有價格必然不菲！義工們用手拿著數十磅重的電鑿，逐吋鑿開瀝青，正是「火花與瀝青齊飛，汗水共塵沙一色」，經此一役，聞者色變。

接著是鋪設二、三樓一萬多方呎的磁磚地板，因電梯遲遲未裝妥，要把將近十噸的沙、水泥、磚塊，從地面搬上二、三樓，混和水泥，填平地台，鋪設磁磚，皆憑人工手力。

為製造足夠二百人使用的床

The Preparation

Avatamsaka Monastery was first established twenty years ago in an old three thousand square feet warehouse located in a beat-up neighborhood, and many monastics and lay people came together and worked very diligently in developing the monastery. In 2007 the monastery moved to a prestigious location in downtown. Phase One of the expansion project expanded the building from twenty thousand square feet to forty thousand square feet. The project 108, the second phase of the expansion, was to renovate the newly added 2nd and 3rd floors. The volunteers worked many days and nights to ensure that the monastery would be ready in time for the 20th anniversary.

The newly added 2nd floor was originally the roof of the building. It was covered by a thick layer of asphalt for waterproof protection, but after many years of sunlight, the asphalt had melted and adhered to the concrete and had to be removed so that the ten-thousand square feet of flooring could be leveled with a new layer of concrete. Not many concrete companies were willing to take the dirty job of removing the asphalt and even if they were willing to, the price would be too high.

The volunteers had to take on the hard job. They first shoveled off the loose layer of asphalt. There was dust, sparks, and rock chips everywhere, not to mention how everyone was sweating profusely, and some volunteers may still shiver from just the thought of having to go through the process again.

The next challenge was to lay ceramic tiles on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Even more challenging was when the installation of the elevator was delayed, the volunteers had to carry the sand, cement, and ceramic tiles, which weighed about ten tons in total, up the stairs. Several mechanical enthusiasts even assembled a pulley system and roped it up (which ran) from the outside of the building. And while these people were hauling the materials, some other volunteers mixed the sand and cement, leveled the floor, laid the tiles, cleaned up the messes, or applied mud and sanded the walls.

The monastery expected many guests to stay over for the event and so it



席，義工把原來運載水泥、磚塊的木料改裝，蓋上面板、床褥、臥具，既省錢，又環保。至於油漆、清潔、佈置、編輯督印專刊、公關推廣、安排機場接送、住宿、膳食、攤位、書畫攝影展、義賣、保安、接待、表演節目、多媒體攝錄播放、市內觀光、朝山旅程，以上種種，義工全包辦，且達專業水準。

卡加利一日遊

賓客來自世界各地，包括馬來西亞、新加坡、印尼、菲律賓、香港、台灣、多倫多、萬佛聖城及美加分支道場，他們大多是首次踏足卡加利，對此地充滿好奇，希望一睹這洛磯山脈下的城市，所以特別安排在八月十七日（星期五），梁皇寶懺圓滿翌日為他們安排了兩程市內觀光一日遊。

預計約五十人的步行觀光團，準備由六位義工帶領，印了五十張路線圖，早上在集合處只見人頭鑽動，估計超過二百人，六位義工迅即改變策略：以一人帶頭，一人殿後，二人守中，另兩人各騎單車，機動應變，六人以無線電對講機聯絡。

華嚴聖寺位處弓河邊，岸邊有步道，觀光團沿河經過王子島公園，景色怡人，四季各具特色，春夏河水自雪山冰川溶化聚成河，有野鴨、飛鵝，或在河中覓食、空中往還、岸邊漫步，雖有遊人往來，野鳥則顧盼自若，各得其所。

轉到中華文化中心，內有出

needed enough beds for about 200 people at the max, so some volunteers design and build the beds with the leftover wooden skid. Dharma Masters organized volunteers into many groups for various tasks, including painting, cleaning, decorating, editing and printing, PR & promotion, airport shuttle service, lodging, kitchen duty, booth display, books/art/photo exhibition, sales for fundraising, security, reception desk, performance & entertainment, multi-media & PA, city tour, mountain tour, etc. Although everything was done by volunteers, it was as if we were working with professionals.

Calgary City Tour

Guests came from all over the world, including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Toronto, CTTB and various other DRBA branch monasteries. For many guests, it was their first visit to Calgary. They were interested in almost everything about this young city that was situated at the foothills of the Rocky Mountain Ranges. Because of these guests, Avatamsaka Monastery arranged two half-day tours on Friday, August 17, after the Emperor Liang Jeweled Repentance had concluded.

We expected fifty participants for both walking sightseeing tours and so fifty copies of the map were printed with six volunteers signed up as tour guides. The interest in the tour far exceeded our expectation however because at the departure gate, two hundred people show up.

All the other volunteers were drowning with their own responsibilities and quickly adjusted their plan. The guides were assigned to positions: one in the front, two in the middle, one at the very end, and two on bicycles. They were all also connected via walkie-talkies.

The monastery is located by the Bow River. The group followed a scenic path along the river and entered Prince's Island Park. The park is known for showing unique beauty in each of the different seasons. For example, in the mountains water melts from the ice and snow and forms the river, which is rich in minerals and nutrients. During the warmer seasons, geese, ducks, and other wild birds get together there and float on the river looking for food, fly

freely in the air, or walk on the river bend. People walk by them but that doesn't interrupt the birds; they just continue with their own business. There, humans and wildlife live quite comfortably with each other.

The group then crossed the river from Prince's Island Park and





自清朝四位書法家寫贈光緒皇帝真跡，屬於國寶級文物。中心旁邊是水邊市場，經此便可沿河返回華嚴聖寺，全程約兩個半小時。

下午參觀市中心區，市政府為鼓勵市民避免駕車往市中心，人們可在市中心區免費乘搭輕便電車。天橋連接貫通市中心的商廈以利行人免受寒冬之苦，室內花園和商店羅列其中。團友到達市中心後各有所鍾，而我帶著一隊登上卡城塔。

塔上可瞭望360度風景，縱觀市中心街道井然，弓河蜿蜒而過，天晴時可遠眺洛磯山脈，嵯峨刻削，凡數十百峰，綿延無盡。塔上有玻璃樓台，懸空突出，置身其上，如處虛空，由550呎高低頭下望，汽車和行人穿梭繁忙，心跳和血壓隨即標升。團友有懼高者，也鼓起勇氣，克服心障，緊捉扶手，穩步而出，一嚐居高望遠的滋味！

ascended to the highland on the north shore, where they were able to see a panoramic view of the downtown and the river. Then the group headed south across the Lion's Gate Bridge, crossed the river, and entered Chinatown. It was about 9 am and it was not very interesting walking around in Chinatown when most of the stores had not yet opened.

So, we visited The Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre, one of the most popular meeting places in Calgary's Chinatown. Its library has a big collection of Chinese books and it displays a set of calligraphy from the Chin Dynasty. Then the group walked along 2nd Avenue, passed the Eau Claire Market and reached the river again. People could just head west along the river all the way back to the monastery. The whole trip took us two and a half hours with our very slow and relaxed pace.

The group continued to visit downtown in the afternoon. In order to reduce the number of vehicles going to downtown, the City of Calgary encourages people to use the Light Rail Transit, which has a free fare zone in the downtown area. Many buildings are connected with insulated bridges so that pedestrians can still enjoy shopping and the indoor garden when the weather is below freezing outside. The participants of our group indicated various interests when they arrived at the heart of downtown. I led one group that headed to the Calgary Tower.

Up in the Calgary Tower one can see a 360 degree panoramic view of the city. The city streets are aligned in rectangular blocks with the Bow River meandering next to them. On a clear, sunny day, people can see the snow caps of the magnificent Rocky Mountain Ranges; the countless splendid peaks extend without an end. There is a glass balcony hanging out from the tower and walking on the glass floor is like walking in the air. One can watch the vehicles and pedestrians 500 feet right below them, which can cause people to have rising blood pressure and heart rate. One of our members has height phobia, she hesitated to do so at first, she finally couldn't resist the temptation. She inched out with both hands grabbing the rails, and she sat down and enjoyed the experience.

The Celebration

The monastery celebrated its 20th Anniversary on Saturday, August 18. Some volunteers began the day at 3 am preparing for the big moment. At eight o'clock, the guests were (waiting and) ready. The band cracked the silence of the morning with the big drum, bells, and gongs. Colorful lions danced vigorously up and down at the entrance, trying to draw as much attention as possible. Five Bhikshus, together with the guests of honor, cut the ribbons, officially starting the celebration. The Dharma Masters then performed the Opening Light ceremony for the images of Bodhisattvas.





慶典

八月十八日（星期六）是慶典正日，義工們精神抖擻，早上八時正嘉賓雲集，頃刻間鑼鼓震天，雙獅獻瑞，五位法師聯同嘉賓剪綵，法師再聯袂為佛菩薩像開光，其間或聞異香四散，或見菩薩顯現等祥瑞。

開光後，來賓在三樓佛殿參加法會，展覽廳透過影音傳播，可看到大殿的活動情況，也可去瀏覽不同攤位、書畫攝影展、義賣等。

星期日是素食品嚐大會，數十個攤位，以不同美味推廣素食以饗食客，來賓超過一千人，只嘆珍饈何其多，肚子何其小！

兩天的慶典活動，估計有二千人次參與。



Some people reported smelling a unique fragrance while others reported seeing the manifestation of Earth Store Bodhisattva.

The Buddha Hall on the third floor was packed with people during the ceremony. Some guests who were unable to jam in participated in the ceremony through the broadcasting on the main floor. Guests also browsed through the exhibition of books, paintings, photos, and gift items.

There was a vegetarian feast on Sunday. Food booths offered a great variety of fine food. People purchased coupons at the dining hall entrance and used them to buy food they liked. Many infrequent visitors came to the monastery on that day just for this feast. There were over one thousand people in the dining hall at peak time. Many people later on found out that their stomachs were just too small for all the good food. In all, there were over two thousand participants during the two day event.





朝山之旅

八月廿日(星期一)開始三天朝山之旅，四部57人座巴士滿載，另有四輛汽車隨行，首日是登城堡山，大眾朝山九拜後，便迫不及待，一哄而上。

此山徑名為石圍湖徑，爬升約900公尺，山路崎嶇坡陡，腳程四小時上山，三小時下山。途中可看見狀如上人禪坐的大石墩，再走20分鐘便至塔湖，此間彷彿與世隔絕，有落葉松林，針葉較普通松樹稀疏，秋季葉色轉黃，日光照曬之下，金波松濤，此景世間稀有。此種松樹只生於高山，生長速度極慢，一棵八呎的小樹，樹齡可能已過三十。

再往上走約30分鐘，至石圍湖，山谷廓然開闊，南面山壁巍巍，石紋參差起落，光投影現，白雪襯托，幻化成無數壁畫，如阿彌陀佛垂臂接引，佛像、觀音、羅漢、達摩祖師、獅子回首等狀，不勝枚舉。

這次有人在山中聞到異香，達半小時之久；有人見到上人顯現，誠哉祥瑞。

有體弱長者，選擇參加山下的莊士敦峽谷遊，沿溪而行，雖經過一些棧道，但設施安全可靠，寬敞易行，入深谷，窮迴溪，探幽泉，觀瀑布，樂逍遙。

當晚大部份團友入住

The Mountain Pilgrimage Tour

The three-day mountain pilgrimage tour began on Monday, August 20. All four 57-passenger buses were fully loaded. Together with four other vehicles, there were more than 240 people who participated in this biggest tour organized by the monastery. The first day's task was to climb Castle Mountain. The assembly got together and bowed nine times at the head of the trail. We could see that people were so excited that they could not wait to get on the trail.



Castle Mountain

Rock Bound Lake Trail stretches into the heart of Castle Mountain. The trail is rated as an intermediate to difficult hike. It takes an average person about four hours to go uphill. The first and the final half hours were quite steep. The return trip back downhill takes about three hours.

Halfway up along the trail, a big rock statue can be seen up on the eastern tip of Eisenhower Tower. Many disciples believe that the rock resembles the Venerable Master and so when they were up there, members from the monastery bowed to the statue from on top of a small hill. Following the trail for another twenty minutes, one reaches Tower Lake. This Lake is located at the beginning of a U-shaped valley. The valley extends downward until it reaches Sawback Range in the distance. This topology isolates the valley from the outside world. The area abounds with Larch forest. Although the larch belongs to the pine family, it is unusual in that it is not evergreen. Larch needles form in characteristic radiating clusters. They sparkle with a bright golden color under the late autumn sun. Larches only grow at high elevation, about 7000 feet above sea level, at a



金鎮的旅店，而男眾法師和數位居士先行入住法總在山中的茅廬，投身蒼然暮色，領略山中朝露晨曦。

翌日大隊掩至，相信這片山區



從未這般熱鬧，大眾頂禮九拜，然後由朱居士帶領遊覽參觀，眾人處身草坡平臺，四週茂林圍繞，旁邊高峰嵩峙，有狀似彌勒菩薩的大山，穩坐於前。

離開金鎮，往後一天半是參觀三個國家公園，包括斑芙、積士柏、友好，飽覽美景如路易斯湖、蕪荅湖、斐翠湖、天然石橋、弓湖、弓瀑布、畢題歐湖、哥倫比亞冰川、穩度山等。

本來滿腹牢騷的司機，在第三天回程途中，主動提出多停些觀光點，自願免費延長工時，團友聽罷，喜出望外，我們便選擇穩度山下的卡士基塘，該處隱於群山樹林之中，遊人稀少，卻是瞻仰大臥佛的最佳地點，團友至此自由活動，有林間靜坐，水邊散步，取景拍照，一小時轉瞬即逝，真覺罷遊不得。

very slow rate. It may take a larch tree thirty years to grow to eight feet tall. This plant deserves protection since it is fragile.

It takes another 30 minutes of climbing from Tower Lake to reach Rock Bound Lake. This wide open circle, formed after a glacier melted, belongs to the same U-shaped valley. Crevasse, minerals, snow and various light conditions manifest numerous natural wall paintings on the south cliff. There is a natural likeness of Amitabha Buddha lowering his right arm to receive living beings. There are also images of Buddhas, Guanyin, Arhats, Bodhidharma, Manjusri's Lion, etc.

People observed auspicious signs during the mountain trip. Two people reported smelling a strong, sweet fragrance, lasting half an hour. Another person saw the Venerable Master.

Instead of hiking up the trail, some seniors or those with physical challenges chose the tour to Johnston Canyon at the bottom of the hill. Although the trail is built along the canyon, it has some overhanging catwalks and the trail is easily accessible and safe. People can follow the trail, explore the canyon, discover the springs, and reach the waterfalls, while

having lots of fun.

That evening the majority of the group stayed in a motel in the town of Golden, British Columbia. Three monks and three laymen went camping in DRBA's property so that they wouldn't miss the mysterious sunset and the morning dew.

The group arrived at DRBA's property the next morning. We first bowed nine times. Then Lake Zhu, the layman who lives there part time, led the group for sightseeing. They walked through the forest onto the plateau, with high mountain ranges visible on the side. One of the mountains appears to be a giant Maitreya Bodhisattva sitting right in the front.

The group went back to Golden for lunch. The rest of the trip was sightseeing in three national parks: Banff, Jasper, and Yoho. We made sure the guests maximized their opportunity to cover as much scenic attraction as possible, namely Lake Louise, Moraine Lake, Emerald Lake, Natural Bridge, Bow Lake, Bow Falls, Petyo Lake, Columbia Icefield, Mount Rundle, etc.

One of the bus drivers was grumpy and complained about his passengers. All the passengers not only accepted whatever was requested by the driver, but everybody stayed happy throughout the whole time. He became very nice on the third day and offered extra stops for points of interest. He even voluntarily extended his hours at no extra charge so that we could stay longer in the national park. We decided to stop by Cascade Pond at the bottom of Mount Rundle where we could spot the best view of the reclining Buddha. Our people quickly spread out for various activities: sitting meditation, walking on the waterfront, and taking photos, etc. One hour quickly passed and we had to leave. Everyone will miss this place.

