

# 華嚴聖寺「詩的公園」開幕紀盛

## GRAND OPENING OF THE POETIC PARK, THE FRONT OF AVATAMSAKA MONASTERY

陳果安 文譯  
By Ray Chan

When we bought the original building for the expansion of Avatamsaka Sage Monastery, it was a two storey office building (including the basement). There were old houses on both sides. Although we thought it could be a barrier to future expansion, we bought the building considering it met all the other criteria set by Shr Fu, and there was not much height restriction in development.

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華嚴聖寺現址購入初期，主體是一棟兩層樓高（含地下室）的辦公建築，左右兩旁有一些老舊的房舍。雖然這些老房子可能成為日後擴建的障礙，但因其它條件都符合師父上人的要求，向上發展也沒有太大限制，所以就拍板買下了。

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DHARMA REALM NEWS | 法界音

### (續封面內頁)

遷入不久，寺廟左邊一間小房子掛牌出售。當年的當家法師在第一時間經董事會批准後，就把它買了下來，拆除之後，左邊就只剩下一間小餐廳。接著又發現右邊整排的老房子，原先是市政府的道路發展預留地，現在都因計劃變更而空置下來，政府曾經和附近的土地開發商接洽出售意向。

左邊街角的小餐廳原本也是道路預留地，後來因為和政府關係不好，鬧上法庭後被政府轟走，最後政府表達想把土地賣給我們。雖然是個難得的好機會，如果買下來改為前庭廣場，那麼道場的北東南三面將沒有任何阻擋。但是地價加上建築費，當時我們實在無力負擔。

### (Continued from the front inner cover)

Not long after we moved in, the small house to our left was listed for sale. The managing Dharma Master acted quickly to purchase the property after getting the approval from the board of DRBA. The house was then demolished and there was only the small restaurant left in the left end corner of the block. We then found out the rest of the block at the right of our property is owned by the City of Calgary. It was purchased for road widening and then left vacant when the plan changed. The City of Calgary then tried to sell it to one of the neighboring developers.

We also found out that the land where the restaurant was located was also reserved for road widening. The owner of the restaurant was not on good terms with the City and after winning the court case, the City kicked them out and wanted to sell the land to us instead. It was a great opportunity to assemble this piece of land and turn it into a front court so that there would not be any building blocking the view of the monastery from the east, north and south. But at the time, we did not have the budget to purchase the land.

Later on, we paid a visit to the new alderman of our area, a Chinese

後來和新上任的本區華裔馬議員商討後，覺得把這塊空地改成公園綠地是個好主意，於是議員承諾和園娛署商討此事。數月後，我們就收到通知：政府決定把這塊地交給園娛署改建成民用公園，並斥資建造以及負責以後的管理和維修。這真是令人振奮的消息！

市政府即將在道場前面，寸土寸金的市中心、緊靠弓河的黃金地段，建造一座民用公園。廟方不僅無須出錢出力，而且藍圖設計期間，園娛署的官員多番徵求廟方意見，尊重的程度甚至連市議會都要提醒他們：「嘿，請記住你們不是拿納稅人的錢去替廟蓋公園。我們是為卡城居民蓋公園，我們才是主人欸！」這是二年多前發生的事。

2012年5月底，工程啟動。原本預定當年8月底完工，因為天候關係延至2013年5月才完工。園娛署官員來電告知，公園啟用儀式將訂於5月22日舉行，並詢問廟方是否願意聯合承辦。甫接到邀請，法師便回答：「好！好！好！」我們都感到非常興奮。市府並沒有邀請附近的機關團體合辦，所以當日的電視新聞報導中，我們真像是「半個主人」！

天氣預報典禮當日將是陰雨天，所以主辦單位也做好了充分的準備。儀式訂在中午12時15分開始，首先由馬議員及園娛署署長致開幕詞，然後公園雕塑品的設計師解釋創作意含。華嚴寺的常住法師及信眾，帶著大家繞行公園灑淨，並做功德迴向之後，馬議員和貴賓一同剪綵啟用。

Canadian, Alderman John Mar and explained to him our dilemma. He agreed with us that turning it to a park was an appropriate land use. He promised he would try to talk to the City of Calgary departments and the director of Parks & Recreation. A few months later, we received a call from the Parks & Recreation notifying us that they will turn the land in front of the monastery into a public park. They will pay for the construction, management and ongoing maintenance. We were overwhelmed with the wonderful news.

This is unbelievable that the City will build a park at our front door on a piece of valuable land in downtown Calgary right by the Bow River. In addition, they invited us in the design process. We were heavily involved to a point that the City council warned them, "Hi guys, you are not using the tax payers' money to build this park for the monastery. Remember we are building the park for the Calgarians. We are the client." This happened more than two years ago.

In May 2012, they started the construction of the park. It should be completed by late August the same year according to the schedule. It was delayed to May 2013 due to the weather conditions. They later informed us that they had set May 22 as the grand opening of the park. They asked us if we were interested to co-host the ceremony. If we decided to participate, they wanted our input. Our managing Dharma Master's answer was YES! YES! YES! It was overwhelming and we were overjoyed. They did not invite any other neighbouring organizations to co-host the ceremony. In the local evening TV news, it appeared as if we were the co-owner of the park.

The weather forecast for the grand opening day was cloudy with showers and the event was set up accordingly. The ceremony was scheduled to start at 12:15 p.m. The program included opening speeches by Alderman Mah and the Parks & Recreation director, the artists elaboration of the sculpture design in the park, the purification of the boundary and transference of merit led by Dharma Masters and the assembly and joined by the attendees of the opening ceremony. The ribbon cutting was performed by Alderman Mah and the honourable guests.



開幕式中，市政府安排了樂團現場演奏，並備有茶點招待。一位當地的詩人帶領來賓

There was performance by a band, food and drinks were also served by the City of Calgary. There was also a local poet leading people to write



即興作詩，每個人的詩作都被捲成圓筒，掛在詩人創作的一件雕塑品上。其中也包括我們抄錄的〈華嚴經淨行品〉偈頌，和當天情景十分相應：

若見園苑 當願眾生  
勤修諸行 趣佛菩提  
見修園圃 當願眾生  
五欲園中 耕除愛草



12時45分，開幕典禮結束。預先安排好的華嚴聖寺導覽，也由司儀宣布邀請現場來賓參加。寺裡的一樓備有點心飲料，頓時間擠滿人群，氣氛熱鬧。來賓們享受溫馨招待之餘，也藉機認識佛教的寺院修行。

天空雖然下雨，但絲毫不減來賓的熱情。我向大家解說「灑淨」的意義，是禮請諸佛菩薩及龍天護法來守護壇場，龍王及其眷屬居於水中，出巡一定帶來風雨，所以今天下大雨證明他們真的來過。此說惹得聽眾大笑。

多年來參與蓋廟的經驗，讓我體會到蓋廟猶如修持淨土法門，必須具足「信願行」三資糧。如此得來的成果，將是超出預期、不可度量。

回想最初，買下一片畔河的黃金之地來蓋廟，已是超出我們的能力之外，更遑論要蓋一座五萬平方呎的伽藍道場。然而現在不單可能，這座理想中的莊嚴大道場正逐步實現——前有園林勝境，側有弓河環繞，後有空地發展。日後若與市政府換地成功（以隔巷的停車場和緊臨西面的政府地互換），那麼最初計劃中的佛教學校以及安老院，將是可期可行之事。想到這兒，一切都是那麼地不可思議！

（註：計劃中的素菜餐廳可能於今年內落成。） ❀

poems, rolled them up and hanged them on a cone shape sculpture made by him. We also submitted an excerpt from the *Pure Conduct Chapter of the Flower Adornment Sutra*, which we found is very relevant to the setting of the event:

*Seeing a park,  
They should wish that all beings  
Diligently cultivate the practices  
Leading to Buddha's enlightenment*

*Seeing a garden cultivated,  
They should wish that all beings  
In the garden of sense desires  
Clear away the weeds of craving.*

The ceremony ended at 12:45 p.m. The MC announced that we had organized guided tours in the monastery for the guests of the event. Snack and beverage were served at the main floor. The room was filled up quickly and the guests enjoyed our warm hospitality as well as the opportunity to learn about our practice for those who have never visited us.

The rain that day did not dampen the enthusiasm of the attendees. I explained to the guests the meaning of purification of boundary is to sincerely request the Buddhas and Buddhistattvas, the Dragon Heavenly Gods and Family to bless and guard the place. I also explained since the dragons live in the water, they bring a lot of moisture to the place where they go. Today's rain proved the Dragon God and their family must have been here. They all laughed.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Publication, I shared my experience in participating in the building of our monastery. I recognized that building a temple is like practicing Pure Land Dharma Door, you must commit to the three prerequisites, i.e. (1) Faith; (2) Vows; and (3) Practice; by doing that you can empower yourself and achieve beyond your expectation.

In the beginning, I thought buying a piece of valuable riverfront land is beyond our means, needless to say to build a 50,000 sq ft monastery on it. But now, the monastery of our dream is gradually completed. There is even an intriguing park at the front, the Bow River by its side and adequate vacant land at the back to build a Buddhist school and seniors home as proposed in our original plan, if we could succeed in swapping our parking lot across the lane in the south with the City of Calgary's land in the west side. All that is unbelievable to me.

(Note: A veggie restaurant as proposed may be opened this year in the monastery.) ❀