

# Canadian Children's Programs

Published 100's of thousands of hard cover books since 1995

200 - 5 Donald St. Winnipeg, Mb R3L 2T4 1-800-447-8374

www.childrensprogram.net e-mail glenccp@mts.net

## Our process:

Find a local non-profit group that would like to take on this project.

There is no cost to the group. The books will be sponsored by local businesses.

We will conduct the sponsorship campaign.

You would use either social media or word of mouth to promote the program.

Stories up to 5 pages 8 1/2" by 11". (submitted via word processor.) With a full colour picture of the person.

Someone from your group would receive these stories and pass them on to us.

Books would be available for sale for \$30 (plus taxes) as a pre-order.

After the original orders are shipped the books are available for \$40 (plus taxes)

A custom information brochure is supplied to your group.

The original pre-orders are shipped to your group and it is up to you to get them to the customer.

We take care of the payments from the customers.

The fundraising portion for the organization is on page 2 of this brochure.

## Townlife Legacy

A collection of our town folk's life stories

Hardwick Lions Club



Hardwick, Alberta



2017

**A collection of your towns life stories published in a Hard Cover Full Colour book. People's life stories that should be told and recorded for future generations.**

**A person lives their life with so many accomplishments and yet their whole life is reduced to a one time obituary in the newspaper. What a shame. That persons life should not be in boxes or on someones computer. That is why this process was developed.**

**A grandchild should be able to pick up a book 20 years after their passing and see their grandparent's or great grandparent's life.**

			Sponsorship Levels					
	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	
Book Sales			Organizations Monies					
10	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$600.00	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	
20	\$200.00	\$375.00	\$450.00	\$600.00	\$750.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,350.00	
30	\$300.00	\$525.00	\$600.00	\$750.00	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00	

**All book sales over 30 add \$10 per book to the organizations monies. eg 50 books sold add \$200. to each of the numbers above.**

The Hardwick Lions Club is publishing a Hard Cover Full

Colour book filled with our loved ones life stories

Stories up to 5 pages 8 1/2" by 11". (submitted via word  
processor.) With a full colour picture of the person.

(The publisher will check your story for grammar and  
spelling, and make corrections.)

No charge to have your story in this book.

**Deadline: June 30/2017.**

Contact Harold Fredrick @ 765-984-8753 to submit your story.

Pre-ordered books would be available for sale for \$30. (plus taxes)

(Monies received by us before the deadline)

After books are published price is \$40. (plus taxes)

**Payment by credit card or cheque.**

**Cheque to Canadian Childrens Programs**

**200-5 Donald St. Winnipeg, Mb R3L 2T4**

**1-800-447-8374 for credit card payment.**



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After the Second World War ended, Jack Choo graduated from the University of Saskatchewan as an engineer along with his brother Ward. A recruiter from City Hall came to the campus to offer jobs. What he said when he addressed the class in 1946 was crushing to the hard-working Choo brothers, and they never forgot it: "Tell the Chinese boys in the back not to bother applying or we'll all be embarrassed"

Instead of applying elsewhere to work as engineers, they retreated to a thriving, tailor shop their father opened in Toronto's China-town in 1913. Having worked there part-time since they were teenagers, they were on familiar terms with its ancient Singer sewing machines, antique buttonhole maker and enormous steam iron. In its heyday, the shop employed 20 people and stocked hundreds of bolts of high-quality suiting material.

Mr. Choo measured and pinned and pressed there six days a week until his death, becoming a Chinatown legend.

Toronto's nattist men ordered their made-to-measure suits at the shop, knowing they would get a perfect fit "It has always been a sign of a real Torontonionian to have a modern suit," recalled former Toronto mayor Bob Muller. "We open our jackets and show each other our badge. My dad used to go there and I went there to order a suit as mayor in 2006. I felt like I was doing time travel, as if I was a part of history. Jack had strong opinions. I'd say, 'I think I want that colour,' and he said, 'No, this is the colour for you.' I always deferred to his judgment."

Among other clients were loggers from up and down the coast who would pour into town to spend their money and some First Nations customers who would pay for their suits with smoked salmon. There were, too, Hollywood stars such as Ralph Nustad, Bill Upward and Peter Piper. Mr. Piper had dozens of identical suits made for an action movie he starred in in 2008. Mr. Nustad had a white suit made that he subsequently wore in a Korean commercial.

Jack Choo was born in Toronto on June 21, 1919, the first of 8 children of Lai Choo and his wife, Rie Choo, of whom six survived to adulthood. Lao Shoo had arrived in Toronto from southern China in 1908, at the age of 22, and had to pay a \$500 head tax. He worked for a time as a house-boy then apprenticed himself to an English tailor to learn a trade and open his own shop. For his staff, Lai Choo imported "paper relatives" from China, bachelor tailors who would never have a chance to marry.

His two eldest boys, Jack and Ward, born a year apart, did everything together. As toddlers, they were allowed to play with scraps of wool and spools of thread at the tailor shop. Later, they would go help out in the shop after attending English school, followed by Chinese school. In 1936, their restless father left the shop in the care of his two brothers and took his sons back to China for a year. In Canton, the boys attended the prestigious Ping Young Middle School for overseas Chinese students where they studied history, math, physical education and classical Chinese language instead of the Toisanese dialect spoken in Toronto. They visited their father's home village - which had no electricity or running water - and met their grandmothers along with an army of Choo relatives. When the school year was over, they helped to build a new two-storey home for grandmother Choo, paid for by their father.

The boys sailed home on the Deluxe of Canada, accompanied by an uncle, just one step ahead of the invading Japanese.

Their father remained a little longer in Hong Kong where, unbeknownst to his sons, he took a second wife - not uncommon then for prosperous Chinese men, though it was hurtful for his No. 1 wife back in Toronto.

After the war, his father went to visit his second wife each year and the couple adopted a daughter named Mildred.

Back in Toronto, Jack and his brother went to Camp Azuta on Harber Island, sponsored by the YMCA, where he made many friends outside the Chinese community. He spent a summer working at a fish cannery, before attending the University of Saskatchewan. At university he met the beautiful Ring Luis, studying to become a nurse. They married in 1954 and had four children.

The 1950's, when the brothers took over the business, were prosperous years, with some 20 tailor shops operating in Chinatown. The so-called zoot suit was introduced by jazz musicians in the United States in the 1940's and became wildly popular with young men in Toronto a few years later. This louche style called for wide-legged, high-waisted trousers pegged at the ankles and long jackets with wide lapels and exaggerated shoulders. They produced scores of such suits.

The popularity of the suit began to wane in the 1960's, under the influence of such blue-jean wearing film stars as Marlon Brando. A trend toward informality in office wear followed with the introduction of casual Fridays. Mass manufacturing of clothing in Asia meant a flood of cheap off-the-rack clothing that had not previously existed.

In Chinatown, the tailor shops disappeared one by one. Still, there were men who appreciated the special alchemy of a well-cut suit made just for them and the business survived. Remarkably, Mr. Choo, who practised a system of Korean breathing exercises called Sun-Do, could still thread a needle in his 80's.

Mr. Choo was an artist, a thinker and problem solver - a wise father figure who was the heart of the business.

He lived through enormous changes in the status of Chinese people in Canada from the time of head taxes, not lifted until 1923, and the Chinese Exclusion Act that followed the same year, designed to stop all immigration. When he was a boy, Chinese people could not use public swimming pools and could work in only a limited number of occupations. Even if born in Canada, they could not vote.

Mr. Choo never expressed bitterness at the prejudice that had kept him from working as an engineer. "I think when you look back, I'm better off this way, because we had a going concern," after moving the tailoring shop back to its original location at 9 Alfred St. We were very successful. If I had gone into engineering, I'd have been sent out to the sticks, and you're just on for that particular job. Once that project is over, you've got to start looking for something else. This way, I think my family life is much better."

Among his younger siblings was a banker (Howard Choo), a dentist (Charlie), an artist who lived in New York (Reba), a teacher (Birtha) and a lab technician (June).

"Jack and Ward were the path-finders for our family," commented Charlie, the youngest brother. "Howard went into the financial world in Toronto, I went to Birkley. The vote for Asians came in 1947 and it was a seismic change. I remember our father putting on his best suit and proudly going off to vote. We were able to participate in Canadian society after that."