



林風雲

James Lin

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“風雲”一路，“輕鬆”人生 ——林風雲

在多倫多華人社區，林風雲（James Lin）這個名字幾乎無人不曉。上世紀八十年代起，他就深耕於華文傳媒領域，華人社區但凡有影響、有意義的大小事件背後都有他的身影。因此當胡子修參議員向非華裔人士介紹林風雲時總會說：“華人社區的一半人James都認識，另一半都認識他。”

華媒採訪記者第一人

生於1951年的林風雲，從台灣中國文化大學新聞系畢業後，在台灣當了三年記者。那期間他採訪過李登輝、蔣經國等人。在後者出席的一次活動上，林風雲為拍照站到前排，被過度反應的侍衛將相機打落，這一幕被蔣看見，立即過來道歉。時隔40多年，林風雲仍清楚記得這件小事。

很多人以為林風雲是來加拿大後，到喬治布朗學院修讀了印刷攝影，然後才開始兼做新聞攝影的。但林風雲透露，其實他在拍攝照片和錄影方面是有家學淵源的。林父原是台灣藝術大學戲劇系主任，知名導演李安曾是他的門生，紅遍兩岸三地的明星歸亞蕾、侯孝賢等也出自林父門下。在父親熏陶下，林風雲自小就會擺弄各種相機和攝影機，為他成為既能寫文章又擅長拍攝的“文武雙全”記者奠定了基礎。

來加拿大後，林風雲進入《世界日報》擔任採訪主任、公關總監等職。那時本地華媒以翻譯主流媒體新聞為主，沒

有真正的一手報道。林風雲成為去新聞現場採訪和報道的華媒第一人。早些年沒有網絡和線上發布會，所有報道都必須親臨現場，“抓起外套和相機說走就走”就是他的生活常態。他還常去警局“蹲守”，一旦在警局發布的信息中發現有涉及華人社區的案件，就立即前去挖掘。

華社“活字典”

林風雲說：“社會新聞是最好採訪的，無非就是時間、地點、事件幾個要素，沒什麼訣竅，就是勤快二字，要多跑現場，多結交人，這樣線索就多了。”但說來簡單，做起來卻很不易。為了跑新聞，林風雲沒有白天黑夜的區別，還曾出入危險場所，甚至被黑幫毆打。他在“跑新聞”過程中結交了三教九流的朋友，這些人都成為他日後報道中的線索和素材。

三十多年前華社曾發生一起轟動全國的凶殺案。死者失蹤前一周曾參加社區音樂晚會，林風雲剛好拍攝她在活動上的照片，後來他將這些照片分享給主流媒體。隨着案情調查發展，身為失蹤者妹妹男友的嫌犯漸漸浮出水面。那時林風雲剛好回台灣去了，敏銳的他預感到案件會有重大進展，於是整理他所了解的素材，讓多倫多的同事注意跟進警方發布的信息，共同合作發出詳盡及時的報道。林風雲在此案系列報道中的表現令他聲譽鵲起，主流媒體同行也對他刮目相看。

勤奮和敬業給林風雲帶來的收穫不僅是做出大量高質量

報道，還讓他成為華人社區的“活字典”。幾十年來，從唐人街的變遷到華人社區各團體的興起他都一一見證，他熟悉社區所有重大事件的來龍去脈，也熟識所有華社名人。到後來他去報道華社活動時，無須活動主辦方介紹就能判斷當天出席人員中的“重量級人物”，活動尚未結束就能發出圖文並茂的報道。

熱心公益 奉獻社區

談到從業40多年印象最深的採訪對象，林風雲說“陸媽媽”是他最難忘也是對他影響最大的人之一。“陸媽媽”本名陸郎毅，在華人社區有“義工王”之稱。同是來自台灣的移民，林風雲很早就認識她。陸媽媽為社區慈善事業辦活動籌款，常常“勞煩”報社，林風雲抱怨她“好煩”的同時，卻又深深為她的奉獻精神所折服。他猶記得，2013年，在“陸媽媽”生命的最後一個月，她在醫院和癌症搏鬥的同時仍在為頤康中心籌款盡力。

“陸媽媽”也是紅楓傳奇第一屆獲獎人之一。十幾年前有朋友想提名林風雲時，他總是婉拒，他覺得和“陸媽媽”等人相比，自己做的還不夠。但其實多年來，林風雲一直在為社區做貢獻。他發揮自己的專長，義務傳播和推廣對社區有意義的公益活動信息，宣揚和激勵華人的自強與奮鬥精神，鼓勵和促進華人社區與主流社會的互動融合，提升華人社區的影響力。他也多次慷慨解囊，向頤康基金會、孟嘗會、耆輝會等慈善機構捐款，並參與舉辦台灣嘉年華等社區公益活動。

他為社區公益事業做出的貢獻有目共睹，因此榮獲英女王千禧白金徽章、第七屆凱瑟琳·韋恩加拿大年度服務貢獻獎、加拿大Covid-19抗疫社區傑出貢獻獎等榮譽。今年再次有人提名他為紅楓傳奇候選人時，他終於欣然接受。

他說，在華社各類組織頒發的所有獎項中，紅楓傳奇獎是他最看重的獎項之一，因為這個獎的選拔最嚴謹，也最有意義。這次能夠獲獎他覺得特別欣慰和自豪，一方面說明他為社區的貢獻得到認可，另一方面他也知道很多人有興趣了解他近50年的媒體經歷和心得，所以想藉此機會分享出來。

帶動華媒向上提升

多年來，林風雲除了自己報道新聞，還傳授幫助帶領出200多名媒體從業人員。近年隨着新媒體的興起，很多沒有受過任何專業訓練的人也加入這個行業，從業人員良莠不齊，專業素質堪憂的同時也缺乏基本的職業道德。林風雲對此深有感觸，努力通過各種方式帶動華媒整體素質提升和營造同行間良性競爭的氛圍。

2022年，加拿大多元文化媒體聯盟向林風雲頒發優秀記者獎。發表獲獎感言時，林風雲卻說要代表廣大記者“借這個機會好好檢討一下”。他談了平衡報道的原則和對信息進行仔細查證的必要性，還對直接抄通稿等本地華媒的通病做了反思。

在一些活動報道現場，有時個別人為了自己拍攝方便，長時間霸佔中央位置，把其他記者和觀眾視線都擋住，或者有個別人以老資歷自居欺負年輕記者，林風雲都會挺身而出主持正義。他說：“記者當久了，就會喜歡打抱不平。”他不怕得罪人，因為他相信星雲法師所說的，維護正義也是做善事，而善行一定會帶來好的回報。

樂觀豁達，“輕鬆”人生

2016年，在傳統媒體被新媒體衝擊而日漸式微的大背景下，林風雲服務了30多年的世界日報（「世界」）停刊。但他沒有自憐自艾，反而以雙關語自嘲道：“我雖然離開了「世界」，但我還在這個世界，我過得很好，希望大家多多做善事。”

隨後，林風雲加入輕鬆傳媒擔任副總裁和“輕鬆加拿大”網站總編。他發揮自己“活字典”的專長，憑藉高效準確的報道讓“輕鬆加拿大”網站迅速崛起，以一騎絕塵的優勢遙遙領先於同類其他媒體。2022年，該網站登頂全球華媒“網站互動力榜”的榜首。

四年前，林風雲因心血管堵塞接受手術。此後他笑稱自己是真正“開過心的人，所以每天都過得很開心。”他還說：“一個人對社會最大的貢獻就是做一個快樂的人，並且去幫助別人，這樣就會讓周遭的人都快樂。周遭的人都快樂了，世界就會更美好。”



1982年移民多倫多攝於唐人街
In Toronto Chinatown upon arrival in 1982



1980年獲台灣苗栗縣長謝金汀
頒傑出記者獎
Receiving Outstanding Journalist Award in
Taiwan in 1980



1983年在多倫多中區華埠採訪新聞
Covering Toronto Chinatown news in 1983



在喬治布朗學院印劇攝影科操作
平面印刷機
Studying printing at
George Brown College



帶領世界日報同仁參加公益金百萬行
Leading World Journal's staff to take part in
United Way walkathon



台灣著名漫畫家牛哥1991年
來多倫多時畫的這張漫畫
A caricature of James Lin
by a Taiwan artist



80年代多倫多華媒記者群 (左1)
With a group of Chinese reporters in
Toronto in the 1980s



1996公益金百萬行活動主席潘啟鴻頒感謝牌
Receiving a Thank-You plaque from
the United Way in 1996



獲CPAC頒發獎牌
Receiving an Appreciation plaque from
CPAC



獲安省前省長韋恩頒加拿大年度
服務貢獻獎
Receiving a plaque from former Ontario
Premier Kathleen Wynne



獲國會議員陳聖源頒發
Covid-19傑出貢獻獎
Receiving the Covid-19 Humanitarian
award from MP Shaun Chen



獲國會議員葉嘉麗頒發加拿大英女王
登基70周年千禧白金徽章
Receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum
Jubilee medal from MP Jean Yip



2016年接受OMNI訪問
Being interviewed by OMNI 2 TV in 2016



加拿大多元文化媒体聯盟頒發
「優秀記者獎」
Receiving Multicultural Media award in
2022

**Optimism, Open-mind
"EASY" Wins All
– James Lin**

James Lin is a household name in Toronto's Chinese community. Since the 1980s he has been well established in Chinese media - leaving his mark in every meaningful or influential event, no matter how major or minor. Senator Victor Oh likes to introduce James outside the Chinese community by saying " James knows half the Chinese community, and the other half knows James."

First Chinese Journalist

Born in 1951, James worked for 3 years as a reporter in Taiwan after graduating from the Journalism program at the Taiwan Chinese Culture University. During that time, he interviewed notable figures including Lee Teng-Hui and Chiang Ching-Kuo. At an event attended by Chiang Ching-Kuo, James positioned himself in the front of the crowd to take photographs and Chiang's security staff slapped his camera out of his hands. This was witnessed by Chiang who made a point of apologizing right away to James. Even some 40 years later, James still remembers this vividly.

Many people assume that James only became a photojournalist after he graduated from the print photography program at George Brown College in Toronto. In fact, photography and videography have

been practiced for a long time in his family. James' father was head of the Drama program at the National Taiwan University of Arts. Renowned film director, Ang Lee, was a student of his. As were internationally acclaimed actress Gwa Ah-Leh and film director, screenwriter, actor Hou Hsiao-Hsien. Under his father's influence, James learned to use many types of cameras from a young age, laying the foundation for his artistry in writing and photography.

When he first arrived in Canada, James joined World Journal where he worked as head of reporting, public relations director, and in other positions. At the time, the Chinese press typically translated mainstream news stories instead of doing first hand reporting. James was the first journalist in Chinese media to report from location. Because there was no internet or online reporting, reporting was all done on location. "Grabbing a jacket and the camera and go" was his day-to-day routine. Often he would wait at police stations, at the ready to cover news related to the Chinese community.

Chinese Community "Living Dictionary"

James said "Community news is the most enjoyable to cover - all you need is when, where, what. There's no secret to it, just diligence and speed. Going to the scenes, developing your network so you get the tips." Easier said than done. For James, there was no day or night, no location he wouldn't cover, even getting beat up by gangsters one time . Covering the news, James met people from all walks of life, these are the people who would provide him with leads

and story content.

There was a murder case about thirty years ago that shocked the whole country. The victim had attended a community event a week before her disappearance. James happened to cover the event and had taken some of her photos, which he would share with mainstream media. Later, when the police began to home in on the victim's sister's boyfriend as the chief suspect, James was away in Taiwan. But he could sense a big development brewing. So he gathered all his information and materials to share with his colleagues in Toronto, and alerted them to follow the police investigation. This case raised James' profile in the mainstream media community significantly.

Diligence and dedication not only netted James a treasure trove of quality news stories, they have made him a "living dictionary". James has witnessed the many changes in Chinatown, and the development of many community organizations. He knows the ins and outs of community events, and he is familiar with Chinese community notable figures. In later years, when James attended an event, he could spot the "heavy weights" at the event before organizers even made introductions. He was able to file his story with photos even before the event had concluded.

Passion for the Bigger Good, Giving Back to the Community

James recalls that the most unforgettable figure, also the most

influential for him, that he has interviewed is “Mama Lu”. Ms. Helen Lu was known as the Volunteer of volunteers. She was also an immigrant from Taiwan, James had met her early on. Whenever she had a fundraising event to promote, she would “harass” the media. Though James complained that she was “bothersome” he was deeply impressed by her spirit of giving back. He still recalls how “Mama Lu” continued to work on fundraising for Yee Hong Centre in 2013 in her last days in the hospital with terminal cancer.

“Mama Lu” was a Chinese Canadian Legends Award (CCLA) recipient in 2000, the first year that the Chinese Canadian Legend Award was established. Some years back when friends wanted to nominate James, he would decline because he felt he could not compare to “Mama Lu”. He felt he needed to do more. Truth is, James has been contributing to the community. He leverages his skills and connections to help promote many charity events, to profile and support Chinese Canadians, to foster integration of the Chinese community into mainstream society, and to enhance the influence of the Chinese community. He has also generously donated to organizations like Yee Hong Foundation, Mon Sheong Foundation and Carefirst Seniors & Community Services Association.

James has been recognized for his contributions with various awards including the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee medal, the 7th annual Kathleen Wynne Community Service Award and a Community Service Award during Covid. When he was nominated again for the

CCLA this year, James finally accepted.

He said that of all the awards given out in the Chinese community, the CCLA is the one he most cherishes because the rigorous selection process makes it that much more meaningful. He is most pleased and proud to receive this award, partly as recognition for his community services over the years, and partly as an opportunity to share his experiences and insights over the past almost fifty years.

Elevating the Chinese Media

Over the years, James has mentored, trained and managed over 200 media professionals. In recent years, as the industry changes, many join the profession without formal training, resulting in a worrisome inconsistency in qualifications and work ethics. James is deeply concerned and works hard in improving the caliber of the profession while fostering a healthy competitive culture.

In 2022, the Canadian Multicultural Media Confederation gave James the Excellent Journalist Award. In his acceptance speech, James stated that he wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on the profession. He spoke about balanced reporting and the importance of critically evaluating sources. As well, he reflected on the problem of plagiarism among some of his Chinese media colleagues.

When covering events, some individuals would hog a prime spot for their own convenience in taking photos, but block the view for other

reporters or even the audience. Or older reporters would flex their seniority at the expense of younger reporters. When James sees these he would speak out for justice. He thinks it's an occupational hazard - fighting against injustice. He's not afraid of offending others. He agrees with Master Hsing Yun who says fighting for justice is a good deed, and good deeds will bring good rewards.

Optimism, Open-mind-"EASY" Wins All

In 2016, as traditional journalism was replaced by new media including social media, World Journal ("World") where James had worked for over 30 years ended publication. James jokingly said "I may have left the "World" but I'm still in this world. I'm doing well, hope we will all do more good deeds."

James then joined Easy Marketing as its vice president and easyca.ca as its editor-in-chief. Under James' leadership, easyca.ca has excelled and topped the list of global interactive websites in 2022.

Four years ago, James had surgery to clear a blockage in his heart. Now he jokes that he is a truly open-hearted person, living each day with a happy, open heart. James adds "each person's main job is to be happy, and to help others so they are happy. When everyone around us is happy, the world is a better place."