



# The Martial Artist

Issue 3 September 2007

## A lookback at Summer Events

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The summer of 2007 brought with it a few opportunities for the member clubs of the Martial Arts Council to demonstrate their various disciplines in front of an appreciative public as well as for each other's enjoyment. The first of these events was the Canada Day Celebrations at the Marina on July 1st. And once again our own Peng You showed what a great organizer he is, bringing 140 students together...one for each of Canada's years as a nation...to demonstrate the Taiji Fan form. Peng continues to be a real driving force in Thunder Bay's martial arts community, as well as being a true ambassador for the city in general. And he continued his efforts at the Dragon Boat Festival a few weeks later. His infectious personality had many audience members on their feet joining in and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The MAC barbecue has by now become a staple of summer activities. While not all clubs participated, the turnout was good and the event was definitely a success. For those of you who couldn't make it this year, you should really try the next time round. Next year we will try to get press coverage which will be a good way to make your club known to the general public. Plus it's just a good opportunity to get together with fellow martial artists for a few laughs and friendship.

## Message From the President

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This Newsletter will be read in time for all of the practicing Martial Artists in Thunder Bay who are preparing to resume their training or those who continued through out the summer can keep going without the heat of summer stretching their limits. It is my wish that all the exponents of the martial arts here have had a safe and fun filled summer and have re-energized for the resumption of their training this fall.

I would like to recognize the benchmark achievement of the Sensei at the Thunder Bat School of Karate. Mr. Peter Hladyniuk 7th Dan on contributing 40 years to the teaching and mentoring in Traditional Karate in our City. His contribution to the Martial Arts Community is remarkable and is testament to the contribution a Martial Artist can make for a lifetime. Well done Sensei!! May you have many more years of activity in Traditional Karate ahead. I look forward to the gathering on Sept. 28/07 which is being organized to celebrate this achievement. I hope this will prove a good opportunity for the martial artists in the "Martial Arts Capitol of Canada" to gather to celebrate and motivate us all to pursue the martial arts for a lifetime.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage ALL the member groups to take advantage of the opportunities to showcase their art which will be provided by the council because it may give exposure to potential new students but on a larger level to show why Thunder bay is "the Martial Arts Capitol of Canada" by the mutual welfare and benefit that the Thunder Bay Martial Arts Council strives for. Make sure your group takes full advantage of the services this council provides and visit [www.thunderbaymartialarts.com](http://www.thunderbaymartialarts.com) to keep up with our efforts.

Kevin Kennedy

The Leading Edge Gym was also active with another seminar by "Hock" Hocheim who taught his brand of streetmart self defense. Although the turnout was small, those who attended agree that it was well worth the time and money. Next time he is in town, or when any other club offers a seminar, you should seriously consider attending as many of the concepts shared at these events can be applied to all martial arts disciplines. One of the laws on Nature is "Evolve or die", and these types of seminars do their part in the evolution of martial arts.

In conclusion, we wish all members a great and prosperous year full of new and uplifting experiences to you and all your students, new and old.

# MAC Summer Events



**Canada Day Celebrations** had yet another unique demonstration of Taiji Quan thanks to the efforts of our own Peng You who gathered his students to form a giant "140" in honour of Canada's 140th birthday. This also gave the public a chance to see the Taiji Fan Form as only these dedicated students could demonstrate in such a graceful manner. Congratulations Peng!



**The Martial Arts Council Picnic** was once again held at the 55 Plus Centre with quite a good turnout. This event gave all the member clubs the opportunity to mingle, catch up on any news and just to have some fun. As usual, there were demonstrations of individual disciplines, but this year there was more participation by the junior members who did a terrific job of demonstrating their expertise in Taiji, Judo and Taekwon Do. If these demonstrations were any indication, then the future of martial arts in Thunder Bay, then that future is a bright one.



The Thunder Bay Karate School began as the Fort William School of Karate in 1968/. We were affiliated with Tsuruoka Karate in Toronto from the start, and by the year 1976 the school had graduated 10 black belts. Classes were held at St. Luke's Church Gym at first and then moved to the Simpson Street location. In 1976, in the spirit of the amalgamation of Port Arthur & Fort William, the **Thunder Bay Karate School** was born. In 1983 we became incorporated as a non profit corporation, whose mission is the promotion of the traditional way of Japanese Karate.

In the mid seventies, the Thunder Bay Karate School was designated by the Ontario Karate Association (OKA) as its Northwestern Ontario training centre with a mandate to promote the training of Karate not only at a local level, but on a regional level as well. As the regional training centre, the school was constantly involved in instructor training to give our students first class instruction, so that they can train in any Dojo in the country with ease.

In the Winter of 2006 the school moved into its present location at 712 North Vickers Street, giving it a central location. This facility offers spacious change rooms for men and women, a lobby for visitors and spectators, and a large training area.

Our school strives to give our young people the discipline and confidence that will help them in there everyday lives. Our instructors try to lead by example and teach our students the important Japanese martial art philosophy referred to "Dojo Kun" which includes the following:

SEEK PERFECTION OF CHARACTER  
BE FAITHFUL  
ENDEAVOR  
RESPECT OTHERS  
REFRAIN FROM VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

In fact we have been told repeatedly that we are one of the best kept secrets in Thunder Bay. We are the oldest club in Thunder Bay with the largest number of black belts. These black belts have then donated their personal time to pass on what they have been taught to new students.

The Thunder Bay Karate School is also privileged to have Sensei Peter Hladyniuk as it senior instructor. Sensei Hladyniuk has been with the school since 1967 and this year we will be celebrating his 40th year with the school.

Sensei Hladyniuk currently holds the rank of Seventh Degree Black Belt (Nandan) and has dedicated a considerable amount of his karate career to instructing kid's classes. His unique teaching style and his ability to relate to the children provides them with a fun environment where the theory and practical aspects of Karate can be passed on.

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# Peter Hladyniuk to be Honoured



## Forty Years of Teaching

2007 marks a very special anniversary in the history of Thunder Bay martial arts, for it was forty years ago this year that Peter Hladyniuk began teaching the art of traditional karate at the Fort William Karate School. And he has done so without ever compromising his high standards of excellence for which he is known.

Achieving his Shodan in 1968, Sensei Hladyniuk never lost his drive to be the best he could be, which accounts for his many wins in provincial tournaments. A fierce fighter, he worked hard to instill that same spirit in all his students, many of whom went on to compete nationally. Sensei Hladyniuk earned his 7th Degree Black belt in 2006.

He is Past President and currently on the Executive Committee of the Thunder Bay Karate School where he is also Chief Instructor.

A special get-together will be held in Sensei's honour at the Victoria Inn on September 28th starting at 6:00pm.

This will be a fitting tribute to a very special martial artist and human being whose influence continues to be felt in Thunder Bay's karate circles.

Congratulations Sensei!

**The Martial Artist** is the official newsletter of the Thunder Bay Martial Arts Council. Its purpose is to integrate and share news of the activities of all member clubs. The newsletter will be published four times per year and made available by hard copy and by electronic means.

The content of the publication is overseen by the executive of the Council. They are:

President: Kevin Kennedy: [docfin@shaw.ca](mailto:docfin@shaw.ca)

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**Submissions:** All Council members are encouraged to submit reports and announcements of their club activities, both recent and upcoming.

We will be profiling one member club in each issue; submission of your club profile should be made as soon as possible to ensure inclusion in upcoming issues. The writeup should be 400 words in length and any photograph should be high resolution sized to approximately 3x5 inches.

Upcoming seminar and tournament information should be short with contact information, where applicable. All submissions may be sent to [martialartscouncil@shaw.ca](mailto:martialartscouncil@shaw.ca). If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, please forward your request to the same email contact address above.