

# *2014 Spring Lunch & Talk*

*By Tam Ka-Chuen (70FA) and George Wong (65FA)*

*Date: April 12, 2014 (Saturday)*

*Location: Dragon Legend Restaurant 龍珠匯*

What a wonderful gathering! More than thirty QES old students had a joyful get-together with family and friends. The panel discussion on Housing Market and Condo Living was enthusiastically received. Daniel Chow started out with his talk on downsizing, which he jokingly distinguished from downgrading. His view was that it could be an opportunity for generating fruitful investment income.

Theresa and Jason Leung enlightened us with the many different lifestyle choices for retirement living, and gave us some helpful tips on fees, which may sometimes be unexpected, as well as tax breaks, which are perfectly legal. James S.K. Tang gave us some pointers to look for in a property management company. He highlighted the prevalence of kickbacks and conflicts of interests in the procurement of condo services, and stressed the importance of active participation in condo management as a means to minimize this shortcoming. A lively Q&A session followed, covering a range of topics such as the reasonability of condo fees, the need to look at the condo books to identify shortfalls and impending capital expenditures, pros and cons of an auction-type of property sale, etc.

Before everyone headed out to the buffet stands, James S.K. Tang talked briefly about the Mr. Cheung Poon Scholarship. He shared with us Mr. Cheung's many acts of kindness, and a story of how he quietly contributed HKD\$500 to a student family who was a victim of the Shek Kip Mei squatter fire. The Mr. Cheung Poon Scholarship is the first scholarship at QES commemorating a teacher - before this it has always been either a principal or an assistant principal. James pledged to match all our donations to the scholarship, dollar for dollar.

Good company. Good experience and Good food. I couldn't ask for more!