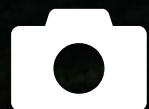


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Make International Taiji Park in Thunder Bay your next travel destination

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Yin/Yang Pad from the distance

Peng You Association

Recently, the International [Taiji Park](#) in [Thunder Bay](#), Canada had its grand opening. Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs, Canadian Member of Parliament Bruce Hyer, members of [Peng You Taiji Quan Association](#), and a delegation from Jiaozuo City (the modern [Tai Chi](#) birthday place in Henan, China) and a few hundred other guests attended the celebrating the opening of this beautiful Tai Chi Park.



Peng You Association

It took a couple years of planning and construction to complete the first phase of the International Taiji Park. This park is located on the shore of Lake Superior, which is one of the most scenic spots in the City of Thunder Bay. **Master Peng You Lian**, a disciple of Grandmaster Chen Zhenglei and president of Peng You Association, states that the first phase of the construction include a Chinese moon gate and a large Tai Chi Yin/Yang Pad. The moon gate is built with the stones from the Thunder Bay area. It is named as Tai Chi gate and will be engraved with Chinese characters wrttien by Grandmaster Chen Zhenglei. The Yin/Yand is made in marble at a diameter of 20 meters (or 65 feet). More than 100 people can practice Tai Chi on it simultaneously. The International Taiji Park will be the Feature of the 2012 Thunder Bay Tourism Magazine.

Prime Minister Mr. Stephen Harper offered his congratulations and also praised Master Peng for his vision in a letter. **Prime Minister Harper also said that he firmly believes that Tai Chi can improve people's health and overall wellbeing.** Actually, Thunder Bay is a very unique city. Even though its population is only about 122,907, its participation in Tai Chi is very active. Below are just a few examples:

- In September 1998 and November 1999, a delegation of over 80 people, many of them members of the Peng You Taiji Association traveled to China - the oldest member was 82 years old.
- In 2003, they had a 1200 person Tai Chi performance on Canada Day and there were Parliament members, mayor and councilors in the group.

- In July 2006, Peng You Association hosted [International Forum on Taiji Quan](#).
- In 2008, a delegation went to Beijing to perform Tai Chi fan in front of then the newly built Beijing National Bird Nest Olympic Games stadium.
- Every year they hold demonstrations and workshops for a variety of community organizations such as the Arthritis Society, The Alzheimers Society and the Lakehead Association for Community Living.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Master Peng led Tai Chi practice on the Yin/Yang pad. The delegation from Jiaozuo City also signed a letter of intent with to become sister cities. Master Chen Bin and Ren Tianlin are part of the delegate.

Master Peng recalls that seven of the foremost Tai Chi Grandmasters and lineage holders from China attended the [International Forum on Taiji Quan in 2006](#). It was the first time all of them gathered together outside of China. They joined the association members for the regular Wednesday morning Tai Chi practice in Marina Park. They praised the beauty of the location and considered it to be one of the best places in the world to practice Tai Chi due to its natural environment which is calm and filled with the fresh air. Inspired by their words, Master Peng determined to have a Tai Chi park built within Marina Park. He and the Peng You Association started a donation campaign. As of now, they have won financial support from about 150 businesses, organizations and individuals, including a generous donation from Grandmaster Chen Zhenglei. It is quite amazing that other [martial arts](#) groups, i.e. Judo, Karate, Tae Kwon Do, also donated to this cause. The City of Thunder Bay has provided a matching fund to build the International Park. To complete the phase two work, the association still needs an additional \$30,000.

Thunder Bay is a beautiful city and an important center of transportation. It had strong manufacturing and forestry bases but in recent years medical research and education have replaced them and have emerged as major economic engines. Due to the proximity to the Great Lakes, Thunder Bay has a relatively mild and pleasant climate all year long. In addition to large bays and a marina, Thunder Bay has rivers and rolling hills. Among three dozen tourist attractions, Fort William Historical Park is the most famous one. Now, with the International Taiji Park, Thunder Bay will not only attract more visitors from Canada but also from abroad as well.

EXTRA: You can see the TV news report here: <http://www.tbnewswatch.com/video/22814/Tai-Chi-Park-->

www.pengyou-taiji.ca .

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SUGGESTED LINKS

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Violet Li

Tai Chi Examiner