HKVCA 70th Anniversary VJ Day

National Convention

Ottawa, Ontario

AGM Meeting

August 14, 2015

Atlantic Region Report

Good morning Veterans, Board of Directors, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Mary Emma Flanagan, and I am the proud daughter of RRC James Andrew Flanagan #E30353.

First, I wish to say thank you to our Veterans for honouring us with your presence. It is so wonderful to have you with us, and may you enjoy every moment of this convention.

Thank you to Mitzi Ross and your team of volunteers’ for so graciously accepting to take charge of this convention. Without volunteers such as yourselves, this event would not have been possible. It appears many other members from out of city / province are volunteering as well, for one thing or another…so I offered to help at the Hospitality Room, but was told to get in line, as there was a waiting list…seems everyone wants to work at the bar! ☺

Here is a quick update on what is happening in Atlantic Canada:

To mark the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day, there will be a ceremony held at the Fredericton, New Brunswick Regional Museum on August 15th.

In early June of this year my brother Andy emailed the museum asking if he might be able to set up a small display to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day. He offered to supply some memorabilia from our Dad’s war diaries. Within three days of his email, Andy was approached by the museum executive telling him they would like to hold a ceremony to commemorate this milestone for all Atlantic Canadian Soldiers who went to Hong Kong in 1941. . Enclosed is the program for this event and a presentation speech to be delivered by Andy Flanagan on Aug.15th. It appears there may also be interest from CTV Atlantic Canada News, airing a segment on Friday, Aug. 14th.

Mayor Ron Bourque from the Village of Belledune, NB has offered our HKVCA - a memorial stone to be placed in the new ‘Community Memorial Park’, to be unveiled later this year. Upon presenting the choice of text (for this stone), to our BOD on August 13th, it was decided changes should be made and sent to the Mayor no later than August 17, 2015.

I want to note my passion for educating our youth of this Unknown Chapter in WWII. I would like to work more closely with our Education Rep. Gail Angel, to see that some headway is taking place in Atlantic Canada. I’ll even bring my Newfoundland dog Gracie, along to the schools as our mascot and four legged teacher.

Membership is low in Atlantic Canada, and I hope to work more closely with our Membership Representative - Bernard LeBlanc, to work out the kinks and get us up to snuff.

Our next regional meeting will take place in September, where a new executive will be elected. I’ll keep you updated.

Yours truely,

Emmie Flanagan

HKVCA Regional Director

Atlantic Canada