# HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH PO BOX 381 WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6 January, February, March 2002

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## Happy New Year, 2002!

### **President's Report**

- George Peterson, Manitoba President

Well it's about that time of year again. The time to look back & count our Blessings; to remember our comrades who are no longer with us; to give thanks for those who are and this year we can finally say that our Association achieved our objective.

The main reason for the formation of the Hong Kong Veterans' of Canada was to obtain:

what we believed to be our lawful rights;

to fight for 100% pension for all Canadian ex members of "C" Force who fought in Hong Kong;

for the trauma issues to be recognized by the Government of Canada; to be noticed by Canadians in general, for the contribution that "C" Force gave to our Country.

As of August 15, 2001 this has been accomplished. After almost 60 years we can write "finished" to our cause.

We have turned most of our duties and commitments over to our Commemorative Association and in their very capable hands I feel very sure that the Hong Kong Veterans' of Canada will not be forgotten.

I had the pleasure this year to be the guest speaker at the Manitoba & North-Western Command of the executive officers of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Also I stood in for our Vice-President Bill Maltman and spoke to the membership of Red River Masonic Lodge. For this the Masons kindly made a donation to our Association in Memory of Borge Agerbak, one of their Charter Members.

The placing of the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service, held at the Convention Centre this year, was very ably performed by Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director of Manitoba HKVCA, accompanied by Harry Atkinson, National President of HKVA. Our Colour Party was in attendance both, on stage and in the march past. A Great BIG Thanks to these people for once again being there for us. My part in the ceremonies was to once again, be on stage and recite "In Flanders Fields" during the passing of the Torch.

By the time you read this our semi-annual meeting will be over. I must express my disappointment at the lack of attendance of the members. However to all of you, I wish you Health, Happiness and Good Will in the Future.

## Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association

### - Juliet Lafortune

Happy New Year to all!

Congratulations to the new National Board of Directors of HKVCA:

National President -Carol Hadley, Manitoba Region.

1st

2nd Vice President - David Murray, Ontario Region Treasurer - Mitzi Ross- Ontario North Region

Secretary - Leisa Connelly - Ontario North Region Thank you to the past Board. We couldn't have got this far without your hard work.

2002 will be a very exciting year for us in

Manitoba. We will be working toward a permanent place for HK memorabilia and placing an Honour

Roll and John Osborn medals at City Hall. We

will also have our Reunion in October.

Oooops! Pat Bale, Pat Maltman and Linda Sloan never made my Thank you list for hard work done at the Convention. Also there were two ladies selling raffle tickets, whose names were not given me, but THANK YOU all. To error is human - to forgive devine.

And now for the Commercial:

\*\*\*\*We have sweatshirts (\$20.00), pins (\$5.00), crests (\$20.00) and grave markers (\$48.00) for sale. To order send request to **Box 381 Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6** \*\*\*\*\*

2002 memberships are due in January for both HK and HKVCA. As you will see when you receive your new membership card, we have a new decal and letterhead. Thank you to Barry Mitchell for all your hard work in getting this done. If you cannot find your last membership card or are not sure if you are a current member, please call Barry Mitchell.

If you have any questions, please call me at: home - 338-3354, cell - 294-9335.

#### January, February, March 2002

### Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund

- Donna Remillard

We are still seeking donations for the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund and cheques should be made out in that name (not HKVA). The Hong Kong Veterans' Association make a donation to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member.

Contributions can be directed to Donna Remillard at 303\_740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3 or phone her at 489-0008.

### Website Update

-Linda May

As I write this, there is approximately 1 week left before Christmas.. Where does the time go?

This year has seen some significant changes for the website. We now have a permanent home. The website can be found at http://www.hkvca.ca From

there, you can email the webmaster/designer any questions or suggestions.

Recent additions to the site include a nominal role for C force, a few new pictures (we need LOTS more of those - contact me if you have any you can

share) as well as a guest book, and a feature article from Ron McGuire.

We are currently looking for some one with some HTML skills to help on the website. If you have some skill and some time, email hkvca@hkvca.ca and let us know.

Our goals for 2002 include completion of a few 'under development' items, i.e.: a battle time line, and some more pictures. Also, we hope to be posting

regional newsletters on a more regular basis and will be 'pestering' the regions on a more regular basis for some input. If there is anything you would like to see on the site, feel free to contact me by phone or email..

Phone is 519-770-4099 and email is hkvca@hkvca.ca

Until next time .....

### **Royal Rifles**

For all you computer literates, check out this web site, <u>www.geocities.com/rcwpca.</u> This web site contains the memoires of Major M.A. Parker, from Quebec City, Quebec, who was the Officer Commanding "D" Company of The Royal Rifles of Canada. This site is in his honour and for the men of 'C' Force.

Ron Parker, son of Major Parker, with the help of his family, have produced the story, accompanied with pictures, as related in his father's diary. Congratulations to you and your family, Ron in receiving the **Canadian Web Awards 2001**, **2001**  **2002 Golden Web Award** and the **Military World Top Honors** award for the marvelous work on the web site. More information has been added to this site so bookmark the site and visit it often.

### Hong Kong War Diary

Often I will visit the web site of hongkongwardiary.com belonging to Tony Benham of Hong Kong. I and my family were fortunate to meet with Tony on the last Pilgrimage. We learned of his avid interest in the Battle of Hong Kong and he took the opportunity to interview several of the veterans that were on the Pilgrimage.

His book "Hong Kong War Diary" will be published this coming year and ready for distribution in the fall of 2002. I have made inquiries as to receiving notification when the book is ready and the cost to let everyone know.

Here is an excerpt from his web site:

"Hong Kong Today

Many people are surprised that so much of the conflict remain visible today, so I like to occasionally post recent 'finds' here. Figure 1 Japanese type 89 mortar fuse from Jardine's Lookout

> May 1<sup>st</sup> 2001: Five Japanese rifle cartridges on Jardine's Lookout. May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2001: A live Japanese Type 94 mortar bomb a meter under the surface in Causeway Bay.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001: One live Japanese rifle round, and one spent cartridge.

Aug 24th 2001: Two live 6.5mm rounds, one fuse (illustrated) and one spent 6.5 cartridge. Oct 2nd 2001: A smashed .303 round, a (probable) Japanese 7.7mm bullet, and a large piece of shrapnel all from a Winnipeg Grenadier position on top of

Jardines Lookout."

We look forward to seeing Tony's book to learn of more of the events of the Battle of Hong Kong.

### C.O.F.E.P.O.W

This acronym stands for Children (and Families) of Far East Prisoners of War and Carol Cooper is the Director of this group. She has a wonderful web site located at <u>www.cofepow.org.uk.</u>

Here is one of the events that occured in their Association:

"VISIT TO THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, STAFFS

The 15th February 2002 will be the 60th Anniversary of the fall of Singapore, which in truth was the beginning of the end for a great many of those who were taken prisoner.



To mark this occasion, COFEPOW will be holding a Remembrance Service in the small newly built Chapel at the Arboretum. The Director of the Arboretum, Commander David Childs will conduct the Service. Following this, we will proceed to the site where our COFEPOW building is going to stand and a small ceremony will take place as we erect a wooden cross, bearing a poppy wreath, After our building is completed, it is intended that this cross will then become one of the focal points inside.

Part of the original Burma railway should be in place by that date and it is hoped to dedicate this at the same time.

This beautiful small Chapel has a limited seating capacity of 120, plus we will be inviting other guests and associations."

### Editor

As everyone can see, who surfs the web sites of these organizations that are dedicated to the memory of our veterans, the generations following are anxious to learn of the events of the Wars and military actions in which their family members took part.

Our senior generation needs to assist the younger generation with documentation and memorabilia from that time to keep these events from disappearing.

## Notes from Barry Mitchell, Treasurer and Membership

Greetings to all our members, both in the Hong Kong Vets and Commemorative Associations. There sure has been lots happening within our organization and I'm glad to see that much of this activity is contributing to our growth.

Since the convention last summer, I have had the pleasure of dealing for the first time with many of our members across Canada on a wide range of issues and this is truly a welcome experience. There is a lot of energy out there and I appreciate the considerable effort that is being made to launch the relatively new Regions of the Commemorative Association. I hope the executive in these areas will continue to call upon those of us who have been around for awhile for advice and assistance. We need to continue to strive to increase our membership and utilize all our new people to get out our message about the Battle of Hong Kong.

Congratulations to our Editor, Carol Hadley, on being elected National President of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association!! This is both an honour and a significant responsibility and I know Carol will meet the challenge. Thanks to Derrill Henderson for his years at the helm. I anticipate he will remain very active, even though some of his efforts will now be behind the scenes. Also congrats to the others on the national executive. There's lots to be done and now that everyone is in place, I look forward to participating in more projects that are national in scope. The membership in Manitoba Hong Kong Vets and the Commemorative Association is holding steady but many of our members are a little slow in coming forward with their dues. The fee is now \$15.00 for everyone and for the time being, you will be receiving a membership card for the same group you were in last year. We are still going to transfer everyone but the Veterans into the Commemorative Association, but that will be done over the next twelve months and become effective for the year 2003.

In any event, please send in your dues for 2002 and particularly those who have not yet paid for 2001. We want you to stay with us and we have lots of great newsletters for you to read over the coming year and in the future. Please send your membership cheque to P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2H6. Widows and Veterans are automatically members of the Commemorative Association free of charge and for life. The rest of you, however, keep us in business with your fees and donations, so don't forget to put us on your mailing list.

We received a note from **Arthur Diehl** of **Cypress River**, Manitoba, and he tells us that health challenges have pretty well put an end to his sporting activities such as curling and golf but he still manages to cruise around in his car. Thanks for the dues and donation, Arthur--your cheque covered all the items you outlined.

Many thanks to **Kathleen Wiebe** of **Saskatoon**, SK, widow of William A. Kelly. In answer to your note, yes--you are now automatically a member of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association and as a widow, you are not asked to pay dues. However, a large percentage of the HKVA is made up of widows and we would appreciate your continued financial support. Our activities, such as the newsletter, will remain the same as always and thus our expenses will continue. We welcome donations from all quarters and thank you, Kathleen, for your contribution.

Warm greetings to all from Janet Coulson of North Vancouver, BC. Janet tells us that she has moved to a most comfortable North Shore residence for retirement living which is much to her liking. She sends her warm regards and a Merry Christmas to all the Veterans and their families.....Nice to hear from some of the Winnipeg folks who are settling their dues situation, including Jackie Mantey, Donalda Munn and her family--Stuart Munn and Patricia Ducharme. Many thanks for your continued support towards our organization.

Those are my notes for this issue. I hope everyone had a great Christmas season and that the New Year will be just wonderful to you!! Greetings to all our members across Canada and of course a special message of good health and good cheer to all the Hong Kong Veterans!!!!! - Barry Mitchell

### Manitoba Branch

### Last Post

AGERBAK, Knud, died on December 18, 2001 CHAPMAN, Fred, died on November 4, 2001. COX, William, died on October 24, 2001 SARGINSON, William, died on October 22, 2001 LAJEUNESSE, Reg, died on October 8, 2001 MCLELLAN, Gordon, died on October 6, 2001

### Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends. "We will remember them"

### **Miscellaneous Items**

Through the internet, I have received a request from a new COFEPOW member, whose Father was captured and imprisoned by the Japanese during the Second World War. Her name is Jenny Watts, and her Father's name was Lance Bombardier Charles Arthur Alexander of the Royal Artillery, captured in Hong Kong on Christmas Eve 1941 and released in November 1945. Apart from finding out recently that he was held somewhere near Tokyo, she doesn't know any more, and her Father died 15 years ago in 1986. She believes he knew many Canadian servicemen in captivity, several of which her Mother has old photographs of. Last Sunday she was able to take part in the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day Parade in Whitehall, London as part of COFEPOW. It was a very emotional experience for all the members who took part in remembering their Dads, Brothers, She would welcome hearing from Uncles etc. anyone that might have known her Father.

! ! ! !

\*\*An initiative has begun to increase awareness of the Asian theatre of war in WWII. This was started in British Columbia last September in the Senior 1 History Curriculum with the syllabus called "Human Rights in the Asia Pacific 1931- 1945". There was input from two of our HK vets, Lionel Speller and Don McPherson.

Derrill Henderson has made contact with the BC Department of Education to receive copies of this document for distribution to the HKVCA Regions, with the hope of soliciting its use in all schools across Canada. This will ensure that the Battle of Hong Kong and its subsequent issues will never be forgotten.\*\*

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If you have been to the HKVCA web site, you will see a place for suggested reading. There are a list of books that will give you information on the Battle of Hong Kong. The books that I like to read about the Battle, are the ones written by the veterans. However many of them have been published privately and with limited numbers. If it was possible I would like to see each Region gather some of these books for the members to use as resource. I have another request from a COFEPOW member whose name is Mrs. Pam Broadhead. She omitted to give me her Father's name but he was a POW in Shamshiupo and Omine Japan. He served with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Fortress Company Royal Engineers in Hong Kong. He kept a notebook in which he recorded briefly his imprisonment and journey home. In the back of the book he had a list of fellow FEPOWS most of whom were Canadians. She has been trying to track these men down through the Central Government and the Visual Archives of Canada, with no luck.

She sent me the list and although I fear many of them have passed on, maybe someone can confirm this:

Bennett, K. - 305 Inglewood St., St. James

Danielson, J.H. - 745 Kenogami Ave, Port Arthur, ON

Festal, J. - 177 Magnus Ave, Winnipeg Harris, Frank Harris, A.J. - Renner, Manitoba Legros, J.F. - Sioux Lookout, ON

Millitaire, H.L. - Carman, Manitoba

Poltinger, R. - Overton PO, Manitoba

Vidal, W.K. - Box 346 Stonewall, Manitoba

Cauldwell, F.B. - Winnipeg Grenadiers

Dearden, J.E. - Winnipeg Grenadiers

Dunseath, P.R. - Winnipeg Grenadiers

Evans, D.L. - Winnipeg Grenadiers

Olron, E.L. - Winnipeg Grenadiers

Orr, D.W.- Winnipeg Grenadiers Trasiawick, J.F. L/CPL - Winnipeg

Grenadiers

Bolton E. - Royal Rifles

Byer, Clement - Royal Rifles

Calden, Vic - Royal Rifles

Chard, J.F. - Royal Rifles

Enright, Arly - Royal Rifles

McIntyre, George - Royal Rifles

Pactrick, L. - Royal Rifles

Palmer G. Cpl - Royal Rifles

Poguet, A. - Royal Rifles

Ross, Lancelot - Royal Rifles Stickles, L.R. Sgt - Royal Rifles

Willet, J.A. - Royal Rifles

Bent, Howard - Royal Rifles - one of six who died on Sept. 7/8, 1945.

Editor: If anyone wishes to write to this lady, please contact me for her address.

! ! ! !

I was very pleased to receive my copy of the new newsletter from Quebec Region, "The Torch". This newsletter will be a blend of information from that Region, with Phil Doddridge speaking on the interests of the Hong Kong Veterans and Lucette Muir, Regional Director, addressing the matters affecting the HKVCA. It will be wonderful to have Phil share his thoughts and information again. The future depends on the knowledge and understanding of the past which we receive from our Elders.

The Quebec Region will be holding their Reunion in Granby, August  $15^{\text{th}}$  -  $18^{\text{th}}$ , 2002.

! ! ! !

January, February, March 2002

Registration kits will be mailed out early in the new year.

To contact either of them, please use the following addresses:

Phil Doddridge, 365 rte Doddridge, New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0; tel 1-418-392-5838. Email: philed@globetrotter.net

Lucette M. Muir, 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, QC J2H 2E6. Tel. 1-450-372-7893. Email: <u>Immm@sympatico.ca</u>

! ! ! !



Harry White, oldest surviving Grenadier at 95, "Chick" Query, 77 years and Maurice LaPointe at 84.

Barry received this terrific picture from Maurice LaPointe, with the comment that they all are doing fine considering their ages. They believe that Harry White is the oldest surviving ex-Grenadier and Ed Query is the youngest. They wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Thanks for the picture. You fellows look great, keep up whatever you are doing, it obviously works.

### ! ! ! !

Another surprise recently was the "Spirit of the Torch" which is the name for the HKVCA Ontario Region newsletter. This informative document outlines the formation of the HKVCA in Ontario and contains articles from the area reps, veterans and younger (grandchildren) members. Details, of community events that have been initiated and future ones, have also been related.

Congratulations to all who were involved with producing the newsletter it will be a terrific vehicle for recruiting new members and keeping all your members informed.

### Humour

A chicken and an egg are lying in bed. The chicken is leaning against the headboard smoking a cigarette with a satisfied smile on its face. The egg, looking a bit perturbed, grabs the sheet and rolls over and says... "Well, I guess we finally answered THAT question!"

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Grandma and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days," when Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?" Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his. With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?" Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek.

Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?" Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

### эээээ

A woman was chatting with her next-door neighbor. "I feel really good today. I started out this morning with an act of unselfish generosity. I gave a five dollar bill to a bum."

"You gave a bum five whole dollars? That's a lot of money to just give away. What did you husband say about it?" "Oh, he thought it was the proper thing to do. He said, 'Thanks.""

### эээээ

A dietician was once addressing a large audience in Chicago: "The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks erode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. Vegetables can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the longterm harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. "But there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

A 75-year-old man in the front row stood up and said, "Wedding cake."

### эээээ

ONE LINERS 1. Transvestite: a guy who likes to eat, drink and be Mary! 2. The difference between the Pope and your boss. The Pope only expects you to kiss his ring. 3. My mind works like lightning: one brilliant flash and it is gone. 4. The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom. 5. I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once, the seat folded up, the drink spilled, and that ice, well, it really chilled her mood. 6. It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too. 7. A husband is someone who, after taking the trash out, gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house. 8. My next house will have no kitchen, just vending machines and a large trash can. 9. A blonde said, "I was worried that my mechanic might try to rip me off. I was relieved when he told me all I needed was turn-signal fluid." 10. I'm so depressed . . . my

doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building. 11. My neighbour was bit by a stray rabid dog. I went to see how he was and found him writing frantically. I told him rabies could be cured and he didn't have to worry about a Will. He said, "Will!? What will? I'm making a list of the people I wanna bite." 12. Clinton is in the supermarket picking up some things for the new office when a stock boy accidentally bumps into him. "Pardon me," the stock boy says. "Sure," Clinton replies, "but it'll cost you." 13. Jesse Jackson, Jim Baker, and Jimmy Swaggert have written an impressive new book ... it's called: "Ministers Do More Than Lay People."

### эээээ

BORN TO SELL A young guy from Texas moves to California and goes

to a big mega- department store looking for a job. The manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?" The kid says, "Yeah, I was a salesman back home in

Texas." Well, the boss liked the kid so he gave him the job. "You can start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did." His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down. "How many sales did you make today?" the boss asked. The kid says, "One." The boss says, "Just one? Our sales people average 20

to 30 sales a day. How much was the sale for?" The \$101,237.64." The boss kid says, savs. \$101,237.64? What the heck did you sell?" The kid says, "First I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fish hook. Then I sold him a larger fish hook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat, so we went down to the boat department and I sold him that twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4 x 4 Blazer." The boss said, "A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and truck?" The kid says, "No, he came in here to buy a box of tampons for his wife and I said, "Well, your weekend's shot ... you might as well go fishing."

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Older and wiser

A farmer goes out one day and buys a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop. The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, "OK old fart, time for you to retire." The old rooster replies, "Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner?" The young rooster says, "Beat it! You are washed up and I am taking over." The old rooster says, "I tell you what, young stud. I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop." The young rooster laughs, "You know you don't stand a chance old man, so just to be fair I will give you a head start." The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap. He is already about 5 inches behind the old rooster and gaining fast. The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by. He grabs up his shotgun and BOOM! He blows the young rooster to bits. The farmer sadly shakes his head and says, "Dangit... third gay rooster I bought this month." Moral of the story... Don't mess with us old folks...age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill! Do More Than Lay People."

### эээээ

### BORED OLD MEN

Two old men were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. One leaned over to the other and said, "Cripes! life is boring, we never have any fun these days. For two bucks I'd take my clothes off and streak through the flower show!"

"You're on!" said the other old fellow, holding up two dollars. As fast as he could, the first old man fumbled his way out of his clothes and completely naked, streaked through the front door of the town hall.

Waiting outside, his friend heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause. The naked old man burst out through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd."How did it go?" asked his friend."Great!" said the streaker. I WON FIRST PRIZE AS A DRIED ARRANGEMENT

### Reminders

**Monthly lunches** at Rae & Jerry's Restaurant on Portage Ave. at NOON every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month; except June and December.

\*\* PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS\*\*

The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association address in <u>Ottawa</u> is: 1 Stafford Road, Ste.164, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9. This new address should be noted by anyone who purchased one of the earlier grave markers as it will have the old address on the sheet to send in to register the location of the grave.

Your Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, President	256-7174
Bill Maltman,1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	669_4941
Carol Hadley, Secrtry/Newsletter	837-6754
Barry Mitchell,	
Treasurer/Membership	269-1497
Juliet Lafortune, Social	338-3354
Terence Jackson, Memorials	452-1460
Phil Dodderidge, Nat'l President	418-392-5838

Manitoba Branch