



January, February, March 2011

Editor: Carol Hadley, 204-837-6754

Email: [carol.hadley@gmail.com](mailto:carol.hadley@gmail.com)

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afternoon; as for the Veterans it would be Saturday afternoon. Time and place will be confirmed upon arrival.

Driving directions as well as local travel info from the Montreal Airport to Granby will be included in your kit. Please return the form with your flight information with your registrations then the committee will be in contact with you. Thank you.

Will have updates in the next newsletter and/or on the HKVCA web site. Looking forward to seeing you in Granby next August.

For additional info: tel. 450-375-7439 or email: [lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca](mailto:lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca)

- Lucette Mailloux Muir  
Quebec Regional Director

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### *HKVCA President*

-Derrill Henderson

I was always told that as one grew older life slowed down and one could take all the time he wanted to do things quietly and in whatever fashion he wanted. What a bunch of garbage! The ongoing enhancements to the Memorial Wall occupy quite a bit of my time as I serve as Carol’s “agent in Ottawa”. The winter always has an increase of questions from the vets and widows, which must be researched and answered. I so enjoy the opportunity to speak with them that I probably spend more time than necessary to resolve their issue but hey, they’re worth it. On top of this, due to illness, I have been spending more time with church duties and my dear wife decided that after 30 years, it was time to update the kitchen.

I really got into speaking with High School teens in a big way, and find that contrary to my first impressions of how this would be; it is a surprising pleasant experience. These young people have really developed an interest in the life experience of the older generation. Naturally this involved WWII since it was the major event in the lives of this group of seniors, but the questions posed often related to the individual and how he or she coped.

I must congratulate the Ontario region (again) for their foresight in putting the material of the Battle of Hong Kong into such a concise and interesting fashion that grabs the interest of teenagers. Pat Turcotte, as the primary on this project, really deserves our thanks.

To promote this, Ian Doull, my daughter Gail, and I attended a Teacher’s Professional Development Day. There were not many breaks for the teachers to visit the displays, but we were kept busy, and several people mentioned our material was just what they were seeking. I was surprised that most knew that Canadians had fought in Hong Kong, even though most had no knowledge of details that we provided!

In the schools in my immediate area, the history teachers have already held one or two classes on the Hong Kong battle using the material off our web site. In only one instance was I asked to present this material. Primarily I come in to answer the questions that arose out of the material. Questions such as: is it true that....?; how did the families cope without a father?; was your father changed when he came home?; what is it like to be a POW (obviously I can only answer what was relayed to me by our vets)?

I guess I must be engaging for the requests to visit schools are increasing and one high school has incorporated my visit into the course, so I am scheduled to talk every semester. I really look forward to these opportunities.

I have taken enough space so I shall close with this reminder. This is a Convention year and “La Belle Province” will be opening her arms this August to take us in. Granby is located at the entrance to the Eastern Townships, a most picturesque area of our great country. I hope to see you all there.

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### *HKVA President*

-Phil Doddridge

If I may be permitted, I will use this medium to express my sincere thanks to my many friends

### *National Convention 2011 Granby QC*

Greetings All,

Add the dates of August 11-14, 2011 to your calendar for the upcoming 2011 HKVCA National Convention to be held in Granby, QC.

By the time you receive the Wasureru-Nai, you might have your Convention Invitation Kit mailed to all members in good standing. All completed forms will be returned to the organizing committee including Room Reservations.

NOTE: To members who had elected to only receive email correspondence, the convention mailing is being handled as an exception due to forms that need to be filled out. Thank you.

Registrations will take place on Thursday afternoon August 11<sup>th</sup> followed by the meet and greet evening. Friday 9 a.m. will be the AGM, lunch and fun evening. Saturday 11 a.m. the Commemorative Ceremony, free time and the closing Banquet, drawings etc. The “Ticket Draw” winners will be contacted, if not present.

A meeting of the BOD members is scheduled for Friday

who supported me in my recent bereavement on Edwina's death. We had been married for over 63 years. Your emails, phone calls, cards of sympathy, floral tributes and visits were greatly appreciated. Nancy and I will be forever grateful.

### COFEPOW

For a number of years I have been a member of COFEPOW (Children and Families of Far East Prisoners of War).

The COFEPOW is dedicated to preserving the memory of British (and Allied) POWs of the Japanese. Carol Cooper, the founding member, writes and publishes a newsletter four times a year

The members are a very active group. They have organized and conducted tours of the Far East and visited many, if not most of the scattered Camps and battle sites. They have managed to get a section of the infamous Thai railway and had it shipped to England where it is installed in their memorial site, known as "The National Memorial Arboretum".

In the January 2011 newsletter there appeared a letter from a lady named Jan Thompson who is president of a group called "The Descendents Group". They are an organization affiliated with "The American Defenders of Bataan and Corrigidor". Their aims are similar to those of the HKVCA. If you are interested, her email address is: [janthompson@gmail.com](mailto:janthompson@gmail.com).

Otherwise, if you are interested in contacting the COFEPOW, their mailing address is 20 Burgh Road, Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk, UK, NR31 8BE. Check out their website at [www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk).

On behalf of all Hong Kong Veterans I would like to extend my thanks to those members of the HKVCA who give so freely of their time and talents to ensure the smooth operation of the Association. We vets are grateful for your many accomplishments.

That will be all for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless. Philip.

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### Join Our Email List

Want to make sure HKVCA makes best use of your dues and donations? Join over 330 of your fellow members and sign up for our email list to save postage costs. It's simple - just send an email to this



[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)

address and we'll make it happen: [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca).

### Membership Numbers

(As of Feb 2011)

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	67	12	14	93
Atl	47	7	5	59
BC	91	10	39	140
MB	173	11	52	236
ON	154	16	53	223
QC	73	15	52	140
Total	605	71	215	891

R: Regular; V: Veteran; W: Widow  
††††

### Last Post

**Leo Paul Berard**, WG, H-6011 died December 9th, 2010.

**Raoul Tremblay**, RRC, E30664 died February 14, 2011.

### HKVCA

**Judith Metallic**, widow of Patrick Metallic E30097 RRC, died April 21, 2006.

**Agnes Settee**, daughter of Clifford E. Settee, WG, died October 7, 2008.

**Hazel Martin**, widow of Douglas J. Martin, RR, died July 19, 2010.

**Ilene Ford**, widow of Thomas Ford H17514 and mother of Lynn Matenchuk, died November 25, 2010.

**Irene Gendron Cameron**, widow of Ken Sarto Cameron, RRC, died December 4, 2010.

**Edwina Doddridge**, wife of Phil Doddridge, RR, mother of Nancy Doddridge, died on December 24, 2010.

**Kelly Gruenke**, daughter of Mike Black, WG, died on January 2, 2011.

**Lillian Brunet**, widow of Lucien Brunet, CPC, Brigade died January 13, 2011.

**Madeline Lafontaine Bernard**, widow of Emile Bernard RRC, died February 7, 2011.

**Donalda Munn** (widow of Arthur Munn, WG, H6195) on February 13, 2011.

**Doreen Lousier** (widow of Art Lousier WG, H41847) on February 23, 2011.

*Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief. We will remember them!*

††††

### Monument Badge Discs

-Lori Atkinson Smith  
2011 will commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the "Battle of Hong

Kong". At the Belledune, NB Municipal regular monthly meeting of Dec. 20, 2010, Council motioned to purchase 25 Hong Kong Veterans Monument Badge disc's for their local HKV's (from Belledune to Nash Creek, NB). All markers will be placed on HKV headstones before Dec. 08, 2011. Now that is an undertaking that is going to be accomplished. We thank Belledune for their proactive actions.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a Monument Badge disc mounted on every, single HKV's gravestone??? The president of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, Phil Doddridge, has passed on his mission of the placement of HK Monument Badge Discs to a small committee of members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association. This has been and continues to be quite an undertaking.

### Challenge to all Communities across Canada

Is your community ready to take a stand like Belledune, NB has taken? Are other municipalities across Canada interested in taking up the cause to ensure all Hong Kong Veterans have a "Monument Badge Disc" mounted on their individual headstones? We urge you to talk with your local members of Parliament, Town Councillors and local Legions. If you don't suggest it, they won't do it!

In the HKVCA December 2009 newsletter, we announced our goal to locate the final resting places of all HK veterans. Up till now, we have had a few pictures and some information sent to us. And we thank you for getting us started.

We still require your help. For each veteran the following information is needed:

- Veteran's Name
- Regiment and #
- Name of Cemetery/ Columbarium including Address and City/Province.
- Next of Kin contact name
- Next of Kin address/email
- Picture of the gravestone
- Picture of the veteran from after the war

A copy of the obituary  
Provide any bits of information you have - even a few 'clues' will help in our further searching. Mail the information to:

Lori Atkinson- Smith at 946 Wyldewood Road,  
R. R. #1, Sherkston, Ontario L0S 1R0

1.905.894.5368 email  
[LoriR1952@gmail.com](mailto:LoriR1952@gmail.com)

If you have any questions or would like to help us out in this endeavour, please contact me.

We suggest the purchase of the monument badge disc for your family member or friend. Please consider this act of recognition. Check out the HKVCA website to see a picture of the grave disc.

<http://www.hkvca.ca/store/index.htm>

The 3" cast metal disc comes with a mounting screw, instructions to affix to the headstone and a registration form	\$75.00 (including postage)	Cheque payable to HKVCA
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Ordering of the gravestone disc, along with your payment, should be sent to –  
HKVCA, Suite 164, 1 Stafford Rd., Nepean, ON K2H 1B9.

\*\*\*\* Remember, you must have prior cemetery authorization and an installation authorization form must be completed by a family member or a HKVCA member in order to place this disc on HKV head stones. \*\*\*\*

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### HKVCA Tax Receipts & Legacy

-Barry Mitchell, Treasurer

Perhaps you aren't aware that the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association is a Registered Charity in Canada and as such, can issue tax receipts just like any other charity.

The HKVCA was issued a charity designation by Canada Revenue Agency in 2002 and is permitted to issue receipts that can be used as tax deductions on your income tax return. This is no different than any of the many charities, which most of you support and while we are not suggesting that you don't donate to them, we are asking that you include the HKVCA in your charitable donations.

The HKVCA will issue you a tax receipt for any donation of \$20.00 or more. If you wish, you may specify that it be directed to a specific project but any donation, which is not specified or is marked 'General' will be utilized in one of the many projects we have underway

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)

in education, promotion, history and general public awareness.

We also invite you to consider *leaving a legacy* through an arranged or planned gift for the future, such as a bequest in your will for a specific sum or a portion of your estate. Planned gifts will allow the HKVCA to better establish long-pertains to the education of young people in the history of the Battle of Hong Kong.

So, we encourage you to consider the HKVCA when allocating your charitable donations, both in the short term and in your longer term planning. We will promptly issue you a tax receipt for all donations we receive which you can include in your annual income tax return. Support our cause while at the same time easing that painful tax bite.

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### Elections

The nomination deadline was March 1, 2011. As Elections Chair for the HKVCA we have received nominations for the 2012/2013 term of office - the following people have been acclaimed to office:

- Past President - Derrill Henderson
- President - Carol Hadley
- 1st Vice - Murray Doull
- 2nd Vice - Emmie Flanagan
- Secretary - Jim Trick
- Treasurer - Barry Mitchell

Sorry to say there were very few nominations submitted which is disappointing that more of our members do not take an active role in the Association.

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Hadley, Past President

### Memory Project

We are seeking information on POW Recordings.

The Memory Project, Stories of the Second World War is an online public archive of stories and testimonies from World War II veterans. We have been collecting stories for more than a year and have spoken to over 2,000 veterans, making these important stories available to the public at [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com).

It's come to our attention that a number of Prisoners of War held by Japan sent messages to their families over the short-wave radios, and that these messages were subsequently recorded to discs and sent to the soldier's family in Canada. As part

of a special project, we are looking to speak with anyone in possession of such a recording, or who has information about them.

If you or your family have such a recording, please call Shayla Howell at The Memory Project, toll-free 1-866-701-1867, xt 241 or email at [showell@historica-dominion.ca](mailto:showell@historica-dominion.ca)

Thank you!

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### Member Inquiry

(Editor – I received this request from a member – please let me know if you have any information – thank you)

Perhaps you can direct me to someone with knowledge of the FLAG held by the P.O.W.s in the attached photo. First noticed the photo in the Winnipeg Free Press early 2008 and noticed my Dad in the photo (Cooper), so requested actual photo from Ottawa archives. Since then, have noticed this particular photo used many times.

The names under the photo are (back) Grieves, Fidler, Duval, (front) Franckrewicz, Drebit, Cooper, McIvor, 13 September 1945 Manila, Philippines.

Interested in receiving knowledge about this particular FLAG. Looks like it may have many Japanese names on it. Why were the P.O.W.s holding this particular FLAG and where did it come from? Did it have a purpose?

Any help in this would be greatly appreciated.



PH 63276  
Canadian prisoners of war camp at Manila. Back: Grieves, Fidler, Duval, Frankrewicz, Drebit, Cooper, McIvor. Manila, Philippines, 13 Sept. 1945. Photo by AP/WideWorld

Document 2 1945-09-13  
Collection: Canada. Dept. of Historical Services. Accession No. J 1947 383  
Sheet P-116-5  
©2011 100-76-13715  
Public Archives Archives publiques  
Canada  
1-811 - Personnal - P-811-1 - 1945-09-13

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### Across the Nation

#### BC Banter

With spring just around the corner, the BC Region extends our best wishes to all Hong Kong veterans, widows, members and friends of the HKVCA.

**Bill Muir** is one of our Region's Hong Kong veterans (WG) and he lives in Comox on Vancouver Island. **Bill**, accompanied by his son **Don Muir**, Don's wife **Leona (Lee)** and Bill's daughter **Rhona Botthof** (nee **Muir**), visited Ottawa from September 19-22, 2010 to see the Hong Kong Veterans Memorial Wall. While in our nation's capital they also visited the War Museum, National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Don said that the weather was favourable during their visit, which enabled them to travel around Ottawa with ease. They were duly impressed with the Memorial Wall as well as the completed landscaping at the site. Regarding their trip to the War Museum and the HK exhibit Don stated, "We have a better understanding and appreciation as Dad explained some of the items to us. The Wall was the main reason for attending and was well worth it."

We express our gratitude to **Don Muir** for sharing these events with us. Thanks also to Don and his family who donate and place a wreath every year for the HKVCA on Remembrance Day in Armstrong, BC.

*In the photograph below from left to right are: Don and Leona Muir, Bill Muir and Rhona Botthof at the HK Memorial Wall.*



*In the photograph below from left to right are: son Don, Bill Muir and daughter Rhona at the HK Memorial Wall.*



In December 2010, 53 of our members participated in a pilgrimage to Hong Kong and Japan to remember and pay their respects.

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)

Three Hong Kong veterans, **Gerry Gerrard** (RCCS), **Ken Pifher** (RRC) and **Fred Cooper** (RRC) accompanied our members. We express our gratitude to **Mike Babin** (Ontario Regional Director) for his dedication to make this trip a very successful event. Please visit our website to view the many photographs. **Gerry Gerrard**, who lives in Esquimalt on Vancouver Island was accompanied by his daughters **Bev Campbell** and **Pat White** and their husbands **Eric Campbell** and **Dave White**.

*From left to right in the photograph below, which was taken at Yokohama Cemetery in Japan, are: Dave and Pat White, Gerry Gerrard and Bev and Eric Campbell.*



*The photograph below was taken at the Consular General's (Doreen Steidle) Reception in Hong Kong. From left to right are Gerry Gerrard, Fred Cooper and Ken Pifher.*



On December 9 and 10, 2010, **Lee Naylor** (BC Region Director) and **Graeme Stacey** (HKVCA member and high school social studies teacher) told the story of 'C' Force at the International Human Rights Day Symposium for Students. This symposium was sponsored by ALPHA (Association for Learning and Preserving the History of WWII in Asia) in conjunction with the Vancouver School Board and was held at the Vancouver Technical Secondary School with a full program on both dates. **Lee** writes, "**Graeme** and I hosted two presentations per day. There were six hundred students attending the many presentations. This year's event was deemed by all

concerned as very successful. As a result, the Vancouver Technical School is pleased to announce they will be hosting the 2011 symposium. **Graeme** and I have already been working on our presentation for next year. This school is very old and resembles an aging English building with ramparts. At the end of the symposium I asked about the military scrolls on the walls with names of military personnel. Unknown to us during our 2-day presentations, **Kano Iynoue (the Kamloops Kid)** had graduated from this very school. We mentioned him in our presentations without knowing he had graduated from the school we were lecturing in. How ironic it was to learn that we were telling his horrific story in the school he had attended."

*In the photograph below, Lee is talking to students in front of a 'C' Force hat badge display.*



*In the photograph below, Graeme is making a presentation to students. Lee is sitting to the left of the photograph.*



As time permits, **Bev Campbell** pursues our **Phone Pal Program** contacting several Hong Kong veterans and widows that have agreed to be reached by phone periodically. Recently, **Bev** has been in contact with **Harry Gyselman** (WG) and **Bill Muir** (WG) who both live in Comox, BC. **Bev** also spoke with **Betty Waldenberger** in Kelowna who advises us that our good friend and comrade **Aubrey Flegg** (WG) had family visiting him over Christmas and he was excited to see them. **Jan Solecki** (HKVDC) doesn't get out and about much anymore but is enjoying the home life. **Bev** sent **Margaret Rozario** a photograph of the HK Memorial Wall and **Marge** was very grateful.

**Pearl MacPherson** keeps busy with her volunteer work at the senior's center in Delta and still likes to travel when she can. Bev also spoke with **Catherine Penny** whose late husband **Don Penny** served with Bev's dad, **Gerry Gerrard**, in the RCCS. Don's nephew, **Burke Penny**, has written a book titled "Beyond the Call" which outlines the contribution the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals made to 'C' Force. **Gerry Gerrard** remains very active at his Legion Branch and although his eyesight doesn't allow him to drive anymore, he still goes bowling, golfing and square dancing.

You may be wondering what our former Regional Director has been doing with her spare time. She (**Linda Quesnel nee Stewart**) has been directing her talents and energy towards helping her husband **Ron** with his business, the Spiritual Freedom Centre. **Linda** and **Ron** met in AA and they both have over 30 years of sobriety. **Ron** is a drug and alcohol counsellor who was inspired to develop his own spiritual growth, addictions-recovery program. This one-year 'Choices for Freedom' program combines the 12 Steps with the 12 Powers of Mind and has four stages of eight weeks each. He wrote a book on his program called "An Inside Job". Just like our Association, the members of each group develop life long friendships as they study and discuss the powers of their subconscious mind and deepen and strengthen their spirituality. They learn to become the happy and successful people they were always meant to be by practicing positive techniques to change their lives for the better. For more information on the program, visit their website at [www.spiritualfreedomcentre.com](http://www.spiritualfreedomcentre.com) or phone (250) 294-2417 and speak with **Ron**. **Linda** wants me to tell you that she's very happy with her new focus, but she misses the constant contact with the veterans and all their "support staff". She wishes you all the very best for the future.

In closing, we express our gratitude to the Quebec Region for agreeing to host the 2011 HKVCA National Convention in Granby. I had the privilege of attending the Quebec Region reunion in Granby in 2006 and I can assure you that Lucette, Marcel and their team are fabulous hosts and know how to treat their

guests. Until next time, please take care of each other.

Respectfully submitted by Murray Doull on behalf of the BC Region.

#### **AB/SK Action**

Norma Fuchs reports that all is quiet in their region but will soon be planning their annual luncheons.

Howard Jesse, the presenter, participated in the Saskatchewan Council of Social Science Teachers' Conference in Moose Jaw, SK on Friday, March 4th. There is a brief account of this under the Education section of Ontario Region report.

#### **Manitoba Moments**

- Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director - 338-3354

Hello to All - Well here we are with another season coming fast upon us. I found this a rough winter and I am sure I have a lot of you who agree with me. We have lost many members of the HKVCA and HKVA this last year. Our sympathy goes out to the families. I remember so many of them growing up as a part of my life. The Hong Kong Veterans have been a big part of my life since I was 18 yrs of age and was active with some of the social functions. That was when I met so many of the members and their families. My father Marcien Lafortune, H6503 was proud to be a member of the HKVA and was very proud that I became an active member.

This is all leading to some thing and that is to each and every one of you I ask you to be responsible in renewing your memberships, spread the word about the HKV and their battle and how we the HKVCA are working very hard in preserving the memory of these men. Come out and support the activities.

The Colour Party attends many parades on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans. Please get a pen out and mark these dates on your calendar -

Vimy Ridge, April 10@ 2 pm with reception to follow at #1 Legion, Sergeant and Maryland; also April 10 Korean Vets Annual Fund Raiser \$10.00 per person call Bob Nisbet - 237-4427

May 15 Liberation Of Holland, 1 pm Gateway Indoor Arena,

May 29 Decoration Day Service, Brookside Cemetery 1:30 pm - there will be tours starting at 11:00 am Reception at Bardal Hall,

June 12 12:30 pm Memorial Day, Lac Du Bonnet,

July 1st 11:00 a.m. Canada Day, Lac Du Bonnet,

July 16 10:30 a.m. Pinawa Birthday parade Pinawa, MB

HKVA/HKVCA National Convention Granby QC Aug 12-14 you will receive information in the mail

Aug 21 @ 1 pm VJ Day Memorial - the Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee in attendance more information to follow

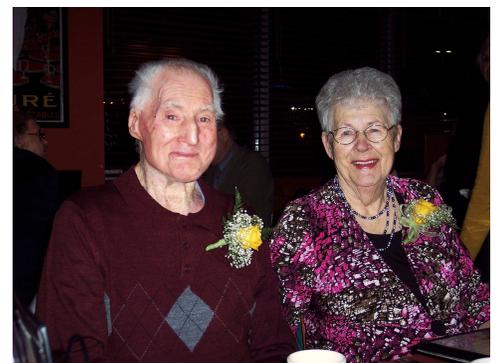
Oct 22 Hong Kong Veterans Reunion Dinner & Dance more information to follow

Remembrance Day Service, November 11 in locations all over the city and Convention Centre.

I realize this is a lot of information to follow so check the HKVCA website for the calendar if you can, or phone me and I will help you out.

I would like to thank Carol Hadley, Pat Bale. Pam Heinrichs and Barry Mitchell these people go out and put their time in at Heritage Days in May and SAG in October in hopes of educating the public on the HKVA /HKVCA.

We are having our Tea and Tidbits on March 19 at 1pm at St James Legion .We hold our monthly luncheons and meetings the 2nd Thursday of the month at 12 PM come out and put in your ideas. We are very open to any ideas you might have on how we can keep you involved in the HKVCA please let us know some of your ideas. Let us know how you are doing and if there is something special you would like to share with us.



Happy Anniversary and best wishes go to **William & Nada Bell** on their 65th Anniversary. Happy Birthday to the following people **George Peterson** was 90 on February 8, **Margaret Peterson** February 10, **Anne Stebbe** February 14th and **Larry Stebbe** was 88 on February 25 and as you notice you never mention a woman's age Ha Ha. Also **William Krohn** turned 92, **Tom Dewar** is 89, **Harry Hawryshok** is 87, **George Nobiss** is 86 and **Bill Bell** is 94 - sorry to say but lost touch with **George Coutts**.

We wish you all the best in the coming year and more.

Well I would like to hear from you now and take care. Stay in touch.

### **Ontario Offerings**

From our Regional Director, Mike Babin: In this "connected" age we are becoming used to getting more and more of our information via the internet, and information on almost any topic you can imagine is just a few keystrokes away. The Hong Kong story is no exception, and we are very fortunate to have a wonderful web site – managed by Jim Trick in Victoria, BC – which contains a wealth of information about it. More important, this information is available to anyone, anywhere, which is what makes it so important to the HKVCA. Students, for example, can use it for research for their papers and teachers for background material.

With this in mind, we've recognized that providing educational material on our web site is very important to our mission of educating Canadians about the Battle of Hong Kong. Over 21% of Canadians speak French as their first language in the home, and yet almost none of the content of our web site is in French! I'm very pleased to tell you that Ontario has taken the initiative to begin translating key parts of our web site into French. We've hired a professional translator, and are funding the first batch of translations ourselves. Our initial target is the personal stories told by Hong Kong Veterans, and you can already see the results, with two personal accounts now translated and more to come soon. Our hope is that the other regions will chip in to support even more translation.

On a springtime note, our area reps are now beginning to plan their spring get-togethers! Gordon Coyne and Lori Atkinson-Smith are planning a June event for the West-Central area, Mitzi Ross and Melissa-Marie Cormier have begun working on a Northeast area luncheon, and Marilyn Morgan is working on an event for the Southwest area. Watch for the announcements and make your plans to attend!

I'll let our area reps and our education chair tell you more below about what's happening in Ontario.

Have a happy spring!

### **Report for NE Ontario**

by C.R. McGuire

After several cancellations as a result of business trips, an illness, and a car accident, Melissa-Marie Cormier was finally able to meet with me a few weeks ago. I am pleased that she is now officially the Regional Representative for this area. She is the grand daughter of the late Reginald Kerr, RRC, and is enthusiastic to do what her busy schedule and demanding job will permit, to help the HKVCA. For those who do not know Melissa-Marie, I recommend you read her excellent contribution to the HKVCA web site. Go to its Home page, under the photograph of the Memorial Wall, click on "and more...". At the right of the page that comes up is "Index of Topics", click on "Tributes and Comments". Her piece is the seventh [mine is the fifth], in which, among other things, she remembers her dear Grandfather, who she was fortunate to know so well.

After eleven years as the rep, Mitzi Ross took over the position from me last July, but due to health problems she has decided to step down. Mitzi will continue to help by arranging the Spring luncheon. I will also assist Melissa-Marie in any way I can and continue to do, as I have since 1978, everything I can to publicize our Veterans and their history and, ensure their sacrifices are "Never Forgotten".

I did my fifteenth Remembrance Month exhibit for the Nepean Museum. This year's topic concerned the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. It was on display until April 2011. As I did for the exhibit I prepared in 2004 for the end of that war, because several Hong Kong veterans who remained in the Canadian Army served during the Korean War, I was able to have a section concerning them and their previous service in World War II. I also had my wreath on display except for Remembrance Day, when Ted Terry and I were using it.

I am happy to report that Ken Ewing, RRC and Eric Maloney, RRC are doing well. Reginald Kerr, WG has Alzheimer's, but is being well cared for at the Perley Veterans Hospital.

I regret to inform Ottawa-area members that the Royal Canadian Legion's wreath outlet was closed down after over 60 years of operation, as a "cost cutting measure". Wreaths now must be ordered through a Legion Branch,

well in advance of when you want it, the order is sent to Toronto and, at a substantially higher cost than we were able to procure them in the past. As I have always advised my members, after laying your wreath be sure to take it home with you rather than leave it for the Legion to store. If you take care of it, as I have, you will get years of use from it.

My theme for the Nepean Museum 2011 Remembrance Month exhibit will be appropriately to "Remember Canada's Involvement in the Defence of Hong Kong on its 70th Anniversary".

I have also been requested to prepare a second exhibit concerning the Royal Canadian Legion on its 90th Anniversary. Some readers may recall it was originally known as the British Empire Service League, when it was established in 1921.

If all goes as planned, Connie and I will be at the 2011 Reunion in Granby this August. I will bring some of my exhibits and hope to meet old and new members who will be attending. In the meantime, take care and safe travelling.

### **West Central Ontario:**

Gordon Coyne, Area Representative  
(905) 607-2367

[gcoyne@sympatico.ca](mailto:gcoyne@sympatico.ca)

Ken is back from 'conquering' Hong Kong, and mighty happy he made the effort. While there he participated in some of the ceremonies, and toured the battlefield sites. Fortunately, his daughter, Pam Newhouse, was able to accompany him, as well as grandson Jordan Newhouse and granddaughter Jill Newhouse. He has recovered his energy after these gruelling days, and is back to enjoying a quiet daily breakfast with his 'cronies' at Momma Rae's Restaurant in Grimsby, Ontario. The New Year promises to hold more excitement for Ken, as there will be a 90th birthday to celebrate in April. He is also making plans to attend the Convention in August in Granby. To see pictures of Ken during his visit to Hong Kong, have a look at our website.

Gerry continues to struggle with problems with his eyes, and remains under active treatment with a specialist in Mississauga. The surgery he underwent in October has been a stopgap solution, which he hopes will come to a conclusion when he has more surgery in February. Despite this discomfort, he is continuing all his important

activities, especially a daily trip to *Timmers* for lunch with his neighbour. We sincerely hope that the New Year will bring better days for Gerry and fewer long trips to his eye doctor.

### **Education Committee Report,**

- Pat Turcotte:

**Re the Teachers' Zone:** Jim Trick has done a great job reorganizing the Teachers' Zone. He is also quite keen on making the TZ completely bilingual in the future, and has suggested to the BOD that the Education aspect of the HKVCA's activity should be given a more significant role. There is some discussion of providing funds at the National level to have more of the Veterans' stories translated.

Our French translator, Dominique Millette, has already provided two of the four stories to Jim, and they can be found on the Website, alongside the story in English by the same veteran. She is now working on the third story, and should have it ready shortly. Dominique has been most helpful beyond actually translating the stories, and she and Jim have reached a consensus regarding the approach to take in adding the stories in French to the total.

### **Re the International Military Tattoo in Hamilton, June 25 & 26:**

Gordon Coyne, Area Rep. for West Central, is looking after dealing with our veterans' participation at the Tattoo performances to be held on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, the 26th. Because of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong, our Canadian soldiers' role in that battle will be highlighted on both days. Ken Pifher and George MacDonell have been approached about being the Hong Kong veterans involved, and both have indicated they are ready to take part.

The Ontario Region will have a display booth set up at the Copps Coliseum on both days, and will need several volunteers to help us out. We would be responsible for setting up by 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 25th, and by noon Sunday on June 26th. The time involved would be about 3 hours. We would certainly appreciate hearing from members who could volunteer on one of those two days.

E-mail Gordon Coyne at [gcoyne@sympatico.ca](mailto:gcoyne@sympatico.ca) or Pat Turcotte at [petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca) if you can help.

**Re the Banners for a Display situation:** Bud Mann, the Area Rep.

for the GTA, has been working very hard to complete a project we have initiated in order to develop three banners with appropriate pictures and information that will be used in any future display situations. Ken Skelton has provided the pictures. Our next commitment involves the Symposium at the Robarts Library's Richard Charles Lee HK-Canada Centre in Toronto on March 31st. We have just learned that Bud expects to have all three banners ready for that event.

### **Re the Professional Development Day in Ottawa, Feb. 18th:**

Ian Doull and Gail Angel, two of our HKVCA members in Ottawa were able to set up a display table at the Professional Development Day held by the Ottawa – Carleton District School Board using materials and publications sent from the Toronto area to complete the information needed for the day. Ian has recently reported that the day went very well, and that there was much interest in the display. Many thanks to Ian and Gail, their participation in the event made it a success.

### **Re the March 31st Symposium:**

Mike will be meeting with Dr. Jack Leong on Monday, March 7th to discuss our involvement in the Symposium at the Robarts Library, Richard Charles Lee HK-Canada Centre. The focus of the Symposium will be Nathan Greenfield speaking about his new book, "The Damned". In addition, George MacDonell and Vince Lopata will be speaking, and Nathan Greenfield's book will be on display. We will have the opportunity to have a display table for HKVCA, which will involve as many of our publications and others materials that are current. Shelagh Purcell, and her daughter Megan, will bring copies of the family book, "A Hong Kong Diary Revisited - the Family Remembers" and assist in presenting the other materials in the display. The three banners discussed above should add an extra point of interest in what is being presented. HKVCA members should consider attending as the general public is invited.

### **Re the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest:**

The number of copies of the Writing Contest in English and French, sent with an introductory letter as e-mail attachments, has now reached well over 400. The appropriate educators in all ten provinces and three territories have been contacted and

comments already received have been quite favourable. For teachers who wish to have students enter at this stage, it's not too late. **The deadline is Friday, May 20, 2011.** All the information about the Contest, and the participation of students can be found in the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA Website. The address is [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca) Go to the Teachers' Zone from the Home page, and looking for the heading "Contests".

### **Re the Saskatchewan Teachers' Conference:**

Due to the initiative of Mike Babin and others, the HKVCA AB/SK Region made a presentation at the Saskatchewan Council of Social Science Teachers' Conference in Moose Jaw, SK on Friday, March 4th. Samples of various items that we use in Ontario presentations were sent to Howard Jesse, the presenter, and some copies of the book, "A Hong Kong Dairy Revisited – the Family Remembers", were sent along as well. The word from Howard is that the teachers were quite impressed with his presentation, and he plans to visit a number of schools in the Moose Jaw/Regina area, to add to the public's awareness of the Hong Kong Story through the teachers and students in the classrooms.

### **Quebec Quotes**

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director

Greetings from the Quebec Region,

Another year closed and things have been quite busy since the beginning of the New Year with the upcoming convention and personal affairs. Spring is just around the corner as we smell and hear about the sugaring season. As I write it is raining very hard and very mild changing to freezing rain and a severe snowstorm warning is in effect for tomorrow. What a change in the next few hours!

We have been busy with the Convention. The mailing of the Invitation Kits is ready, last reservations have been completed and confirmed. All in all we are on time with the welcomed help from friends for our working sessions. More info is given in the Convention 2011 Report.

It is business as usual in the region. We have contacted some veterans and widows as part of our activities and held our year-end executive meeting. Unfortunately since our last newsletter report, we

have lost more of our QC members: Edwina wife of Phil Doddridge, Lillian Brunet widow of Lucien, Judith Metallic widow of Patrick, Madeleine Bernard widow of Emile and Raoul Tremblay RRC. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

We are pleased to welcome many new members in our Quebec Hong Kong Family. Hopefully the trend will continue as we invite our members to ask their family members to join and support our cause for our Veterans.

That will be it at this time and don't forget the Convention 2011. We are looking forward to seeing you then.

### Eastern Breezes

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Hello from Belledune, NB, where we just had 42 cm. of snow fall in less than 12 hours. Looking on the bright side, we can still see out of our 2nd story windows and there are tulips waiting to bloom some ten feet down.

At the regular monthly meeting of Dec. 20, 2010, Belledune, NB Council accepted the motion to purchase 25 HKV grave markers (monument badge disc's) for our local Hong Kong Veteran's (from Belledune to Nash Creek, NB). It is anticipated all markers will be mounted between June and September 2011.

I've been working on obtaining information from all local HKV families in order to have these monument badge disc's placed on their loved ones headstone. At first I thought it might be an arduous task but surprisingly it has brought a lot of joy to me and the many families who are so pleased to see their loved one being memorialized in such a unique way. When I found myself stuck on a name and could not find any relatives, I simply asked other HKV family members and they were able to direct me through the proper channels. For example, I had one individual who was born here but left shortly after the war. Sure enough after asking several families I was able to track his family to Niagara Falls, where he is buried. I mentioned this case to council and it was decided I should reach his family in Ontario, where they will sign the release to allow the disc placed on his headstone and then we will send the disc to them to have it

mounted (hopefully they will send a picture upon completion).

As we all know, 2011 commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the "Battle of Hong Kong" and many of our "Royal Rifles of Canada" were from Northern New Brunswick and the Gaspé Coast. I am hoping other municipalities in the area will take up this cause to ensure all Hong Kong Veterans have a "Monument Badge Disc" on their headstone, if not this year, hopefully next year. My plan is to send a letter to each municipality urging them to consider doing what Belledune has so proudly done.

We found a very reputable Monument Company to create our HKV Memorial and a wonderful Artist who is working on the "Gander" statue. By the time the next newsletter arrives, I will have more information to share with you (i.e. the artist rendition and associated costs for the overall memorial). We are so thankful to the Veterans Affairs who will be offering \$ help to all communities in Canada to honour our local heroes.

The New Brunswick Department of Education is currently in the loop with over seeing that the 10-lesson plan being incorporated through out all NB schools (French and English). We still have a way to go but I'm starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel (fingers crossed).

That's it for now, hope you all have a wonderful spring and may all your tulips bloom before the middle of June.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Humour

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments. " answered the lady.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord!" and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning!"

\* \* \* \* \*

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

\* \* \* \* \*



The sign says: If you have had enough of winter, please raise your hands.

\* \* \* \* \*

Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand.

\*\*\*\*\*

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

\*\*\*\*\*

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark, professionals built the Titanic.

\*\*\*\*\*

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common. They should both be changed regularly and for the same reason.

\*\*\*\*\*

There will always be death and taxes; however, death doesn't get worse every year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Give me a sense of humour, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke, To get some humour out of life, And pass it on to other folk!

\* \* \* \* \*

### NOTE:

We are always looking for people to help with the many projects that the Association has - so with that if anyone is looking for a task you might consider putting the newsletter together. If you wish to help with this please contact me at 204-837-6754 - Thank you - Carol Hadley.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Please inform us of any address changes so we can stay in touch and communicate to you with the newsletter.**

