



## Of Special Interest

**MANITOBA REGION** – Lunches & meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at St. James Legion, at 12 noon – accessible.

– Ladies Tea & Tidbits December 12, 1–3 p.m.

Please let us know of your new addresses so that we can keep you informed with the newsletter

**BC REGION:** wreath laying at the Victoria Cenotaph at the Legislative Buildings at 2 PM on Sunday, December 20th, 2009.

**ON REGION:** December 15th, we are participating in the Durham District School Board's "Highlights of History" workshop

\*\*\* **Ron Parker has moved his father's website to [www.battleofhongkong.com](http://www.battleofhongkong.com) and Phil Doddridge's has also moved to [www.memoriesunited.com](http://www.memoriesunited.com) \*\*\***

**IMPORTANT:** list of the veterans' interviews, made available by the Manitoba Museum are on our web site. The link to the list of names is on the front page on the right hand side.

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### Memorial Wall Now



As you see above the Wall is complete but we need to move to stage 3 – landscaping.

**Heritage Canada** has approved the grant for a \$100,000 that we applied for – hooray!! We have a couple of other grants that have been submitted to foundations and we wait to see if they are accepted. We continue to solicit funds as we are into our loans to meet our commitments. We are anticipating another grant that may be enough to complete the project and then we have the perpetuity fund – so we will see how far the money can stretch. We were pleased to hear ON Region finalized the concert and to see the contribution of \$24,000+.

Jim Lennox has updated the drawings to reflect the complete site as constructed so that we can tender the landscaping. Randy Wing is asking Polycor for a quote to do the name corrections on the wall – this can only be done in warm weather so will be initiated next year. This will give families time to review the names and let us know of any errors.

We have the revised drawings so we will soon be meeting with NCC to discuss the next step of the project and formulate a plan for the balance of the work.

We encourage every Region to continue to promote this project and use the updated brochure that is on our website. Our thanks to Kevin Fan of the Winnipeg Chinese community, who translated our new

### and what we want to achieve



Memorial Wall brochure for use at various events where Chinese is spoken. We have already sent it to Hong Kong where Bruce MacNamara, a teacher at the Canadian International School in Hong Kong is directing the International Witness to War Project, an annual event, which honours WWII veterans. This year the Canadian HK vets will be recognized. Also, students at the school will be raising funds to assist us with the landscaping of our Memorial Wall and on December 5 they will present their cheque to Patricia Osborn, daughter of John Osborn, who will accept on our behalf. That's it for now - Memorial Wall Committee

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### HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

The period from September through Christmas is always a busy one in Ottawa, as I am certain it is throughout the country. This year it was more than usual as many families requested photographs of the names of their loved one on the Memorial Wall. It was a pleasure and an honour to provide these.

The preparations for Veterans Week make October somewhat hectic, but it means, for me at least, another chance to meet the true heroes of our nation. It moves the heart to see the veterans of World War II stepping out proudly side by side with our latest vets from Afghanistan. But it also saddens the heart to see young mothers wearing the Memorial (Silver) Cross.

Due to Dempsey Syvret not having his "sea legs" following his

operation, I alone laid the wreath at our National Cenotaph. The banner on the wreath bearing the title "Hong Kong Veterans" automatically gave me a presence among the other veteran's groups that I did not deserve. They knew I was but the vehicle, mine but an invisible face, for it was those that wore the unique HK on their shoulder flash for which the passage was made.

On another note, the video of the Dedication ceremony will be released a little later than expected. Our target was December 1<sup>st</sup>, but the production is bilingual (as was the ceremony) and a couple of the translations were late arriving. I saw the final production the day I wrote this report (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>) and only one small correction to be made then it will go into production. The veterans and widows will receive complimentary copies from the first run. For other interested people, our web page will have the instructions for ordering copies.

As I'm certain Carol Hadley will report on the wall construction phase (landscaping), I need not dwell on this, other to say that the site remains our priority.

Lori Smith from the Ontario Region has accepted the challenge of getting our special monument disc on every grave of a HK veteran outside of Hong Kong and Japan. I strongly encourage you to assist. Please locate the burial places of every HK veteran that you can and pass this information on to Lori.

Other than that, may the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your families this blessed season. Happy New Year too!

### **HKVA President**

- Phil Doddridge

I would like to start by thanking Carol for her dedication in putting this newsletter together. Having written a similar letter for the Quebec-Maritimes Branch for several years, I have some idea of what it takes to meet deadlines with items of concern to the readers. Bravo, Carol.

### **GANDER**

I have added to my growing library of "Hong Kong" books with the purchase of "Sergeant Gander, a Canadian Hero". It is interesting if only a rehash of events that led up to his heroic deed and finally to the

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awarding of the Dicken Medal. I love the story as I loved the huge Newfoundland dog. It has caused me to reflect on CSM Osborne VC, who was entirely conscious of the result of his valorous deed, while those of Gander, laudable as they may be, his dog's mind may not have foreseen the result. We will never know, and we accept it as it is.

### **GRAVESTONE DISCS**

Lori Atkinson Smith has accepted the responsibility of spearheading this project, and to date she has made significant progress. She has enlisted the aid of Hong Kong friends far and wide. It is a huge undertaking, given that many of our veterans are buried in many parts of Canada, and some, no doubt, in unmarked graves. Lori and Doug visited me in New Richmond. They have a good idea of what is needed. I have every confidence that many graves will be marked that otherwise would have been forgotten.

### **AND FINALLY**

If I may close on a personal note, Wife Edwina is in hospital again. In spite of receiving the pneumonia injection in 2005, she contracted the disease. She has been in hospital care for the past two weeks. She has lost the use of her legs, and even though she receives therapy there doesn't seem to be much improvement. It keeps me busy running to see her and taking items of comfort to her every day. We live in hope.

That will be all for now. Be good to each other and may God Bless.

Philip

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### **Lost Trails"**

- Jim Trick

Since we've started our "Last Post" listings on the HKVCA web site we've been trying to make our records as complete as possible. Many of you have contacted us, providing important information on the passing of a loved one.

How can you find out easily if a veteran you're related to is already listed? Just enter their name into the search box that you'll find at the top-right of any page, and then check the list of results.

There are still hundreds of our vets who have died since the war for which we have no information. If you can help us update our records we would appreciate it.

Who knows - while improving the quality of our records you may also be providing someone with important information.

\* \* \* \*

### **Last Post**

**Joseph A. Tennier**, RRC, E30752, died on October 8, 2005

**Raymond Quirion**, RRC, E 30486 died September 23, 2009

**Bryce Huntley Craig**, RRC, E29820 died November 2, 2009

### **HKVCA**

**Claire Roussy**, widow of Joseph A Tennier, RRC, died on March 9, 2007.

**Eileen Moody**, from Alberta and the sister-in-law to ED Shayler died October 9, 2009

**Gladys McCarron**, widow of T. McCarron, RR and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Helen Wedge's mom, passing October 23, 2009

**Helen Thompson**, widow of Frank Drier, WG (d) and sister to Ken Vidal, WG (d) died October 17, 2009

*Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief.*

*We will remember them!*

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### **Membership Statistics as of December '09**

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	57	13	13	83
Atl	48	4	7	59
BC	98	12	39	149
MB	189	14	57	260
ON	153	17	55	226
QC	55	17	57	129
Total	600	77	228	906

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### **Hong Kong 2010**

If you have ever dreamed of visiting Hong Kong to see where Canada's soldiers fought in 1941 and where many are buried, here's your chance.

Based on very positive feedback at our recent convention and Memorial Wall unveiling in Ottawa, we're moving ahead to plan a commemorative trip to Hong Kong, and possibly to Japan, towards the end of 2010.

We would like to build a list of people who are interested in making the trip and will keep you all informed as the planning goes forward.

Here is a little more information to help you:

**Departure:** Around December 1, 2010

**Duration:** About 12 days

**Destinations:** Hong Kong and possibly Japan (Yokohama War Cemetery)

**Cost:** Between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per person (this is very approximate and subject to change!)

**Includes:** Airfare, accommodation and breakfasts, airport transfers at destinations, bus transport to sites at destinations (including English-speaking guides), some dinners.

**Highlights:** Sightseeing tour of Hong Kong; commemoration ceremony at Sai Wan War Cemetery; visit to Stanley Military Cemetery; guided tour of battlefields; visit to Stanley Village; shopping opportunities and much more!

If you are interested, please send an email to [hkvca.trip@gmail.com](mailto:hkvca.trip@gmail.com). There is no obligation! At this time we are simply building our contact list so that as the planning proceeds we can keep you updated. You can also look for information and updates at [www.hkvca.ca/2010trip](http://www.hkvca.ca/2010trip).

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### Have You Signed Up?



Want to get the latest HKVCA news before everyone else? Want to read our latest National Newsletter without waiting for it to arrive by Canada Post? Want to help us in making more effective use of our funds? Sign up for our email service! It's simple - just send an email to this address and we'll make it happen: [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca).

### HK Gravestone Discs

The reason for this note is two fold:

- We need your help in locating the final resting places of the HK veterans

- We suggest the purchase of the gravestone disc for your family member or friend

The president of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, Phil Doddridge, has passed on his mission of the placement of HK gravestone discs to a committee formed from a few members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association.

This is quite an undertaking and we welcome input from many resources to locate the final resting places of the men who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong. We invite you all to help us in this quest.

The gravestone discs may be purchased for your father or family member or friend's grave. 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.

Prior to purchasing a gravestone disc there is a very important fact to remember. Certain cemeteries will not allow such a disc to be due to a variety of reasons. For example, in Winnipeg, Brookside Cemetery and elsewhere such as the Military section of Beechwood in Ottawa, individual graves cannot have specific markings. Contact and confirm the regulations at the cemetery you are considering prior to your purchase.

We will keep you updated to our progress through the HKVCA newsletter. We thank you in advance for your help in this very important matter.

The HKVCA Gravestone Disc Committee

NOTE:

If you have any veterans' information it would be greatly appreciated for 2 reasons:

1. our task of locating all veterans graves
2. the gathering of pictures of the graves

Could you provide the following information for each veteran you know or knew. Copy this for each veteran you are providing information. Provide what you can - even a few 'clues' might help in our further searching. Mail it to Lori Atkinson- Smith, 946 Wyldewood Road, R. R. #1, Sherkston, Ontario L0S 1R0 or email to- [LoriR1952@gmail.com](mailto:LoriR1952@gmail.com)

Veteran's Name-  
Regiment and #-  
Name of Cemetery/Columbarium-  
Address of  
Cemetery/Columbarium-  
City/Prov.-  
Next of Kin contact name-  
Next of Kin address/email-  
Picture of gravestone-

HK Disc vs. engraving-

We are also documenting pictures of each HK veteran gravestone. If you have a picture available please send via Canada Post mail to D.B.G. Fair, 408 - 650 Waterloo Street, London, ON N6B 2R4. Or email it to [LoriR1952@gmail.com](mailto:LoriR1952@gmail.com) whatever way the picture is sent, include as much of the same information noted above with each picture. A digital picture, emailed would be our choice.

We believe our role is to undertake the administration of the HKVCA gravestone discs. This might include contacting a family member, a cemetery, and the placement of the disc on the gravestone.

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

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### **Online Update [hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)**

If you haven't visited our various web sites in awhile, you're going to find some changes.

- New look to our main page, allowing you to get a quick picture of our site contents by category, then have one-click access.
- HKVCA Forum - New format - no advertising! Designed to allow our community to interact and help each other. You can read the discussions without joining, but joining is easy and allows you to participate. Thinking about visiting Hong Kong? Check out Mike Babin's forum as he makes plans for a guided trip in Dec 2010. Don't forget to let him know if you want to be added to the email list.
- Gallery Updates - We are continually adding images and scans that our member community share. Check out the scans of news and pictorial coverage in the Winnipeg Free Press during and after the battle.
- Diaries and Personal Accounts - we've added Alfred Babin's personal account and Edward Terry's diary, amongst others.
- Better searching - we're annotating as much content as we can so that our site search service will work better for you

Visit our home page at <http://www.hkvca.ca> often, and view the latest changes in the right sidebar.

Do you have a question? A comment? Email: [webmaster@hkvca.ca](mailto:webmaster@hkvca.ca).

### **Across the Nation BC Banter**

Greetings to you all from a very soggy West Coast. We have had our umbrellas in almost constant use the past few weeks. The Cowichan Valley, just north of Victoria, had flooding that required the area to call a "state of emergency". So, of course, we were extremely grateful that

Remembrance Day in Victoria had blue skies and sunshine. Wreaths commemorating the Hong Kong Veterans were laid in Victoria, Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Armstrong, Fort Nelson, Chilliwack and Maple Ridge.

Our Education Chair, Lee Naylor, made a connection with Keith Black of Veterans Affairs Canada at the George Derby Centre event in September. As a result of that net-working, we got involved in the "Remembering the Past, Hoping for the Future" exhibit at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria during Remembrance week from November 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Janet MacDonald of the Royal BC Museum was very helpful to us and she was outstanding in organizing the event.

The BC Region along with many other veterans' associations and groups were in attendance. We had our tabletop display set up. It was a wonderful opportunity to reach out to a great many people about the story of "C" Force. Janet told us that last year 12,000 toured the displays. During the week days local high school students visited the exhibit. We provided their teachers with information about our Canada-wide Essay Contest. We also had the opportunity to present our Association's story in one of the conference halls in the Museum at an hour-long session on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. I presented a power-point presentation about the Battle of Hong Kong and Gerry Gerrard (HK vet) provided the answers during the question and answer period, which followed. It was very well received. Linda and Kent Graber attended this event. Linda is the daughter of Francis Robertson (d) RRC. We were happy to have them at the presentation. Here are some photos from the event.

Another upcoming educational event that our region will be involved in will be held at the Vancouver Education Centre next week on December 10<sup>th</sup> (International Human Rights Day) and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Over 360 students will attend the Student's Symposium from Greater Vancouver. Graeme Stacey is a history teacher who has pioneered

the inclusion of the Canadian Hong Kong veterans' material in classrooms in B.C. He has been invited to present the story of "C" Force at this event and feels that our regional display and video material would be an asset and we will assist in any way we can.

Continuing a Victoria Christmas tradition, we will be laying a wreath at the Cenotaph at the Legislative Buildings at 2 PM on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. It is a "Hong Kong family" event, so there will not be any media or public attending. Please come out for this short remembrance, which commemorates the day that Hong Kong surrendered. Gerry Gerrard has invited us to come to his Legion after the wreath laying to share a cup of coffee and spend some time together.

Please take very good care of each other. May God bless you and keep you, until we meet again.

Warmest regards,  
Linda Stewart-Quesnel – submitted on behalf of Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor

### **AB/SK Action**

Our Hong Kong Veteran's family has had three events since the last newsletter. On September 20 we met at the Haddon Road Legion for lunch. There were about 25 people in attendance. Doug Rees, John Dearden, Ralph MacLean and Ed Shayler were very happy to meet some new members and those of us who have been around for a while.

Karen Koonar from the The Military Museums gave us the history of the Mural Mosaic titled "'Heroes'". Our Branch has supported this project by purchasing one square (picture attached).



She invited us to come to the Museum where we could all see the Mural. On November 8<sup>th</sup> we gathered in the Atrium, right in

front of the Mural Mosaic(attached picture).



It is so amazing to see! There is so much potential for our story to be told here. Karen encouraged all of us to participate by writing stories and finding pictures about our Veterans. It was a great way to kick off Veteran's week.

In Calgary we laid wreaths at three ceremonies. Ralph MacLean and his granddaughter participated in the service at the Jubilee Auditorium. Gary and Karen Boland were thrilled to lay the wreath at the Calgary Military Museums. This is the first year that we were a part of their ceremonies. Terry Kwok and I went to The Cenotaph on 12 Avenue.

It was a beautiful, sunny day and record crowds were reported at all three venues.

I spoke to Leona Kashton in Edmonton, it sounds like the Hong Kong Veterans were well represented there on Remembrance Day. Her and her 2 granddaughters, Elyssa & Amy, laid a wreath at the Norwood Legion. John McGee's daughter, Marilyn and her husband, Gord attended the service at the Butterdome and laid a wreath. There was also a wreath laid at the Beverly Cenotaph.

I am sure there were many other wreaths laid on behalf of our Veterans. Thanks to all of you who participated.

This is the time of year that memberships have to be renewed. I will be sending a reminder to all of our members along with a membership form. Please take a look around to your families and friends and encouraged them to join our great organization.

Wishing you all a wonder filled Christmas season and all the best in 2010.

- Norma Fuchs, Secretary

## Manitoba Moments

Well we are having a great Fall in Manitoba. Here it is December 1st and no snow. Hope you are all doing well.

We have had a few special occasions. In September our Tea & Tidbits for the ladies was well attended. Also in September was the unveiling of the Winnipeg Grenadier plaque at Bardal's Funeral Home on Notre Dame. Neil Bardal Sr was a Lieutenant in the Winnipeg Grenadiers and a recording of his words were very poignant in the ceremony that involved the Colour Party, George Peterson and Larry Stebbe.



Picture - L-R: Wayne Stebbe, Neil Bardal Jr, Ann and Larry Stebbe.

Our Reunion on Oct 24 saw 119 people attending with veterans and widows who come out with their children and grand children,



picture - L-R standing are our widows - Myrtle Lytle, Joan Watson, Alexandra Slovinsky, Mary Sellers, Ann Richardson, Angie Bourbonniere. Sitting L-R Grant Shepherd, Ladena Mabley, Marcine James, George Peterson, and Larry Stebbe.



Picture - L-R Carol Hadley and Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA and Special Envoy for Military Affairs, Province of Manitoba.

Bonnie Korzeniowski, MLA and Special Envoy for Military

Affairs, Province of Manitoba presented Carol Hadley, Chair of the Memorial Wall Committee, with a \$5000 cheque for the Wall. What a great surprise that was!

I would like to thank our Colour Party, along with the Piper who of course did a great job as always; and all the people who donated prizes for the silent auction. I would also say a big **thank you** to the following people who helped me out the night of the Reunion - Bonnie Wiebe, Violet Mead, Lora Wachendorf, Bridget MacDougall, Marlene Bell and last but not least Constance Mitchell. What a great feeling to know these people can always be counted on when needed. Vince Lopata had a great slide show of the Memorial Wall dedication in Ottawa. Barry Mitchell had a table set up with books, shirts, pins and most of the goodies from his Emporium. I would like to thank DJK Music (Lucy) for the great music and getting the people involved in dancing.

Our tabletop display was in the Manitoba Museum from November 2 - 16 with information on our Association and our Education endeavours for the 5000 people who go through the museum at this time of year. On Remembrance Day several of our members attended the service at the Convention Centre. Our Colour Party (Vince, Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor) was involved in the service with George Peterson laying a wreath with me as his escort. George Peterson and Vince Lopata attended the War Amputation Dinner on November 6<sup>th</sup> while Carol Hadley was guest speaker at the Remembrance Dinner in Pilot Mound. Vince Lopata was speaker at the Remembrance Day event in Pinawa.

We will be holding our Christmas Tea and Tidbits on December 12th and with luck we will have a good turn out.

**George Peterson** - Wishes you all the Best of the Holiday Season and all the best in 2010 and to stay well.

From our entire Executive we wish you all the best for the coming Holiday season - good health, peace and happiness in 2010. Feel free to call or email me anytime, I would love to stay in

touch with you [jlafortune@mts.net](mailto:jlafortune@mts.net) or 204-338-3354, Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director

### Ontario Offerings

There are several events to mention involving the Ontario Region. First of all, we were asked by the Parliamentary Library's Teachers' Institute to be a part of their Resource Fair which was held on Nov. 3rd at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa. We had conflicting events in the Toronto area, but recognized that it was important for us to be present. Fortunately, we were able to arrange for the event to be in the capable hands of Ted Terry, his wife, Ann, and Ian Doull. This was quite a significant opportunity, in that we were able to connect with specially chosen delegates from across the country, which were part of the Teachers' Institute programme. Ted reported afterwards that the event was quite successful, as the teachers received free-of-charge several important documents from us including copies in English and French of the Ten Lessons, samples of our new Cross Canada Writing Contest in both languages, and the newly-created CD-ROM for teachers and members of our HKVCA organization, also in both English and French.

Our next event was the OHASSTA Conference on Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7th. Over two days, from 8 am to 5 pm, we engaged quite a number of the 350 History teachers from across the province that were delegates. There was much interest in our new CD-ROM presentation, our All-New HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest and the details of Gander's story, as well as the other items we had brought with us. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped us through the two days - particularly Gordon Coyne, Linda Guglick, Sandra Strom, Bud and Ruth Mann, Mark Purcell and Mike Babin. All felt that the two days had been very worthwhile.

Coming up on December 15th, we are participating in the Durham District School Board's "Highlights of History" workshop situation. Our new HKVCA CD-ROM will be the focus of the workshop. This is a presentation geared to High School students as well as HKVCA members who may one day want to

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make presentations to the schools about the Battle of Hong Kong. Very well written, it has a complete script for the presenter to use, as well as slides, pictures and videos of the events before, during and after the Battle of Hong Kong. Mike Babin and Nick Brune will share the presentation. That in itself should make for a very special opportunity for students to become more aware of our Canadian soldiers' place in the history of World War II.

The All-New HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest is already underway. The deadline for the event is Friday, May 21, 2010. The Contest is featured in the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA Website, and may be downloaded from there. Ministers of Education in almost every province and territory have expressed an interest in the contest. Responses have been very positive, and the Saskatchewan example is probably one of the most encouraging. The person in charge of the "Perspectives" magazine, which goes to all of the teachers of Social Studies in Saskatchewan, has written saying that they have decided to put the whole of the contest in their magazine's next issue. The OSSTF in Ontario has also has responded to say that they will put the information about the contest into their winter issue which comes out in February.

The accounting for the "Let There Be Peace on Earth" concert by the Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra on April 8 in Toronto is now complete, and the final total raised is \$24,200! The Ontario Region has forwarded a cheque for this amount to our national treasurer to be applied towards the completion of the Memorial Wall in Ottawa. This brings the total of donations to the Wall from Ontario to over \$76,000.

We were saddened with the news that Bryce Craig RRC of Callander had passed away. Our sympathies are extended to his son Brian and the family. Marcine James (John James WG) had a fall and is recuperating. We wish her a speedy recovery. Everyone else seems to be holding their own. No point in complaining they said, nobody listens.

Ken Pifher (RRC) continues with an active lifestyle in Grimsby, Ontario, the grape harvest this year

has been bountiful in his area and his health is quite good, with just the normal amount of medical tests required from time to time. Ken is dedicated to lunching each day with his 'cronies' He will attend Remembrance Day services, as usual in Niagara Falls, where he is a long-time member of Branch 479 Royal Canadian Legion.

Gerry "Sunny" Sunstrum (RRC) is living well in his own home in Niagara Falls, Ontario. When I called him he had just come in from attending an evening church service in Chippewa, as is his Sunday custom. He remains quite active at age 92, and says he has no serious health problems. Both of Gerry's eyes are working better for having had cataract surgery. Now both are in need of surgery to relieve excessive pressure. One surgery has been completed, and was very successful. The second surgery is currently "on hold due to the swine flu outbreak". Gerry is devoted to his regular lunch group that meets at Tim Horton's every day. One other member of the group is a veteran like himself. For many years, he says, he was a "golf addict", but now the clubs have gone away for good.

Widow Elizabeth Chesser is living in a Nursing Home in Mississauga, Ontario. She is in process of dictating her memoirs to a nephew. Her daughter, Kathleen Chesser, is in regular contact with her.

Widow Marion Jamieson has been living in Heritage House (retirement home) in Guelph, Ontario for the past year, and "enjoying it". She says she has regular family contact through her son, Allan Jamieson, living nearby in Milton, Ontario. Her daughter, Catherine Hudson, living in Thunder Bay, Ontario, attended the Memorial Wall Unveiling & Dedication. Marion says she continues to enjoy good health.

Linda Nicholson is a member through her late mother, Velma Nicholson. Living in Oakville, she is Principal of the nearby Meadowvale Village Public School. She is particularly fond of the story of Sgt. Gander, and has had great satisfaction relating it to students in the classroom.

Widow Dorothy "Dot" McColm is living in St. Joseph's Villa (Nursing Home) in Dundas, Ontario. Her daughter, Elaine Dorey, who lives nearby, contacts her frequently. The family is keen about the work of the HKVCA and our Newsletter. They attended the Memorial Wall Unveiling & Dedication and have supported this project financially.

We have a new area rep for the Greater Toronto Area, Bud Mann, 53 Oak Lea Circle, Markham, Ontario, L3P 3M3, 905-294-5342, email: [bud.mann@simpatico.ca](mailto:bud.mann@simpatico.ca). Feel free to contact Bud if you have any questions or concerns regarding members in the GTA.

From Lori Smith: I was visiting Dorothy Sauson earlier this week in London. She didn't lay the wreath but had her picture taken after. Her son Les was with her.



That's all the news from the Ontario Region. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season.

### Quebec Quotes

Greetings on this sunny, almost summer feeling day from the Quebec Region.

Another year is fast coming to a close. 2009 was a very busy year with the Convention and specially the Unveiling of our Memorial Wall. Again we owe a great deal of thanks to the Organizing Committee for their very hard work on this project. Thanks to all our members for their support and a great round of applause goes to Mike Babin from Ontario Region and his group for their great financial support with their very successful concert held in Toronto.

Thanks to the work of our Web Master Jim Trick, we have a very nice Photo Gallery of the Unveiling/Commemorative Ceremony on the HKVCA Site. Although probably a bit short, we

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had some coverage of the Wall Unveiling in the recent edition of the Legion Magazine, our Hong Kong Veterans present in Ottawa were there in full colour! WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

We recently held our fall executive meeting. As usual we had detailed reports from our treasurer, membership chairman, the reading of the mid-year reports which were to be presented to our members last August in Ottawa with time permitting.

During Armistice week and days prior, we attended many functions honouring all Veterans. We also attended our local Armistice Banquet. Renay Perrier, QC Deputy Director laid our wreath in honour of all our Hong Kong Veterans during our local Commemorative Ceremony, in the absence of yours truly, due to a prior commitment.

That is it at this time.

We would like to wish Season Greetings to all Veterans, Widows and Members

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Take care, till next time.

Lucette Mailloux Muir  
QC Regional Director

### Maritime Memories

Maritime Region extends best wishes to all their members for a Joyous, holiday season and a Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

\* \* \* \*

### Canadians ARE Cool

#### Great Answers

In France, at a fairly large conference, Prime Minister Steven Harper was asked by a French cabinet minister if Canadian involvement in Afghanistan was just an example of "empire building".

Mr Harper answered by saying, 'Over the years, Canada has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.'

*You could have heard a pin drop.*

A Canadian Admiral was attending a naval conference that included

Admirals from the Canadian, US, English, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French Admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, North Americans generally learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the Canadian Admiral replied 'Maybe it's because the Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'

*You could have heard a pin drop.*

When Robert Whiting, an elderly Canadian gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on at French Customs.

'You have been to France before, monsieur?' the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. The official replied, 'Then you should know enough to have your passport ready.'

The Canadian said, 'The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.'

'Impossible, Monsieur. Canadians always have to show passports on arrival in France!'

The Canadian senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, 'Well, when I came ashore on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to.'

*You could have heard a pin drop.*

Canadians are Cool.

### Submitted by a member:

A lesson that should be taught in all schools . . . And colleges.

Back in September, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies schoolteacher at Robinson High School, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and

the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms.. Cothren, where're our desks?' She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said. 'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms.Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) War Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall... By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'you didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. *Don't ever forget it.*'

By the way, this is a true story so tell others so we don't forget that the freedoms we have in this great country were earned by War Veterans.

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association  
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### **Humour**

Joey-Jim was tooling along the road one fine day when the local policeman, a friend of his, pulled him over. "What's wrong, Seamus?" Joey-Jim asked. "Well didn't ya know, Joey-Jim, that your wife fell out of the car about five miles back?" said Seamus. "Ah, praise the Almighty!" he replied with relief. "I thought I'd gone deaf!"

♥♥♥

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♥♥♥

Lucky stars above you, Sunshine on  
your way, Many friends to love  
you, Joy in work and play-  
Laughter to outweigh each care, In  
your heart a song- And gladness  
waiting everywhere All your whole  
life long!

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Merry Christmas  
Seasons Greetings and  
Happy New Year