



THE SPIRIT OF THE TORCH

"All Generations of the Hong Kong Family Remember with Pride"

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association of Ontario



Volume VI, Number 1 (10)

JUNE 2006

Regional Director's Message - This is my first report as Regional Director for Ontario, and I'd like to devote some of it to thanking the members of the Ontario executive team who did not run for re-election for their contributions to our accomplishments since the last election two years ago:

Pat Turcotte. As the Regional Director, Pat provided both strong leadership for our activities and tender concern for the region's Veterans and widows. Perhaps her most significant achievement was the introduction of "Canada in Hong Kong 1941-1945, The Forgotten Heroes" - a set of lesson plans to be used in schools across Canada to teach high school students about the Battle for Hong Kong and the internment and treatment of the POWs. Pat recently had the document translated into French to broaden its audience. As the number of Veterans dwindles each year it becomes so much more important to spread the Hong Kong story, and these lesson plans are an excellent vehicle for doing that. Although Pat decided not to run for re-election, she is staying very active in the HKVCA with her continued focus on encouraging schools to adopt the lesson plans.

Sandi Cameron. We finished last year in excellent financial shape, thanks in no small part to Sandi's role as Treasurer, and her diligence in maintaining our books and watching our financial p's and q's. She was also a major contributor to the hugely successful National Convention in Ottawa last summer.

Lori Smith. Although Lori has relinquished her position of Secretary, she continues as Ontario's Membership Chair. Keeping our list of several hundred members up to date is no small feat, but Lori stays right on top of the task.

Sylvia Mason. As one of our Deputy Directors, Sylvia willingly and capably took on several special projects throughout her term, most recently developing the bilingual flyer referred to later in this article.

Without the willing volunteerism these HKVCA members displayed over their terms our organization simply could not have run. We owe them our gratitude.

I'd also like to introduce the newest member of Ontario's executive team: **Mark Purcell**, our new Treasurer. He's the grandson of Leonard Corrigan (WG), and Pat Turcotte's nephew. Welcome, Mark! I'm particularly pleased to have Mark on board as he is the first (to my knowledge) of the "3rd generation" to serve on an HKVCA executive. Hopefully Mark's willingness to get involved in the HKVCA will point the way for others of his age group, as the long-term future of our Association is dependent on his generation.

It not something that we really like to talk about - but the unfortunate fact is that every year there are fewer and fewer Vets still with us. This means that every year there are fewer who lived through the battle and survived the POW camps, and therefore fewer who are able to visit schools, talk to the press, attend community functions and keep the Hong Kong story alive in other ways. So those of us in the HKVCA need to find ways to continue to tell their story and to get better at engaging Canada's youth.

Along these lines, as I mentioned earlier, a major project for us has been the development and distribution of the lesson plans for high schools. We were able to secure substantial funding from VAC to translate our original English version into French and do a print run.

In January, Pat and Bernard Turcotte, Gordon Coyne and I, held an "envelope stuffing festival" at Pat's house. As a result, we mailed some 300 copies of the French version to schools and school boards, across the country, that have French language history programs. We plan to follow up with these schools to encourage them to incorporate the lesson plans into their curricula.

We also created a bilingual flyer for use at Teachers' Conventions and other events to advertise our English and French lesson plans, George MacDonnell's book "One Soldier's Story", and the French-language book "Bernard Castonguay - Prisonnier de Guerre au Japon".

The flyer includes an order form. Anyone who would like to obtain copies for use at local events is welcome to do so. Just contact me at msbabin@sympatico.ca.

We are still in need of a Secretary and a couple of Deputy Regional Directors to join our executive in Ontario. These are not terribly time-consuming roles, but they are important to the smooth functioning of the HKVCA so I would like to fill them as soon as possible. If you are interested in volunteering a few hours per week, please contact me so that I can give you more details.

Mike Babin
Regional Director, Ontario

HKVCA IN ONTARIO

This Association aims to perpetuate the memory of and to ensure the welfare of the surviving veterans and their spouses, and the widows and their families by:

- **Enrolling all those in the Hong Kong family in the HKVCA**
- **Ensuring regular, periodic contact with those members**
- **Attending and participating in memorial services on Remembrance Day, V-J Day and other special occasions**
- **Orally proclaiming our link to the Hong Kong Veterans**
- **Educating and increasing the public's understanding of the sacrifice made by the Hong Kong veterans**
- **Organizing Reunions and National Conventions, as well as providing opportunities for social events for The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada**

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to everyone who contributed to this edition of our Newsletter

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THE WORD FROM THE AREA REPS

We thank all the Area Reps for their willingness to serve and for taking time from their busy schedules to maintain contact with members in their area.

West Central Area: Leon Sokalski

It's nice to have winter finally over, and we all look forward to more pleasant weather and enjoying the summer ahead.

Carl Adams: I mentioned in my last report that Carl had turned 87 last November 22, and was still driving. Well, he is still managing to drive his car and works for short periods of time limiting his farm work to keeping himself busy cutting small sections of his grass. He may even be thinking that it might be wise to move into town soon, as the farm burden is getting too great to handle. He looks forward to visits from his son who lives in Welland.

Harold Smith: Has been battling a cough, but is better now. He and his wife June celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 17, 2005. As an interesting sideline, Harold stated that he was born in Guelph, and lived across the street from the author who wrote "In Flander's Fields".

Ken Pifher: From Grimsby just got back from another visit to St. Martinique, where he enjoyed the ocean and the slot machines. Ken, who turned 86 on April 24, and his grandson Kevin both celebrated birthdays at the same time. Ken's daughter surprised them with a birthday cake for both "Ken and Kev". Ken and his wife Eleanor are celebrating their 60th, on May 26, with visiting friends and family.

Donald Geraghty: of Burlington, a good friend of Ken Pifher, is back from a pleasant winter in Florida, and will be looking forward to celebrating Ken's 60th wedding anniversary with him.

Gerard Sunstrum: From Niagara Falls turned 86 last September 16, and is still doing well. He especially now looks forward to his son's visits, as his wife passed away last December.

It was nice talking to all of you again, as usual. I hope I got all the info correct.

Take care, and have a happy summer!

Leon Sokalski

South West Area: Barbara Cunningham-Drew

Barbara would be pleased to hear from members in the South-West area if they have any questions or concerns that she might be able to help with. She will be making calls to those on her SW list in the next few weeks.

Barbara may be reached by calling (519) 471-3852 in London.

Barbara Cunningham -Drew

North East Area: Ron McGuire

It is with sincere regret that I begin on two sad notes.

Following months of fighting several more battles Sgt. Lancelot Scott Ross, RRC passed away peacefully on March 29, 2006 surrounded by his family. He was the epitome of the courageous soldier to the very end. On April 2nd, two truly heartfelt services were held for Lance attended by a large group of family and friends. There followed a reception to celebrate his life. There were panels with many photographs depicting Lance, his family, trips they made together and places that were dear to them. The panel with views of his beloved Hopetown home and surrounding areas were easily recognized, by me, from the vivid verbal descriptions Lance gave during my visits with him. Knowing Lance enjoyed talking about "home" I made a point to always ask him things about it during our conversations.

Derrill Henderson conducted the HKVCA service. Lance's comrades Cpl. Dempsey Syvret and Ken Ewing lead the Honour Guard, of which I was privileged to be a part, along with fellow HKVCAers Ian Doull, Susan Ewing, Vivian Henderson, Sandi Cameron, and Lucette Muir and Robert Campbell, President of the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour. Marcel Mondou served as Colour Sergeant. As is tradition, each of us placed a poppy on Lance's coffin. I am aware that other comrades including "Flash" Clayton, Fred Mason and Eric Maloney wanted to attend, but health and circumstances beyond their control prevented them; but they were there in spirit.

The second service included a very touching tribute to Lance by Alan Sandeman, his son-in-law. At times it brought both tears and laughter. I am sure Lance would have been pleased with Alan and his

well-chosen stories. I suggested, and Alan has agreed, to have his tribute published in this Newsletter. As well, Alan and his fellow members of "Assembly Required" performed three appropriate songs/hymns (they played at one of the Reunion banquets in Ottawa last August). Again I am sure, Lance would have been singing along, as they were some of his favourites!

On May 1st, Ross Speller called from Victoria to tell me his dad, my friend Lionel Speller MM, RCCS had passed away the day before. For those who did not know Lionel personally, I suggest they read "Flash" Clayton's excellent tribute to his friend on page nine of the June 2005 edition of this newsletter.

It was indeed my good fortune to have known Lance and Lionel. The world has lost two truly great Canadians. May they rest in peace along with their comrades.

On January 3rd, to help start the New Year off for Eric Maloney, Connie and I took one of her delicious beef stews, homemade from scratch, bread and a selection of desserts to his home. Since Eric is a chef, Connie was concerned her cooking would not be up to Eric's standards. However, Eric, his daughter Cynthia, and good friend Jim Mirowski, certainly indicated they enjoyed everything, just as I knew they would!

Ken and Susan Ewing made their bi-annual trip to Australia to spend most of January to April with their daughter and her family. I am pleased to report they had safe travel, a good time, and did not encounter any of the bad weather or fires that seemed to plague the country while they were there.

My repeated calls to Thomas Jones have gone unanswered, so I hope all is well with him and that he has successfully recovered from those two broken shoulders. I will continue to try and reach him on the phone and plan a visit with him in Pembroke.

In February I had a visit from Burke Penny while he was in town conducting research at DND-"D" history, for his book on the 33 member group of "C" Force Signals. He is the nephew of Don Penny RCCS and has already completed a very impressive family genealogy. Unfortunately, I could be of little help with his project but he was able to contribute to mine and we had an enjoyable visit.

From April 18-20, I drove Hugh MacMillan, a nearly blind non-HK Veteran friend to Barrie, Meaford and Owen Sound on a speaking tour to promote his book. While Hugh attended a meeting I walked along the beach in Meaford looking for an interesting stone to add to Connie's rock garden. After finding one I walked up to a park. Imagine my surprise when I found an Ontario historical plaque dedicated to native son, Sir Lyman Poore Duff. The text stated in glowing terms an overview of his "outstanding" career and that he was "one of the foremost jurists of the British Empire". However, there was nothing indicating that he headed the "Royal Commission on the Canadian Expeditionary Force....to Hong Kong" in 1942. In my opinion the infamous Duff Report simply exonerated the MacKenzie King Government from any blame and found that several senior military officers had not acted with sufficient dispatch or efficiency – the typical whitewash that usually continues to this day with such "investigations". I got another even more eerie surprise when after handing the stone to Connie she noted it was in the shape of a tombstone!

On our return home we enjoyed the hospitality of "Flash" and Jessie Clayton for which I again sincerely thank them. On several enjoyable walks with "Flash" and his energetic little dog "Mollie" and tours by car, around his beautiful part of Ontario, I had an opportunity to speak with him at length about a number of matters. As I always do, on such occasions, I learned something new about the "C" Force story. A bonus was to again see David Murray, our first Regional Director, who was also visiting. I was glad to be updated on the many things he is doing on behalf of his dad, Mathew "Git" Murray's comrades and the HKVCA..

I have tried to keep in touch with all members in the region and take every opportunity to tell our Veterans story, to ensure that they will "Never be Forgotten".

Connie joins me in wishing everyone a happy and safe summer.

Canada Veterans Hall of Valour (H of V) Update

After May 13, 2006 when S/Sgt. Charles Albert Clark, DCM-CPC, Cpl. Kenneth Stanley Cameron, MM-RCOC and "Sgt." Gander, Dicken Medal-RR of C Mascot are inducted, there will be five members of "C" Force in the H of V. That was my main objective when I became involved with this organization in 2002.

To my surprise H of V President Bob Campbell phoned me, in March, to say that I had made the Board of Directors so aware of "C" Force and its many facets that they decided to induct an additional member each year in the future. Bob said he was most impressed with what I had told him about "Flash" Clayton, when I asked if he could induct Cpl. Cameron at this year's banquet. "Flash" was one of the first to join the HKVA after it was established in December 1945 by S/Sgt. Charlie Clark and, has worked for over sixty years on behalf of not only Hong Kong Veterans but all Canadian veterans through his involvement with the Royal Canadian Legion. As a consequence, Bob suggested "Flash" be inducted during the May 12, 2007 induction banquet. Of course, I wholeheartedly agreed with him.

A few days later, I had Bob's approval, to my request, to also induct Cpl. Lionel Speller, MM-RCCS. Lionel was the only non-officer member of Brigade to receive an Award of Valour for his actions during the Battle. Lionel also has over sixty years of service to his fellow veterans with the HKVA and Royal Canadian Legion. Needless to say, I am pleased to know that Mrs. Speller told Lionel about his latest honour before he passed away.

The good news continues, because of my next suggestion to Bob, that Jessica Clayton be inducted in 2007 was also readily approved. Jessie represents the wives of Hong Kong Veterans who helped their loved ones in so many ways to return to a normal life after their terrible ordeals as POWs. Furthermore, Jessie is a veteran, having joined the CWAC in January 1943. Following an audition, Jessie was chosen in July 1943 to be one of four tenor drummers with the CWAC, an elite twenty-four member Pipe Band. Jessie and her fellow musicians have an impressive history of their own. Before being disbanded, in June 1946, the popular Band entertained the troops across Canada, in the United States, throughout England and Western Europe, following the allies as they liberated enemy-occupied territory. There were also special performances for War Savings Bond campaigns, ceremonial parades, military sports events and even a Royal Review at Wimbledon! Jessie also has over thirty years of service to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Together, the Clayton's will have an additional, well deserved honour. They will be the first couple to be inducted into the H of V. In effect, they will be representing not only Hong Kong Veterans and

their wives but also all Canadian couples who were both war veterans.

If you are interested in attending the May 12, 2007 Induction Banquet, please contact me to reserve your ticket for an excellent meal, which I expect will be \$45-50. Your reservation will be held until April 12, 2007, when payment is due. There is a special room rate at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for those who wish to stay overnight.

In the next edition of this newsletter I will have the names of "C" Force inductees for 2008 and the date of the banquet.

For more information about the Hall of Valour and the campaign to construct its own building in Carleton Place, Ontario, please contact me or check their web site:
www.canadaveteranshallofvalour.com .

Ron McGuire

Central & South East Area: Maureen Dwyer-Kline

Well, spring is here already and it's time again for our newsletter.

I had a call, the first part of May, from Janet Ford of Port Hope. She and her sister Margaret Brown are the daughters of Rfn. Charles Frank Jiggins RRC, who was held at the Tokyo camp. Frank passed away Sept. 9, 1993, not long after entering a nursing home. It was only shortly before his death that Frank Jiggins started to speak about his life as a prisoner of the Japanese to his son-in-law, Les. Like a lot of our fathers, husbands, etc., Frank did not talk about those years with his family. His daughters have decided to join our Association and are looking to find out more about their father. Janet did tell me that her father was a member of the Cobourg Legion and that he was a friend of Clarence Thompson. I checked into the Nominal Roll from the HKVCA web site and it just so happens that Clarence also was a Hong Kong veteran who was held at the Tokyo camp. If any of you remembers Charles Frank Jiggins could you please contact his daughter Janet Ford, 56 Bruton Street, Port Hope ON L1A 1V2. I know they would really appreciate it. On behalf of everyone I welcome Janet and Margaret to our HKVCA family.

Muriel Warner (sister of Leonard Patrick RRC) has had a rough time since last September, with her own health as well as that of her husband, Howard. For those of you who don't know, Howard was

injured about 5 years ago during the blackout in Southern Ontario and has not recovered from that time. He is now wheelchair-bound and unfortunately not well at all. Our hearts and thoughts are with you both.

Back in December 2005, I introduced you to a new member of the HKVCA, Barry Crawford. Barry is related to the Kelso family of Bury, Quebec. I had an e-mail from him recently stating that he hopes to attend the June 11th unveiling of the Hong Kong Veteran's Wall of Remembrance in Ottawa for Allen Campbell Kelso. What a nice tribute!! If any of you are in Ottawa during that same time, why not join Barry for the unveiling.

Another new member was Marilyn Wright (daughter of Colin Blaver, RRC). When I wrote to you last, Marilyn announced she was a first-time grandmother. She tells me that her granddaughter, Morgan Jane, is now 7 1/2 months old and an absolute joy!! She and her family are well and looking forward to the summer ahead. Marilyn was also hoping to get some information on her father from anyone who might remember him but wasn't able to find out much. She did visit our HKVCA web site though, where she found some pictures of her father. It was good to hear from you again, Marilyn, thanks for the e-mail.

Had a wonderful conversation with Delilah Cooper, wife of Fred Cooper. Apparently Fred had hip surgery last March 16th and is now doing very well, walking with only the aid of one cane already. In fact he's doing so well that he'll be finished his therapy in a couple of weeks and doesn't have to see the doctor for about 3 months. What great news!!! Delilah says he's just eager to get on with his gardening now that the surgery is behind him. We all wish you continued good health, Fred. Delilah also told me how overwhelmed they were with all the assistance that Veterans Affairs gave them during Fred's recuperation. They were right there with a wheelchair, safety bars for the bathroom, a walker etc. Plus, someone checked in on him periodically as to his health and rehabilitation. Good luck and "happy gardening" Fred!!

Leo Berard, WG hasn't been up to par lately. He's been experiencing dizzy spells and just not feeling well. His daughter will be taking him to his doctor next week (2nd week of May). I'll check back with Leo to see how he made out and report to you later.

Had a quick conversation with Rena and Bruce Cadoret of Cobourg. They were getting ready to visit their daughter Ann's home in Port Hope. Ann and her husband are renovating a large, older home and Rena and Bruce help by cooking lunches and suppers etc. I reminded Rena that I love to eat too and offered to take some of those good desserts/cookies that she makes so well, but apparently her son-in-law has first dibs!!! Both, Rena and Bruce are hoping to attend the Quebec reunion in Granby this August and hope to see many of their friends there as well. Maybe she'll bring some cookies for me then!!! It's always a pleasure talking to you both and Bob, Mom and I look forward to spending time with you soon.

Alfred Mills, RRC, (of Prescott) tells me that he, his neighbour Don Brown and 2 other friends were here in Trenton to visit the War Museum at CFB Trenton. They came especially to view the Halifax aircraft that has been put back together and is now nearly completed. Although the Museum was closed, the doors were open and the workers inside finishing the Halifax invited them in. They were all quite impressed. Apparently, Alfred's friend Don is an Air Force veteran with (I think) 35 flights under his belt. For those of you who have never been to the Trenton CFB Museum, inside there is a tribute to honour Len Birchall, given by his wife and family along with memorabilia from many men and women of WWII. The outdoor grounds have a wonderful display of various aircraft that have been flown over the years. The pathway is bordered with plaques honouring military members from all across Canada who served in the Army, Air Force, and Navy. These plaques can be purchased through the museum by anyone. As a tribute to Don's 10 member flight crew (all of who have since passed away) he purchased a plaque in each of their names. He and Alfred will return at the end of September to partake in a ceremony placing these and many other plaques along the path. Alfred is doing well, glad winter is over and is ready to plant a couple of tomato plants in his garden.

Kay Mann (widow of Glen Mann RRC) is still having problems with her leg, the one she injured in the car crash many years ago. However, she tells me that the leg is starting to heal again, and that hopefully, she will not be confined to bed much longer. Her helpers got her out of bed for a bit last week (first week of May) and she'll be up into a chair more often in the near future. Kay wants you all to know that she's sorry she missed everyone at the Convention in Ottawa, but not to worry, things are looking much better.

Oda Barlow (widow of Ted Barlow RCASC) and I had a wonderful conversation. You probably had cauliflower ears by the time we hung up, Oda!! When I called, Oda had been working in the garden trying to get as much done as possible since she and her daughter will be enjoying a Mediterranean cruise, with stopovers in Rome and Venice, from July 9th till the 27th. Oda has been traveling quite a bit this past year. She and 22 family members went to Italy during the Christmas months. They rented a small villa, enjoyed the relaxation, went sightseeing and even did some shopping! One such shopping trip took them into a rather pricey area, but Oda thought that she might at least find a reasonably priced purse to bring home. She found one that's for sure!! The price tag read: 600 Euros, that's about \$1000 for the rest of us!! And that was one of the cheaper purses in the store!!! Needless to say, Oda did not buy a new purse that day!! When not traveling the world, Oda has been spending time visiting with her sisters and is now awaiting the Mother's Day weekend when all the kids (13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and their parents) are coming for a visit. That will be 35 or so family members in all. It should be a fabulous weekend Oda, I know you will enjoy every minute. We all hope you have a wonderful trip to Italy as well, but will miss you at the Quebec Reunion in Granby.

Fred Mason is feeling much better these days. He was hospitalized a while back with stomach problems, only to return home and get a case of shingles! A rough time indeed!! But he is back traveling with his seniors' group on bus tours, gambling at Casino Rama and spending time with the family. Fred plans to attend the Quebec reunion this summer and is looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Sylvia Mason (Fred's niece) is busy right now compiling this newsletter. Sylvia keeps herself "very" busy but not busy enough to miss the Granby reunion this August. We're all looking forward to seeing you there, Sylvia.

Now onto my Mom, Marjorie Dwyer (widow of Terry Dwyer CDC). She is doing quite well. My sister Roxanne, husband Greg and daughter Jessica are riding their motorcycles home this July for a visit. So Mom is gearing up for that. At the end of May, she and I are going to take a bus trip to Verona, NY to do a bit of gambling on the slots and to play some bingo. Maybe by the next time some of you see us we'll be rolling in the dough!!!! Fat chance, eh Mom!! Along with my husband Bob, Mom and I,

are also attending the Quebec reunion in Granby this August. We're looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Bob is celebrating the "Big 50" on Mother's Day this year. So all the kids will be home to cook on the new BBQ he'll be getting from us. Oh yeah, we're going to be grandparents again. Another granddaughter, Madison Paige, will be born in late September. That makes 6 girls and 1 lonely little man, Ethan. Right in the middle of them too!! We're all very excited.

Well, I'd better close for now. I've tried my best to take over the entire newsletter AGAIN this year! Have to leave some room for the other Area Reps though!! Thank you to those I had the chance to speak to and to you that were able to answer my e-mails. I'm sorry for missing the rest of you, maybe next time. Take care and God Bless you all. If we don't see you in Granby maybe we can get together in 2007 at the National Convention in Calgary.

"We Will Remember Them"

Always

Maureen Dwyer-Kline

North Area: Jackie Le Drew

Greetings from the Great White North, soon to be greener and warmer (we hope). Everyone seems to be holding their own as I talked with most of our members in my area in the past week. I touched base with a couple of widows, with whom I dropped a few lines, as we communicate through the mail. Some of the veterans, widows and family members, attended the Convention in Ottawa last year and had a great time. Some were sorry they weren't well enough to attend. Everyone who did attend had nothing but compliments to the organizers of the event. Congratulations to all those who put so much work into the convention to make it a memorable occasion.

The Northern Ontario area takes in the North Bay and Sudbury areas right up to Thunder Bay. I hope everyone has a great summer and look forward to touching base with everyone in the fall.

Jackie LeDrew

NOTES FROM THE HONG KONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, ONTARIO BRANCH

Hello everyone,

First of all, we're sorry to announce the death of our faithful member, Bert Worthington. Bert was born in 1923, and came from a large family in Manchester, England. In WWII, he served on the HMS Exeter for 18 months, until the Japanese sank it. Bert spent the next 3 1/2 years in a POW camp. He met and married his wife, Cara, in 1955. She was a beautiful nurse from New Zealand, and they had three lovely children. Bert taught High School for the Toronto Board of Education before his retirement. When Bert immigrated to Canada, he became an Associate member of HKVA, Ontario Branch. He eventually became our long-standing, hard-working, Recording Secretary. Bert was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2002. Several Hong Kong veterans, including myself, attended his funeral in Toronto. He will always be remembered by his comrades.



Secondly, Fred Mason, Vice President of our Ontario Branch, HKVA, was in hospital with ulcer problems, but is now recovering. He has been out and about lately. His niece, Sylvia Mason, has been taking good care of him. We wish him a full recovery.

Thank you to those of you who have made donations recently.

Dues are still only \$15.00 per year, and yet some members are in arrears. "No dues – no news."

Dues and donations should be made payable to HKVA, Ontario Branch, and mailed to our Treasurer:

J. C. Mac Millan, 909-70 Delisle Ave. Toronto, ON M4V 1S7

We've had a mild winter, and they're predicting a warm summer. This is great news for those of us suffering from arthritis, including myself. I wish all our members and their families a very healthy summer and fall – including our sons and daughters in the HKVCA. God Bless.

John Stroud

President - Ontario Branch, HKVA

PROFILES OF OUR HK VETERANS

Ken Pifher (RRC)

(Tim Hodkinson was able to visit with Ken in his home in Grimsby and wrote this article.)

Ken was born in 1921 on a dairy farm near Paris, Ontario. His memories from the "good old days" include doing all the work by hand or with horses. Like most farms at that time they had no electricity, just a woodstove for heat and coal oil lamps for light.

Ken and his four brothers had to process turnips, which they grew themselves for the dairy cattle, by putting them through a slicer. They would sometimes take out a slice for themselves and eat it with a little salt.

In the winter there was skating and hockey, or "goon hockey" as Ken calls it.



In August of 1940, Ken left work at Sanderson Harold, a woodworking company, to join the Dufferin-Haldiman Rifles (DHR) which was stationed in the Brantford-Paris area. His first

assignment was guard duty in the Niagara region protecting powerhouses and canals. While convalescing from surgery, Ken was separated from the DHR and unable to rejoin them, in Nanaimo, B.C., where they were now stationed. They were overstretched and he was sent off to Camp Borden near Midland, Ontario.

While there, he answered the call from the Royal Rifles of Canada for 150 volunteers and was soon off to Hong Kong (although he didn't know that yet) via BC. With him he also took a photo of his girlfriend, Eleanor.



During the battle, Ken spent some of his time transporting supplies from the Stanley barracks to troops in the field.

After surrender, Ken was part of the group of soldiers who marched the 18km from Stanley, on the south of the island of Hong Kong, to North Point camp on the north shore.

Chinese prisoners were bayoneted in front of the camp and dumped into the harbour. Food was scarce, just some rice and a few greens.

Ken weighed 140 pounds when he became a POW. His lowest weight during those 44 months was 95 pounds.

"It was horrific. You didn't know what to expect. You never knew what was going to happen next. We talked to our buddies. We could sound off at each other, and that was a relief."

Work parties were organized for Kai Tak airport, across the harbour on the mainland, to work on the runway there. The workday started at 6 a.m. and ended sometimes 12 or 13 hours later.

After nine months at North Point, Ken was transferred to Sham Shui Po camp on the mainland (Kowloon).

Ken was fortunate and wasn't included in any of the drafts of POWs to work in Japan.

"I was fortunate to have stayed in Kowloon until the end of the war. I didn't know it then but as bad as it was in Kowloon, it was worse in Japan."

Ken was an orderly during the Diphtheria epidemic that swept the POW camp. For that reason he was removed from the first draft to Japan as one of four orderlies that Capt. Banfill requested to remain in Hong Kong.

Ken was vaccinated for Diphtheria back in Canada while in school and never caught the disease.

One particularly brutal incident Ken recalls, as an orderly during the Diphtheria epidemic, involved all the POW medical personnel, who were ordered to stand at attention before the Japanese medical officer, Maj. Sido, who was angry at the high Diphtheria death rate.

When the Japanese officer asked that only those who felt they had done their duty step forward, and everyone did, he ordered another Japanese soldier to start slapping them. When the officer asked them again and they all stepped forward, he became angrier and again ordered the Japanese soldier to beat them.

The officer asked again, a third time, who had done their duty, but this time he drew his sword, threatening to kill whoever stepped forward. Ken says only Les Varley stepped forward. The Japanese officer was actually impressed with this and gave Les two packs of cigarettes!

The second draft for Japan was taken from men "in camp" and Ken was on work party that time. The third draft was taken from the work party but now Ken was in camp.

One of Ken's work assignments included going with Capt. LeBoutillier and some other men to dig up the ground for planting sweet potatoes at an estate owned by a Japanese General.

All through this time, in Sham Shui Po, Ken kept his photo of Eleanor, his girlfriend back in Canada.

After liberation in August of 1945, Ken went to the 5th replacement depot in Manila, Philippines. He then returned to Canada on one of the Liberty ships, which featured dining rooms and white table cloths.



Back home, Ken and Eleanor were married. Ken worked a few months for Sanderson Harold and then joined Ontario Hydro in Niagara Falls.

He trained to be a carpenter and later became shop foreman. He retired in 1977, for health reasons.

In addition to all this, while Ken was living in Chippewa, he built his own house.

During this time, 1959-77, Ken's wife, Eleanor, started to deal in antiques. Ken would help out by using his woodworking skills to repair damaged items. Eleanor was very knowledgeable in glass and china and specialized in Canadiana (items made in Canada).

Recently Ken has been building miniature furniture (as seen in the photo), making even the tiny hinges carefully by hand.

Ken and Eleanor have one daughter and three grandchildren. They currently live in a very nice house at the foot of the Niagara escarpment, within view of Lake Ontario in Grimsby.



THE LADIES' SIDE OF THE STORY - Gloria Fortune

Tim Hodgkinson recently met with Gloria Fortune (widow of Herbert Fortune, WG) and wrote this profile of her.

Gloria was born in Toronto, in a 3rd floor walk-up on Bathurst Street and has lived all her life in Toronto. She attended Niagara Street Public School and then Parkdale Collegiate.

When she was young, Gloria remembers going to the playground instead of having a vacation and also playing outside until the streetlights came on.

Growing up during the Depression was especially hard for Gloria who used to pedal her tricycle once a day to pick up "pogey-bread" and something like butter called "drippings."



In fact, Gloria actually suffered from malnutrition from these Depression days; something that has put a strain on her health ever since.

In her early teens, Gloria first started to work. You had to be at least 16 to work at that time, but Gloria found a job during the summer when she was 13 working at a stocking factory. She was able to keep the job by telling her employer she hadn't

received her card, which was supposed to show she was 16.

"When the war came along my father left to join the army."

Gloria had to leave school at that time, at the age of 16, to go out and work full-time. "You couldn't do both; go to school and work, so I had to leave school."

Life became quite difficult for Gloria at this time, as her family broke up, and she had to find a new place to live for herself, as well as her mother and another sister.

During the war most places for rent didn't want children and since Gloria had no other way of getting around but walking, she remembers walking a great deal all over the city to find a place to live.

"Times were tough then for us, but God saw us through."

Although money was scarce for Gloria at this time, she still managed to send some of what she had to the rest of the family who were living with relatives.

She worked at a wide variety of places such as Planter's Peanuts and at a typewriter factory making typewriters and also parts for Bren guns.



"I worked for Tip Top tailors and then as a waitress where I met Herbie."

The restaurant was at Bloor and Dovercourt, the area where Herbie had grown up.

Herbie's mother, Lolita Fortune, was the first family member back home to receive notice after the battle of Hong Kong that her son was a POW. After the war she served as President of the Hong Kong Women's Association.

Gloria was no stranger to work by this time, working at Tip Top tailors during the day and as a live-in baby-sitter at night.

They met in '47, married in '48 and had their first child, Vicky, in November of '49. Over the years they had four more children, Keith, Pat, Val and Tony.

The postwar years had challenges of their own. In addition to raising five children, Gloria had the special challenge of dealing with her husband's alcoholism.

While it's often a subject most don't want to talk about or confront, Gloria stuck it out with Herbie and, with her support, he eventually overcame this difficulty and went on to help others do the same.

There were some really trying times, but by taking things one day at a time and with a little help from others, many potential disasters were averted.

Once when they came close to losing their home, it was suggested that Gloria go to the Department of Veterans Affairs to see if there might be something they could do. After being told by DVA that there was nothing they could do, she was about to leave the office when, at the last minute, the DVA official asked how big their lot was.

It turned out the lot for their house in the city was large enough to just barely qualify as farmland and the DVA had a program to help veterans hold onto their "farms." With a little help the house was saved and she still lives there today.

Gloria and Herbie were both very active with a number of community groups speaking in schools, community centers, and even in prisons about how to deal successfully with alcoholism.

The Community Center at Main and Swanwick named a room after Herbie in gratitude for the many years he worked there and the many people he helped who worked under his supervision.

Herbie passed away on July 20th, 1988; the same day as their 40th Anniversary and the birthday of their son, Keith.

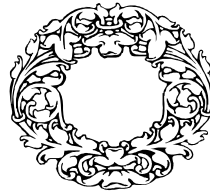


Along with everything else, Gloria managed to be involved with many church activities such as the Chaplaincy committee and even the Deanery of the Anglican Church for Toronto.

Although Gloria is not as active as she'd like to be these days, she still finds time to keep in touch with her 15 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, as well as her five children, some of whom live not far down the street from her.

"I am proud of my children," says Gloria. "Victoria, is an Anglican minister; Pat, is a product knowledge specialist; Keith, an electrical designer technician; Valerie, a singer/entertainer; and Tony is an HVAC technician."

Remembering the War, Gloria says, "Thank God for all the veterans who served; it is because of their sacrifice, for their country, that we are able to have freedom."



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the Hong Kong veterans who have left us in 2006:

James Guthrie RRC
Harold Heath RRC
Leandre Leblanc RRC
Robert J. McNaughton RRC
Lancelot Ross RRC
Lionel Speller RCCS
Bert Worthington HMS Exeter, Royal Navy

We shall also remember:

Maude Crawford, widow of Dr. John N. Crawford
(99 years young)
Lo Cyr, widow of Roger Cyr (RRC)
Edith Ebert, widow of George Ebert (WG)
Carolynne Anne Rees, wife of Doug Rees (RRC)
Iva Stodgell, widow of George Roy Stodgell (WG)
Margaret (Peggy) Wright, widow of Stanley Wright
(RRC)

"Our condolences to their families"

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

PUBLICATIONS REPORT

A great deal has happened since our December Newsletter. Our Executive has changed, our members have returned from their trip to Hong Kong, and our contract with Veterans' Affairs regarding our publications has been completed.

For those who are not familiar with the publications we offer in Ontario Region, let me explain.

The Hong Kong Veterans' Association (HKVA) assisted our Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA) with a grant of \$10,000.00 so that we could offer Mr. Nick Brune, an eminent Ontario History teacher, a commission through which he could write a series of ten lessons for use in classrooms in this province.

The object was to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about our Canadian soldiers, and their involvement in the Battle for Hong Kong, December, 1941. Nick was able to complete the task to everyone's satisfaction.

We entered into an agreement with CoEd Communications of Toronto to publish the first copies of "Canada in Hong Kong – 1941 to 1945: The Forgotten Heroes", the story not only of the battle itself but its aftermath, the incarceration of the Canadian soldiers who survived the battle.

The first 100 copies were reserved for the Ontario veterans because of their strong support for the project, and the copies, which followed, were made available to HKVCA Ontario Region members at various get-togethers and reunions.

There was considerable interest in the lessons, and it became obvious that more copies would be needed.

With the proceeds of the first copies sold we were able to print more. Then we realized that, in all fairness, we should have a French version of the document.

We did not have enough extra funds at the time to go forward with this part of the project, so we began searching for ways to obtain additional funding.

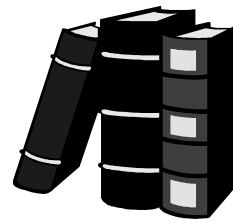
We were able to arrange a shared partnership with the Canada Remembers Division of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) to pay for a French translation of the work, with enough funds to bolster our supply of the English version as well. We hired a well-qualified translator from Toronto named Dominique Millette. Within two months she had completed her task and we had our French translation.

The next step was to engage CoEd Communications of Toronto, printers of our earlier copies of the Ten Lessons, to take on the French translation, using the same format as the English version.

CoEd was accustomed to working in both languages and, before long, they had the new document ready.

In the process of completing our contract with Veterans Affairs, we were able to produce 1500 double order forms for both the English and French versions of the Ten Lessons.

On those order forms, we also had space to mention two books written by Hong Kong veterans. We were sure they would be of interest to the general public as well as our members. The first, in English, was a familiar one, George MacDonell's "One Soldier's Story" and the other, in French, was Bernard Castonguay's "Prisonnier de Guerre au Japon".



We have included the double order form described above with your June newsletter to give you the opportunity to consider placing an order for one of the four publications available. We hope you will be interested in doing so.

Beginning in May, there will be a concerted effort to reach the high schools in Ontario and across the country so that our four publications become well-known and well-used in the public and private school systems.

Anything you can do to help would be very much appreciated. We feel strongly that becoming familiar with at least one or two of these four volumes will speak to the need for all of us, and in particular the younger generation, to learn more about this important part of our Canadian history.

For further information, feel free to reach Pat Turcotte at petsask@sympatico.ca or (905) 274-3189.

Pat Turcotte

Past Regional Director/Publications Chair
Ontario Region, HKVCA

THIRD GENERATION – POINT OF VIEW

HONG KONG VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II - by David Frenette, Grade 7

We sailed to Hong Kong without any fears, The Royal Rifles and Winnipeg Grenadiers. We were young, excited and naively brave, off on the Awatea to fight and to save.

Good morning Honourable Judges, Mrs. Chochla and classmates.

If you have not guessed, my topic is the **Hong Kong Veterans of World War II.**



The Hong Kong Veterans were made up from the Royal Rifles of Quebec and the Winnipeg Grenadiers of Manitoba and were the first Canadian soldiers to see combat in World War II.

The Battle of Hong Kong started right after the Japanese Army bombed Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. The Canadians were untrained soldiers sent to train and reinforce Hong Kong. The Japanese were highly trained soldiers and they attacked Hong Kong while the Canadian soldiers were there. Others there fighting with Canada were soldiers from India, Britain, Scotland and Australia.

After 17 days of straight battle, the Hong Kong veterans surrendered after they ran out of ammunition and support on Christmas Day 1941. After 17 days, they didn't expect that their true battle for survival was just beginning. They were about to spend the next four years in some of the worst and most brutal prison camps in World War II.

On Christmas Day, when they surrendered the Japanese went through all the Hong Kong hospitals. The Japanese murdered many of the wounded soldiers and raped and killed some of the nurses.

There were little or no medical supplies in the camps. When they had to get their legs or arms cut off because of battle wounds or sickness, they had no pain killers like we do today and so amputations were done without painkillers. Many died of diseases and starvation.

They had to work all day long and only got a cup of rice for breakfast and supper but some of the smart ones caught bugs and put them in their rice to give them the vitamins they needed to stay alive.

Many of the veterans didn't stay in Hong Kong. They were put to work in the Japanese mines and many died from hard labour and starvation.

After almost 4 years, the survivors were saved when a bomb was dropped on Japan or so the veterans say. There were rumors that Japan was going to murder all their prisoners. Japan would not have given up if not for the 2 bombs that were dropped on Japan.

At home I was reading some old newspapers and I found one that caught my eye. This one story from Manila was about my Grandpa James who was in World War II and part of the Hong Kong Veterans. In the story in the newspaper, Grandpa said the first thing he was going to do when he got home was to have a chocolate ice cream soda.



I went to Ottawa last summer to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day and met some of the Hong Kong Veterans. Few veterans are with us today. Their message in Ottawa was to pass their story on to future generations so we never forget the horrors of war.

My speech today is one way for me to keep their memory and story alive.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

EULOGY FOR LANCE ROSS - DELIVERED APRIL 2, 2006 BY ALAN SANDEMAN

"I first met Lance Ross some 23 years ago.

Mitzi and I were headed to the Gaspé coast for a short visit, so that I could meet her parents. As a man very interested in Mitzi, Lance and Theda Ross' youngest child and only daughter, I knew that I would probably make the best impression by not drawing any attention to myself ... you know, blend into the scenery, try not to do or say anything controversial, stay quiet ... difficult things for me to do ... but I was resolved.

To be completely honest, there were several strikes against me at the outset.

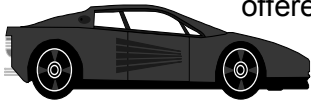
First, I was from "away". Some of you would know if you are born on the coast and you leave when you are 3 days old you are a Gaspesian ... however, if you are born somewhere else and you move to the coast when you are 3 days old.....you are from "away". So first strike, I was from away. But there was more.

I was a few years older than Mitzi, I had been married before and my son Scott from that marriage was a large part of my life. It remains a mystery to me though how I was only 8 years older when we first met, but somehow am now 10 years older. The vagaries of math.....

I am certain that few of these characteristics were on the list of traits Lance and Theda wanted to see in a suitor for their only daughter. But there was more.

Mitzi and I arrived at night. I was introduced and we were shown to our very separate sleeping quarters which were located in different sections of the house....indeed we were positioned so far from each other you had to account for the curvature of the earth. I also think it was completely unnecessary for Lance to have strung that razor wire outside Mitzi's dead-bolted bedroom door.

The next morning, Mitzi and her mother had gone shopping and Lance needed to go to the hardware store so I offered to take him in my car. Unfortunately, my car at the time was a new Japanese sports car. When he got in, he said "Jap car eh?" I didn't know the significance of the statement until Mitzi later explained Lance's war experiences.



So having begun my visit with the objective of avoiding controversy, I have really lost any chance I have of making a good impression with Lance. Worse, and this occurs to me immediately, Lance is renowned for his hunting expertise, he owns 29 guns, has a rather secluded 100 acres and at least one shovel. My life is over.

The next morning I awoke to find Theda in the kitchen. I asked her where Lance was that morning. She said "Lance is where Lance goes" a phrase famous in the Ross home but the translation for the City Boy from Away is "he is still digging that mysterious hole back on the third range".

Thankfully we got past that first tumultuous meeting.

1 Lance Ross possessed an incredible breadth and thirst for knowledge. In their Gaspé home, the Ross's had 3 full sets of encyclopedias: the Canadiana, the Britannica and the Americana. He had read every volume in all 3 sets - twice and was starting on the 3rd time around. And that feat he accomplished while staying abreast of current affairs with newspapers, magazines including Time, Newsweek and Maclean's.

Just last fall, I was watching CNN's coverage of the Katrina hurricane disaster in the New Orleans area. I was describing it to Lance afterward but I could not recall the name of the lake in the middle of the city. He said "It is Lake Pontchartrain." Amazing.

That said, he was a quiet humble man who would only offer up information if asked.

2 He had a phenomenal memory and not just as some might say “for his age!” This was a memory for the ages! This man could recall events from all throughout his life in extraordinary detail. No one could forget a story told by Lance because it always involved the most precise measurements of time and space to lend accuracy to the account. He would say “the distance was from here to that yard over there was”, or he would take those enormous fingers and hold them up to indicate the cotter pin was only 2 inches and not 3.

He could not only instantly recall the names and histories of all his own relatives going back many generations, but he knew the family tree of his in-laws and half of the East Coast. People would phone him if they couldn't remember something, such as who someone was married to way back in 1892, how many children they had and whose children married whom. He always knew.

Until the day he died he remembered his war comrades' names and POW numbers (in English as well as Japanese), their nicknames, where they were from before the war and where they went after the war, who they married, how many children.

3 He had a marvelous sense of humour - he loved to tell jokes and stories and he also loved to hear them. He would sometimes tell the most outrageous tale and wait to see if the listener could figure out they had been “had”. I thought for a long time that this was a technique reserved for me, you know the “city boy”, but he used it on others too.

It should be noted that the tenor of his stories tended toward the more risqué with the assistance of a small glass of Tanqueray gin and ginger ale, but I never heard him swear or use any language inappropriate to the moment.

4 He had an unwavering commitment to helping someone in need. The family cannot recall him ever refusing assistance to anyone who needed a helping hand whether they asked or not.

5 He loved to hunt and fish and went on many excursions with dear old friends like Bob Barter and Phil Doddridge. He was an excellent marksman and almost always got what he was after. And I think he was probably only kidding when I would visit and he would ask me to slip into that deer suit that he had so he could calibrate his gun sights.

6 He was a gifted gardener. He loved to see things grow but he hated to see even one weed in his garden and so you never did!

7 He was a builder and contractor all of his working life. He built homes for his nieces that were so well planned and constructed that at the end of the project, there was no excess wood remaining and only a handful of nails. In those winters he spent with Mitzi and I, in Ottawa, he was always keen to renovate our house. One winter he completely strapped, insulated and dry walled our garage. One year he built the laundry room, the next he enclosed the furnace room, then the basement walls and finally the ceiling. Last year he installed new oak railings and banisters in our upstairs and downstairs hallway and insisted that they be anchored to the ceiling joists. The entire house may come down but the railings themselves will withstand a nuclear holocaust.

8 He enjoyed his quiet moments of serenity and reflection, which usually came about, while he was either back in the woods or down on the beach.

9 He loved nature. He would go for long jaunts in the woods on his property and admire the beauty, respect the cycle of seasons and just breathe in the whole essence of nature. Every year he would trim out the dead trees and plant new ones to replace them – just as God does with his chosen ones.



Lance Ross was a remarkable human being who was loved and respected by all who had the good fortune to meet him. It was my personal honour to have known and loved him. The world is a lesser place for his passing.”

HONG KONG MEMORIAL CAPSULE

During the recent trip to Hong Kong in Dec. 2005, a memorial capsule containing special works, created in remembrance of the Canadian soldiers who died in Hong Kong, was buried near the gates of Sai Wan Cemetery. The project involved staff and students from Port Perry High School, and six other Durham Region schools. The Plaque placed over it was donated by HKVCA, Ontario Region. Many thanks to all those who made this project a success.



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE



MEMORIAL CAPSULE

TREASURER'S REPORT

ONTARIO HKVCA FINANCIAL STATUS (as of April 30, 2006)

We opened the year with \$16,612 in our account.

Since then we've received \$16,115 in revenue, of which a great deal was funding provided by Veterans Affairs Canada for our French Ten Lessons project, and the remainder mostly dues and donations.

We have had \$12,385 in expenses, much of which was associated with the translation and production of the French Ten Lessons books.

This leaves us at the end of April with a balance of \$20,342. This is the healthiest financial situation we've had in recent memory.

Your Region's Executive team will be giving a good deal of careful thought over the next few months on how to best use these funds to further the aims of our organization.

Mark Purcell

Membership Chair Report

Help me welcome our new HKVCA Ontario members for 2006:



Perry Coughlan in Williamstown, Jeremy Ferrall in Ottawa, Marcine James in Emo, Sandra Knee in Kingston, Paul Ledrew in Chelmsford, Ellen Harris in Ottawa, Jacqueline Sevigny in Gatineau, Marc Sevigny in Guelph, Dawn Stillwell in London, Edward Terry in Ottawa.

There are various types of membership in the HKVCA:

HK veterans, and HK veterans' widows, both of whom, do not pay fees.

Regular membership consists of persons who pay the annual membership dues to the HKVCA.

Regular members, include the spouse of a HK veteran, a family member, or a friend.

The membership year is January through December. A current membership gives you a choice of voting on HKVCA issues both Regionally and Nationally, as well as 2 National and 2 Regional newsletters a year, an HKVCA decal and a membership card.

Membership helps maintain and support the connection with the Hong Kong veterans still living and with their widows and families. It ensures that the service and sacrifice of all Hong Kong veterans involved in fighting for their country will be understood and appreciated by more and more Canadians as time goes on. Membership gives every member the chance to share their concerns and to speak with one voice on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans.

The yearly membership for HKVCA is \$15. This membership fee is set at the Corporate level - the National Board of Directors for the HKVCA decided

on this amount a number of years ago. Of the \$15 membership fee, the Ontario Region receives \$5 with the remaining \$10 going to Corporate (National) HKVCA.

Unfortunately, in 2006, we have had to elapse approximately 35 regular members in Ontario, as renewals have not been received. If you did not get a mailed copy of this newsletter or a notice of this newsletter being on the HKVCA website - we have not yet received your 2006 renewal.



It isn't too late to get in your 2006 membership.

Send your membership to:

Membership Chair - Lori Smith
143 Highview Ave. West. - London, ON N6J 4C7

Lori Smith

Elderly Proposal



There were these two elderly people living in a Florida mobile home park. He was a widower and she a widow. They had known one another for a number of years.

Now, one evening there was a community supper in the big activity centre. These two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he made a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered up his courage to ask, "Will you marry me?"

After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered. "Yes. Yes, I will."

The meal ended and with a few more pleasant exchanges, they went to their respective homes.

Next morning, he was troubled. "Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'?" He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained to her that he didn't remember as well, as he used to. Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No'?"

He was delighted to hear her say, "Why, I said, 'Yes. Yes I will' and I meant it with all my heart." Then she continued, "and I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me."

REAL ANSWERS given by children!

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. What is a fibula?

A. A small lie.



Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.

Q. What does the word "benign" mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.



Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association of Canada

Ontario Region

Membership Information

~ Please Print Clearly

Veterans, Widows, New and Renewing Members ~

- Please complete this form annually (for the purpose of updating our Membership database)

Dues ~

- New or Renewing Member Dues - \$15 per Year

- Veterans and/or Widows do NOT pay Dues - Membership is Free

~ Member Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (Include Area Code) _____

Email Address _____

Type of Membership (Circle One Choice) New Renewing Veteran Widow

~ Relationship to Veteran

Veteran's Name _____

Regiment _____ Regimental Number _____

Relationship (Circle One Choice)

Veteran Wife/Widow Son/Daughter Brother/Sister Grandson/Granddaughter

Other (Specify) _____

Make Cheque for Membership Dues or Donations Payable to : HKVCA Ontario Region

Mail to:

Lori Smith, Membership Chair
HKVCA Ontario Region
143 Highview Ave West
London, Ontario
N6J 4C7