

**HONG KONG VETERANS ASSOCIATION and HONG KONG
VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION**

GENERAL MEETING

**OTTAWA, ON
AUGUST 13, 2005**

The meeting opened with the singing of O Canada and the HKVCA opening protocol. George Peterson recited the Act of Remembrance in English, and Phil Doddridge in French. The Rev. Vicky Hedelius offered a prayer.

Call to order Carol Hadley, National President of the HKVCA, called the meeting to order at 9:20am.

Welcome John Stroud, President of the Ontario HKVA, and Pat Turcotte, HKVCA Ontario Regional Director, welcomed the attendees to the convention and thanked the convention organizing committee for their hard work. Rob Jellett, Deputy Mayor of Ottawa, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Mayor and City of Ottawa.

Minutes of last general meeting Mike Babin, Recording Secretary pro tem, read the minutes.

Adoption of minutes A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Don Thomson and seconded by Ross Purse. CARRIED

Business arising from minutes There was no business arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's report Barry Mitchell, HKVCA Treasurer, outlined the Association's financial reporting process and presented the highlights of the audited financial statement for 2004 (as of December 2004 year-end). Copies were made available to the attendees, and a copy is attached to these minutes. A motion to accept the report was made by Barry Mitchell and seconded by Bob Lytle. CARRIED

Correspondence A memo received from the War Amps regarding the Veterans Wall of Remembrance was read by the Secretary. A copy is attached, and the information has also been posted on the HKVCA web site.

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Administrative matters Carol Hadley reviewed several administrative matters related to the convention.

Reports of the National Presidents

1. Phil Doddridge, president of the HKVA, reported on the HKVA annual meeting held Aug. 11, 2005. He advised that at that meeting a motion was passed to re-endorse Cliff Chadderton, CEO of the War Amps, as the HKVA patron.
2. Carol Hadley thanked the convention committee, VAC and volunteers for their hard work in organizing the convention. She introduced the members of the national executive, reviewed the accomplishments of the HKVCA since the last general meeting and outlined the goals of the HKVCA. A copy of her report is attached.

New business

1. George Peterson asked why the HKVA Colour Party would not be allowed to march in the commemoration ceremony at the Cenotaph on Aug. 14. Carol Hadley and Derrill Henderson provided an explanation.
2. John Stroud discussed the reports of prisoners poisoned in the camps in Hong Kong and asked if anyone could provide further information. There was some discussion on the topic. John also recognized the formation of the first HKVA branch (Ontario) in 1948.
3. Vince Lopata offered to hold a supplementary presentation on the proposed "C" Force memorial project.
4. Carol Hadley reviewed a Manitoba Government program ([A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in its Geography](#)) to name geographic features (lakes, rivers, etc.) after deceased Vets (KIA, while POW). Saskatchewan has a similar program. She encouraged other HKVCA branches to lobby their provincial governments for similar programs.
5. Carol Hadley asked for a motion to re-endorse Cliff Chadderton as HKVCA patron (as HKVA has done). Moved by Vince Lopata, seconded by Lora Wachtendorf. CARRIED
6. Carol Hadley asked for a motion to appoint Mike Babin as Secretary pro tem for this meeting only. Moved by Barry Mitchell, seconded by Marcel Mondou. CARRIED

Reports of Regional Directors

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Alberta/Saskatchewan Norma Fuchs, secretary of the AB/SK branch brought greetings from Regional Director Gail Richoz and presented Gail's report. A copy is attached.

British Columbia Linda Stewart presented her region's report, and noted the passing of Veterans and widows since the last meeting. A copy of her report is attached.

Quebec Lucette Mailloux Muir presented her regional report. A copy is attached.

Manitoba Juliet LaFortune reviewed the past year's activities in that region. She reported that: the region has been working to get the "C Force Memorial" off the ground, and has made some progress; they have started a "Tea & Tidbits" event for the widows and ladies of the HK Veterans; Juliet and George Peterson have attended many parades and official functions.

Don Thomson spoke briefly to review the activities of the Cadet Corps in supporting Hong Kong Veterans and events in Manitoba.

Atlantic Neil Darrah discussed the activities of the two Atlantic branches (Maritime Gaspésian and Atlantic).

Ontario Pat Turcotte thanked the Colour Party and convention organizers. She mentioned the upcoming election in Ontario Region and presented her report, which is attached.

Special guest Robert Mercer, Executive Director, VAC Public Affairs Branch brought greetings from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and reviewed the extensive list of programs being deployed by VAC for the benefit of Veterans and their families and widows.

Election results Ron McGuire announced the results of the election:

1. Carol Hadley's term as President of the HKVCA was extended by two years.
2. Several positions were acclaimed: 1st Vice President - Murray Doull; Treasurer - Barry Mitchell; Secretary - Jim Trick .
3. For the single position for which more than one candidate ran (2nd Vice President), Ron announced that fewer than the 30% quorum of votes required by the Bylaws was received. It was felt that a substantial cause of this was delays in the mail, so Ron proposed a motion that the deadline for receipt of mailed ballots be extended by 30 days. The motion was moved by Sylvia Mason and seconded by Bob Barter. CARRIED

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There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm following the closing ceremonies.

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List of Attachments

1. Financial Statements
2. War Amps Memo
3. National President's Report
4. Alberta/Saskatchewan Region Report
5. British Columbia Region Report
6. Quebec Region Report
7. Ontario Region Report

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**HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2004

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HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2004

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>ASSETS</u> | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash in Bank - National General Account | \$ 4,087 | \$ 2,538 |
| - National Bank Account | 1,920 | 3,267 |
| Inventory | 11,101 | 9,141 |
| National Convention Deposit | <u>1,000</u> | - |
| | <u>\$18,108</u> | \$14,946 |
| <u>LIABILITIES</u> | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities | \$10,199 | \$10,199 |
| <u>FUND BALANCES</u> | | |
| Balance - per statement | <u>7,909</u> | 4,747 |
| | <u>\$18,108</u> | \$14,946 |

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HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

| | <u>General Account</u> | <u>Book Account</u> | <u>2004 Total</u> | <u>2003 Total</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Dues | \$5,220 | \$ | \$ 5,220 | \$ 4,535 |
| Donations | 150 | 24 | 174 | 1,636 |
| Videns | | 156 | 156 | 730 |
| Grave Markers | 52 | 206 | 258 | 136 |
| Crests | | 270 | 270 | 380 |
| Ribbons | | | | 35 |
| Books | 20 | 4,316 | 4,336 | 3,836 |
| Medals | | 196 | 196 | |
| Postage Advance | --- | --- | --- | 70 |
| | <u>5,442</u> | <u>5,168</u> | <u>10,610</u> | <u>11,338</u> |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Postage and Shipping | 9 | 224 | 233 | 300 |
| Supplies | 14 | | 14 | |
| Cheque Printing | | | | 562 |
| Telephone | | | | 3 |
| Donation Returns | | | | 22 |
| Refund - Ontario | | | | 1,175 |
| Software | | | | 201 |
| Bank Charges | | | | 63 |
| Decals | | | | 76 |
| Annual Business Registration | 30 | | 30 | 30 |
| Newsletter | 3,676 | | 3,676 | 2,758 |
| Mailbox | 164 | | 164 | 164 |
| Cost of Sales - Books | | 2,818 | 2,818 | 1,032 |
| - Grave Markers | | 262 | 262 | |
| Videns | | 26 | 26 | 500 |
| - Crests | | 30 | 30 | |
| Printing | | | | 166 |
| Publisher | | | | 2,161 |
| Medals | | 195 | 195 | |
| Forgotten Heroes for New Brunswick | --- | --- | --- | 60 |
| | <u>3,893</u> | <u>3,555</u> | <u>7,448</u> | <u>9,148</u> |
| Excess of Income over Expenses | \$1,549 | <u>\$1,613</u> | 3,162 | 2,210 |
| Fund Balances - beginning of year | | | <u>4,247</u> | 2,537 |
| Fund Balances - end of year | | | <u>\$ 7,909</u> | <u>\$ 4,747</u> |

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HERNIMAN'S VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2004

NOTE 1 - PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association of Canada was organized to honor the veterans of the Hong Kong garrison during the 1941-45 Japanese occupation. The Association is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Association's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. The Association's financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out below.

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HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2004

NOTE 2 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash Flow Statement

A cash flow statement has not been included because the information is apparent from the other statements.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

Accounting estimates are included in financial statements to approximate the effect of past business transactions or events, or to approximate the present status of an asset or liability. Examples include the allowance for doubtful accounts, loss provisions and the estimated useful life of an asset. It is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates.

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The War Amps National Headquarters

Chief Executive Officer
H. Clifford Chadderton, CC, O. Ont., O.S.U., C.L.I., C.A.E., O.C., U.C.

Director: Mrs. Faye Lavell
Assistant Director - Pensions
Mrs. Marilyn Aker
Assistant Director - Administrative
Ms. Jean McMillan



National Service Bureau
Bureau national des services
2827 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0C4
Tel: (613) 731-3321, 1-800-465-2677, Fax: (613) 731-3234
Web: www.waramps.ca E-mail: service_bureau@waramps.ca

Les Amputés de guerre Siège social

Le chef des services administratifs
H. Clifford Chadderton, CC, O. Ont., O.S.U., C.L.I., C.A.E., O.C., U.C.

Directrice: Mrs. Faye Lavell
Directrice adjointe - Pensions
Mrs. Marilyn Aker
Directrice adjointe - Administration
Mrs. Jean McMillan

**MEMO TO: Executive Officers
Representatives-Member-Associations NCVA**

RE: VETERANS WALL OF REMEMBRANCE

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2005

It has just come to our attention that this Wall is for permanent display at various cemeteries across Canada. The Administrator of Capital Memorial Gardens, here in Ottawa, very kindly delivered the enclosed brochure and inscription form to our office, for distribution.

You will note that the inscription form indicates that you are not to FAX or mail the form, however, we have been advised that because all names must be in by September 1, 2005, for unveiling and dedication in November 2005, mailing or FAXing will be quite appropriate.

Neil Conner of the Ottawa Branch of The War Amps very kindly made us aware of this Wall and his name will be an everlasting testament to his service and we thought that your members might be interested in adding their names as well.

Best wishes to everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Jenkins
Executive Assistant
National Service Bureau
The War Amputations of Canada

The War Amps is a registered charitable organization
and also under the direction of war amputees.
Charitable Registration No.: 13195 3629 RR0001



L'Association des Amputés de guerre est un organisme de charité
enregistré, administré par des anciens combattants amputés.
N° d'enregistrement d'organisme de charité: 13195 3629 RR0001

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National President's Report to the 2005 Convention

I sincerely thank Pat Turcotte, Derrill Henderson and their committees and VAC for all the work and efforts that went into this convention – Great Job!!

Thank you to Mike Babin for doing the Protocol and for being the protem Secretary – greatly appreciated.

When I was elected in 2001 to be your President, I was unsure of where the Association was going. I knew we had a good beginning with the previous Executive under the leadership of Derrill Henderson but the question was, what were we going to accomplish in the next few years. As I began this report I was amazed and thrilled to see how we have progressed.

I have had the privilege of working with some amazing people over the last 4 years and it has been a labour of love for all of us. The items that I list are all significant signs of our growth and establishing a national entity:

- The widows and veterans were made Honourary members of our Association; this will ensure their welfare when the sunset clause is in effect.
- We established a presence through our correspondence by creating uniformity in our stationery materials.
- We gained recognition in the community by assisting our veterans, with/and participating in, Remembrance services - also with our own remembrance of VJ Day and Christmas Day.
- As we had our own crest, we established a voluntary mode of dress that is worn by members of the Executive. Now we have a member's lapel pin, similar to the crest, that is another mode of recognition.
- The HK membership decal evolved to include the HKVCA; recognising the partnership we share with our veterans.
- Our charitable status was obtained after a lot of hard work and will aid us in gathering funds for our projects.
- A concerted effort was made to have the veterans relate their experiences so that future generations would have a sense of what war was about – some are on our website and some were sent to the Memory Project.

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- We initiated Policies and Procedures to clarify the bylaws and to govern ourselves more efficiently.
- Our members have invaded the education field armed with the curricula that has been developed in BC and ON. They have manned displays promoting the Battle of Hong Kong to ensure the members of 'C' Force are not forgotten. ON region are assisting Port Perry school in a pilgrimage to HK later this year.
- Our website has grown and matured to be a living testimonial to 'C' Force – thank you to all who have contributed to this and to those who have worked on the site. Other members have created websites in honour of their family member to increase our knowledge of the HK events – some of these are linked on our site.
- The National Executive hold monthly meetings in the secure chat room that has been created on our website. From BC to the Maritimes – we are able to conduct business, share reports and plan for the future without leaving our computers.
- AB/SK Region was formed - thanks to the hard work of their HK Vet Executive and our dedicated members in that region.
- Many members and veterans have assisted various media people in producing books and films on the Battle of Hong Kong that supports the goals of our Assn.
- Any request for information that comes through our website is answered – many with more information than was required – thank you to all who have assisted in this.
- The VIP program for widows was extended - thank you to our patron, Cliff Chadderton and to the HKV Executive that pushed this through.
- Canadian Culture Online Project, Canadian Heritage – hopefully the proposal will be accepted so it can be used to digitize the VAC video tapes from 1997.

These accomplishments have been added to existing projects like:

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- Our national newsletter that is sent 2 x/ year to communicate to all members the progress of the Assn.
- There is a promotional committee that looks into commemorative items to use in promoting the Assn and our HK vets – suggestions of items are always welcome.
- Our book committee tracks the progress of written materials that our Assn handles, related to the Battle of Hong Kong. This is a big dollar item but it is very necessary to supply these resources to our students and educators - also family members that may want to learn more of the events.

These projects are all implemented and coordinated by the National and Regional Executives with the objective to promote an awareness to all Canadians of the efforts of the men and women of 'C' Force. I commend all the Executive and members for their dedication and commitment to the Assn and the projects that we embrace.

As we proceed into the future we need to fortify our regions with more activity – increasing **membership** (the goal is to have a family member for each of the men/women of "C" Force); **education**, our future depends on our youth becoming involved and they will only do that if they understand why they should be involved; more **awareness** through ceremonies and festivities; **building** bridges with other veteran ass'ns will add to our strength. A person's involvement is dependant on their circumstances and commitment – you can do a little or a lot – it all counts in the long run.

I sincerely thank the members of the Executive that I have worked with over the last 4 years. They say that the whole is as good as each part and on the whole I believe that we have worked well together – and although we have not always agreed on things – that is a good thing – we would become very stagnant if we were not doing checks and balances throughout our business. I have truly enjoyed meeting, working and sharing time with all of the members. I thank you for the privilege of serving as the President and hope to be around a few more years to help in any way that I can. God bless you all!

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AB/SK Regional Report

It has now been a year and a half since the AB/SK Branch commenced its participation in the National HKVCA. For our Board and members this has been an exciting time to learn many new roles and protocols, and meet many new and hard working friends.

We have discovered much during this short time. We wish to recognize and extend our sincere thanks to all those who have given us guidance, and helped us take our first few steps. A special thank you to Carol and Barry, for their continued patience and helpful suggestions whenever we needed assistance.

We look forward to our future in the National Association, and hope to continue to support our Associations efforts to increase awareness of the events and our Veterans sacrifices.

Recent Events: The AB/SK Region held a luncheon in Calgary on June 18th, which was well attended by approx. 30 people. The Asian Television Network came to Calgary at the end of June to conduct interviews with 2 of our Veterans, Ralph MacLean and Ed Shayler, to be aired in a documentary in Hong Kong this November. Gord Durrant represented the HKV's in the Calgary Stampede Parade, riding on a float depicting the Year of the Veteran. The HKV's hosted a Chinese dinner in Calgary on July 22nd for those Chinese community members who have supported and honored the Hong Kong Veterans - there were 6 HKV's in attendance. The Globe and Mail conducted a phone interview with Veteran Ed Shayler, which was run on August 6th to commemorate VJDay. There will be a Memorial Service for VJ Day in Calgary on Aug 14th, and all of Calgary's legions and veterans associations are expected to attend.

*This report
was written
by Paul Rickman
daughter of Ed Shayler.
Regional Director
I am the secretary*

*Given by
Naama Fuchs
Secretary*

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✓ Copy: to National Secretary
National Convention 2005, Ottawa, ON.
Date: General Meeting
August 13, 2005

QC Regional Director Report 2005

Since our 2003 Convention in Victoria, we have continued to work for the welfare of our Veterans, Widows and HKVC Association.

HKVCA, Quebec region works jointly with the HKVA, QC-Maritimes Branch Veterans since the transfer on the closing day of September 2001.

We hold an annual joint-executive meeting and Commemorative meetings locally on a fairly regular basis or more in the case of an emergency.

We of the Commemorative do the leg-work for our Veterans and consult with them on certain discussions or procedures as their experience is always an asset.

We have people with different working experiences, business knowledge etc. on both executives, so this makes things a team effort from all parties concerned.

We do attend the monthly on-line Meetings Nationally. We do join in the discussions and try to bring in some of our experiences and exchange others with everyone.

We hope that some of these discussions can strengthen our Association and help others.

Again we should not forget our "Raison d'être" for our Veterans and Widows and continue to keep the memory alive.

In August 2004, QC also held their successful bi-annual reunion with 18 HK Vets present and 4 additional that had to cancel at the last minute due to illness or accidents in the immediate family.

A total of 76 people: vets, family members and guests were registered for the week-end plus an additional 18 for the banquet only.

For the 60th Anniversary of the end of hostilities special attention was made in the way of a special gift to say "thank you" for each HK Vet present and special mention and a corsage was given to each wife or widow of a HK Vet.

For 2005, due to the convention and with all the activities for the 60th Anniversary and the "Year of the Veteran" taking place in many localities and regions, it was decided by the Veterans and agreed by the Commemorative that we would not hold our Mini-Reunion as in the past on a Convention Year.

For 2006, our Vets suggested that QC hold it's reunion in Granby and it has been confirmed with the hotel for August 10-13. More news and info in the months to come. QC extends an invitation to all members and friends of the Association to join us in Granby for the 2006 Reunion.

On July 1, 2004, many members of the HK Family as well as other World War II, Korea and Peacekeeping Force were present for the official opening of the Baie des Chaleurs Military Museum in New-Richmond, QC.

A project that was ten years in the works and so generously supported by HK Vets, their families and friends.

We had perfect weather and were honoured by the presence of no less than sixteen HK Vets with their families and friends.

The Commemorative, QC region donated to the museum a framed document measuring six feet by four feet on which is listed the names of every member of the RR of Canada in Hong Kong.

The names of all RR Vets in Hong Kong will be in the museum for all who visit to see.

Smaller copies, suitable for framing were and are still available for HK Vets or families.

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Lyla Beattie, widow of Kenneth Beattie of Richmond, QC donated to the museum her "Little Wedding Dress" of September 1946. It was hand made by family members of parachute silk brought back by Ken on his arrival home after the war. Many HK Vets and families also donated personal artifacts.

In early 2005, locally in Granby we were also quite involved for our local branch #56 of the Royal Canadian Legion on the organizing Committee for the 60th Anniversary for all our Veterans from our District held on May 8. Due to sickness and/or other commitments of our local HK Vets, Patrick Poirier, from Montreal, very proudly represented all his HK Comrades during the ceremonies, parade and banquet. He even made the front page of our local newspaper with his picture and an interview on his personal experiences during the war and as a POW.

In late May, Marcel and I represented all our HK Vets and HKVCA members at a 60th Anniversary Ceremony in Montreal.

We also attended the Royal Canadian Legion, Quebec Provincial Convention in Rimouski, QC, again a great way to stay involved and on top of what is going on around us for our veterans, widows and an opportunity to learn more on the function and maybe even the management of an Association. It was great to hear more from VAC on their news, their possibilities of help etc.

In late April 2005, a great candidate, a Quebec Region member, Lancelot Ross, RRC, was inducted into the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour during a banquet held in Ottawa. Congratulations Lance and thanks also go out to the Committee for their choice and work on this. Quite an honour for a worthy gentleman.

Many of the HKVCA laid wreaths and attended commemorative ceremonies in their respective areas for November 11 ceremonies.

Financially, QC region remains on a solid footing. This results from the ongoing support of our Veterans, Widows, members and well attended reunions. Again thanks to all.

As for membership, we are no exception to other regions, as we do have to remind some members to pay their dues on time in order to be kept informed.

Generally, things are very good and in the last two years we have managed to increase our membership number quite substantially, specially for 2005.

We have the great support from our Veterans as they are getting their families involved in the cause.

Welcome all new members.

Here at the Convention, QC Region has great family group representation with the Dallains, Clarks, Woods, Baileys, Liveretts, Syvrets, Levitts

Hope I didn't miss any group..... with their families from the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, BC and the USA and again possibly other provinces that I missed.

We, in Quebec will continue to be there for our Veterans and not forget the "raison d'être" of our Association. Quebec will also not forget our Widows.

Submitted by:

Lucette Maillonx Muir
Quebec Regional Director

Date: August 13, 2005

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Ontario Region Report: Annual General Meeting National Convention, Aug.13, 2005

Much of the Ontario Region's activities in the last few months have centred around preparations for the National Convention. Four members of the Ontario Executive have been able to be involved in the monthly meetings held in Ottawa. Only one of those four, Sandi Cameron, is an Ottawa resident. Sandi, our Regional Treasurer, played a pivotal role in a number of aspects of the Convention preparations. She was not only in charge of the Registration, but acted as Treasurer for the Ottawa Committee which had been formed to lay the groundwork for the Convention itself.

The others involved included Sylvia Mason, who lives in Keswick. She became the Secretary of the Ottawa Committee, and kept us all on track with her charts updating the many responsibilities of various committee members. Mike Babin, from Toronto, attended early meetings, and Pat Turcotte, from Mississauga, assumed responsibility for finding the volunteers to cover the 200 plus hours where help would be needed. Lori Smith, our Regional Secretary, who lives in London, was unable to attend the Convention. However, she was assisted by Dorothy Sauson in her preparations for the Remembrance Protocol ceremony. Monthly meetings began over a year ago, and for the Ontario Executive involved, at least one member, and most times two, travelled to Ottawa to be part of the continuing discussions.

The many other activities of the Ontario Region have included introducing the Ten Lessons, titled "Canada in Hong Kong: 1941-1945 The Forgotten Heroes" to various interested groups around the country. Carol Hadley, in Manitoba, has been responsible for considerable interest in the schools in Manitoba. The New Brunswick Department of Education, having seen copies of the lessons, decided to develop a pilot project for their Grade Nines across the province, by which they would determine whether the Ten Lessons would become part of the curriculum. The success of the project would mean that they would also want to order copies of the French translation of those lessons. We will be in touch with the Minister shortly to let them know that the French Translation's completion is imminent, and that copies of the translation will soon be available.

The attempt to arrange for a French translation of the Ten Lessons has resulted just recently in the Canada Remembers Division of Veterans Affairs making a decision to fund through their Partnership programme the cost of hiring a translator. They will also provide the additional copies required to introduce the French translation, as well as the English version, to educational institutions across the country. Through this effort, we will be able to create more interest and awareness in various school boards, and, in turn, in the individual teachers themselves. We do reach more and more teachers in Ontario every year by attending their annual conference, the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers Association Conference (OHASSTA), and this year we do expect to have the French translation to show them.

We have been producing two Ontario Region Newsletters per year for four years now. Sylvia Mason and Tim Hodkinson took over the publishing, printing and mailing of the

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June issue just recently, and did an excellent job. They intend to work on the newsletter for December 2005, and, hopefully, will want to continue with issues in 2006.

Mike Babin has been successful in organizing a trip to Hong Kong in December for all interested HKVCA members and friends. At last count, there were 25 people going, and there are still openings available to those interested. Several veterans will be there, three confirmed at the moment and possibly three or four more that are planning to attend. It should be a very special situation, as the visit will be timed to connect with the 200 plus students going on their own pilgrimage to honour the Hong Kong veterans. Both groups will be present at special ceremonies to be held at Sai Wan Cemetery in the first week of December.

There will be many things to attract you at the Convention. One of the things all registrant should be sure to do is visit the Memorabilia Room. Ron McGuire and several other Ontario HKVCA members have special exhibits that you won't want to miss. Young people in particular will want to go to the Blogging room set up by Veterans Affairs so that they can document some of the experiences they have had in being part of the Convention. One thing that certainly must be mentioned is the huge contribution, financially, and in personnel, made by Veterans Affairs. We do thank them for that, as VAC has helped ensure the success of this very special event.

There is one last item to mention relative to the Ontario Region. We will be sending out the Call for Nominations in September for the election which will be held later on in the fall. We urge the Ontario Region members to consider getting involved by letting their names stand, as we want to continue to grow as a Region, and to make our contribution to the life of the HKVCA organization as healthy a one as possible.

Submitted by:

Pat Turcotte
Regional Director
HKVCA, Ontario Region