

HKVCA 2018 Annual General Meeting

Ontario Region Report

Our membership in Ontario includes 2 Veterans (Fred Cooper and George MacDonell), 27 widows and 132 regular members. These numbers have remained relatively constant since the last AGM. Unfortunately, last November we lost Gerry Sunstrom, a Veteran from the Niagara Region.

This past year our major project in Ontario was our commemorative plaque program. From a very modest beginning the year before, we've installed 9 in Ontario, and expanded the program across the country. There are now some 35, mostly in Legion branches, from coast to coast. Lori Atkinson Smith deserves a huge amount of credit for her work on developing the plaque, and in spreading it throughout all regions.

Plaques were installed in Legion branches in Sutton, London, Port Colborne, Port Credit, Chesley, Sarnia and Brechin. Each installation was accompanied by a ceremony involving HKVCA and Legion members, and often resulted in some media coverage.

Our excellent team in Ottawa did a number of exhibits at various functions in the area, continuing to keep the Battle of Hong Kong in front of Ottawa-area residents. However, they sorely missed the participation of Ian Doull, who passed away very suddenly in September of 2017.

I congratulate the members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association of Ontario, who made sure to highlight the Battle of Hong Kong in their commemorative events, and I thank them for doing so.

Our Niagara area held its annual luncheon in June, and Pam Newhouse played her usual excellent role as host.

Toronto resident Mark Sakamoto won the prestigious Canada Reads 2018 award with his book "Forgiveness", in which his grandfather, Hong Kong Veteran Ralph McLean, figured prominently.

Our Ontario Region Treasurer, Mark Purcell, has undergone two hip replacements in the last year, and is feeling much more mobile as a result!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Babin
Regional Director, Ontario