

BC Regional Report for AGM

Greetings to all from the Pacific Region

Although this last reporting year has been some what slow it has been punctuated with some notable happenings.

There are currently 19 widows residing in British Columbia. This includes the amazing Ann Maze, 106 years young. Ann is the widow of Richard (Dick) Maze WG. She still enjoys having her son read the HKVCA newsletter to her. We wish all our widows continued good health and happiness.

Horace Gerry Gerrard RCCS is British Columbia's only surviving HKVCA veteran. Gerry is a continuing source of inspiration to us all. Last November Remembrance ceremonies saw Gerry lay a wreath at the Victoria cenotaph to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. This is something he has done for the last 55years! We are thrilled to know that he will indeed attend our conference in Fredericton. Mr. Gerrard has been interviewed hundreds of times over those 55 years. However, an interview conducted in November by past BC Director Lee Naylor and researcher and activist Satoko Norimatsu has garnered some publicity in the Japanese media. Gerry's wartime accounts of his experiences as a signaller and his POW treatment was published in the Japanese magazine Shukan Kinyobi. This is a first and significant happening. We all hope it will help to promote the Hong Kong story to the Japanese people who are interested in the Canadian involvement.

A big congratulations again to the “Portraits of Valour” writing competition winners who are both from the Kelowna secondary highschool in BC: 1st prize winner, Madelyn DeGrury and 2nd prize winner Nicole Keeler. Good on you two ladies and continued success with your studies. Thank you for keeping the Hong Kong story alive and vibrant in the printed form.

As I write this I am aware of the difficulties and discomfort many of our interior British Columbians are experiencing from the effects of the wildfires. Our own BC Treasurer and Membership Chair, Murray Doull has been in the thick of it and our thoughts and best wishes are with him and Lucy for a cooler end to this summer.

Cheers and warm regards from the island.

Gerry Tuppert
BC Regional Director
Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

