

HKVCA Annual General Meeting President's Report - August, 2017

Greetings:

The Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act states that we must conduct annual elections, and annual general meetings. The previous AGM was in Ottawa, last December, following the annual ceremony at the Memorial Wall. It may seem unusual that our AGM cycle is not exactly 12 months apart, but that's okay.

We continue to learn and improve. For example, this year we have printed all the reports in large print and made them available ahead of the meeting so that everyone has a chance to read the material and bring questions, making our time together more effective. Other ideas? Let us know.

Even organizations grow up. The HKVCA is over 20 years old, do you believe it! We took up the torch from the HKVA, and now we must put effort and energy into passing the torch to others as the current leadership inevitably gets closer to retirement. Doing so also builds in some redundancy in knowledge and skill. The model of apprenticeship, or understudy, or mentoring could really work well here. There are many young professionals who are looking for ways to build experience and contacts. If you are aware of someone building a career in event planning, bookkeeping, journalism, writing, library science, teaching, translation, web development, graphic design...all these skills and more can be applied to our work, working with our guidance. Get in contact and we will be excited to find meaningful work and projects. Personally, I will mentor anyone in project management, technical writing, business analysis...you get the picture.

The size and health of our organization has slowly dropped to about 650, with some fluctuations. We have 15 veterans still with us. However, we have 850 people following our Facebook page – very encouraging. We just need to figure out how to tap that.

A smaller membership means less funds, but more importantly it means fewer people who to assist with our mission. I know many members have thoughts on

the future work on the HKCVA, and some have shared them. If you have thoughts to share with the board, talk to one of us this weekend, or send an email. You can reach everyone at bod@hkvca.ca.

All our accomplishments from the past year are described in past newsletters, or in the project and regional reports that will be presented today. Many activities have a national interest, but are mentioned in regional reports simply due to proximity of a special site or the particular involvement of a HKVCA member. I encourage you to read them all.

Our financial health will be presented shortly by our esteemed and incomparable Barry Mitchell. IBM has a Corporate and Community Affairs program wherein funds are distributed to eligible charities in recognition of the volunteer time an IBMer contributes. I am pleased to say that every year I've applied for a community grant, we have received a donation of \$1000 or more. The HKVCA officially thanks IBM Canada for their support.

A special word of thanks to Jim Trick, Mr. Energizer Bunny, who along with the significant and never ending task of web administration and more, fills the shoes of our Newsletter Editor AND our National Membership Rep.

I also particularly thank Dan James, our Facebook page administrator, who has nurtured it along with great success. In fact, our Facebook connections have brought many rewards, including the wonderful story of the lost and returned watch that Mike Babin shares in his report.

Thank you to the HKVCA for expressing confidence in me, and to the members of Board in particular for their support, encouragement, and friendship, during my terms on the Board, and this past year, as President. I've learned so much.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Angel, President