

Atlantic Region HKVCA Report
AGM Report 2016
By Ruth Murgatroyd

Greetings from the Atlantic Region HKVCA.

I am thrilled to be the new Atlantic Representative on the Hong Kong Veteran Commemorative Association Board of Directors.

My Grandfather, Rifleman William Hickie (E30331), was wounded during the Battle of Hong Kong and spent time in five Japanese prison camps. William's brother, Gordon Hickey (E30517), was killed in battle and is buried in the Sai Wan War Cemetery at Cape Collinson Road Chai Wan Hong Kong.



On 15 August 2015, the Fredericton Region Museum held a Hong Kong remembrance event to mark the 70th Anniversary of VJ Day. We had a tremendous amount of support from our community during the planning and execution of the event with support from the York-Sunbury Historical Society, Ltd., Base Gagetown, Anglican Parish of St. Peter, City of Fredericton, Summer Guard Program, Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton & York), St. John River Society and the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame.

William Hickie's great-grandson provided music on the violin. Colonel MacIsaac (Base Commander), Eric Megarity (Deputy Mayor) and Maxine Campbell (York Sunbury Historical Society President) delivered welcome messages. Lt Col H. A. Skaarup (Honorary Colonel 3 Intelligence Company) and Andy Flanagan (son of James Flanagan) gave remarks and the history behind the remembrance. Rev. Cannon Dr. Ross Hebb said a lovely prayer and the City Guard did a walk-by as well as a March and Review. The Guard bagpiper played the official lament of the Canadian Forces "Flowers of the Forest," to honour fallen soldiers.

We held the event outdoors to make it public and to encourage walk-by participation. Afterwards, the museum held a reception and invited participants to view a display of James Flanagan's war memorabilia on loan from Andy Flanagan. Greg Fekner (NB Military History Museum) gave costumed interpretation.



On 15 October 2016, the Atlantic Region hosted a remembrance ceremony, reception and annual general meeting in Fredericton. The ceremony took place at the Cenotaph in downtown Fredericton with Sidney Murgatroyd providing music on the violin with Matt Daley on the Bugle. Andy Flanagan acted as emcee for the occasion and Rev. Hebb said the prayer and blessing. Wade Campbell (Oromocto Legion President) provided the Act of Remembrance, Spencer Murgatroyd read "For the Fallen" and Rhys Murgatroyd (Cadet) read the Commitment to Remember. Wreaths were laid by the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau (Lieutenant Governor), Matt DeCoursey (Member of Parliament), Hon. Stephen Horsman (Deputy Premier), Eric Merarity (City Councillor), Ruth Murgatroyd, Emmie Flanagan, Colonel D.A. MacIsaac (CD 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown Commander) and Wade Campbell.

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During the evening reception, Dr. Mark Milner (Director, Gregg Centre for the Study of War & Society) gave the keynote presentation and local jazz musician, Chris Mercer, kindly hosted a fundraising swing dance.

A new board was elected at the Annual General Meeting. Emmie Flanagan stepped down as President and Antoinette Boudreau stepped down as Treasurer. The Board elected includes Ruth Murgatroyd (Chair), Andy Flanagan (Treasurer), Ellen O'Neill (Secretary), Bernard LeBlanc (Membership) and Jim Flanagan (Director).

A special note of thanks is extended to Antoinette Boudreau who held the position of Treasurer for over 50 years. Her dedication and commitment to the organization is outstanding.

