

The Regional Director, Kathie Carlson, for this region is located in Lethbridge, Alberta so attendance in the monthly meetings held in Winnipeg was a challenge. However, she sent regular reports to be read to the members and into the minutes.

The Manitoba area hold monthly meetings on the second Thursday of the month at St. James legion on Portage Ave in Winnipeg at noon. Some of the items that were dealt with over the year are as follows;

- Replaced our distinctive wreaths that are used in remembrance and memorial ceremonies.
- Arranged for the western vets were to receive the China Peace Medal and the Order of St George as they didn't attend the ceremony in Ottawa. Manitoba invited the 3 veterans and families to our monthly meeting where the certificates were presented with the medals. A lunch was held in Calgary for the veterans in Alberta with RD Kathie presenting the certificates and medals. There was a large attendance from the Chinese community attending the lunch due to HKVCA member Terry Kwok. The Alpha group outlined their program which is similar to ours in education.
- Dennis Bell was in contact with Rabbi Cooper about pursuing an apology from the Japanese Mitsubishi company. After several months there was not sufficient information from the existing veterans or documentation that we were able to access to determine if the Canadians were involved.
- In May we were involved with the Red River Heritage Fair at the University of Winnipeg for school age students to do a project on Manitoba history. We are involved with the program and judging, supplying prize items for a scavenger hunt and Veteran award certificate with books as prize. Thank you to Alex Taylor and Stan Lopata for looking after the display and John Matthews for judging.
- A flag was in process with decisions on the design, colour and quantity. Thank you to Barry Mitchell this has been accomplished.
- We started our 3 year of contacting the Canadian Mint about information on the release of the Battle of Hong Kong coin which is second coin in a WWII Battlefront series. This project was completed in September when the coin was unveiled in Winnipeg with a promise that the remaining 18 vets would receive a coin. We were pleased and shocked at the generosity of the Mint. Full report submitted separately.
- We have a connection with Winnipeg Grenadier Cadets through our Colour Party, former members. Therefore, we are invited to attend the annual parades that they hold. They also help our Association when requested.
- In October Alex Taylor and Stan Lopata take our display and information to the SAGE conference for teachers sponsored by Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association. Carol Hadley registered to do a presentation to promote the essay competition to promote the Battle of Hong Kong with the teachers.
- There have been issued preventing all our HK vets from getting the Order of St George which has upset one of our veterans and family.
- The national elections occurred over the summer with issues dealing with the membership lists that some of our members didn't receive the newsletter so were unable to nominate – this has been corrected.
- Several members and the display attended the 100th anniversary of Deer Lodge Hospital which was a large veteran hospital for many years.

- Terry Kwok, who is also a member of ALPHA (Association of Learning and Preserving History of WW II in Asia). It turns out that “The Friends of Hong Kong” group are considering doing a documentary to honour Ralph Maclean and Doug Rees in commemoration of “The Battle of Hong Kong 75th Anniversary”, so youngsters will know what happened 75 years ago.
- VJ day in Manitoba was held at Neil Bardal centre on August 14 will have a light lunch with Philip Lee, former Lieutenant Governor as guest speaker, about 65 guest including MLA Steven Fletcher, Councillor Jason Schreyer and Lt. Col (retd) Gary Solar. There were several members of other veteran groups with our family and friends.
- The 71st Annual Dinner was held at Neil Bardal’s Centre in Winnipeg with about 60 people in attendance. We were pleased to have HK vet George Peterson, widows Anne Richardson, Ladena Hodgkinson Mabely, and Alexandra Slovinsky in attendance. (Alexandra passed away a few days following.) There were city councillors, Jason Scheyer and Scott Dillingham with several representatives of other veteran associations. Thank you to Juliet Lafortune for coordinating this event and our social events again. We are appreciative of the many years of service Juliet has given to the Association and wish her well as she steps down.
- We held two Tea and Tidbits this year but had poor attendance so cancelled in December.
- Kathie Carlson and Carol Hadley attended a Round table discussion with the Minister of VAC and his staff in our areas. There were representatives of many veteran assns. The general discussion was the Budget for VAC and what it included and if they missed anything. Their motto is “Family is involved when soldiers serve.” This is to ensure an easier assimilation for the veteran returning home and in some cases leaving the military due to injuries. The HKVCA role was to ensure our VIP program was continuing for vets and widows and it will.
- With the declaration of the elections, Carol Hadley was named as Regional Director and a new Secretary for this region is Marleen Bell, Barry Mitchell continues as our Treasurer. John Matthews is our public relations person to broadcast our events, etc.
- Kathie Carlson reports that the gala evening, organized by the Royal Hong Kong Regiment in Edmonton, has asked Veteran Ralph McLean to be the guest speaker. This event has been postponed until the spring.
- Remembrance Day Sunday was held at St. Luke's Anglican Church with our Padre Paul Lampman, on Sunday, November 6, 2016 with HKVCA members and the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadets laying wreaths.
- Remembrance Day Service at the Winnipeg Convention Centre had Dennis Bell and Barry Mitchell laying the HKV wreath. Our colour party was in attendance as they have been for many, many years. Other communities throughout our Region also had wreaths laid recognizing the 75th Anniversary of Battle of Hong Kong and Canadian participation.
- We have sent out a communication broadcast to the community newspapers looking for locations of the HK vets in cemeteries in Manitoba to begin and to promote the gravestone marker that we have for sale and if no family we will determine if the Association can place a marker on the vet’s stone.
- **Upcoming ...**
- **December 4, 2016 at Brookside Cemetery** in Winnipeg, at 1:30 p.m. the HKVCA will be participating in the “Wreaths across Canada” service where cadets will be placing real-life wreaths for our 11,000 military buried in the largest Military cemetery in Canada. We will be commemorating a plaque for the **75th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong**. The service will be held at the Stone of Remembrance;

George will place a wreath at the plaque during the service and there will be government, military and veteran organizations. Press release should be out soon.

- As soon as a date is set in the spring, we will have a plaque unveiling in Pinawa Manitoba for **French Island** (in memory of **Lt. Charles Duncan French**) and **Furey Island** (in memory of **Pte. Joseph Furey**) for their service. More to come.
- Thank you to all the Prairie members for their assistance and attendance at the events. Kathie Carlson has stayed involved and in contact with the area reps then forwarding reports for our meeting minutes to keep all our members informed. We greatly appreciate Kathie's continued support.

Respectfully submitted