

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH
PO BOX 381
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6

July, August, September 2007

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Upcoming Events

September 30, 2007 – dedication of Battle of Jardine's Lookout Memorial

**October 11, 2007 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon.
The facility is fully accessible.**

October 27, 2007 – HKVA Reunion

November 7, 2007 – general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

**November 8, 2007 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon.
The facility is fully accessible.**

November 11, 1007 – Remembrance Day

**December 13, 2007 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon.
The facility is fully accessible.**

December 15, 2007 - Ladies Tea & Tidbits at St. James Legion on Portage Ave.

December 25, 2007 – Peaceful Christmas

January 1, 2008 – Happy New Year!!

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Upcoming Events.....	1
Manitoba HKVA President's Report.....	1
Manitoba HKVCA Regional Director.....	2
Last Post.....	3
Manitoba HKVCA Treasurer & Membership.....	3
From the Editor.....	3
HKVCA Convention - August 2007.....	4
Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund.....	5
Humour.....	5
Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers.....	6

Manitoba HKVA President's Report

- George Peterson

Greetings, I hope you all had a good summer and are in fair health. As for myself, I am pleased to tell you that my knee is as good as new again and I don't think I will have the other one operated on as it is now good too. The only problem that I have now is the numbness, tingling and electric shocks in my feet. These are the same symptoms that I had as an unwilling guest of the Japanese army.

June 6th – as I told you in my last report, I was asked to be the reviewing officer for our Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Corp's 60th annual Ceremonial Parade for this honour I received a very nice plaque.

June 9th – I travelled to Pinawa with Stan Lopata and stayed at his brother, Vince's home that night. The next day along with Alex to complete our Colour Party we attended the Memorial Day services at Lac du Bonnet. Vince assisted me in laying our wreath.

June 14th – HKVCA meeting at 11 a.m. and the HKVA monthly lunch at noon at St James Legion.

June 21st – attended meeting at 6 p.m. of the Interpretative Committee at Bardal's, this project seems to be at a standstill until we hear from the city re: Brookside Cemetery.

June 25th went to our cottage at Falcon Lake and stayed for almost the month of July where I tried fishing with the usual results – maybe I will try baiting my hook next time.

July 21st – it is now 1 year that I have not smoked but there is still something missing. I don't think that I miss the nicotine but I do miss the habit of lighting up.

July 29th celebrated our 52nd years of marriage.

August 14th – Stan and Vince Lopata picked me up for the trip to Calgary for the Convention. We stopped at Swift Current for the night and went to the local Legion to check on Len Corrigan's sword. Much to my surprise it was not there. I later learned when I spoke to Pat Turcotte, one of Len's daughters, the family had removed the sword and it now is on display in the Manitoba Museum.

We arrived in Calgary on the 15th and what a wonderful time we had. There were about 30 Hong Kong Vets in attendance and we were treated royally, with great respect. Each HK vet in attendance was presented with framed plaque with his name printed in English and Chinese lettering and we were given a Chinese name. I wont know what mine is until I find someone who can read Chinese to interpret it for me.

The plaques were made by some Chinese ex-residents of Hong Kong and presented to us by Terry Kwok on their behalf.

There was a BBQ held at the Kananaskis Guest Ranch but I couldn't go as my foot was badly swollen and I couldn't get a shoe on. The vets that did go were made Honourary Calgarians. We met the Lt Governor of Alberta, the Honourable Norman Kwong, CM, AOE at a veterans VIP reception and had our individual pictures taken with him. You may recall when he was plain Normy Kwong who played football for the Edmonton Eskimos when they were consistently beating our Winnipeg Blue Bombers. All in all it was a very good convention and I am sure Carol and Barry will be telling you more about it in their reports.

August 26th attended the celebration of VJ Day at All Saints Church and as usual Juliet and her helpers did a bang up job again, also there was a good crowd in attendance.

August 27th – received a message from Florence Savage, Bill Savage's widow, that she was in Deer Lodge Centre and would like to see me. Bob Nesbitt was kind enough to drive me to see her on the 29th. For anyone who would like to visit Florence she is on the second floor E and in Rm 206. If anyone decides to visit I would advise that you phone first as she expects to be moved to another facility in the near future.

I have been down to the cottage again and just returned yesterday September 7th. On checking the phone messages, I received one from a man, whose voice I didn't recognise, and who apparently started to speak before the beep – hence the message was not complete. There was no day or date given and the only part that I could understand was a funeral was to be held in Reston United Church tomorrow. I phoned Juliet and she said Tom Forsyth passed away on September 1st. Anyone phoning me who gets my answering machine, please state your name, phone number and brief message after the beep and I will get back to you when I check for messages.

Juliet just phoned me with the news of the passing of Herb Walker. Herb was a great friend of our Association and was an Honourary Life Member – he and Tom Forsyth will be missed.

Tomorrow is our monthly lunch and I promised Carol that I would have this report to give to her then. May you have a smooth road to travel and the wind always in your back.

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Manitoba HKVCA Regional Director

- Juliet Lafortune

Hello all:

Well here I go trying to remember all that has happened since the last newsletter went out.

I was unable to attend the Convention in Calgary this year but the people I've spoke to have had nothing but great things to say about it. I was sorry that I missed it.

We held our **VJ Day**, on Aug 26th, which was late this year because of the Convention. We had a good turn out of about 60-65 people but it was mostly

different Veterans groups that came. I was disappointed that we didn't get more of our members to support this important day for our Veterans. We did get three Veterans, **George Peterson, Freddie Poitras and Larry Stebbe** and of course our widows **Joan Simcoe, Dorothy Morris and Ladena Mabeley** with their families and friends. If you were unable to attend, you missed a memorable day. **Rev. Gordon Shields** said the prayers and dedicated the new plaque that hangs in All Saints Church with the Manitoba Hong Kong veterans that have passed away. Vince and Stan Lopata, and Alex Taylor were the Colour Party that opened the event. Carol Hadley and Vince put up a great display of memorabilia and there was an artist rendering of the "C" Force Memorial Wall that is to be built in Ottawa some time in the future.

We served a lunch following the service and I would like to thank Brian Payjack, Ashley Garand and of course David Fehr. David, is my 17 year old godson, who has helped me every year for the last seven years. He loves talking to the Veterans and has had a few talks with George Peterson.

On Sept 13th we had our regular HK lunch at St James Legion and we had 15 people come out. Some faces we hadn't seen for a while and we were glad to see them back like **Dick Wilson and George Peterson**.

I heard through the grapevine that **Soren Paulson and Marilyn** haven't been to the lunches because Soren had major surgery but is doing well. Hopefully we see them back soon.

Herb and Ollie Walker always attended the lunches but we lost Herb on Sept 8th after a lengthy illness.

On Sept 15th we held our Tea and Tidbits with 16 ladies attending. **Mary Sellers, Anne Stebbe, Dorothy Morris, Ann Richardson, Ladena Mabley, Florence Wiebe and Angie Bourbonniere** are the wives and widows who attended along with their families. What a great day it was. I walked in the room at St James Legion to find that the staff had set up the tables so nicely. The ladies were impressed and so was I; it made the day special. So a BIG THANK YOU to Cecile and your staff for a job well done. We appreciate the nice lunch and how much you go out of your way to make this a special day.

Don't forget to attend September 30th at Brookside Cemetery, 1:30 or 13:00 hrs, 1:30 or 13:00 hrs for the **Dedication of Jardine's Lookout Memorial Plaque**.

Of course the HKVA Dinner is coming up soon so make sure you send your responses back as soon as possible. **Also if you have any donations for the silent auction please let me know ASAP as I like to have the Donors Card made up ahead of time.**

We will be calling for nominations soon as we have an election coming up in 2008 in Manitoba. So if you think you would like to give some time back to the Hong Kong Veterans, please come forward.

Well it's time for me to go - to all my Hong Kong Veterans, family and friends - take care, may God Bless you and keep you well.

† † † †

Last Post

John Levitt, E-30069, RRC, died May 20/07
James E Badger, E-29923, RRC, died May 29/07
Dr. Stanley M. Banfil, Capt., Bde., died May 21/07
Charles Cardinal, H-6793, WG, died May 25/07
Donald Geraghty, B-45551, RRC, died July 07/07
Alfred Matthews, H-6389, WG, died July 10/07
Peter Alain, G18311 RRC, died August 16, 2007
Tom Forsyth, H 6737, WG, died September 1/07

HKVCA

Herb Walker Honourary Life Member of Manitoba Branch of HKVA, WG Cadet Corp, died September 8, 2007.

Lo Cyr, widow of Roger Cyr (RRC)

Maude Crawford, widow of John N. Crawford (RCAMC)

Dorothy McKay, the widow of Andrew J. McKay (RRC) passed away.

Lorna Cardinal, widow of Charles Cardinal, WG, died July 24, 2007

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief.

We will remember them.

† † † †

Manitoba HKVCA Treasurer & Membership

- Barry Mitchell

Once again it's time for a reminder that we are expecting all members to be paid in full as far as dues for this year are concerned. We certainly don't want to drop your name from our membership list but for the few dozen who are holding out, we will soon be saying "good-bye" if we don't hear from you shortly. You know who you are and we expect your account to be brought up-to-date in the return mail.

Also we offer a little incentive in that the HKVCA is a registered charity and we will issue a receipt that can be claimed as a deduction against your income tax for any donation of \$20.00 or more. The annual dues remain at \$15.00 per year and your cheque should be made out to "HKVCA" and sent to P.O. Box 381 in Winnipeg, R3C 2H6.

Now that the Memorial Wall is on everyone's mind we are trumpeting the call for donations to help us design, build and maintain this beautiful monument to our Hong Kong heroes. Once again, the charitable donation tax receipt applies and your cheque is to be made out to "HKVCA-Memorial Wall". Please send your donation to our Winnipeg address (as above) and we will keep you apprised of the progress we make in raising funds for this most worthwhile project.

The Manitoba Region continues to offer merchandise for sale and which we can supply through the mail. We are nearing the end of our inventory of sweatshirts but at \$20.00 (sizes M and XXL) you can

obtain a quality item at a most reasonable price. We also have grave markers (\$72.00), pins (\$5.00), blazer crests (\$25.00), videos (\$15.00) and books (No Reason Why @ \$37.00 and One Soldier's Story @ \$20.00). Send us a cheque made out to HKVCA and you will quickly receive your item in the mail.

Very few notes have come our way of late but I did want to acknowledge a message from **Bill Muir of Comox, BC**. Bill was kind enough to send us his contribution to the Memorial Wall along with a reminder that it has been 38 years since he left Winnipeg. He appreciates the Manitoba updates in the newsletters and tells us "You are being watched"!!! Bill just returned from an Alaska cruise where he tells us he had a great time. Good for you, Bill! And finally, a nice note from **Thelma Lajeunesse of Keewatin, Ontario** who regularly keeps in touch. Thelma is still in her own home but wonders just how long she will remain at Lake of the Woods as she must now contend with failing eye sight. We appreciate her maintaining contact with our association.

That's it for now folks. I hope to clear up all the outstanding dues before the next issue and thank all members for their support of this busy organization.

Cheers,

Barry Mitchell

From the Editor

- Carol Hadley

Memorial Wall Update



This is an artist rendering of the Project.

For those who didn't make the Convention, here is an update on the Memorial Wall Project.

The proposal for land and project approval has been submitted to the National Capital Commission (NCC) in Ottawa. The project will cost **\$100,00.00** by going this route due to environmental and soil testing, perpetual care and some aesthetics for the site. In the meantime, several corporations and agencies have been sent requests for funding. We will keep you updated with the progress of the project.

The HKVCA Memorial Wall Committee is very grateful for the enthusiastic support given by our members at the Calgary Convention. Through many challenges to match donations, we realized about \$20,000.00 with promises of more. We had received some substantial donations previously from members and friends across Canada and to date we have exceeded \$30,000.00. Incredible!!

We sincerely hope that all our members will consider this project to be very important when reviewing your gifts to charity. You may donate through using the computer if you wish by copying this link and by following the easy instructions on the site

https://www.canadahelps.org/checkout_charity_extras.aspx

or by writing a cheque to **HKVCA Memorial Wall** and mailing it to Barry Mitchell, **Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6**. We will issue income tax receipts for gifts over \$20.

As there is a BC Region challenge out there that came with their \$5000.00 donation at Convention, so we hope that you will indicate that your donation is on behalf of Manitoba Region and we will let you know of any fundraising events that we will plan.

If you wish to conduct your own fundraising for this project we would be very grateful but request that you notify the Memorial Wall Project committee before you begin. There are brochures available if you wish to use them for your efforts and the www.hkvca.ca website carries updates as they occur.

The committee members are: Carol Hadley, Chair; Barry Mitchell; Derrill Henderson; Phil Doddridge; Murray Doull and Ron McGuire.

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Manitoba **HKVCA Education Committee** is preparing a new display for use in presentations for teachers and students. We hope to have the display ready for use at the SAG conference in November for Manitoba teachers. We will be doing a presentation at SAG based on the 10 Lessons curriculum that was created by ON Region.

We have a Teachers folder on our website at <http://www.hkvca.ca/teachers.htm> where we continue to add ideas and information on resources that the teachers would be able to use in the classroom.

We are working with Ontario Region in developing presentations for members to use in their communities to bring awareness of the Battle of Hong Kong and to encourage the use of the 10 Lesson Plans that were developed by Nick Brune, HKVCA member.

Also we will be promoting the **Ontario Region Essay Contest** as it encourages students to do research and to do critical thinking as well as make them familiar with these Canadian heroes. Please talk to educators in your area about these efforts, as they are very worth well. More information about the Essay Contest is available on our website – if you don't have access to the website, please contact Carol Hadley and I will make sure that you have this information.

If you are an educator and have any HK contribution to this folder, please send it along to Jim Trick at jatrick@shaw.ca to be posted on the site.

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Recently I talked to **Bob Lytle**, he and **Myrtle** have had their health issues and have stayed close to home over the summer. We have missed them at the lunches and at Convention.

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How wonderful to have **Larry and Ann Stebbe** back in Winnipeg – we look forward to seeing them at many future events.

♪♪♪

A new residence for **Dick Wilson** is the Deer Lodge Care Centre. This will help in the winter so that Dick doesn't have to drive back and forth to Stonewall. He has had the opportunity to visit with **Fred Poitras** and **Johan Van Baalan** who also reside there.

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Email database

Please send us your email address if you have one when renewing your memberships as we are going to extend our membership files to include them. This will help us to contact our members quickly to let you know of important news. Some of our members have asked to receive the electronic version of the newsletters.

The cost of producing a newsletter or other notice that includes postage, etc increases yearly. We would like to use that money for our projects. Thank you.

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HKVCA Convention - August 2007

What a wonderful experience – to go to convention and meet so many of the Hong Kong Veterans, families and friends. The western hospitality was out in full force for all participants but especially for our HK vets, the guests of honour. It doesn't matter how many conventions you attend they are all unique and terrific in their own way.

Here is a bit of an overview of the Convention.



Some of the veterans and widows with the Lion Dancers.

The very poignant opening on Thursday night was a Ceremony of Lights that was open to the public and there were about 300 people attending. Special guest was the representative of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China, Deputy Consulate

General, Dong Man Yi who had brief comments and presented all the HK veterans and HK widows with the 2008 Olympic Pin as the 2008 Olympics will be held in Beijing. This was followed by the colourful, high action Lion Dance complete with drummers. Very impressive!!

Friday morning was the General Meeting that was well attended to listen to the reports of the past two years. The highlight of the AGM was the Memorial Wall presentation and the whole-hearted acceptance by the members as the money started to flow. How exciting this was to all of the Committee who have worked so hard over the last couple of years.

Friday afternoon the Kananaskis Guest Ranch held a BBQ where several bus-loads of people were given a wonderful western welcome complete with down-home music and a great meal. The highlight of this event was the swearing in of the HK vets to make them Honorary Calgarians complete with white Stetsons and scrolls. What a great touch for our vets!



HK vets Honorary Calgarians at BBQ in Kananaskis

Saturday there was a Memorial service at the Cenataph with the Lt. Governor Norman Kwong and his wife in attendance with other levels of government officials and military representatives, laying wreaths to commemorate our Canadian heroes.

Saturday evening was the Gala Dinner – what a feast! With more gifts for our veterans – lovely afghans! The Lt. Governor Norman Kwong addressed the gathering and the Eric Freidenberg Orchestra played music from the 40's and 50's. What a party!

Throughout the Convention the Memorabilia room and the Hospitality room were gathering places to meet and renew our HK family. Allan Mondor did a fantastic job of organizing the Memorabilia Room with all the items that were brought to convention. Ron McGuire and Vince Lopata had their special displays that are so interesting to the public and the convention participants. Veterans Affairs Canada was present to assist veterans, widows and family members with any questions and to show various places on their website for people to seek information. What a great resource this is!



Some items from the Memorabilia Room

To Gail Richoz, Regional Director; Marilyn Pridgen, Convention Committee Chair and all your Committees and workers – Thank you so much for all your hard work and a wonderful time – Well Done!!



Our **website** (www.hkvca.ca) is a valuable resource for our Association. It contains loads of information about our veterans and the projects that are going Nationally and Regionally.

We continue to gather stories and info on our Veterans as well as the veterans wives and widows – even the children have a story to tell. If you have some information that you wish to share please contact the Executive and they will assist you.



Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund provides financial assistance to the direct descendants of the Winnipeg Grenadiers HK Veterans for their pursuit of higher learning. All donations are most gratefully appreciated. Cheques should be written to Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund (not HKVA).

Application inquiries and donations to this fund may be directed to: **Donna Remillard**. Her new address is 101-123 Swindon Way, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0W3 or email: sellers@mts.com or Tel: (204) 489-2098.



Humour

On his trip to Great Britain, George Bush had a meeting with Queen Elizabeth . He asked her, "How does one manage to run a country so smoothly?" "That's easy," she replied, "You surround yourself with intelligent ministers and advisors."

"But how can I tell whether they are intelligent or not?"

You ask them a riddle," she replied, and with that she pressed a button and said, "Would you please send Tony Blair in." When Blair arrived, the Queen said, "I

have a riddle for you to answer for me" Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was this child?"

Blair replied, "That's easy. The child was me." "Very good," said the Queen. "You may go now."

President Bush went back to Washington and called in his chief of staff, Karl Rove. He said to him, "I have a riddle for you, and the answer is very important. Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was this child?" Rove replied, "Yes, it is clearly very important that we determine the answer, as no child must be left behind. Can I deliberate on this for awhile?" "Yes," said Bush, "I'll give you four hours to come up with the answer."

So Rove went and called a meeting of the White House staff, and asked them the riddle. But after much discussion and many suggestions, none of them had a satisfactory answer. So he was quite upset, not knowing what he would tell the President. As Rove was walking back to the Oval Office, he saw former Secretary of State Colin Powell approaching him. So he said, "Mr. Secretary, can you answer this riddle for me? Your parents had a child and it was not your sister and it was not your brother. Who was the child?" "That's easy," said Powell, "The child was me." "Oh thank you," said Rove. "You may just have saved me my job!"

So Rove went into the Oval Office and said to President Bush, "I think I know the answer to your riddle. The child was Colin Powell!" "No, you idiot!" shouted Bush. "The child was Tony Blair!"

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Smile

Marriage changes passion. Suddenly you're in bed with a relative.

I saw a woman wearing a sweatshirt with "Guess" on it. So I said "Implants?" She hit me.

How come Americans choose from just two people to run for president and over fifty for Miss America?

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

When I was young we used to go "skinny dipping," now I just "chunky dunk."

Don't argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.

Wouldn't it be nice if whenever we messed up our life we could simply press 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and start all over? AMEN , AMEN !!

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?

Wouldn't you know it... Brain cells come and brain cells go, but FAT cells live forever.

And remember: life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

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.Always remember this...

**A smile is such an easy thing to pass along the way,
Like a ray of summer sunshine,
On a somewhat gloomy day!!**

Keep smiling – they always wonder what you are up to.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers

- Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, MB President	256-7174
Carol Hadley, Secretary/Newsletter	837-6754
Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership	269-1497
Juliet Lafortune, Social	338-3354
Phil Doddridge, Nat'l President	418-392-5838

****PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**SEND US YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES –
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU**

AND

**CHEQUES FOR BARRY'S EMPORIUM
SHOULD BE
PAYABLE TO HKVCA**

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2008 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE.

*** Check your membership card today. Please make sure you are a ***paid up member***. Also when you remit your membership, indicate if Manitoba is your primary region or just for newsletters and include your email address if you have one.

Thank you. ***

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Barry's Emporium

- Honour Roll (Ready to Frame) -- \$20.00
- Grave Markers (incl.Reg'd mail)- \$72.00
- Sweatshirt (M, XXL) -- \$20.00
- Lapel Pin (Torch Logo) --\$5.00
- Members Pin – \$5.00
- Tie (Winnipeg Grenadier) --\$30.00
- Blazer Crest (Commemorative) --\$20.00
- No Reason Why - author Carl Vincent - \$37.00
- One Soldier's Story – author George MacDonell - \$20.00
- Video (Slaves of the Rising Sun) --\$10.00

POSTAGE COSTS ARE EXTRA