

# HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH  
PO BOX 381  
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6

October November December  
2002

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## Summer Over?

Wow it's hard to believe that summer is over. I was just getting a handle on my golf game and now the days are too short to play after work. Oh well there is always next year.

## President's Report

Not much to report this time as I've been spending most of my time at our cottage down at Falcon Lake this summer, trying to catch the big one. Only to discover, that if I had to depend on fishing to eat, I would starve. My total catch for the summer was a jackfish that weighed about a pound and a half, a much smaller, small mouth bass and a perch. The jack and bass I returned to the water to grow and we ate the perch, so much for my fishing ability. Even my golfing has become scarce this year with only 7 games and none since July.

Some of you will recall about four weeks ago I phoned you to ask for your opinion on the purchase of a computer, by our branch, to be used by our treasurer. Of the 18 or 19 calls that I made I was able to talk to 11 of you and the next day I contacted one more member. Since all 12 agreed to this expenditure, I contacted Barry Mitchell and told him to go ahead. In talking to Barry yesterday, he had all pertinent information and his purchase will be made shortly. I believe the cost will be in the vicinity of about \$1200.00.

Yesterday I made a few phone calls to some of the members who have been under the weather and I am happy to report Bill Maltman has improved a little and am more mobile now. Roy Robinson is also feeling better; Freddie Wright with the help of a cane is able to get around. All 3 are looking forward to our up coming Reunion and hope to be there. Bill and his good wife Pat will be once again representing our branch at the annual dinner of the local branch of the War Amps Association in November.

About 6 weeks ago I received a phone call from Ed Shayler in Calgary. Ed told me that he expected to be in Winnipeg on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of his visit was to go to see the lake that had been named in memory of his brother Harry. Harry died while he was sleeping as the result of injuries he received when a building collapsed from a heavy snowfall in Japan 1944. Ed was to call me while they were staying overnight in Falcon Lake. Although I stayed by the phone Wednesday and Thursday, I missed his phone call. So through a misunderstanding about which day Ed's trip to Shayler Lake in the Lake of the Woods was going to occur, I missed visiting with him and his family. Ed phoned me this week to ask for information on the Reunion Dinner. Juliet will contact him and hopefully we will see him in October.

Well enough of this report, may those of you who have been under the weather – get well and be with us for a long time yet. Those of you who are well – stay that way. May you always have a smooth path to walk and the wind be at your back, until next time.

Sincerely & in Comradeship, George N. Peterson

## Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association

Hi everyone! Hope you are enjoying the last of summer.

Our City Hall display dedication is set for November 4, 2002. We will have *Ferdinand the Bull*, the coloured Honour Roll and several other items in the display. The Winnipeg Grenadier cadets will be present and hopefully the media. If you are able to make it, please come on down.

I urge you to contact Lora Wachtendorf if you have any items that could be put into the museum. These items will be preserved properly and available for all to see. It is very important to have our history available for our youth to learn and



Regional Director, Juliet Lafortune at Peacekeepers Service, August 11, 2002

understand what has happened in the past.

Carol Hadley and I attended the

Peacekeepers Parade and Wreath laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in which I

participated by laying our wreath.

Our Annual V-J Day Remembrance service was held at All Saints Church at Broadway & Osborne on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002. There were about 45 people in attendance with Rev. Judy Whitmore saying the blessing. Special guests Melvin Swan, President of the Aboriginal Veterans of Manitoba and Joe Maconse, of the National Council of Aboriginal Veterans, spoke on this auspicious occasion.

A committee of Pam Heinrichs, Carol Hadley and Pat Atkinson, are trying to have Canada's participation in the Asian-Pacific theatre of war emphasized in the Senior High School curriculum. They have several aspects ongoing at present and with more of a report to come.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Airport West on Portage Avenue. Information packages have been sent, so please, if you plan on attending send in your replies soon. Also if you have items for the silent auction, please call and let me know, thank you.

Last but not least, Happy Thanksgiving.  
- Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director

### **Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund**

- Donna Remillard

We are seeking donations for the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund and cheques should be made out in that name (not HKVA). The Hong Kong Veterans' Association makes donations to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member.

The monies in this fund are used for the issue of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong veterans, for their higher education.

Contributions can be directed to:

Donna Remillard at 303-740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3 or phone her at 489-0008.

### **The following is a history of the above fund as recounted by Lawrence Stebbe H-6415 to his daughter, Colleen Stebbe.**

A generous donation by the Women's Auxiliary of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong POWs provided the seed money that initiated the start-up of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund. The money came from fund raising efforts by the Women's Auxiliary during the war years, which was used to purchase cigarettes for the POWs in Hong Kong. The shipment was refused by the Japanese government and returned to Canada. The cigarettes were returned to the cigarette companies, and the money was refunded to the Women's Auxiliary. In early January 1974, Mrs. Norris, widow of Maj. John A. Norris, and one

of the last surviving members of the Women's Auxiliary, approached two Hong Kong Veterans, Mr. Neil Bardal and Mr. Lawrence Stebbe, in the hope of arranging for transfer of the custodianship of these funds. The mandate for transfer of these funds required that these funds continue to be recognized as separate and distinct from the Hong Kong Veterans Association and that the objective of the fund remain the same as that of the Women's Auxiliary, i.e., that the funds be used expressly for special needs requests of Winnipeg Grenadier Hong Kong Veterans, as approved by a committee.

The first meeting of The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund was held on January 25, 1974. In attendance were Mrs. J. Norris (elected Chairperson), Mr. L. Stebbe (elected Secretary) and Mr. N. Bardal (elected Treasurer). The Committee, comprised of these members, voted to amend the mandate of the fund and directed that the Trust Fund be used to assist direct descendants of The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Veterans with post-secondary education costs, specifically, the cost of first year university attendance in the province of Manitoba. A Scholarship Trust Account was established to receive from the Women's Auxiliary, funds totalling approximately \$9,000. Arrangements were subsequently made with the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg to receive financial awards on behalf of approved recipients. Over the next couple of years, two additional members replaced Mrs. Norris on the Trust Fund Committee - Mr. Art Lousier and Mr. Ray Sellers.

The Trust Fund was registered as a Charity in the early 1980's. Current members of the Trust Fund Committee are Lawrence Stebbe, Art Lousier, Donna Remillard and Colleen Stebbe. While the mandate of providing financial assistance for post-secondary education to WGHK Veteran's direct descendants has remained unchanged, the Committee has, over time, expanded its definition to include recognized universities and colleges across Canada.

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund has helped more than 130 of the Veterans' children and grandchildren in their pursuit of a higher education. It has been and continues to be a fitting testament to the vision of the Women's Auxiliary, with its initial and generous sponsorship of the fund, and to the on-going generosity of numerous donors over the years. On behalf of all who have been helped over the years, thank you. We look forward to your continued support.

### **Website Updates**

Don't forget to keep monitoring these websites as information is continually being added.

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca) - new info here, check it out.

[www.geocities.com/rcwpc](http://www.geocities.com/rcwpc).

[www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk).

[www.hongkongwardiary.com](http://www.hongkongwardiary.com)

[www.blackyvero.com](http://www.blackyvero.com)

<http://ca.geocities.com/surfchops/index.html>  
[www.geocities.com/jeffyam/hongkong\\_war](http://www.geocities.com/jeffyam/hongkong_war)

## **Notes from Barry Mitchell, Treasurer and Membership**

Greetings to all in the HKVA and the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association. Winnipeg has now completed a summer of unpredictable weather along with the usual battle of "spray or not-to-spray" the bugs but whether we want it or not, we're about to get a return of winter. But that's OK-- I guess we all live here by choice and primarily combat the winter elements by staying inside. That, however, should afford us lots more time to sign a small cheque for our annual HKVA or HKVCA dues as well as give considerable thought to purchasing one of those beautiful HK sweatshirts for just 20 bucks. We might also consider ordering a handful of those attractive lapel pins for 'stocking stuffers'. They are only \$5.00 apiece and we offer very prompt delivery to your doorstep.

We received a note from **Mary Prairie of Thunder Bay, Ontario**, after we tracked her down at her new address. Mary tells us that she moved to a Senior Citizen apartment complex, which she likes very much. We certainly wish her well and as usual appreciate her keeping up with her membership in the HKVA.

I received a nice note from **Lloyd and Roberta Hanna of Nanaimo, BC**. Lloyd had a stroke in May and spent a couple of weeks in rehab but he is doing quite well now. We appreciate Roberta keeping us up-to-date on the health situation as well as sending us a donation for the Commemorative Association. The Hannas send their best wishes to all.

Which reminds me folks, your HK organization welcomes donations from all sources and I encourage all of you to include us in your acts of generosity. The Commemorative Association, for example, welcomes all widows and veterans as lifetime members free of charge, but we would appreciate a contribution once in awhile. We are slowly building up our membership and are pleased that more grandchildren are coming on board but that growth is quite limited. So, we appeal to all of you to help keep us financially healthy and send us a small donation each year. It will be put to good use and greatly appreciated!

With little activity in our mailbox of late, I haven't had the usual number of notes to enjoy reading each week. But that doesn't mean I haven't had a cheery 'hello' once in awhile from our members. For example, at the V-J Day reception, I had the opportunity to chat briefly with a number of our guests and a few who come to mind include **Gloria Sokalski, Yvonne Hogle, Colleen Stebbe and Pat Atkinson**, all of **Winnipeg**. Another enthusiastic

member who I met for the first time was **Joyce Sewell of Eriksdale, Manitoba**. Joyce's situation with the HK Vets is the same as my own, whereby we were born just before the war, our fathers then went overseas with the Grenadiers and both were killed in action.

I also had an interesting telephone conversation with **Marion Fidler of Winnipeg**, widow of Raymond Fidler. Marion has a scrapbook filled with photographs of the veterans but no one in the book is identified. She says her husband enjoyed going through this book with fellow vets many years ago but the identity of the soldiers photographed was not shared with others. Marion subsequently dropped that album off at Rae & Jerry's restaurant for review by our veterans at the regular lunch and we passed it around last Thursday. **Dick Wilson** recognized some of the people in the pictures and in fact thinks he may have taken some of the photos. I now have the album at home and if anyone wants to borrow it, please give me a call at 269-1497 and I'll see that it is delivered to you. It would bring back many memories to some of our veterans and possibly their families.

Some time ago (maybe a couple of years) I placed a notice in our newsletter about a history paper, which had been left at a computer printer at the University of Manitoba. The title of the paper is "A Price, A Pride, A Prayer: Hong Kong and the Winnipeg Grenadiers". It deals with the Defence of Hong Kong in 1941 and it summarized many newspaper articles, which were published at that time. It also included comments in various journals about sending troops to Hong Kong and the role politics might have played in that decision. It's an interesting paper and it provides a good summary of public opinion at the time of the Japanese invasion. We never did find the owner of this paper.

Now, I'm involved in the HKVCA because my dad, Lieut. W. Vaughan Mitchell was killed in Hong Kong and this university paper was found by my oldest son who is named after my dad. I don't know about you, but I pause when I think of the U of M student Vaughan Mitchell finding a lonely history paper at three in the morning, about his grandfather, Lieut. W. Vaughan Mitchell who had been killed about 60 years previously. I'm told that God works in mysterious ways, but maybe this is just all coincidence. Or maybe.....??

As I have already mentioned, the mailbox has been very quiet of late but that's understandable in summer. Some of you received a note from me concerning your dues and I expect that a response to that will look after most of the dues that are owing for 2002. However, we are approaching another year and I would like to see everyone paid up for this year with a good start on the next. If you didn't receive a notice from me recently than you are paid for the current year. I'll be sending out notices at the beginning of the New Year but let's get the slate

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clean before we do that. Please send your \$15.00 membership cheque to P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2H6. Widows and Veterans are automatically members of the Commemorative Association free of charge and for life.

I hope this finds everyone in good health--or at least as good as can be expected for us types!

Cheers, Barry Mitchell

**Last Post**

- Wilfred D. Orr**, H-41799, WG died July 5, 2002
- Sid Blow**, L-13643, WG died July 10, 2002
- John Davies**, H – 6539 WG died July 25, 2002
- Lewis McFawn**, G-18052, RRC died August 4, 2002
- Morgan Davies**, E-30077, RRC died August 21, 2002
- Raymond Murray**, E-29863, RRC died Sept 9, 2002

**Betty Gyselman**, wife of Harry Gyselman, died July, 2002.

*Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends.  
“We will remember them”*

**Museum Project**

- Lora Wachtendorf

The collection of items to be permanently placed at the Manitoba Museum is moving ahead at a slow pace. However, (as Barry Mitchell would say) I did have a great surprise at the Post Office last week. I received a parcel from the family of William Alexander Kelly (H-6832). His widow Kay Wiebe wrote that her family thinks, “it is a wonderful idea for the Manitoba Museum to be part of ‘our’ story”. She went on to say, “we’ll be watching and waiting for a chance to visit the story as it should be told”. Kay lives in Saskatoon and the Commemorative would like to thank her and her family for taking the initiative, packing up their Hong Kong Veteran’s artifacts and mailing them in. Anyone outside of Winnipeg may wish to do the same thing.

We have a number of written, very telling, documents that will form part of our story. We are, however, very interested in obtaining “items, things”. The items that the men made, such as cutlery, would be of great interest. Among other items, Kay forwarded a small one or two puff pipe, which is attached by string to what appears to be a sardine tin adapted to become a tobacco tin. Kay thought the tin might have originally been part of relief supplies the Red Cross was able to actually have filtered down to the prisoners while they were interned. Kay stated when a person had so very little they did not throw anything away but would try to re-cycle it into something needed such as the tobacco tin. So if any of our Hong Kong families  
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have artifacts they wish to donate to the Museum project please feel free to follow Kay Wiebe’s lead and mail it directly to me in Niverville.

Lora Wachtendorf, Box 885, Niverville MB R0A 1E0 (home) 1-204-388-6536 (work- message) 945-3012

**Items for Sale**

Christmas suggestions for the stocking stuffer:  
Souvenir pin from 2001 Convention

\$5.00 only 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002



Souvenir sweatshirts (model Barry Mitchell shown in picture)

\$20.00

Please send a cheque or money order payable to HKVCA, with the quantities that you want, to Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6. POSTAGE AND HANDLING INCLUDED.

For the Crests and Markers shown below, please contact **Lora Wachtendorf**, Box 885, Niverville MB R0A 1E0 (home) 1-204-388-6536, (work-message) 945-3012  
Grave markers \$48.00 HKVCA crests \$20.00



**Miscellaneous Items**

At our last monthly luncheon at Rae & Jerry’s, we received a pleasant surprise in the form of a note from Ed Shaylor of Edmonton that he had been in town. He sent me this explanation in an email:

*I managed to have supper there on Wed and left a message with them. The trip was mainly for David (my nephew), he arranged with my two younger brothers, (Don and Charles) to go to the Whiteshell and see the lake that was named after his father, Harry. Harry died in Osaka P.O.W. Camp and David was born while we were in Shamshevi-Po, so he had never seen his father. We did find the Lake and the trip turned out to be a wonderful adventure for all of us.*

Sorry we missed you Ed hope you can make our Annual Dinner in October.



Member Update:

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\*\* A plaque will be placed on the wall at the Stonewall Sports Centre on **Saturday, October 5, 2002**, with the inscription, "In Memory of the Hong Kong Veterans". **Dick Wilson**, who made a donation to the erection of this wonderful facility for his community, requested the recognition for his HK buddies. Thank you Dick, you are truly a generous person.

\*\* Books – *Letters to Harvelyn: From Japanese POW Camps: A Father's Letters to His Young Daughter During World War II* – author Harvelyn Baird McInnis. Harvelyn is the daughter of Major Kenneth Baird of the Winnipeg Grenadiers, who wrote graphic accounts of his time in battle and as a POW in Japan. Harvelyn called me from Victoria to say that she will be in Winnipeg for a book tour on Oct 23 at McNally-Robinson on Grant Ave. She hopes to be at our Annual Dinner however it depends on her schedule that has been set by the publisher.

\*\* In the last newsletter there was an enclosure with information about a CD called "**Honour & Pride**". **Cove Records Inc.**, produced this CD with the assistance of our Padre - Rev. Gordon Shields, to assist anyone that was organizing a memorial or funeral service for veterans. At our VJ Day Memorial in August, we used excerpts of the CD. The CD has the correct order of service and music to enhance any event. There are 2 distributors for "**Honour and Pride**" now, Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Kit-Shop, 359 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K2P 0R7 and McNally Robinson Booksellers at [www.mcnallyrobinson.ca](http://www.mcnallyrobinson.ca). The cost of the CD is \$25.00 plus taxes (and shipping and handling where applicable).

### **Alf Matthews' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

- Lora Wachtendorf



*Alf Matthews' 90th Birthday* FRONT L - R Kathy, Alf, Joyce, Luann  
2nd Row L - R Ashley, Carrie, Kathryn, Colleen, Mellissa  
Back Row L - R Tracey, Laurel

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002 was a really hot day with temperatures reaching 32° Celsius. This was the day for Alf Matthews' surprise 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at Norberry Community Club. Holly Rafferty, Alf's niece, told me that the family had placed an announcement in the newspaper and granddaughter,

Carrie, in the wee hours of the morning, was able to remove that section from Alf's paper to keep the surprise.

My daughter, Amy and I attended the party and were thankful for the wonderful air conditioning on such a warm day. Alf looked very handsome in a light gray suit with a yellow boutonniere as he greeted the guests. Many of the Hong Kong family were there – Alf's brother Cliff Matthews and his sons Jim and John, Art and Doreen Lousier, Ladena Mabeley and her daughter Pat Bale and George Peterson had called with special greetings.

Alf was seen to take a football swing at a balloon on the floor to prove that he has a lot of "kick" left in him. Here's to the next decade, Alf, Cheers!

### ***Humour***

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about six years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, "Are you a cop?" "Yes," I answered and continued writing the report.

"My mother said if I ever needed help I should ask the police. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right," I told her.

"Well, then, she said as she extended her foot toward me, "Would you please tie my shoe?"

• • • • •

A businessman got on an elevator in a tall building. When he entered the elevator, there was a blonde already inside.

She greeted him by saying, "T-G-I-F."

He smiled at her and replied, "S-H-I-T."

She looked at him, puzzled, and said, "T-G-I-F" again.

He acknowledged her remark again by answering, "S-H-I-T."

The blonde was trying to be friendly, so she smiled her biggest smile, and said as sweetly as possible, "T-G-I-F" another time.

The man smiled back to her and once again replied with the quizzical statement, "S-H-I-T."

The blonde finally decided to explain things, and this time she said, "T-G-I-F. It means 'Thank God It's Friday.' Get it, duuhhh?"

The man answered, "S-H-I-T -- 'Sorry, Honey, it's Thursday!'"

• • • • •

The mother-in-law stopped by the recently married couple's house. She rang the doorbell and stepped into the house. She saw her daughter-in-law standing naked by the door.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I'm waiting for my husband to come home from work," the daughter-in-law answered.

"But you're naked!" the mother-in-law exclaimed.

"This is my love dress," the daughter-in-law explained.

"Love dress? But you're naked!"

"My husband loves me to wear this dress! It makes

him happy and it makes me happy. I would appreciate it if you would leave because he will be home shortly."

The mother-in-law was tired of all this romantic talk and left. On the way home, she thought about the love dress. When she got home, she got undressed, showered, put on her best perfume and waited by the door.

Finally her husband came home, He walked in saw her standing naked by the door.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"This is my love dress" she replied.

"Needs ironing." he said.

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While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. The various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs, unfailingly intrigued her. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

• • • • •

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible.

He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

• • • • •

The painter was so grateful, that she decided to show her gratitude, by repainting the doctor's office. Part of her work included... painting a gigantic eye on one wall. When she had finished her work, she held a press conference, to unveil her latest work of art, at the doctor's office. During the press conference, one reporter noticed the eye on the wall, and asked the doctor, 'What was your first reaction,

upon seeing your newly decorated office, especially that one large eye on the wall?' To this, the eye doctor responded, "I said to myself, 'Thank the Lord, I'm not a gynaecologist.'"

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### Reminders

**M**onthly lunches at Rae & Jerry's Restaurant on Portage Ave. at NOON every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month; except June and December.



Winnipeg cenotaph, August 2002. The HK Veteran's flag flies here in August and December. We will remember them.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS\*\***  
**The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association address in Ottawa is:** 1 Stafford Road, Ste.164, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9. This new address should be noted by anyone who purchased one of the earlier grave markers, as it will have the old address on the sheet to send in to register the location of the grave.



**Manitoba Branch** of the HKVA will be hosting the **ANNUAL DINNER on October 26, 2002**, so please mark that date on the calendar – we would like to see you there.

**Your Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:**

<b>George Peterson, President</b>	<b>256-7174</b>
<b>Bill Maltman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice</b>	<b>669_4941</b>
<b>Carol Hadley, Secrtry/Newsletter</b>	<b>837-6754</b>
<b>Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership</b>	<b>269-1497</b>
<b>Juliet Lafortune, Social</b>	<b>338-3354</b>
<b>Terence Jackson, Memorials</b>	<b>452-1460</b>
<b>Phil Dodderidge, Nat'l President</b>	<b>418-392-5838</b>