

# HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH  
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October, November, December  
2003

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## *President's Report*

To start my report this time I must send a great big thank you and my congratulations to our Commemorative Association in Victoria for a job well done in hosting their first biennial convention. Outside of a few glitches with hotel rooms that were solved by Murray Doull in a timely manner, we were looked after very well. There were 47 HK veterans registered and the time was very enjoyable renewing old acquaintances and meeting some of the family members.

The National Executive Council of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association met for a couple of hours prior to the meeting of our Commemorative Executive Council. I asked for and received permission to continue investigating the concept of a monument to honour all members of "C" Force. The parameters are:

a) to determine the focus of the Memorial as desired by the HKVA membership - strictly military presentation - to include the historical aspect - to give individual recognition, etc.

b) to seek alternative designs and potential locations

c) to prepare a feasibility report on the most choice options

We will continue discussions with the Thomas Sills Foundation and the Intrepid Society in Winnipeg to see what develops and report back to the Executive council.

Another motion from our Executive Council was to reject the Royal Canadian Legion's "Call to Unity" on the proposed widow's VIP legislation. Cliff Chadderton submitted a proposal to benefit the widows but the wording was changed. By a unanimous vote, the motion to reject the changed proposal and a letter will be sent to Cliff to support him in reinstating the original proposal. We feel that the legislation should include all widows, present and future, when the husband had been receiving VIP assistance at the time of his passing. So now we will have to wait and hopefully the proposal will be amended in our favour before it goes to vote.

This will be a very busy weekend with a variety of activities scheduled:

- Thursday evening, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Juliet and I will attend an invitational viewing of the Manitoba Museum prior to the official opening on Saturday.
- On Friday I will be attending the dedication of the statue "Winged Victory" at Deer Lodge. This is the statue that in 1922 was placed at the CP rail depot on Higgins as a memorial to the CP personal that served in World War I and II and the Korean War.
- Saturday is the Commemorative meeting at St. James Legion
- Sunday I hope to attend the "Salute to Veterans" that will be performed by the various cadet corps units of Winnipeg at the Cenotaph on Memorial Boulevard.

Oops! After typing the previous paragraph I decided to move my computer and unplugged it. When the move was completed and reconnected, it didn't work. So I tried everything that I knew which wasn't much and finally gave up in disgust. When my daughter came over to fix things for me, she found that the plug wasn't in all the way and I failed to see that. I had thought everything was lost again but it seems ok except for the fact that my computer was out of commission for 5 days.

As it turned out, I was unable to go to the Museum. Juliet told me that it was probably for the best as she had to walk a long distance and I would not have made it. I attended the rededication at Deer Lodge and it was a very stirring experience. I also attended the Commemorative meeting where I received a better understanding of the charitable license that we now have. Today I went to the Cenotaph only to learn they had moved the ceremony inside the Legislature building because of the threat of rain. So I rode the bus to Broadway Avenue and was able to arrive inside on time. This service was also a novel experience – especially when it was over. I cannot remember being saluted so often and asked so many questions about my military service and how we coped as unwilling guests of the Imperial Japanese Empire.

We have another meeting to attend Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> then I hope to go to the cottage for some Perch fishing for a couple of days. Don't forget our Annual Dinner on October 25<sup>th</sup> – please order your tickets now as we want to see you there.

To all who have been under the weather, we wish you a full and speedy recovery. To everyone we wish a smooth road to travel and may the wind always be at your back.

Sincerely & in comradeship  
George N. Peterson

### ***Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association***

Hi to everyone!

What a great privilege I had in attending the convention in Victoria this past August. I have never been to an out of town convention before and it was very exciting for me. I met many people whom I only knew by name and saw many that I

had met here at our convention and reunions. I definitely felt like I was with my family. We are growing in numbers and that is very exciting. Linda Stewart and Murray Doull along with their volunteers did a great job. Thanks to them all for making our stay a good one.

In Manitoba, we have our reunion October 25<sup>th</sup> - - **deadline is October 2<sup>nd</sup>** - - please send your registration, draw tickets and monies in as soon as possible.

We will be doing more research on the monument project and we will keep you informed of what is happening. If you have any ideas please forward them to me. We would like your input as far as your feelings or ideas of what you would like to see happen with this project.

The Manitoba Museum has a **Parkland/Mixed Woods Gallery** where you will find some of the Hong Kong memorabilia on permanent display. I was able to see the area September 18<sup>th</sup>. It is not totally finished and they have more items to put out but this is a permanent place now. It is a beginning.

Please send me any information that you might have for the True North Project. We need the man's name, town/city where he lived and what work he did before he enlisted. If you know of other men besides your relative please send that also. The more information that we have will enhance our chances to obtain a remembrance for our veterans.

**September 19**, George Peterson and I will be attending the unveiling of the "angel statue" in its new home at Deer Lodge.

Carol Hadley, Pat Bale, Pam Heinrichs have been working very hard in preparing a presentation of the Hong Kong story for a teacher's conference in October. We hope to encourage our educators to include this information in the classroom.

Our VJ Day service was well attended and we also had media present to record the service. We would always like to see more at this event and bring your families – it is a big hall. In the church you will find the Winnipeg Grenadier 'Colours' and the memorial plaques with the names of the men that have passed on. We welcomed some new faces, which were nice to see, but we encourage the familiar faces to show up also.

We had a productive summer with our projects moving forward. Hope to see many of you at the reunion. Bye for now.

Juliet Lafortune, Manitoba Regional Director (ph. 338-3354)

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

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund appreciate all donations that are received to meet the requests that are made annually by the issue of the Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong veterans, for their higher education.

Cheques should be made out to **Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund** (not HKVA).

The Hong Kong Veterans' Association donates to this fund in memory of each deceased veteran member.

Contributions can be directed to:

**Donna Remillard at 303-740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3** or phone her at (204) 489-0008.

### ***Notes from Barry Mitchell,***

#### ***Treasurer and Membership***

Greetings to all members and friends of Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association. I trust you had a good summer and are now ready to face another glorious Canadian winter.

First, a few notes on various items we have for sale through "Barry's Emporium". As pointed out in the last issue, we ask that you make out your cheques to "**HKVCA**". We would also like you to include the mailing cost in your payment. This, of course will vary, but if you add a couple of bucks for most items, that should be sufficient.

We recently had more copies made of the Winnipeg Grenadier Honour Roll but like everything else, that cost has increased in recent times. We are now charging \$20.00 apiece and that will cover the cost of the mailing tube. Another addition to the Emporium in the near future will be a desk top flag set, consisting of a 4" X 6" Hong Kong Vets flag plus a Canadian flag of the same size. More on this in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in numbers, you will be pleased to know that the Manitoba Region of the HKVCA has 202 dues paying members. In addition to this, we also have included in our membership 59 veterans and 98 widows. The vets and widows are not charged for dues, but many of you have been very generous in making donations to the organization each year.

We also have a number of tardy folks who sit on their wallets or use their chequebooks for doorstops or whatever. I'm afraid to say that there are still 31 members who have not sent us their 2003 dues and of those, 18 are two years behind in payment

while almost a dozen owe for three years. If you receive an envelope addressed to HKVCA along with this letter, that means you owe for at least this year. We would really like to clean this up and hopefully we will hear from most of you before year-end. I'm afraid that those who still owe for more than two years will be dropped from our mailing list.

The convention in Victoria was lots of fun and it also proved to be another opportunity to peddle some of our merchandise. We were able to set up shop in one of the hotel rooms and while not being able to stick to any kind of a schedule due to the convention activities, Connie and I were able to sell almost \$600 worth of shirts, pins and honour rolls. Thanks to the generosity of a local trucking company, it only cost us \$15 to ship all our wares to Victoria.

Thanks to the magic of the Internet, dozens of photographs of the convention have been made available to all. **Allan Hadley (MB)** and **Murray Doull (BC)** were most diligent in taking pictures of all the events and they have sent many of us copies. I was particularly proud to see the 46 Veterans who attended the convention, all seated at the cenotaph for the Memorial Service. That event truly moved me and was the highlight of my trip to Victoria.

The summer did not bring forth much membership activity, but I did drop by to see **Bev Adams** here in **Winnipeg**, as she wanted to donate a scrapbook on the HK Vets to our archives. We will be pleased to accept any of your HK mementos, as we will hopefully have display venues in place later this year. We also have space in a storage facility although it's not our first choice to put things away where they might get forgotten. I also just heard from **Verna Pearson** in **New Brunswick** and she tells me I am the lucky winner of a beautiful quilt she made and raffled off as a fundraiser. More on that after I have received the quilt and had a chance to show it off.

Again a reminder to those who need it-- now is the time to send in your dues for 2003. If you aren't sure whether or not you have paid, just give me a call (204-269-1497) or send me an e-mail at [bcmitchell@shaw.ca](mailto:bcmitchell@shaw.ca) and we'll bring you up-to-date. Please forward your \$15.00 membership cheque and/or donation 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.

Cheers,  
Barry Mitchell

### *Miscellaneous Items*

Our web site has a great education value to anyone who visits there. As our Association strives to have changes implemented in the Canadian History units to include the Asian Pacific theatre of war, particularly the Battle of Hong Kong with all its issues, our web site will assist the students in their studies and the teachers with more resources.

A new folder, '**Lesson Plans**', contains information about the project from Ontario Region with 10 lessons that are presently being promoted to the Department of Education in Ontario. The document is called "**Canada in Hong Kong: 1941-1945 The Forgotten Heroes**" and is an excellent plan for educators to use with clear, precise information that is classroom ready.

Ontario Region has sold several of George MacDonell's book "**A Soldier's Story**" to the **Rotary Clubs of Ontario** for donation into the senior high schools of Ontario and as a resource for the 10 lessons. Other Rotary Clubs across Canada have also been approached to see if this would be a viable project for their Club. Well done to all those hard workers in our neighboring province.



**BOOKS!** Continuing with the education theme, I would like to throw out a request for any books about the Battle of Hong Kong. Again if you visit our website there is a list of the books of which we

are aware. For those who do not have access to the internet I will list a few books that would help to establish a resource library for educators.

- **This Soldier's Story** - George MacDonell
- **No Reason Why** - Carl Vincent
- **Desperate Siege: The Battle for Hong Kong** - Ted Ferguson
- **The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong** -The Veterans
- **In Enemy Hands** - Daniel G. Dancocks
- **A Handful of Rice** - William Allister
- **Hostages to Fortune** - Tim Carew
- **From Jamaica to Japan** - Thomas S. Forsyth
- **17 Days Until Christmas** - Léo Paul Bérard
- **Where Life and Death Hold Hands** - William Allister
- **Guests of Hirohito** - Ken Cambon
- **Hell On Earth** - Dave McIntosh
- **Diary of a Prisoner of War in Japan 1941-1945** - Georges "Blacky" Verrault
- **"C" Force to Hong Kong; a Canadian Catastrophe** - Brereton Greenhous
- **The Ruins of War** - Ko Tim Keung and Jason Wordie
- **Not the Slightest Chance** - Tony Banham

If anyone would like to donate any of these books, please mail the book(s) to our PO Box or contact me at (204) 837-6754 to make arrangements.



### The Memory Project

The Memory Project is division of the Dominion Institute that has focused its efforts on conducting original research into Canadians' knowledge of the country's past and building innovative programs that broaden appreciation of the richness and complexity of the Canadian story.

The Veterans' Archive is a feature of The Memory Project that allows users to search through an online database containing stories about thousands of Canadians whose lives were touched by war. From the D-Day landings to what it is like to serve as a peacekeeper, the Veterans' Archive provides gripping, first-hand accounts of the defining moments of 20th century Canadian history.

The Veterans' Archive also provides students and veterans with the opportunity to

become digital historians and preserve Canada's military history for future generations. In addition to those that served overseas, the Dominion Institute is looking for stories about the Great Depression, life on the home front, the Cold War and Canada's contributions to international peacekeeping.

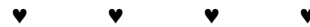
I would encourage the veterans and the widows to make a contribution to our history by relating your story so that future generations are aware of the effects of war. If you wish to visit the website

[http://www.thememoryproject.com/dominion\\_index.cfm](http://www.thememoryproject.com/dominion_index.cfm) you will see others who have made this contribution.



### ADDRESS CHANGES???

Please, don't forget to let us know if you have any changes to your phone number or address. It is very important to keep this current so that communication can be sent out without incurring extra charges for postage when we finally track you down or worse still if we lose you for a period of time.



\*\* "**Honour & Pride**" is a CD produced by **Cove Records Inc.**, with the assistance of our Padre - Rev. Gordon Shields, to assist anyone that is 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).

### *Humour*

An atheist was walking through the woods one day in Alaska, admiring all that evolution had created. "What majestic trees! What a powerful river!

What beautiful animals!" he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. Turning to look, he saw a 13-foot Kodiak brown bear beginning to charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could down the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was rapidly closing on him. Somehow, he ran even faster, so scared that tears came to his eyes. He looked again & the bear was even closer. His heart pounding in his chest, he tried to run faster yet. But alas, he tripped and fell to the ground.

As he rolled over to pick himself up, the bear was right over him, reaching for him with its left paw and raising its right paw to strike him.... he yelled out, "OH MY GOD!" Time stopped..... The bear froze..... The forest was silent..... Even the river stopped moving. As a brilliant light shone upon the man, a thunderous voice came from all around. GOD SPOKE:

"YOU DENY MY EXISTENCE FOR ALL THESE YEARS, TEACH OTHERS THAT I DON'T EXIST

AND EVEN CREDIT CREATION TO SOME COSMIC ACCIDENT. DO YOU EXPECT ME TO HELP YOU OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT? AM I TO COUNT YOU NOW AS A BELIEVER?"

Difficult as it was, the atheist looked directly into the light and said, "It would be hypocritical to ask to be a Christian after all these years, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?" "VERY WELL," said

GOD.

The light went out. The river ran. The sounds of the forest resumed... AND the bear dropped down on his knees, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, thank you for this food which I am about to receive, Amen."

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There were two blonde guys working for the city. One would dig a hole, the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked furiously all day without rest, one guy digging a hole, the other guy filling it in again. An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he asked the hole digger, "I appreciate the effort you are putting into your work, but what's the story? You dig a hole and your partner follows behind and fills it up

again." The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, normally we are a three-man team, but the guy who plants the trees is sick today."

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#### OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE

1. Men are like Slinkies . . . not really good for anything, but you still can't help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.
2. I read recipes the same way I read science fiction. I get to the end and think, "Well, that's not going to happen".
3. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.
4. You know when you're sitting on a chair and you lean back so you're just on two legs then you lean too far and you almost fall over but at the last second you catch yourself? I feel like that all the time.
5. According to a recent survey, men say that the first thing they notice about a woman are their eyes. And women say that the first thing they notice about men is that they're a bunch of liars.
6. Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.
7. I'm not 40-something. I'm \$39.95, plus shipping and handling.
8. In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it seem normal.
9. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.
10. How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
11. Doctors can be frustrating. You wait a month-and-a-half for an appointment, and he says, "I wish you'd have come to me sooner."
12. You read about all these terrorists -- most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.

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A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and

empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things--your family, your health, your children, your friends, and your favourite passions--things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. "The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else--the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house, and fix the disposal. "Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

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Thank you, to all of you who send me the jokes. The jokes serve a dual purpose as they brighten my

day and I appreciate the contributions to share with the rest of the members. Keep up the good work!

### ***Reminders***

**Monthly lunches** have changed location to St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at NOON - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Full accessibility available.

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The Annual Reunion Dinner will be held October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – information package will be sent out later, please keep the date open.

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**The Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association address in Ottawa** is: 1 Stafford Road, Ste.164, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9.

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

<b>George Peterson, President</b>	<b>256-7174</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 Doddridge, Nat'l President</b>	<b>418-392-5838</b>

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER**

**SEND US ANY ADDRESS CHANGES –  
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU  
AND  
CHEQUES FOR BARRY'S EMPORIUM  
SHOULD BE  
PAYABLE TO HKVCA\*\***

*Have a great day and be safe!*