

WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association



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IMPORTANT!!

An incident has been reported where a person who had previously donated to HKVCA was phoned by a scammer/telemarketer who attempted to persuade her to make a donation to "the Hong Kong veterans". This type of contact is never legitimate and HKVCA will never ask for donations in this manner. If this happens to you, get as much information from the scammer as you can then notify us so we can take further steps. Thanks for your assistance.

National Convention 2011 Granby QC

Greetings to all from your Convention 2011 Host City of Granby, QC

Time is fast approaching for the 11-14 August 2011 National Convention. We do thank all that took the time to make their reservations and registrations early. As always, this is very helpful to an organizing committee to have a pulse of the attendees.

All is in place and all confirmations are in. We do have surprises, as usual here in Quebec. The Friday dinner/evening is casual dress and if you want, you may even

wear your jeans and Saturday is the banquet dress.

We do have a block of rooms held to July 25, 2011 for the Convention. If you make your reservations after that date, rooms will be on availability basis but at the same Convention rates. To avoid disappointments for your type of room selected do reserve ASAP. This note is due to a large soccer tournament and other activities here in Granby.

DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES - when we booked the hotel there was no mention of the possibility of the hotel becoming a NON-SMOKING environment 1st July 2011 and we printed the invitations with the revised info given to us at that time (in March 2011). Sorry for any inconvenience.

If you are planning on attending the Convention, please send your registrations, room reservations and local travel from Montreal airport to Granby, if this travel applies, to the organizing committee ASAP specially with the Postal slowdowns over our heads. We can acknowledge receipt of your registrations by e-mail or telephone if things get worse.

Local travel arrangements will be made on an individual (or family group travelling together) basis and confirmed to each in early August. A member of the committee will be at the airport to greet you and accompany you to Granby.

We look forward to seeing many of you attending the Convention. As the Board Of Directors of our National Association, often mentioned, we need the participation of all our members if we want the HKVCA to survive in good health in these troubled times.

Looking forward to meeting you all and if more info is needed please do not hesitate to e-mail at lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca or call 450-375-7439 and do leave

message and phone # and will return your call ASAP as I could be on my hands and knees in the flower beds... that time of year!

That is it at this time. SEE YOU IN GRANBY, have a safe trip.

Lucette Mailloux Muir
Quebec Regional Director

HKVCA President

-Derrill Henderson

What a Spring! The vicious weather; the Federal election; the “fun” of getting a kitchen renovation, and the seemingly impossible task of getting people to respond to one’s queries have certainly taken the fun out of life.

I am still working as Carol’s “Ottawa agent” on the outstanding memorial Wall issues - spelling corrections, lighting, parking, and the future installation of Gander on the site.

We now have a new Minister of Veterans Affairs whom I hope to soon meet. It is important to keep our organization in VAC’s thoughts as they play a major role in educating Canada’s youth about our military heritage. We must take advantage of every opportunity to accomplish our goal of making the sacrifices of our Hong Kong veterans known for this important episode of Canadian history.

I am very proud of one accomplishment - the War Amps have agreed to monitor the benefits currently received by the widows of our veterans, and to ensure they are receiving all that they are entitled to have. Additionally, the National Council of Veterans Associations (NCVA) are making representations to the government to have widows recognized as a group with specific needs, and to have benefits awarded in their own right without limitation to those previously received by their husbands.

This summer I will be traveling to several eastern sectors and hopefully I shall be meeting some of you. Our biennial

convention will be in Granby Quebec. I encourage you to make every effort to attend, for it is in this setting that we jointly solidify our plans and move forward together in their realization.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

HKVA President

-Phil Doddridge

Greetings to all from New Richmond. The time sure flies. Yesterday we were complaining about the cold, and now, according to the weather gurus we are headed for the hottest summer yet.

WILLIE HICKIE, RRC

Annie Hickie recently sent a donation to the Bay Chaleur Military Museum and included a couple of photos of a tree planted in the cemetery where he is buried. The plaque accompanying the tree reads: "In memory of WILLIAM HICKIE and all Hong Kong Veterans". I think that that is a generous thought and I personally thank Annie for it. I don't have information as to the location of the cemetery, but the last address I have for him is Quispamsis, NB. Perhaps this should be investigated with a view to affixing a HK Disc to his tombstone.

GANDER

Emmie Flanagan, daughter of Andrew, HK Vet, and she is Mayor of the Council of Belledune, NB, are in the process of erecting a statue of our heroic dog. This is an ambitious project, one that I personally welcome as yet another salute to the memory of Hong Kong veterans. Emmie is keeping us informed of progress. I eagerly await the dedication ceremony and I plan to be there.

GASPA

There is a movie production studio named "Gaspa" just up the road from here that specializes in local events. The President, M. Jean Guenette, is in the process of making a film on Hong Kong veterans from Gaspesia. He has interviewed Bill MacWhirter, Paul Dallain, Paul Laflamme, Bob Barter, John Duguay and me. Filming will take place at a later date. The finished product will probably be released this fall.

I am late with this bit of info for the newsletter so I'll terminate for now. I hope that Carol will forgive me. Be good to each other and May God Bless. Philip

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Last Post

George E. Roylance, HKVDC, died October 2010

Gilbert G. Jacquard, RRC, F-40912 died February 24, 2011

John Joseph Yanota died March 2011

Bliss Thomas Cole, RRC, E30079, died March 19, 2011

Claude Melvin Corbett, WG, H6442 died March 27, 2011

Marcel Ouellet, RRC, E29821 died March 30, 2011

Harry Gyselman, WG, H6534, died April 23, 2011

Aubrey Peacock Flegg, WG, K85488 died April 23, 2011

Jan Solecki, HKVDC, died May 16, 2011

Alvin Zaharychuk, WG, H17540 died May 24, 2011

HKVCA

Shirley Andrews, died December 10, 2007

Doris Peterson, widow of Morris Andrew Peterson, WG, survived by daughters - Blanche Younker, Jean Ballingall, Wendy Buckels, died August 9, 2010

Ida Montroy, widow of George Montroy, WG, died Feb. 8, 2011

Mona Coutts, wife of George Coutts WG, died May 2, 2011.

Olga Kuchar, widow of John Van Baalan, WG, died August 3, 2010

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief. We will remember them!

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Reminder From the Treasurer

- Barry Mitchell

Membership dues for 2011 should be in the hands of your Regional Treasurer by now. We also encourage you to save a little time and money (postage) by paying for 2012 and even 2013 right now as well. You can "get it out of the way" by making a single payment and not have to worry about it for years to come.

Also, a reminder that all donations, (not dues) of \$20.00 or more, are eligible for a tax receipt so

we encourage you to consider an extra contribution as well. For example, a cheque to HKVCA for \$50.00 will give you membership for two years (\$30.00) and you will also receive a receipt for a deduction on your income tax for \$20.00. A further example would be a cheque for \$100.00, which would provide three years membership plus a tax receipt for \$55.00. Please give this some thought.

Membership

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	62	9	13	84
Atl	48	6	6	60
BC	87	7	40	134
MB	173	11	48	232
ON	157	16	51	224
QC *	73	14	52	139
Total	600	63	210	873

Legend:

V: Veteran, W: Widow, R: Regular

* - Feb 2011 figures

"Education is the Key"

This is a report intended to give HKVCA members some idea of the educational activities taking place throughout the HKVCA's six regions throughout Canada. Your National Executive is convinced that the only way for our organization to become even better at helping the Canadian population to be more aware of the importance of the Hong Kong story is to make sure, first of all, that our own members realize how much is already going on in the various regions, and secondly, how much we hope that you, the members, will become even more involved in helping to tell that story.

Carol Hadley, as well as being National President, is the Education Chair in the Manitoba Region. Here is what she has to tell us: We have a few events each year.

1. Beginning in May we attend the Red River Regional Heritage Fair (RRRHF) where students take a person, place or event in Manitoba's history then researches, prepares an outline, a list of resources, does a diorama and wins an event in their home school. The school then submits the student(s) (sometimes they work in pairs) work to this event. The RRRHF has judges for the main event as well as other specialty awards and our Region

works in conjunction with the Winnipeg Rifles (sometimes the Navy or Air force) to judge events that pertain to military action that MB has been involved in. We also have our display up with several examples of our resources and information that is on the website. The display and the individuals that man the display are part of a scavenger hunt where the students must go to each display where they have to find an answer to a question that is part of the display i.e. this year the question was "What was Sgt. Gander's award?" They have to study the display to find the answer. When each group has completed the visit to all the displays they go to an area where the questions are reviewed and the first student with the correct answer is given a gift. We supply 4 journals that contain a Gander bookmark and inside the cover is a label telling them who the donor was, the event and the date. The winner of the Veteran Award gets a certificate and a copy of "One Soldier's Story" by George MacDonell.

2. In June near Decoration Day or D Day (June 6) there are tours of Brookside Cemetery where busloads of students have a guide (usually a veteran) on the bus and they tour the Military Section of the Cemetery (2nd largest in Canada). Here they are given information on the military actions that the graves depict. At Bardal's Funeral home just outside the Cemetery is a reception where the display is set up and HKVCA Colour Party participate in a brief service. (Note: Lt Njall Bardal, WG and Hong Kong Vet's family have owned and operated this funeral home for 3 generations.)

3. The Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association hold a seminar annually in late October for their special group of teachers and the participants come from all over Manitoba. We have a display with a couple of members to show and explain the information we have available for use in the classroom. There is also a workshop where we do a presentation and distribute information to the teachers who attend.

Recently we have been in touch with the Minister of Education's office and have used their e-bulletin service (which is

www.hkvca.ca

distributed to all teachers in MB) to promote the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest and to inform them of the material we have to share with them. There is a new curriculum for Grade 11 to be implemented this fall with a section on the Battle of Hong Kong so I am hoping this will bring on further interest on our material.

We have been asked to attend schools in the city or nearby towns with a display and short presentation to students in and around Remembrance Week.

We also set up our display at the Manitoba Museum for a week in November last year - although not manned for that period there was information left on the table for people to take.

So this is a brief description of the work that the Education Committee is involved with in Manitoba, and a busy schedule it is.

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Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director and Education Chair for the Atlantic Region gives us a background to the activities in that region: (Emmie is also the Deputy Mayor of Belledune, NB)

During my early school years, I learned a lot about WWII and often wondered when the "Battle of Hong Kong" would come up. One day I asked my history teacher about this and his response was, "What are you talking about?" I couldn't understand how my history teacher knew nothing about "The Battle of Hong Kong". Yet he taught us about the bombing of Pearl Harbour (*on* Dec. 7, 1941), where only hours later our Canadian Soldiers would be embroiled in the battle of their lives and spend over 3 years as Prisoners of War. I told him of my father's experience in Hong Kong and he was fascinated. In retrospect, I wonder if he believed me at all.

I'll never forget that day when I arrived home from school and told my dad there was no account of his time during WWII in any of our history books. He pondered for a moment and then quietly said, "*Only those who went through what we went through will ever know the real history lesson*". I saw a tear fall from his cheek and I was really upset. For the first time, he opened up and shared his sadness and pain with me. Dad told me how his own siblings could not believe his stories of the battle and the

hardships he endured as a Japanese POW. He told me how much his Hong Kong Veteran Family meant to him, because only they could share stories of that horrible war. I promised Dad I would tell anyone and everyone about his battle. I was 16 and he was 61.

Dad died in February 1993 from lung failure due to *black lung disease*, which was associated with his years spent as a slave labourer in the Japanese coalmines. For thirty-six years, I have spoken up for my dad and his comrades and told many acquaintances about the atrocities of the Hong Kong Prisoners of War. I always knew I wanted to do something for our unsung heroes in Eastern Canada, but what could I do without a voice. I was not aware of the HKVCA until 2005, when I attended the 60th Anniversary of VJ Day in Ottawa. Of course, I signed up.

In September 2008 I attended the Maritime/Gaspé HKVCA reunion, held in Florenceville, NB. It was there when I fully understood what my dad meant when he talked about his HKV family - We all had a common bond. What a nice feeling! It was also at this reunion where I introduced the idea of creating a HKV Memorial in Belledune, NB. I mentioned to the association how important it would be to have a larger-than-life "Gander" statue included, for several reasons:

1. My father spoke often about Gander and considered him a hero. Fred Kelly, Gander's handler and a friend of Dad's, lived only 45 minutes from Belledune. Most, if not all "Royal Rifles of Canada" knew Gander, where 274 lived within a two-hour drive from Belledune, NB.
2. In October, 2000 Gander was finally recognized as a hero of war and awarded a "*Dickin Medal*". Nowhere yet does a statue of Gander stand on Canadian soil. Yet, soon there'll be one in Belledune!
3. The sheer size of Gander will have tourists and passersby wondering... what's with the big dog? They'll stop and then learn about the "Battle of Hong Kong" and the life of a POW after the battle.
4. Because the Province of NB does not yet teach their students

about the "Battle of Hong Kong", we must figure out another way to keep their (HKV's) memory alive and ensure our public is educated.

Henceforth, the Village of Belledune will have a Memorial dedicated to all our New Brunswick and Gaspé Hong Kong Veterans and we will proudly place Gander in the forefront, surrounded by his friends whose names will be carved in granite. We will remember them!

If only one individual may be inspired and have learned about the plight of our Hong Kong Veterans, then my promise to my dad lives on.

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Ontario's Education Chair is Pat Turcotte, and these are some of the things for which Ontario has been responsible over the past few years.

In 2003, we arranged for Nick Brune, a well-known Ontario High School History teacher to tell the story of the Battle of Hong Kong through a series of lessons for High School students. He did so after consulting with a committee of Hong Kong veterans who urged him to complete the task as soon as he could in order to get the Ten Lessons into classrooms across the country. Within six months, the booklet "Canada in Hong Kong: 1941 to 1945 - The Forgotten Heroes" was in use in Ontario, and Manitoba, and shortly thereafter was introduced to several other provinces as well. It is now available in its entirety on our Website ---www.hkvca.ca and is a much-appreciated resource in both French and English for teachers across the country. Whenever we are involved with workshop situations the Ten Lessons are part of the package discussed with teachers, as is our latest effort, the CD-ROM called simply "The Battle of Hong Kong". This video has been introduced to teachers by Mike Babin, and others, and was produced by Sue Beard in conjunction with a committee, which included George MacDonell representing the viewpoint of the veterans.

The CD-ROM's intent was to tell the Hong Kong story in video form, along with supplying the material for a script to be used by the teacher to accompany what was being shown on the screen. The result is an opportunity for the

teacher to receive much-valued information in a way both entertaining and informative. Teachers find it a welcome addition to their classroom resources. HKVCA members should note that it is set up so that any of our members could go into a classroom and feel confident that they could handle the script. It works in conjunction with what the students see on the screen. Not only that, everything is available in both French and English on the one CD-ROM. This should be a bonus for anyone working with our two official languages.

We have been involved in a number of workshops for teachers across Ontario, including Mike Babin's recent visit to York Region in March, and a PD Day for teachers in the Ottawa-Carleton District Board looked after by Ian Doull and Gail Angel in February. There are other areas where we have been able to spread the word, including a workshop for teachers in the Niagara District School Board not too long ago.

We have also been a part, for the last 7 or 8 years, of the OHASSTA Conference, which is the provincial conference for High School teachers held every year in Mississauga. We have the opportunity to display and sell our materials to between 350 - 400 teachers, and to chat with a number who have ties to Hong Kong, as well as to discuss their teaching of the Hong Kong story in the classroom. We look forward to being involved every December.

Several times, including this year, we have been a part of the Ottawa's Parliamentary Library Resource Fair. Teachers from across the country are chosen by their communities to spend a week in Ottawa studying our system of government. In the process, they have access to all sorts of helpful information, which they can take back with them to their communities to share with other teachers. Coming at the very same time as the OHASSTA Conference each year, Ted Terry, one of our Ottawa members, has very kindly agreed to look after that event for us.

We have also, since 2007, been holding a Writing Contest each year, one which has been available right across the country. It began as an essay contest, and has become a

study of 5 Hong Kong veterans each year, the emphasis being placed on how well, in telling the veteran's story, students try to understand and empathize with what the veteran experienced in his war and/or POW situation. This year's Contest is winding up as this is written, and we hope to have samples of the winners' work on our Website as well as at the display table we'll be having June 25th and 26th at the International Canadian Military Tattoo being held in Hamilton at the Copps Coliseum.

We have also been active in working on the Teachers' Zone, which Jim Trick has just reorganized in the last few months. The approach has been not only to gather relevant information for teachers to share, but also to make the Teachers' Zone as user-friendly as possible for francophones who want to research the information on our HKVCA Website. In fact, one of the far-reaching goals is to translate as much of the Teachers' Zone material as possible to provide a level playing field for the French-speaking students who participate in the HKVCA Cross-Canada Writing Contest. If you are skilled in French by all means offer your assistance to us.

Just recently, Bud Mann, our Area Rep. for the GTA, made a herculean effort to arrange for the creation of three banners to be used in our various displays. In a few short weeks, he was able to bring the ideas suggested together, and have the three banners ready in time for the Symposium on Hong Kong which was held March 31st at the Hong Kong- Canada Library, part of the Robarts Library complex in downtown Toronto. The event was a great success. The audience involved over 100 people, including such dignitaries as Senator Vivienne Poy. There were 8 speakers, all of whom were outstanding, in particular the Senator, Historian Terry Copp, and our own George MacDonell. The banners made a fitting backdrop to the presentations.

We are currently getting ready for the International Canadian Military Tattoo, which will take place in Hamilton on June 25th and June 26th in the Copps Coliseum. With this event and others like it, we always need volunteers for our display table, and, again, we would appreciate more and more people

taking the opportunity to help us spread the word about the Battle of Hong Kong. The Hong Kong soldiers are being honoured at this year's Tattoo since this is the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. The HK veteran Ken Pifher of the Royal Rifles of Canada will represent all of the soldiers who fought at Hong Kong in the ceremony, which will be taking place. Plan to attend if you can.

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There is space in the June Issue of the National Newsletter for only three of the six Regions. We hope to have a report from each of the other three Regions in the next issue.

Pat Turcotte - Interim National Education Coordinator

Editor's note: *Pat has recently been appointed Interim National Education Coordinator in order to connect the work of the Education Chairs across the country. She hopes that someone in one of the Regions will be interested in taking the work of our Education Chairs to new heights in creating even more awareness on the part of Canadians regarding the important role the Battle of Hong Kong and the soldiers who fought there play in our history.*

Our Online Education Resource – The Teachers' Zone Web

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, HKVCA is currently focusing on education as a primary means to keep our veterans' story in the minds of Canadians, especially young Canadians. A key tool in achieving this goal is the updated Teachers' Zone (TZ) web site.

The aim of the TZ site is simple: **To provide educators, students and the Canadian public in general the opportunity to become more aware of the role our Canadian soldiers played in the Battle of Hong Kong in World War II.**

To achieve this aim, the site contains key information and links to other resources that are vital for both educators and students. For example, teachers are provided sample lesson plans to assist them in guiding students in their projects. Students are provided links to reference material that will assist them as they learn about our veterans, and the place of the Battle

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of Hong Kong in Canadian history. The site has many other resources as well, including bilingual content that is continually being expanded.

Why not pay a visit to the TZ next time you're online? Just type <http://www.hkvca.ca/teacherszone> into your browser search box.

Across the Nation BC Banter

We have experienced a very wet and cool spring in most regions of British Columbia but the weather is slowly showing signs of improving. For the last few weeks we have been glued to our TV sets, cheering our Vancouver Canucks on to what will hopefully be a Stanley Cup victory over the Boston Bruins. Hockey fever is alive and well in BC!

The Last Post will show that since the last newsletter was released, we have lost 3 of our region's Hong Kong veterans. **Claude Corbett, Aubrey Flegg and Harry Gyselman** have passed away. All of these men served with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. **Jan Solecki**, who served with the Hong Kong Volunteers and was interned in the POW camps with our HK vets, has also passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, comrades and friends of these brave men who sacrificed so much for their country and freedom.

On April 26, letters were mailed to our regional members providing details for the annual spring luncheons in Vancouver and Victoria. The letters also included a membership appeal to those who have not yet renewed their 2011 membership in the HKVCA. The same information was also sent to past members, some of which have left the association for up to 6 years. By doing so we are hopeful that many past members will return. Please advise us if your address has changed so that we can stay in touch.

The Vancouver luncheon was held on June 4 at the Ramada Metrotown Inn and Suites. Twenty-seven people attended the event including two HK vets and four widows. The vets were **Gerry Gerrard, RCCS** (who travelled from Vancouver Island) and **John Lowe, RRC** from White Rock. The widows were **Loretta Baty (Arthur Baty, WG), Pearl MacPherson (Don MacPherson, WG), June Naylor**

(Howard Naylor Sr., RCCS) and Eileen Cambon (Dr. Ken Cambon, RRC).

Family members accompanied the vets and widows, including John Lowe's wife, Florence. The Last Post was read and followed by the Act Of Remembrance. Updates were provided regarding education initiatives, the HK Memorial Wall and regional news. We enjoyed a buffet lunch and many wonderful conversations with old friends.

The Victoria luncheon takes place on June 11 and we will include some news about this event in the next newsletter since it hasn't taken place at the time of writing this report. We are grateful to Linda Quesnel (nee Stewart), our Past Regional Director, for agreeing to host the Victoria luncheon since neither Lee Naylor (Regional Director) or I are able to travel from the Lower Mainland to attend.

We would like to express congratulations and best wishes to **Bill and Claire Doull** who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 6th at a quiet family gathering in their home in Sardis followed by dinner at Dakota's Restaurant in Chilliwack.



Pearl MacPherson (Widow of Don Macpherson, WG) and her oldest daughter Heather left Vancouver on June 7 to travel to Ottawa to visit the HK Memorial Wall and pay their respects. When they leave Ottawa they are headed to Toronto to visit with family. We wish them a safe journey.

The Gilbert family (children and relatives of Major Bertram Gilbert, RRC) will be well represented at the National Convention in Granby this August. **Bruce Gilbert** and his companion Pat Dunn, Gwen Day and many other family members are flying to QC for the HK reunion. The roots of the Gilbert family are from the Eastern Townships in Quebec and

Bruce and Gwen went to school in Granby as children.

Educating Canadians about 'C' Force continues to be the main focus of our association. Last year, the BC region reached out to hundreds of students and adults at various venues in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island with our educational display, written materials, and personal contact. Our goal is to continue in the same direction this year as best we can. There is lots of work to be done in the area of education, but many tools are already in place. We welcome any members willing to step forward and assist us with our educational mandate.

Congratulations and best wishes to those of you that are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries. Our thoughts are with those of you who have experienced a loss in your family or are suffering with health issues. We wish you the best for the summer months and hope to see many of you at the National Convention in Granby this August.

Submitted on behalf of the BC Region by Murray Doull, Secretary-Treasurer.

AB/SK Action

This region is experiencing some organization issues at this time. Norma Fuchs has done a great job of keeping in contact with the members and has been communicating with the National Executive about the membership but needs help to keep this region active.

We all enjoyed a wonderful time in 2007 in Calgary at the National Convention and a super, awesome effort went into the events that were held there. However now we need people to get involved to help Norma keep this region going. Perhaps an organizational meeting could be held on a weekend so that travel could be accommodated and a new Executive could be formed. As you will soon hear that Howard Jesse has agreed to be the Education Chair for this region so that is a beginning. Please contact Norma at normaf@shaw.ca or 403-280-5680 to make plans.

Manitoba Moments

Well there is not too much to report at this time. As you all know we finally have summer in Manitoba. Unfortunately Manitoba's big lakes – Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba

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- are the destinations of many rivers in Canada and the U.S and with unusual precipitation this year we have many areas experiencing flooding. Our prayers are extended to our members and those folks that are in this horrible situation hopefully a resolution is found.

We continue to hold our monthly Luncheon meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at St James Legion in Winnipeg – everyone is welcome to attend.

Our Membership is down a little but most of our members are paid with several paying for multiple years and including a donation for a tax receipt.

Education - **Carol Hadley** and a member of the Winnipeg Rifles Museum team judged 17 student entries in the *Veterans* category at the Red River Regional Heritage Fair held in early May. Two exhibits won, Ceanray Harris-Read and Haylyn Ross with "La Vie interessante de Sigi Wasserman pendant l'Holocauste" and Kari Vamestad and MacKenzie Taylor with "Winnie l'ourson". The exhibits were very good and the presentations were done well. Thanks go to **Patricia Bale and Barry Mitchell** for manning the exhibit and doing the scavenger hunt for the students. They also hand out information on the Essay Contest to encourage students to use our resources for their next project. Plans are in the works for the MSSTA teacher's conference to be held in October.

The Manitoba HKVCA Colour Party (**Vince Lopata, Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor**) has an active season as they participate in various military and community parades that help to give awareness of the Association to a wide range of observers. May 29 is the Annual Inspection of the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadets followed by the Annual Decoration Day parade at Brookside Cemetery. Due to weather conditions the ceremony was held inside Bardal's Funeral Home. **Juliet Lafortune** laid the wreath on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans with **Dennis Bell** as escort. **George Peterson, HKV President and Larry Stebbe, HKV Vice-President**, were unable to attend due to health issues.

We are holding our ladies event, **Tea and Tidbits, June 18th**

and we hope to see many of our ladies attend.

Our VJ Day will be held Aug 21, 2011 at All Saints Church on the corner of Broadway and Memorial Blvd. The Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee will be in attendance. There will be exhibits to view and refreshments to follow. The invitations will be sent out in July.

We received a note from Resby Coutts to inform us that **George Coutts**, his father, was in excellent health in his 95th year and still in Milita, MB. We had reported in the last newsletter that efforts to contact George were unsuccessful so we are pleased to get this news. However the sad news is **Mona Coutts** passed away on May 2, 2011 – sincere sympathy is extended to the family.

Unfortunately we were unaware of this event to attend it but are pleased to share this information to all our members. The University of Winnipeg - Faculties of Science and Business & Economics Convocation Ceremony, Thursday, June 9th, 2011 announced Degrees would be conferred in Science and Business and Economics. An Honorary Doctorate of Laws was conferred upon **David A. Golden**, a Rhodes Scholar, war veteran and a former prisoner of war. David was a lieutenant in the Winnipeg Grenadiers, Hong Kong veteran who resides in Victoria, BC. Our hearty congratulations to David and if we had known we would have attended.

Circumstances have occurred to prevent several MB members from attending the National Convention in Granby, PQ in August but we extend best wishes to everyone to have a wonderful convention and extend sincere appreciation to Lucette and her committees for all their hard work.

Until next time – stay well and keep in contact with us - - your Manitoba Executive.

Ontario Offerings

From our Regional Director, Mike Babin: As you've read elsewhere in the newsletter, your Board of Directors has decided to put a very strong focus on educational programs. We know that the Hong Kong story is not well known among Canadians. For example, a survey of high school history textbooks a few years ago showed that only 50% of

newly published books contained any reference at all to it, and those that did gave it very brief coverage. If textbooks don't provide adequate information, then it's up to us to fill the gap. Unless we do, this story will soon disappear from Canadians' view.

The Ontario Region has long had a very strong commitment to educational programs, and we've developed a number of innovative and useful tools for teachers. I'm glad to see that the national Board has recognized this by asking Pat Turcotte to assume the role of interim National Education Coordinator so that she can pass along her expertise, and the experience we've gained in Ontario, to other regions across the country.

Our latest effort is a set of three portable banners, which can be easily transported and set up for use in schools and other venues. Area Rep Bud Mann was instrumental in their creation, and he's shown here with the results of his efforts. Our Ontario members can request that the banners be shipped to them for use in school or community programs. Just contact me (msbabin@gmail.com) to make your request.



We've used the banners at two recent events. The first was a symposium at the University of Toronto, arranged by the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library. There were 6 speakers on the panel, including George MacDonell and Vince Lopata. Also a panel member was Nathan Greenfield, author of "The Damned", which, if you haven't read it, is well worth purchasing and reading. I was honoured to be the moderator of the panel. The symposium was a great success, with over 100 in attendance, and lots of accolades from the audience afterwards. In addition to our new banners, we also mounted a display of photos provided by the Canadian Consulate in Hong Kong, which they had shown at a reception on our trip in December, and at the ceremony at

Sai Wan War Cemetery. And Shelagh Purcell displayed (and sold) copies of Leonard Corrigan's POW camp diary.

We also used the banners at an Asian History Month high school teachers' event in York Region (just north of Toronto).

Our new banners will be on display at the national Convention in Granby, and I look forward to seeing a big contingent of Ontario members there! Have a great summer!

Our Area Rep for West Central Ontario, Gordon Coyne reports:

Veteran **Ken Pifher** (RRC): Our friend Ken is leading a very exciting life these days, and we say "More Power To Him". No sooner had he recovered from his trip to Hong Kong last December, than he began planning a winter vacation in St. Martin with his very good friend **Phil Doddridge**. Ken's full report on it follows: "we had a wonderful time!" Then to top it off, Ken marked his 90th birthday with a party on April 23rd that had a host of friends and family present. Ken was the "life of the party". Come June he will represent the Hong Kong Vets at The Canadian International Tattoo in Hamilton, Ontario. According to his calendar, we should also expect to see him at our Annual Conference in August. Bravo, Ken!

Veteran **Gerry "Sunny" Sunstrum** (RRC): Gerry can be forgiven for wishing that his life was a little more "sunny", as he continues to seek a medical solution to some issues with his eyes. Thus far several surgeries have not done the trick. On top of that he experienced a nasty fall while out shopping in a Zellers store. His good news is that his lunch group at Timmers has grown back to four members; and two Canadian teams made it to the NHL Playoffs. Gerry continues to live independently, and is in his 94th year.

Widow **Agnes Fehr** (Victor Fehr RRC): In her 87th year now, Agnes is a going-concern in St. Catharines, Ontario. Moving from her house to an apartment has given her more time for the life of a busy volunteer. Two of her most active charities are Warehouse of Hope, and Out of the Cold. Agnes loves to stay in touch with HKVCA affairs.

Widow **Esther Geraghty** (Donald Geraghty RRC): Esther is living in Burlington, Ontario with

her daughter and family. Her health continues to run at "OK", and she has begun to use a walker. She manages to keep well informed of Association affairs. Her grandson, Scott, has been frustrated in his ambition to join the PPCLI, due to a slowdown on recruiting. He has redirected his interest to the artillery, and been placed on a priority list there.

Widow **Irene Grimshaw** (George Grimshaw RRC): A conversation with Irene's son-in-law revealed that Irene has moved from a convalescent home, following a bad fall, to a Retirement Residence in Hamilton by the name of Villa Italia.

Bud Mann, our Area Rep for the Greater Toronto Area reports: Since the last newsletter considerable time was spent on coordinating and preparing information for the production of three banners. One banner tells the story of the Battle of Hong Kong supported by two banners of pictures. The objective of preparing the banners was to enhance presentations made, by the Association, informing the public about the Canadian soldiers in Hong Kong. The banners have already been used on at least two occasions attracting attention both times to the Hong Kong story.

Sincere thanks are extended to Ken Skelton for his help on the banners by allowing us to use pictures in his possession.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newest members to the Association in the GTA area: **John Banfill, Helen Banfill and Laura Mayne**. John Banfill is the son of the late Dr. Banfill who was attached to the Royal Rifles of Canada. Laura is the daughter of William Mayne a veteran of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Laura tells me that her father is doing quite well except for failing eyesight. However he keeps up on the news by having the newsletter read to him from cover to cover. Good for you Mr. Mayne!

I had the opportunity and pleasure of speaking with **Margaret MacDonald** recently. Margaret is the wife of Allison MacDonald a veteran who served with the Royal Rifles of Canada. Both Allison and Margaret are doing well except for a stroke suffered by Allison last November. Fortunately it was not

too crippling but he had to give up driving. Margaret is now the chauffer. Allison is originally from northern New Brunswick but he and Margaret have lived in Oshawa for many years.

Just adding a note to let you know that **Dorothy Soper** is doing well. She is very content in Sunnybrook; likes the accommodation and would welcome visitors. She is in L Wing Room 116.

If I can be of help to any of the members in the GTA please let me know. Also I would appreciate it if you would please pass along any news that would be of interest to the Association and or other members. (bud.mann@sympatico.ca 905.294.5342)

One last item of interest: Our Area Rep for the southwest, Marilyn Morgan, recently visited with Veteran **Harold Baker** and his wife **Eileen** who live in Aylmer, ON. They've been married for 66 years! Harold is coming up on his 92nd birthday, and unfortunately is having some serious health issues. Eileen had a bad fall in March and was in the hospital for nearly a month. They've both been seeing doctors rather more than they would like, but are keeping in good spirits, regardless.

Membership report- Lori Atkinson-Smith: Membership numbers in any association or organization fluctuate. HKVCA is no different. Just the Ontario region is losing 28 Regular members so far this year. If you haven't renewed, please reconsider keeping your membership alive in HKVCA. For your convenience you are able to renew for more than 1 year at a time. **Hong Kong Monument Badges:** This group of volunteers are collecting pictures and obituaries of 'C' Force. We still are missing many, many pictures of gravestones with or without the HK monument Badge attached. So please search them out and keep the information coming. For details please connect with Lori Atkinson Smith at LoriR1952@gmail.com or your regions rep.

Talk about a special delivery- Carol Cotton, daughter of John Hotton, RRC, from Prince Edward Island, was visiting family near where I live. She brought me graveside pictures and copies of newspaper articles that had

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interviews of her father - Thank you Carol.

To find out what Belledune, NB is doing for the Hong Kong Veterans see this link: <http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/north/article/1407720>.

That's it, have a great summer!

Quebec Quotes

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director

Greetings from warm sunny Québec. In the region we are fast at work with preparations for the upcoming HKVCA National Convention next August.

Personally the month of August to Labour Day weekend is a very busy time with children, grandchildren and sister's birthdays and wedding anniversaries. It seems that somehow I always get involved with gatherings and parties. My guess is that they know how to ask for help, but we love it and enjoy.

Since our last report it has been business as usual with our local executive meetings as well as the on-line National Board meetings.

In the region we have lost two of our HK Veterans: **Raoul Tremblay and Marcel Ouellet**, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM! We also lost our widows: **Lillian Brunet widow of Lucien Brigade HQ, Judith Metallic widow of Patrick, Madeleine Bernard widow of Emile and a Regular member Donald MacAulay son of Cecil.**

On June 11th we will be attending a dinner/evening at our local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion honouring and thanking all volunteer workers for the branch. On July 19th we will be travelling to New Richmond, QC representing us personally and all our members of the Quebec Region for the burial of **Edwina Doddridge.**

That's it for this time. Enjoy a beautiful summer and if you are driving do take care. Looking forward to meeting many of you, in August, here in Granby. It is always a pleasure to see old friends and make new ones. Have a wonderful summer and till next time.

Eastern Breezes

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Greetings, from Sunny Atlantic Canada, where the torrential rains have finally subsided. Our lilacs are blooming and the blossoms are being enjoyed by many bumble bees.

On May 23rd, I introduced to Council the plans for our "Hong Kong Veterans Memorial" in Belledune, NB. Both council and public were in favour of the proposal. They liked the idea of placing "Gander" front and center, along with the names of his "Royal Rifles" friends from NB and the Gaspé Coast. We are now in the process of having the Gander drawing slightly altered. The artist's rendition will be completed by June 20th. It is with much anticipation that we will have Gander by November of this year. The memorial wall will be complete by 2012.

Hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer. To all the dads out there...Happy Father's Day!

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Humour

Old is just old - Old is not dumb. A strong young man at a construction site was bragging that he could out-do anyone in a feat of strength. He made a special case of making fun of one of the older workmen. After several minutes, the older worker had enough.

'Why don't you put your money where your mouth is,' he said. 'I'll bet a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that building that you won't be able to wheel back.'

'You're on, old man,' the braggart replied. 'Let's see you do it.'

The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles. Then, nodding to the young man, he said, "All right, Dummy, get in.'

As the saying goes, Old age and treachery will beat youth and skill every time.

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NOTE: Articles have been edited to keep the newsletter size within our mailing budget - www.hkvca.ca to see the full newsletter and more pictures.

Please inform us of any address, phone or email changes so we can stay in touch and communicate with you and to ensure you receive the newsletter.

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