



“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

April, May, June 2013

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## NATIONAL CONVENTION COMING SOON

### *HKVCA President*

- Carol Hadley

Wow its June already and the members in Manitoba who are working on the National Convention are really gearing up to have a wonderful event in August. So hopefully you have made your arrangements to join us and if not it's not too late!!

The election results will be in the newsletter for your information. I would like to thank those members who have let their name stand for the offices. It is wonderful that you care enough to continue the work that has been done for the vets and widows and the programs that have been initiated by this organization.

We continue to work to have the names corrected on the **Memorial Wall in Ottawa**. There is a company in place that will do the work so the project is in active progress. Hopefully we will have it done and can let you know in August.

When the convention is over in August we hope to again develop more presentations to the **Canadian Museum of Human Rights** to get the Battle of Hong Kong story in their galleries. We will keep you posted to our progress in this regard.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer as it has been slow in starting here. Be safe in your travels and if your travels are here for the Convention in August we look forward to greeting you in person. Take care.

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### *HKVA President*

- Phil Doddridge

Greetings from Down East

Again I scramble to get something intelligent for the Newsletter. Time has slipped by and the due date arrives leaving me with little time to contribute something worthwhile.

I am looking forward to meeting old friends in Winnipeg in August. Reservations have been made, tickets have been bought and all is ready.

Thoughts of the reunion leaves me to wonder how many Hong Kong Vets will be able to make it to Winnipeg. I have been in touch with Ken Pifher and George MacDonell, both of whom have indicated that they will be going. With only about forty of us left, spread as we are throughout Canada, it is unlikely that many will be able to attend.

I must confess to neglect in contacting other HK Vets, and I am told that some of them, including myself, are experiencing a slow diminishing of their world and activities affecting us. Morbid thought, but normal, I suppose. However, I am still able to get out to meet my coffee pals at ten o'clock each morning. I am fighting pressure to have me enter a seniors' residence. How long that will last is another matter.

Enough chatter for this time. I have to get this off to beat the deadline. Just barely!

That will be all for this time. Be good to each other and may; God Bless.

- Philip

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### *Membership Status*

Region	R	V	W	Total
Atl	62	5	4	71
BC	76	4	39	119
ON	167	12	45	224
Pr	229	10	56	295
QC	65	10	42	117
Total	599	41	186	826

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### *Follow Us on Facebook*

Want to keep up with the latest events and conversations? If you're on Facebook it's easy - just become 'friends' with HKVCA Canada. It's a great way to keep in contact!

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### DUES

**Dues are \$20 and should be sent to your Region Membership person.**

### CONVENTION 2013

**Place: Winnipeg Manitoba, at the Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Ave**

**Date : Thursday August 15 to Sunday, August 18, 2013**

**REGISTRATION PACKAGES HAVE BEEN MAILED BUT INFO IS ON THE WEBSITE ALSO ....**

- Please mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to bring your relations and extended family to make this a memorable family event. It will be an excellent opportunity to unite with family, and enjoy your summer vacation.

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### Join Our Email List



Mailing our newsletter is expensive! Want to make sure HKVCA makes best use of your dues and donations? Join over 330 of your fellow members and sign up for our email list to save postage costs. It's simple - just send an email to this address and we'll make it happen: [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca).

### Last Post

**Llewellyn (Bill) Thomas Sidney Doull**, E-29873, RRC, died April 10th 2013

**John Ed Dearden**, H77750, WG died April 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

**Bernard M. Thompson**, RRC E30541 died May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**William Bell**, WG, died Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### HKVCA

**Gisèle Bourget**, widow of Robert Bourget E30631 RRC died November 29, 2012.

**Dorothy Lester** died February 28, 2012.

**Patsy Commorford**, widow of Patrick (Pat) Commorford, RRC, died March 7, 2013.

**Emily Britton, widow of John A. Britton**, H6066 WG; died May 28, 2013

**Samuel Brown**, brother of Alexander H6931, WG, died May

**Marcine James**, widow of John James, WG H6912, died June 11, 2013.

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

**We will remember them!**

††††

### Election of the Executive Committee

We were pleased to receive several nomination forms back from the membership. The downside is that many of those nominated cannot undertake anything additional to what they already "have on their plate".

This said, an election, per se, is not required. The good news is that we do have a full slate of officers whom will be acclaimed at the National Convention in Winnipeg this coming August.

Carol Hadley has agreed to serve her second eligible term as President.

Gail Angel, our National Education Coordinator, has agreed to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President as well.

Emmie Flanagan has agreed to serve her second eligible term as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President.

Jim Trick has agreed to serve his second eligible term as Secretary.

As for the Treasurer position, the results were nearly unanimous (only one opposed) on the motion removing this position as a Presiding Officer and require the Board of Directors to appoint a qualified person to this position, (the term to be one year following the fiscal year of the corporation). This appointment shall be determined and announced to the membership at the appropriate time.

All the above, with the exception of Gail Angel, are well known to all due to the past dedicated service to our association. A brief bio on Gail follows:

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*Gail Angel is Derrill and Vivian Henderson's younger daughter. Her family connection to the HK vets is therefore well known, and has the distinction of having a vet on both sides of her family tree (Stewart Henderson and Ken Muir, both RRC). With over 15 years of experience in technical documentation and management, she is currently a software project manager for IBM Canada in the Business Analytics division of IBM Software Group. She has a BA (English) from Western, an MBA from Dalhousie, and the Project Management Professional (PMP) ® certification.*

*Gail lives in Ottawa with her husband Reg and 3 teenagers. She has volunteered in different ways over the years, and her children have read the Commitment to Remember at different events. In 2011, she took on the lead of the Translation Project for the Teacher's Zone*

*website. In 2012 she added the role of National Education Coordinator.*

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Derrill Henderson  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Nomination Committee  
and Past President, HKVCA

### Reminder from the Treasurer

- Barry Mitchell

Perhaps some of our members don't realize that our organization pays its bills solely on the dues we collect each year as that most necessary lifeline is being ignored by many of you. We feel that \$20.00 per year is a very reasonable amount to contribute to an organization that honours the nearly 2,000 brave soldiers who fought for the defence of Hong Kong in 1941 and deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

Each year, the HKVCA grows a little smaller but we are fighting hard to attract new members and continue with our many efforts to tell our story as best we can. But we need the participation of all of you, if only through your annual membership. All dues are expected to be paid by now, but many of you still have your hands in your pockets. I'm not sure about other Regions, but the Prairie Region has received 2013 dues from less than half its members and we are almost 4 months into the year. That's not going to cut it, folks, and so I urge all those who have yet to contribute to do so right now and perhaps include enough for next year while you're at it. Also, remember we can send you a receipt for income tax deduction for donations of \$20.00 or more over and above your dues.

Please give this matter your priority attention and support an organization of which I am sure you are proud.

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### National Education Chair

Work on the translated Teachers Zone is almost done. We've also improved it a bit, adding some new content here and there. A few tweaks and it will be given to selected educators for their feedback. Last newsletter I told you

that I wanted to have it done by the end of June, and then we can plan an official launch in time for the start of the next school year.

As National Education Coordinator, I encourage all our members to promote our educational materials with your local schools. Personal connections are always compelling. When I hand a package to my children's history teachers and explain a bit about the battle, my family story, and the contents of the package (includes the writing contest and the Telling the Story DVD and other selected information), it's always received with interest. I encourage you to do this same thing; prepare a package and hand-deliver it to your local school. Ask your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to bring it to their schools. These are easily assembled from free materials in both English and French. If you need help deciding what to include, send me an email. I have lots of suggestions!

Gail Angel, National Education Coordinator,  
email: [ga@angelsys.com](mailto:ga@angelsys.com); grand-daughter of Stewart Henderson and niece of Ken Muir, both RRC.

## *Across the Nation*

### **BC Banter**

We express greetings to all our HK vets, widows, members and friends from beautiful BC where we are enjoying the progression from spring to summer.

We are pleased to inform you that Lee Naylor has rescinded his decision to step down as Regional Director and will continue on as both Director and our region's Education Chair. This is very good news as we move forward.

Our annual spring luncheons and meetings in Victoria on June 15 and Vancouver on June 22 are rapidly approaching. Details have been mailed to our regional members and the information can also be found on our website at [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca). We hope to see you at one or both events.

The results for the HKVCA Writing Contest are posted in this newsletter and we would like to

offer our congratulations to the winning students from BC. It is apparent that Lee Naylor and Graeme Stacey are introducing successfully the story of 'C' Force into the senior secondary social studies curriculum in this province.

On May 16, Lee and Graeme, using educational techniques they have developed specifically for high school social studies classes, presented to a block of grade 11 students at Kelowna Senior Secondary School. Lee writes, "next year we plan on presenting to three or four blocks of grade 11 students and on the following day have the students of each block participate in class activities working with our history documents. I am hopeful this idea will expand to other secondary schools".

Lee and Graeme hope to attend and present the story of 'C' Force for the fifth consecutive year to teachers at the BC Senior Social Studies Conference this fall. The tools are provided to the teachers to enable them to teach the story in their classrooms province wide. Their presentation is powerful and leaves an impact with the teachers.

Once again we thank the Prairie Region for their efforts to provide what will undoubtedly be an outstanding HKVCA convention this August in Winnipeg.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the support and kindness my family received from so many of you subsequent to the passing of my Dad on April 10. Thank you so very much to those of you that travelled from considerable distance to attend his Celebration of Life. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. ***"We will remember them"***.

*Presented by Murray Doull on behalf of the BC Region.*

### **Prairie Prose**

Hello One and All - my Family of HKVA & HKVCA

Well we finally have summer. I personally haven't been doing very much out here lately.

We did have our Tea and Tidbits in April and it was nice to see several women come out to enjoy a day of sharing stories and laughter. Next Ladies Tea will be

**Saturday, 10th August** at the St James Legion

I enjoy getting information on my Facebook of what some of our members are doing: Judy Prieston-Preston did a 20 km walk for Cancer; good going Judy. Margaret Owen went to the Memorial Wall in Ottawa where she took some very nice pictures which she posted on Facebook.

Winnipeg has been working hard at getting everything prepared for the Convention in August. I hope you have all sent in your responses that you will be attending. If you missed the early bird date your fee is now \$150.00 as the cut off was May 15th.

We are losing so many of our senior members. The success of the HKVCA depends on the memberships so make sure you have renewed it. Please try and encourage the younger generation to come and help preserve the memory of the Hong Kong Veterans and what they stood for: Strength, Courage and Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Love for Family and Country. I walk with pride being part of this great organization and talk about it every chance I get.

Well like I said I don't have too much to say I am sure Carol will add to this, so until we meet in August take care and send me any information you would like I am always glad to hear from you.

*Prairie Region Director  
Juliet Lafortune.*

The Convention Committee is busy working on the program for the event in August. We have been fortunate to have talented and knowledgeable people to assist with this project and we hope each region will have many members coming to Winnipeg this summer and participating in the Convention.

We have promoted the Convention with educators and students to learn more about the Battle of Hong Kong story through their bulletins from the Department of Education in Manitoba.

Carol Hadley and Pam Heinrichs attended the **Red River Heritage Fair** at the University of Winnipeg on 2nd May. It was a full

day of students, teachers and other adults visiting the HKVCA display. We participated in the Scavenger Hunt rewarding 4 students with Journals and info on the National Essay Contest.

The organization also sponsored the Veterans Award. There were no student displays on the Battle of Hong Kong. For the Heritage Days competition the winners were excellent. **Katie Evans and Fiona Ludlow** won 1st place with a presentation and a display dealing with CFSSAT at 17th Wing highlighting a tour and items to display. The runner-up was **Melanie William** whose project was on the Avro Jet project. The winners and runner-up received certificates depicting their achievement, also a copy of George McDonnell's book, National Essay Contest info, a video from the air force and t-shirts from The Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum.

The Association will be participating in the MSSTA (Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association) **SAGE** (Special Area Group Education) conference this year in October. The theme of the association's exhibit will be on the Human Rights and HK Veterans.

When the news of **Bill Bell, WG, H6336** had passed and with the announcement in the paper, the family was contacted by MacLean's Magazine to do an article on him and the Battle of Hong Kong – here is the link - <http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/04/17/william-bell/#more-370557> – it is also on the website [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca). It was very well done and a wonderful tribute to 'C' Force.

**The Joint Veterans Committee** in Winnipeg had a very successful Decoration Day Parade on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cenotaph. There were a large group of veteran organizations out as well as the general public. The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada (MB) Colour Party attended the parade. The Colour Party have several events that they are attending throughout the summer.

#### **HKVA/HKVCA (MB) Reunion**

The 2013 Annual Reunion Reception will take place at Neil Bardal Centre, Notre Dame Avenue on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 1400 hrs.

#### **The next monthly Prairie Region meetings are Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 08, Sept. 12, 2013.**

Best wishes from the Prairie Region to all for a wonderful summer and safe travels.

#### **Ontario Offerings**

Today, June 1, our annual luncheon/get together was held at Betty's Restaurant in Niagara Falls for our West Central Ontario area. It was one year ago this month we gathered for the Diamond Jubilee Medal luncheon. We were 17 in total and had two veterans present, Gerald (Sunny) Sunstrum from Niagara Falls and Ken Pifher from Grimsby. Both are in good health, still active and enjoyed catching up on events since seeing each other last year. We were also lucky enough to have two widows present, Dorothy Sauson (Oliver Rae Sauson, RR), all the way from London, Ontario, and Oda Barlow (Ted Barlow, RR), all the way from Richmond Hill, Toronto area. Thank you ladies for making the effort to come all this way! Hope to see you again at next year's luncheon and in Winnipeg in August.



**Photo Caption: June 1, Niagara Falls, Ont: (seated) Arthur [Ken] Pifher, RRC and Gerald J. [Sunny] Sunstrum, RRC (standing) Oda Barlow widow of Ted Barlow, RRC and Dorothy Sauson widow of Oliver Ray Sauson, RRC**

After our lunch, Pat Turcotte spoke briefly about the importance of continuing the push to educate the public, especially school students, on the Hong Kong Veterans story. She described the educational tools available to teachers that she and her team created over countless hours and

stressed the need for younger, different members to step up and provide more help in all areas of the HKVCA. Pat, and many other long term members just like her, have been doing the lion's share of work in our organization, holding executive positions and serving on committees, attending seminars and setting up displays at various events, all to get the Hong Kong story out there. Now it should fall to other members to pick up the torch by doing their fair share of work to support our HKVCA so it can continue to be well supported for many years to come. Pat then announced her well deserved retirement from her years of HKVCA duties but assured me she'll remain involved, just in a more leisurely way. Thank you, Pat, for your many years of dedicated work in helping to create, support and promote our HKVCA. You can certainly be proud of what you have achieved!

I'm sure we're all looking forward to gathering in Winnipeg and seeing our HKVCA "family" again. Only 9 more weeks to wait! See you then.

Pam Newhouse - Area Rep for West Central Ontario

Contact info: 905-945-4125 or [pamnewhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:pamnewhouse@hotmail.com)

#### **Ontario Education Report:**

#### **National Newsletter – June, 2013**

On May 24<sup>th</sup> we reached the deadline for entries to this year's HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest. All entries were changed into pdf files, and e-mailed to our judges in Ontario and BC. May I use this opportunity to thank all of the judges for doing such a good job in marking the entries and getting the results back to me promptly.

Our judges worked in three categories. The Senior English entries were handled by three History teachers from Courtice Secondary School in Ontario, chaired by Cheryl Petherick, the Junior French Entries by two

teachers from Merivale high School in Ottawa, chaired by Sylvain Boudreault, and the Senior English by two History teachers from Kelowna Secondary School in BC, chaired by HKVCA member Graeme Stacey. My heartiest thanks to all of these volunteers who have supported our Writing Contest program so well.

Students taking part in this year's contest will receive their letters, certificates and monetary prizes in this next week or so, as the last of the envelopes containing this material were sent out on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. It's always necessary to move quickly so that students receive the information before their schools close for the summer, and for many that can be as early as June 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time we have had the information early enough to provide a list of winners to the National Newsletter. See below the current list of winners.

**HKVCA Cross Canada Writing contest: Portraits of Valour/Portraits de Courage**

**2012/2013 Edition**

Senior Category: (Gr. 11 & 12)  
English

1st Prize : \$200.00  
Logan Bakker  
Kelowna Secondary School,  
Kelowna, BC

2nd Prize: \$100.00  
Karin Lin  
Crofton House School,  
Vancouver, BC

Honorable Mention:  
Julia Lam  
Kelowna Secondary School,  
Kelowna, BC

Junior Category: (Gr. 9 & 10)  
English

1st Prize: \$150.00  
Tiffany Quon  
Eric Hamber Secondary School  
Vancouver, BC

Junior Category: (Gr. 9 & 10)  
French

1st Prize: \$150.00  
Julia Lorbetskie  
Merivale High School,  
Nepean, ON

2nd Prize: \$75.00  
Joshua Wilson Port  
Perry High School, Port Perry, ON  
**We plan to have all the prizewinners' work available for you to see in the Memorabilia Room at the Winnipeg Convention**

This next Writing Contest will provide a change in direction for the Contest itself, since the National Executive has approved, after a motion by Ontario Regional Director, Mike Babin, the consideration of the contest as a National event, not just an Ontario Region event. This has made it possible for Emmie Flanagan, the Regional Director in the Atlantic area to agree to act as the Coordinator for the Contest for this next school year – from September, 2013 to May 2014. We welcome Emmie's initiative in taking on this new challenge, and feel sure that with her energy and drive, the prospects for the future are indeed positive. Congratulations to Emmie Flanagan!

Pat Turcotte  
Chair, Education Committee  
HKVCA, Ontario Region

**Quebec Quotes**

- Lucette Mailloux Muir  
Quebec Regional Director

Greetings from Quebec Region.

All is slowly getting back to normal after a busy month at the hospital and then home. We are at work. Our joint-meeting scheduled for earlier this month was postponed to a later date.

All is well in Quebec. Unfortunately we lost a veteran Bernard Thompson RRC and two widows, Pat Commerford widow of Patrick Commerford RRC and Gisele Bourget widow of Robert Bourget RRC since our last report. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

We will have more news for the next edition. Have a nice and safe summer and a wonderful Convention 2013.

**Eastern Breezes**

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Greetings from down east where the sun is shining brightly and we can finally plant our gardens!

The proposed 'C' Force Memorial in Belledune has unfortunately slowed to a snails crawl. We have met with some opposition from the new Municipal Council, where they have chosen another site to have it placed and will not contribute financially until we have received at least 90% of the funding. We are awaiting replies from several big contenders and will update you in the next newsletter.

I am pleased to announce our Annual Regional meeting will be held in **New Richmond, Quebec from September 6 – 8<sup>th</sup>**, where Russell and Dorothy Campbell have so graciously volunteered to host the event. I will be meeting with them shortly to iron out the details and will have the invitations sent out by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

I am truly looking forward to attending the National Convention in Winnipeg, this coming August. My mom, Clara and sister, Rita will also be attending. We hope other members from Eastern Canada will be able to join us. Again, we look forward to meeting with old and new members from all regions.

During the next few weeks I will be in contact with Gail Angel and Pat Turcotte with respect to the upcoming Writing Contest 2013 – 2014. I will be filling in some very big shoes (Pat), who has been doing this since its inception. To say the least I am living in trepidation and wondering how I can ever possibly take on such a huge role, but in the same breath I welcome the challenge with open arms!

That's it for now; hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer with family and friends.

Take care,  
Emmie Flanagan

\*\*\*\*\*

**Humour**

3-year-old Reese:  
'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.'

~~~~~  
A little boy was overheard praying:  
'Lord, if you can't make me a better  
boy, don't worry about it. I'm  
having a real good time like I am.'

~~~~~  
One particular four-year-old  
prayed, 'And forgive us our trash  
baskets as we forgive those who  
put trash in our baskets.'

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her  
children as they were on the way to  
church service, 'And why is it  
necessary to be quiet in church?'  
One bright little girl replied,  
'Because people are sleeping.'

A mother was preparing pancakes  
for her sons, Evan 5, and Ryan 3.  
The boys began to argue over who  
would get the first pancake.  
Their mother saw the opportunity  
for a moral lesson.. 'If Jesus were  
sitting here, He would say,  
'Let my brother have the first  
pancake, I can wait.'  
Evan turned to his younger brother  
and said, ' Ryan, you be Jesus!'

~~~~~  
**Barry's Emporium**  
P.O. Box 381  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6  
**Cheques payable to HKVCA**

- WG Honour Roll—  
Colour—Ready to Frame  
\$20.00
  - Grave Markers—Includes  
postage \$75.00
  - Blazer Crest—  
Commemorative \$25.00
  - Tie—Winnipeg Grenadier  
\$30.00
  - **New Golf shirts, sand  
colour**, logo, S, M, L, XL  
and XXL \$30.00
  - Video—Slaves of the  
Rising Sun \$15.00
  - Book—One Soldier's Story  
\$20.00
  - Lapel Pin—Torch Logo or  
Member \$5.00
- .....