

# WASURERU-NAI



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## HKVCA President's message

*Thank goodness summer has finally come! I am sure we are all enjoying the warm temperatures and the wonderful sunshine.*

**By-Law Changes Update** (see information from Derrill below): All the Board of Directors (BOD) will be staying in place until we work through the new bylaw changes dictated by the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* ("CNCA"). The BOD will be happy to answer any questions members may be concerned about when we have our changes completed. There will be information in the following newsletters to guide everyone through the changes.

*RE: the Memorial Wall corrections:* Meetings have been held with a company that has agreed to do the work, pending paperwork and permits that need to be obtained to make the changes. This will mean dismantling the Wall so the panels can be reused – which will save money. However, equipment and permits to do the work are costly so we are still fundraising - please send any ideas for this to the BOD so that we can guide you. Donations are always accepted (with a tax receipt issued). Send them to Treasurer Barry Mitchell with a note to say where the money is to be dedicated.

*So if you are planning a trip to Ottawa this summer, there is a strong possibility that the wall may be under construction. We don't have the exact dates of the work, but once we do know, we can post an update on the website. Please be aware that you may not be able to*

*approach the wall if it is being worked on and panels may in fact be missing. This will be the last time that it will be inaccessible to the public. There will be no more changes.*

**Convention 2015 will be hosted by the Atlantic Region so stay tuned for more details.**

**Use of HK crest** There has been discussion about the use of the HK crest (red round patch with white HK in the centre). This patch is a **battle honour** given to the HK veterans by the Canadian Government to show their distinguished service to our country. It should not be used by anyone else except this elite group of men.

In Phil Doddridge's words to someone wanting to use the patch – *"I would like to emphasize, however, that eligibility for membership in the Hong Kong Veterans' Association was closed on December 25, 1941. While to others it may not seem important, but to us the badge is a sacred emblem in the memory of our fallen comrades.*

*I know that you are sincere in your wish to honour us, but as a Hong Kong Veteran, I would feel much more at ease if you would not wear the badge designed for us in 1945."*

So if anyone wishes to honour this "band of brothers" they may join the HKVCA and wear our crest proudly, as we all do, and help with the work to keep their name prominent in the education of Canadians.

## Summer 2014

Presidents' messages	1,2
Membership info	2
Interest in trip	2
Writing contest results	3
FROM SEA TO SEA:	
BC	3,4
PRAIRIE	5
ONTARIO	6,7
QUEBEC	7
ATLANTIC	8
LAST POST	8

## "Never Forget"

*I wish to thank Sheila Forsyth for becoming the Editor of this newsletter and making a good start with the first edition in March 2014. Thank you so much Sheila, I appreciate the time that you are committing to this project. Please enjoy your summer and be good to one another. All the best from my family to yours. Carol*

**The Times, they are a-changin'!** With recent changes to the Canada Corporation Act, the process of electing our Board and Regional Councils must adjust in order to comply. The changes will be in effect as of August 2015.

Your Board of Directors is reviewing the changes, planning how the changes will be implemented, and making a communication plan for the membership.

Over the upcoming months, as the methods and procedures are revised, they will be communicated to you. We will be taking this opportunity to review all our current Policies & Procedures to address the current demands of our "electronic" world, while never forgetting that many of our members still function in what has been dubbed "paper mode".

As these updated procedures are communicated, we want everyone to be comfortable in their understanding of the updates. We encourage everyone to contact their regional leadership with any questions.

Derrill Henderson

## Greetings from Phil Doddridge. HKVA President

I hope that your winter was not too long and cold. This month we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Normandy Landing”, one of the most important military events in history, and one step closer to the liberation of the world from Axis oppression. In the Far East, we too profited from the invasion of Europe because it meant that with the ultimate defeat of Germany, the Allies were able to concentrate on the war against Japan.

Sincere gratitude is due those wonderful men and women who participated in the Normandy invasion and the eventual defeat of Germany. I am sure that you remember someone who was there.

### Books and movies

On the top of Philip’s list the list this time is a new book by Comrade George MacDonell. As far as I know it has yet to be published, but I have had the privilege of reading the manuscript. The title is “They Never Surrendered”, several accounts of Japanese prisoners who were held in the camps but they never surrendered.

The story takes the reader from departure from Canada, through the battle, to the POW camps, and then to the accounts of escapes, plotting mass escapes, sabotaging Japanese industry, home-made radio reception and transmission and finally the story of the heroic Dr. Reid.

It is fascinating reading. Watch for it. As I stated in the Quebec-Maritimes newsletter, I believe that George was another who never surrendered. Philip

Norma Fuchs recommends “Forgiveness: A Gift from my Grandparents” by Mark Sakamoto. Mark is the grandson of HK veteran Ralph MacLean. It is the story of Ralph and Mark’s paternal grandmother who was interned in Alberta during WWII. “A very good read, in my opinion”. Available on Amazon.ca

The movie “The Railway Man” starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman tells Eric Lomax’s story (about British POWs building the Burma-Thai railroad). Very touching. Showing now in some cities.

Actuarial Statistics: Back in 2004, with Derrill’s participation, an actuarial study was done to forecast the time left for Hong Kong Veterans. It was “based on the last twelve years mortality growth curve”. In 2004 it was reported that there were 182 of us left, and on that basis it was calculated that this year, 2014, there would be one of us left. Looks like we have beaten the odds again.

### Reunion

The Maritime-Gaspesian convention will take place in August in Campbellton, NB. Watch for details.

Speaking of actuarial statistics, I have composed my swan song but I am not yet ready to deliver it.

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

Philip

### Membership

We are half way through the year and many of you have yet to forward your 2014 dues to your Regional Treasurer. We sure need your support, perhaps more than ever. We are about to repair and upgrade the Memorial Wall in Ottawa and this is proving to be a most expensive undertaking. We are encouraging you to send in membership not only for this year but how about next year as well. As well, please remember that donations over and above your dues will provide you with a tax receipt for contributions of \$20.00 or more.

When you read this newsletter you will find that many useful activities are underway across Canada in the name of the HKVCA. Most of them require some funding to make it all possible and the only source of that funding is **YOU**. Please take a moment and send us your support—it will be greatly appreciated!

Barry Mitchell  
Treasurer

### Commemorative Trip to Hong Kong

Thanks to everyone who responded to the item in the last newsletter asking about interest in a commemorative trip to Hong Kong (and possibly Japan) in late 2015. There was an excellent response, enough that the planning for a trip will now proceed.

We’re now working on the details of itinerary and pricing, and in the next short while more information will be available. If you are interested but haven’t yet let us know, please send an email to [hkvca.trip@gmail.com](mailto:hkvca.trip@gmail.com). There’s no obligation. (Mike Babin)

### JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

Mailing the newsletter, especially with higher postage rates, is expensive. Want to help our association stretch our dollars and make good use of your membership fees? Join over 40% of the membership who receive their newsletter by email. Send an email to [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca) and we will make it so.

### *HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest winners*

#### ***Announcing this year's winners:***

##### Junior English

1st Prize: Kenny Rajkumar - "A Letter for Dennis". Kenny is from Sinclair Secondary School and his teacher is Sarah Young.

2nd Prize: Ahmed Youssef - "William Bell Letter". Ahmed is from Oshawa Central and his teacher is Flora Fung.

##### Junior French

1st Prize: Emily Phan - "Jack Smith". Emily is from Merivale High School (Ottawa) and her teacher is M. Boudreault.

##### Senior English

1st Prize: Emily Ganske - "Jack Smith". Emily is from Kelowna Secondary School and her teacher is Graeme Stacey.

2nd Prize: Angel Yu - "In Memory of William Bell". Angel is also from Kelowna School and her teacher is Graeme Stacey.

We received a total of 20 entries - 5 Junior English / 1 Junior French / 14 Senior English. Our judges must be congratulated on the work, as they are busy working history teachers, and this time of year is very chaotic for them. Thank you to our judges: Junior English - Cheryl Petherick and Mike Strahl. Junior French - Sylvain Boudreault. Senior English - Graeme Stacey and Derek Smith. You were so patient with me, and did such a great job with marking all entries. A big thank you to Pat Turcotte, who was very instrumental in overseeing this project and helping me along the way. I will be passing on the reigns to someone else for next year's writing contest, but would like to help this individual in any way I can. I will certainly help with finding all email addresses for schools, teachers and Ministers of Education for the Eastern provinces. If each region could help in this way, it would make the job of *Acting Coordinator* a much easier task. EMMIE FLANAGAN

## **FROM SEA TO SEA: REGIONAL NEWS**

### **BC Banter**

Lee Naylor, B.C. Region Director/Education Chair  
and Graeme Stacey Co-Education Chair

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the BC Region will not be holding our annual spring luncheons. We may possibly have our luncheons in the Fall of this year.

I would like to give a very special appreciation to Derek Smith from the Mount Boucherie Secondary in West Kelowna and Graeme Stacey (BC Region Co-Education Chair) from the Kelowna Secondary School on acting as judges for the HKVCA junior writing contest in this year's student competition.

In Graeme's words, "All of the submissions demonstrated great empathy" Some comments include:

*Outstanding empathy and personal insight, a refreshing approach that is well set up and explained at the outset to provide clarity and context to the self-addressed letter of William Bell.*

*Great empathy and very strong ending/closure to both your poems and Dick's life.*

*Some interesting and empathetic verses and traditional essay, allowing more personal look at William Bell's experiences.*

It was great to see student insights that exemplify that some teachers are continuing to prioritize the story of Hong Kong Veterans in their Social Studies classrooms."

Congratulations to Emily Ganske, Angel Yu, and Katie Webb for the success in the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest who placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. KSS has developed a tradition of excellence in this contest. The nationwide HKVCA contest is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and our students have finished 1<sup>st</sup> each of the 4 years, with 2<sup>nd</sup> place also being awarded 3 of the 4 years.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Royal Hong Kong regiment (The Volunteers) Association, BC Branch sent me an invitation to attend their 160<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Dinner on May 31, 2014. I set up our educational display and gave a speech in particular addressing who are Canadian Hong Kong Veterans and our successful ongoing educational activities in BC.

**Continued...**



## BC Banter (continued)

In attendance was the Honourable Member of Parliament Dr. Alison Wong, the Royal Regiment President Col. Harman S. Grewal, Kelly Kwong, President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada (which I am a member of), dignitaries and guests.

Jonathan Ho, Honorable Secretary to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment gave a speech stating that their members fought side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with Canadians during the Battle for Hong Kong. Jonathan emphasized how honoured and appreciated were the Canadians who fought in the defense of Hong Kong. I was extremely honoured to represent our Hong Kong Veterans and the Hong Kong Veterans Association at the Royal Hong Kong Regiment's 160<sup>th</sup> Foundation Dinner.

After last month's BOD meeting, Thekla Lit, Co-chair of the Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WWII in Asia (ALPHA) telephoned me to ask if I would take part in their Classroom Presentation Program, to be invited as a co-presenter of," BC ALPHA," should any schools show interest in the Canadian Hong Kong Veteran Workshop. Their Education Director, Heather Evans will contact and work with me beforehand when requests from schools are received. I am very honoured on behalf of the HKV and the HKVCA to accept this position.

On behalf of the BC Region Executive, have a great and safe summer!



The Honourable Member of Parliament Dr. Alison Wong & Lee Naylor CD, BC Region Director/Education



Honourable President Col. Harman S. Grewal CBE, ED of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment & Lee Naylor CD, BC Region Director/Education Chair



Honourable Secretary Mr. Jonathan Ho, Royal Hong Kong Regiment, BC Association and Lee Naylor CD, BC region Director/Education Chair. Jonathan was one of the three members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment who attended our Convention in Winnipeg.

## Response to student statement from Spring Newsletter

In the Spring newsletter as part of the BC report there was a statement that was very upsetting to our veterans, especially George Peterson.

"After one of our presentations a young girl came forward and explained that she was in Japan on an exchange program and met the Vice Foreign Minister who gave our veterans an insincere apology. She stated, 'If she had been aware of the insincere apology, she would have questioned the Minister.'"

On behalf of George Peterson, President of the HKVA in Manitoba, National Vice President of the HKVA, AND as a member of the contingent that went to Japan and received the **SINCERE apology** from the Japanese government, he would like to state that the comment made by the student who had spent some time in Japan was incorrect and he is very concerned and disappointed that she came to this conclusion when she wasn't present for the apology.

Carol Hadley

## Prairie Prose

Carol Hadley, Secretary

The Prairie Region holds monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at noon at the St. James Legion. We welcome any member to attend these meetings.

CBC contacted us for information on the McKnight brothers, especially **Elmer McKnight** who wrote the song, **"I'll Never Say Goodbye Again"** to his sweetheart that he left behind. The song was written while Elmer was a POW in Japan and the Japanese broadcasted it to show that the prisoners were well looked after. **George Peterson** was interviewed as he was in the WG band and knew the brothers. We received permission to link the interview to our website so watch for it and for additional newsletter articles that CBC were able to locate.

We are also waiting for a date (probably June/July) when the **Arden 7** project will be dedicated. This project was revealed at Convention in Winnipeg last year. There are still a few things to complete that the extremely cold winter delayed but we hope have a date soon. George Peterson is the last of the Arden 7 and will be part of the ceremony.

We also hold Ladies Tea & Tidbits for our female members to enjoy a light lunch and lots of conversation. **Tea and Tidbits dates – August 9, and December 6 at 1 pm to 3 pm – at St. James Legion on Portage Ave.** The invitations will be out for the August gathering about the middle of July and we hope to have many of the ladies attend.

There will be no elections this year until the National BOD have all the processes in place due to the changes that have to be made to the Bylaws. So we will be in touch with the new process that has to be followed when all is in place. In the meantime, all positions are filled by the present executive.

We participated in the Red River Heritage Fair again this year at the University of Winnipeg. Vince and Stan Lopata took the display and participated in the Scavenger Hunt where the students have to find answers to pre-set questions from the sponsor's displays. This is great exposure for our Association as 300 – 400 students, teachers and parents review the displays and interact with the participants. We are part of the Veterans Award for projects related to war. These are very interesting and informative for the students to research. We direct them to the website for information and hope to see this reflect in their projects.

The Colour Party have been attending the various parades in Winnipeg for D Day and Vimy Ridge with several more to come throughout the summer.

Winnipeg Grenadiers Cadets Annual inspection was Wednesday, May 25, 2014 with about 30 cadets on parade. May 24 Viet Nam memorial was held at Brookside, Stone of Honour. Colour Party will be at Lac du Bonnet July 1 and the C Force plaques will be dedicated in Pinawa in July or August.

**VJ Day – August 17, 2014 at 1 pm – Neil Bardal's Notre Dame and the ANNUAL REUNION – Sunday October 26, 2014 3 p.m. at Neil Bardal's on Notre Dame.**

Hoping your summer is a good one and safe travels – take care!

## ADDITIONAL NEWS FROM PRAIRIE DIRECTOR

Hello One and All. Well Spring is finally here and I still haven't planted any flowers. I don't trust the weather until after the first full moon in June.

We are still working on the Memorial Site for the Winnipeg Grenadiers at Brookside cemetery. I hope that comes into focus soon as it has been along time coming. We are still waiting to hear about a date for the Arden Seven Memorial being put up in St Vital. I hope to plan a get-together for AB and SK along with MB so that we can get more members interested in the HKVCA.

I haven't heard lately but I do hope widows Myrtle Lytle and Helen Prieston are doing better after their surgeries. George Peterson was in the Hospital with a broken hip but is doing very well and is also back home.

George Peterson and I attended the D-day Service at Glen lawn on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Surprisingly there were not many in attendance.

One last note to each and every one who reads the newsletter. We would like to hear from you. What would you like to see happen, how can we keep the Hong Kong Veterans Story in the forefront?

It is all of you who make this possible and your ideas are important.

Sympathies go out to Barry and Constance Mitchell in their loss of their sister in law.

Thank you to each and everyone and remember to pay your Dues or you get a letter from Barry.

Enjoy the summer and stay healthy and safe. Hugs to all.

Feel free to contact me at 204 338-3354 or 204 294-9335

Juliet Lafortune  
Prairie Region Director

## Ontario Offerings

Regional Director, Mike Babin

### Central and Southeast Ontario Report by Shelagh Purcell

Well, we made it through the terrible winter and can now enjoy the flowering trees and greenery that have returned. Mother Nature came back for her second act and brought spring.

Congratulations to Mrs. Evelyn St. John, widow of Ralph St. John, (RRC), who observed her 90th birthday on May 22nd. Family and neighbours treated her to a birthday supper and she described the day as a “Lovely celebration”. She lives in Coboconk and told me that she had taken a framed picture of her late husband to the local Legion. She said they seemed pleased to have it. We talked about the need to share the stories of the Hong Kong veterans with people at places like the Legion so that the remembrances continue.

Mrs. Irene Firlotte, (widow of Lawrence Firlotte, RRC), has had good luck in Kingston with the SMILE program. Her neighbour suggested she apply and she was told they offer cleaning, shopping, errands and foot care — all free.

There are several Hong Kong family members living in Kingston and area and after consultation with the Ontario HKVCA executive, it was decided that we should try and have a lunch in either July or August in Kingston. Invitations would go out a month before the chosen date. I will be in Kingston soon to find a suitable location and date and will keep you posted.

Checking through my calling list at this point I've heard from Anne Cadoret saying she and her dad Bruce (RRC) would be interested in attending, as well as Steve Chapman and his family and his sister (son and daughter of Frederick Orland Chapman, RRC) Dena Claricoates, (widow of Ronald Claricoates, RRC) thought getting together is a nice idea, as did Connie Darling of Trenton (daughter of Edward Phillips, RRC). Kathleen Mills Sevigny and her family would like to be included. She is the daughter of Alfred Mills, RRC.

For those people I wasn't able to reach in time, please contact me. Your name will be added to our list. It is hoped that we can include family members as well.

### Niagara News from West Central area by Pam Newhouse

Hello from beautiful, green Niagara. Spring has sprung.

Yesterday, June 7th, we held our annual spring luncheon at Betty's Restaurant in Niagara Falls. There were 16 of us in total and, as usual, it was wonderful to re-connect with members of our extended HKVCA family. A big thanks to Lori Smith for taking care of the invitations again. We were very fortunate to have 2 veterans present, Ken Pifher and Sunny (Gerald) Sunstrum, plus two new members, Rob and Anne Foord. Rob's uncle was Frank Maxwell Foord, (WG), who was killed in action Dec. 22, 1941, during the battle at Mount Cameron.



Ward Stepanchuk, son of Nicholas Stepanchuk [RRC], Pat Turcotte daughter of Leonard B. Corrigan [WG], Linda Guglick daughter of Augustin Cyr [RRC] and Rob Foord nephew of Frank Foord [WG]"





Ken Pifher (left) with Gerald (Sunny) Sunstrum

Both Anne and Rob are fortunate to be retiring shortly and plan on celebrating with a trip to Hong Kong and China in the fall where they have planned to meet with an historian who is researching Rob's uncle and his role in the Battle of Hong Kong in preparation for their trip. Have a great time and keep in touch when you get home because we'll want to hear about your experiences and impressions!

Here's to a long, enjoyable summer where it only rains at night. Enjoy everyone!

One final note from the Ontario Region: Writing Contest Update. The responsibility for the Writing Contest is now in the hands of the National Education Coordinator, Gail Angel. Emmie Flanagan, the Regional Director in Atlantic Canada, is in charge of the arrangements for this year's Contest. Since the judges are currently marking the entries, the results will be announced at a later date.

## QUEBEC

Lucette Mailloux Muir: QC Regional Director

Greetings from Granby on a very warm, sunny and humid day.

We will not complain as summer was long in coming.

We will continue holding our regular executive meetings. Due to sickness and many other happenings, our February meeting was postponed. I can say that we are safe for now. Our membership number is not increasing at this time and a Due Notice was mailed to a few delinquent members.

A Call for Elections was mailed to all members and hoping for new and fresh ideas with new and young blood.

I recently attended the funeral for Barbara Henderson, widow of Lawrence Henderson in Richmond, QC. A Commemorative Ceremony and prayers for Marcel Mondou with burial of his ashes will take place on July 10, 2014 at the Field of Honour Veterans Cemetery, 703 Donegani Ave, Pointe Claire, QC at 2pm.

I was recently in touch with some of our veterans, widows and members. Marcienne Lalime widow of Jean Pierre Lalime living in Florida for many many years recently fell and hit her head as a result of a small stroke. She was in hospital and now in a rehab center for a time. We wish her all the best and also to her son Guy in hospital recovering from a tumour and swelling in the brain. Other members are on the mend.

We thank our members for their donations and lovely notes.

That will be all for this time.

Take care. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Lucette

**Eastern Breezes:**

Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Hello from the sunny north shore of NB - hope you are all enjoying a beautiful spring

Our region has been hard at planning for the regional reunion to be held in Campbellton, NB this coming August 29 - 31st. Our chairperson, Amanda Arseneault and her assistant Jacque Pollock must be acknowledged for the tremendous job they are doing to ensure we have a successful reunion. The invitations will be sent out to our members by the end of June. We hope to see you there.

May you all have a wonderful summer!

Emmie Flanagan



Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

## REGIONAL REUNION

La réunion régionale de l'association  
commémorative des Vétérans de Hong Kong aura lieu  
à Campbellton du 29 au 31 Août 2014.

Join Us August 29 - 31, 2014  
in Campbellton, New Brunswick

FOR MORE INFO ON THIS EVENT EMAIL  
POUR PLUS D'INFORMATIONS À CE SUJET VOICI MON COURRIEL  
[amandahk2014@gmail.com](mailto:amandahk2014@gmail.com)

FOR MORE INFO ON THIS ORGANIZATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
POUR PLUS D'INFORMATIONS AU SUJET DE L'ASSOCIATION VISITEZ  
[hkvca.ca](http://hkvca.ca)



**Looking for a few good teachers** As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, we have completed another very successful Cross-Country Writing Contest. Our judges are full-time teachers, and they deserve our gratitude for taking on this extra work, especially as the judging period happens to coincide with a very busy time in the classroom. The writing contest first began in Ontario with the 2009-2010 school year, and was only in English.

The following year, it became national and ran in both English and French. Some judges, having serving our association in this way since the beginning, are asking to be relieved of this responsibility. They've earned a rest, don't you agree? We must find new teachers to judge our next contest. If you know someone, or know someone who knows someone, please approach them on our behalf. Give them my email address: [ga@angelsys.com](mailto:ga@angelsys.com) [or Sheila Forsyth at [sheilafforsyth@gmail.ca](mailto:sheilafforsyth@gmail.ca) as the new coordinator] and ask them to send a message.

What kind of person are we looking for? History teachers (full-time, part-time, occasional, supply, or retired), with intermediate computer skills, and of course, interest and ability to support our organization in this way, for one year. Our judges have come from BC and Ontario so far. If possible, I'd like to include judges from other regions. We would prefer to have our judging panel identified and confirmed a few weeks before the contest begins, especially if they are new to our contest. Recruiting over the summer is best for us, but I understand this might not be possible for everyone. To quote the Cub Scout motto: Do Your Best. Thanks for your help. Have a wonderful summer.

Gail Angel National Education Coordinator and 1st VP

### Last Post

HKVCA

Christina Babin,  
wife of Alfred Babin  
[RRC], mother of  
Michael Babin,  
Director of HKVCA  
Ontario Region,  
passed away the  
evening of June 8th,  
2014

## Wasureru-Nai

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association  
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Canada K2H 1B9

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touch with you.**

**Have a wonderful  
summer. Enjoy  
the birds, the  
flowers, picnics,  
family vacations.**