



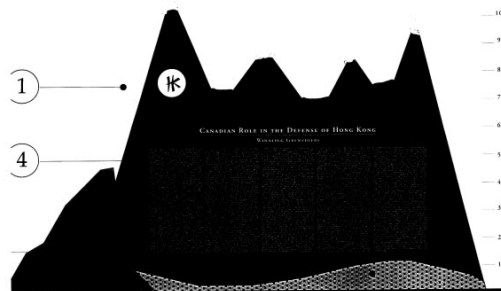
Of Special Interest

Manitoba Region – Lunches & meetings
on the 2nd Thursday of every month at St.
James Legion, noon – accessible. – Ladies
Tea & Tidbits June 20, 2009, 1 p.m.

BC Region Annual Spring Luncheons.
They will be held on June 13th in Victoria
and on June 27th in Vancouver at the
same locations as last year. Details will be
mailed out to the BC membership in
April.

National Biennial Convention – Ottawa
August 14 – 16, 2009 – unveiling the
Memorial Wall – please let your Executive
know if you are attending – thank you.

Memorial Wall – Design Changes!



As you see our wall has undergone some changes. We have had a busy few months with several Review groups seeing our design and making suggestions to have it more ‘artistic’. The graphic above depicts the 4 mountains that the Canadians fought on in Hong Kong.

The landscaping will be similar to what was proposed with prairie grasses, red granite from Quebec and the black granite for the wall – it will be an awesome sight for all to see.

We are now working on the graphics for the wall. With the help of **Lauren Heinrichs** (granddaughter of Ferd Poitras, WG, HK vet deceased and daughter of Pam Heinrichs – MB Ed committee) we have an expert to work with the graphics group in Ottawa.

The geotechnical work has been done and we await the design foundation from a structural engineer in Ottawa, Rick Cunliffe.

In the meantime donations continue to come in and we greatly appreciate all the support - we have just passed \$136,000.

That’s it for now we will keep you informed of developments. -
Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

The past few months have been consumed with activities focussing on the Memorial Wall and the Convention this coming August.

Since Carol Hadley will be reporting on the Wall and Sandi Cameron has provided material on the Convention, anything I say on these will be redundant.

I am sad to say that a few of our vets have suffered (more than usual) because of health issues. Ken Ewing fell and broke his hip. He came through the operation well, but getting back on his feet will take a little time. Bryce Craig ran into difficulties with medical services but this too has been resolved. A couple of our members have asked for clarification on available treatment/compensation on hereditary medical conditions. There has been a “persistent rumour” circulating on this, but so far nothing definite has been forthcoming.

As I write this, we have 91 Hong Kong veterans still with us. Let us pray that these very special gentlemen will be with us this August as all Canada honours those that fought in Canada’s first battle of World War II, as the Memorial Wall is unveiled.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Greetings again from Down East.

Carol has cautioned us to be brief in order to make room for the election documents, so here goes.

I wanted to say something about the ship, The Awatea, which carried us to Hong Kong in 1941, but I’ll leave that for a future issue. In the meantime, if you wish to check out “New Zealand Ship and Marine Society/awateaatwar” you’ll find some interesting facts about the vessel.

On another note, in the last issue of “Wasureru-nai”, the term, “Good news!” in my little contribution was misplaced so that it appeared to indicate that it was

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good news that my wife was ill, when it was supposed to refer to the item that followed about the plaque in the Drill Hall in Quebec. Please take note.

I have been speaking with some old HK friends recently, notably Flash Clayton, Ken Pifher, Paul Dallain and Henry Lyons. They are all hanging in and looking forward to the big time in Ottawa next summer when we unveil the Memorial Wall.

Flash tells me that his Branch of the RCL has awarded him the Legion Meritorious Service Medal, the highest award, short of the Palm Leaf attached to it, that the Legion can bestow. This is a truly merited award to one of our stalwarts, a Hong Kong Veteran who has done so much to advance the recognition of HK Vets.

Congratulations, and many thanks. That will be all for this time.

Be good to each other, and may God Bless. Philip

Elections

As of March 1, 2009 we have received the following names and when asked have agreed to serve as the 2009/2010 National Executive so no ballots will be needed on the election:

President: Derrill Henderson
1st Vice: Helen Wedge
2nd Vice: Murray Doull
Secretary: **
Treasurer: Barry Mitchell

Congratulations on the new Executive and best wishes on your next term.

** (Jim Trick's name was submitted for Secretary but unless the Bylaws are changed he cannot be elected to this position as he has served 2 terms - however as with the Treasurer he may be appointed by the Executive as you all know)

There were some comments included with the nominations that we shouldn't change something that works but we need to remember that it is a big commitment of a person's time and energy. We have been fortunate to have individuals who have served our Association well. But change is good - without change you could lose innovation and creation that is needed to keep progress fresh and constantly moving. We want to make our

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Association interesting and inviting to new members so new ideas and energy is important. It also gives the ones who have served opportunity to move into other areas of the Association and expand or develop other ideas. We would like to see more people involved in keeping the Battle of Hong Kong story available to our youth and all Canadians as it is an important part of our history.

Last Post

Fred J. Mason, B68240, RR died December 22, 2008

John Marsuschak, H6532, WG died December 27, 2008

Wallace "Red" Harrington, H6943, WG, died December 30, 2008

George Taylor, H75125, WG, died January 5, 2009

Austin Batley, E30153, RR, died March 4, 2009.

HKVCA

Ethel Stickles, widow of Leslie E. Stickles RRC E29812, died May 14th, 2008.

Hazel (Ross) Breakey, widow of Ian Breakey, RR, died on December 20, 2008.

Leone Bujold, widow of Edward Bujold, RR, died December 29, 2008

Sylvia Baty, widow of Stanley Baty, WG, died December 30, 2008

Kay (Kathleen nee Christie) Mann, widow of Glenford Finley Mann, died January 19, 2009.

Verna Gaudin Nicol, widow of Ralph Nicol, died January 13, 2009,

Wanda Margaret Law Mann, died February 20, 2009, widow of

Richard 'Dick' Mann and sister of deceased HKV Reginald Law, RR.

Mrs. Floris Irene Weiss (Van Raes) (nee Ferguson) widow of Emile Van Raes, WG, H6149 died Thursday, February 26, 2009

G N (Gerry) Osborn, son of John Osborn VC, WG, died March 13, 2009

Cécile Thompson, wife of HK Vet Charles 'Bomber' Thompson died March 4, 2009.

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

We will remember them.

Lost Trails"

- **Jim Trick**

Can you help out? Since we've started our "Last Post" listings on the HKVCA web site we've been trying to make our records as complete as possible. The fact is, there are hundreds of our vets who have died since the war for which we have no information. Please take a moment and visit <http://www.hkvca.ca> and check the listings in the Last Post (right column on the page). If you can help us update our records we would appreciate it. Who knows - while improving the quality of our records you may also be providing someone with important information.

* * * *

Convention 2009 Ottawa

AUGUST 14 - 16, 2009

Please come on **August 14 to 16, 2009** when our veterans will be honoured at the unveiling of the

Hong Kong Veteran's Memorial Wall

We sincerely invite all Hong Kong veterans, families and friends, to join us in Ottawa, Ontario.

The 2009 fee for the convention is \$175. This fee includes: Friday night meals and entertainment at the Dinner-Dance at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier; Saturday War Museum entry fee, War Museum lunch, Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra concert, meals and entertainment at the Dinner/Gala at the Westin Hotel; Sunday church service and luncheon at the Christ Church Cathedral, Monday farewell continental breakfast as well as entry to the Memorabilia Room Friday and Saturday and use of the Hospitality Room throughout the weekend. The convention will be held at the Lord Elgin Hotel. Everyone must register to attend the convention - please complete the Registration and Dinner Choices forms included with the package.

~ **DEADLINE for REGISTRATION is JULY 10, 2009** ~

~ DEADLINE for SPECIAL RATES at the LORD ELGIN HOTEL is also JULY 10th ~

The registration packages should be in the mail in early April and we ask that you plan to attend this memorable occasion so reply as soon as possible.

REMEMBER this convention is primarily for the Hong Kong veterans, and in honour of all 'C' Force, with the "unveiling" and "dedication" ceremony putting them in the spotlight.

On the financial side, if you are unable to attend please still purchase several of the Cash Draw tickets to support this event.

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Here's our regional report from Beautiful British Columbia.

Submitted by: Linda Stewart, BC Regional Director; on behalf of Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor.

On December 13th, I was visiting in Winnipeg. My daughter-in-law, Teresa, grand-daughter and myself attended the Ladies Tea & Tidbits at the St. James Legion that day. It just so happened it was Ayla's first birthday. We had a fun time at the tea and the ladies were so sweet to Ayla.

Due to a heavy snowfall in Victoria (do you believe it?) we were forced to postpone the scheduled wreath laying to the following Sunday on December 28th. Our usually small gathering was smaller still, but a very enjoyable time nonetheless. Gerry and Ev Gerrard were there along with their daughter, Pat and her son, daughter-in-law and their child and Jim Trick and myself. There was a new family in attendance. They contacted us through our website. They are two brothers and a sister – Allan, Scott and Cheryl. They are the children of Winnipeg Grenadier Allan Mactier (deceased). One of the brothers has become a member and has volunteered to help out where he can. After the wreath laying, we went to Gerry's Legion to have coffee and cookies. It was a

good opportunity to chat and get to know one another. It's a small Legion and not usually open on Sundays, but Gerry had the keys to allow us in to spend that quality time together.

Ida Speller has moved away from Victoria to Kamloops to be closer to her son and his family. They were thrilled to have her there to celebrate Christmas with them. I have her contact information, which she said I could pass along if you would like to get in touch with her.

Lee Naylor, our BC Education Chair, was in Princeton on the twenty eighth of January to be with Thomas P Jackson British Army Hong Kong Veteran on his ninety-seventh birthday. Tom appreciated that a member of the HKVCA was there to help celebrate.

Burke Penny, who is putting together a book on the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RCCS), was in Vancouver and Victoria visiting with relatives and gathering research. He lives in Ottawa and is the nephew of Don Penny (RCCS). He spent some time with Valerie Rose (daughter of Jack Rose, deceased) and Leslie Henderson (daughter of Mel Keyworth, deceased) in Vancouver on March 3rd. On March 4th, he travelled to Victoria to have another of his many visits with Gerry Gerrard (RCCS). Gerry told me he found Burke's information about the break-up of the different camps and tracking of the fellows coming home very interesting. He also said that Burke was working on the final chapter of the book. We are all eagerly looking forward to its completion.

The Phone Pals Program has now begun and we are very excited to be able to contact and chat with 7 veterans and 19 widows. It is a great way to keep in touch, find out how they are doing and, also, how they keep busy. Actually, they are a very busy group and it takes a few calls before we can reach them. Bev Campbell, our regional Secretary, would like to thank Sandy Brain for her help and time given to this project. Very much appreciated - thanks Sandy.

We remind our regional members who haven't renewed their membership yet for 2009 to please do so in order to continue receiving

news and to be able to participate in HKVCA events.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Spring Luncheons. They will be held on June 13th in Victoria and on June 27th in Vancouver at the same locations as last year. Details will be mailed out to the BC membership in April, including the decals for the HK vets and widows. If anyone from outside the province is going to be visiting BC on those dates, you are most welcome to attend. Just contact Murray or me and we will give you directions on how to get to the functions. We would love to see you there.

May God bless you and keep you, until we meet again. Best regards -- Linda.

AB/SK Action

The AB/SK Executive send Best Wishes for the New Year and hope to see everyone in Ottawa in August.

Norma Fuchs, Secretary AB/SK Region.

Manitoba Moments

Hello one and all

I hope you had a good winter and are looking forward to an active and great summer. As you all know winter seems to slow many things down, so there is not much to report as far as any functions happening.

In December we did hold our Tea and Tidbits for the ladies and it was nice to see 16 ladies attend.

Vince Lopata, Sgt at Arms of our colour party, had quintuple heart surgery but is well on his way to getting back to his old self. Keep well Vince, as you are very important to us, as all our members are.

Many of you might not know this but George Peterson is being inducted to the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour on May 22nd in Ottawa. Congratulations George on this honour. George just celebrated his 88th birthday February 8th .

We hold our lunches on the 2nd Thursday of every month and are now having our general meetings at the same time - this has proven to be successful – more people, more ideas.

As far as myself I am just getting over my 3rd and last

surgery since July and am doing well.

Due to the Convention in Ottawa in August we will be celebrating VJ Day on a later date, August 23rd at All Saint Church, and the unveiling of the new Name Plaque will take place at this time.

If you can make it to the Convention please do, as it is a wonderful experience and a chance to see our Veterans.

In the meantime take care one and all, my heart is with you as you are all my family. Juliet Lafortune Regional Director MB

Other Manitoba events – the Education committee will be attending the Heritage Days at the University of Winnipeg in May and the Manitoba Social Studies Teachers Association in October.

We have some new items in **Barry's Emporium** – HKVA flag, license plate holders and golf shirts – check them out online at <http://www.hkvca.ca/store/index.htm>

– MB Region Exec.

Ontario Offerings

Pat Turcotte gives this report from the Education Committee, which she chairs:

Since last September a number of events have taken place, and the important role of our volunteers needs to be highlighted. In September's seminar at the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library at U. of T. Nick Brune and Gordon Coyne assisted in providing special gifts for the presenters, and looking after the display table. Our two Hong Kong veterans, "Flash" Clayton and George MacDonell did a fine job with their two presentations.

On Nov. 1st, Nick Brune was himself a presenter at the ALPHA Conference, again assisted by Gordon Coyne at our display table. His discussion related to the "Ten Lessons" and other ways of connecting students with the Battle of Hong Kong.

Our display table at the OHASSTA Conference on Nov. 7 & 8 would not have been possible without the help of several volunteers, including Shelagh Purcell, Linda Guglick and Sandra Strom. Mike Babin also assisted prior to his trip to Ottawa for the General Meeting of Ontario

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members being held there.

On December 6th and 7th, we made our first foray into fundraising at the Market Village Mall in Markham. Very few of our own members were available, and we needed to cover two full days from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Realizing also that we would be meeting a lot of people more comfortable speaking Chinese, we enlisted the help of the Royal HK Regiment Volunteers Ass'n.(ON), as well as several others who were fluent in Chinese. (The Royal HK Regiment was known as the HK Volunteer Defence Force during the Battle of Hong Kong.) With the help of Tony Au, President of the RHKR, Rev. Dominic Tse of the North York Chinese Community Church, and Angela Wan, History Head at Milliken Mills High School, we added 12 volunteers to the group of 6 from HKVCA. As a result, we had 18 people, three at a time, covering three-hour shifts right through the two days. It was quite an exhilarating experience. In the process, we raised \$840.46 for the Memorial Wall. Thanks also to our own HKVCA volunteers, Sandy Madar, Bud and Ruth Mann, Tim Hodgkinson, Mark Purcell and Sandra and Taylor Fox.

Since Christmas our focus has been the Cross-Canada Essay Contest. We hope to have an increased number of entries, and have been getting in touch with Superintendents of Schools, History Consultants, teachers, educational magazines and websites to be sure they are aware of the opportunity. If you go to TheBeaver.ca, and click on "Education", and then "Living History" you will find the link to the article we have in that magazine. Also, there is lots of resource material in the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA Website, including the entry information. We hope HKVCA members across the country will encourage their children and grandchildren to enter. A special letter translated for Francophone schools, as well as the French version of the rules for the contest will be circulated across the country shortly. We have already received our first entry in the Essay Contest, and hope to see many more!

In more general news from the

rest of the Ontario Region, Bob "Flash" Clayton was recently honoured by the Canadian Legion with the Legion Meritorious Service Medal (LMSM) in January at his home branch of the Legion, Brechin Mara (488) in Brechin, Ontario. Such an award is normally presented in Ottawa, however the Dominion Executive Council allowed for it to be presented to Flash in Brechin at their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The Vice President of Ontario Command, Ted Whan, was present to give the award. The LMSM is the highest medal you can receive from the legion and the Legion membership voted in favour of Flash receiving it last year in July. The medal recognizes Flash's work over the years with the Legion such as: Zone Colour Sgt.; community work; Memory Project; pilgrimages to Hong Kong; work with the HKVA.

From the South-West area, Barbara Cunningham-Drew reports a number of news items including that "Red" Harrington of the London area recently passed away on Dec. 31 in his 94th year. Red recently attended, in October, the local meeting with the Ontario Executive, which was also attended by 26 others including Alfred Babin, Harold Baker, and Lawrence Ross. Lisa Bird (daughter of Thomas Wardell, RRC) donated and laid the Hong Kong wreath at the Cenotaph in London on November 11, 2008. Lisa and her sisters, Heather Edwards and Jane Smith all live in London.

Lorraine Lawlis sends, Hi to her old friends and Lawrence Ross says best regards to the "boys". Les Canivet, RCOC says he is still keeping well and loves his choice to live in a small, caring community like Acton. He recently gave a talk to students on his HK experiences although they were mainly doing biographies on Juno Beach in France. Doris Hocking, sister of Edgar Smelts, WG, has a winter interest in watching birds where she lives out in the country and reports that wild turkeys fly up into the trees to sleep at night.

That's the news from Ontario!

Quebec Quotes

Greetings again from Quebec.

Hope you all enjoyed a nice Christmas Season and are well. We took a few weeks in the heat/sun to,

as some might say, recharge our solar batteries and it does a world of good. The winter season is always a quiet time for us here, it gave us time to renew contact with some of our veterans and widows. To name a few at this time, Edwina Doddridge at this time is home from hospital and stable. Joan Gillis is doing well and took time to visit her children and spend some time with her daughter on Vancouver Island, very good medicine. Patricia "Pat" Commerford is temporarily in a residence but doing well. Maybe someone can help us as we are still, without success even with the new telephone number, in trying to contact Mrs 'Joseph' Tennier of Montreal. If anyone knows where we could contact her/him, let us know, it would be greatly appreciated.

Deepest Sympathy to family and friends of all HK Veterans & Widows reported deceased since the last newsletter and special thoughts go to Austin Batley's family. Austin was father to new members of the Association and uncle to our regional secretary Debbie Batley-Everett.

To new QC Region members, welcome to the Hong Kong Family.

Best Wishes to those celebrating or will soon celebrate a birthday or anniversary.

We will soon be holding our spring executive meeting. Other meetings will also be confirmed for a later date.

Many Quebec Veterans, widows and members are waiting anxiously for the Dedication/Convention news in order to make their reservations and plan their holidays as time is fast approaching. A great number of members are looking forward to this great event.

That will be all for this time. To all good wishes for good health, happiness and looking forward to meeting and sharing some time with you all in Ottawa next August. Take care.

Maritime Memories

On behalf of all the Atlantic Region Executive – we would like to wish all the Vets, spouses, widows and families all the Best in 2009.

* * * *

Warrior Wife by Elizabeth Soutter Schwarzer

I never wore the uniform,
no medals on my chest.
The band it doesn't play for me,
I am not among the Best.
I do not march in cadence,
I do not rate salute,
I stand among the silent ranks,
our devotion absolute.

If you have not worn my shoes,
you do not know my story.
I live a life of sacrifice,
my reward a private glory.
I've wept many silent nights away,
and I've kept the home fires
burning.
I've worried and I've waited,
as world events were churning.

I've moved more times than you
could fathom,
left more people than you have
known.
I've planted gardens round the
world --
Very few that I've seen grown.
I've grieved with new-made
widows, and had my share of scares
--
when a ship or plane or man was
down, and all I had were prayers.

I'm not asking for your sympathy,
(although appreciation can be nice)
I did it quite on purpose though --
I chose to sacrifice.
I'll tell you a secret now,
one you'd never guess.
About the one glory that is mine,
it's just enough no more, no less.

When you and I stand together
as our national anthem plays,
I'll fill with reminiscences
of how I spent those days.
I'll know the pain and joys again,
I'll know that freedom isn't free,
I'll know I've helped to pay the
price and that the anthem plays for
me.

Humour

Housework was a woman's job, but one evening, Jenny arrived home from work to find the children bathed, one load of laundry in the washer and another in the dryer. Dinner was on the stove, and the table set. She was astonished!

It turns out that Ralph had

read an article that said, 'Wives who work full-time and had to do their own housework were too tired to have sex'.

The night went very well. The next day, she told her office friends all about it. 'We had a great dinner. Ralph even cleaned up the kitchen. He helped the kids do their homework, folded all the laundry and put it away. I really enjoyed the evening.'

'But what about afterward?' asked her friends.

'Oh, that ..., Ralph was too tired..'

♥♥♥

Verne was teeing off from the men's tee. On his downswing, he realized that his wife, Lucrecia, was teeing up on the woman's tee directly in front of him.

Unable to stop his swing, he nailed it, and hit her directly in the head, killing her instantly.

A few days later, Verne got a call from the coroner regarding her autopsy.

Coroner: "Verne, your wife seemed to have died from blunt force trauma to the head. You said you hit a golf ball and hit her in the head, is that correct?"

Verne: "Yes, sir, that's correct."

Coroner: "Well, inexplicably I found a golf ball wedged up her rear."

Verne: "Was it a Titleist 3?"

Coroner: "Yes, it was."

Verne: "That was my provisional."

♥♥♥

A man showed up at a costume party with a girl on his back. Other partygoers were confused by the man's costume. Eventually, a woman approached the man and asked about his costume. "I'm a snail," said the man. "But there's a girl on your back," the woman replied. "I know," said the man. "That's Michelle."

♥♥♥

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun any more. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a \$10 bill.

The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall; followed by loud applause and shrill whistling.

The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd. 'What happened?' asked her waiting friend. 'I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement.

♥♥♥

I have a question:

- If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea....

does that mean that one out of five enjoys it?

- If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

- Is it true that you never really learn to swear until you learn to drive?

- I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks?

- What hair colour do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men? YOU, make it a great day!

Lord, please keep Your arm around my shoulders and Your hand over my mouth! Amen

♥♥♥

A little girl walked to and from school daily.

Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along at each flash of lightning; the child would stop, look up, and smile. Another and another flash of lighting followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her 'What are you doing?' The child answered, 'I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture.'

Just have a good day today and everyday as you face the storms that come your way.

♥♥♥

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