



“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

January, February, March 2012

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## Election Year in the Regions

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### DUES INCREASE

**At our November Board of Directors meeting, a motion to increase dues to \$20 was passed. This was to cover increasing costs for the newsletters, etc. So... for those who have yet to pay for 2012, the amount of \$20 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**

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

### HKVCA President

- Carol Hadley

Greetings to all our members.

The apology from Japan has happened and with mixed feelings from many. The effort was made on behalf of the veterans to give them some resolution to the horrific events that took place from 1941 – 1945. I sincerely hope this was accomplished.

I wish to thank Derrill Henderson for his tenacity in driving this to fruition. To the veterans who made the trip to Hong Kong and Japan to receive the apology, this was quite an accomplishment in your stage of life and we are extremely proud of your efforts.

The Memorial Wall Committee are still pursuing remedies for the spelling errors but are pleased to inform you that the lighting is completed at the site which enhances the area well.

There are many tasks being done in the various regions and I encourage you to please read the regional reports to see the hard work that is being done by our members. There is always room for more members to be involved so please contact your Regional Director and give a hand – as the adage goes -“many hands lighten the load.”

This is an election year in the Regions so please give this commitment some thought and offer your services. There are also many small jobs that need to be done and these can be accomplished with your help. Your expertise and/or your talent could be a good fit into the plans in your region and not necessarily a huge time demand.

We are intent on developing some ongoing fundraising to do several things besides the obvious – generating money for the projects

that we have in the works. The fundraising we hope to direct to the public as well – to cause an awareness of the Association and our projects and perhaps generate membership. We welcome input from our members – so please send us any ideas and if possible help us to develop them.

Membership is a concern for the Board of Directors. We depend on our members to encourage family and friends of ‘C’ Force to become members to keep us strong. We realize that we need to create programs/projects that appeal to the interest of our members to keep them and to build our numbers. So we need to hear from you with ideas, suggestions and help.

We need to reflect on and be proud of what has been accomplished. Since 1995 when the HKVA granted the formation of our organization we have the following in place:

- Charitable status to aid finances and encourage donors.
- Memorial Wall in Ottawa to fulfill the veterans dream.
- Education programs in several regions to pass on the story.
- Website with loads of information for anyone wishing to know about the Battle of Hong Kong.
- Website with updated events, Honour Roll, and a repository for information for our members presented in an easy, accessible manner.
- Website, yes again, as it gives us an international presence in the world which we know from the many contacts that we have.
- Apology from Japan.
- Advocating for benefits for

- our veterans and widows.
- Attending/participating in memorial services and laying wreaths.
- Working with other veteran groups to commemorate, honour, and build our Association.

I may have missed something in this list but I think you get the picture. A lot has been accomplished but we still have more to do with your help. It surprises me to learn that there are potential members who don't know of our existence. So when you are finished with the newsletter – leave it in the doctor's office or other public place – you don't know who will pick it up and entice them to become involved.

For the Regions that are holding elections, I wish you well and sincerely hope your executive positions are filled.

And finally – I sincerely wish a Happy Easter to you all. Take care.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **HKVA President**

- Phil Doddridge

### **Apology**

The story of THE APOLOGY is still in veterans' news. The March/April issue of Legion Magazine reported the journey of George Peterson, Gerry Gerrard and Ken Pifher to Japan to accept the regrets of the Japanese.

I humbly say that as President of the HKVA, I accept the apology on behalf of all HK veterans. Let me also state that waiting for that apology did not result in any loss of sleep.

I do, however, applaud the doggedness and determination of Derrill Henderson, to extract those words of regret from our tormentors of those evil times. When Roger Cyr was president of HKVA he was instrumental in persuading Derrill to accept the task of recording the activities of the Association. That is one of Roger's legacies.

### **Legion Magazine**

The last issue of the magazine also included a letter from Claire Hachey. I knew her father, Dean Hachey, when we lived in Sept-Iles in the '50s and '60s. Claire is a

poet and an artist whose memory of her father illustrates the respect that our children have for us. We are grateful.

### **Last Post**

I mourn the loss of so many of comrades whose names appear in our web site obituary column. Let us not dwell on the thought that all our names will someday appear in the column. I salute the efforts of HKVCA in keeping the memory alive. Perhaps it is too much to ask, but wouldn't it be grand if our story lived as long as, say, "The Charge of the Light Brigade"?

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

Philip

### **Last Post**

**Pierre L. Delarosbil, RRC,** E30766 died December 21, 2011.

**Kenneth Ewing, RRC, E30578,** died December 23, 2011.

**William Mayne, WG, H6263,** died December 29, 2011.

**Richard (Dick) Johnson, WG, H-6192** died January 26, 2012.

### **HKVCA**

**Thomas Sinclair,** son of Thomas Sinclair, WG, H6685, died August 2011.

**Marion Rowen,** widow of late Alfred Rowen died October 3, 2011.

**Marjorie Florence Moore,** widow of William Moore, WG, died October 26, 2011.

**Marion Kelly,** widow of Fred Kelly, RRC E30520 died December 6, 2011

**Ellen Patricia Rheault,** widow of A.D. Rheault, #H-41841, WG, died December 6, 2011.

**Della Parker Bujold,** widow of Ludovic (Vic) Bujold, died February 2, 2012.

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

*We will remember them!*

††††

### **"Like" us on Facebook**

Support our work at HKVCA and keep up to date with activities by clicking on the "Like" link found on most of our pages.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Membership Status**

Legend:

V: Veteran

W: Widow

R: Regular

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	60	8	13	81
Atl *	52	6	5	63
BC	97	6	37	140
MB	173	9	46	228
ON	165	12	52	229
QC	73	11	49	133
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>874</b>

\* No report received. Using Dec '11 data.

### **"Education is the Key"**

- Dave Stewart

As the new National Education Coordinator for the HKVCA, I have been very pleased to meet so many dedicated individuals in the few short months that I have been involved. Moreover, it has proven to be a time of great change, and it is my privilege to share with you all the following fantastic news.

On January 31st, Derrill Henderson along with Neil Darrah, and Emmie and Clara Flanagan met with Jodie Carr, the New Brunswick Minister of Education and a number of other officials in an effort to have the Battle of Hong Kong adopted into the official New Brunswick high school curriculum.

The meeting went very well and we are hopeful that we will be able to incorporate this into the curriculum as early as next school year for Grade 10 Social Studies (English) and Grade 12 History (French). It is important to note that there is not as much flexibility when it comes to the coverage of mandatory curriculum in New Brunswick, so we can be quite confident that the material will be presented and not considered an optional exercise.

Given that New Brunswick is an officially bilingual province, there is some urgency around continuing to translate the Teacher

Zone and other supporting content. We are also looking into possible modifications to some of the key resources we have such as the Ten Lessons, as well as adopting the "historical thinking" methodology that is becoming quite popular within the various school systems. Fortunately, we have considerable expertise within our own ranks with which to approach this task such as Graeme Stacey (already involved in similar efforts in BC) and Nick Brune (the author of the Ten Lessons) among others.

In terms of our next steps, we have been in touch with the New Brunswick Ministry of Education stakeholders to respond to their questions, comments and concerns. We have also begun revisiting our existing material and consider how it could be adapted to be in line with the "historical thinking" methodology that should help our content achieve greater adoption rates with other school boards across Canada going forward.

Look for an update in our next newsletter, at which time we will hopefully be sharing more exciting news about this project!

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### ***Are You a "Techie"?***

We are working on using our web presence to make it easier for our members to renew memberships and for new members to join us. As well, we are attempting to create an online database that will contain all information about the members of 'C' Force. To make all this happen we are looking for some assistance from any of our members who have expertise in these areas. Think you can help? Drop an email to [webmaster@hkvca.ca](mailto:webmaster@hkvca.ca) and we'll talk.

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### ***Across the Nation***

#### **BC Banter**

Spring greetings go out to all our HK vets, widows and members from the BC region.

Once again we are planning our annual spring meetings and luncheons. The Victoria event will take place on June 16 and the following weekend in Vancouver on June 23. Full details will be

mailed out to all regional members in April. We are grateful to our past Regional Director, **Linda Quesnel**, who has agreed to host the Victoria gathering. Linda remains an active member and is always willing to help. Thank you Linda! We welcome any out of province members who may be visiting BC in June to attend as our guest.

It is also time to nominate and vote for the regional executive positions. Full details of the election process will also be included in the April mail out. We ask our BC members to please give consideration to accepting nomination for one of these positions. The rewards of office are many and new thoughts and ideas are always welcome.

Please provide us with your new address and phone number if you move. We have lost contact with one of our widows, **Marge Stewart** who was residing in Victoria. If anyone knows where Marge has moved to please let us know. Thank you to those of you who have renewed their memberships for 2012 (now \$20.00) and we look forward to hearing from those who have not.

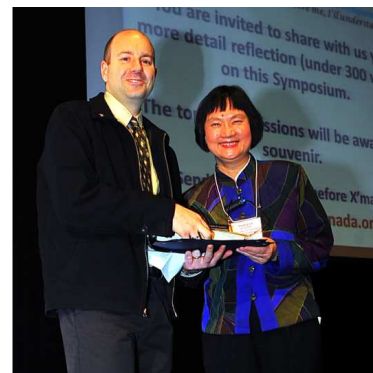
Our condolences go out to **Cory Turner** (daughter) and all the family of **Richard (Dick) Johnson (WG)** who passed away on January 26, 2012. Dick will always be remembered as a kind man and a true gentleman who put others first. **Lee Naylor (Regional Director and Education Chair) writes:**

"On December 8 & 9 2011, **Graeme Stacey** and I were once again invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual International Human Rights Student Symposium organized by the BC Association for the Learning and Preservation of the History of WW11 in Asia. We set up our HKVCA display at the Vancouver Technical School and gave our presentation regarding the history of our Hong Kong veterans. Approximately eight hundred students from many different school districts, including Vancouver Island, attended and we gave two presentations per day for two days with approximately sixty students per session. We had a great time working with the students using the history documents as a group class activity. This a very good tool to

insure the students retention of the "C" Force story. The students enjoyed the interaction between Graeme and me, asking many questions with some very emotional and tearful moments. During the symposium we had two students share that they were related to a Hong Kong veteran and were unaware of what their relatives had endured during the battle of Hong Kong and subsequently as POW's.



Graeme Stacey was presented an award on behalf of three of his grade twelve Kelowna Secondary School students for winning the BC ALHPA (Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WW11 in Asia) sponsored essay on the role played by **Iris Chang** in exposing the story of Japanese atrocities in Nanking. Congratulations to Graeme for his ongoing outstanding work in educating his students.



I was recently contacted by the Friends of Veterans Canada president, **Randy Young**, for the purpose of filming interviews with our Hong Veterans while here in BC from March 15 to the 25<sup>th</sup>. He will be interviewing a veteran in Kelowna from the 8th Recce who was in Dieppe. This organization is building a virtual library of veterans' stories to pass onto the future generation and for the purpose of student information. **Gerry Gerrard (RCCS), John Lowe (RRC) and Wallace Normand (RCCS)** have agreed to

take part in the interviews. Gerry has stated that "It is important to accept these interviews for education purposes as our HKV are leaving us much too quickly."

**Bev Campbell (Phone Pal Coordinator) writes:**

**Bill Muir** is always a pleasure to talk to and he informs us that he has recently moved into a new senior's care home in Courtenay on Vancouver Island and is keeping well. I also talked to **John Lowe** and **Wally Normand** who both live in White Rock. They have difficulty getting places these days since neither of them drive anymore but they make the best of it and are enjoying the home life with their wives. Recently when my Dad **Gerry Gerrard** was visiting with me, we went to White Rock to see Wally. Dad and Wally both served with the RCCS and were in the same prison camp so they had lots to reminisce about after all these years.

My husband, **Eric** and I and my sister **Pat White** and her husband **Dave** surprised Dad (Gerry) at the annual general meeting of his Legion in Victoria where they had a lunch and birthday cake to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The celebrations continued with a family dinner in Victoria and then back to Maple Ridge to see more family. Gerry and his nephew **Kevin White** were part of the delegation that went to Japan in December for the Japanese apology. They were looked after very well and Gerry enjoyed the company of two of his comrades, **George Peterson** and **Ken Phifer**. Gerry keeps busy with Legion activities, square dancing and the occasional round of golf.

I had nice chats with **June Naylor**, **Wilma Sequeira** and **Pearl MacPherson** and enjoyed catching up on their news. They are doing well and Pearl is off to Hawaii in March for a vacation with her daughter and granddaughter." Submitted by your BC Region Executive: Lee, Bev, Graeme and Murray.

**AB/SK Action**

No report at this time.

**Manitoba Moments**

- Barry Mitchell

There aren't a lot of brand new items to report on this beautiful "Spring" day but the usual people continue to work on our long term projects both in committee and on their own.

Greetings to our Manitoba veterans: **Bill Bell, George Coutts, Tom Dewar, Harry Hawryshok, William Krohn, George Nobiss, Lloyd O'Leary and George Peterson.**

We are still examining how we might best approach the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to include the Battle of Hong Kong and its repercussions in their exhibits and we will have a meeting of our HR committee on March 21. A proper strategy is critical to success in this venture and that calls for quite a bit of debate. Our group remains keen to see our soldiers recognized in what is anticipated to be a remarkable museum.

And of course we have the National Convention on our plate and that committee will be meeting on March 24. Some good ideas for activities and venues have come forward so we will likely have lots to talk about.

This is the first year that we will not have the traditional Reunion Banquet in October but the HKVCA members still want to get together in some fashion. We are looking at an annual meeting as part of a social gathering, something which I believe other Regions have each year. The location for such an event is still in question as we want to move from the Holiday Inn where we have been for many years.

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Cadet Corps recently had its Annual Inspection, with 23 cadets in attendance. We are gratified that the Winnipeg Grenadiers continue to be represented in the cadet organization.

The Manitoba Region has an ongoing program to examine the feasibility of erecting a monument dedicated to the Grenadiers in 'C' Force and new concepts have been presented recently. I guess we are working in parallel with the Atlantic Region but I don't see any conflict at this point. We may both

be applying to the same federal grant program but hopefully that's not a problem.

A note from Dennis Stewart, a Manitoba member who gave us this information - "**Canada's History**" magazine (was called the "Beaver") has an article in it on the Battle of Hong Kong with pictures. I believe it is excerpts from the book *The Damned*."

Coming up are the MB Region elections and the Ladies Tea will be held once again on **April 21**.

Best wishes from the Manitoba Region.

**Ontario Offerings**

We are all aware that the story of the Battle of Hong Kong is not well known among Canadians in general. As a result, much of the work of the HKVCA is focused on telling the story in various ways and to many different audiences. Many of you likely know that last year the Ontario Region produced three banners which can be used to help tell the story. In the photo below you can see what the banners look like.



I encourage you to think of opportunities in your town to use these banners. We've recently purchased shipping cases so that we can send them safely to you. Now we just need to know how you intend to use them! Here are a few examples of how they might be used:

- At a shopping centre.
- As part of a presentation to a church group, or a Lions or Kiwanis or similar club.
- At your local high school.
- As part of a discussion with teachers about the topic.
- During a talk to a Scout Troop, or Cadet group.
- At your local Legion branch.

Of course, most of us think of Remembrance Week as the time to talk to the public about Hong Kong. But please also look at other times during the year and don't be

constrained to only the week of November 11.

If you have a good opportunity to use the banners, please let me know (msbabin@gmail.com). If you organize the event, the HKVCA will pay for shipping the banners to you and back!

I look forward to hearing from you.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Babin, Regional Director,  
Ontario

As the new area rep for **West Central** I want to introduce myself so you are familiar with my name before I start contacting the members in my area.

I'm the daughter of Ken Pifher (RRC) who will be celebrating his 91st birthday in April. I'm looking forward to talking with, and hopefully meeting, many of you.

Pam Newhouse, 905 945 4125  
pamnewhouse@hotmail.com

**Education Committee Report:**  
**Ontario Region**  
**HKVCA CROSS CANADA**  
**Writing Contest:**

The last of the 450 or so letters to educators and prospective participants in the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest were sent February 15th - giving those who still wish to be involved more than two months to prepare their entries.

The deadline is May 25, 2012, so that there is still time for interested teachers and students to participate. We expect to see responses arriving beginning in April.

Judges from last year are prepared to assist us again this year, and should there be French entries at the Senior level, René Giard, of the Quebec Region, has agreed to be involved in the marking.

Any HKVCA members across the country who are in close contact with High Schools in their area are asked to encourage any High School History Principals and History teachers they can to have their students consider entering the Contest. All of the participation information may be found in the Teachers' Zone on our HKVCA Website at [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)  
**Feb. 17th Workshop:**

I am pleased to report that the Workshop requested by the Toronto District School Board, and held February 17th at East York Collegiate Institute in Toronto, was quite successful. Susan MacDonell, Veteran George MacDonell's daughter, agreed to make the presentation to the teachers. This was Susan's first time making a presentation about the Battle of Hong Kong, the circumstances surrounding that battle, the veterans' nearly four years as POWs and what followed when they arrived home. Susan made an excellent presentation and was ably assisted by Linda Guglick and her sister, Sandra Strom, in preparing the display that included two of our three banners, and a number of books for the teachers to peruse and purchase if they wished. Favourable comments were made about the quality of the presentation and the display itself. What was especially commendable was the fact that all three HKVCA members spent a great deal of time preparing for the workshop, especially since both Susan and Sandra took a day off work in order to be involved. A wonderful example of our members acting as super special volunteers, ever ready to promote the Hong Kong cause!

Those interested in promoting a workshop in their community may get in touch with our Regional Director, Mike Babin, at E-mail: [msbabin@gmail.com](mailto:msbabin@gmail.com) or myself, Education Chair, at E-Mail: [petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca)  
Pat Turcotte  
Chair, Ontario Education  
Committee

**Quebec Quotes**

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director  
Greetings from a mild rainy day in Quebec.

We are experiencing a very early spring. Farmers are talking about the maple sugar season being cut very short if this temperature trend continues.

Robins are back as well as many other migrating birds and spring flowers are 3" out of the ground. Unfortunately other parts of Quebec are not so lucky and still with winter weather and snow.

Things have been on a little slower pace since our last report.

We recently held our first executive meeting for 2012 with the reading of Year End Reports for 2011. As usual new activities and previous suggestions were discussed and some decisions were made and others will follow.

For the last 2 years our discussions came on the subject of the Quebec Region Reunions. Other locations and date changes were tried and did not measure to expectations due to the very low participation. A sad and difficult decision was taken to discontinue our Regional Reunions in its present form. We will organize local gatherings and visits with veterans, widows and family members. We realized that when long travels and moving about gets to be more of a chore than a pleasure for them, it is time to make some changes and still keep our people involved and informed. Will keep you posted on dates and places of these gatherings.

We just completed the mailing of our "Call for Elections", "The Torch" newsletter with all its local news and the "Last Call" for 2012 Membership Renewals.

Shortly we will be calling again our veterans and widows for their news.

We have lost contact with our HKV Bernard M. Thompson, last known address 715 des Spirées, Ste-Dorothée QC, Widow Florence Hawke, #6 205 Davignon Blvd, Cowansville QC and Regular member Sheila Coull, #2 153 Chemin Cyr, New Richmond QC. We are calling for help from all members if anyone knows the whereabouts of these people, please call 450-375-7439 as it would be greatly appreciated to keep contact with them.

**RRC Nominal Roll**



We recently received queries for purchase of copies of the Nominal Roll we had made a few years ago for the Royal Rifles of Canada.

They were plastic-coated 12" x 19".

We are presently out of stock and taking a survey as to the number of copies could warrant a re-print and at what price. (Price would be pending of number of copies needed – would negotiate for the best).

If you, family members or anyone you know would be interested, please let us know ASAP and we will take it from there. Contact QC Region by email at [lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca](mailto:lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca) or 450-375-7439. We will confirm with you individually and take it from there.

The book Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong by Grant Garneau is available through Quebec Region at the cost of \$ 50.00 per copy.

### Convention 2011 Souvenirs

Lanyards at \$ 3.00 each.



2011 pin at \$ 5.00 each. The red maple leaf pin with HKVA-HKVCA logos also commemorates the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for our HK Vets. (3/4" diam.)

All items mentioned include shipping and handling. Just send your order and cheque payable to HKVCA QC, 18 rue Barre, Granby, QC J2H 2E6.

That will be it for this time.

Quebec Members Wishing your Easter is decorated with love, peace, joys of spring and the season's blessing! Take care.

### **Eastern Breezes**

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Thank you to Derrill Henderson for attending and giving an exceptional presentation to our New Brunswick Education Minister, Jody Carr. Thank you to Neil Darrah for going through all the government red tape to make this meeting possible. The province of NB may finally have the history of "The Battle of Hong Kong" taught in both French and English high schools.

In February, Belledune sent a request for funding from the Japanese Embassy, to place toward our "C" Force Memorial. We eagerly anticipate a positive reply.

Happy Spring & Happy Easter to all!

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### **Attention all members**

Due to overall rising costs, the HKVCA has increased its membership fees to \$20.00 per year, effective 2012.

This will apply to all who have not yet paid their membership for 2012. If you paid the current fee of \$15.00 that's fine, the increase will not affect you until 2013. The same applies to all those who have paid their membership for a number of years ahead.

All other aspects of payment will remain the same. Please send your dues to your Regional representative as you usually do.

Thanks for helping us maintain our not-for-profit charity in a meaningful way and accomplish our goals of paying our respect to the Hong Kong Vets.

Barry Mitchell, National Treasurer  
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### **Getting The Word Out**

One of our major challenges is educating the Canadian public about the battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath. A key tool in this effort is our various web sites, as all the information that we've gathered can be found there. How successful are we? A look at our site statistics indicates that over the past year we've been visited by between 2000 to 3200 individuals each month. If you haven't visited lately, drop in to see what's been going on. Our main site at [hkvca.ca](http://hkvca.ca) is updated almost every day.

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Looking for something for a gift?

### **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
- Video—Slaves of the Rising Sun \$15.00
- Book—One Soldier's Story \$20.00
- Lapel Pin—Torch Logo or Member \$5.00  
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### **Humour:**

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

'Did you see the paper?' asked Gallagher. 'They say I died!!'

'Yes, I saw it!' replied Finney. 'Where are ye callin' from?'

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An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut. The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, 'Sir, have you been drinking?'

'Just water,' says the priest.

The trooper says, 'Then why do I smell wine?'

The priest looks at the bottle and says, 'Good Lord! He's done it again!'

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**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.**

Happy Easter to all