



“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

January, February, March 2013

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## NATIONAL ELECTIONS

### *HKVCA President*

- Carol Hadley

As we begin a new year we need to renew our dedication to the memory of our friends and relatives that made the sacrifices for the life that we enjoy.

As our senior members leave us the family members tend to drop their membership. Why? Nothing has changed – we still need to follow the mandate that was given us by the HKVA when we were asked to form this Association. The **first item of the mandate** was to have a memorial in Ottawa – this is almost finished as we investigate the process to correct a few spelling corrections. The **second item** was to not forget their sacrifice – this we are doing through the education programs that we are developing across Canada and the Essay Contest that aids high school students to focus on this unique story. The **third item** is to ensure the wellness of our veterans and widows – this is an active issue that we are assisted with by the War Amps and Veterans Affairs Canada.

**In order to further our efforts in these areas, like any organization, we need many dedicated people and money.**

If you look at the leaders of your National Executive – most have been involved since the beginning of the HKVCA – almost 20 years. They did this while working and raising a family. They saw that the HKVA had strength in numbers and in order to continue their efforts a similar organization was needed. They were happy to perform these tasks to continue efforts of our Veterans.

We are proud to see the next generation start to help with programs and encourage others to join them. As leaders we are here to educate and train others to prepare to replace us in the future. We need to create programs that

appeal to the interest of our membership. We need to attract members that have a genuine interest in our mission. Our focus needs to be on the Community and future of our youth.

We would benefit greatly with a person in place who is experienced in raising funds and public relations to create an awareness to promote this Association to ensure the sustainability of our programs.

Please tell us what you feel the direction needs to go to achieve this.

**Please carefully read the information in this newsletter about the National Elections and give serious thought and consideration to being involved with this unique Association.**

**Thank you**

*Happy Easter to you and your families*

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### *HKVA President*

- Phil Doddridge

Greetings to all!

I want to start by apologizing for my absence at the last several on-line meetings of HKVCA Executive. I have no excuse except to say that fatigue overcomes me late in the day and by 8:30 I am frequently in bed for the night. However, I am completely confident that the affairs of the organization are in good hands. I dare not mention names for fear of missing someone.

### **Books.**

Two books that I know of are in the making. **Terry Meagher**, a Korean veteran, is writing a book on the Battle of Hong Kong. We are in frequent touch by telephone, when he questions me about the battle. After all these years some details are hard to recall and I hope that what I have to tell him will not stray too far from the facts.

Another is one that **Andy Flanagan** is preparing from the

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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 WILL BE IN THE MAIL SOON**

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

\*\*\*\*

diary that his father, Andrew wrote while a POW. Andy, the son, and I have been in consultation and he has visited me twice to get more information on life in the prison camps. **Paul Dallain** has also been of help to Andy, more than I can be, because he and Andrew shared time in camps in Japan.

**Radio broadcasts from Japan.**

During our captivity some radio messages were permitted under the auspices of the Red Cross. These messages, made by the POWs, sent greetings to loved ones and mentioned names of fellow inmates.

Several kind souls on the west coast recorded some of these messages on shellac-coated cardboard discs, probably the best way to do it in those days, and contacted relatives of prisoners- of-war all over North America at some considerable effort and cost to themselves.

**Charlie Campbell's** mother received one such recording which is still in the possession of his son, Russell. Another was sent to **Joe Frenette's** family in New Brunswick. That one has recently surfaced and is available for listening. Emmie Flanagan will be able to direct you to the source.

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

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***Veterans Affairs to change VIP payment process.***

You will have probably heard by now that VAC will be paying for the Veterans Independent Living program on a semi-annual basis. Veterans, and qualified widows, will no longer have to submit monthly forms for reimbursement. Their reason was that this will speed up the process and eliminate paperwork. This will also reduce costs, which is a major focus of the government. Our association's concern is that if any funds are removed from VAC's budget, the services provided to our veterans not be jeopardized in any way. This new system is one way the government is maintaining veteran's benefits.

By and large, the veterans that I have contacted feel this is a good move, but two concerns have

been expressed. First, VAC has asked the vets to keep their receipts as random, spot audits may be conducted. Second, some veterans have service providers that fill out the forms and the cheques are mailed directly to the provider. This would require the veteran to pay the provider each month. In an attempt to resolve these issues, I approached three of our major banks to ensure the following option be feasible.

One suggestion is to set up a separate bank account into which the VIP payment would be deposited. The veteran, or his authorized agent, could simply write a cheque on this account, for the services rendered in like fashion to the existing procedure. For those service providers that currently deal with the VIP forms on behalf of the veteran, the bank could be authorized to make a monthly payment to the provider. The veteran would not have to do anything different than presently required. As to the worry about keeping receipts, this is unnecessary because the bank can, upon request, print out a record of all transactions from this account.

We will be pleased to help any veteran/widow who wishes assistance to get this set up. Simply telephone any member of your Region executive or contact us through our web site, and we will ensure you receive the assistance needed.

When applying for new or addition VIP services, the process remains the same. Please contact your local VAC District office.

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***Membership Status***

Region	R	V	W	Total
Atl	63	5	4	72
BC	71	5	38	114
Prairie	229	12	58	299
ON	150	12	45	207
QC	65	10	44	119
Total	578	44	189	811

Legend:

V: Veteran W: Widow R: Regular

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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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***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***

**John Joseph Lowe**, RRC, died December 21, 2012

**Lloyd W. O'Leary**, RRC died January 12, 2012

**HKVCA**

**Betty Waldenberger**, widow of Aubrey Flegg, died October 26, 2012.

**Eva LeBuffe Robertson**, widow of Francis Robertson, died le 11 décembre 2012

**Ruth Gagnon Campbelton**, wife of Edward "Eddy" Campbelton, RRC, died January 6, 2013

**Florence Longeway Hawke**, widow of William "Bill" Hawke, RRC, died January 10, 2013

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**Grant Garneau**, author of the book *The Royal Rifles of Canada* in Hong Kong passed away in Fredericton, NB on January 29, 2013.

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

***We will remember them!***

††††

***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); granddaughter of Stewart Henderson and niece of Ken Muir, both RRC.

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

#### **BC Banter**

We express greetings to our Hong Kong Veterans, widows, HKVCA members and friends from the BC Region. A mild winter in southern BC is resulting in an early spring on the coast. This is in contrast to what has been a very cold winter in northern BC in areas like Fort Nelson where **Sylvia Wiebe** lives.

We are discussing plans for our annual spring meetings and luncheons which will occur in Victoria and Vancouver this June on different weekends. A letter will be mailed out to our regional members in April with the details. The information will also be posted on our website and we extend an invitation to any out of province members to attend.

We would like to recognize a few new members who have recently joined the HKVCA. **Sonny Fung** writes, *"For years I just wanted to show my gratitude for what the HKV had done and for all of your sacrifices in HK, but I didn't know how to contact your group specifically. So this year when I managed to find your website, I decided to send a token of appreciation to all the HKV. I am delighted to have a membership with the HKVCA."*

*I was born in Hong Kong in 1950 and grew up in Happy Valley (the race track area) so Wong Nei Chong and Tai Tam Gaps are familiar to me. I never take for granted the freedom I enjoy every day. My dad and I always took Remembrance Day seriously. Our old home was next to the Imperial Japanese Army depot and back*

*then had the markings of P-38 strafing holes and 50mm shells".*

Welcome also to **Robert and Ron St. Germaine** whose father **Thomas Edward St. Germaine** (d) served with "D" Coy of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Robert and Ron join their brothers **Barry** and **Raymond** as members. The **St. Germaine Family** is certainly well represented. **Denis Corbett**, son of **Claude Corbett (d) WG**, has also recently joined. Claude was a good friend of mine and I miss sitting and chatting with him at the Legion in Maple Ridge.

Thank you to those members who have kept their memberships current. I encourage those of you who haven't renewed yet to submit your \$20.00 annual dues payable to the **HKVCA c/o Murray Doull, 20368 Kent Street, Maple Ridge BC V2X 1A6**. We need your support to keep our association strong and vibrant. If you have moved, please advise us with your new contact information. Thank you.

On December 12, 2012, a Veterans Affairs Commendation Ceremony took place in Vancouver in the Portofino Ballroom in the Executive Hotel on Howe Street. The Honourable Minister of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Steven Blaney, presented **Mr. Gerry Gerrard** (HK vet, RCCS) and **Mr. Lee Naylor** (BC Region Director HKVCA and Education Chair) with the prestigious Veterans Affairs Commendation. They received this award for their many years of service volunteering in honour of our veterans through Legion activities, education and for helping veterans, widows and seniors.



Gerry was accompanied by his daughter and son in law, **Bev** and **Eric Campbell**. Lee was accompanied by his wife **Sherry** and his mother, **June Naylor**. On behalf of all of us in the HKVCA I would like to offer congratulations and appreciation to Gerry, Lee and

their families. Thank you for your dedication and service to our veterans.

**Ron and Linda Quesnel, Lee Naylor and Murray and Lucy Doull** attended a Celebration of Life on January 11, 2013 held in Surrey with the **Lowe Family and friends** in loving memory of **John Lowe (RRC)** who passed away on December 21, 2012. John was a very special man whose mischievous smile remains fresh in my memory. He was a wonderful husband to his wife **Florence** and is dearly missed by his children and grandchildren. Rest in peace John and know that you will always be remembered.

We wish special congratulations to **Bill and Claire Doull** who will be celebrating their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 6.

In closing, we express our appreciation to the Prairie Region for the hard work they have been doing to ensure a memorable reunion this August in Winnipeg. *This report is submitted by Murray Doull on behalf of the BC Region.*

### **Prairie Prose**

At this time the Convention Committee is busy putting together the registration package which will be going out to all members very shortly. 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 also hope that the Convention will draw educators and students to learn more about the Battle of Hong Kong story and the Canadians that were sent there with their unique circumstances which should not be forgotten.



***Diamond Jubilee Candlelight Service at Brookside last June.***

The **Ladies Tea and Tidbits** will be held **Saturday,**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> at St James Legion at 1 pm** – we hope many of the ladies will come out and visit.

Our Region will be participating in the Red River Heritage Fair at the University of Winnipeg with a display and judging students dioramas relating to WWII and presenting awards for the winning students.

**The next monthly Prairie Region meetings are April 10, May 09 and June 13, 2013 and the Colour Party will be attending the Decoration Day Parade in Winnipeg at the Cenotaph Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

Ralph MacLean sent a letter to the school in Hong Kong thanking the students for the cards the veterans received at Christmas time. Here is the letter that was his reply –

*Dear Mr. Maclean,*

*Thank you so much for your letter. We received your letter on 19th January 2013. After I read your letter, I made several copies to our five classes of grade 2 homeroom teachers. So they can read it to their students and post it up to their display board for the students to re-read again and copy the address to reply you. I met Asha's parent that morning and made a separate copy of your letter to her. The family is so delighted to know you. Our vice principal Mrs. Nutting knows about grade 2 students receive your letter, she is so happy for us.*

*Thank you so much for your sacrifice during the wartime. We can never thank you enough. We just hope there is no war in the world and less suffering. I also want to thank you for your letter and to introduce yourself to our students. You make the whole school Remembrance service project real and alive.*

*May I also introduce myself to you. I am a Chinese. I have been teaching music in Canadian International School of Hong Kong for 17 years. I have been working in educational field over 27 years. I am living with my husband and two daughters.*

*Both girls are studying in my school. They are in grade 12 and 10, age 17+ and 15+. They both learn music instruments: piano, flute and clarinet. My*

*husband is a Chinese and he is a secondary Chinese and history teacher. My mother is already 82 years old.*

*'It is not cold in HongKong. Each day is around 17°C - 23°C. We are celebrating Chinese New Year this week in school. We had flower fair and will have New Year shows. Students bought flowers and played games in the fair. They will be led by Chinese teachers to perform on stage this coming Friday. Then we will be on holiday for 9 days.*

*Before I stepped down as a class assistant teacher, I was the music teacher in lower school and the choir director in Canadian International School of Hong Kong over 14 years. Every year I led one or two choirs to sing for the Remembrance Service arranged by Canadian Consulate in Sai Wan War Cemetery on the first Sunday of December. I met quite a few veterans and three different Canadian Prime Ministers. I remember one year, our choir was singing "In Flanders Fields", a grade 3 boy, only 8 eight years old, was tearing when we sang to the touching lyric.*

*But he continued to sing and finished the song with deep emotion and expression. I was also being touched by the solemn but tuneful music, and the imaginative scenes created by the poem. Here is the poem by McCrae, a Canadian.*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, ow on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
All the best! Keep warm!  
Beatrice Cheung, Ex-Choir director  
Class assistant. Canadian  
International School of Hong  
Kong.*

Best wishes from the Prairie Region to all for a wonderful Easter and look for the registration package out soon.

### **Ontario Offerings**

Education Committee members continue to be active in terms of displays of HKVCA materials around the province. As noted in our last Newsletter, Ian Doull and

Ted Terry were involved in the Parliamentary Resource Fair in Ottawa on Nov. 6th, and the three daughters of Augustin Cyr, RRC, Linda Guglick, Sandra Strom, and Jackie LeDrew managed the display table at the OHASSTA Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Nov. 23rd and 24th. The third event was postponed because of labour strife in the Education area in the province. We are pleased to report that the third event just mentioned, which was intended for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Curriculum Leaders Professional Development Day was finally rescheduled. With Linda Guglick, and Bud and Ruth Mann in charge, it took place on February 15th. It was quite a success and involved a display of our HKVCA materials, and our 3 Banners. The result was that a number of those taking part, representing various Toronto High Schools, requested that our Display Team go to several of their schools. We hope to follow up on those requests in the near future.

What we are now noticing in our contacts with the many teachers we have met in the last few months is that many more are somewhat familiar with the Battle of Hong Kong, and want to be able to spend more time in class relative to the plight of the POWs and the ramifications for their families as well as the Battle itself. We plan to expand our display to make even more information accessible to the teachers we hope to reach, and to the general public.

The **HKVCA Cross-Canada Writing Contest** is in full swing at this time, and we expect to see our entries begin to come in from the end of March right up to the May 24th deadline. Some time in the near future we'd like to see this project considered by the HKVCA Board of Directors as a National Contest, which, because it already reaches all ten provinces and three territories, is the actual

fact of the matter. Hopefully, that recognition would translate into some monetary assistance at the National level.

We are still looking for members to get involved with the Writing Project, in Ontario, and elsewhere, and we hope you'll be among them. It's a very special opportunity to connect with Canadian youth, and to help them understand and become aware of the legacy that has been left on their behalf by the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong. By all means, if you'd like to become involved get in touch with Mike Babin at [msbabin@gmail.com](mailto:msbabin@gmail.com) or Pat Turcotte at [petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca). Pat Turcotte, Chair, Education Committee, Ontario Region  
**Spring greetings from West Central!**

The only real news to report is that I've started scoping out spots for our area luncheon at the end of May/beginning of June. My target is one of the numerous wineries here in Niagara but so far I haven't found one reasonable enough! West Central members, watch for your invitations in the mail or on your email. If anyone out of our area wishes to attend, you are more than welcome. Feel free to contact me in early May for the details.

**West Central Area Rep**  
**Pam Newhouse, 905 945 4125 or**  
[pamnewhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:pamnewhouse@hotmail.com)

### **Quebec Quotes**

- Lucette Mailloux Muir  
Quebec Regional Director

Greetings from Quebec Region on a mild day with a light snow falling.

Spring is on our doorstep with the smell of maple syrup and sugar in the air.

Quebec has been back to work planning for the coming year. We recently held our first formal Executive meeting for 2013. Events are on the board. Recently talked with some Veterans and Widows and the winter months are a bit more difficult as the years go by but they are positive. We have

had short stays in hospital for different ailments and some have moved into residences where they can receive extra special care needed to make their lives more enjoyable without the worries of a house to take care of.

Since our last newsletter Quebec recently lost Eva LeBuffe Robertson widow of Francis Robertson RRC and Ruth Gagnon Campbelton wife of Edward Campbelton RRC. We will remember them!

We continue to keep our members informed on regular basis. Unfortunately we do lose a few members yearly. Contacts are made, when possible, and try to keep the interest and memory alive.

Many members are talking about the upcoming National Convention and at this time it is looking good for representation from Quebec.

Looking forward to meeting you all. That will be it for this time and take good care of each other.

### **Eastern Breezes**

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director

Greetings to all from the East Coast where there is still lots of snow, but the birds are singing as though it were spring. In this issue I would like to introduce to you one of our HKVCA members, whose father (Hong Kong Veteran), Joseph Frenette was originally from the Belledune area. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, Mona Thornton.

The following information is from Mona –

Over the past several years I have been sorting, cataloguing and copying all the memorabilia my parents, Joseph and Ruth Frenette, kept during my father's years as a POW of the Japanese from December, 1941 until August, 1945. This consists of written (almost daily) journals kept by my Dad while a prisoner, letters he received from home and the few he was able to send to us, any information sent to my mother from Canadian sources plus many messages received by Mum from shortwave/ham radio operators/listeners from many US states.

The messages took the form of hand-written notes, post cards and full page letters. Also

sent were phonograph records--a smaller version of the old 78 rpms and two smaller ones which were made of paper with a heavy coating of what appears to be shellac or a similar substance. There does not appear to be much known about these recordings and just recently there has been much interest generated here in Penticton--an hour-long broadcast produced by a local community radio station, interviews on the Kelowna Internet News program and the Penticton/Kelowna CBC internet news. Combined with these, a community radio station member and I have co-presented a noon time Brown Bag talk at the Penticton Museum as part of their regular weekly programs.

As a bit of background, my parents were both from northern New Brunswick. Dad, Joseph Charles Frenette, was born in Jacquette River and had been a school teacher for a few years before WWII. He joined the Royal Rifles of Canada in 1940 and in 1941 was sent to Hong Kong as part of "C" Force along with the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

My mother, Ruth (Keirstead) Frenette, was born in Glen Coe and with me, as a little girl, spent the war years in northern New Brunswick. For a lot of that time she did not have any information about my father's fate (it was almost 1 year after his capture that that was confirmed) and most any other information she received came from the messages relayed to her via dedicated short wave radio listeners.

Getting back to the phonograph records, Peach City Community Radio did a series of weekly broadcasts from our Museum in 2011 as part of a Communications exhibit and I wondered if anyone in their society knew whether something could be retrieved from the recordings. I knew that my father had recorded a couple of messages on them (the others were read by Radio Tokyo announcers) and after decades it would be great to hear my father's voice again!

Things got delayed for a while but last fall I contacted Peach City Radio again and they were most interested and agreed to take

on the task of finding a possible way to recover the voices. Luckily, they were able to find someone locally who performed 'magic' and I now have a CD with my father's voice and the other messages!

Following is an example of one of the messages sent to Mum:

**October 30th, 1943**

***To the kin of Joseph Charles Frenette, Restigouche County, New Brunswick, Canada  
Dear Friend--This evening from Radio Tokyo, Japan the English announcer read a message from Joseph Charles Frenette, age 31, Royal Rifles of Canada. It said he is a POW at a camp near Yokohama.***

***It said "Dearest wife and baby. I hope these words reach you via radio. I am in good health and hope you are same. I was sure glad to receive a letter from you and it was my happiest day since being taken prisoner. All my sincerest love to you and Mona. Your loving husband, Joseph."***

***The above is not exact text, but it is the best I could gather. I trust this information will be of value to you and hope your brave loved one keeps well and is returned safely to you.***

***Respectfully yours, -----  
POW shortwave relay listener,  
Oberlin, Pennsylvania***

There were many similar messages sent, especially in 1943/44 and the listeners did this voluntarily, spent hours of their own time tracing POW families, spending their own money for postage, paper, etc. They would ask for a small donation (if it was possible) toward postage to send other messages on to other families and that donation would be acknowledged to another family.

The HKVCA has posted the broadcast on their web site and have been most generous with their praise. I believe that as much information as possible must be preserved for the future and I am including a letter I received from the young lady who graciously read the above message on the radio broadcast.

She is the teenage daughter of Craig Henderson (Peach City Radio Society Vice President) who produced the broadcast and as I told her, it is responses like hers

that make all the efforts worthwhile! She has given me permission to share her letter with whomever I choose:

"Firstly, I'd like to thank you sincerely for the letter you wrote me thanking me for doing the voice of the shortwave radio listener on the radio program. Because of my keen interest in history and human rights, it was important to learn about your father's story a little more.

Yesterday (Feb 22, 2013) in Social Studies class, we learned a bit about the battle of Hong Kong in 1941, which I realized your father was involved in. My teacher said that of all the Canadians sent to Hong Kong, every one of them was either killed or captured by the Japanese. I was astounded.

I just wanted to let you know that because of your telling of your father's incredible story, it opened my eyes to what was going on in the Pacific part of the world at that time, and that lots of people seem to forget that. It also gave me hope because so many people in the United States and Canada banded together to ease one another's worries about their loved ones on the other side of the ocean. All of that through the power of radio.

In Social Studies, we're also doing a project. One of the subjects to choose from is "Life inside a prison camp." Now, I feel my teacher meant German or Austrian camps at that time, but I'll surprise him by mentioning this lesser known, albeit interesting, part of the war.

Thank you again for telling your story. I know it has brought me insight to violations of human rights and the emotional connections involved in history. Your story made history real for me."

In September, 2012 my brother and I were privileged to attend the HKVCA Reunion in Belledune, New Brunswick (the area where my father was born) and we were so pleased to meet some Hong Kong veterans, some of their families and many other people from the area. We even discovered some long lost relatives!!

My original plan was to simply compile the memorabilia I have as a collection for our family but it

has now 'taken on a life of its own' and gone off in various directions. Eventually my brother and I want the originals to be preserved in a secure but accessible area in the hope that future generations can learn about a rather little-known aspect of WWII and the men we consider heroes of that time in our history.

Respectfully submitted Mona Thornton--daughter of Joseph and Ruth Frenette.

Me again Emmy--I hope this isn't too long-winded!! It's a long part of the story to tell. Feel free to edit it if necessary.

I will be in touch with you again soon  
All my best wishes      Mona

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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
- **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

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**ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

It is time to elect the Executive Committee once again. You will remember that the term of office is two years and that a person may stand for the office for two consecutive terms. The five positions of this Committee are: **President; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Secretary; and Treasurer.**

However, I am proposing a change to our By-Laws that will allow the Board of directors to appoint the Treasurer. My proposal, and the reason for it, is as follows:

**Proposal:** To change article 08 of the Corporate By-Laws dealing with the election of Presiding Officers to change the position of Treasurer from an elected position to that of an appointed position as a responsibility of the Board of Directors in accordance with article 10.

**Background:** The responsibilities of the Corporate Treasurer are significantly greater than the simpler functions of the Region Treasurers. The latter are principally concerned with basic General Ledger functions and the maintenance of a single bank account. As a Charitable organization, there are complex reports and money management not present at the Region level. Additionally the corporate financial transactions must be audited by an external Auditor, thus demanding close and competent communications with this body.

Additionally, our By-Laws demand that all elected individuals be members of our association. The number of qualified individuals (accountants) in the existing membership is very sparse, and to date, none with the exception of our present Treasurer, have accepted nominations for this position.

Also, the Board has been forced to appoint a Treasurer every second term for the past ten years. This By-Law change will ensure that the finances and reporting of our corporation thus removing any mismanagement issues. The CRA has increased conducting financial audits and we must ensure the protection of our Board of Directors especially since we do not carry any Liability insurance.

**Precedent:** In an attempt to find validation for my proposal, I contacted the Canadian Legion, NCVA, the Army/Navy Association, and the Rotary Club (I have contacts in these organizations). The first three do exactly as I propose at their National level. The Rotary Club does elect their Treasurer, but they have many resources to select from, and additionally their Executive have no mandatory term length so a person can remain in the position as long as the individual is willing to serve and they are elected annually.

It follows that we are following, rather than setting a trend.

**Motion:** Whereas the financial responsibilities of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (hereafter called the 'corporation') have significantly increased in complexity, and

Whereas the position of Treasurer now demands an individual professionally qualified to comply with the demands mentioned above, and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to ensure the financial probity of the corporation is in compliance with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and corporate policies and procedures, and

Whereas past elections have failed to have nominations submitted for this position, and the Board of Directors have been forced to appoint a Treasurer for the normal term of two years (By-Law article 10),

It is Moved the corporate By-Laws be modified to remove the position of Treasurer from a Presiding Officer status, but to remain as a member of the Executive Committee 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.

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The Board of Directors have discussed this and are in agreement with the proposal.

If you are in agreement, please so indicate on the Nomination form attached to this newsletter.

Although all positions are open, our current **President, Carol Hadley; our Secretary, Jim Trick, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Emmie Flanagan**, have completed the first term only and thus are eligible for re-election. As we deliberate on this issue, I encourage you to think about the value of placing the next generation on our Board. Some of us are getting “long in the tooth” and the time is rapidly coming when we, like our vets, must pass the torch. New blood always has value, and getting one or two younger members on the Board will ensure continuity of performance and service to our HK veterans and widows.

**Remember, without a Board we cannot continue to exist as an organization.**

Please do not nominate someone without first speaking with them. Should they wish more information about what is involved, I will be available to speak with them (613-601-5033) or they may contact me by e-mail ([derrill@sympatico.ca](mailto:derrill@sympatico.ca)).

Please return the attached nomination form by May 15<sup>th</sup>. This will provide enough time to update a biography to be included along with the election ballot in the next newsletter. The result of the election will be announced at our convention to be held in Winnipeg, MB this August.

**Executive Committee Nomination form 2013**

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Please complete and return:

By mail: H.K.V.C.A., Suite #164, 1861 Robertson Road, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9

By E-mail: [derrill@sympatico.ca](mailto:derrill@sympatico.ca)

Submit nominations for one or more positions, but only one nomination per position:

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Position of President.

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Position of 1st Vice-President

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Position of 2nd Vice-President

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Position of Secretary

**Please choose either or the following:**

I support and vote in favour of the proposal for an appointed Treasurer  OR

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for the Position of Treasurer

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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