



Of Special Interest

BC Region - November 13th, 2008, at 8:30 p.m.,
Victoria Genealogy Society. held at the Gordon
Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Ave.,
Victoria, BC

Manitoba Region – HKVA Reunion, October 25,
2008 at Holiday Inn Airport West - Lunches &
meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at
St. James Legion, noon – accessible. – Ladies
Tea & Tidbits December 13, 1 p.m.

Ontario Region – Lunch meetings:
Peterborough – Saturday, October 4,
2008 at noon, Maureen Kline - 613 392-
4334
London - Saturday, October 18 at noon,
Barbara Drew - 519 676-7348
Sudbury - Wednesday, October 22 at
4pm, Jackie Le Drew - 705 855-0705
Burlington - Saturday, October 25 at
noon, Leon Sokalski - 905 525-6922
Toronto Area - Saturday, November 1 at
noon, Roy Sullivan - 905 837-5680
Ottawa - Saturday, November 8 at noon,
Ron McGuire & Mitzi Ross - 613 225-
5105 (Mitzi)

National Biennial Convention – Ottawa
August 2009 – unveiling the Memorial
Wall

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Memorial Wall- Phase 1 complete!

Congratulations! We are
have reached our Phase 1 financial
goal of \$100,000.

The building of our
Memorial Wall will encompass
three phases and our fund raising
activities will reflect these steps,
which are necessary for a project of
this size. First, we estimate that the
value of the actual wall itself,
material and labour, will cost about
\$100,000 and our initial objective
has now been reached to cover that
amount. The second challenge is to
conduct the various studies which
are necessary to erect a monument
in the heart of a major city and we
must address the costs of
environment studies, foundation
analysis, design configurations, and
so on. This could cost us another
\$20,000 and must be completed
before building permits can be
issued. Finally, there are other
considerations that we might want
to address once the wall is built,
such as a statue of Gander, benches
for viewing, perimeter lighting and
so on. We are allowing another
\$30,000 for a third phase to
accommodate these items.

We have the help of some
wonderful people who will donate
their expertise or donate to the
project, like **Jim Lennox**,
Landscape Architect, a structural
civil engineer, **Rick Cuniffe**, and a
geotechnical engineering company,
DST Consulting Engineering. A
graphics expert in Winnipeg,
Lauren Heinrichs, granddaughter
of **Ferd Poitras**, is reviewing the
type of font and the alignment on
the wall.

There are still changes being
made to the contract but we hope it
will be signed soon. There have
been some delays with vacation
time but it is hoped that activity will
move quicker now.

Thank you all for your
support and prayers, this will ensure
our project's success.

- Memorial Wall Committee

Last Post

Robert Arnold Parker, H-6690,
WG, died on October 10, 2007
Anthony Frank Grimston,
K35476, RCCS, died June 20, 2008
Joe Michalkow, L41354, WG, died
June 19, 2008
Clifford McDavid, E30447, RRC,
died August 3, 2008
Johannes (John) Joseph Van
Baalan, H41813, WG died on
August 20, 2008
Ross C. Purse, H-6411, WG, died
on August 31 2008
James Mitchell, B31782, RCCS,
died July 16, 2008

HKVCA

Nora Royal, widow of Capt Allan
W.B. Royal, RRC, died May 12,
2008

Madeleine Gaudreau Tupper,
widow of William G.J. Tupper,
RRC died June 19, 2008

Wilma Thom, widow of James
Murray Thom, H6104, WG, died
August 21, 2008.

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

We will remember them.

Last Post – Jim Trick

A few months ago
HKVCA created a new service on
our web site called "Last Post". We
are attempting to document the
post-war deaths of our veterans
using resources such as the family,
media and notices from Veterans
Affairs. One of the resources that
has proved critical to this service is
a database created by Vince Lopata,
one of our members from
Manitoba.

Over the years there have
been deaths of which we may be
unaware, so please assist us by

visiting our home page at: <http://www.hkvca.ca> and checking the Last Post listing on the right of the page. Deaths that occurred within the past three months are listed on the home page, while our archives contain the remainder. You can save time by entering a name in our Google Search tool.

If you find our records are inaccurate, or you wish to send an obituary, please let us know by dropping an email to: hkvca@shaw.ca.

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

Except for it being a very wet summer, I have little to report outside that I have spent a great deal of time on the Monument Wall project. Since our Project Leader, Carol Hadley, has reported on this subject a little further on, I will not repeat anything here.

I did have the opportunity to attend the very moving remembrance ceremony held by the Quebec region in August. The protocol is impressive and well executed. One cannot watch it without being moved by the emotions it evokes and by the memories it brings to the surface.

One thing that I must mention is that the biennial Convention will be held in Ottawa next year. Given that the dedication of the Wall will be the focal point, we do not intend to arrange any activities outside of those focussed on the wall itself.

Normally, it is the responsibility of the HKVCA Region to act as host for any convention within their area of responsibility, but since the Ontario Region just went through a convention in 2005, it is not fair to expect them to do it again so soon. A small committee of our members will ensure that all our requirements are met, although the actual dedication ceremony will primarily be under the direction of Veterans Affairs with input from the National Capital Commission. Meetings are scheduled for later this month to identify exactly who does what. Needless to say, given the importance of this to our nation, it will be a widely publicized event. It is expected that those HK veterans that are able to attend will get a lot

of media coverage, so care must be given not to tire them to the detriment of their health.

Updates will be given to the regions on a regular basis. Please check our Web page for this information. More details will appear in future newsletters.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Hello again, and greetings to all from my cluttered corner where so many small projects are in various stages of completion.

Here we have had a rainy summer, as did most of Eastern Canada. Now the weather is cooling off, the leaves will soon be changing colour, and we'll be headed into another winter. Brrrr!

Photo Album - Recently I received from Jim MacMillan, some old newspaper clippings and a precious photograph album, which he had compiled when the Regiment was stationed in Newfoundland in 1940-41. The album contains individual b&w photos of every member of "A" Coy, some of whom incidentally did not go to Hong Kong.

I am in the process of scanning the photos and will burn cds, mainly to give one to Jim, but will have them on hand for anyone who may be interested.

The original album and the news clippings will go into the Military Museum.

Reunions - The Quebec Region reunion took place in Granby at the usual hotel, "Le Castel". Lucette and Marcel as usual, put on a fine show, including a cholesterol inducing meal at the sugar camp. Great meal! great entertainment!

Five of us HK vets were there, Eric and Austin Batley, Dempsey Syvret, Paul Dallain and yours truly. We were presented with a beautiful jewel case in which to place our medals, and each had the individual's name and regimental number on a brass plaque affixed to the cover.

On September 5 and 6, the Atlantic Region will be holding their annual get-together in Florenceville, New Brunswick. I plan to attend and will report on that meeting in a future newsletter.

Books - I can't let this opportunity go by without reporting on yet another book about the Far East. This one is "The Jack Ford Story" by Jack Fitzgerald. It is based on a series of interviews with Jack Ford, a Newfoundlander who joined the RAF in the early years of World War II, and was captured by the Japanese at Singapore.

Jack's memory is remarkable, when we consider that the interviews took place in 2006 and 2007, sixty plus years after the war, but, on the other hand, those atrocities are burned into our memories and will never be forgotten.

Jack witnessed, or should I say, experienced the dropping of the plutonium bomb at Nagasaki, because, by his account, he fortunately had his back turned to the blast. Thus, in all probability, his eyesight was saved, because the camp he was in, Fukuoka #2, was at seven kilometres from ground zero. It is also a miracle that he suffered only minor cancer illness as a result of radiation.

His accounts of the atrocities that he witnessed and endured parallel those of other stories from prison camps in Japan and throughout the Far East.

Jack is now eighty-seven and is living in Saint John's, Newfoundland.

The book is available at Chapters-Indigo, where I purchased it for less than \$30.00 delivered.

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

Apple for the Teacher

Manitoba Education Committee Report - Carol Hadley, Chair

Patricia Bale and I will be attending the SAG teacher's conference at the end of November with a display and workshops for teachers.

MB museum has digitized the interviews that were done with several HK vets. We are hoping that we might be able to share this information on our website. Pam Heinrichs will be investigating this possibility.

The University of Winnipeg has many World War II items archived and we will be reviewing this material to see if there are

resources that might be used on our website.

Ontario Education Committee Report - Pat Turcotte, Chair

There have been a number of rather exciting developments in the Ontario Region.

We learned that there would be a special seminar on September 23rd at the University of Toronto's Robarts Library in which our Executive was asked to participate. The event marks the official opening of the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library in the Robarts building. The new library's mandate relates to all aspects of the relationship between Hong Kong and Canada, but the Director, Dr. Jack Leong, was quick to suggest that because of the role Canadian soldiers played in Hong Kong it would be important for our organization to play a role in the seminar itself.

There will be two groups of speakers, three in the first group and three in the second. Each speaker will have 15 minutes, and there will be time for questions following his or her presentation. The first group will consist of George MacDonell, "Flash" Clayton and Sen. Vivienne Poy. After a short break the second group will continue the dialogue. The second group will involve Jessica Li, Postdoctoral Fellow at York University, Bernard Luk, Professor at that same University, and Stanley Kwan who has written a book titled "My Home and My Country: Memoirs of an Old Hongkongan". The final discussion will be chaired by Tong Lam, Professor of History at U. of T.

Ken Skelton will be providing a special display related to the role of the Canadians in the Battle of Hong Kong, and our Education Committee will have a display table as well, where guests will have an opportunity to purchase our Ten Lessons in English or French, as well as George MacDonell's "One Soldier's Story" and Bernard Castonguay's "Prisonnier de guerre au Japon (1941-1945)".

The event will undoubtedly provide much information. There is no admission charge, and anyone is welcome to join us at 10 a.m. on the 8th Floor of the Robarts Library.

Our Committee met just recently in the company of two individuals who want to work with us on several projects. The first person, Alyssa Wong, is employed by Toronto ALPHA, and is involved with several programs that would be of interest to us. One in particular relates to our veterans, and another to the Resource Guide, which their organization has been able to promote in the High Schools of Ontario.

We have also agreed to provide a workshop on November 1st for an ALPHA Conference being held in Toronto from October 31st to November 2nd. Our second guest is a new member of HKVCA Ontario Region by the name of Sandy Madar. He is particularly interested in strengthening our relationship with the Chinese-Canadian community, and has some interesting proposals.

As we do each year, we'll be taking part in OHASSTA, the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Convention on November 7th and 8th. We will need volunteers to assist us for each of the two days, starting as early as 8 a.m., and going right through to 5 p.m. Give us a hand if you can! We have also accepted an invitation to be involved in the Durham History Teachers' Association's student conference entitled "Highlights of History" on December 16th and 17th, 2008. This event also involves our being present two days. We encourage members in Ontario who have an interest in spreading the word about the Hong Kong story to get in touch with us.

Members of the Executive and the Education Committee have had a first look at the Multimedia/Seminar material being prepared by Sue Beard, and are quite impressed. A final version should be available in the near future.

Pat has updated the Cross Canada Essay Contest information on the HKVCA Website. Committee members will be working to encourage teachers to involve their students in the contest. The Essay Contest will be part of all future Workshop presentations.

Letters prepared by Nick Brune regarding possible workshops in the Fall have been sent to several

Faculties of Education and other post-Secondary institutions, as well as a number of High School Boards. A follow-up will be initiated near the end of August. Articles are also being prepared for the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) and the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) to increase awareness of our Association and our workshops.

We're pleased to announce that Nick Brune has agreed to act as Co-Chair of the Education Committee of Ontario Region. We much appreciate his continuing commitment.

Remembrances

In HKVCA we believe that each Hong Kong veteran has a unique and important story to tell, as do the veterans' families. For most of us, the mechanics of actually structuring and publishing this story seem to be complex and overwhelming, yet to leave it undone doesn't seem right either. To help families out, HKVCA is providing a new service designed to assist those who wish to publish a veteran's story. The word 'story' is used very generally here - it might include wartime experiences, post-war life, family anecdotes, along with images.

We are now unveiling this new service on our main HKVCA web site. On the pages there you'll find all the information you need from structuring the text, page layout, best way to include photos, and steps for actually publishing the story on the World Wide Web. We'll be providing expert advice courtesy of our HKVCA Web administrators. This service is a "work in progress", but you can get an idea of what is involved by visiting:

<http://www.hkvca.ca/remembrances/index.htm>.

HKVCA has a selfish reason for offering to help. Two of our goals are:

- Promoting the study of the Battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath in schools across Canada,
- Developing materials and training Association members to tell the "Hong Kong story" publicly.

Every story published is a valuable resource in our quest to educate the Canadian public and, therefore, helps us fulfill our goals. So, in a nutshell, HKVCA's role will be to provide the tools, technical guidance and, perhaps, venue for those families wishing to create an online memorial to their HK veteran (living or dead). Specific assistance we can offer would include:

- general assistance in detailing what is involved so that the family can decide whether to proceed
- limited research of historical data (Vince Lopata's database)
- links to examples
- guidance in where to locate the web site (HKVCA-hosted or not)
- domain registration
- authoring tools
- layout templates

Questions? Email us at: hkvca@shaw.ca

Across the Nation

BC Banter

- Linda Stewart, Regional Director

June, July and August 2008 have been busy and exciting months for the HKVCA in British Columbia.

We held our Spring Luncheon in Victoria on June 7th. There were three HK veterans in attendance: Gerry Gerrard (RCCS), Harry Gyselman (WG), and David Golden (WG). May Jakel (widow of Alton Jewers (RRC) and Vilma Sequeira (widow of Tony Sequeira HKVDC) were present. The District Director of Veterans Affairs Canada, Bridget Preston, was present and addressed our gathering. On June 21st we held our Vancouver Luncheon. The three HK vets that were in attendance were Gerry Gerrard (RCCS), John Lowe (RRC) and Bill Doull (RRC). Jan Solecki from the HKVDC attended. The HK widows in attendance were Pearl MacPherson (Don MacPherson, WG), Moira McCarthy (Jim McCarthy, WG), June Naylor (Howard Naylor Sr., RCCS), Loretta Baty (Arthur Baty, WG) and Eileen Cambon (Dr. Ken Cambon, RRC). Margie Rozario, widow of Cicero Rozario (HKVDC)

also joined us. The HK vets and widows were all well supported by many family members.

Our new Secretary, Bev Campbell, was invited to the podium and she was very warmly received.

Adrienne Alford-Burt, the new District Regional Director of Veterans Affairs Canada for the Vancouver area, accepted our invitation to speak. Guy Black, the Director for the "BC Day Salute to our Veterans" event at the Burnaby Village Museum, also accepted our invitation and informed our members about the BC Day tribute. Larry Wong, the curator for the Canadian Chinese Military Museum in Vancouver attended as an honoured guest.

British Columbia Region is proud to have made a major contribution to the new Teachers' Zone. With Graeme Stacey's permission, we passed his history curriculum materials over to be posted to our website.

On July 2nd I attended the Client Advisory Meeting held at the Veterans Affairs Canada offices in Victoria. Service officers from the local Legions, the naval base and various veterans groups attend it. A new item on the agenda allows one group to showcase their organization to the others. We were the inaugural group. I told them about the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada and how our Commemorative Association was formed and the Memorial Wall. They were very impressed.

August 4, 2008 was BC Day and marked the 150th birthday of the province of British Columbia. The BC Region of the HKVCA participated in the largest tribute to our veterans this year in BC. The event took place under sunny skies at the Burnaby Village Museum and was called, "BC Day Salute to our Veterans." There were thousands of people in attendance.

The picture below shows part of the



display with Lee on the left, Linda in the middle and Murray on the right.

HK vet, John Lowe, arrived with his wife Florence and their daughter Diane and Diane's children.



At 11:45 was the Parade of the Veterans led by the pipes and drums of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, the 78th Fraser Highlanders and the Vancouver Naval Veterans Association Colour Party. Gerry Gerrard and John Lowe assembled with the veterans prior to the Parade. Gerry was carrying the Hong Kong Veterans flag and was very honoured when the Colour Party asked him to join them with the HK Colours. The parade formed and was led in by the RCMP, the pipes and drums, the Colour Party and the veterans. It was a very moving parade and hundreds of participants were clapping and honouring the veterans as they passed.

The following pictures show Gerry carrying the Hong Kong veterans flag in the Colour Party and John marching with his fellow veterans.



We were grateful that Noreen Cambon brought her mother Eileen Cambon to our

display area. Eileen is the widow of Dr. Ken Cambon, RRC.

Thank you also to all the HKVCA members from the BC Region who participated and helped us in the display area. Your presence and support was greatly appreciated.

On November 13th, 2008, we will have another opportunity to use our new display. I have been invited to speak to the Victoria Genealogy Society. The meeting is open to the public. It will be held at the Gordon Head United Church Hall, 4201 Tyndall Ave., Victoria, BC. After their business meeting, at about 8:30 PM, I'll be introduced as the Speaker for the evening. Please attend if you can. We could use your support. Jim Trick, our National Secretary and webmaster will be giving a demonstration of our website.

So that's it from British Columbia for the moment. God bless you and keep you, until we meet again.

AB/SK Action

- Gail Richoz, Regional Director

It is now over 1 year since our AB/Sask Region hosted the HKVCA Convention in Calgary! We still have many fond and lasting memories of meeting Veterans, Widows, their families & friends from across the country. We truly look forward to next August 2009 when we can again reacquaint, and hopefully share in the dedication of the C Force Memorial Wall, representing an enduring and heartfelt tribute to our Veterans.

After a long summer break, we will be holding a fall luncheon, September 20, 2008, 11:30 – 2:30 at the Royal Canadian Legion Centennial Branch #285 - 9202 Horton Rd SW, Calgary (RSVP Norma Fuchs - 403-280-5680). We certainly would love to see as many Veterans, Widows and members (old and bring a few new) as possible for this event. At the luncheon an announcement will be made concerning a planned Donation from the members of the Ab/Sask Region - to Phase 2 of the C Force Memorial Wall.

We have had preliminary contact with the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary, in the hope of initiating some sort of display commemorating C Force in their

newly expanded facility. The Museum is currently planning a special exhibit in 2011, which is set to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the fall of Hong Kong. It will detail all aspects of Canadian involvement in the Far East. This project is in its infancy, but we are hopeful it will lead to something of a more permanent nature in our Region, and draw attention to contributions made by members of C Force during WWII.

Manitoba Moments

Manitoba Region annually observes VJ Day on the closest Sunday to August 15th at All Saints Church in Winnipeg with a service using the Protocol in honouring our veterans.

On August 17, 2008 the service began with George Peterson, President of Manitoba Branch of the HKVA bringing in the Colours with the Colour Party (Alex Taylor, Stan and Vince Lopata). There were about 50 people welcomed by George and Carol Hadley, Secretary (as Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director was out of town). Introductions of the 5 HK veterans



that were present was made; they were **George Peterson, Larry Stebbe, Bill Bell, Bob Lytle and Grant Shepherd** and the Manitoba Region executive; Stan & Vince Lopata, Deputy Directors, Barry Mitchell, Treasurer and Carol Hadley, Secretary.

A couple of our projects were highlighted; the Memorial Wall in Ottawa with an update to progress and the new tabletop display was available for all to see.

The Protocol service was lead by Carol with the assistance of Larry Stebbe, Pam Heinrichs and Vince Lopata with his computer coordinating the music. Barry Mitchell and Carol supplied the items for the table. The Honour Roll was read with the names of those who died from August 2007 – August 2008.

Following the service we enjoyed refreshments that were prepared by Juliet and served by Bonnie Wiebe and Linda Sloan. Vince Lopata did a very comprehensive powerpoint presentation on the Battle of Hong Kong as to the movement of the units over the 17 days of fighting. We are pleased to have pictures of the day provided by Dennis Bell.

Four times a year, we hold an event called "Tea & Tidbits" which is a luncheon for our lady members where we visit and talk about the experiences that our widows and wives of the HK vets experienced – the next ones, September 13, and December 13, 2008 when we expect 15 – 20 ladies to participate.

Bonnie Wiebe, our Communications person, who keeps in touch with our widows and veterans, has recently accepted a job in Alberta. We will miss her but wish her well in this new opportunity.

We kept in contact with some of our veterans this summer and hope they keep well. **George Taylor** celebrated his 88th birthday on September 8th; **George Coutts** was enjoying his summer; **Andy Poquet** is doing okay; **Tom Dewar** was getting out with his family and keeping up with things through the media; **Art Lousier** is now in Deer Lodge fully recovered from his fall; **Dick Wilson** also in Deer Lodge comes out to our lunches occasionally, **Harry Gyselman** keeps in touch through the internet and says "Hi" to all; **Bob Lytle** has good and bad days and comes out when he can; it was wonderful to see **George Peterson, Larry Stebbe, Bill Bell, Bob Lytle and Grant Shepherd** attend our VJ day.

The Hong Kong Veterans Manitoba Branch will be holding their **63rd Annual Reunion** on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Airport West in Winnipeg. The registration packages have been issued to all Manitoba members and if you wish to join us, the forms are on our website under Current Region News or contacting Carol Hadley, carol.Hadley@gmail.com or 204-837-6754.



A new item that we are adding to Barry's Emporium is this sand coloured golf shirt with our logo on the left. The shirt is available in men's or ladies CSA sizes. The region may be added if requested. The cost of this shirt is \$25.00 + shipping – here is the link <http://www.hkvca.ca/store/index.htm>. We also have information on a silk screen HKVA flag that we are in the process of finalizing. You may order all items at Barry's Emporium, **with cheques payable to HKVCA**, PO Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6.

To all our members who have celebrated special days, we wish you the best of health, luck and happiness and we like to hear from you often.

Ontario Offerings
- Mike Babin, Regional Director
Passing The Torch

The Ontario Branch of the HKVA has decided to wind up the HKVA in Ontario and hand its operation and assets over to the HKVCA, similar to what has previously been done in other provinces. The Veterans have recently voted on and passed two motions that accomplish this.

One motion was to dissolve the Ontario branch of the HKVA. The second motion was to hand over the financial assets of the branch to the HKVCA Ontario branch. This motion contained a proviso that up to \$20,000 of the monies be made available, if needed, to ensure construction of the Memorial Wall.

This ends a long chapter in the history of the HKVA in Ontario. The HKVCA salutes the Veterans and widows, both living and deceased, who were members of this terrific organization, and

thank them for their confidence in passing the torch to us.

Area Meetings

It has been some time since we've had a general meeting in Ontario - 2 years, to be exact - and it's time we had one! In the past we've always had one central general meeting. Recognizing that our members are spread across this vast province of Ontario and may find it difficult to travel a long distance for a meeting, we've decided to try something different in the hopes that more of you will be able to attend.

We are planning to hold a meeting in each of our 6 areas across the province. In consultation with your Area Reps we've chosen locations, which we hope will be relative easy for most of you to drive to.

With the exception of the Sudbury meeting, each one will be a luncheon held on a Saturday beginning at noon in a restaurant, and lasting for about two hours. For Sudbury only, the event will be held at the local racetrack and will be combined with dinner.

Peterborough – Saturday, October 4, 2008 at noon, Maureen Kline - 613 392-4334

London - Saturday, October 18 at noon, Barbara Drew - 519 676-7348

Sudbury - Wednesday, October 22 at 4pm, Jackie Le Drew - 705 855-0705

Burlington - Saturday, October 25 at noon, Leon Sokalski - 905 525-6922

Toronto Area - Saturday, November 1 at noon, Roy Sullivan - 905 837-5680

Ottawa - Saturday, November 8 at noon, Ron McGuire & Mitzi Ross - 613 225-5105 (Mitzi)

The idea is to give us all a chance to chat and get to know one another a little better. Although the Vets and widows for the most part are well known to one another, the same is not always true of other HKVCA members, particularly those of you who are newer to the association. There will be little in the way of formal content (speeches, etc.). Mostly we will have lunch, talk about our Veterans and stories of Hong Kong, and become better acquainted.

Everyone will be responsible to purchase his or her own lunch.

We don't expect the cost to be more than \$20 per person.

Your Area Rep will be in touch with you shortly to tell you the specifics, including the address where your meeting is to be held. You are welcome to attend more than one if you like! If you haven't heard from your Area Rep by two weeks before your meeting is scheduled, please phone him/her to get the information.

I plan to attend each meeting, as do other members of your Ontario executive. I hope to see lots of you! Mike Babin

South-West Ontario Report

Last Post: Mrs Grey Fair died Jan 13 of this year. Her husband misses her dearly. They were married almost 62 years.

Lorraine Lawlis made her yearly trip to the east coast to see her family and Hong Kong friends. She reports that Quebecers have a nice new museum dedicated to the many boys that went to war from the Gaspé coast.

Lawrence Ross is still thinking of the boys - loves the newsletter - and sends thanks to all.

Dorothy Sauson is going on vacation and will attend the Granby Quebec reunion.

Marilyn Morgan visited her mother Mrs Wilbur in New Brunswick.

Doris Hocking, sister to Edgar Smelts, travels widely. Her son lives in France.

Ruth Cunningham is helping supply news for a war display in Vancouver on medical and dental care given to the POWs in Hong Kong. Her granddaughter Lisa Drew often talks of her grandfather and the Canadian POWs on Kitchener Radio (CKGL 570 AM) and in her blogs.

Mrs Hazel Martin gave me some interesting details of her husband. When Douglas returned home from Hong Kong he weighed only 45 lbs on the stretcher and he could only speak like a mouse, a soft squeak, as he was so weak.

We would like to hear from anyone who has any contact information for Elizabeth Furlotte. She is the widow of the late Elisee Cote and was last known in the Galt area.

Please correct my telephone number, it should have been printed as 519-676-7348.

Thanks to our vets and widows for keeping in touch.
Barbara Cunningham-Drew
Central & South Eastern Ontario Area Report

Hello to all of you. I had a very pleasant conversation with Fred Cooper and his wife Delilah. Both are enjoying the summer, getting out and about as much as possible. Fred enjoys gardening. However, this year his tomato plants are about 5' tall (stretched out fully) and the tomatoes are just starting to ripen. When I spoke with Fred and Delilah they were enjoying a couple of games of shuffleboard with their grandson, his wife and the great-grandsons.

Flash and Jessie Clayton had a very busy September long weekend working with their local Legion at "Fun Day", raising \$4200.

Bruce and Rena Cadoret weren't able to travel as much this summer. Bruce has been having his fair share of medical problems, but he and Rena still get out and about whenever possible.

Fred Mason took a bad tumble just recently. You're not alone Fred. My Mom, Marjorie Dwyer, decided to bounce down 4 steps while rushing out to get to the hair dresser!! It turned out to be a bad sprain but stopped her from getting out for about a week.

Mom, Bob and I decided to take a short trip back in May. We went up to Casino Rama in Orillia to meet Flash and Jessie for lunch and have a long visit. It's always great spending time with them.

Well, that's about all for now. Hope you all had a great summer.
Maureen Dwyer-Kline

Honour Wreath Report

When the Honour Wreath project began, we were able to liaise with the local Legions and the families of our Veterans to have a wreath laid in memory of their loved one and all Hong Kong Veterans on Remembrance Day. Unfortunately, many other organizations also wanted to lay wreaths at this time and it became increasingly more difficult to fulfill this mandate. We have now launched a new program, which is working very well.

Here's how it works:

- Once the Association receives word of a Veteran's passing, contact is made with the family to confirm where and when a wreath should be delivered. Some families have found it meaningful to have it displayed at the Funeral, and others at the gravesite. This new process allows us much more flexibility in meeting the needs of each family.
- The Association takes care of all the details in delivering the wreath but we need your assistance. It is most important to have up to date contact information pertaining to each Veteran's family. Please contact us if there are any changes.

For more information, please contact me either by email vickyhedelius@hotmail.com or by phone 905 336 0292.

Sincerely, The Rev'd Vicky Hedelius, Honour Wreath Chair, (Daughter of Herb Fortune, Winnipeg Grenadiers)

Quebec Quotes

- Lucette Mailloux-Muir, Regional Director

Hope you all had a very nice and safe summer.

It is a pleasure to report on our recent event. We are, at this time, closing the books on our 2008 Reunion. Things went very well and the weather was fabulous. Five veterans, 5 widows, family members and friends of the Hong Kong Family were present for a total of 39 for the banquet dinner. We had visiting guests from Manitoba, Ontario as well as Quebec.

A joint-general meeting was held on Friday morning then enjoyed a "quebecois" dinner and entertainment. On Saturday morning 55 people were present for our Commemorative Ceremony. Philip Doddridge laid the HKVA wreath, Lucette M-Muir the HKVCA and Kathleen Hurd, widow of Lionel Hurd, the wreath for all widows. Veterans deposited small Canadian flags for their fallen comrades of QC Region deceased since we last met; John Russell deposited the flag for all RRC Veterans of other Regions and Alexandra Slovinsky the flag for all WG.

The results of our recent election are, all positions were filled by acclamation:

Renay Perrier, Deputy Director; Marcel Mondou, Deputy Director and Membership Chairman; Debbie Batley-Everett, Secretary; Allan Marshall, Treasurer; Philip Doddridge, Veterans' Representative and Lucette Mailloux-Muir, Regional Director.

We also extend our appreciation to Larry Everett, Chair of the Elections Committee and committee members Kathy Marshall and Eric Batley our Veterans' Representative.

We are already thinking of what could be done the next time we meet. We will continue to move forward to meet our goals.

Projects on the table: to keep the memory alive and to promote our Association's membership. These two projects should work hand in hand as one without the other is next to impossible to accomplish.

Take care of each other and God bless. Until next time.

Maritime Memories

The reunion that was held on September 5-7, 2008 in Florenceville, was great with four veterans in attendance. The memorial service was well attended by family and local veterans from Branch 37 RCL. We serviced 53 at the banquet on Sat evening. We have already made plans to host the reunion in Florenceville again next year. ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Our Membership

- Jim Trick, National Membership Rep

"Memberships are due for renewal on Jan 1 of each year. While the By-Law states that members in arrears by one month cease to be members, for reporting purposes those who remain in arrears as of 1 Dec of the year (11 months in arrears) will be removed from the members' list."

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	78	15	13	106
Atl	89	3	7	99
BC	98	17	39	154
MB	188	22	62	272
ON	140	28	54	222
PQ	44	24	61	129

Humour

I took my dad to the mall the other day to buy some new shoes. We decided to grab a bite at the food court. I noticed he was watching a teenager sitting next to him. The teenager had spiked hair in all different colors: green, red, orange, and blue. My dad kept staring at him. The teenager would look and find him staring every time. When the teenager had enough, he sarcastically asked, 'What's the matter old man, never done anything wild in your life?' Knowing my dad, I quickly swallowed my food so that I would not choke on his response; knowing he would have a good one. And in classic style he did not bat an eye in his response, 'Got drunk once and had sex with a peacock. I was just wondering if you were my son.'

A blonde, wanting to earn some extra money decided to hire herself out as a 'Handywoman' and started canvassing the neighborhoods.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any odd jobs for her to do.

"Well, I guess I could use somebody to paint my porch," he said. "How much will you charge me?"

The blonde quickly responded, "How about \$50?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint and everything she would need was in the garage.

The man's wife, hearing the conversation, said to her husband, "Does she realize that our porch goes all the way around the house?"

He responded, "That's a bit cynical, isn't it?"

The wife replied, "You're right. I guess I'm starting to believe all those dumb blonde jokes .."

A short time later, the blonde handywoman came to the door to collect her money. " "

"You finished already?" the husband asked.

"Yes," the blonde replied, "and I had paint leftover, so I gave it two coats - no extra charge."

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket for the \$50 and handed it to her.

"And by the way," the blonde added ... "It's not a Porch -- it's a BMW..."

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts... So in old England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.'

It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers all have in common?

A. All were invented by women.

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