



Of Special Interest

Manitoba Region – Lunches & meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at St. James Legion, noon – accessible. – Ladies Tea & Tidbits September 19, 2009, 1 p.m. and December 12, 2009.

HKVCA display at Manitoba Museum from November 1 – 15, 2009

Please let us know of your moves so that we can keep you informed with the newsletter

*** Ron Parker has moved his father's website to www.battleofhongkong.com and Phil Doddridge's has also moved to www.memoriesunivited.com ***

IMPORTANT: veterans' interviews, made available by the Manitoba Museum are on our web site. The link to the list of names is on the front page on the right hand side.

Memorial Wall Now



The good news is that most of the Wall was in place for the August 15 ceremony. The top will be finished and replaced by the end of September.

We still need to finish the landscaping which has to be completed in a timely manner – so there is still work and money needed.

Even though there was extensive research of military records to ensure we had correct information, we have been informed of some errors on the wall and will see about the corrections before the Wall is completed.

We are grateful to many people who were outstanding in making the Wall a reality and achieving the very tight dates of the event. We have tried to keep you aware of this incredible team and for the most part they were recognized at the Convention dinner.

As previously reported we need another \$150,000 to complete the project. Most of the Regions loaned us money to have the foundation done, which will be paid back as soon as funds permit.

We have sent proposals for funds to government agencies, veterans associations, corporations in Manitoba with some successes but from many, we haven't heard back.

To our members who have been so generous to date, we ask that you look around your community to see if there is opportunity for fundraising or to solicit funds from people or companies or associations around

and what we want to achieve



you. We have information that can be sent them but we need the leads and contact information.

Mike Babin, the ON Region and the Hong Kong Economic Trade Organization held a successful fundraising concert in early August with profits going to the Wall project.

One of the wonderful residuals that came from the media exposure (that was begun by the Winnipeg Free Press) was increase to our memberships as people across Canada became aware of our Association. We need to build on this to keep the Association growing.

Dave O'Brien, Editorial



L-R Dave O'Brien and Bob Cox

writer and Bob Cox, Publisher of the Winnipeg Free Press were instrumental in triggering the media across the country. Mia Rabson, Free Press reporter in Ottawa was also involved. Dave's father flew with Commodore Birchell and their families were close which gave Dave an interest in the Far East theatre of war and the Battle of Hong Kong. Plaques were presented to the Winnipeg Free Press and Dave O'Brien in appreciation of their interest, support and believe in our project.

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That's it for now -
Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

To paraphrase an old song from years back, "Wasn't that a weekend?" The dedication of the Memorial Wall had a greater impact on me than I expected. There was the huge emotional output from all those that attended. There was the expression of "it is a reality, it finally happened" from the veterans. There was the pride from each and everyone that had played a role, however how small, that we did it!

I am writing this from our family cottage in the Eastern Townships. A cottage built by my father 45 years ago. A cottage that had Bill Doull as a neighbour just down the road and his brother Lloyd just across the lake. Wells Bishop had a property on the road leading to the lake. The spirit of HK veterans exudes from the area. I cannot drive anywhere without seeing the onetime home of a HK vet. After the experience of the August 15th weekend, the importance of what was accomplished is intensely driven home with everything I experience.

On behalf of us all, I must thank the project team: Carol Hadley, the driving dynamo behind it; Phil Doddridge, our mentor; Barry Mitchell, Murray Doull, Ron McGuire, and Randy Wing, who became our site Project Manager. It has been a couple of years filled with the range of emotions from fear to sublime enjoyment. The War Amps agreed to produce a DVD of the ceremony and upon my return to Ottawa, I will be meeting with them to ensure a copy sent to every surviving HK veteran and to make certain that these will be available to others. The Veteran's copies shall be free of charge, but as yet, I have no idea of the cost for others.

The Convention team of Mitzi Ross, Sandi Cameron, Ron McGuire, Ted Terry gave unselfishly of their time to ensure the weekend would be pleasurable. It is surprising how the expertise of people comes to the forefront under pressure. Mitzi, the supreme negotiator, handled all the contracts and the Hospitality room. Sandi, the

"Organizer", handled the Registration and the finances. Ron handled the Operations in the hotel, and Terry with the help of his capable wife, Ann, dealt with volunteers. A major role was played by our friends, Peter Mills and Terry Tobin from Veterans Affairs who financed the ceremony, weekend medical coverage, and transportation. Peter was our contact in the planning stage, then Terry took over on his return from medical leave and carried the ceremony off as he so expertly done so often in the past.

But enough of what has been accomplished. We now have the challenge ahead to complete the landscaping and to make the site an educational experience for all Canadians. This obviously will cost money. I am pleased to announce the Canadian Heritage has donated a considerable amount that will enable us to make huge and immediate strides to finishing the landscaping, but we must continue to raise funds. Your Board of Directors have recognized the need for an ongoing source of funds for the completion of this project and for the educational activities we as an association, must continue if we are to fulfil our mandate.

God bless you all. May we use the energy and momentum gained from the dedication to consider activities we should be undertaking; to encourage new people to become members; and to get involved to the limits of our time and talents within our respective Regions.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

What more can be said about the fabulous weekend in Ottawa.

I know that I speak for all of my comrades who were present at the unveiling, that we feel a sense of closure to the many years spent in limbo, waiting for officialdom to say that we did something for Canada in the 1940s.

I have had so many comments, accolades, and congratulations, that I feel humble, if not embarrassed, at the response of all who witnessed the unveiling. The media coverage, the U-tube accounts, the e-mail

correspondence, all has been positive.

It was pleasure to see those who were able to attend the ceremony of unveiling, but, at the same time, one could not but think of the ones who are living but were unable to attend, as well as those who have passed to the great beyond.

GRAVESTONE DISCS

After the success of the Wall, we turn our thoughts to other things.

The secret of success is to never rest on one's laurels, so what better way to move forward than to "take up the quarrel" in another direction.

A few years ago, the HKVCA initiated a project to place a HK disc on the gravestone of every HK vet who survived the prison camps and who was buried in Canada.

I am pleased that a few words spoken at the general meeting in Ottawa has sparked a response from "second generation" members. John Russell, son of Albert Russell, and Lori and Pat Atkinson, daughters of Harry Atkinson, have expressed a desire to help, and I am sure that when the idea catches fire it will roll right across the country. I have in mind a number of people who, I think, will be eager to do their bit.

I have contacted a member of the International Association of Gravestone Studies who has said that he will help in locating graves. There are many of our comrades who are buried in remote places, and I fear that some of them may not have even a grave marker.

GEORGE

George Peterson has done us proud once again. Did you catch his interview on CBC TV? Once again George is devoting his energies to promoting the memory of not only Hong Kong veterans, but all Canadian veterans, in his support of the program, "Highway of Heroes". Congratulations to George, with the hope that good health permits him to carry on for many more years.

BOOKS

Ron McGuire's Memorabilia Room contained the usual vast display of books, documents, artefacts and other treasures related to the military and especially to the Battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath.

There I was able to purchase the book, "Beyond the Call", by D. Burke Penny, whose uncle, Donald Penny, was a member of the RCCS, attached to Brigade Headquarters in the Battle of Hong Kong. It is a completely different take on the HK experience in that it concentrates on the lives of Brigade Headquarters personnel, a subject that has largely been given little attention in chronicling the history of the battle. Most of the stories we hear deal with the skirmishes in which the Grenadiers and the Rifles were engaged. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it for the reasons mentioned above.

MUSEUM

While in Ottawa I had the pleasure of meeting Beth Kantrud, the daughter of Everett Denison, a captain in the Royal Rifles. She told me that she had newspaper clippings and photographs that her father had collected and offered them to me for our museum in New Richmond.

Sure enough, yesterday I received the package in the mail. There are numerous photos, some of which I already have copies, but other interesting ones as well.

When I have time to view all of them I will place them in the museum and report in a future issue of Wasureru-nai what the package contained.

In my haste to get this to Carol to meet the September 2nd deadline, I'll close as usual, be good to each other and may God Bless. Philip.

* * * * *

Membership Statistics as of Sept '09

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	65	13	13	91
Atl	48	4	7	59
BC	97	12	40	149
MB	190	14	57	261
ON	153	18	55	226
QC	51	19	57	127
Totals	604	80	229	913

Lost Trails''

- Jim Trick

Can you help out? Since we've started our "Last Post" listings on the HKVCA web site we've been trying to make our records as complete as possible. Please take a moment and visit <http://www.hkvca.ca> and check the

listings in the Last Post (right column on the page). If you can help us update our records we would appreciate it.

* * * *

Last Post

Robert Foster Lytle, H 6351, WG died June 23, 2009

Richard C. Wilson, H6614, WG died June 28, 2009

Harold Smith, B40918, RRC, died June 5, 2009

Gordon Durrant, H6391 WG, died July 23, 2009

Andre Poquet, H20688 WG died August 14, 2009

HKVCA

Marie Alfreda LeBlanc, widow of Napoleon LeBlanc, F40741, RRC and mother of Bernard LeBlanc, (Treasurer AT Region) died June 23, 2009

Alice Alden widow of Arthur Clayton Alden E30045, RRC died July 28, 2009

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief. We will remember them!

Hong Kong 2010

If you have ever dreamed of visiting Hong Kong to see where Canada's soldiers fought in 1941 and where many are buried, here's your chance.

Based on very positive feedback at our recent convention and Memorial Wall unveiling in Ottawa, we're moving ahead to plan a commemorative trip to Hong Kong, and possibly to Japan, towards the end of 2010.

We would like to build a list of people who are interested in making the trip and will keep you all informed as the planning goes forward.

Here is a little more information to help you:

Departure: Around December 1, 2010

Duration: About 12 days

Destinations: Hong Kong and possibly Japan (Yokohama War Cemetery)

Cost: Between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per person (this is very approximate and subject to change!)

Includes: Airfare, accommodation and breakfasts, airport transfers at

destinations, bus transport to sites at destinations (including English-speaking guides), some dinners.

Highlights: Sightseeing tour of Hong Kong; commemoration ceremony at Sai Wan War Cemetery; visit to Stanley Military Cemetery; guided tour of battlefields; visit to Stanley Village; shopping opportunities and much more!

If you are interested, please send an email to hkvca.trip@gmail.com. There is no obligation! At this time we are simply building our contact list so that as the planning proceeds we can keep you updated. You can also look for information and updates at www.hkvca.ca/2010trip.

HK Gravestone Discs

If you happened to be at the HKVCA general meeting at the convention this past August, you know another chapter for the veterans needs to be taken on by our association. There are three or four of us that plan to take on the placement of HK gravestone discs on each Hong Kong Veterans grave. We have spoken to Phil Doddridge about our desire to see this through and he will be our guide.

With the media surrounding the memorial wall, we believe this notice is important- especially for the newest members.

We are trying to get all our "p's and q's" together, get some steps in place, some parameters to work within. We want to have our information in place so no matter where the contact comes from; the placement of the gravestone disc process can be followed thru consistently as possible. We believe our role is to undertake the administration of the HKVCA gravestone discs. This might include contacting a family member, a cemetery, and the placement of the disc on the gravestone.

If you have any questions or would like to help us out in this endeavour, please contact me - **Lori Atkinson-Smith** at 946 Wyldewood Road, R. R. #1, Sherston, Ontario L0S 1R0. 1.905.894.5368 email LoriR1952@gmail.com

Announcing the New HKVCA Forum

In our efforts to improve communication with our members and the public we're launching the HKVCA Forum on our web site! If you use bulletin boards and forums on other web sites, you'll find ours quite familiar. The idea is to allow you to raise topics of concern, provide feedback, and just to interact. Our new Forum will not only be easy to use, it will be easy to administer and have no advertisements as the current off-site one has. Our new Forum will replace the current discussion board in the near future.

One example of the value to be found in the new forum is Mike Babin's topic on getting the maximum value out of the CD-ROM he has produced for presentation of the Hong Kong story to students. Look here for presentation hints, questions and answers.

Please note that to participate in the Forum you will have to join. This is a quick process and it's designed to keep out spammers while allowing valid members a great place to learn more about the Hong Kong story and to exchange ideas. Don't see a topic you like? Create your own and start a conversation.

We look forward to meeting everyone in the Forum! Try it out at: <http://hkvca.ca/forum>
Jim Trick and Earl Gyselman
HKVCA Forum Administrators

From Ron Parker:

A friend and I have been comparing notes about what our life as kids was like during the war years, and how our Dad's setting off to war and leaving a huge void in our lives impacted on us. We found out that we had a lot in common and that going without a Dad presence was quite difficult.

We were lucky that our Dad's came back. I cannot imagine how the children of those Dad's who did not come back felt, or what impact the lose of their Dad had on the rest of their lives.

We thought it would be a valuable thing to collect, and publish, the thoughts of those children of soldiers who, like us, had their Dads disappear from their lives.

Would you be willing to share your experiences with others who have gone through the same trauma? I know that by sharing my experience with my friend helped me to understand what had happened, how I dealt with it, and what affect it has had on my life, for better or worse. Now I know I was not, I am not alone.

The soldiers have not stopped going away to war. The children are still being deprived of a parent for reasons many of them cannot understand. Something like this, how we coped with that loss, could be of real value to them.

Email: rcwp2000@yahoo.ca

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Hello Everyone,
Wow! What an exciting time in Ottawa! I was so proud to see that all our BC Executive members were in attendance - Bev Campbell, Lee Naylor, Murray Doull and myself. I know there will be plenty of reports on the Ottawa Convention and the Memorial Wall unveiling so I won't go into details here. However, we do want to say "Job well done, everybody!" The BC Region would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in the success of the Convention.

Our Vancouver Annual Spring Luncheon was held on June 27th and we were honoured to have four HK veterans and four widows attending. The HK Vets were Gerry Gerrard with wife Ev, John Lowe with his wife Florence, Bill Doull and wife Claire, and Jan Solecki and his companion Olga. The widows in attendance were: Pearl MacPherson, Loretta Baty, Eileen Cambon and June Naylor. They were surrounded by family and many HKVCA members. Again this year, we had Adrienne Alford-Burt (District Director for the Vancouver Regional Office of Veterans Affairs Canada), who addressed us. Lee Naylor, our BC Education Chair, gave a video presentation after lunch.

Murray Doull has this report: On September 5, 2009, Lee Naylor and I were privileged to represent the HKVCA at a 65th Anniversary Celebration honouring all Canadian veterans. The event took place at the George Derby Centre in Burnaby BC. The Centre is an amazing care facility for Canadian veterans located in a quiet area in the city.

The event took place amidst displays of all types of military memorabilia, everything that a soldier,

sailor, airmen or airwomen wore, used or operated. There were over a dozen military vehicles including a full size replica First World War bi-plane courtesy of the Canadian Museum of Flight. Lee and I set up our Region's extensive display complete with audio and video components.

Lee and I met at 8:30am to set up the display and the activities officially started at 11:00am with a Service of Remembrance at the George Derby Centre Cenotaph. The official opening ceremony immediately followed the service. Amongst the dignitaries who took part was Mrs. Anne Bason who tragically lost her son two years ago in Afghanistan.

After the ceremonies were completed, the displays opened and a barbeque lunch was served. There were military musical performances throughout the afternoon until things started winding down around 4:00pm.

Lee and I had the opportunity to talk to many people and hundreds viewed our display asking many questions. We were surprised how knowledgeable many were about the story of 'C' Force, particularly the veterans in attendance.

Lee is to be congratulated for the tremendous work he is doing as the BC Education Chair. Lee has enhanced the incredible educational display that Linda Stewart made a couple of years ago and works very hard making contacts and exploring avenues to promote the story of 'C' Force and raise funds for the Memorial Wall. We have a great team in BC with Linda, Bev and Lee and many more hard working members and I am proud to be a part of it.



Here is a picture of Murray and Lee in front of our display at the George Derby Centre.



Here is a photo of attendees at the George Derby Centre waiting for their BBQ lunch. Please take note of the "Honouring our Veterans" banner.

As I promised, there is a new name at the end of my report. Ron and I had a 21-day honeymoon, which included the unveiling of the Memorial Wall, of course. We visited with Ron's family in various locations in Ontario and spent time with mine in Manitoba. Our driving trip across Canada was amazing. We kept saying to each other, "Look at that" when we saw more fantastic scenery around every turn. Through each province, BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario – we just kept saying "Look at that" over and over again. Just outside of Thunder Bay, we stopped to visit the Terry Fox Memorial and we again said "Look at that" and added, "What a great Canadian".

It got me thinking, now that the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada have their Memorial Wall, I know for a fact that many visitors from across Canada and from the far corners of the world will be visiting the site and saying, "Look at that – What great Canadians".

Please take very good care of each other. May God bless you and keep you, until we meet again.

Warmest regards,

Linda Stewart-Quesnel – submitted on behalf of Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor

AB/SK Action

Norma Fuchs, Secretary

I am happy to report that we had several people from the Alberta/Sask Region who made the trip to Ottawa for the Convention and Dedication of the Wall. There were 4 Veterans, John McGee, Ralph Maclean, Doug Rees and John Deardon. Way to go guys. I know the rest would have loved to be there. I meet Mary Macauley from Saskatoon and Leona Kashton from Edmonton for the first time in Ottawa. Isabel Saunders and Leona Michalkow were also there, however I never did find them in the crowds. We were able to visit with family members and Veterans from across Canada. What a weekend! The Wall is so beautiful. A BIG thank you goes out to Carol Hadley and her committee for all the work they did to get the Wall ready for August 15th. I am sure the challenges were great; however, the result was outstanding. Also thank you to convention committee for all the work they did to get ready for the weekend.

We have been contacted by the Military Museums here in Calgary to provide information for a 12 x 20' Mural Mosaic. The Mural was recently unveiled and the development of the interactive displays is well underway. I have been speaking to a Volunteer who is preparing the historic narrative for the digital displays. You can see this mural by going to the Calgary Military Museums website. Look for the Title "Heroes" Veterans of Canada. Our panel is #93 (there are 240 panels) and it is still untitled. They interviewed one of our Veterans, Gordon Durrant, last summer and are hoping to speak with more this fall. This is a great way to have the story of Hong Kong told. We may be asking for your pictures and stories to put into the digital display. Please go online and have look at it.

We have a luncheon planned here for September 12. We are going to share our experiences and pictures from Ottawa. We are hoping to see lots of our members and of course our Veterans that day.

Thank you again to all of the devoted members who worked on the Convention and Dedication.

Manitoba Moments

Hello one and all

Just a few lines to let you know you are thought of often. To those of you who were not able to attend the Convention you were with us in our hearts. It was an experience to remember, to be able to honour the HK Veterans the way they should be honoured. It was great seeing so many familiar faces and so many good friends.

The Memorial Committee did a Great Job on getting the Monument done for the Convention. Carol Hadley had many road blocks put in front of her but was determined to work with the Committee in achieving this goal. The Convention Committee did a wonderful job of making every thing run smooth. Ron McGuire had the memorabilia and as per usual did a fantastic job. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU.

Manitoba Region had VJ Day on August 23 with 66 people in attendance. Thank you to Bonnie Wiebe, Linda Sloan, Eleanor Myschuk, Cliff Friesen, and David Fehr for all your help on VJ Day.

Thanks to the Colour party (Vince & Stan Lopata & Alex Taylor) for the great job you always do.

We will be attending Bardals Funeral Home on September 20 for a dedication to the Hong Kong Veterans.

September 19th is the ladies Tea and Tidbits and it is a great time for the ladies to get together.

Oct 24 is the Manitoba Branch HK Reunion Dinner in Winnipeg and we would love to see many of you attend.

Please remember to renew your memberships. Take care in the mean time, remember we are a family brought together by our fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, etc help keep their memory alive by becoming part of the HKVCA. Regional Director MB Juliet Lafortune

Ontario Offerings

Our Regional Director, Mike Babin reports: On Saturday, August 8 a wonderful event took place at the Toronto Centre for the Arts: the "Let There Be Peace on Earth" concert.

The Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra – 66 young people aged 10 to 16 – performed this benefit concert to raise funds for the HKVCA and the Memorial Wall. These children (or their parents!) paid for their own travel from Hong Kong to Toronto! An audience of over 800 people heard an absolutely fantastic performance of classical music, highlighted by two solo violin performances and a piano solo, which were simply superb. The level of musicianship of the orchestra was very high, as was their maturity and professionalism.

The MC for the evening was a well-known Toronto TV and radio personality, Peter Silverman. Peter knows the Hong Kong story well and was a good friend of the late John Stroud.

The orchestra then travelled to Ottawa to perform at the unveiling of the Memorial Wall, and later the same day a concert at the Canadian War Museum for over 350 people.

We were able to sign up a number of corporate sponsors to defray the costs involved, and the net benefit to the HKVCA was \$20,000! This is money that will help complete the Memorial Wall project.

We worked very closely with Toronto's Chinese-heritage community to make this event happen. Many Canadians of Chinese descent are not aware that Canada sent troops to Hong Kong in 1941 to help defend it. When they hear the story, they realize that perhaps their fathers or grandfathers fought alongside Canadians in that fateful battle, and want to learn more. All of our members should approach the Chinese-heritage residents of their cities and towns to make this connection.

In addition to the \$20,000, we received a great deal of publicity for this event, which is helping us in our mandate of educating Canadians about the Battle of Hong Kong.



Caption: Veterans George MacDonell and Alfred Babin, along with Senator Vivienne Poy, accept cheque at Toronto concert (subsequently increased to \$20,000!).

Our Area Reps do a great job of keeping in touch with our Veterans, widows and other members in their geographic areas. We've divided the province into six areas. In three of the areas we have new Area Reps: West Central (Gordon Coyne); GTA (Bud Mann); and Southwest (Marilyn Morgan). We welcome these new reps, and thank the former reps, Leon Sokalski and Barbara Cunningham-Drew, for their excellent work over the last several years.

The reps in the other areas are: North (Jackie LeDrew), North East (Ron McGuire); and Central & Southeast (Maureen Dwyer-Kline). Thanks to these folks as well for their continuing interest and work on behalf of our members!

Gordon Coyne, our new Area Rep for West Central Ontario reports: Veteran Ken Pifher living in Grimsby, Ontario attended the Ottawa Convention and Memorial Wall Unveiling & Dedication accompanied by his daughter Mrs Pam Newhouse. Ken is enjoying good health and remains quite

active; his main hobby is woodworking.

Veteran Gerry "Sunny" Sunstrum lives in Niagara Falls, Ontario. He remains quite active at age 92, and has no serious health problems. He has a regular lunch group that meets at Tim Horton's every day and uses a walking trail in a nearby park, as well as a treadmill, for daily exercise. For many years he says he was a "golf addict".

Widow Agnes Fehr has just sold her house and moved into the Niagara Retirement Manor in St Catharines, Ontario. She is very appreciative of the effort made by the HKVCA to stay in touch.

Esther Geraghty lives with her daughter and family in Burlington, Ontario. A grandson recently joined the PPCLI and is readying for basic training. Through a combination of two knee replacements and a walker, Esther remains quite active.

Widow Irene Grimshaw lives with her daughter in Hamilton, Ontario, following many years living in Quebec her granddaughter. Melissa who lives in Kitchener, has developed a keen interest in the story of Canada's "C" Force, and is doing a lot of research.

From Jackie Le Drew, our Northern Ontario Area Rep: Last month's HKVA convention that was held in Ottawa was the first convention I have had a chance to attend. I was amazed at the organizing and volunteering done throughout the weekend. Thanks to all the vets who took the time to talk and share. It was very well planned and of course the unveiling of the Wall ceremony was very emotional. I was proud of the veterans who were able to be a part of history and hope they felt the gratitude of those who attended.

A wall bearing their names hardly seems thanks enough for what they had and have gone through. My father Augustin Cyr, along with my uncles Wilmer Cyr, Clement Cyr and Leo Cyr have their names inscribed on the wall, so for me it was a chance to represent them and remember them for their sacrifice. Congratulations to all the HKVCA members for their tireless work and for the vision of what this wall would do for the veterans and their families. It truly was an inspiring ceremony and one that will live on in our memories forever.

God bless our veterans who are still with us.

That's all the news from the Ontario region.

Quebec Quotes

Greetings from the Quebec Region, Time sure runs by us at full speed. It seems that just a little while ago we were welcoming summer, and then came the Ottawa Convention and now we are presently thinking of the fall season.

At this time the talk is about the Memorial Wall Unveiling and Dedication and Convention, which took place a few weeks ago in Ottawa. This was a great event thanks to all who worked to make the Memorial Wall happen and to all who made the Convention possible.

Saturday's event was the highlight of the weekend. The weather was very warm but fantastic for the occasion. Our Veterans, Dignitaries, Widows, and Family members as well as many Friends of our Hong Kong family were present for the Unveiling and Dedication. It was a nice, very emotional ceremony for our Vets and all. The Wall, with all the names of our veterans, will be there for a long time to help us all remember the ultimate sacrifices these men and women made for the freedom that we enjoy here today. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

On a lighter side, it was a great weekend to meet old friends and make new ones. There were the usual business meetings, presentations and of course the Memorabilia exhibits with book and product sales.

Back home, business is back to usual with the planning of our next executive meeting and upcoming activities. Since the convention we have received many notes and letters from the younger generation asking for info about certain veterans and about the HKVCA in general. It is nice to see that the media coverage of the Memorial Wall created such a great interest.

That will be it for this time, take care and hope to meet you all again for the next Convention. Again a great "Thank You" to all who worked to make the Memorial Wall happen and make the Convention possible.

Lucette Mailloux Muir, QC Regional Director

Maritime Memories

Editor: no Atlantic report at this time – but all our members wish to extend sincere condolences to Bernard LeBlanc, Treasurer of Atlantic Region on the passing of his mother.

* * * *

A Grateful Family

Here is a wonderful email, which is typical feelings of the audience at the Memorial Wall Ceremony:

Mr. Phil Doddridge all others concerned,

I wish to express sincere appreciation on behalf of my family to the Memorial Wall Committee Members.

My family and I attended the unveiling of the wall ceremony held in Ottawa on August 15th 2009. We were all particularly impressed with the organization of the ceremony and wish to commend those of you who participated in the planning and orchestrating of the event. Moreover, I wish to congratulate you Mr. Doddridge on your moving speech, as I was amazed by your eloquence.

My grandfather was Reginald "Reggie" Law who left us on December 31, 2006. A huge part of his identity, what defined who he was, what he believed in, lied in the fact that he was a Hong Kong veteran. My mother and her siblings were raised to be so proud of their freedom, to be proud to have faith and furthermore to be proud to be Canadian. Fortunately, those values were transferred to my generation.

I came to Ottawa as a young University student to be a Parliamentary Tour guide, in part because of this strong sense of patriotism enlisted in me by my grandfather, or "Pop" as we called him. I was so proud to be an Ambassador of my home and native land to visitors from abroad visiting Canada. People around the world recognize Canadians as being amongst the friendliest in the world. While showing friends around the world our majestic Parliament buildings, I always mentioned that Canada has always fought for peace in every war. Something for which we should ever be so proud.

As a current resident of the city of Ottawa, I am grateful to have

this monument as an emblem of remembrance. Future generations in Canada will hopefully comprehend war as a foreign concept but those of us who had the opportunity to learn stories from our veterans will always remember. I am thrilled that some of our Hong Kong veterans had the chance to see their own names on this grandiose monument; a symbol of our families' past and a symbol of our futures, and our freedom. Once again, thank you.

With warmest regards,

Melissa-Marie Cormier

New Book:

"Beyond the Call". Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Brigade Headquarters, "C" Force, Hong Kong and Japan, 1941-1945, is the title of a book recently published by the HKVCA. Author Burke Penny writes about his uncle, Donald A. Penny who passed away in 1982 but who left behind information that initiated this book along with the experiences of several other signalmen.

Through a special funding arrangement, the costs of printing have been covered; so all the proceeds from sales will go directly to the organization. Copies can be purchased from the Books section on the Association website.

Thank you Uncle Dick

To RICHARD WILSON - June 22, 2009 (Richard C. Wilson, H6614, WG died June 28, 2009)

I wanted to make sure I had a chance to thank you for all you have contributed to my life and the Wilson family. Thank you for:

- Being born and raised during the Depression years, so you learned the value of a dollar and what it represents and the value of helping others in need.
- Riding the "rails" to find work, and send money home to support your mother, your sisters, and my dad in Virден, Manitoba.
- Defending Canada's freedom during WWII when you gave unselfishly of your time and talents to defend Hong Kong. Unfortunately, the war turned against you and you persevered as a prisoner of war in some very intense and difficult years. You emerged battered but proud of your contribution – thank you for that!

- Keeping Manitoba/western Ontario "on the move" with Greyhound, in your postwar job as a bus driver – safe, courteous, and proud of your record of accident free driving and excellent service to your customers!
- As a young boy, sharing with me the beauty of rural Manitoba and the fur trade and Metis historical buildings you helped me explore.
- Becoming a "snowbird" with your lovely wife Beatrice, as you took an active interest in heading South to Arizona each winter. You became enchanted with the American Aboriginal Indian stories, and made great efforts to communicate and photograph their lifestyle to share with others.
- Sharing with me your interest in photography, travel and gardening. I caught the first two – 2 out of 3 ain't bad!
- Giving unselfishly to others less fortunate, and supporting your local community efforts, the War Amps, Veterans Association and other projects needing financial support (eg. Stonewall Community Hockey Rink/Arena complex)
- Living long enough to be able to see many of your nieces and nephews achieve in their careers, and raise new Wilson family members, under various last names. You enjoyed meeting and spending time with my wife Carol and myself and always made us feel "at home" with you and Aunt Bea when visiting Manitoba.
- Coming to see your brother (and my Dad) Bob prior to his passing. Sharing childhood memories (the only ones he could remember) meant the world to us, and showed us what brotherly love was all about.
- Staying alive and persevering through your latest health issues with cancer to be able to visit with me and your Dryden, Ontario nephews – we saw the ravages cancer has had on your body. Hugs and kisses don't always convey how much "we love you"!

So, Happy Birthday coming soon
Uncle Dick – 91 years proud, an
amazing life story worth sharing!

In the words of the song that
Celine Dion made famous:
“there is no easy way out,
When you are ready to go,
and your heart is in doubt,
Don't give up on your faith,
Love comes to those who believe,
And that's the way it is!

Your loving nephew,
Bruce Wilson, Calgary, Alberta

Humour

One evening a husband thinking he
was being funny says to his wife
“Perhaps we should start washing
your clothes in ‘Slim Fast’. Maybe
it would take a few inches off your
butt.”

His wife was not amused, and
decided that she simply couldn't let
such a comment go un-rewarded.
The next morning the husband took
a pair of underwear out of his
drawer. 'What the heck is this?' he
said to himself, as a little 'dust'
cloud appeared when he shook them
out. 'April', he hollered into the
bathroom, 'Why did you put talcum
powder in my underwear?'

She replied with a snicker. 'It's not
talcum powder; it's 'Miracle
Grow'!!!!'



Church: One Sunday morning, a
mother went in to wake her son and
tell him it was time to get ready for
church, to which he replied, "I'm not
going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'll
give you two good reasons," he
said. "(1), they don't like me, and
(2), I don't like them." His mother
replied, "I'll give YOU two good
reasons why YOU SHOULD go to
church.

(1) You're 59 years old, and (2)
you're the pastor!"



The Picnic: A Jewish
Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at
the town's annual 4th of July picnic.
Old friends, they began their usual
banter.

"This baked ham is really
delicious," the priest teased the
rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I
know it's against your religion, but I
can't understand why such a
wonderful food should be
forbidden! You don't know what
you're missing. You just haven't
lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's
prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell
me, Rabbi, when are you going to

break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a
big grin, and said, "At your
wedding."



The Best Way To Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat
discussing the best positions for
prayer, while a telephone repairman
worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely the best way
to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the
best results standing with my hands
outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said.
"The most effective prayer position
is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain
himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he
interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever
did was when I was hangin' upside
down from a telephone pole."



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May your day be touched
by a bit of Irish luck,
brightened by a song in your
heart,
and warmed by the smiles
of the people you love.