

# WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association



October, November, December 2011

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## National Convention held August 2011 in Granby QC

National Elections.....	1
National Convention 2011 Granby QC.....	1
HKVCA President .....	2
The “Exit Interview” .....	2
HKVA President .....	3
Reminder From the Treasurer .....	3
Last Post.....	3
Membership .....	3
“Education is the Key” .....	4
Across the Nation.....	6
BC Banter .....	6
AB/SK Action.....	6
Manitoba Moments .....	7
Ontario Offerings .....	7
Quebec Quotes .....	8
Eastern Breezes.....	8

chair in the name of all sons and daughters. National HKVCA President Derrill Henderson welcomed everyone as did the HKVA National President

and square danced ending the evening with the “Friendship Dance”.



### National Elections

#### Introduction of Board of Directors for 2011-13

President: Carol Hadley  
 1<sup>st</sup>Vice: Murray Doull  
 2<sup>nd</sup>Vice: Emmie Flanagan  
 Secretary: Jim Trick  
 Treasurer: Barry Mitchell  
 Past President: Derrill Henderson

Thank you to those who participated in this process.  
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### National Convention 2011 Granby QC

Greetings from Quebec Region.

We would like to thank each and every one of you who attended the National Convention in Granby last August 2011. It was very nice to meet old friends and make new ones. The weather was just perfect with the exception of the terrible traffic for those of you driving through Montreal. All in all things went well.

Many guests attended the Annual General Meeting. The Opening Ceremony Protocol was read by Lucette Mailloux Muir in French and Allan Marshall in English. HK Veteran Dempsey Syvret was invited to upright a tilted chair and his daughter Ann, the other

Phil Doddridge. Members attending the meeting were interested in hearing what had happened since our last convention and what was being planned for the next period. As usual reports were read by the National President, Derrill Henderson, the Treasurer Barry Mitchell and Regional Directors present, Emmie Flanagan for AT, Murray Doull in the absence of Lee Naylor for BC, Vince Lopata for MB, Mike Babin for ON and Lucette Mailloux Muir for QC.

Friday dinner and social evening went very well with good food, unusual for some, but I think it was appreciated by all followed by music and dancing. Many did get up





Saturday morning a well-attended Commemorative Ceremony was held with 8 HK Vets present. Each Veteran deposited a small flag in memory of a fallen comrade since we last met while Amazing Grace was softly played in the background. Phil Doddridge deposited a wreath for all Hong Kong Veterans, Lucette Mailloux Muir a wreath for the HKVCA, Viola Gaudin widow of Ken Gaudin a wreath for all widows and the Royal Canadian Legion President Georgette Remillard a wreath for all RCL Members of Branch 56, Granby.

The Act of Remembrance was said in French and English by Phil Doddridge, HKVA President. The Act of Commitment was read in French by Jessica Dover, granddaughter of a WWII Europe Veteran and in English by Norman Tinkler a friend of Veterans.

We do thank all our flag bearers and the great help and expertise of Vince Lopata and Alex Taylor.

A great social afternoon followed and some even went to the cheese factory and tasted Quebec's famous "Poutine".



The Banquet and social evening was attended by 104 guests.

Due to health reasons some did not attend the banquet. During

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the evening Veterans present, **Eric Batley, Jean Paul Dallain, Phil Doddridge, Ken Pifher, Gerry Gerrard, Allison Pollock, Dempsey Syvret, and Bill Doull** were presented with a plaque with a poem commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their capture and the 4 years of hardship that followed.

They were also presented with the 2011 \$10 Fine Silver Coin "Maple Leaf Forever" donated by the Royal Canadian Mint of Ottawa – "Emblem of a Nation's Spirit, the red maple leaf". These Coins also have the Certificate of Authenticity.

During the evening we also held our "Ticket Draw". We do thank very sincerely all of you from across Canada and the US who participated by purchasing these tickets.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize winner was Constance Darling of Trenton, ON**  
**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize winner was Clara Flanagan of Belledune, NB**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize winner was Nancy Mehlhaff of Lodi, California USA**  
**The Banquet Door Prize was won by Ken Pifher of Grimsby, ON**  
 Congratulations to all winners.

All in all it was a great weekend with super nice weather in the company of great people and Special Veterans.

Thank you all for coming - until the next Convention in 2013 - Lucette Mailloux Muir.

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### **HKVCA President**

- Carol Hadley

Warm greetings are extended to all our members as we enjoy this Autumn season and give thanks for our rights and freedom that came at such a high cost – thank you to all Canadians who have defended our shores.

I wish to thank Lucette, her committee and QC Region for hosting a great convention this year. I was very sorry and disappointed that we couldn't make it but understand that a good time was had by everyone who attended.

As you all know the Association's focus is now on education and reaching out to our teachers and students to inform them about the Battle of Hong Kong. Pat Turcotte is doing a wonderful job at leading this initiative and everyone that is promoting education in their Regions. We still need individuals to do their part in their own

community. So if you need information or assistance to promote this – let your region executive know as they have resources to help you.

Well done to Emmie Flanagan and AT region on the Gander monument in their community.

Thank you to Derrill for doing a great job of leading our Association and his liaison with the Government bodies and other veteran associations.

Space is limited in this edition so I will keep it short – until next time, take care.

### ***The "Exit Interview"***

- Derrill Henderson

It is common practice to hold an interview when a person when he/she is leaving a position. It is felt that questions which would be uncomfortable when employed at the firm, would be answered truthfully since there would be no repercussions. Well, although I'm not going anywhere, no longer being President allows me to comment on a few things - some negative, but mostly positive.

My greatest concern is that we refuse to really get serious about getting new members. This has to be done at the region level and by everyone. You know your neighbours and you know what families of HK vets live in your area. Get out there and get at least one new member to join especially if they are elated in any way to a HK vet. We really have no excuse for not having at least 1975 members - one for every member of "C" Force.

Another concern is the lack of willingness to serve on regional councils. We're not speaking of a large commitment of time here, but someone has to organize and control. We have been so lucky to have great people serving in the regions, but it is not fair to rely on them for everything. Please consider taking part of the tasks off them.

Finally I would like more of you to give suggestions about things you would like to see undertaken or about things currently being done, but perhaps not handled the best way.

OK - that done, let me say what has delighted me. I cannot express how delighted I am with the progress made on education. Those involved have done a marvellous job

and continue to come up with exciting new approaches. There are still many that do not know about Canada's involvement in Hong Kong, but many now do - especially our children. The schools are really opening up to us and the HK story. I am so grateful to those that have been active. What we have accomplished is remarkable. I receive comments almost daily about our association and so many other veteran organizations are envious.

For those of you that have not heard, I have been elected a Vice-Chair of the National Council of Veterans Associations. We (HKVA) are a member so I'm just paying our dues as my wife says, out of one frying pan into another.

So thank you to all of you that made my term as President so pleasant. I'll continue to see you all, just not seated in front. Keep well, Derrill

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### **HKVA President**

-Phil Doddridge

Greetings from a soggy Gaspé Coast.

Summer went by almost unnoticed, but we were fortunate to have escaped the full wrath of Hurricane Irene.

The National Convention was a huge success, thanks to Lucette and her team. Eight of us HK Vets showed up: **Allison Pollock, Gerry Gerard, Bill Doull, Ken Pifher, Paul Dallain, Dempsey Syvret, Eric Batley** and I. Each of us was presented with a beautiful plaque engraved with a message of thanks for serving during World War II. Very much appreciated.

I have three books to mention in this newsletter. The first is "Uncle Mac's Diary". It is a printing of Phil Gallie's diary that he wrote while a POW in Hong Kong and Japan. Phil has long since departed, but I remember him well as a humorous and fun-loving fellow, a pleasure to be with. The book was prepared from his diary by his niece, Betsy (Cook) Dickie. It traces his experiences from embarkation leave to repatriation, with his good nature and optimism in evidence on every page.

The second book is "The Forces and the Faces" by Duane Duff with a foreword by Desmond Morton, historian and McGill professor. Duff records interviews with World War Veterans from all

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the service and gives a short biographical note on each one. The interviews of three HK Vets are recorded, namely Gerry Gerard, John Hoosha and myself. I found it interesting from a personal point of view, having become acquainted with Gerry in recent years and having known John Hoosha in prison camp all those years ago.

The third book, "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand tells the story of Louie Zamperini, a bomb aimer in a B24 that crashed in the Pacific in 1943. Louie and the pilot survived 47 days drifting in a life raft, living on birds and fish they caught and rainwater they collected, only to be captured by the Japanese and spending the rest of the war in POW camps in the South Pacific and in Japan.

The stories of the beatings and indignities suffered by the POWs are described in graphic detail, and the details of prison life are meticulously researched and documented, mentioning such famous ex-POWs as Leonard Birchall and his wife, Kathleen.

After reading it, it now becomes clear to me, more than ever why we dug the tunnels in the hillsides of Kowloon. I have no doubt that in order for the Jap guards to carry out the order to kill all prisoners in the event of an allied invasion of the Japanese homeland; we would have been herded into those tunnels. A small detonation at the mouth of the tunnel would have caused the hillside to come tumbling down and entombed us, probably never to be discovered.

And finally, since I have used up probably more than my share of space I'll say, that's all for this time, and may God Bless Philip

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### **Reminder From the Treasurer**

- Barry Mitchell

This is the last call for membership dues for 2011. We really want and need your support but we cannot continue to keep you on our mailing list if you do not send us your \$15.00 every year. The HKVCA is most reluctant to take names off our lists but we require your participation in order to pay our bills and can't carry you for long as a "freebee". Our organization continues to carry the message and has a meaningful and important

programs underway in order to do that. All this costs money and our main source of revenue is the membership fees you send us. We do not receive any government grants to operate across Canada but of course we welcome donations from anyone who wishes to contribute. A reminder that any donation of \$20.00 or more means you will receive an official tax receipt.

Thanks for your support and we appreciate you keeping up-to-date with your dues.

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### **Last Post**

**Alfred Harold Baker**, E29848, RRC died July 7, 2011

**Jean-Paul "John" LeBlanc**, E30364, RRC, 31 July 2011

### **HKVCA**

**Mary Whittingham MacIver** widow of Harry McIver E30054, RRC died March 20, 2011

**Joyce Brown**, widow of Murray S. Brown, WG died May 6, 2011

**Lorna Shayler**, wife of Ed Shayler, daughter of Gail Richoz and Donna died July 6, 2011

**Mary Sellers**, widow of Raymond Richard Sellers and mother to Cheryl Currie and Donna Remillard, WG, H6609, died July 22, 2011

**Florence Wiebe**, widow of WG Elmer Wiebe, mother of Bonnie and Barry died July 30, 2011

**Alma Wood**, widow of Leonard Wood RRC died August 5, 2011

**Marg Dwyer**, widow of Terry Dwyer, H3205, CDC, daughter of members Maureen Dwyer Kline and her husband Bob Kline, died August 30, 2011

**Renay Perrier**, QC Deputy Director, died August 30, 2011.

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

*We will remember them!*

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### **Membership**

Membership Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	56	9	13	78
Atl	53	6	5	64
BC	91	7	40	138
MB	172	11	47	230
ON	167	14	51	232
QC	72	13	51	136
Total	611	60	207	878

Legend: V: Veteran, W: Widow, R: Regular



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## **“Education is the Key”**

Manitoba, Ontario and Atlantic Canada reported in the National Newsletter’s last issue. We will feature the three remaining Regions in this issue.

### **A Brief Quebec Region Report:**

Lucette Mailloux-Muir is both Regional Director in QC, and Education Chair.

The Granby National Convention from Aug. 11 to Aug. 14 was a great success, and those who attended really appreciated the hard work of Lucette and her Committee. Lucette will be providing information elsewhere, so we aren't asking her to review Quebec's activities in the Education section at this time. However, she has suggested that she is hoping to have opportunities to get into the schools in the coming year as she knows how important it is to have the youth of our country learn about what the soldiers did for us through their wartime sacrifices.

Instead of a full report, we asked Lucette to allow us to reprint here what was part of a very special moment in the proceedings on Saturday evening at the National Convention. Each of the eight Hong Kong veterans attending was honoured by being presented with a very special plaque, a picture of which can be found in Lucette’s Regional Report. The words were so meaningful and moving that we were sure the membership in general would be interested in reading what was engraved on that plaque. Lucette had mentioned that the text was written in French by a young boy, and that she and her Committee had translated it into English. Here is the full text.

*Dear Veterans*

*We are here to say Thank You  
You were once young and carefree  
and,  
when the call for Freedom came,  
you answered.  
You stood strong and full of courage,  
and one day in November, you  
arrived by sea.  
As free men you fought with all your  
souls for liberty.  
You saw your Comrades fall,  
and regardless of your wounds and  
your sadness  
you remained to fight. For those  
fallen*

*Comrades of yours, whose youth was  
sacrificed,  
on your behalf we say, rest in peace  
in a worthy  
sleep, we represent the children they  
did not have.  
And to you, Veterans gathered here  
today, who valiantly  
offered your best years, we say: “WE  
ARE YOUR CHILDREN,  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF  
LIBERTY, THANK YOU”.  
THANK YOU for 70 years of  
FREEDOM*

What a fitting way to realize the importance of our Canadian soldiers' involvement in the Battle of Hong Kong, the strength of so many in surviving the POW camps, and the fact that they are still a presence 70 years after their ordeal. That this young boy had the wisdom to understand that the soldiers at Hong Kong have helped to give us 70 years of freedom in this country speaks well for our younger generations. May many more of them be so wise!

...

Speaking of that sort of wisdom, part of our role as members of HKVCA is to interest the younger generation in learning about the part our Canadian soldiers played in the Battle of Hong Kong. Another of our roles is helping these young people get a real sense not only of what the soldiers did, but how their experiences changed the perceptions of all those around them in their families, during the war, and after they came home. We need to make sure that people generally understand the life-altering factors that affected family members – wives and children – as well as the veterans themselves.

We’ve seen what a young Quebec boy can articulate in the poem written above. What follows is another example of young children being able to express what a soldier’s wife and family must have gone through in those war years. Here is what 12-year-old Lily Coles wrote in 2010. She managed to capture the extreme loneliness and sadness of living without the husband, or father, or other family member that was true for all those left behind while family members served.

### **In the Prairies**

*A windy day blows away the crops*

*The many grasshoppers chirp in  
hunger  
The dead streets not for cars but dust  
Everyone inside, waiting...for  
anything  
In the prairies  
Our husbands, our sons, our  
brothers  
No men to have jobs to help our  
families  
We are alone, at home, with our  
children  
Sitting, waiting...for something  
In the prairies  
Some....they leave our home  
Some...are undecided, and lost  
Lost in the sadness they bear, since it  
started  
We all have troubles.....  
In the prairies  
Day by day, come expected letters  
Day by day, our bellies grow  
hungrier  
The uncertainty that he might not  
come home  
But I know he’ll come home...  
In the prairies  
Christmas comes and all I give is  
support  
All I want is assurance and peace  
The children, although sad, still find  
a way to be joyful  
To be joyful in the happiness they  
still know...  
In the prairies  
We feed ourselves, our kids, our  
friends  
We sew stitch after stitch to make  
warm clothes  
For the long winter, lying ahead, so  
unknown  
The cold, the danger, the hunger  
In the prairies  
The first snow, so beautiful and  
white  
Forgetting for a moment that he’s  
not here to share it  
Children out playing in the white  
snow  
As luminous as the day I know he’ll  
come home  
In the prairies  
The day after snow, a lovely  
porcelain plate  
As calm as a delicate white dove  
A wonderful wide world of white  
Even the tiles of a castle can’t  
compare  
In the prairies  
As I think, I know he’ll come home  
I know I will be happy  
We see we’ll be alright  
We just have to stay...  
Faithful in the prairies*

- Lily Coles is the Great-Granddaughter of Lt. Leonard B. Corrigan, WG.

### **Education Report From BC**

Regional Director Lee Naylor has agreed to act as Education Chair in BC, as well as continuing his role as Regional Director. As you can see from what follows, he's had a very busy time.

BC Day, August 04, 2008 BC Day—the 150th birthday of BC and a Salute to our Veterans: Linda Quesnel nee Stewart, Murray and Lucy Doull, and I set up our panel display in a tent on the grounds of Heritage Park. Gerry Gerrard carried the HKV flag in the parade. The weather was a little hot which permitted a large crowd to attend.

On September 05, 2009, Murray Doull and I were invited to the First Annual Open House at the George Derby Convalescent Centre in Burnaby for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honoring Canadian Veterans. We set up our HKVCA visual and electronic display which attracted large numbers of the public. The organizer, Guy Black, invited us back for last year's event in 2010, and now we are preparing for this year's display on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

December 10 – 11, 2009, I was invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> International Human Rights Day Student Symposium, Human Rights in the Asia Pacific 1931 – 1941, Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WW11 in Asia (ALPHA). In conjunction with The Vancouver School Board, Graeme Stacey and I gave two presentations per day in which we highlighted the Hong Kong story. Graeme Stacey, who is a member of HKVCA as well as a member of the British Columbia Teacher Social Studies Association, has recently been named Vice President of that Teachers' organization, and deserves our congratulations for that honour. Approximately four hundred students from different school districts attended our symposium.

Prior to my taking on the BC Region Education Chair, Graeme and I were in contact with each other in regards to passing information back and forth. Last year's event took place at the Vancouver Technical Secondary School in Vancouver with over 633 teachers and students attending. They came from 18 high schools and 12 school districts. This symposium

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was a huge success resulting in the school hosting this year's event once again. The story of the Kamloops Kid is a part of our presentation. When inquiring at the end of the event about the military list of names mounted in large frames on the wall, I found out that the Kamloops Kid had graduated from this school. This year I will present this information to the students. How ironic!

Graeme and I have formed an alliance and work together as a very efficient team both giving the presentation when it applies to the school system. In the class room I set up our extensive display and we interact with the students prior to beginning of the presentation. Graeme jokingly points out "he is the teacher and I am the historian". Graeme and I continue to improve on the presentation package.

On February 18, 2010, I was invited to the Okanagan Zone Teachers' Conference. Our topic was "Canadian Hong Kong Veterans: In Battle, as POWs, Wounds and Closure." Graeme Stacey and I set up my display and we both gave a presentation to the grade 11 and 12 Social Study teachers from many districts.

Oct 25 – 29, 2010 - Chilliwack Remembers, Chilliwack Military Museum: Murray Doull and I set up our extensive visual and electronic display and spoke with several school groups, teachers and adults in regards to the "C" Force story.

October 22, 2010 - BC Teachers' Provincial Workshop in Burnaby: Graeme Stacey, Murray Doull and I set up our display. Graeme and I both gave the presentation to the grade 11 and 12 Social Study Teachers. Teachers like to have things made easy for them! Graeme passed out question and answer sheets and I passed out the CD-ROM titled "The Battle of Hong Kong" that Mike Babin had sent me. Each teacher received one, and all were most grateful. Before giving my part of the presentation I introduced to the class Cam Fraser, grandson of (Tony) Antony Frank Grimston RCCS, who is a Secondary School teacher and you can be sure he teaches the "C" Force Story to his students. Of the 33 RCCS soldiers who fought in Hong Kong, 18 came from BC.

Nov. 6-11, 2010 - Remembering the Past, Hoping for the Future, Veteran's week at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria: After organizing to take part in the event and due to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to attend. Linda stepped forward and was present at the display and gave a presentation. Gerry Gerrard made an appearance. To try and save cost for travel, lodging and fuel, Murray Doull went over a few days earlier to set up and work our extensive display and visuals. Not sure if I would get over in time to give the requested two-day presentation, I asked Linda Quesnel to give the first presentation, with me giving the second day presentation in an auditorium. We also gave presentations at the display area as approximately 15,000 students, teachers and adults passed through our venue. Murray had to leave early to get back to work, so Jim Trick volunteered to take Murray's place and come out to assist with the display and help tear down. We were extremely busy! Janet MacDonald, curator of the Royal BC Museum, was very pleased with our presence and has once again invited us to this year's event.

Over the past few months I have been invited to participate in events put on by various organizations by giving presentations, so I have been working on different battles that our veterans' took part in during the invasion of Hong Kong. This is a very interesting concept to consider because it helps to educate both students and parents. Today I was told the first event will take place October 20<sup>th</sup> in Abbotsford and funding for my expenses has been approved. Once I have completed this event I will forward all pertinent information on this most interesting partnership. I have been informed that these BC organizations are very excited to have me give a presentation on the "C" Force story, and I'm certainly looking forward to the opportunity to be involved.

### **Education Report from AB/SK:**

The Saskatchewan Council of Social Science Teachers requested that HKVCA present at their annual convention in Moose Jaw on March 3 and 4, 2011. Through a series of requests and referrals I was asked to present on behalf of our Association.



The theme of the convention was "Human Rights" and the keynote speaker was Mr. Alex Neve, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada. His presentation focussed on both past and current violations with significant reference to World War II and, though absent of any reference to the Hong Kong arena, was exceptionally well done and created an atmosphere of inquiry and historical context for the 70 to 80 secondary teachers in attendance from across the province.

The session presented on behalf of the HKVCA was well-attended with 30 teachers, university professors, and a few other presenters who were in attendance hosting later sessions. The presentation utilized the HKVCA's PowerPoint Presentation and was supplemented with anecdotes and references from "Seared in my Memory" by Bernard Jesse (my father) and "A Hong Kong Diary Revisited" by L. B. Corrigan.

The resources were exceptional, the quality and detail provided in the materials from the National Office were well received and provoked a very healthy discussion on what can only be described as a little-known chapter in our country's war history. Experienced teachers were all somewhat apologetic for not including more reference in the classrooms to these events, and following a review of our website with them and offering access to the "Teachers' Zone" I felt assured there would be a strong uptake of the materials and a determined attempt to include Canada's role in the Hong Kong conflict.

Subsequent to this presentation, I have been in contact with a couple of schools which expressed their interest in follow-up presentations with their students. I am awaiting their calls as the new school year is now underway.

I would encourage everyone in our region and from across the country to visit our website [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca) to review the exceptional resources, share photos and memories, create a personal tribute, and in general, stay in touch with our association.

As the new Education Coordinator for the Alberta/Saskatchewan region I

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would like to invite you to share your stories of updates for inclusion in future HKVCA newsletters. I will be in touch with those who have provided emails in our region, and ask that you please pass this request on to others so we can keep the news and stories current.

- Howard Jesse, Education Coordinator, Alberta/Saskatchewan Region

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### *Across the Nation*

#### **BC Banter**

With fall upon us, the BC Region would like to express best wishes to all Hong Kong veterans, widows, HKVCA members, family and friends.

For those of us from BC who attended the National Convention in Granby, we would like to convey our gratitude to the QC Region. **Lucette Mailloux-Muir** and her devoted team were wonderful hosts and all the events ran like clockwork. We brought home many fond memories and were grateful for the opportunity to honour our veterans.

Two HK vets from BC were in attendance with family members. **Gerry Gerrard** (RCCS) and **Bill Doull** (RRC) made the long journey back east. **Gerry** was accompanied by his grandson **Brian White** and **Bill** attended with his wife **Claire**, his daughter **Sandra** and his son **Murray**. Other BC members in attendance were **Gwen Day**, **Helen Knowles**, **Evelyn Pink** and **Ron and Lise Bullard**.

We have been invited to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual George Derby Centre "Tribute to Our Veterans" event on September 17 in Burnaby, BC. The information and details are on the website. We will be setting up our Region's audio/visual display and answering questions to those in attendance. **Gerry Gerrard** (RCCS) is travelling from Vancouver Island to attend with his daughter **Bev Campbell** and her husband **Eric** who live in Maple Ridge. **Bev** and **Eric's** daughter **Tracey Campbell** works at the Centre which houses approximately 350 veterans. **Lee Naylor** and I will arrive early and set up the display. There are many veteran associations in attendance and this has always proven to be a wonderful tribute to all Canadian veterans. It is a perfect venue to educate the public about the story of

'C' Force and our display is always very well received.

We have also been invited again this year to set up our HK display at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria during Veterans Week in November. A decision will be made soon regarding our attendance.

**Lee Naylor**, who wears two hats being our regional Director and Education Chair, has been invited to give a one hour presentation about 'C' Force at the Abbotsford Evangelical Free Church on Oct. 20. Lee's presentation is titled "Canadian Hong Kong Veterans: In Battle, as POW's, Wounds and Closure". Lee's presentation will be part of the Hands on History sessions with Todd Farion. Lee will be speaking between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. The address of the church is 33218 Marshall Road in Abbotsford BC for those who can attend.

Many of you are familiar with **Graeme Stacey** who pioneered the addition of the Hong Kong Veteran's story in the BC senior high school social studies curriculum. Graeme's work can be found in the "Teacher's Zone" on our website. Graeme and Lee continue to work closely together on new educational projects to teach the story of our HK vets to students. Graeme is creating a Hong Kong History Document as part of a Critical Thinking Consortium Project which will be available in the future as part of a national collection available to history teachers across Canada. The collection will be comprised of topics relating to 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian history.

Respectfully submitted by Murray Doull on behalf of the BC Region.

#### **AB/SK Action**

*As the National President, I am writing this short note to the members of AB/SK in an appeal to keep this Region active. Norma Fuchs and Gail Richoz have done a wonderful job in keeping the members informed. However now their situations have changed and they need help with volunteers to take leadership roles to continue the work that has been done in the Region. Norma's number is 1-403-280-5680 and Gail's number is 1-403-208-0022. Please give them a call and offer your assistance.*

*Thank you. Carol Hadley*

## Manitoba Moments

Hello one and all

Well here we are with fall upon us. In Manitoba we are having beautiful weather, hopefully it lasts. Since the last newsletter we held our VJ Day Celebration and we were honoured to have the Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee in attendance. We had two HK veterans in attendance **George Peterson** and **Bill Bell Sr.** With losing so many of our veterans it was so special to have them there. The Colour Party and our piper did a great job. We had a packed house for VJ Day and it was great to see the support from the other Veteran Groups and Legions.

The Tea and Tidbits was held and we had a small attendance of six women.

We have accepted the Convention to be held here in Winnipeg in two years so we will be starting on preparations for that event.

I am now working on the LAST BIG REUNION DINNER to be held on October 22 2011. His Honour Philip Lee will be attending the Reunion with his wife. The reason we are no longer having the gala evening is because of the lack of attendance from the members. We will be holding smaller event in its place. We need your support to keep the memory of the veterans alive so come out to the functions that are being held.

**Grant Shepard** is not well but we wish him better health. **George Peterson** is having a knee replacement October 21 and will not be able to attend the Reunion.

Thank you to Lucette and her committee for a great job on the convention I was unable to attend but heard through the grape vine all had a wonderful time. Well that is all. Stay in touch, until we meet again. Juliet Lafortune Regional Director Manitoba

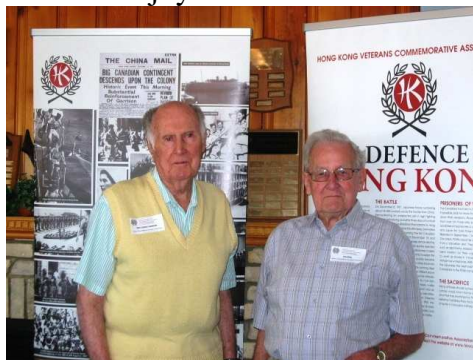
## Ontario Offerings

**From our Regional Director, Mike Babin:** Congratulations to Lucette Mailloux Muir and her team for staging an excellent reunion in Granby in August. This was my first Quebec reunion, and I was impressed by the organization and camaraderie. It was terrific to see the eight Veterans who were there, as well as a good number of HKVCA friends.

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)

Back in June, several of us attended the Foundation Day dinner of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association in Toronto. As you know, The Volunteers were Hong Kong residents – British, Chinese and others – who fought alongside our soldiers against the Japanese invasion. **George MacDonell** was an honoured guest at the dinner, and received a standing ovation from those present.

As you all know, this is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. Geoffrey Emerson, a Hong Kong resident and author, is organizing a reunion of the Stanley Camp Internees from November 28 to December 5. Much of his program is of interest to us and anyone thinking of visiting Hong Kong at that time should consider joining the program. For further information, you can contact Geoff at [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com). Have an enjoyable fall!



2011-06-18 Veteran Luncheon Crystal Beach 2 Gerry Sunstrom & Ken Pfiher.JPG



2011-06-18 Veteran Luncheon Crystal Beach 1.JPG

## Gordon Coyne, our Area Representative for the West

### Central reports:

Veteran **Ken Pifer** (RRC): The sun is shining brightly where Ken lives in Grimsby, Ontario, as a huge grape harvest ripens on the vine. He is having an excellent summer, leading a very active life. In June he was asked to represent the Hong Kong Vets at this year's edition of the Canadian International Tattoo in Hamilton, Ontario. It was a

very proud moment for him; and soon he will be on his way to attend the Annual Conference in Quebec. Bravo, Ken!

Veteran **Gerry "Sunny" Sunstrum** (RRC): When I spoke with Gerry recently he was feeling like the proverbial old soldier who's get-up-and-go has "got up and went". His next door neighbour in Niagara Falls, with whom he has enjoyed lunch at Timmers every day, has also "got up and went" to a retirement residence. The good news is that all Gerry's medical tests are "normal". A high point of his summer, he says, was attending the very memorable Area Luncheon hosted in June by Lori Atkinson-Smith.

Widow **Elizabeth Chesser** (Ken Chesser RRC): In her 91st year, Elizabeth is being well cared for at Extencare, Brampton, Ontario. Her daughter Kathleen works nearby, so is able to look in on 'Mom' regularly. Elizabeth has lost all her mobility, but makes up for it with her cheerfulness. Using her wheelchair, we took an interesting tour through her large 'home'. We also had a happy time reviewing photos of the Dedication of the Memorial in 2009.

Widow **Sylvia Doucette** (Gerald Doucette RRC): When I called Sylvia on July 29th I was startled to find her celebrating her 77th birthday. Happy Birthday Sylvia! May you realize your wish to "live to 90". She continues to live independently in her bungalow in Brampton, Ontario. Her daughter Roseann lives nearby, so is able to stay in close touch. Sylvia was able once again to enjoy an extended winter vacation with family in her native Guyana.

Widow **Dorothy McColm** (Murray McColm RRC): When I met Dorothy for the first time recently, she was resting comfortably in the sunny Common Room of St. Joseph's Villa, a nursing home located in Dundas, Ontario. A serious stroke has left her unable to speak. Her daughter Elaine lives nearby so can look in on her regularly. Dorothy's room is decorated gorgeously with family photos, and includes her late husband Murray's Hong Kong crest.

Widow **Doris Murray** (Gordon Murray RRC): We are indebted to Doris' son Bert, who



lives in Brampton, Ontario for this update on his mother. Doris is receiving continuing care at Faith Manor, a nursing home in Brampton. Bert describes her as being "comfortable and happy, and well cared for", but little aware of her surroundings. She is in her 87th year.

Widow **Marjorie Overton** (Bill Overton CPC): Marjorie always provides us with a very cheery conversation. Now in her 82nd year, she has lived for some time in an apartment in Mississauga, where her daughter is able to look in regularly. Unfortunately, Marjorie has had several serious health issues in recent years, and these have curtailed her once-active social life. She has fond memories of attending many meetings of the Association when her husband was alive.

Widow **June Smith** (Harold Smith RRC): June continues to live independently in her home in St Catharines, Ontario that she and Harold bought many years ago. Fortunately, she has a son and daughter-in-law living nearby who are a big help to her. June had big news when I called her...the birth of her first great-great grandson several days previously. She told me the baby, Mateo Smith, is a "gorgeous little fellow at 9 pounds, 2 ounces". Congratulations June! She describes our Association as a "wonderful organization", adding "I'm glad it is there".

**Jackie Le Drew, our Northern Area Representative**, sent in this item: **Mrs. Doreen Berry** (North Bay) widow of Harvey Berry WG will turn 87 this month and just had a great-grandson born September 10th, Nolan Reed, 6 lbs. 10 oz.

A note from Sandra Brazel and her mom **Gladys Brazel** widow of Arnold Ervin Brazel RRC (both from Emo) visited the HKVCA Memorial Wall in August in Ottawa. Sandra said she felt so proud to be the daughter of Arnold.

### Quebec Quotes

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director  
Greetings from sunny Quebec.

After a great sunny and warm summer and a very good turnout for our National Convention, things are returning to a bit more normal pace. More to say on the Convention and Quebec activities will follow in this edition of the Wasureru-Nai.

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)

We are at work in preparation for the November Remembrance period as schools are back for their sessions and the vacation periods are over for the most part.

We will shortly be holding our fall executive meeting and plan for the upcoming New Year.

A call for membership renewals for 2012 is also being prepared as this year is fast coming to an end and notes to our sick will be mailed.

At the risk of repeating the news I will close this report at this time.

From our house, to your house Happy Thanksgiving and take care of each other. Till next time.

### Eastern Breezes

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional Director  
Greetings from the East Coast.

Apparently the weather stations are saying we had a "Soggy Summer"... so I'm hoping it was good for our local farmers.

My mom (Clara) and I attended the National Convention in Granby, where we were blown away by the professional organization and attention to detail from Lucette Mailloux and her team. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to pull this off without a hitch and Lucette did just that! Thank you Lucette for showing us such a great time!

It was an honour to meet with the eight Veterans who attended. I only wish we could have had more time to chat. Many of you went out of your way to travel such a long distance and my hat's off to you all for being there to help spur us on, the HKVCA was only so blessed with your presence.

It was also wonderful to finally meet Regional Reps and Board Members. You're a great bunch of people and very dedicated to the mission of our association. I look forward to meeting with you all again.

HKV Bill McWhirter along with other HKV family members attended the Annual Maritime/Gaspe Reunion in Florenceville, NB on the weekend of Sept. 10th. Again, it was very well organized by the Darrah family. Without a doubt we must recognize the Darrah's and give them much thanks for keeping our region together for so many years, as this year marks the 20th time they've

held this reunion. They have given so much over the years where thank you is an understatement to their commitment and dedication.

It was decided at the general meeting, the next Annual Maritime/Gaspe reunion will be held in Belledune, NB on the weekend of September 5, 2012. We thought we should give the Darrah's a break and have them come here without worry of time and schedule. We also anticipate this time line will coincide with the unveiling and "Dedication" to our 'C' Force Memorial in Belledune.

Until next time, have a wonderful Autumn and take care.

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Thank you for your time – time, it is the most precious thing we have which only increases in value when shared with another.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away."

A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.

Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy.

Tell people you care about them, if you do so, you will certainly brighten their day and might change their perspective on life...for the better.

Be kind to one another.

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NOTE TO VETERANS: New digital hearing aids are available from your audiologists that are covered by VAC.

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**Please inform us of any address, phone or email changes so we can stay in touch and communicate with you and to ensure you receive the newsletter.**



