

WASURERU-NAI



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HKVCA President’s message

Well the weather is wet again and the cooler temperatures are coming but as we begin our fall and winter activities, we will keep warm knowing we are working for our veterans.

We are still working on various aspects of our bylaws and election processes as we assimilate the changes that have come to us recently, and you will find some information later in the newsletter. Please read this carefully and if you have any questions please let us know.

Memorial Wall. We are still working on the wall corrections. Delays occurred due to the fact that the records filed with the National Capitol Commission are not available to our fabricator, so it has been a challenge to match the font. However, there is progress and hopefully we will have the wall completed soon, if the weather cooperates.

Fundraising - We are still fundraising to help complete this project. Please contact the Board of Directors (BOD) with any ideas so that we can guide you. We need to develop some constant funding to pay for the projects that we have ongoing and for future endeavours to promote remembering the Battle of Hong Kong. If anyone knows of someone inside or outside our Association who could help with this or of means to accomplish this, please approach the BOD.

Donations over \$20.00 are always accepted with a tax receipt to help you. Please send donations to the Treasurer – Barry Mitchell with a note

to say where the money is to be allocated. If we don’t need the extra funds for the Wall, they will be allocated to other projects.

We are still looking for someone to be the **Membership Chair** for the Association. The role of this position is to gather all the membership lists for the regions and keep them archived. Jim Trick will work with you to assist in a smooth changeover in the process. Please give this consideration and we hope that someone will come forward soon.

We are also looking for people to work on the annual **Essay Contest**. This means that you get to read several essays that students submit – there are criteria that you follow to ensure a fair evaluation of their work. Gail Angel and Sheila Forsyth will have more information about this in a future newsletter and they will help you with this process. Please consider this valuable work to encourage our youth to be interested in the history of Canada and the Battle of Hong Kong.



I was recently in Halifax with my husband who was attending a conference and was thrilled to see the wonderful views of the east coast and experience the warm hospitality of the people. So we received recently the news with disappointment that the Atlantic Region will not be hosting the 70th Anniversary of the National Convention in New Brunswick next year. We will need to develop new plans and will keep you informed.

Fall 2014

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“Never Forget”

I hope that you enjoy and celebrate the colours of our Fall landscape. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving as we give thanks for the many blessings we have that others in the world do not. All the best from my family to yours.

Carol



Greetings from Phil Doddridge. HKVA President

World War I

Hello again from Down East.

Two items that may be of interest to the national group. I mention them here because they reflect some activity that has taken place in this corner of the country.

First, as a matter of national interest, Emmie Flanagan's Atlantic Region reunion in Campbellton, NB went off extremely well. The purpose of the annual gathering, in addition to meet and greet and conduct the annual general meeting, is to honour Hong Kong Veterans. The fact that only two of us were present, Allison Pollock and yours truly, demonstrated declining numbers of HK Vets. Incidentally, there are thirty-four of us left alive in all of Canada.

About one hundred members of the Association, family and friends attended to make the reunion a complete success. Thanks again go to Emmie and her committee.

Since this is the centennial of the "Great War", I would like to mention a study done by Tom Eden, a native of Gaspé. To honour his uncle who was killed in France in the war, Tom travelled to France five times to view and photograph the graves of Canadians killed there. I was honoured to attend a lecture session by Tom in Gaspé Town when he presented an account of his study and showed photos of the cemeteries. He plans to write a book. Should be interesting.

I know that my remarks are concentrated on what happens in Eastern Canada, and I apologize for that. My world is getting ever smaller and what happens far afield does not always come to my attention. Therefore, I beg forgiveness.

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

Philip

JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

Mailing the newsletter, especially with higher postage rates, is expensive. Want to help our association stretch our dollars and make good use of your membership fees? Join over 40% of the membership who receive their newsletter by email. Send an email to hkvca@shaw.ca and we will make it so.

We Need Your Help

HKVCA has an urgent need for a National Membership Coordinator. Responsibilities include the collation of quarterly Region membership submissions, reporting statistics, and responding to general queries from members and the general public. Computer skills are required, especially basic spreadsheet experience. This is an interesting task that is not onerous, but one that will allow you to interact with the executive and improve your computer skills. Need more information or want more specifics? Send your questions to membership@hkvca.ca and we'll get back to you right away.

Jim Trick

Selection of HKVCA books available from Barry's Emporium

* <i>No Reason Why</i> by Carl Vincent	\$30.00
* <i>One Soldier's Story</i> by George MacDonell	\$20.00
* <i>Dark Side of the Sun</i> by Michael Palmer	\$25.00
* <i>A Hong Kong Diary Revisited</i> by Leonard Corrigan	\$30.00
* <i>Gander</i> by George MacDonell & Sue Beard	\$20.00
* <i>Beyond the Call</i> by D. Burke Penny	\$30.00

Postage Costs Extra
Cheques payable to HKVCA,
P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6
bcmitchell@shaw.ca

Gander Interest Crosses the Pond.

Carol received news from war enactors in Britain (who had asked for permission to use “Gander”) about their summer activities in Leyburn with plans to expand to Pickering in October for a wartime and 1940s weekend. They sent this thank you to Carol with these pictures.” Hi Carol. We had a fantastic weekend at Leyburn representing “Gander” The girls were fussed and cuddled so much and the people were fascinated and some quite moved by “Gander’s” story. They went down so well we have been invited back next year. As you can see from the photos quite a few different types of military representatives came to see “Gander”. She was such a good girl and loving all the attention and posed for any amount of photos for 2 days without rest. She also took part in the memorial parade from the church as she was “in uniform”. We are so proud of her and “Sgt Gander”. We would like to thank the HKVCA for your blessing for us to represent “Gander”. Linda and Paul Smith, Sapphire (Sgt. Gander) and Shakira and Akasha



Searching for Information?

We get many emails from folks who are looking for information about a person, resource or event related to ‘C’ Force. Our advice is almost always the same, and that is to visit our web site (www.hkvca.ca) and use our web search tool that is found at the upper-right of most of our web pages. This powerful feature automatically searches all pages on all of our sites (including photo captions and old newsletters) and displays the results in an easy to read format. Why not give it a try - you may be surprised at the results!

Last Post

HKVA

Alfred Joseph Babin [RRC] on July 12, 2014

Bill Muir August 24, 2014 [WG]

HKVCA

Thelma Disensi on August 2, 2014. She was the widow of Samuel Disensi RRC E30605.

ELECTIONS 2015

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we are changing the way we elect our executive to comply with new Not for Profit Corporations Act regulations. These changes are straightforward, yet possibly confusing. Simply put, from now on you will be electing only Board Directors - no Presidents; no Secretaries; no Treasurers. Those specific positions, commonly called the Executive Committee, will be decided by the elected Directors. The elected Board of Directors will be at least 10 directors. You may notice that this will increase the size of our board.

Another change is that the term of office for all positions is for one (1) year only, and the limit of two consecutive terms has been removed.

The Act requires these changes because it has been shown that organizations using this procedure have better success - better success in representation; better success in programs; better success in organization vitality; and better financial management.

Nominations

Naturally, we need to conduct nominations before the election can occur. Previously, nominations were for specific positions. But now, you will nominate up to ten (yes, 10!) directors without worrying about the executive positions. (It may help to think about it like this: in Parliament, MPs are elected, but the Cabinet is appointed. Remember that the executive committee is selected by the elected directors.) The only rule is that at least one of your nominees MUST be from your region.

Let’s recap. Instead of nominating up to 5 people for specific roles, you can nominate up to 10 people as “Directors At Large”. But wait - there’s one more change; ANY ADULT PERSON, not necessarily an association member, may be nominated. But if elected, a non-member must join in order to validate his/her election.

These changes ensure that the best people are on the Board to deal with the current planned projects. At the same time, these changes support the addition of new members into our leadership to bring vitality and longevity to our organization.

Anticipated Nomination form content – not final

<p>I nominate the following for election to the HKVCA Board of Directors.</p> <p>From my Region:</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Other nominees:</p> <p>Name: _____ Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>(repeated 8 times)</p>
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The importance of strong regions cannot be over stressed. The majority of ideas to promote and achieve our goals come from the ideas of dedicated individuals in our regions. Those members (you!) take action to make our projects successful. The table below shows some of our association’s activities and how they occur at regional and national levels.

Function	Responsibility	
	Regional	National
Assessment of projects		X
Advocating on behalf of the veterans and widows		X
Conception and feasibility of new projects	X	X
Evaluation of compliance with our mission	X	X
Implementation of new projects	X	
Interaction with local groups	X	
Interaction at provincial level	X	X
Interaction at federal level		X
Maintaining a web site(s)		X
Participating in memorial services	X	X
Personal contact with vets & widows	X	
Promoting awareness of the Battle for Hong Kong	X	X
Seeking opportunities for, and developing partnerships	X	X

I trust the above illustrates the critical need for strong local participation.

Regional Nominations

Nominations and elections at the regional level can follow the same approach, but this has not yet been decided. One idea is that the national directors also serve on the region council. The region council then duly appoints the Secretary, Treasurer, and project leaders as required. Dependent upon regional activities, the region council must be at least three people, but may be as many as needed to address varying degrees of activity. The individual from each region with the greatest number of votes from the national election will be given the role of Regional Director. The Regional Director will also serve as chair of the region council.

Charitable organization guidelines do not dictate how regions elect their councils. Therefore, while it is possible for each region to elect their council differently, it seems to be counter-productive. The Board has yet to discuss this aspect.

Derrill Henderson

FROM SEA TO SEA: REGIONAL NEWS

BC Banter

Lee Naylor, B.C. Region Director

On July 01, I was invited by the Port Moody Station Museum to set up our HKVCA display in the main museum to great success. Spectators asked many question after watching the videos. Special guests: Honourary Consul General of Belgian, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Germany and many more VIPs.



On September 11, I was present to witness Graeme Stacey BC Region Co-education Chair, History 12, Holocaust 12, SS11 Teacher at the Kelowna Secondary School and Murray Doull, HKVCA, BC Region Secretary/Treasurer receive the HKVCA BC Region Minister of Veteran Affairs Commendation. The Honourable Minister (Mr. Julian Fanitino) presented both awards. Congratulations and well deserved!



Minister Julian Fanitino
and Graeme Stacey

Minister Fanitino with
Murray Doull



Prairie Prose

Carol Hadley, Regional Secretary

The Prairie Region holds monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at noon at the St. James Legion. We welcome any member to attend these meetings.

We were very pleased to have the dedication of the Arden 7 project on July 12. George Peterson, the last of the Arden 7 group of



men in the Winnipeg Grenadiers, with his daughters (Alison and Pat) along with Gerry and Harry Harding sons of Fred Harding) were part of the ceremony.

In August we held the Ladies Tea & Tidbits for our female members to enjoy a light lunch and lots of conversation. Next **Tea and Tidbits: December 6 at 1 pm to 3 pm – At St. James Legion on Portage Ave.** The invitations will be out beginning of November and we hope the ladies will come out for some Christmas Cheer.

We participated in the Red River Heritage Fair again this year at the University of Winnipeg and one of the finalists was **Nova Martin**. Nova also wrote and produced a video featuring his Great great uncle Ray Pellor, Winnipeg Grenadier and Hong Kong veteran, “Les Veterans de Hong Kong”. He is a Grade 7 student and as a winner he will be going to Ottawa so we encouraged him to visit the Memorial Wall.

Books

Howard Raper (Ontario) submitted the following about a book about the Claytons. "The finishing touches are being made to the book, *Hoping in Hell*, we are producing on the lives of Bob and Jessie Clayton. We are taking pre-printing orders in an attempt to raise the money needed to pay for printing the book. All money raised is going to the Brechin/Mara Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Branch where the Claytons are Life Members. I was informed a few days ago that orders and donations now total over \$2,300.00 so we will have no trouble paying for the printing of the book. Anna Bourgeois has typeset the first draft and I am busy tweaking it while she is designing the cover. We hope to have the book printed by October 19th, Flash's 93rd birthday. We are working on establishing a video link from a big screen at the Legion Branch to a laptop computer at Sunnybrook hospital using Skype so the members of Branch 488 can sing Happy Birthday to him. We're hoping we can present him with the first copy of the book as well.

It may be newsworthy as well to mention that September 23rd marks the 68th wedding anniversary of the Claytons.

Orders for the book can be made by mailing a cheque to R.C.L. Branch 488, P.O. Box 59, Brechin, Ontario L0K 1B0. The price is \$22.60 (includes HST) plus \$5.00 shipping and handling for a total of \$27.60.



In August at the St. Boniface Museum in Winnipeg, Federal Heritage Minister Shelly Glover announced that funding for the Young Citizens program run by Canada's History has been arranged for the next three years. This is, of course, great news for Canada's History, and for the Red River Heritage Fair. Students from our Fair have been involved in this project and it's been encouraging to see the videos they've created.

VJ Day – August 17, 2014 – Neil Bardal's Notre Dame. We had about fifty members attend the service with Rev. Canon Murray Still (grandson of Joseph Howard OIGE, WG, HK veteran) and Regional Director Juliet Lafortune doing the service. We were pleased to have some out of town visitors – **Joyce Sewell** from Eriksdale and **Joan Watson** from Birtle. Visiting and lunch followed the service.

At the VJ Day, Juliet Lafortune had a couple of pictures (George Allan Birkett and Charles Michael Beltz) that need to find their family – if you have information on the families - please contact her at 204-338-3354 or at jlafortune@mymts.net to make arrangements to have to have these pictures sent.



On September 21, 2014 a special ceremony named a community park at Moray Street and Bruce in St James as **Neil Bardal Memorial Park.** The Bardal family have been in the funeral business for many generations and Neil Senior was a HK veteran. Neil was very involved in the community and the family lived close to the park so it was fitting that the park was a tribute to his hard work. Neil died in February 2010 but left his legacy to his son, Eirik Bardal who is in the picture with his wife, Lisa and his son and daughter.



George Peterson, HK Vice President and Manitoba HKVA President, was interviewed by a member of the Manitoba Museum as they develop information and questions to go out to the schools with displays of the HK veterans who have left their war memorabilia in care of the museum. This will broaden the profile of the veterans in the Manitoba school system and encourage the students and teachers to include the Battle of Hong Kong in their studies.

Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor will be attending the **MSSTA SAGE** function on Friday, October 24, 2014 with a display and for discussion with teachers.

69th ANNUAL REUNION will be held Sunday October 26, 2014 2 p.m. at Neil Bardal's on Notre Dame cost for the buffet dinner is - \$30.00 for Adults - Children (12 and under) - \$10.00. The packages have been mailed to the Prairie members but if anyone is in Winnipeg at this time and wish to attend please contact Juliet.

French and Furey Island Plaques The plaques will put in place in the Pinawa area in the Spring 2015. Another plaque will also be in place for Captain James Edward Tait, V.C., M.C., 78th CEF Battalion Winnipeg Grenadiers (World War I). Dedication of these plaques will take place in June 2015.

Many of our members will be involved with **Remembrance Day services** throughout the Prairie Region and we would like to have information from you with pictures if possible of the day and where it occurred. In Winnipeg the Colour Party and Juliet will be at the Convention Centre for the service.

Happy Thanksgiving!! Hope you and your family have a good one and safe travels – take care!

Ontario Offerings

Regional Director, Mike Babin

Central and Southeast Ontario Report by Shelagh Purcell

August 10th turned out to be a perfect weather day for the first get-together of members of the HKVCA in Central and Southeast Ontario. Thirty-four guests met at the River Mill Restaurant in Kingston, situated in the historic part of the city, beside the Cataraqui River. The beautifully restored site was a former woolen mill.

Once everyone was seated, Mike Babin, Ontario Director for HKVCA, welcomed the guests with a brief outline of the aims of the organization and the importance of families being involved so that the story of the battle of Hong Kong and the veterans is ongoing. He emphasized the need for volunteers. (Mike is the son of Alfred Babin, RRC).

We were delighted to have Veteran Bruce Cadoret (RRC) and his family share the day with us. Also attending with their families were Murdena Claricoates (Ronald Claricoates, RRC) Irene Firlotte, (Lawrence Firlotte, RRC), Mavis Martin, (John Martin, RRC) and Oda Barlow, (Edwin Barlow, RCASC). Travelling from Ottawa, Ian Doull, (Lloyd Doull, RRC) and Mitzi Ross, (Lance Ross, RRC) and Mitzi's husband, Alan Sandman were also guests at the luncheon. John Russell and his wife Bernadine (Albert James Russell, RRC) just live across the river from the restaurant. Shirley Harper and Jerry Athieron, however, made the event a weekend trip from Penetanguishene. Shirley is the daughter of Kenneth Royden Jackson, (WG).

Mike introduced Robert Chan who grew up in Hong Kong and whose parents lived there during the war. Robert was interested in speaking to and sharing stories with other guests. Sue MacDonell (George MacDonell, RRC) recently moved to the Trenton area and Connie Darling (Edward Philips, RRC) and her friend Harry Martin of Trenton also attended the luncheon. Pat Turcotte (Leonard Corrigan, WG) and husband, Bernard came Sunday and Pat brought four copies of past essay competition winners, which she encouraged people to look at. She had selected the stories about Alfred Babin and Bruce Cadoret and was able to give a copy to Bruce and to Mike. The work done by the students is quite remarkable.

A highlight of the afternoon was a donation from J.N. St. Aubin who is a member of HKVCA Ontario, but was a WWII Pararescue airman in the Air force. Mr. St. Aubin couldn't attend the luncheon but wanted to contribute in some way and suggested his gift be given to someone who shared his birthdate, April 20. As it turned out, the closest was Mark Purcell whose birthday is April 16. Mark is the Ontario treasurer for HKVCA, a grandson of Leonard Corrigan, WG (and my son). When I questioned whether there might be a conflict — the response was unanimous that Mark should accept the gift.

The day was full of conversation and shared stories and people getting to know one another. Oda Barlow had suggested some time ago that it is important to get members together if the organization is going to survive. How true.

My thanks also to my sister-in-law, Colleen Purcell, for helping me find the River Mill for our event on August 10th.

NORTHERN ONTARIO -area rep- Jackie Le Drew

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer with family and friends. For all those travelling south for the winter, we wish you a safe trip and look forward to hearing from you when you get back. See information from Harold Raper in the books section.

QUEBEC

Lucette Mailloux Muir: QC Regional Director

Greetings from a very warm sunny Quebec.

Where does time go? We are already facing fall. Hope you all enjoyed a very nice and safe summer.

Although summer is a quiet time for many of us with vacations, travels etc. we continued some work throughout the vacation period. We are all back to our regular duties for our region.

We recently held a very productive executive meeting with reading of all reports and looking forward to new activities on the table.

In early March we mailed a "Call for Elections". We do thank members that took the time to respond with their ballot. Our Election Chair sent his report with the results of the election. All of the present executive members were re-elected. Unfortunately, no one accepted the vacant chair of Deputy Director.

Having this vacant position, our executive nominated Catherine Wood for the remainder of the present term as "Interim Director". She accepted and we thanked her with a warm welcome as a new member of our executive.

That will be it for this time. Quebec Region wishes all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Eastern Breezes Emmie Flanagan

I hope your summer was as kind to you, as it was to us on the east coast!

Our annual reunion in Campbellton, NB, was a tremendous success!

Over 70 people attended the weekend event and all felt privileged to be in the presence of two wonderful, local Hong Kong Veterans:

Philip Dodderidge -

New Richmond, QE, and **Allison Pollock** - Tide Head, NB.

A special thank you goes out to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 19 (Jim Adams), and to the Lions Club. To Martin Guitard for his beautiful rendition, of our 'Hong Kong Veterans Song', (aka 'Never Grow Old'), originally written by Alan Sandeman.

The thank-yous are always endless when such events like this takes place. Yet, none should be thanked more than the following two dedicated volunteers who glued this year's reunion together with gusto: Amanda Arsenault, Reunion Chairperson and Jacquie Pollock... Thank you both for your time, patience and dedication! Although it was mentioned in the last newsletter that our 2015 National Convention might take place in Eastern Canada, it was decided Campbellton, NB would not be a favorable site. Due to flight restrictions into Bathurst and most being diverted to Moncton, it would mean a three-hour drive to our destination of Campbellton. Maybe in the not too distant future, we may have a National Convention in Moncton, Fredericton or Halifax, *but* we need *many* volunteers to make this possible! "Is there anybody out there"? Hope you have a wonderful Harvest Season, and I look forward to sharing another yarn with you soon.



Wasureru-Nai

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