



Of Special Interest

Manitoba Region – Lunches & meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month at St. James Legion, noon – accessible. – Ladies Tea & Tidbits December 13, 1 p.m.

HKVA flag flies at the Cenotaph in Winnipeg in August and December in memory of all of ‘C’ Force.

National Elections – Call for nominations deadline March 1, 2009 see attached.

National Biennial Convention – Ottawa August 13 – 16, 2009 – unveiling the Memorial Wall – please let your Executive know if you are attending – thank you.

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Last Post

John Grey Fair, E29982, R.R., died September 11, 2008.
William Allister, D-116327 RCCS, died November 2, 2008.
Donald Nelson, L2916, WG, died November 27, 2008.

HKVCA
Evelyn Hachey, widow of Dean Hachey, RRC E38184, died November 10, 2008.
Olive Morgan, widow of F.J. "Red" Morgan, H6620, WG, died December 5, 2008

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

We will remember them.

Memorial Wall – Design Review Approaching!



The site that we have chosen is at a busy intersection in downtown Ottawa and we needed to decide exactly where on that site our Memorial Wall would best be located. We have narrowed it down to 2 possibilities to present to the National Capitol Commission Design Review Committee, which is the next step in the approval process.

We have also been asked to consider some slight alterations to the wall design as to better tell the story behind the monument. **Jim Lennox** has prepared some sketches including a wavy look to the wall in order to meet the “artistic concept”, which is required. He will be 'fleshing' this concept out with input from the material suppliers to be ready for presentation to the NCC Design Review committee on December 17th.

The site will be enhanced by the use of China black granite for the wall, then Quebec red granite and Manitoba tyndall stone for accents in the walkways; fragrant plantings to bring in the concept of the name Hong Kong (which means “Fragrant Harbour”) and drifts of tall grasses to simulate waves of the South China Sea and the prairies. All of this will all aid in the visual aspect of this phenomenal memorial in its prominent location in Ottawa.

We have approached DST Consulting Engineers to do some drill holes to determine the foundation design for the wall as well as helping in the decision of which of the 2 locations on the site would be better.

We will start getting estimates for the extra landscaping that has been incorporated into these new concepts by approaching companies with the prospect of donating material, nursery items, etc and paying for the labour.

We hope to be ordering the wall material early in the New Year to be ready for construction to begin in the spring. So far we are close to being on target with our scheduling.

In the meantime we have heard from the representative of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Macau, **Tony Atherton**, and **Tony Banham** in Hong Kong that there are some ceremonies to be held in Macau and Hong Kong in December regarding the Battle of Hong Kong. They are focusing on the Canadian contingent, which they hope will result in donations being made to the Wall. We have sent them the brochure in English and Chinese to aid in their efforts. Thanks to all the Regions and members that have continued to support the Wall project we have just passed \$125,000 with promises of more in the New Year.

That’s it for now we will keep you informed of developments. -
Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

The Fall season is always a busy time for one involved with Veterans. During Veteran’s Week I attended several special events or services. In addition to assisting with school visitations, I attended the Ceremony of Lights (a youth with every veteran carrying a candle): the movie premier of "Front Lines", a Canadian movie about World War I; the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Senate; and of course, laying a wreath with HK veteran Dempsey Syvret at the National War

Memorial. All these were very moving ceremonies where Canadians of all ages paid tribute to our veterans. I had the honour of meeting a couple of our present day heroes, our fine men and women who have served in Afghanistan. One in particular, a meeting with an amputee, brought tears to my eyes as I listened to his resolve. God Bless them all!



Derrill with granddaughter, Sarah Scaffidi, at the Remembrance service in the Senate.

I also attend a meeting of the National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada (NCVA). The pertinent points of this meeting have been passed on to your Regional councils and they have already acted on this information. The Regional Councils are so important to the success of our organization. They are the front lines in delivering "the goods"! They speak with our vets and widows and demonstrate how much we, their family, care about them. They move hell and high water to get the education material into the schools and follow-up on how it is divulged to the students. I am so proud to be the spokesperson for this group.

As a member of the Memorial Wall project team, Ron McGuire and I bring the HKVCA "face" to the National Capital Commission. Our project leader, Carol Hadley, will report on this elsewhere, so I will not comment further.

It is just a tad early to report on the 2009 Convention, but information will soon be forthcoming. We do need a feel about how many plan to attend the convention whose focal point will be the dedication of the Memorial. I have asked the Regions to try and get a feel for us since the word is that hotel rooms will be at a premium in Ottawa next year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Greetings again from Down East.

December surely rolls around fast, it seems more so as the years go by. It's hard to realize that sixty-seven years have passed since we faced the Japanese in Hong Kong. That memory always evokes much emotion, even after all these years.

On a personal note, wife **Edwina** is now at home as of this writing after having spent time in hospital on numerous occasions. She is in some discomfort because of medical procedures, and it keeps me close to home most of the time.

Good News!

You may remember that in the June, 2008, edition of *Wasureru-nai*, I reported on the fire that consumed the Drill Hall in Quebec City. We were worried at that time about the fate of the plaque, which hung in the building, commemorating the battle of Hong Kong.

I have now received word from **Francis Corbett**, the person responsible for the original make-over of the plaque, that "*ces deux plaques de bronze qui témoignent du service exceptionnel à l'égard du Royal Rifles of Canada et du Winnipeg Grenadiers a Hong Kong*" have been salvaged and will undergo refurbishing by experts and will be placed in the new headquarters of *Les Voltigeurs de Quebec*. Good news indeed.

Gravestone Discs

I have been occupied of late with the installation of gravestone disks on the monuments of some of our comrades, but have had to postpone operations until spring. This brings to mind the fact that there are many Hong Kong Vets whose markers have not yet had the disk installed. Perhaps this should receive closer attention.

That will be all for this time. I send this along with all good wishes to all for health, prosperity, and happiness during the Yuletide Season.

Be good to each other, and may God Bless. Philip

Using Technology and Saving \$\$\$

About 1/4 of our membership has elected to allow HKVCA to communicate with them via email. This convenience has enabled us to save money on newsletters and bulletins (paper and postage) while allowing our email members instant access to the latest news without waiting for Canada Post. If you have already signed up for the email option - thanks!

If you have an email account but haven't signed up for our email option, please take a moment and think about it. Think about the increased convenience, reduced effort on the volunteer HKVCA staff, plus the money saved which can be put to use in support of our mission.

Converting to the email option is as easy as contacting your membership representative. Even more convenient - just email hkvca@shaw.ca and we'll take care of making the change. - Jim Trick

Mitchell's Money Matters

- Barry Mitchell, Treasurer

When the subject of money comes up with the HKVCA, of course the first thing we think of these days is the Memorial Wall, which we are going to build in Ottawa. Our fund drive continues and I'm pleased to say that we have surpassed the \$125,000 mark with the cheques continuing to arrive. We are shooting for at least \$150,000 and I encourage you to make your donation now if you haven't already done so. Remember, we issue a tax receipt for every contribution and with year-end approaching, the sooner you provide us with your generous support the better.

On a very different subject, we recently received a note from **Agnes Fehr**, one of our widows who lives in St. Catharines, Ontario, on the matter of government assistance for the families of veterans and of her recent experience.

This most charming lady wanted to share with all of us the value of reading your mail and paying attention to subjects that might affect you. In this instance, Agnes had read that federal government assistance could be

provided to individuals in veteran's families who have health issues and who could provide medical verification. Agnes thought that she had read about this in one of the HKVCA newsletters when in fact it came direct from Veterans Affairs Canada, but nonetheless, she followed up. Agnes' daughter Donna has MS and together they prepared the necessary documentation and submitted it along with the doctor's report. Bingo! Donna now receives a monthly pension from VAC due to her MS condition. The family is most grateful for this assistance and wants everyone to know that HK children with a handicap might be eligible for similar help. You can write Veterans Affairs Canada, P.O. Box 7700, Charlottetown, P.E. C1A 8M9.

I extend my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season to the whole HK family! - Barry

Current Membership (Nov '08)

- Jim Trick, Nat'l Membership Chair

2009 MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NOW!

Region	R	V	W	Totals
Al/Sask	78	15	13	106
Atl***				0
BC	100	15	41	156
MB	188	22	61	271
ON	143	26	54	223
QC	51	23	60	134
	560	101	229	890

*** - no report from Atlantic Region since Jan '08

Please note: members who have not paid dues for the current year will be dropped from our lists as of Dec 1. To those who have already paid for 2009 - Thank You!

"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. The fact is, there are hundreds of our vets who have died since the war for which we have no information. 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. Who knows - while improving the quality of our

records you may also be providing someone with important information.

* * * * *

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Greetings, from beautiful British Columbia.

Wreaths were laid across British Columbia on Remembrance Day by 3 HK vets and 8 HKVCA members at 10 cenotaphs. **Aubrey Flegg** was interviewed after the Nov. 11 ceremony at the cenotaph in Kelowna by Global TV News. The short piece (approx. 45 seconds) aired on Global throughout BC on both the 6pm and 11pm news on the 11th. **Betty Waldenberger**, his long time companion, was sitting at his side.

Bev Campbell, our new Regional Secretary, has worked diligently in getting our letter out to the vets and widows in our region asking them to consider participating in our new form of communication - The Phone Pals Program. Bev advises she is getting a good response.

On November 13th, I spoke at a Victoria Genealogical Society meeting. There were nearly a hundred people in attendance. We had our tabletop display which the VGS members were very interested in during the break. They were lined up two and three deep to get a peek at it. **Gerry and Ev Gerrard** were there. It turned out that the chairman of the meeting, who works as a security guard at Government House, recognized Gerry from the "first poppy" ceremony held there a couple of weeks earlier. He said, "Mr. Gerrard, you may not remember me from Government House." Gerry immediately said, "I do remember you. You held the door open for me." I told them all about the HK vets of Canada and the HKVCA and The Memorial Wall using the PowerPoint presentation I had created just for the occasion. The last two slides were pictures of Gerry and Ev at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day two days earlier and a picture of our HKVCA wreath. The VGS members were enthralled with the HK vets story. Following my presentation, **Jim Trick** gave them a tour of our website homepage. He did a wonderful job. It was followed by a question and answer

period, which involved Jim, Gerry and myself. It was a wonderful evening.

On Saturday, November 22nd, we attended the Memorial Tribute for **Will Allister** in Vancouver. **Eileen Cambon** and her daughter Marie, **June Naylor** and her son **Lee, Murray and Lucy Doull** and myself were in attendance. Lee told me he spoke with **Jack Rose's** daughter who was there but I didn't get to meet her. The ceremony was very moving. A close family friend read Mona's tribute to Will. **Dorianne Allister**, Will and Mona's daughter, read a very touching poem she wrote called "For My Father". Many of Will's paintings adorned the walls of the Unitarian Church where the Tribute took place. Murray was invited by Mona to speak on behalf of the HKVCA. He represented the HK veterans and HKVCA very well.

I am extremely pleased to announce that **Lee Naylor** has accepted the position of Education Chair for the BC Region. He is very enthusiastic. We believe he will do an excellent job and we are very pleased to have him on board as a member of the BC team. Lee is already making arrangements to speak about the story of 'C' Force at the Legion and high schools in his hometown of Hope.

May God bless you and keep you, until we meet again. Best regards, Submitted by: **Linda Stewart**, BC Regional Director; on behalf of **Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor.**

AB/SK Action

We are still alive and well in Alberta/Saskatchewan.

I just looked at the membership list and it is a bit down from last year. Several members did not renew their memberships this year. Please urge your families to keep their memberships up to date. We will be collecting for the 2009-year early in January.

Our Remembrance Day celebrations were well attended in Calgary. **Ralph MacLean** laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veteran's at the Jubilee Auditorium. **Gail Richoz and Terry Kwok** attended the service at the Cenotaph and laid wreaths there. We had a group of about 30 people who met for lunch

afterwards. **Ralph MacLean, Jack Smith, Ed Shayler, David Vidalin** and several members of their families came out to the luncheon. It is always so great to get together with the Veterans.

We were so sorry to hear of Don Nelson's passing. His family and friends will miss him. His funeral service was very touching.

The Alberta/Sask Branch was able to participate in a mural that is showing at the Museum of the Regiments here in Calgary. This is a very exciting and innovative way to make the Hong Kong story available to many visitors to that museum. We are also exploring another opportunity at that same museum to have a display in 2011. We will update you on that one later.

I would like to wish all the Veterans, widows, family and friends a very happy holiday season. We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Ottawa in August 2009.

Best Wishes for the New Year.

Norma Fuchs, Secretary AB/SK Region.

Manitoba Moments

Hello to one and all.

May you all have the best of the holiday season and may you be blessed with good health, luck and happiness in the coming year and always.

Manitoba has been doing well - we now hold our general meetings monthly at the HK lunches so that we have more people attend.

Our Reunion was not well attended as in the past with three Veterans in attendance **George Peterson, George Harbour and Larry Stebbe**. We had eight widows **Dorothy Morrison, Ann Richardson, Joan Watson, Mary Sellers, Dorothy Wright, Ladena Mabley, Angie Bourboniere and Marcine James** that was good to see them.

I would like to thank all the volunteers at the Reunion; without their help where would we be. So a BIG thanks to **Constance Mitchell, Linda Sloan, Lora Wachendorf, Bridget MacDougall, Lindsay Morrison, Barry Mitchell and David Fehr**. Thank You to the Colour Party **Stan and Vince Lopata, Alex Taylor, Don Thomson and our Piper Craig Munnoch**. Last but not most of all no

least a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who donated beautiful gifts for the silent auction. We need to figure out how we can get more family involved one way or another, so if you have any ideas please call me with them.

We will be holding our Tea and Tidbits for the ladies of the Hong Kong Veterans on Dec.13 and like the ones in the past we hope to have 16-20. We welcome all female members of the HKVCA & HKVA. I need to stress the word members.

Again I need to stress to you all - Please pay up your membership dues and become active as there are many projects that we need assistance on.

Please feel free to call anytime if I can be of any assistance to any of you. Juliet Lafortune, MB Regional Director

Other Manitoba events:

George Peterson attended the October 18 dedication of the WWI section of Brookside Cemetery recently refurbished by Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Also October 22 he attended the Neil Bardal Inc dedication of the new addition to Major Neil Bardal and the HKVA.

He spoke to 1600 students at Lord Selkirk School in Selkirk Manitoba for their Remembrance Day services. He also attended the service at the Convention Centre on Remembrance Day and the service at Deer Lodge.

Carol Hadley and Patricia Bale, of the MB Education Committee, had a display and workshop for teachers at the MSSTA SAG conference November 28.

The floor display was at the Gimli Heritage Museum for the month of November and then was shipped to ON Region for their events. The table top display was used for Remembrance Day at Charleswood Legion that was appropriate as **Bob Lytle, and Larry Stebbe** laid a HK wreath for all HK vets. The next day **Carol Hadley** took a display to an elementary school and talked to 8 classes, from grade 3 to 6, throughout the day.

Vince Lopata is assisting **Neil and Eirik Bardal** on the memorial to Captain NO Bardal at their new facility on Notre Dame. Vince has been working with

Nathan Greenberg who is writing a book on 'C' Force during the battle and as prisoners of war. Also he has been helping Tony Banham and Roger Mansell to verify members of 'C' Force that were in the different POW camps in Japan.

Also the HKVA flag flies at the Cenotaph on Memorial Blvd in Winnipeg for the month of August and December.

We have some new items in **Barry's Emporium** - HKVA flag, license plate holders and golf shirts - check them out online at <http://www.hkvca.ca/store/index.htm>

Wishing you all the Merriest of Christmas's and the Happiest of New Years - MB Region Exec.

Ontario Offerings

We've had quite an eventful time in Ontario since our last newsletter! Here are the highlights.

During October we held five Saturday luncheons around the province. The idea was to hold several regional meetings rather than one central one. In total we had about 85 attendees, which was a 70% increase over the last province-wide meeting we held. We had a good mix of Vets, widows and members, who seem to enjoy themselves. I expect we'll do this again!

If it's November, it must be OHASSTA -- the Ontario high school history teachers' conference. Once again **Pat Turcotte** had a booth, and talked to and distributed information to a large number of very interested teachers.

We've been working hard to get closer ties with the Chinese-Canadian community. To that end, in September we participated in a seminar at the Richard Charles Lee Canada Hong Kong Library at the University of Toronto. A number of panellists, including **Flash Clayton, George MacDonell** and Senator Vivienne Poy discussed their experiences in Hong Kong 1941-1945. **Ken Skelton** prepared a fabulous display of memorabilia which is still at the Library and still being viewed by students and visiting scholars (mostly from Hong Kong and China).

In early November we ran a workshop at the ALPHA conference (ALPHA is the Association for Learning and Preserving WW II History in Asia)

about the Hong Kong Story. We also worked with a Chinese church organization in Toronto to present a remembrance ceremony and fundraising concert for the Memorial Wall. We got a lot of publicity in the Chinese-language media (did you know that Chinese is Canada's 3rd most-spoken language?) for this terrific event.

I should also mention that I was delighted to receive a Remembrance Day card addressed to all Ontario members from **Terry Kwok** of Calgary, who was instrumental in organizing the Chinese-Canadian community's extensive involvement in our 2007 Calgary Convention.

I want to make special mention of one of our members: **Ron McGuire**. As many of you know, Ron puts in a tremendous amount of work of behalf of the HKVCA. He has studied the topic of the Battle of Hong Kong extensively, has built up an impressive collection of memorabilia and spends a good deal of time preparing and presenting presentations. He has also been instrumental in having 10 HK Vets inducted into the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour. Many of our members devote similar efforts to the HKVCA, but what makes Ron unique is that he has no direct family connection to a HK Vet. He does all this simply because he finds it interesting. In recognition of this, Ontario Region is pleased to have awarded Ron an Honorary Membership in the HKVCA. Please congratulate him next time you see him!

The momentum continues to build for the Memorial Wall in Ottawa. As you've seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we are continuing to raise funds for this terrific project. Please continue to solicit donations from your friends and neighbours for this very worthy cause!

After all this good news, I must deliver some sad news: we've lost another Ontario Vet since the last newsletter: **John Grey Fair**. "We Will Remember Them".

On behalf of the other members of our Ontario Executive team, I wish all of you a very joyous Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

-**Mike Babin**, Ontario Regional Director

More news from the Ontario Region:

Congratulations to **Nancy Hamer Strahl** on receiving the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.

Nancy was one of six teachers from cross Canada who received the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History in November at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

Nancy has been instrumental in telling the Hong Kong story to high school students, and was a driving force behind the student trip to Hong Kong in 2005 and the dedication of a plaque to Hong Kong Veterans in her area!

Jackie Le Drew, Area Representative for the Northern Region reports:

We were sorry to hear of the passing of **James Mitchell** RCCS of Garson in July. Our condolences to his daughter and family and his grandson Rik. **Doreen Berry** of North Bay celebrated her 84th birthday along with her sister Irma who turned 80 at a joint surprise birthday party in September. Her sister & husband George were visiting from Jacksonville, N.C. **George Hallada** who just turned 91 will be heading down to New York in May 2009 for his grandson's wedding. **Marcine James** will be heading to Fort Frances in February for her granddaughter's wedding. We were sorry we couldn't get a sufficient number of people to hold a general meeting for the Northern Ontario area members this fall. Our area covers such a large part of the province. We are hoping a lot of our members will be able to attend the national convention next year in Ottawa for the unveiling of the Memorial Wall. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Northern Ontario area members especially our vets, **George Hallada, Bryce Craig, Lloyd O'Leary and Reg Riddoch** a joyful and blessed Christmas and may "2009" bring peace, health and happiness to you and your families.

Leon Sokalski, Area Rep for the West Central Region reports:

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the first HKVCA area luncheon meeting for the West Central Region was held at the 2020 Lakeside "Ristorante" in Burlington.

Although the weather in the morning was not the best, there was still a good turnout, and later on we were blessed with some sunshine, and enjoyed the great view of Burlington Bay and the Skyway Bridge.

After the luncheon, **Mike Babin**, the Regional Director conducted the informal meeting. Also, **Pat Turcotte**, Education Chair, accompanied by her husband, **Bernard, Mark Purcell**, Treasurer, and **Reverend Vicky Hedelius**, Honour Wreath Chair, represented the Executive Committee. Pat gave an outline of the educational program, and Vicky, up-dated us on the Honour Wreath official procedure. **Nancy Siew**, of the Canadian Foundation for Asian Culture pleasantly honored us with her visit.

Arthur (Ken) Pifher (RRC) from Grimsby, attended with his daughter, **Pam Newhouse** of Niagara Falls, and we were very happy to see him in such fine form. He seemed to enjoy sharing stories with those at his table. **Marjorie Overton**, who drove herself from Mississauga, and, one of the two widows present, brought along some tapes belonging to her husband, **William James Overton**, of the CPC Brigade. **Gloria Fortune**, the wife of the late **Herbert R. Fortune** of the Winnipeg Grenadiers was accompanied by her daughter, **Rev. Vicky Hedelius. Janet and Leslie Ford** who drove all the way from Port Hope, showed some very interesting newspaper memorabilia about Janet's Dad, **Charles Jiggins. Linda Guglick and Sandra Strom** were also in attendance. **Joyce Sokalski** helped me host the luncheon. The meeting ended very pleasantly, getting to know one another, and with all of us looking forward to seeing each other again soon.

On November 11, on a somewhat dull, rainy, Tuesday morning to start, but finally around 11:00 a.m., the sun shone, as a Lancaster bomber flew over downtown Hamilton, a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph for the Hong Kong Veterans P.O.W., 1941-45. SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

Lori Atkinson-Smith, Membership Chair reports: Hello

from Sherkston Ontario. My husband and I moved to the Niagara region just over a year ago. Where has the time gone? Christmas already!

A message to all members reading this newsletter- please ask your kids and their kids- "are they current members of HKVCA"? It is so easy to join. And we need everyone's input and strength. Membership runs the same as the calendar year = January to December. To save time and taxing the memory- you can even pay for more than 1 year of membership at a time. How convenient for everyone! The Ontario membership in HKVCA has all but 6 members renewed for the year 2008. We had a few new memberships for 2008 and already we have a few for 2009.

In Ontario, we have 6 members who dedicate their volunteer time to contacting our membership. Please keep us advised of any address changes and email address updates. We might loose contact with you. If you haven't received a call or an email from your area rep- could it be possible we have the incorrect contact information? Please contact one of your Ontario region executive and update your information with them. They will pass it on to the correct area rep.

I wish you and yours all the best for this Holiday Season. Keep in touch!

Ron McGuire, Area Rep for the North East reports: Some members have commented on my reports being shorter than when we had Regional Newsletters. This is necessary because of space restraints. However, I want to assure everyone that while I will not be reporting many of my activities in this and future reports, I will continue to do what I can, at every opportunity, to promote our organization and ensure our Veterans and their stories are known and that they are "Never Forgotten". For example, as is my practice, I had a section concerning the HKVCA, the Memorial Wall and "C" Force in my annual Remembrance Month Exhibit at the Nepean Museum.

I continue to keep in touch with area members and unfortunately several, or their families, are having health problems, with some in the

hospital. I wish them all a speedy and full recovery.

I had a nice visit with **Susan and Ken Ewing RRC** who have a new "family" member, Lexie. The unusually quite, large friendly Rottweiler has been good company for them. They hope to visit Susan's sister in Jamaica in February and I wish them safe travel.

Eric Maloney, RRC has been, as he says, as well as 'can be expected'. I visit him as often as I can and we talk on the phone regularly.



Eric Maloney, RRC holding the Induction Portfolio for Lt. Samuel Ebsary (Newfoundland Regiment). Sam was the uncle of his late wife, Betty, who Eric met while he was in Newfoundland with "W" Force. Betty promised to wait for Eric's return after the War; she did and they had a very happy nearly 60-year marriage. Standing behind Eric, left to right are: Becky Deeth, Jackie David (Samuel's great niece who accepted the portfolio with Becky, her daughter), and Cynthia, Eric's daughter.

I sincerely thank **Mitzi Ross** for organizing the first, well attended, area luncheon on 8 November.

Connie joins me in wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year with safe traveling.

Quebec Quotes

Greetings all.

Since the last newsletter we participated in our local Armistice & Wreath Laying Ceremonies. Yours truly represented all Hong Kong Veterans in laying the Wreath for all HK Vets. Veterans and members also took part in Ceremonies in their respective area. Our HK Vet **Dempsey Syvret** represented all HK Veterans in Ottawa by laying the HK Veterans' Wreath.

Recently we held our local Executive Meeting. Discussions for the welfare of the association and the usual reports were read including our Reunion and financial situation.

We, as most Regions, are having growing pains with a

decreasing membership and are working on a membership drive.

Recently contact calls were made to some of our Veterans and Widows. It is a very difficult time of year for our Vets. To name only a few at this time, **Patrick Poirier** turned 93 years young this past November. His health is good and enjoying the company of his newfound friends in his new senior's home. **Samuel Dissensi** is 91 years young, a bit confused, does not get out much as he has difficulty getting around but is doing well health wise. His wife **Thelma** on the other hand has recently been in hospital and doing much better at home. And **Edwina Doddridge** has been in and out of hospital during the recent months. At this time she is home. Phil has been quite busy visiting her in hospital and being there for Edwina at home.

We did a special mailing to all QC Region widows with info/forms for the VIP plan.

HKVA QC Br and HKVCA QC joined to make a \$4,000.00 donation from the Quebec Region to the Memorial Wall Phase 2 Project. We sincerely thank all our Vets and Members.

Season Greetings to you and yours and Good Health for the New Year. - Lucette M.-Muir

QC Regional Director

Maritime Memories

On behalf of all the Atlantic Region Executive – we would like to wish all the Vets, spouses, widows and families a peaceful, healthy Christmas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Due to lack of space, the Humour and our committee is listed on the back of the Call for nominations – see the attachment.

Merry Christmas

Seasons Greetings

Best wishes, for good health, happiness and peace! - Happy New Year!!!