



“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

October, November, December 2011

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## A Japanese Apology on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/12/08/japan-apology-canada.html>

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their suffering while honouring their sacrifices and courage.” The story is listed in the above link.



*Three veterans of the defence of Hong Kong visit Japan to receive that country's official apology Thursday. They are, from left, Gerry Gerrard, Ken Pijfer, Veteran George Peterson (seated) and Derrill Henderson of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association. With them is Veterans Affairs Minister Steven Blaney (second from left)*

The Battle was also observed in the Nov/Dec issue of the Legion Magazine with a short account of the event.



*R. Dempsey Syvret and L. Derrill Henderson laid a wreath in the Ottawa Ceremony*

A month ago we observed Remembrance Day,

which gives us an opportunity to thank our veterans and those who gave the supreme sacrifice to ensure our rights and freedom. Many of our members across the country participated in this ceremony and we sincerely thank them. However there is a lobby ongoing to make the first Sunday in December as the official day – more to come on this.



*Dempsey Svret placed a wreath at the Wall in Ottawa – also the Barker family.*

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### *HKVA President*

-Phil Doddridge

This time of year with the usual round of cenotaph ceremonies, wreath laying, speeches, and bugle calls, leaves me like something akin to an emotional wreck.

On the one hand I am happy to be alive and able to share thoughts and memories with my surviving buddies, and on the other hand, I, along with everyone else, grieve over the loss of friends and companions of bygone days.

This year I have been pleased to assist at our Museum in student guided tours conducted by our curator, Rachel Dell. The groups from several schools in the area displayed interest in the artifacts and were keen to know about them. They asked many questions: the boys were interested in the ancient rifles and the girls were more interested in Lila Beatty’s wedding dress, one that was made out of an American parachute that dropped in the camp in Japan where Ken Beatty was held. The Gander display and story, of course, won the attention of everyone.

One boy wanted to know how many men I had killed and whether there were portapotties available on the battlefield!

On another occasion I had an enjoyable visit to a high school to talk about Gander. That generated some very interesting conversations. In general, I am pleased that the upcoming generation is showing interest and respect for the memories of Canada’s part in past wars. In speaking to them I try to emphasise the horror and futility of war.

### THE JAPANESE POULTERER

“Poulterer” is an archaic word that means “one who deals in poultry”. I suppose that the little birds I describe here could be called “poultry”.

When were out on work parties in Kowloon we were accompanied, of course by Japanese guards. The guards, in general, were alert in watching us, but also had habits that we enjoyed observing. I

### DUES INCREASE

**At our November Board of Directors meeting a motion to increase dues to \$20 as of 2010 was passed. This was due to overall increasing costs. So... for those who have yet to pay for 2012, the amount of \$20 should be sent to your region membership person. (see the end of the newsletter).**

### *HKVCA President*

- Carol Hadley

As we go into the season of Christmas and reflect on new birth we must look back to see from where we have come.

70 years ago our family members were sent to Hong Kong for what was thought to be garrison duty. However that scenario was short lived and through great losses in battle and through the maltreatment as POW’s over 500 men were lost.

On this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong, Japan issued an official apology to the Canadians for regret of the horrific treatment given them as prisoners of war for almost 4 years. As VAC Minister Blaney says, “This important gesture is a crucial step in ongoing reconciliation and a significant milestone in the lives of all prisoners of war. It acknowledges

remember one particular guard who would soak rice with sake or some other alcoholic beverage that he carried in his water bottle.

He would spread the rice on the ground to attract small birds, about the size of house sparrows, which populated the area in abundance. The tiny birds would pick up the rice from the ground and would soon keel over in what was obviously a drunken state.

The Jap would then harvest his quarry by picking them up, snapping their heads off and placing them in a bag that he carried over his shoulder.

I wondered how many of these tiny creatures it would take to make a meal for a robust Japanese guard. Proteins in those days were in short supply. One guard, to my knowledge, found a way to supplement the shortage.

#### LES SURVIVANTS DE LA BATAILLE DE HONG KONG

Perhaps you will remember my mention of the filmmaker GASPA in the last Wasureru-nai. If you attended the convention in Granby you will also remember that the crew from Gaspa was there shooting some of the activity.

Last evening, November 25, the premiere of the film was shown in the cultural centre in Carleton. Bob Barter, Bill MacWhirter, Jean-Paul Dallain and I were in attendance. We are all featured in the film as well as are John Duguay and Paul Laflamme. Our interviews formed the major part of the film.

The theatre was filled to overflowing. After the presentation Bob, Bill, Paul and I received a standing ovation for our part in the film and the story of our Hong Kong experience.

At the reception afterwards people were anxious to talk to us and thank us for our efforts. It was a very emotional event; one that will be remembered.

The film will be aired on RDI, the French language CBC channel, on December 8, and CDs will be available shortly thereafter. .

#### CHRISTMAS

Since, 1941, Christmas has always been a difficult time for me, and this year it will be even more so. Edwina died on December 24 last year.

In spite of all that, I will take this opportunity to wish everyone the best Christmas possible. May your stockings be filled with all kinds of

goodies and "may your days be merry and bright".

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

Philip

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#### *Last Post*

**Pat Poirier**, E30271, RRC died May 22, 2011

**Ed Shayler**, H6307, WG died October 9, 2011

**Lawrence (Larry) Stebbe, H6415**, WG, died Oct 28 2011

#### HKVCA

**William "Bill" Kellas**, 1<sup>st</sup> National Secretary, son of William Kellas, H6903, WG died September 10, 2011

**Juliette Lacaille Badger**, widow of James Badger RRC E29923, died September 17, 2011

**May Broome**, widow of Charles Norman Broome, WG, H41802, died September 21 2011

**Dorothy Wright**, widow of Fred Wright, H17495, WG died September 23, 2011

**Elizabeth Chesser**, widow of Kenneth Chesser E30013, died September 29, 2011

**Hazel Ladds**, widow of William J. Ladds, RRC E30091 died November 27th, 2011

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

*We will remember them!*

††††

#### THOUGHTS OF A POW -submitted by Andrea Ross O'Rourke

If on Hong Kong's grim brown coast

I must lie,

Who loved the most – green

Laurentian hills;

Feel not sad, for death ne'er kills

Spirits who have loved the hills!

They shall ever roam

I'll be free to visit home,

Cross the miles of ocean foam;

Oh yes! Spirits can!!

And the joys that ever ran

Through my life, like notes of Pan,

I shall really know.

Half heard melodies shall grow;

Symphonies on earth below

Could but dimly strive.

I have sometimes felt alive

That earth's joys could ne'er arrive  
At the joy supreme.

I have smelt fresh coffee steam  
And I've watched the sunrise gleam-  
Both are very good.

None on earth have understood  
What there is behind all good  
Now I'll understand.

Therefore, mourn you not for me,  
Now I'm really truly free  
And I'm going home.

Lt F. Donald Ross, Quebec City  
Royal Rifles of Canada C Company  
- *Written while a Japanese Prisoner  
of War in Hong Kong, not knowing if  
he would ever reach home again  
alive.*

Dad notes: about 100 Canadians  
have fallen from diphtheria,  
dysentery, etc. hastened by poor food  
and living conditions in general  
15/09/42 F.D.R.

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#### Congratulations!!

**To Ron McGuire of Ottawa, ON** –  
he received the Minister's  
Commendation.



Mr. McGuire is a  
military postal  
historian who has  
worked tirelessly  
since 1978 on  
behalf of  
Canada's Hong  
Kong Veterans.  
He has been the  
Hong Kong

Veterans

Commemorative Association's  
Regional Representative for North-  
East Ontario since 1999 and is one of  
their unofficial historians. Beginning  
in 1980, he has exhibited his "C"  
Force collection at the Association's  
reunions and at many other venues in  
Canada and the United States. From  
1997 to today, he has ensured that the  
sacrifices of the Veterans of Canada  
and Newfoundland have been  
commemorated at the Nepean  
Museum with his Remembrance  
Month exhibits. Mr. McGuire's  
booklet, The Postal History of  
Canada's "C" Force, was awarded the  
E.R. Toop Memorial Award in 2002.  
An updated version in the Military  
Collectors Club of Canada Journal  
received its "Merit Bar Award" for  
2003. His article "Trench Art: The  
Folk Art of War" was published in  
"The Fragment," a War Amputations  
of Canada publication. From 1974 to  
date, his articles on Canada's military

postal history from 1837 to the Second World War have appeared in more than a dozen periodicals.

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### Membership

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

Membership Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	58	8	13	79
Atl	52	6	5	63
BC	98	7	40	145
MB	171	10	46	227
ON	153	14	52	219
QC	72	12	49	133
Total	604	57	205	866

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### “Education is the Key”

#### Final Report of the Interim National Education Coordinator:

My thanks is extended to all of the Education Chairs in HKVCA’s six Regions. Our plan to have each of the regions contribute information to the column titled “Education Is the Key” was successful in that every region was able to provide us with the kinds of activities undertaken in working to fulfil HKVCA’s objectives with regard to Education. The explanations of these activities in the columns in the last two National Newsletters must surely have helped members across the country understand a little better what the regions are doing, and the different ways we all have of trying to reach HKVCA’s objectives.

Education is still “the key”, and I will continue to work, as Education Chair in Ontario, to assist in any way that I can our newly appointed National Education Coordinator. Our main task is still to increase the awareness of our members, and the public in general, of the role our Canadian soldiers played in the Second World War through workshops and other means. We need to make sure that the younger generations have a more accurate understanding of the Battle of Hong Kong itself, and the nearly four years of imprisonment in POW camps that many Canadians know nothing about. Only with this awareness will come the will to make sure that our soldiers never again have to endure the indignities and suffering that prevailed in the years from 1941 to 1945, as well as the hardships and misunderstandings waiting for them at home for those who survived the battle and the POW camps.

Finally, my thanks to the members of the Board of Directors and the National Executive for their financial support in making it possible to complete the translation of the five veterans’ stories being used in this year’s HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest which is currently underway. We do hope to find ways to make sure that all of the veterans’ stories not already translated on the HKVCA Website will soon be available in both French and English. Keep checking the Teachers’ Zone to find out how things are progressing. Pat Turcotte, Interim National Education Coordinator

*\*\* Thank you To Gail Angel (Derrill Henderson’s daughter) for getting a grant from IBM for \$1000. As specified in the grant application, this money targeted for professional translation costs for the website (specifically, the Teacher’s Zone). Well Done Gail!!\*\**

### New Education Coordinator

My name is Dave Stewart and I will soon have the honour and privilege of serving as the National Education Coordinator for the HKVCA. It has been an interesting path that led me to this opportunity, beginning with a decade spent in Japan, which included an interesting visit to Hong Kong as well.

It was during this time that I first learned of the events in Hong Kong and of the POW years that followed in Japan. Then as now, I was surprised to be learning of this chapter in our history outside of the classroom and feel strongly that we need to build and maintain awareness of these events.

I recall the time I met my homestay family in Osaka and encountering some resistance from the grandmother who did not feel comfortable housing someone from “an enemy country”, harking back to the war years that were quite hard on the Japanese civilians. Judging by the blank stares that my explanation that Canada was never at war with Japan, and that I have forgiven them for the harsh treatment of Canadian POWs, it would seem that history of this era is unclear to many.

Having spent that decade as an educator and nearly another since as a knowledge management editor at IBM Cognos, I feel confident that I can help optimize our collective efforts. I look forward to working with you all towards these most worthwhile efforts, and want to let

you all know that my door is always open... regards David Stewart.

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### Across the Nation

#### BC Banter

On September 20<sup>th</sup> 2011, I was invited by the Heritage Christian Online School in Abbotsford to give a one hour and forty-five minute presentation to seventy students, teachers and parents. Our Region’s educational display was in full view in the lobby for the event.



**Todd Farrion** has travelled around BC teaching Canadian Military History by the use of Diorama Techniques. This year he has acquired the material to build one of the well-known battle scenes in Hong Kong. The first battle model is of **Sgt. Major Osborn (WG)** on Mt. Butler where he posthumously was awarded the first Victoria Cross of WWII.

The next day, on September 21<sup>st</sup>, I was invited to once again take part in a presentation with **Graeme Stacey** at the British Columbia Teachers Association Conference in Vancouver at the Vancouver Technical School. Graeme felt that due to thirty teachers from grades eleven and twelve attending the presentation last year, we shouldn’t expect a large turnout for our class. Surprisingly, forty-seven teachers (including student teachers) from grades eleven and twelve turned out with some sitting on the floor.



We were told we had the best presentation of the event and were immediately invited back to the 2012 Teachers Conference. Graeme also introduced to the participants a resource that utilizes primary sources to teach about the conditions our Hong Kong Veterans faced in the prisoner of war camps. This resource was created as part of the Critical



Thinking Consortium's (TC2) History Docs project, an online repository of sets of primary and secondary sources organized around a variety of topics in Canadian history called "History Docs." They were created to reduce the inefficiencies of expecting teachers to find and select excellent primary sources and secondary sources every time they want to use them in their teaching. All attendees received a copy of the resource along with the CD that **Mike Babin** so kindly shared with us. At the end of the presentation I officially presented Graeme with a name and title badge to wear on his jacket. Graeme is now officially our HKVCA BC Region "CO – Education Chair". I pointed out to the teachers that he has not seen his job description yet!

From October 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at the "Canada Remembers" event at the Chilliwack Museum, I set up our display and conversed with students, teachers, veterans and the public in regards to the history of 'C' Force. Currently, the teachers in BC are in a strike position and are working to rule. As a result, some activities had to be cancelled. The Sardis School Arts program put on an overwhelming performance that received a standing ovation. The play covered all aspects starting at the beginning of the war: the young soldiers shipping out; women taking over the men's jobs; a member in uniform from each of the three services giving very descriptive stories; the girls singing songs of the era; mothers receiving telegrams of the death of a son and the boys coming home. All were wearing uniforms and clothing of the era. A real tearjerker! Absolutely well done!

From November 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> we were invited to take part once again for Veterans' Week at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria. On Sunday afternoon I set up the display prior to the start of the event on Monday morning. **Jim Trick** and his wife, **Anne**, came out to help, which gave me, a chance to break for lunch. Due to the BC Teacher strike there was the lack of public schools participating as the teachers were working to rule. One teacher did bring his class out and he stated, "this event is extremely important to the students." The private schools did attend. With fewer students in attendance I still remained very busy answering

question and telling the story of our HK veterans.



**Linda and Ron Quesnel** invited **June Naylor, Sherry Naylor, Gerry Gerrard, Linda's friend Wendy** and me to a lovely dinner Monday evening at the **Quesnel's** with everyone having a wonderful time. Gerry Gerrard and I engaged in lengthy conversation throughout the evening. Gerry served in the RCCS with my father, **Howard Naylor Sr.**



On November 11<sup>th</sup> Linda Quesnel, Gerry Gerrard and I laid a wreath at the cenotaph in front of the Legislation building in Victoria. After the ceremony we went to Gerry's Legion near the Legislation Building for lunch. I returned to the RBCM and at three o'clock and gave a one hour presentation in the main display area on a huge screen.



Members of the public were in tears as my presentation is very descriptive and graphic. **Janet McDonald**, the curator of the museum, later pointed out to me that an elderly Japanese lady was offended by my presentation. I pointed out that I tell the history of 'C' Force as it is and will not soften it up. A young Japanese lady who is attending the University of Victoria was very understanding and helpful and interpreted one of my rare Japanese books containing information about Hong Kong from WWII.

I was exhausted when I returned home. However I am very passionate and pleased to have the opportunity to be in the position to educate the public and especially our students about our HK vets. I had to turn down a few speaking invitations but will make arrangements to fulfill them in the future.

I would like to express a very special thank you to those that came out to assist at the venue giving me an opportunity to have a break from time to time, attend the wreath laying ceremony, and give the Remembrance Day presentation in the main display area. **Jim and Anne Trick** attended the presentation and helped tear down at the end of the event. I must give a special thank you to a wonderful person for coming out so often to assist me but doesn't wish to have her name mentioned.



Thank you to all of you who helped to make the Veterans' Week at the RBCM such a success.

HKVCA members across the province attended Remembrance Day services and laid wreaths on behalf of the HKVCA. Traditions continued in Victoria, Sardis, Armstrong, Burnaby and Port Moody where sons and daughters of our HK vets have participated for many years. For the first time, a new member, **Phil Mondor**, laid a wreath at the Victory Square cenotaph in Vancouver. Phil is the son of the late HK veteran **Paul Mondor, WG**. Phil's Mom lives in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Naylor, BC Regional Director and Education Chair.

### AB/SK Action



RING OF FIRE

DECEMBER 7TH 2011  
TO JUNE 3RD 2012

## CANADIANS IN THE PACIFIC IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Most public awareness about the Canadian participation in the Second World War tends to focus on the European theatre.

**Developed by The Military Museums.** Presented with assistance from the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

**Alberta / Saskatchewan Branch.**

**Opening Reception December 7<sup>TH</sup> 2011 6PM to 8PM - 403-240-9761**  
THE MILITARY MUSEUMS 4520 Crowchild Trail SW Calgary, Alberta T2T 5J4

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

We are all very excited here about the "Ring of Fire" display that is opening on December 7<sup>th</sup> at The Military Museums here in Calgary. To quote the poster "This exhibit aims to raise awareness of Canadians in the Pacific with respect to the veterans of Hong Kong, Burma, the Aleutians and other campaigns, who are still with us". Our region donated funds to help develop this exhibit. We, as members of the HKVCA have been invited to the opening reception, which coincides with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. They particularly would like to see our Veterans attend this special evening. I know that the museum has done video interviews with some of them and will be showing that footage at the opening. The Museum hopes to take this display on the road between now and June 2012. They are still gathering items for the display from different members throughout the country. The curator of the museum helped us with our memorabilia room at our convention here in 2007. He has specifically asked for some of the artefacts that were displayed at that time. At the service there on Remembrance Day, postcards were handed out to everyone in attendance (10,000) inviting them to see this display. What a great way to honor our Veterans!

The Remembrance Day services were very well attended here in Calgary. Ralph MacLean and his grandson were able to lay a wreath at the Jubilee Auditorium. Also, Gary and Karen Boland and Don and Sharon Meredith participated in the other two services held here. A group of about 30 met for lunch afterwards. I heard from Mary McAuley in Saskatoon saying that her family laid a wreath there. Kathie Carlson

reported that her sister, Mik, represented us at the service in Lethbridge. When I talked to Johnny McGee from Edmonton he said his family would be going to the service there. It sounds like we were well covered this year. I am sure there were lots more of us out there. We would like to send out a big thank you to all who laid wreaths and remember our Veterans on that day.

We are still collecting dues for 2011; most have paid however there are still a few who we are waiting for. I just read that the dues are going up to \$20 for 2012. We keep \$10 here in the Region and send \$10 to the National. For those who have already sent their 2012 dues, you are ok for this year.

The Christmas season is fast approaching. I would like to wish all of you the best of the season! I hope 2012 is a great year for all!  
Norma Fuchs.

### Manitoba Moments

Hello to all the Hong Kong family

Well tis the season to be jolly as Christmas is just a short time away.

We had a great Reunion in October, the Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee and Her Honour Mrs. Lee were in attendance along with about 90 people for our last formal Reunion in Winnipeg. We were saddened that we didn't have a Veteran due to health reasons. George Peterson had his knee surgery and is doing well.

We are planning to host the next National Convention in August 2013. Marlene and Dennis Bell are the Chairs of Convention Committee. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see happen at the Convention please forward them to me.

We are still holding our Tea and Tidbits for the Ladies four times a year and in most cases we get a good turnout.

George Peterson will be in Japan with Vince Lopata as his escort when the Veterans will finally get an apology. A little too late I must say but better than not at all. I am sure that the Veterans who will be attending will accept in their hearts the apology for all their Comrades.

All the Best of the Holiday Season to each and every one in 2012 keep safe, healthy, and prosperous. Thanks for all your support for all the years. *Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director.*

The Manitoba Education Committee attended the Manitoba

Social Science Teachers Conference, October 28, 2011. There were almost 500 teachers, educators and display people in attendance. Barry Mitchell and Dennis Bell manned the display and Carol Hadley did a presentation to a small group of teachers.

We did a mail out through the Manitoba Department of Education about the National Essay Contest.

Dennis Bell will be attending a TeachMeet where they will explore the importance of using local stories to connect students to a larger narrative. Dennis has also been doing considerable research for us to renew our efforts with the Canadian Human Rights Museum. He attended a public meeting with a review of the content of the museum.

We have submitted our intent to attend the Red River Regional Heritage Days in May 2012.

Vince Lopata gave a talk on the HK related geographical local areas to the people in Pinawa as part of the Remembrance Day. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

### Ontario Offerings

Greetings everyone!

As I write this report I'm sitting in my hotel room looking over Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour. It's December 1. I decided about 6 months ago to travel to Hong Kong for the 70th anniversary of the battle and to be present at the annual commemoration ceremony at Sai Wan War Cemetery on the first Sunday of December. I was very pleasantly surprised to hear just a few days before leaving Toronto that the Canadian government has decided to send several Veterans to Hong Kong and on to Japan, and I am looking forward to seeing them when they arrive.

Looking over the bustling harbour, with its backdrop of dozens and dozens (perhaps hundreds) of gleaming tall office and apartment towers, it's hard to imagine the scene in November 1941 when C Force arrived here. It was a busy harbour then, of course, but the skyline was certainly a different one. Across the harbour on the Kowloon side I can see the verdant hills of the New Territories where the Japanese land assault began. Behind me is the rugged terrain of Hong Kong Island, which proved so difficult to defend. Below me, the incredibly busy streets of the city carry the commerce of one of the world's great business hubs.

We all know the story of the battle and its appalling aftermath for our Canadian soldiers. What we don't, perhaps, focus on are the others who were affected. For example, the Japanese interned several thousand civilians (mostly British, American and Dutch) at St Stephen's School and Stanley Prison in Hong Kong. Although some were repatriated after about 6 months, the remainder were forced to live in squalid conditions and with minimal food for the duration of the war. I was fortunate to spend the day today with some of the survivors of that internment. Many of them were only children when the war broke out, and yet they, too were interned. War is a cruel thing. If there's one thing we can hope for, it's that someday there will be no more wars. Unfortunately, I'm not optimistic about the prospects.

On a happier note, I'm pleased to tell you that we have a new Area Rep for the West Central area. **Pam Newhouse** is the daughter of Veteran Ken Pifher. She is taking over from Gordon Coyne. You may know that Gordon, formerly a resident of Mississauga, lost his wife about a year ago. He's since decided to move to Waterloo, and has had to give up his Area Rep role. My sincere thanks on behalf of all of us to Gordon, and best wishes for him in his new home. And welcome to Pam!

In Ottawa I'm pleased to welcome back Ron McGuire as Area Rep for our North East area. Ron will share his duties with Mitzi Ross ... with Mitzi focusing on organizing the commemorative and social events. We're pleased to have them both working on your behalf!

And finally, back to Hong Kong, Today I saw the terrific museum that the staff and students of St Stephen's College have created in one of their bungalows. They have collected artifacts from a number of sources, and written and produced display panels about the battle, and in particular about how St Stephen's College figured in it. It's a real eye-opener. They did all this with a grant from the Hong Kong government. However, the school is now responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the museum, and would really appreciate any donations towards that. Also, they would like to receive any memorabilia that could be donated for display purposes. If you'd like to contribute, please contact me (msbabin@gmail.com) and I will put you in touch with them.

The official opening of the museum is on December 15. You can read about their previous historical work [here](http://www.ssc.edu.hk/ssctrail/eng/trail.html) (<http://www.ssc.edu.hk/ssctrail/eng/trail.html>).

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Respectfully submitted, Mike Babin  
Regional Director, Ontario*

Hello and best wishes to all of our dedicated members from the North East Region. Most of you know me as Lance Ross' daughter and I have again assumed the role of your Regional Rep. My first duty is to express my appreciation to Ron McGuire for his hard work and dedication over the years and I thank him personally for all the help he has given me – much appreciated Ron!

#### **Remembrance Day Ceremonies:**

We had wreaths laid at numerous locations in our region. Pam Grimshaw, daughter of George Grimshaw (RRC), laid the wreath at the Centrepoint Cenotaph. Ron McGuire and Ted Terry, son of Edward L. Terry (WG), laid a wreath at Carlingwood at 11:00am and at Westboro at 2pm. Ron has his wreath as part of his tribute to our veterans in his Nepean Museum exhibit which features Betty and Eric Maloney (RRC), long-time residents of Nepean. He was requested to prepare a second exhibit concerning the history of the Royal Canadian Legion. Both exhibits may be seen until February 2012.

#### **Veterans and Widows update:**

Ken Ewing (RRC) had a nasty fall and unfortunately broke his hip. Last year he broke his other hip and recovered very well from that mishap and so we wish him well on another speedy recovery.

Eric Maloney (RRC) is doing very well except for severe pain in his knee which has slowed him down somewhat.

Widow, Mavis Martin, wife of John Martin (RRC), is having some surgery on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We wish Mavis a fast recovery!

#### **Upcoming Memorial Ceremony:**

We have put together a small team to organize a ceremony on December 10<sup>th</sup> commemorating the beginning of the Battle of Hong Kong on December 8, 1941. The team consists of Derrill Henderson, Ted Terry, Anne Hyland, Ron McGuire and I. We will be having the wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Wall on Sussex Drive followed by our Regional Quarterly Luncheon at a restaurant and then an informal get-

together at my house to chat and look at memorabilia, which will be supplied by Ron McGuire. I will have more to report on this event in the next newsletter.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas season and all the best in 2012.

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Here is some rather special news relative to Flora Fung who is one of the Ontario Region's honorary members. She has just had made official from Ottawa the information that she is one of the winners of the Governor-General's Awards for Excellence in the Teaching of Canadian History. Flora is Head of Canadian and World Studies at Central Collegiate in Oshawa, and has worked with HKVCA on a number of occasions. It was she who developed the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest, which is currently in the hands of High School students and teachers across the country. She is the third person in the Ontario Region of HKVCA who has received this award. All three are honorary members of the Ontario Region because of their contributions to the region over the years. The others who received the same award are Nick Brune (2003), author of the "Ten Lessons" for Secondary School students, and Nancy Hamer Strahl who has provided much valuable information for the Teachers' Zone (2008). The Ontario Region congratulates Flora on this very special recognition!

#### **Ontario Education Chair's Report**

The Ontario Region has been a part of an expanding series of activities across the country, and, in at least one instance, what was originally an Ontario project has turned into much more than that. With the encouragement of Jim Trick, our HKVCA Webmaster, and others on the Board of Directors, our attempt in Ontario to have some of our veterans' stories translated into French has become an effort toward making the Teachers' Zone on the Website a completely bilingual area.

A number of people have become involved in this project recently, and there has been enough interest and enthusiasm that Gail Angel, one of our members in Ottawa, has offered to act as the Translation Project Coordinator. Gail has been able to push ahead with specific ways to co-ordinate the efforts of a number of people in her



workplace, as well as involving key people already working with us. Our Professional Translator, Dominique Millette, and such educators as Flora Fung are part of this latter group. Flora, an Ontario High School teacher, and well-respected honorary member of HKVCA, has already contributed in English to the Teachers' Resources section of the Teachers' Zone. We thank her and the others involved for taking on this additional challenging project.

This last three months of effort by the Ontario Executive, and other members around the province, have culminated in two events that have been quite stimulating. On Nov. 1st, in Ottawa, Ted Terry, Ann Argue, and Ian Doull once again took charge of the display table at the Resource Fair associated with the Parliamentary Library's project in Ottawa. Educators from across the country were chosen by their communities to represent them in Ottawa for a week of study and events that would relate to the workings of parliamentary democracy. For just one of those days the teachers were given the opportunity to interact with groups like HKVCA, and many other organizations, so that they could be given materials to take back and share with their fellow teachers, thus making useful information available to many more teachers across the country. Our CD-ROM of the Battle of Hong Kong was one of the gifts given to them, as were sample copies of the Writing Contest currently underway for which their High School students would be eligible. Our three HKVCA members did a great job of engaging the teachers, and helping them understand what the Battle of Hong Kong was all about.



*Gordon Coyne at OHASSTA display table*

Following the Ottawa event is our annual involvement in the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Ass'n. Conference (OHASSTA) was held on Friday, Nov. 18th and Saturday, Nov. 19th in Toronto. We were able to prepare special folders to give to each teacher so that they wouldn't miss any of the material we

wanted them to have. These items included our CD-ROM, the Writing Contest information, Veterans' Affairs "Defense of Hong Kong" pamphlet, several book order forms with sample copies of those books for teachers to see, as well as the ever-popular Gander bookmarks which teachers are always anxious to have. Besides these items, we were able for the first time at OHASSTA to unfurl our three banners, which you'll see in the pictures attached to this report. Bud Mann has done such a great job in creating these banners that we have made use of them several times in the last few months, and they always provoke a lot of interest. This was definitely the case at this year's OHASSTA conference as well. A lot of effort was also put into the display table itself, particularly on the part of Linda Guglick who spent several hours on three different occasions to prepare the folders for the teachers to have. Many thanks for that, Linda! Thanks too to Mike Babin and Mark Purcell, for their extra hard work in looking after the event over the two days. Thanks also to our other volunteers, Sandra Fox, Linda Guglick, Pam Newhouse and Gordon Coyne. Two special things to mention: Pam's father, Ken Pifher, a Hong Kong veteran (RRC), volunteered to come and chat with some of the teachers on Saturday morning, and we certainly did appreciate his presence. In addition, Gordon Coyne, who has been such a good Area Rep. for West Central, and has recently moved to Waterloo, came back to help us set up on Thursday night as well as taking a shift early Friday morning. Many thanks, Gordon, for going the extra mile – literally!

All in all, it's been a busy time, and we're looking for more of the same in the next few months. We already have a request for a PD Day in February and expect many other opportunities to help people become more aware of the Hong Kong story. May all of our members have a rich and fulfilling Christmas Season. Do keep in mind the importance of sharing this very precious time of year with our Hong Kong veterans, our widows and our family of Commemorative members.

Pat Turcotte, Education Chair  
Ontario Region

#### **Quebec Quotes**

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director

Greetings from a very mild rainy Granby, we have had exceptionally mild weather for this time of year. Last week we had a taste of what is to come, 4" of that white stuff called snow. We complained but, the scenery was just beautiful with the trees loaded with snow.

Since our last report we were busy with the Armistice and Commemorative Ceremonies in our area. I deposited a wreath in the name of all our Hong Kong Veterans during our local Ceremony as many of our members also did in their respective area.

Our HK Vet Dempsey Syvret deposited a wreath at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremonies in Ottawa and at the Memorial Wall.

We recently held our executive meeting and plans for study are on the table and will be finalized and/or adjusted at our next meeting early in the New Year.

Our membership is healthy at this time and some members have already renewed their membership for 2012.

We have also been busy calling widows and veterans. As usual when doing this we find out again that some have moved and forgot to advise their regional membership.

We are using this media to help us and maybe other regions as well, please if you have a parent or someone in your care and has changed their address within the last few months, do advise your Membership Chairperson. It is very important to stay in contact with everyone. We do thank you.

Due to the passing of our Deputy Director Renay, the executive committee has appointed Normand Menard to fill the chair for the remainder of this term of office. A call for elections will be made in March 2012 for the following term 2012-2014.

The books are closed for the Granby 2011 National Convention and we do thank everyone for their participation in any way to the success of the convention.

Thanks and congratulations to all members of the Organizing Committee of Winnipeg for accepting to host the 2013 Convention.

**Season Greetings from our house to yours and Health for 2012.**

Take care and may God Bless.

#### **Eastern Breezes**

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

We are still working on the final details for the 'C' Force Memorial to be placed in Belledune, NB. I cannot yet show the layout until Council approves it, Dec. 19th, 2011. Our hopes and plans are to have the Memorial completed by Sept. 6, 2012. I will keep you updated. And to let you know, we will be fundraising for this project soon.

On Remembrance Day, a wreath was laid for our local Hong Kong Veterans and our Legion, Branch # 77 held a Luncheon, where the President proudly announced that, "We, Belledune, NB will soon honour our men from Hong Kong with a beautiful and timeless Memorial dedicated to all HKV's from NB and the Gaspé Coast".

A Big Thank You to Derrill Henderson for his tireless efforts to ensure the Japanese finally apologized to our Veterans. Although it's unfortunate many did not hear it when they were alive, I say "It's never too late and only so pleased to see there are still some of our Veterans with us to hear it - finally".

Happiness and good Health to all of you throughout this Festive Season.

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### Attention all members

Due to overall rising costs, the HKVCA has increased its membership fees to \$20.00 per year, effective 2012.

This will apply to all who have not yet paid their membership for 2012. If you paid the current fee of \$15.00 that's fine, the increase will not affect you until 2013. The same applies to all those who have paid their membership for a number of years ahead.

All other aspects of payment will remain the same. Please send your dues to your Regional representative as you usually do.

Thanks for helping us maintain our not-for-profit charity in a meaningful way and accomplish our goals of paying our respect to the Hong Kong Vets.

Barry Mitchell, National Treasurer

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### Getting the Word Out

One of our major challenges is educating the Canadian public about the battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath. A key tool in this effort is our various web sites, as all the information that we've gathered can

be found there. How successful are we? A look at our site statistics indicates that over the past year we've been visited by between 2000 to 3200 individuals each month. If you haven't visited lately, drop in to see what's been going on. Our main site at [hkvca.ca](http://hkvca.ca) is updated almost every day.

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Looking for something for a gift?

### Barry's Emporium

P.O. Box 381

Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6

Cheques payable to HKVCA

- WG Honour Roll—Colour—Ready to Frame \$20.00
- Grave Markers—Includes postage \$75.00
- Blazer Crest—Commemorative \$25.00
- Tie—Winnipeg Grenadier \$30.00
- Video—Slaves of the Rising Sun \$15.00
- Book—One Soldier's Story \$20.00
- Lapel Pin—Torch Logo or Member \$5.00

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### Humour:

Son: Mum, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady.

Mom: Well you have done the right thing.

Son: But mum, I was sitting on Daddy's lap.

☺ ☺ ☺

Q. What would a reindeer do if it lost its tail?

A. It would go to a re-tail shop for a new one!

Q. Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners?

A. Rude-olph!

Q. Why did Santa's helper see a therapist?

A. Because he had low elf esteem!

Q. How do elves greet each other?

A. "Small world, isn't it?"

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### BEING THANKFUL

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?" The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

☺ ☺ ☺

For those people who are paying their dues – here is the list of

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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.**

♥♥♥

May love and laughter light your days,  
and warm your heart and home.  
May good and faithful friends be yours,  
wherever you may roam.  
May peace and plenty bless your world

with joy that long endures.  
May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

**Merry Christmas and Happy**

**New Year**