

# WASURERU-NAI

Editor: Sheila Forsyth, 613-821-3163



sheilaforsyth@gmail.com

## HKVCA President's message

Hi Everyone. I hope you are all keeping well and staying warm and safe.

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The **Memorial Wall** is back together with the corrections received over the last few years in place. There is some light maintenance left for warmer weather next spring. We are pleased that it was ready for the November 11 and December 6 services. Big thank you to **Randy Wing** and **Derrill Henderson** who headed up the operations and dealt with the necessary issues to accomplish this.

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We were pleased to hear that all WWII veterans will be receiving a commemorative lapel pin and certificate in recognition of their service. The HKVCA submitted all our veteran's names so trust you have received them now. If not let us know and we will check.

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We are pleased to announce our new **Membership Chair, Gerry Anderson** who will be gathering all the membership lists for the regions and keeping them archived. Jim Trick will work with him to assist in a smooth change over in the process. Thank you Gerry and welcome aboard.

**The Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs**, announced the rededication of the National War Memorial that took place at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony in Ottawa with Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence participating. An inscription, *In Service to Canada / Au service du Canada*, will be added to the Memorial to formally recognize all Canadians who served in the past, serve today, and will serve in the future. The Memorial will also be inscribed with the dates of the Afghanistan mission and the South African War.

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Another announcement from Ottawa has **Walter Natynczyk, General Retired**, as the Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs. He has formerly served as Chief of Defence Staff and has a good knowledge of veteran's needs.

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I know many of you will have attended the November 11 service in your area to say thank you to our veterans for their service and possibly to lay a wreath. Maybe there will be pictures here to show us all. I was also laying a wreath at Charleswood Legion service in Winnipeg where over 500 people, including service personal, observe this occasion. Several of our HK vets came from this area.

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The Canadian Museum of Human Rights is open in Winnipeg. Barry and Constance Mitchell with Allan and I attended to view the displays, which are mostly virtual. It is a very profound exhibit and would take several days to do it justice. Unfortunately, there is no display on the Battle of Hong Kong as it is classed a military mission, and the intent is to show injustice done against civilians. We would need to produce a video to prove the injustice shown the HK veterans when they returned home with the lack of proper health care, pensions and benefits until 2001 when they received 100% pension. So we can add that to the project list.

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Please read the election information that will be found in the newsletter as the process will be different. Thanks to Derrill Henderson who has worked hard on getting this process to a manageable one. Again I ask that you take time and consider donating some to the HKVCA on a project or to the management of the Association.

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**"Never Forget"**

Next year marks an anniversary of the return of those who survived the Battle of Hong Kong and the years of internment. Check the website for information about Mike Babin's trip to Hong Kong in December 2015 and for information on the National Convention. I hope that you enjoy and celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends. Have a wonderful holiday and I wish you a happy, healthy New Year. All the best from my family to yours.

Carol

## Greetings from Phil Doddridge. HKVA

Greetings of the Christmas Season from our house to yours.

My steps are getting shorter and my circle of activity gets narrower and narrower. I don't have much contact with other HK Vets, mainly because there are so few of us left, and therefore I have little to report. I am thankful that my eyesight is still good because I spend most of my time reading.

I have just finished reading a book by Louis Lasnier, nephew of HK Vet J.Paul Dallain. The title is "La Bataille de Hong-Kong , les prisonniers, et la Guerre du Pacifique." Paul Dallain's story is the centrepiece of the book.

Of all the heroic stories associated with the atrocities at Hong Kong, Paul's story stands out with the best of them, not only because of his trials in the POW camps, but his heroic struggle to regain health after returning to Canada. His determination to prevail in the face of all adversities shows his mettle.

Those of us who returned in relatively good health and who were able to pick up our lives and start over are really blessed and forever grateful. Unlike the lucky few of us, Paul's troubles continued. He no longer faced the brutal treatment of his Japanese captors, but now it was the battle for his health and the misery he suffered in the long road to normal living.

While most of us ex-POWs were readjusting to a normal life, Paul was lying in a hospital for over seven years. He underwent operation after operation, resulting in the removal of seven ribs and one of his lungs because of the silicosis he had contracted while working in a Japanese coal mine .

Today Paul is well. He has overcome his health problems and has lived to the ripe old age of ninety-two. He served as Postmaster in New Carlisle for most if not all of his working life. I speak with him often. He tells me that he walks every day and keeps in touch with friends in New Carlisle, where he lives with his wife, Irene and his son Claude. Philip

**New Election procedures.** In the last newsletter, I wrote about changes to our electoral process starting in 2015. Not in this newsletter, but in the next one, there will be a nomination form. In this issue, I wish to comment on the region council formation. Under the new rules, region councils no longer have to be elected. By this I mean that a formal nomination and voting procedure is not necessary. Members will continue to have a say in who sits on the council, but the process of getting them there changes. The Region Director will be determined as part of the election process for the National Board of Directors. In the regions, it is desirable that the required positions of Secretary and Treasurer be directly selected by the membership. Members will be asked to submit names for these positions and depending upon availability and willingness to serve, the council will be established. That said, there are no regulations to say we cannot hold an election for the region councils, it is just not legally necessary. For most regions, we believe that the new process will be the best to follow. For example, few people are nominated and unfortunately, the number of returned ballots is very low. More information will come in the next edition of the newsletter.

Derrill Henderson Election Officer

## Last Post

### HKVCA

Madelon Adams, widow of Les Adams, WG H6402. November 14 at the age of 99.

Mavis Frost, widow of Kenneth Frost E30280 RRC. She had been living at the Wales Home in Cleveland, QC for the last few years. She passed away on October 25, 2014

### 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](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca) and we will make it so.

Consider merchandise from Barry's Emporium for Christmas gifts. You can reach Barry at P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6 or by email at [bcmitchell@shaw.ca](mailto:bcmitchell@shaw.ca)

## Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendations

We are very proud to announce two recipients of this auspicious award. Congratulations to Murray Doull of Maple Ridge, BC and Barry Mitchell from Winnipeg, MB. The following write-ups are from the [VAC page](#).



Mr. Doull is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA), where he has served since 2000. He has been the Secretary-Treasurer/Membership Chair of the BC Branch of the HKVCA since 2001 and beginning in 2004, Mr. Doull served four year terms as the HKVCA's national first vice president and as the national second vice president, respectively. He was a member of the Hong Kong Veterans Memorial Wall Committee that assisted in the creation of the election process for the Executive of the Association's British Columbia Region, and he helped to establish a document outlining the duties of each executive position. Mr. Doull's commitment to remembrance led him to participate in a vast number of educational projects for students and the general public, including the 2008 British Columbia Day "Salute to our Veterans" event, the 2010 British Columbia Social Studies Teachers Association Convention, and the George Derby Centre's "Tribute to our Veterans" events. Mr. Doull has assisted in the development of British Columbia's first educational and informational brochures concerning the Battle of Hong Kong, and he participated in the development of British Columbia's first educational display on the subject. Mr. Doull organizes and coordinates the annual spring membership gatherings for the BC Region of HKVCA. He attends and often speaks at funerals for Hong Kong Veterans, and he contacts Veterans' widows to inform them of the benefits to which they are entitled. In 2005, Mr. Doull accompanied three Hong Kong Veterans to Hong Kong for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration ceremonies at the Stanley Military Cemetery and the Sai Wan War Cemetery. He is an active participant at Remembrance Day services, where he lays a wreath on behalf of the HKVCA. Mr. Doull is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his many years of dedicated service to the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada.



Mr. Mitchell is the son of a Second World War Veteran who was killed in action during the Battle of Hong Kong. A 20-year member of the Hong Kong Veterans Association (HKVA), he has held the position of National Treasurer since 2003. Mr. Mitchell is also a founding member of the Manitoba Branch of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (HKVCA), currently Treasurer and responsible for membership, for it and the Prairie Region. In 2001 and 2013, he helped organize the National Convention in Winnipeg and has served on the committee for the HKVA Annual Reunion, which was also hosted in Winnipeg for decades. A tireless volunteer, he served on the Committee for the Memorial Wall project in Ottawa, primarily related to financial management. He has assisted the Education Committee at educational symposiums by working at the HKVCA display and sharing his knowledge of the Battle of Hong Kong with participants. Concerned with ensuring their well-being, Mr. Mitchell contacts and visits Veterans and their widows, and has interviewed Veterans to capture their wartime-related memories and experiences. He is currently working to have the Hong Kong Veterans' story included in the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg. Mr. Mitchell is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his many years of service and dedication to the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada.

## FROM SEA TO SEA: REGIONAL NEWS

### BC BANTER

Lee Naylor, B.C. Region Director

Members laid wreathes in their areas with Garry Gerrard (HKV), Linda Quesnel and Gwen Day together laying a wreath at the BC Legislature cenotaph in Victoria.

Graeme Stacey and Lee Naylor presented the "C"



Force Story at the International Human Rights Day Student Symposium. In six years, this is the first three day symposium hosted by the Association for Learning and

Preserving WWII History in Asia (ALPHA).

Graeme and Lee presented twice a day for the three day period with the first day being held at the Guilford Park Secondary School in Surrey and the next two days at the Vancouver Technical School in Burnaby.

A total of three hundred students sat in on multiple presentations at the Guilford Park Secondary School and two hundred and fifty to three hundred students

participated in the presentation at the Van Tech School. We averaged between forty five to fifty students per presentation. The grade 11 students and teachers came from twenty-five different school districts and private schools.



The symposium was extremely successful and due to six hundred students who registered for IHRDSS symposium that were not able to attend as for space and timings, we are looking to extend the symposium to four days next year.

### PRAIRIE PROSE

**Greetings from the Prairies!** October was pleasant, weather-wise in Manitoba but all of the Prairies have experienced many types of good and bad weather. However it is winter – stay warm and safe.

In October we were pleased to attend the Minister of Veteran's Affairs Commendation event held in Winnipeg where Barry Mitchell received the Ministers Commendation. Please read his history in this newsletter. The HKVCA were pleased to have another recipient with Murray Doull in BC receiving the award earlier. Congratulations to both of these gentlemen – well deserved.

George Peterson and Carol Hadley have been helping a Manitoba Museum coordinator who is putting in place various items that the HK Vets brought back into displays to go into schools. This display will have information about the items and questions for the students to research for a report. We have also included information about the Essay Challenge that the HKVCA have sponsored. We hope with this new initiative it will intrigue students and teachers to spend more time with this part of WWII.

Allan and Carol Hadley were honoured to lay a wreath in memory of the men and women in the Battle of Hong Kong. This is done annually at the Charleswood Legion #100 Remembrance Day service. There are many of our HKVCA members in the Prairie Region that also participate in these services throughout the region.

The Prairie Region continue to hold monthly meetings at St. James Legion in Winnipeg at noon on the second Thursday of each month. **Tea and Tidbits dates – April 11 2015, August 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 12 from 1 pm to 3 pm.**

**From Juliet Lafortune** Well Manitoba has had a few quiet months. We did celebrate HKVA Reunion on October 26, 2014 and it was very successful with 72 in attendance. One Veteran, **George Peterson** and five widows, **Myrtle Lytle, Ladena Mabley, Anne Richardson, Joan Watson and Alexandra Slovinski**. We had two groups of four generations - the **Mitchell Family and the Wiebe Family**.

I attended a service at St Mark's church on behalf of HKVCA also honouring the Hong Kong Veterans and their part in WW2.

We had our **Christmas Tea and Tidbits for the ladies on December 6<sup>th</sup>** and we enjoyed looking through memory books; seeing many faces of the HK vets that brought back memories both good and bad as they are no longer with us.

Not much else happening. Thanks again for all the hard work everyone is doing.

### **From Barry Mitchell -**

On November 9, representatives of the HKVCA Prairie Region were pleased to attend the Remembrance Day service at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Winnipeg and participate in the Blessing and Dedication of the Winnipeg Grenadier's Honour Roll. This listing of all Winnipeg Grenadiers who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong was presented to the church by the Hong Kong Veterans Association represented by George Peterson. Also attending were members of the Prairie Region of the HKVCA including Carol Hadley, Barry Mitchell and the colour party made up of Vince Lopata, Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor. **The Rev. Paul Lampman** officiated and accepted the Honour Roll on behalf of the church.

On November 11, Winnipeg's major Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, attended by over 4,000 people. The HKVCA colour party joined the many other flag bearing organizations representing every aspect of the military in honouring all those who served Canada in many conflicts around the world. Laying the wreath on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans was Juliet Lafortune, assisted by Barry Mitchell.

On November 15, members of the HKVCA Prairie Region were pleased to attend a most interesting screening of two segments of a film series on Manitoba based military units. We had earlier seen the segment on the Winnipeg Grenadiers in which some of us had assisted by being interviewed and this evening we saw for the first time the stories of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The event was held in Saint Margaret's Anglican Church and the full house of enthusiastic supporters heard from members of the two military units as well as from others who had played a role in the eventful history of PPCLI and the Queen's Own. Representing the HKVCA in this tribute to Jon Ted Wynne, the series creator, were Marleen and Dennis Bell, Vince and Stan Lopata and Barry Mitchell.

### **Report from Norma Fuchs – Alberta**

Ralph MacLean, his son Doug, and I laid the wreath on Remembrance Day. It was a beautiful ceremony. We got together for lunch at the Red Lobster (in honor of Ed Shayler) for lunch after, there were about 30 of us again. Kathy Carlson in Lethbridge and Marilyn Robb (John McGee) from Edmonton both participated in services in their cities. We are still doing a small part to remember our heroes.

On behalf of the Prairie executive we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with many blessings and good health.

### **ONTARIO OFFERINGS**

South Western Ontario. Marilyn Morgan, affiliated with Angus and Clarence Wilbur (RRC)

The following are excerpts from John Quinn's speech, shared to a crowd of over 10,000, at the Remembrance Day Cenotaph ceremonies in London, Ontario. John, originally from Nova Scotia, has been the MC of the London service for the past several years. He is familiar with the plight of the Royal Rifles.

"The Hong Kong Veteran's name is Lawrence Ross and he, along with his two brothers, enlisted in Quebec City in September 1940 with the Royal Rifles of Canada (regiment). Lawrence is one of only about 34 HK vets still alive today. Originally from Barry, Quebec, he is the only HK vet in London now.

"It was against Japan in the defence of Hong Kong that Canadians soldiers were FIRST committed to battle during the Second World War. ... These men set sail from Vancouver on October 27th, 1941. On December 8th, 1941, the Japanese attacked Hong Kong. The Canadians were ill equipped and not trained for front line battle against an army as large and as well prepared as the Japanese. The Canadians fought valiantly ... but on Christmas Day, 1941 they were defeated ... with a tragic toll: 290 killed, and 493 wounded. ... The remaining Canadians were imprisoned in Hong Kong and Japan in the foulest of conditions and had to endure brutal treatment and near starvation. Many did not survive. In all, more than 550 of the 1975 Canadians who sailed from Vancouver in October 1941 never returned.

"Lawrence Ross and his two brothers did return to Canada. Lawrence is now 93 years old. He still suffers nightmares from the treatment he and his comrades lived through as prisoners of war for four years. These men returned to Canada and rarely spoke of their experiences for many many years. Lawrence is very soft spoken and a true gentle man. You never hear him speak badly about his captors."

## Wreaths laid at Remembrance Day services in Ontario

London: Jane Smith [daughter of Thomas Wardell, RRC] and HKVCA Ontario Region member Gorden Collins [brother of Alger Collins, RRC] laid the wreath in memory of all Hong Kong Veterans.

Stirling: · Steve Chapman, son of Frederick Orland Chapman, RRC, placed a wreath at the Remembrance service in Stirling, ON. It's also an opportunity to go to the Legion after to meet some of the veterans from the area who are now mostly in their 90's, he said.

Ottawa area: Ted Terry attended two ceremonies with his granddaughter Hope Harris. They laid the HKVCA wreath at a well attended ceremony in Carlingwood Shopping Centre and later in the day did the same at a larger outdoor ceremony at the Westboro Memorial. Both events had larger than usual crowds this year and included a choir from a local school as well as classes of school children. The VIP's included the Mayor of Ottawa, an MP, an MPP and at least one City councilor. There was a parade of veterans and army cadets led by the City of Ottawa Fire Department Band. Both ceremonies were organized and run by the Westboro Branch of the Legion. In other years Ron McGuire has attended these two events with Ted but unfortunately this year he was not well and was unable to attend. Mitzi Ross, Alan Sandeman, Sheila Forsyth and Ian Doull attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at Cenotaphs around our region and laid wreaths in memory of our Hong Kong Veterans.

Other news from Central and South East Ontario. Shelagh Purcell, Daughter Lieut. Leonard B. Corrigan (WG)

It was gratifying to see the attention paid to Remembrance Day on November 11th. Good weather helped to bring out large crowds to the Cenotaphs in this area.

- Nurdene Claricoates, widow of Ron Claricoates, RRC, was impressed with the ceremony in Ottawa that she watched on TV.

- Sandy Harris, niece of Douglas Rees, RRC, also watched the TV coverage while her uncle, Veteran Douglas Rees enjoyed the warm weather of Barbados.

- Constance Darling, daughter of Edward Phillips, RRC, helped her mother move to new accommodation. Mrs. Phillips had always placed a wreath on November 11th at the Lennoxville —Sawyerville, Quebec ceremony. Connie's mother is 93 years of age.

- Irene Firlotte is doing well, still enjoying her connection to the SMILE Company in Kingston. Irene, widow of Lawrence Firlotte, RRC, said the organization is prepared to add more services if she needs them.

- Evelyn St. John, widow of Ralph St. John, RRC, said she's not doing badly for someone over 90: She admits she's slowing down but is glad her son Ralph can help.

On December 6th, the family of Kathleen Mills Sevigny, daughter of Alfred Mills, RRC, planned to have as many relatives as were able to attend the Ottawa memorial service. A wreath will be placed in memory of her father.

The surviving veterans have been approached Veterans Affairs to see whether a pilgrimage to Hong Kong and Rangoon would be possible. As an alternative, the veterans of Hong Kong and the Burma Star campaign might gather in Ottawa. Anne Cadoret, daughter of veteran Bruce Cadoret, RRC, says her father would enjoy an Ottawa meeting but the longer trip wouldn't be possible. More information will be coming from VA mater.

My son, Mark Purcell and I are planning to be in Ottawa for the December 6th ceremony at the Memorial Wall to remember Leonard Corrigan, WG, father and grandfather. These gatherings are important to keep the connections with other families who share the history of the Hong Kong veterans.

Best and warm wishes for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Hello from the North and East Region (by Mitzi Ross)

On November 4th, Ian Doull, Ann Hyland and Ted Terry made their annual appearance at the Resource Fair of the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy at the Lord Elgin Hotel. That event brings History teachers from across Canada to Ottawa to gather information to share with their school boards and teachers in their home areas. Our folks set up an HKVCA display and distributed our materials to the teachers.

On November 6th Ian, Ann and Ted again set up their display at Billings Bridge Plaza for Veterans Appreciation Day, a vital event put on by Veterans Affairs Canada with a large number of displays from all the Canadian Forces branches, police, and organizations like ours. These include WACS, Military police, Korean War veterans, Aboriginal War veterans, Friends of the Canadian War Museum. Many veterans were present as a ceremony was held at 11 a.m. to recognize them. Shoppers viewed the displays and also a few school classes with their teachers walked by and collected information.

### Trip to Hong Kong a lifetime desire for Robert Foord:



Hello everyone, Anne Marie and I recently returned from our visit to China and Hong Kong. Our primary purpose was to visit and pay our respects at the Sai Wan Bay Memorial in remembrance of my father's brother Frank Maxwell Foord who was killed in action on Mount Cameron, December 22nd 1941 and having no known grave. I was hoping to return with more detailed information specifically related

to my uncle's arrival on the island (Winnipeg Grenadier "C" Company, 12th Platoon) and up to and including his last few days. Let us begin with saying that we arrived in Hong Kong during the students protesting for democratic rights to vote with free choice of candidates. While in China any news from the BBC or CNN would cut off the signal to our TV. limiting our knowledge of what was truly happening.

Prior to our visit Anne Marie found Mr. Martin Heyes as a local military historian/guide and secured his assistance. Mr. Heyes proved his value in every way while escorting us through the entire day. We began in the lobby of the Shangri-La Hotel with an overview of the arrival of troops and hostilities up to and including the surrender on Christmas day. We then traveled by ferry to the "Admiralty" amid the protesting. We would have been hopelessly at a loss if not for Mr. Heyes getting a cab and finding a way out of the city to walk the Wong Nai Chung Gap where we hiked, with Mr. Heyes pointing out the various actions that took place including where Sgt-Maj J.R. Osborne won his VC.

Next we traveled to the Sai Wan Bay Memorial, which was a lifetime accomplishment for me. We left two photos at the memorial (attached), one of my uncle taken in Winnipeg and the second was with his wife Muriel (McLean) on their wedding day. From what we know and from his military transcripts they were together as man and wife less than two weeks. Frank was given a 3 day leave to marry, and a 14 day pass just prior to sailing but was recalled after 10 days. The visit to the memorial was very emotional for me as I do not recall a time in my life when I did not want to do this especially for my dad who was very close to his brother. Due to the traffic troubles we were losing daylight so my stay was just about an hour. We walked to the Cross of Remembrance and left Canadian flags on randomly picked graves that Anne Marie had brought with us along with poppies. Many pictures were taken and the visitor's book signed. It was overcast and cloudy for most of the day but rays of sunlight broke through the clouds while I was sitting at the memorial just savouring the moment looking at my uncle's name.

Our last stop was at Mt Cameron called the "Grenadiers Last Stand" with 130 men killed that day. I was hoping to learn more about that particular action but as Mr. Heyes told us the "fog of war" with little to no actual recorded detail of who fought where or died on Dec 22/23. The Grenadiers had

been dive-bombed and attacked by mortars throughout both days but held on only to be pushed off when the Japanese attacked in force. The view from Mt. Cameron out onto Victoria Harbour probably has not changed that much compared with other places around the island, but I stood silently looking all around trying to see and feel what he may have. A returning friend (POW survivor) of my uncle Frank told my grandfather many years later that he had died of a bayonet wound to the stomach when the fighting became hand-to-hand. Returning to the ferry Mr. Heyes had to abandon the cab and take us through the under ground (subway) to return us to the hotel on the Kowloon side, as the traffic became impossible due to the continued protesting. Mr Heyes was also able to point out to us many land marks that my uncle would have seen in 1941 such as the dock where the Awatea berthed at 9:00 November 16th 1941 to disembark the Canadians in Kowloon. The train station clock tower still stands with bomb damage still visible as does the Peninsula Hotel (one of the finest in all of Hong Kong) where Maj Gen Maltby took the salute from "C" Force as they marched down Salisbury Road to the Shamshui po barracks. We were able to walk the streets that my uncle had 73 years ago, see things that he would have seen. I really do not have words to describe how I feel to have completed my quest, to visit where my uncle is commemorated, but I will cherish the moment of peace that I felt when sitting in front of his name with the sunlight shining through.



### ONTARIO OFFERINGS CONTINUED.

**Memorial Service:** On December 6th at the "C" Force Memorial Wall there was a memorial service commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the beginning of the "Battle of Hong Kong". We had about 65 people in attendance for the service and 32 people for the luncheon following the service at "Tuckers Marketplace Restaurant". There were many dignitaries in attendance who laid wreaths representing: The Government of Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada, War Amps Operation Legacy and Youth of Canada, Canadian Veterans Advocacy, Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, Royal Canadian Legion, National Capital Commission as well as representatives from the Royal Hong Regiment Volunteers who came from Toronto. We also had thirteen wreaths laid by family members in memory of their loved ones. Check out this website to view pictures from the ceremony:

<http://www.richardlawrencephotography.ca/2014/12/06/>

One last note from Ontario: Jackie Le Drew, our Northern area rep, sends along "Christmas Blessings and Peace, Health and Happiness in the coming year. Merry Christmas"

## QUEBEC REGION

Lucette Mailloux Muir

We participated in many Commemorative Ceremonies and Armistice activities for November Remembrance Ceremonies. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM! Keith Bennett from Bishopston, QC., the son of RRC Ernie Bennett extends greetings to, for his recent birthday, to Flash Clayton whom he met when Flash and Oswald Clark stopped by his house years ago. Keith would also like to send greetings to Gwen Day and her brother, Bruce, as he remembers them from when they lived in Marbleton.

The yearend edition of "The Torch" is being prepared for our members giving them as much local news as possible and of course from National when received, new ventures, new procedures, thanking them for their 2014 membership renewals and encouraging them to, if not already done, renew early for 2015.

The *Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong* book by Grant Garneau is available from the Quebec Region at \$ 50.00 per copy, including shipping and handling. Contact Lucette with your order and cheque to: 18 rue Barre, Granby, QC J2H 2E6. A book is always a beautiful gift to receive and this is more so to our young folks. Part of our history and the learning of the hardship their ancestors endured, and still feel, for the freedom we enjoy today.

Our membership renewals for 2015 are already in very good standing and as usual we are always looking for and encouraging new members to join. In the past we established a "Guest Member" card as many people expressed their interest in our activities and news from old and new friends here in Quebec. If interested you can simply contact Lucette, QC Interim Membership Chairperson, at the Granby address above with your *contribution* of \$ 20.00. You will be a "Guest" of the Quebec Region and receive all the news. NOTE: if you would like to receive your information via e-mail, please give us your e-mail address as well as your postal. Thanks.

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Health for 2015.**

Wasureru-Nai

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association  
Suite 164, 1861 Robertson Road, Nepean, Ontario,  
Canada K2H 1B9

## EASTERN BREEZES

Emmie Flanagan

Greetings from Atlantic Canada. I hope you are all snuggled up and ready for a good old 'Canadian Winter'! Down East we just call it another 'Cold Snap'! We're becoming immune to all three seasons of winter.

During our municipal Remembrance Day Ceremonies - 24 Hong Kong Veteran family members walked silently behind the HKVCA Wreath Bearer. We all stood tall, proud and thankful, as our wreath

was carefully placed. Next year we hope to have 30 family members, where each one will represent 10 Hong Kong Veterans for a total of 300 - who were originally from the Atlantic/Gaspe Region.

"Indeed, it will be another proud moment, and one step closer to recognition for our local Hong Kong Veterans".



I am pleased to say that I was able to secure two wonderful judges for our 'Cross Canada Writing Contest'. They are Craig Caldwell and Lori MacNaughton, both from New Brunswick, and here is a short bio of each.

Craig Caldwell: Educator for approximately 25 years. Taught in Ontario, and New Brunswick (mostly 5/6, and 9/10 level). Former vice-principal and principal at Sugarloaf Senior High School in Campbellton, NB. Currently working with the District Office as Director of Schools . BA, BEd, and MEd in Educational Leadership

Lori MacNaughton: Chartered Accountant and Tax Specialist. Niece to HKV William MacNaughton and second cousin to HKV brothers -Graydon and Alden MacNaughton. Alden did not make it home, and is buried at the Yokohama War Cemetery in Japan. Lori observed first hand the terrible effects her uncle and cousin endured as POW'S, and the suffering they endured throughout their lives. She is passionate about keeping their memory alive. For your information, Craig and Lori are husband and wife, who just recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. They have a son and a daughter attending university in Nova Scotia. I do believe with their experience and analytic skills, we have a 'win win' situation here. I hope you will all join me in welcoming Crag & Lori, to this important task as judges for our annual educational project.

Finally... Although It has been almost four years, I want you to know our Belledune 'C Force' Memorial is still a viable work in progress. A more in depth update will come to you in the next newsletter.

May you all have a Joyous Christmas and a Happy 2015!

FOLLOW HKVCA on Facebook and visit the website for up to the minute news:

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

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