

# WASURERU-NAI

“Never Forget”

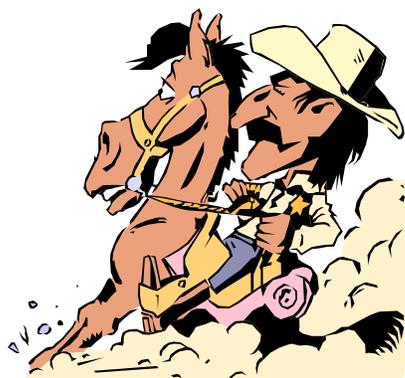
Volume 8, Number 2

September 2006

## NEWSLETTER OF THE HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



**Hold off there partner - Plan Now!!**

**To attend the National Convention August 15 to 19, 2007 – Calgary**

Exciting events are being planned by Alberta/Saskatchewan Region Convention committees, who hope that many of the veterans, widows and regular members, will

participate when attending the next Convention **August 15 to 19, 2007**

Book it on your calendar now and continue to look for updates.

### **BC Region HKVCA**

A traditional wreath laying will be held at the cenotaph in Victoria in front of the Legislative Buildings at 2 PM on Sunday, **December 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Manitoba HKVA Reunion**

**October 21, 2006** at Holiday Inn Airport West in Winnipeg, MB – call Juliet Lafortune for detailed information at 1-204-338-3354.

### **Atlantic HKVA & HKVCA Reunion**

September 8, 9, & 10, 2006 in Florenceville – for information call Neil at 1-506-276-3638

**A nomination form is in the newsletter for the election of the HKVCA Board of Directors - Please read it carefully and follow the instructions – Thank you.**

### **In the Interest of Economy...**

To make the most effective use out of the dues our members pay, it is the policy of HKVCA to send only one newsletter to each address even when there is more than one member living there. If you need more copies, please contact the HKVCA Secretary ([secretary@hkvca.ca](mailto:secretary@hkvca.ca)). If you wish to read this newsletter and the regional newsletters, online, please use this link and notify us if you do not want to receive a newsletter by mail – Thank you

<http://www.hkvca.ca/newsletters/index.htm>

### **President Report - Carol Hadley**

Well retirement is wonderful – but where does the time go! The golf game is improving and the handicap is slowly going down as we enjoy a remarkably warm, dry summer. I hope the weather and holidays are giving you all the recuperation that you need.

Congratulations to Daniel Sakamoto, Treasurer for AB/SK region, grandson of HK vet Ralph MacLean, who was married June 24<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes Daniel, to you and your new wife from all of us.

Congratulations to Nancy Hamer Stahl for the wonderful book of memories that she has compiled of the student’s work that went to Hong Kong last year. This book contains the stories, poems, etc that the students created on a member of “C” Force. The original piece of the work lies in the time capsule outside of Sai Wan Cemetery. Nancy thanks all of the families and veterans that helped with pictures and information in completing the book.

Thank you to George MacDonell for sending me a copy of his book of remembrance of the trip with the Ontario students. It is truly a work of art. He created this book for his family as it contains some of his personal thoughts on the trip – thank you for sharing - well done George!

The National Executive has worked diligently to ensure our mission and goals fit our current efforts. With the comfort of our veterans, wives and widows in a stable environment, our focus has added another branch – education. This is reflected in our mission and goals which are also on the website,

but for those who do not have access to a computer, I have included them here:

### **MISSION:**

*To educate all Canadians on the role of Canada's soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong and on the effects of the internment of the battle's survivors on both the soldiers and their families. We also assist in the support and welfare of Hong Kong veterans and their widows.*

### **GOALS:**

1. *Maintaining regular, periodic personal contact with the Veterans and widows to establish the state of their well being,*
2. *Advocating on behalf of the Veterans and widows to Veterans Affairs Canada and other relevant agencies,*
3. *Promoting the study of the Battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath in schools across Canada,*
4. *Developing materials and training Association members to tell the Hong Kong story publicly,*
5. *Finding opportunities for and developing partnerships with other organizations which can further the aims of the Association,*
6. *Maintaining a web site for the use of Association members and others which provides a repository of information about the Battle, the incarceration of Canadians, activities of the Association and other information which would be useful to interested parties, and*
7. *Participating in memorial services commemorating Canada's war veterans and laying of wreaths to the memory of the fallen.*

So you can see that we have set some high, but attainable goals, for our members and ourselves. As you read the list, give it deep consideration and if one or more items grabs your interest – please contact your local region or national executive and become involved – the more the merrier. With new people

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involved, it brings new ideas and innovation to our work – and that's a good thing.

Membership is very important for the continuation of any organization. We ask you to assist us with reaching out and letting others know of our existence. Visit our website ([www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)) and read about the Association to be able to let others know what we strive to accomplish. So we encourage you to ask your family and friends to see if they are members and if not, hopefully they will consider a membership.

A membership in this Association ensures the lasting memory of the Canadians that were involved in the Battle of Hong Kong. Your Executive members across Canada are working towards educating our youth by having the curriculum that has been developed, used in our schools.

We hope to have better communication by using the newsletter as well as our website and the media to advertise events and meetings. These aids will keep our members informed of events and activities so that they may join in and share the commonality of the Hong Kong Family.

Committees in AB/SK, (Alberta/Saskatchewan) Region are busy planning our next Convention in 2007. Some information on the convention events are in the newsletter and we hope that everyone will consider attending. Mark your calendar for August 2007 and we will see you in Calgary.

The National Executive elections are upon us. The 'Call for Nominations' is in the newsletter, so please give great consideration for the offices that are open. The Association is only as effective as the members that you elect so make your selection carefully and if there are any questions please contact Ron

McGuire, Elections Chair. We greatly appreciate having Ron McGuire, Derrill Henderson, Mitzi Ross and Sandi Cameron on the Election Committee.

To those who have suffered ill health – we hope for relief for you. For those who have suffered loss – we share your grief and wish you peace.

In closing, I will share this wonderful Irish blessing:

*May God give you...*

*For every storm, a rainbow,*

*For every tear, a smile,*

*For every care, a promise,*

*And a blessing in each trial.*

*For every problem life sends,*

*A faithful friend to share,*

*For every sigh, a sweet song,*

*And an answer for each prayer.*

God bless!

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### ***HKVA President Report – Phil Doddridge***

Greetings from the sunny Gaspé. Summer is almost gone, and it went so fast that I can hardly believe it is almost over. Another year, more changes, life goes on.

GRANBY, 2006

Once again Lucette and Marcel organized and directed a reunion that was interesting and enjoyable in every respect. The parade, the business meetings, the laying of the wreaths and poppies were done in an efficient and fitting manner.

We were honoured by the presence of visitors from Western Canada: Bill Doull with wife and daughter, Pat Maltman, Alice Slovinsky and her sister and Murray Doull.

The party at the “Cabane a Sucre” was, as usual, something to experience, western theme, with music and line dancing, and the fabulous French Canadian cuisine.

There were twelve HK Vets in attendance: Ossie Clark in a wheel chair, Pat Poirier, who had to leave after the first day, Bob Olscamp who left his nursing home in Campbellton to be there. Then there were Paul Dallain, Austin Batley, Eric Batley, Flash Clayton, Bruce Cadoret, Dempsey Syvret, Bill Doull, all the way from BC, John Levitt, 91 years old, and Phil Doddridge.

From the latest report there are 142 of us left of the 1975 that sailed from Vancouver in October 1941.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

In my report in the April edition of WASURERU NAI, I mentioned the award presented by VAC, called *The Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation*. I listed the names of HK Vets who had received the award, but omitted a very important name, that of Roger Cyr. Cliff Chadderton has also received it.

I am now happy to report that Derrill Henderson and Nancy Hamer-Strahl have been nominated to receive the award. Congratulations to both of them! They have both contributed to the well-being of Hong Kong Veterans in their own ways. This award will in some measure repay them for their dedicated service to us.

There are many other members of the HKVCA who have served faithfully and well, any and all of whom deserves recognition for their dedication to the cause.

### MARITIMES GASPESIAN

Again this year Neil Darrah and his group will be hosting the annual get-together in Florenceville, New Brunswick. The event will take place on September 8 and 9. Bob Barter and I plan to attend.

### MAJOR JOHN REID MEDICAL CLINIC

As every Hong Kong Vet knows, Major (then Captain) Reid, served with selfless dedication in Hong Kong and Japan.

There is now the possibility that a new medical clinic to be built in Ottawa will be named in his honour. This possibility has our unequivocal support, and with Derrill's letter writing skills we have dispatched a letter to the commanding officer of the Canadian Forces Health Services Centre, expressing our support of the proposal. If you have stories to tell about Major Reid, please forward them to Carol or Derrill.

Ed Shayler

As I was preparing this bit to send to Carol, I received a most welcome call from Ed, and we had a very interesting and warm chat. Although I hadn't known him before that, I became acquainted with Ed in Victoria in 2003, and we have kept in touch ever since. We shared a fabulous trip to Hong Kong in the autumn of 2005, where I came to appreciate him for the warm and sensitive human being that he is. Although advancing age will not allow us to get together many more times,

I count him among the best of my Hong Kong Buddies. As we say in Quebec, Salue, Ed, bonne chance.

That's all for this time, friends. Be good to each other and may God Bless.

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### ***Treasurer's Report "Dues and Views" - Barry Mitchell***

Even though the summer months are quiet for most businesses, I am pleased to report that HKVCA work continues at a steady, albeit slower, pace. A number of changes

have been brought about by your executive including a restated Mission and set of Goals. The new version is spelled out on our website ([www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)) and I'm pleasantly surprised at just how involved we are currently in reaching these goals.

For example, and just from the Manitoba perspective, here are some specific activities which took place this summer and which match the goals we have laid out for ourselves:

*Maintain contact with vets & widows*—we have a regular monthly luncheon with the vets and widows at the Legion and last Thursday, about a dozen of us shared the sandwiches and a few laughs.

*Advocate on behalf of vets & widows*---we handled a few inquiries regarding the disposition of memorabilia, and attended to matters concerning our vets and VAC.

*Promote the study of the Battle of HK in schools*—we wrote the Manitoba Minister of Education to try and have a meeting about placing our story in the Manitoba school curriculum.

*Developing materials to better tell the "Hong Kong Story"*—we had a couple of meetings with a display company to determine the costs involved with upgrading the display boards which we use as part of our presentations to school children, teachers, and others.

*Develop partnerships with other organizations*—I have had a couple of dealings lately with the Korean War Vets Association on matters of mutual interest.

*Maintain a website*—the National Executive is very active in maintaining and now upgrading our award winning website.

*Participating in memorial services*—Manitoba had a most successful V-J Day memorial service and celebration last week, attended by almost 100 members and guests.

So, you can see that your association is not just making up theoretical tasks but is setting itself real objectives and working hard to attain them. I congratulate all who participate and make this such a purposeful organization.

This isn't very much of a Treasurer's report but mostly that work falls to your Regional Treasurers. They have been doing a great job in chasing you for \$15.00 each year and sending in their share to the national coffers. Please respond to their requests for fees in a timely manner.

\* \* \* \*

### *In Memoriam*

**Geoffrey Marston**, C66584, RRC died March 8, 2006

**Maurice LaPointe**, H6677, WG, died March 30, 2006

**James Guthrie**, E-29911, RRC, died April 10, 2006

**Lionel Speller**, K-83926, R.C.C.S died April 30, 2006

**Jack Rose**, K-34771, R.C.C.S, died May 18, 2006

**Frederick Ryman**, H6790, WG died May 29, 2006

**Robert Jim Fleming**, B38364, RRC, died June 07, 2006

**Alfred Wagner**, H77520, WG died July 11, 2006

**Joseph N. LeBlanc**, F-40741, RRC, died July 12, 2006

**Peter Anthony Gelley**, H6323, WG died August 3rd 2006

**Bert Worthington**, longtime friend of the HKVA died April 10, 2006

**Edison Yeadon**, QC Honorary Member, died May 10, 2006

### HKVCA

**Violet Mitchell** wife of James Mitchell died in 2002

**Margaret (Peggy) Wright** wife of Stanley Wright RRC

**Myrtle Inche**, widow of Kenneth Inche, died May 2004

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**Aini Dissing**, widow of Eric Dissing, died April 28, 2005

**Pauline Sweet**, widow of Royce 'Bud' Sweet, RRC died February 18, 2006

**Margaret Trasiewick** widow of Joseph F. Trasiewick, died March 30, 2006.

**Carol Michelin**, granddaughter of HKV Elmer Cole died May 31, 2006

**Mary Hall**, widow of William Hall, WG, is deceased

**Bernadetta (Bea) Wilson**, wife of Dick Wilson, WG died June 15, 2006

**Rita T. Burton**, widow of Keith Burton, died on July 7, 2006

**Rhona Muir**, wife of William (Bill) Muir (WG), died on July 13, 2006

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

*We will remember them.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Membership Report - Jim Trick*

If you're reading this newsletter, chances are you are already a member of HKVCA. As National Membership representative, I'd like to ask you a favour. In the next month or two, could you find someone who has not heard about us and what we do, and see if they would be willing to become a member? Given who we are, that someone will probably be an offspring of a Hong Kong vet, or perhaps a member of the younger generation. Unlike many organizations, we have a finite group from which to draw, and we know that many descendents of the Hong Kong vets do not know of our existence. Anything that you can do to spread the word would help. Why not start by giving that someone this newsletter to read when you're done with it.

Membership statistics as of July 06:

	Regular	Vets	Widows	Total
<b>AB/SK</b>	60	15	13	88
<b>Atl</b>	92	3	6	101
<b>BC</b>	78	24	45	147
<b>MB</b>	188	29	72	289
<b>ON</b>	126	36	61	223
<b>QC</b>	73	34	67	174
<b>TOTAL</b>	617	141	264	<b>1022</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

**Editor: Sandi Cameron of Ontario Region has submitted the following item as it was an important philosophy of her Father's life.**

### YOUTH

By: Sanyek Ullman

'Dad's Philosophy for Living'

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease. This often exists in a man of 60 more than a boy of 20. Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-doubt bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether 60 or 16, there is in every human being's heart, the lure of wonder, the unfailing child-like curiosity of what's next, and the joy

of the game of living. In the centre of your heart and mine, there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer and courage, you are young.

When the aerials are down, and your spirit is covered with the snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you have grown old, even at 20. But so long as your aerials are up, to catch the optimism, there is hope you may die young at 90.

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### ***Remembering "C" Force and all Canadians in the War Against Japan***

#### ***- Ron McGuire, Regional Rep for North-East Ontario***

It was an honour to be able to play a small part in the Ottawa 2005 Convention by being responsible for the memorabilia/sales room. I wish to thank Connie for her assistance and all those who brought their treasures to display. I would be remiss if I did not extend special THANKS to Ken Skelton for all he had to go through bringing portions of his fantastic collection to fill ten tables plus an open corner of the room. Your efforts were greatly appreciated I assure you Ken, as were the chats we had about our common interests. I gave my slide illustrated talk and while I did not take a count I've been told there were well over a hundred attending including many of our veterans. My sincere thanks to Kim Brunet {wife of Michael, son of Lou Brunet, CPC-Brigade HQ, who was also in attendance with his daughter and mother, Lillian}, Vince Lopata and Dick Maze {WG} for their "technical" assistance correcting a problem I encountered. It is obvious I must again enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century {I've just finally become

semi-"computerized"} and replace my 1970's Kodak Carousel and slides with the modern equivalents. It is now on my never-ending list of "things to do".

There were many highlights for me at the Convention, but the one topping the list was seeing again the Veterans and their families that I knew and, meeting for the first time, those I only knew by name. Like all attending veterans Eric Maloney {RR of C} was hoping to meet comrades he had not seen in years. He was having difficulty in locating some of those he knew were there and I was happy to be able to arrange for happy but touching meetings between Eric and Oswald "Toots" Clark, Arnold Ross and Gus Bitzer. I think all attending would agree with me that the only real problem with this truly successful event was--- there was never enough time to do everything!

The weekend after was another busy one for me. I had an expanded version of my "C" Force exhibit, which was displayed on eight tables at our Convention, at the Military Collectors Club of Canada convention held at the Chateau Laurier. For this event it required twenty tables plus wall space where I mounted panels. It complied with the convention theme and honoured "C" Force and all Canadians [there were over 8000!] who fought in the war against Japan and commemorated the real end of the Second World War on 15 August 1945. It never ceases to amaze me how many people I encounter think the war ended on 8 May! To my surprise, the organizers entered this exhibit competitively all the many memories, good and bad. my exhibits brought to mind.

My exhibit was again expanded and from 1-30 November it was in the Nepean Museum. This is my ninth Remembrance Month display honouring Canadians and

Newfoundlanders at war. I will be arranging for photographs of each portion of the display to be put on the HKVCA web site. There was an open house on Sunday 20 November. The weather was lovely and there was a nice turn out, including Ian Doull, the previous editor, who I would like to thank for doing the fine job he did on the always, welcomed newsletter. I was particularly pleased that Eric Maloney [RR of C] was able to attend along with Col. Robert Grogan who began his 39 year military career as part of the HMS Uganda's crew while it was in the Pacific, CWO Hector Rafuse, who, with his brother were also career soldiers, both had two tours in Korea and numerous Peacekeeping assignments as did Major Dick Malott, during his RCAF career. These four gentlemen were excellent representatives of several very different aspects of Canada's military history and were always engaged in conversation by visitors.

My very best wishes to everyone for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year

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### ***REGION REPORTS***

#### ***From British Columbia ....***

- Linda Stewart

All of our membership in British Columbia is deeply saddened by the death of Lionel Speller; Lionel was the long-time President of the HKVA in BC. His family was by his side. His daughter Carol and son Ross were both in town and helping their Mom. Carol said her Dad went peacefully. He was not awake at all for the last day or so. Our most heartfelt condolences go out to Ida, Ross and Carol, and all his family and comrades.

Jeff Bell, a Times Colonist staff reporter, interviewed Cliff Chadderton for his article entitled "A

strong, committed man". Jeff Bell wrote, in part, -- "Lionel Speller will be remembered for his passion for the lot of war veterans, his dedication to his family and more than six decades of service to the Royal Canadian Legion ... Chadderton said his friend, who died April 30 at 86, was always strong-willed and committed to a cause – as he demonstrated to federal politicians. "I once had him in front of five parliamentary committees and said 'OK Lionel, you're my witness, you tell these people what it's all about.'" Chadderton laughed and said, "Some of the language had to be struck from the record." That straight-talking nature never left him, Chadderton said. "The last time I saw him he was in Broadmead Lodge, and he still had all the fight in his eye." Chadderton said Speller's determination was in evidence as he went off to war. "The army wouldn't give him a motorcycle, and he was crazy about motorcycles. So he brought his own. How the hell he smuggled it on the troop ship, I don't know."

Among all the cars, there were three motorcycles in the funeral procession at Royal Oak Cemetery attended by close friends and family. A friend of his son Ross was riding in his Navy dress uniform and another friend rode his green vintage Harley Davidson, circa 1940. The third bike was mine, a black 600 Honda Shadow. On the gas tank and back fender is the HK emblem. I knew Lionel would like it if I rode my bike. I first got to know Lionel Speller in 2001 when I became Regional Director here in BC. I still remember the first time he found out that I rode a motorcycle. He said, with a huge grin on his face, "I knew there was something I liked about you!" We often talked about motorcycles when I visited him when he was at Broadmead Lodge.

Weather permitting, I would ride my bike. He always got such a kick out of it when I would walk in wearing my leathers and carrying my helmet.

Following the funeral, there was a memorial service held at the Trafalgar/Pro Patria Legion in Victoria. The hall was filled with friends and family, Hong Kong veterans and commemorative members, and dozens of Legion members. Aubrey Flegg and Betty Waldenberger, Gerry and Ev Gerrard; and Arnie and Meta Parker were at the service.

Several HKVCA members (Kate Sarginson, Harvelyn McInnis, Murray Doull and David Anderson and his wife) and, Bridget Preston, the Director for Veterans Affairs in Victoria, were in attendance. I spoke on behalf of the HKVCA and passed on messages from Phil Doddridge and Carol Hadley to the family. The Legion was packed and Lionel received a wonderful tribute from all in attendance.

I spoke with Ida, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the day that would have been their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. She's holding up well. Her children visit as often as they can and she's had friends and relatives helping out. Months and months before Lionel had to go to Broadmead Lodge, she and Lionel had made an application to Immigration to have a Filipino girl come to stay with them to help them stay in their home as long as possible. Fortunately, Ida had also signed the forms along with Lionel and so she was able to continue the process. Julie arrived this past week and she moved into the suite in the basement. Ida was very pleased and her children are much relieved to know that someone is there with her. Julie's aunt is a friend of Ida's and lives just around the corner. It's a wonderful situation for everyone. Ida asked me to tell you that she really appreciates all the cards and

letters she received. When she's feeling low she takes out the cards and letters and re-reads the kind messages that you've sent her.

We are extremely sorry to inform you of more deaths in the Hong Kong family in British Columbia.

Maurice Lapointe (WG) passed away March 30<sup>th</sup>/06

Jack Rose (RCCS) died on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Jack was suffering with Alzheimer's and recently suffered a stroke. He does not leave a widow.

Other recent deaths in the Hong Kong Family: Mrs. William Hall (widow of William Hall), Mrs. Margaret LeBlanc (widow of George LeBlanc), Mrs. Harold Shepherd (widow of Harold Shepherd.)

Harold Heath, RRC, passed away on April 13/06. Harold had been living in a care facility in North Vancouver for several years. For quite some time his daughter, Sharon Planidin, had been trying to place him in a care home called Totem Lodge in her hometown of Sechelt. She was successful three weeks before he passed away at the age of 92 from pneumonia. Harold has been cremated without a service as per his wishes. Harold did not leave a widow. The family gathered in early May from across Canada to celebrate his life.

Rhona Muir, wife of William (Bill) Muir (WG, H-17622), passed away on July 13/06 in Comox BC. Rhona had been suffering from Alzheimer's for several years and had been hospitalized since last summer. Bill is now residing in a Senior's Retirement Residence in Comox.

We must also inform you that Rita T. Burton, widow of Keith Burton, passed away on July 7/06 in New Westminster, BC. Rita is survived by her three sons, Dan, Keith, and Wayne and their families. A private service was held on July

11 to celebrate her life. Rita always supported the HKVCA. She had a great outlook on life and a wonderful sense of humour, even as her health was failing.

Condolences have been expressed by the HKVCA to the families.

It is difficult now to change gears and tell you of the wonderful gatherings we had at our traditional Spring lunches held in Vancouver and Victoria. All of us at the luncheons remembered those loved ones now gone. We shared stories and remembrances and also created new memories.

There were seven HK vets in attendance at the Vancouver Luncheon held on June 10<sup>th</sup>: Frank Brown (WG); Gerry Gerrard, (RCCS); Dick Maze, (WG); Will Allister, (RCCS); Aubrey Flegg (WG); Jan Solecki (HKVDC); and John Lowe (RRC). Three widows: Loretta Baty, widow of Arthur Baty (WG); Pearl MacPherson, widow of Don MacPherson (WG); and June Naylor, widow of Howard Naylor Sr., (RCCS). All told there were 41 in attendance. We were honoured to have Irene Lugsden, Vancouver District Director of Veterans' Affairs Canada at the podium sharing information on the New Veterans' Charter. She was a wonderful speaker and we thoroughly enjoyed having her as our guest. Following a delightful lunch and happy chatter we were regaled with song. Frank Brown started it off with his rendition of "The Galloping Grenadiers". A number performed by Jan Solecki quickly followed. Jan was soon joined by Will Allister who shared a duet with us. Will Allister finished off the impromptu entertainment with a solo. It was simply quite wonderful.

There was a smaller but equally enchanting gathering in Victoria on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Four Hong

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Kong veterans attended: Gerry Gerrard (RCCS); Larry Stebbe (WG); Harry Gyselman (WG); and Arnold Parker (WG) and one widow, May Jakel (widow of Alton Jewers), along with several commemorative members and guests. Bridget Preston, Victoria District Director for Veterans Affairs Canada, gave us a very personal speech telling us how honoured she was to be invited to have lunch with the veterans and how proud she was of them. Gerry's daughter Pat created a photo album of Gerry and Ev's trip to Hong Kong in December/05 and it was passed around the room. It was a real labour of love. Pat spent many, many hours putting it together. Everyone agreed it was a beautiful album.

We wish to extend our very best wishes to Walter and Jean Gray who will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 26. They have recently returned from visiting family in New Brunswick and were accompanied by their daughter Faith Elliot.

It's hard to believe that we're nearing the end of August with Christmas only four months away. I'd like to get this notice out there in case I don't get another chance. We will be having our traditional wreath laying at the cenotaph in Victoria in front of the Legislative Buildings at 2 PM on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see many of you there. It is an informal gathering but certainly an important opportunity to gather together to remember and honour The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada. May God bless you and keep you.

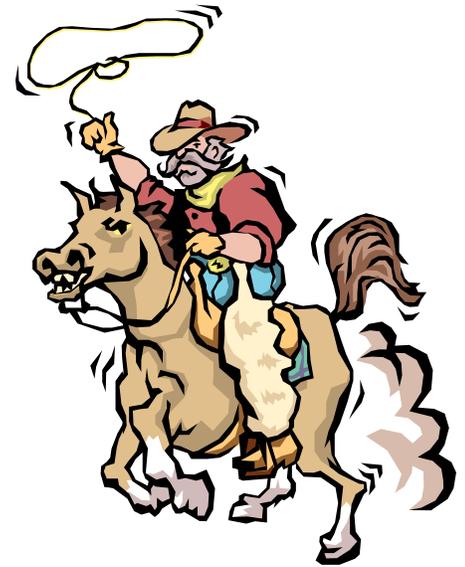
Until we meet again, Linda.

**From Alberta-Saskatchewan ...**

**- Gail Richoz**

**WE'RE "ROPIN" YOU TO  
CALGARY**

## THE 2007 HKVCA CONVENTION



It's a very exciting time in Calgary these days. On July 26, 2006 our one-millionth citizen was born at midnight. There's more work than people to fill the jobs...yet everywhere you go our trademark Western Hospitality is in full swing!

On August 15 to 19 our 2007 HKVCA National Convention will be held in this beautiful city, and of course, in the Stampede tradition, there will be lots to see and do throughout the weekend.

We have booked the Hyatt Regency, a five star hotel in the heart of downtown with full spa, indoor pool and fabulous dining. The light rail transit C-TRAIN platform is immediately adjacent to the Hotel, which will whisk you to great shopping; the famous Calgary Zoo; or you can just ride the rails and sightsee.

The Hyatt was very generous with their rates and are offering all HKVCA delegates:

- \$135 per night for single/double
- \$170 per night for triple
- \$205 per night for quad
- \$195 for Regency Club
- \$420 for One Bedroom Regency Suite

- \$675 for One Bedroom Conference Suite

Full details of all the benefits of these rooms will be included in your registration packages. Expect to see them in March 2007.

We have reserved 75 rooms for August 15, so the National Executive of the HKV and HKVCA may carry out their business meetings on the morning of August 16. We'll be in full swing by the afternoon of August 16, as we will be welcoming arriving delegates throughout the day. So be sure to set aside that weekend to share in the fun and fellowship that is a trademark of our conventions.

Oh, and one more thing... don't forget to pack your jeans as well as your formal wear... you're gonna need 'em!

Patti Stebbe, Chairman  
2007 HKVCA National Convention

#### **From Manitoba ....**

- **Juliet Lafortune**

Hello to one and all...

Well we have had a quiet summer here in Manitoba so there isn't really much to tell you.

I attended a Memorial for the Belgian Legion with Vince and Stan Lopata, our colour party. I laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVA as George Peterson was enjoying the Beach where we hear he caught his first fish off his dock.

We have had a hot summer here just like the rest of Canada. I was able to get away to Brantford Ontario to see my daughter Linda May, her husband Bill and most of all my grandchildren Liam and Sarah. My son Justin came with me. He is seven and he enjoyed his first airplane ride. We took in many activities while we were there – the 10 days went fast.

We have held very successful Tea & Tidbits (special lunches for

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

the ladies in the Manitoba Branch). Our ladies like to visit, share stories and they look forward to the next one in September.

We had our VJ (Victory over Japan) Day celebration on August 13<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Church with approximately 80 people in attendance. We had a pictorial display of the Battle of Hong Kong, the special protocol service and tours of the Church as that is where the Winnipeg Grenadier Colours are hung and a memorial plaque with the Grenadiers that have died since the end of the war.

We are now working on our Reunion for October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. We hope many members and families will attend.

Well take care and God Bless.

#### **From Ontario ....**

- **Mike Babin**

Perhaps by the time you receive this newsletter the heat will have retreated and we'll be enjoying more moderate temperatures than the record highs we've experienced in Ontario so far this summer. It's been a scorcher!

As I wrote in the last newsletter, we in the Ontario HKVCA are strong believers in engaging students in the Hong Kong story as a way of ensuring that our heroes are not forgotten. Pat Turcotte and her team have been very busy distributing our Hong Kong lesson plans to schools across the country and setting up workshops for history teachers where they will learn about the Hong Kong story and how to teach it.

We're also working on several other related initiatives. A very exciting one is an essay writing contest for high school students which will offer cash prizes for the best essays on the topic "*Hong Kong 1941-1945*". We plan to announce this in the fall to schools across the country. Students will submit essays

to a panel for judging, and be eligible to win prizes of up to \$200!

George MacDonell was one of the six Veterans who traveled to Hong Kong last December to participate in the commemoration ceremonies at Sai Wan Cemetery and other locations. George has published a document with text and photographs that is a wonderful memento of his trip. With George's permission we're exploring how we might make use of his document to help further our mission of introducing the Hong Kong topic into school study programs.

One of the participants in our December trip to Hong Kong, Sandy Brain from Vancouver, was in Toronto recently to visit a relative (Sandy's father was L/C Donald MacPherson - WG). Sandy had contacted one of the teachers responsible for organizing the school's trip to HK, and several of us from the HKVCA - including Veteran Flash Clayton and his wife Jessie - ended up being invited to address a large group of students at the Courtice High School (about 40km east of Toronto). These were not students who had traveled to Hong Kong, so it enabled us to speak to a group not yet familiar with the Hong Kong Veterans' story. Rogers TV recorded the event and did a few interviews.

The Canada Veterans Hall of Valour (CVHV) in Ottawa is a private association that honours veterans from all wars. Our North East Ontario Area Rep, Ron McGuire has worked tirelessly to ensure that Hong Kong Veterans are represented in the CVHC. His efforts so far have resulted in 5 members of "C Force" being inducted, with two more in the wings for 2007. You can visit the CVHV's web site at

[www.canadaveteranshallofvalour.com](http://www.canadaveteranshallofvalour.com)

Finally, we plan to hold a general meeting of the HKVA and HKVCA membership on Saturday, October 14 in Toronto, to be followed by a luncheon. Ontario members should watch their mail for more details on time and location. Mark your calendars!!

#### **From Quebec ....**

**- Lucette Mailloux Muir**

Hello all from Quebec Region.

Hope you all enjoyed a nice and joyful summer. Since we last had a chance to talk, we in Quebec have been quite busy with the regular business at hand. I attended the monthly National Online Meeting as often as possible.

We attended the Celebration of Life for Lancelot Ross in Ottawa and in August, his Internment at home on the Gaspé Coast. Lance is sadly missed by all his Comrades and everyone who had the chance to know him.

We visited Oswald Clark in hospital and then at the home. Ossie is doing much better and attended our recent reunion. Calls were made to other Veterans and Widows who live further away.

In June we held a Joint-Executive Meeting in New Richmond, QC. Present were Philip Doddridge, Henry Lyons, Arnold Ross, Jean Paul Dallain, Bob Barter, Richard Keays, Marcel Mondou, Allan Marshall, Debbie Batley Everett and yours truly. The meeting went very well. Following the meeting the spouses joined all the executive members for a lovely meal and a friendly chat.

From August 10 to 13, Granby was the host city for our Bi-Annual Reunion. Present were eleven HK Vets, Wives, Widows, Family members and Friends of the HK Family for a total of 83. We were sorry to miss four of our HK Vets who had to cancel at the last

minute and one how who had to leave early, all due to sickness.

Six of our provinces were represented; it was a pleasure to feel the great interest. Friday morning we held our Joint General Meeting and the day closed with a real "Quebecois Meal", music and dance. Saturday morning we held our Commemorative Celebrations and Parade and later our closing Banquet, including our drawings and dance. Sunday morning we had our "Farewell" breakfast as people started to think about their trip back home. It was just great to see the camaraderie of our veterans and seeing everyone fraternizing and catching up on all the news. Thank you all who attended and all who helped to make this Reunion a success with your participation.

Quebec Region also held their Elections. Your complete executive was re-elected and we would like to welcome our new Deputy Director, Renay Perrier. Renay is a busy retired person with great experience etc. and a friend of the Hong Kong Family. He has been very interested in all veterans and recently more and more in Hong Kong.

That is about it for this time.

All Quebec Region Members would also take this opportunity to wish you and yours Season Greetings and the Best for the New Year.

#### **From the Atlantic .....**

**-Neil Darragh**

A phone call with Neil informs us of the Atlantic Region holding their Reunion on September 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> for the HKVA and HKVCA. These joint meetings will be held in Florenceville and they are expecting 6 or 7 veterans to be attending. Other special guests have been invited to make this a memorable occasion. If you need more

information call Neil at 1-506-276-3638.

Special thoughts and prayers go out to Verna and Ken Pearson and to Neil's mother as they face some health challenges. Please know that your burdens are lightened with our prayers.

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#### **Book Corner**

**- Derrill Henderson**

Although Last year was officially the Year of Veteran, it is very evident by the press coverage that every year shall continue to focus on our veterans. Afghanistan is in the news daily. Young Canadian men continue to be placed in harm's way and suffer casualties and death. The stories of our HK veterans continue to hold high interest by the general public and make excellent gifts, especially to the older generation. Perhaps you are seeking a birthday gift, or just a way of saying "thanks" to a special person - think of giving a book. They are always well received. We still have available:

*No Reason Why* by Carl Vincent; \$35.00 plus postage.

*The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong 1941-1945* by Grant Garneau; \$50.00 postage included.

*Guest of Hirohito* by Kenneth Cambon HK vet; \$20.00 plus postage.

*One Soldier's Story* - by George MacDonell HK vet; \$20.00 plus postage.

Michael Palmer wrote a book in tribute to his grandfather. Although not in book format, we have copies printed on 81.2 X 11 paper and neatly bound. It contains many photographs and illustrations. The cost is \$38.50 plus \$7.50 postage.

For our French members and those who can read the language, we have copies of Bernard Castonguay's book, "**Prisonnier de guerre au**

**Japan (1941-1945)**". Perhaps the best book of the Hong Kong experience written in French, the book is largely in diary format, yet Bernard writes as he would speak with a friend, simple expression, elegantly presented. The book cost \$23.00 - postage included.

We also have copies of the video, *Slaves of the Rising Sun* (\$15.00 plus postage), and we have recently received more **Monument badges**. The cost, like everything else these days, has increased. It is now \$72.00. Mounting one of these on the grave marker of a HK veteran is a lasting tribute to the veteran and the special role he played as a member of Canada's Armed Forces during WWII.

All these may be ordered by sending a cheque to:

H.K.V.C.A.  
Suite 164.  
1 Stafford Road  
Nepean ON K2H 1B9

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### **From Mike Babin:**

A couple of months ago, Carol Hadley received an email from a fellow named Ian Lester, who represents a UK organization called the Far East Prisoners of War Memorial Church. The church is located in Wymondham, Norfolk, England.

The church is intended as a tribute to POWs who were interned in the Far East, and was established by a Roman Catholic priest who had himself been a Japanese POW for 3 ½ years. The church commemorates all FEPOWs, regardless of religion, race or country of origin.

Lester contacted Carol because the church also maintains a web site that contains text and audio recordings of interviews with POWs. To date, all of their interviews had been with British people, with the exception of an Australian nurse.

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Lester was coming to Canada on a holiday, and wondered if there might be a Canadian HK POW who he might interview.

We arranged for him to interview Bruce Cadoret (RRC), who happens to live very close to where Lester was to visit. You can see and hear the results at: [http://www.fepow-memorial.org.uk/personal\\_experiences\\_bc.htm](http://www.fepow-memorial.org.uk/personal_experiences_bc.htm). The home page for the Memorial Church is <http://www.fepow-memorial.org.uk/index.htm>.

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### **Can you help?**

*(Editor – a reader of our website would like some help tracking down Ernest Miller, RRC)*  
*Here is the message:*

Today I ran across your site and found someone listed that we have lost track of and want to find out what has happened to him:

**E30373 Rifleman. Miller, Ernest James. Company D, Platoon 18. Hometown Jacquet River, N.B.**

Upon return to Canada after his POW internment he came to Regina, Sask. and got a job on the Bogdane farm at Pilot Butte, Sask., which is just outside of Regina.

He suffered a horrible injury and lost the use of an arm in a farm accident while he and Shirley Bogdane, age 13, the farmer's daughter, were drilling postholes.

The Bogdanes, and especially Shirley, thought the world of Ernie, and, through an unfortunate happening, Ernie could never be located after his release after a lengthy stay in a Regina, Sk. hospital, but, he finally did write to the Bogdanes, and, that is where the heartbreak of a young girl especially too place.

Shirley always rode her horse into Pilot Butte, to pick up the mail

from the Post Office, and when she saw that letter from Ernie she can never forget her excitement to this day, she remembers putting the letter in her back pocket and riding like the wind home, bursting into the house announcing "a letter from Ernie, a letter from Ernie" and when she reached for the letter, to her utter dismay, the letter was gone, lost during her race on horseback to deliver it.

After much searching along her route the poor girl had to give up, and, to this day, just about 60 years later, Shirley still wonders, "what does, or what did Ernie think of them if they didn't even answer his letter."

Can you help? I will forward the information to Shirley, she still lives just outside Regina and is a good friend of mine.  
Dick Langen. 467 King St. Regina, Sask. S4R 4H5  
Telephone: 306 543-0343

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### *Freedom Isn't Free* – Author Unknown

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young soldier saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud,  
With hair cut short and eyes alert  
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil  
How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea  
How many foxholes were soldiers'  
graves?  
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night,

When everything was still,  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times  
That Taps had meant "Amen,"  
When a flag had draped a coffin.  
Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Of unmarked graves in cemeteries.  
No, freedom isn't free.

Enjoy Your Freedom & God Bless  
Our Armed Forces.  
We are at war although it's far away,  
and if we don't fight terror there,  
it will be here someday .

### **Reminder:**

If you are a family member of someone that was killed in action, please remember to update the information on the CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL website. This serves as a lasting memorial to the person who served his country to the fullest. Here is the link - <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>.

Safety Tip: *"Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your home, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies."*

### **A little humour -**

On a golf tour in Newfoundland, Tiger Woods drives his new Ford

Fusion into a Self-Serve gas station in a remote outpost.

The pump attendant, obviously knowing nothing about golf, greets him in a typical Newfoundlander manner, completely unaware of whom the golfing pro is.

"How's she cuttin' bye?" says the attendant. Tiger nods a quick "hello" and bends forward to pick up the nozzle. As he does so, two tees fall out of his shirt pocket onto the ground.

"What are dose?" Asks the attendant. "They're called tees" replies Tiger. "Well, what on God's earth are dey for?" inquires the attendant. "They're for resting my balls on when I'm driving", says Tiger. "Holy Jaysus", says the Newfoundlander, "Ford tinks of everyting!"

\* \* \* \* \*

Two tall trees, a birch and a beech, are growing in the woods. A small tree begins to grow between them, and the beech says to the birch,

"Is that a son of a beech or a son of a birch?" The birch says that he cannot tell. Just then a woodpecker lands on the sapling. The birch says, "Woodpecker, you are a tree expert. Can you tell if that is a son of a beech or a son of a birch?" The woodpecker takes a taste of the small tree. He replies, "It is neither a son of a beech nor a son of a birch. It is, however, the best piece of ash I have ever put my pecker in."

\* \* \* \* \*

A young woman had been taking golf lessons. She had just started playing her first round of golf when she suffered a bee sting. Her pain was so intense that she decided to return to the clubhouse for help and to complain.

Her golf pro saw her come into the clubhouse and asked, "Why are you back in so early? What's wrong?"

"I was stung by a bee", she said.

"Where", he asked? "Between the first and second hole", she replied. He nodded knowingly and said, "Then your stance is too wide."

\* \* \* \* \*

This old man in his eighties gets up and puts on his coat. His wife says, "Where are you going?" He said, "I'm going to the doctor." And she said, "Are you sick?" "No" he said, "I'm going to get me some of those new little blue pills."

So his wife gets out of her rocker and puts on her coat. He said, "Where are you going?" She said, "I'm going to the doctor, too." He said, "Why?" She said, "If you're going to start using that rusty old thing, I'm going to get me a tetanus shot."

\* \* \* \* \*

An elderly gentleman of 83 arrived in Paris by plane. At the French customs desk, the man took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on bag. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. The elderly gentleman admitted he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find any Frenchmen to show it to."

\* \* \* \* \*

Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25 year-old blonde who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's

arm and listens intently to his every word.

His buddies at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, "Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?" Bob replies, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!" They're knocked over, but continue to ask. "So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?" "I lied about my age", Bob replies. "What, did you tell her you were only 50?" Bob smiles and says, "No, I told her I was 90."

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62." He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

\* \* \* \*

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use, Grandpa. "the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

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