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**Upcoming Events**

**Manitoba Region**

**HK Lunches** - October 11, November 8, December 13, 2007.  
**HKVCA Meetings** at 7:00 PM on September 19, November 7, 2007.  
**Tea And Tidbits** 1:00 PM - December 15, 2007  
**HKVA Reunion** - October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Holiday Inn Airport West hotel, Winnipeg at 5 p.m.  
**MSSTA – Teachers Conference** November 23, 2007  
**Elections 2008**

**BC Region**

BC Region will continue with their Christmas wreath-laying tradition at the Cenotaph on the Legislative grounds in Victoria at 2 PM on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you need further information, you may call Murray (604) 465-0579 or Linda (250) 294-6747.

**ON Region**

The information about the **2008 Essay Contest** for senior high students is now available on our website or through your Executive. The deadline for entries is Friday, **May 9, 2008**.

**President Report**

– **Derrill Henderson**

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. Our association is entering a period of ambitious undertakings to meet our Mandate of ensuring the Battle of Hong Kong, and the Canadian men and women involved, will never be forgotten. It is exciting to be part of these projects and I encourage every one of you to get involved to the extent possible in your particular situation. Since I have only been in the position for a short while, I have little in the way of personal activities, although I did attend the Reunion of the Atlantic region in

Florenceville, NB. This small, yet dedicated, group adopted our priority projects with vigor and enthusiasm.

The Memorial Wall (which Carol Hadley has written about in this newsletter) has captured the energy of not only our veterans, widows, and members, but also other groups across our nation. The Canadian Legion and Veterans Affairs are among this group.

Another of our nation-wide foci is the implementation in our schools of the Ten Lesson Plan developed by the Ontario Region. The insight and the dedication of the individuals involved under the leadership of Pat Turcotte are to be commended. We all owe Pat a great deal of thanks for this educational material. When not available inside our membership, she persisted in getting the necessary outside resources to

complete the task. Bravo to all involved.

Now it is time for me to throw the gauntlet to you, the reader. We have been successful to date because of our membership. The larger our membership, the more attention is paid to our requests by government; by companies of whom we are seeking assistance in one form or another; by Education Boards; and by the Canadian citizen in general. The Atlantic region has chosen, when they mail out the Membership renewal notifications, to challenge every member to get another individual to join. Our veterans and widows comprise a significant portion of our membership, so this approach will not double our membership, but will result in a major jump in our numbers. Remember, one does not need to have had a relative in "C" Force to join. It is open to all.

So please, get more involved. Contact your region councils to offer your services. If your talents cannot be put to immediate use, this will enable them to have a list of potential resources when the need occurs. Talk about and promote our association and our projects whenever possible. The person whose interest you peaked may well be the association's President one day!

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### ***In Memoriam***

**Dr Kenneth Cambon**, E-29967, RRC, died Feb. 5/07

**Douglas J. Reid**, E-30483, RRC, died Feb. 15/07

**John Levitt**, E-30069, RRC, died May 20/07

**Dr. Stanley M. Banfil**, Capt., Bde., died May 21/07

**Charles Cardinal**, H-6793, WG, died May 25/07

**James E Badger**, E-29923 RRC, died May 29/07

**Donald Geraghty**, B45551, RRC died July 7, 2007

**Alfred Matthews**, H-6389, WG, died July 10/07

**Peter Alain**, G18311 RRC, died August 16, 2007

**Tom Forsyth**, H 6737, WG, died September 1/07

**Jean Pierre Lalime**, E29901, RRC died January 13, 2007

**Richard Keays**, E-30657, RRC died February 17, 2007

### **HKVCA**

**Lo Cyr**, widow of Roger Cyr (RRC)  
**Maude Crawford**, widow of John N. Crawford (RCAMC)

**Dorothy McKay**, the widow of Andrew J. McKay (RRC) passed away.

**Lorna Cardinal**, widow of Charles Cardinal, WG, died July 24, 2007

**Herb Walker** Honourary Life Member of Manitoba Branch of HKVA, WG Cadet Corp, died September 8, 2007.

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

***We will remember them.***

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### ***HKVA President Report***

**– Phil Doddridge**

Konichiwa to everyone. This is a form of polite and respectful greeting that the Japanese use May I add that no Japanese ever said that to me!

I would like to say a special "konichiwa" to Marilyn, Gail, Karen, Sheila, Norma, Mae, and their husbands and families who put on such a show in Calgary last month. Many thanks. The Japanese say, "Arigato". The whole convention couldn't have been better organized and conducted. I was honoured and delighted to have taken part in the ceremonies. Much has been said in praise of their efforts and I can sincerely endorse all of the superlatives.

### **BOOKS**

Since the last issue of Wasureru-nai, I have been reading a few more books about the war in the Far East. (If you think that I am obsessed with the events of that fateful time, you are probably right!) However, I would like to share with you some impressions of the books that I have read and perhaps pique your interest in the stories that have come out of the War in the Pacific.

I have recently read Tony Banham's new book, "The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru". It is a meticulously detailed account of the brutal treatment that the POWs,

mainly British, received when the Lisbon Maru, looking like a freighter, but carrying a full load of POWs, was torpedoed by an American submarine. The fact that the ship took hours to sink in shallow waters meant that many if not all of the POWs could have been saved had they not been locked below decks.

Vince Lopata has published a book detailing the decorations won by members of "C" Force. It is called, "C" Force Decorations, Medals, Awards and Honours ". Every honour and award has been listed, with photos of the recipients where available. It is an important document. It will be taken off the bookshelf many times to answer questions or settle arguments. Vince's book is available through Lulu Publishing.

"Towards the Setting Sun" was written by James Bradley, a junior officer in the British Army, taken prisoner at Singapore. He and nine others escaped from camps on the Thailand-Burma Railway in 1943, only to be turned in to the Japanese by a Burmese collaborator when freedom was within sight.

"First into Nagasaki" is the story by George Weller; a reporter who disguised himself as an American Army colonel and fast-talked his way into Nagasaki after the bomb was dropped. His reports of the devastation and the effects of the nuclear blast on the civilian population were squelched by General Douglas MacArthur, who didn't want the American people to know how terrible the effects of the bomb had been.

And finally, "The War Bonnet" by H. Edgar Baptiste.

You will recall the controversy sparked by the claim of a man living in Britain that he was Edgar Baptiste, a Winnipeg Grenadier reportedly killed in action in the battle of Hong Kong. The book can be obtained through Trafford Publishing. I bought it because I wanted to hear this man's account of Edgar Baptiste's journey from Hong Kong to Britain and back to the Red Pheasant Reserve in Saskatchewan.

He says that he spent the war years in Sham Shui Po Camp and that he appears in one of the pictures that were taken at the gate of the camp the day the Canadian officer came with cartons of cigarettes for us. I spent the war in Sham Shui Po, but I don't remember Edgar Baptiste.

He claims to have lost his memory as a result of a blow to the head. I got the sense that many of his accounts have been gleaned from reading other stories of Hong Kong. There are a few discrepancies in dates and other events and the story centres around life on the Reserve as much as it does on the claim itself.

I still haven't made up my mind about Edgar Baptiste, but I can't see why or how he went unidentified in the POW camp for all of those years.

#### AND IN CONCLUSION

I am in a hurry to get this off to Carol today because I have to get ready to attend the Maritimes-Gaspesian reunion in Florenceville, NB, this weekend.

It seems that my contribution to Wasureru-nai has lately been my impressions of the books I have read. I hope that they will be of interest.

I would like to congratulate Derrill and the rest of the Executive Committee and thank them for stepping up to the plate again for us. Our affairs are in good hands. That will be all for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless.

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

As is the case with many of you, my thoughts on HKVCA are influenced considerably by the tremendous convention we just attended in Calgary. The Alberta/Saskatchewan Region certainly did themselves proud in the way they hosted this affair and are now firmly established as a responsible arm of the Commemorative Association. Their committees all worked so very hard and one of the benefits of all this activity is the introduction of many new people to our organization. Yes, it's baptism under fire, but it also creates a commitment for those who want to follow through and see the results of their efforts.

From a financial standpoint, I can't help but reflect on the over 200 people who pay their own way to attend this national get together and make it truly an all Canadian endeavour. I think that the personal dollar cost alone speaks to the devotion we all have for the HKVCA. The Hyatt hotel, for example, is a great place to stay and conduct business but we must all pay for that privilege. There is no subsidy provided to the executive or others

and the complete exercise is accomplished on a volunteer basis. It's easy to do, of course, when we are motivated to honour our veterans as best we can.

No doubt much of our financial focus in the coming year will be centered on the Memorial Wall project. We were most gratified at the response we received at the convention in our appeal for funds for this project. During that weekend in Calgary, we received almost \$20,000 in donations with promises from some of the Regions of more to come. Including what we had in the bank previously, I can safely say that we now have about one-third of the funds that we think will be necessary to design, construct and maintain a first class Memorial Wall in Ottawa. Initial approaches to the private sector have recently been made and we anticipate a favourable reception here as well.

I'm pleased that we have a meaningful project to get our teeth into but we must not lose track of our primary and on-going objective of getting the story of the Battle of Hong Kong out across Canada. We have a good start in Ontario and BC in providing school divisions with information for their curriculums and this needs to be expanded to other regions. We also have activity in some cities where we attend educational forums and tell our story through displays and presentations.

All of this costs money, folks, and we ask that you help us accomplish these tasks by paying your dues promptly each year. Your Regional Treasurer should be hammering away at you if you are a little forgetful, as we need nothing less than 100% in membership fees. Of course donations help a lot as well and I remind you that we can provide you with an income tax receipt for all donations over \$20.00. You can provide valuable support to the HKVCA with dues, donations and the purchase of our merchandise. Thanks for your participation.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **† Com. Arthur Gomes, MBE**

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Arthur Gomes of the HKVDC who resided in Hong Kong. He always greeted the pilgrimages to renew acquaintances and meet new members of families



and friends of the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans. He was a wonderful resource to all of us when seeking the Battle of Hong Kong story.

Arthur was the editor of the Hong Kong POW Association's newsletter that had a worldwide circulation and contained interesting quotations i.e. *"It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well"* – Edmund Burke.

Dr. Judy Maxwell, BC HKVCA member, sent me this item after notifying us of Arthur's passing – *'I am just reviewing a one-on-one interview with Arthur, one of the last. In it I asked him, "What do you think of the Canadian participation in the Battle of Hong Kong?" and he said, "Well, they were a very important factor in the morale of the whole Far East, because they represented the New World coming to the help of the Old World."*

*How's that for eloquent? These words -- from the mouth of a Second World War Hong Kong Volunteer, POW, and icon -- quantify the existence of the HKCVA?'*

Our Association has extended our sympathy to Arthur's family as we share their grief.

***We will remember them.***

#### ***Convention 2007***

*- Marilyn Pridgen*

*Convention Committee Chair*

Greetings from the 2007 HKVCA Convention Planning Committee!

It is hard to believe that the convention is over! After a year and a half of planning, many committee and sub-committee meetings, hours spent on e-mails and phone calls, meetings with many other outside helpers and consultants, we are left with a sense of accomplishment...the convention was very successful. As anyone who has been involved in such an endeavour would know, an event of this magnitude could not go without a few challenging moments, but we are pleased that the results met or surpassed our hopes and expectations. We could put all the time and effort into the planning, but it was truly the many people that came to the convention and



participated so enthusiastically that made the event so successful. Our committee was thrilled with the great response of 212 registered delegates for the convention and over 300 in attendance at the gala dinner.

We can be so thankful for the absolutely beautiful weather that we were blessed with...rain would have presented some definite challenges.

The Memorabilia Room was



an exhibit that reflected professionalism and vast coverage of the Hong Kong story. Allan Mondor's work of coordinating this amazing display, as well as the contributions from those bringing exhibits really added much to the convention.

The Hospitality Suite, with the enjoyable music and comfortable seating, was a wonderful place to meet and visit in a relaxed setting. The Kananaskis trip turned out fantastic...great food and the entertainment was even better than hoped for, with the musicians working from a stage rather than roaming, we ended up with a western dance as well!

The youth that did the drama vignettes did a fabulous job and a vet commented that the dramas reflected his experiences very well. The Registration/Information area welcomed people warmly and provided a place where people could get information and souvenirs readily throughout the convention. The Ladies' Tea was well attended and gave the ladies a bit of special attention and time together.

The Ceremony of Light as a time of remembrance and honouring was everything that we hoped it to be and more...with the additional honour bestowed on our veterans by the Chinese Consulate, as well as the beautiful Lion Dance performance.



planning of this part of the convention.

The Gala Dinner was a beautifully done meal...Alberta Lt. Gov. Norman Kwong spoke very well and was a most gracious guest. Sarah Curle's song very poignantly honoured our veterans. Thank you to Carol Hadley and Derrill Henderson for your excellence as Masters of Ceremony for the gala dinner. People seemed to really enjoy the era music of the Eric Friedenberg Orchestra, which provided music that could be enjoyed by all, whether dancing or just sitting and visiting.

The Stampede Breakfast was a fun, relaxed closing event that allowed people to come and go as their schedules permitted and provided everyone with a chance to say some final farewells.

Our finances, although not yet fully resolved, were well supported through a successful 50/50, a raffle, donation box, and silent auction. The silent auction total was \$4500... amazing! Thank you to everyone that supported our various fundraising efforts. An unexpected bonus in the finance area for the National level was the incredible response to the presentation about the building of the memorial wall... nearly half of the money needed for the building of the wall is now in place!

Our facility truly met and exceeded our expectations. The Hyatt as a venue certainly was a great place to host our convention...the facility housed our guests and event well and the staff was amazing in their service.

I cannot thank each of you that came to the convention enough for taking the time, effort, and finances in order to attend. It was a privilege and honour to meet each one of you and we thank you for adding to the success of the event by being in attendance.

To those that were unable to come, we are very sorry that we missed the opportunity to meet you and share in this time together. ***We know that some veterans were unable to come due to health concerns...please know that you were missed, honoured, and were thought of throughout the convention...we were very sorry to not have you in attendance.***



The room included a wide variety of memorabilia items (pictures, news paper clippings, books, medals, uniforms, etc.) like you might have seen at previous conventions but what set this year apart from previous conventions was the room layout and some of the special touches.

To start with the room was quite large compared to past conventions and that space was fully utilized. Glass display cases borrowed from the Glenbow Museum and the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary added another dimension to the room and allowed us to safely display irreplaceable items supplied by our convention delegates and the Museum of the Regiments in Calgary. A large video screen and seating area was setup at the far end of the room to draw people into the room and boy did that work! Throughout the convention pictures from the past couple conventions and last few trips to Hong Kong were displayed on this screen along with various documentaries on the Battle of Hong Kong.

To our surprise, this video screen not only drew people into the room, but it also kept many of them occupied for hours! Some of the other additions this year included a donation box and guest book. We invited the general public to visit the memorabilia room throughout the convention so donation box and guest book was a way for them to contribute.

In total nearly 30 individuals supplied content for the memorabilia room. There is not enough room to mention them all here but I would like to highlight a few. The Military Museums in Calgary supplied the mannequins and the two cases used to display the uniforms at the front and back of the room. They also supplied the uniform on display at the back of the room as well as several items on display in the glass cases throughout the room. Ralph MacLean supplied the uniform on display at the front of the room as well as most of the items in the large

display case at the front of the room. Joyce Rollick supplied the overcoat on display at the front of the room near the sales desk as well as many of the items used to fill one of the smaller display cases near the back of the room, all of which belonged to her husband Peter. Ed Shayler supplied most of the items used to fill the large display case at the back of the room. He also supplied his entire collection of information on Hong Kong, which was contained in several of those binders in the middle of the room.

Rick Crawley brought in his huge collection of WWII memorabilia and as a special touch Rick even dressed up in his uniform at times throughout the convention. Vince & Stan Lopata brought in the "The story of The Battle of Hong Kong" display that was recently created by the Manitoba Region. It's a professionally built trade show type of display that will allow the Manitoba Region to take "The story of The Battle of Hong Kong" on the road.

Ron McGuire brought in his large display on the Postal History of C-Force. Ron also had an opportunity to give his presentation on the same subject just before the general meeting. Pat Turcotte and the Ontario Region had a display to publicize information on their newly established Essay Contest. Lena Webster from Veterans Affairs Canada had a display to educate veterans, widows, and the general public on the services and benefits they provide, including the VAC website. Lena also supplied material for the booth setup in the hotel lobby which was used to direct people up to the memorabilia room and the other convention activities that took place on the 3rd floor of the hotel.

As mentioned earlier, there isn't enough room here to mention everyone who brought in items for the memorabilia room. So I would just like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who provided content (pictures, letters, news paper clippings, books, etc.) for the memorabilia room. The same goes for all the volunteers who helped setup and staff the room during the convention, THANK YOU for your help. The memorabilia room would not have been the success it was without your contributions. A special THANK YOU also goes out to John Kenny, a volunteer from the 264 Legion in Calgary, who was on hand

providing security for the memorabilia room for the duration of the convention.

In the last few days leading up to the convention we decided to extend the hours for the memorabilia room. That was sure the right thing to do. People took every opportunity they could get to spend time in the room. These extra hours made the convention quite hectic for me, but it was well worth it to see all the people so into what was on display in the room. Whether folks were paging through the large number of binders or scrap books, studying the contents of the display cases, watching one of the documentaries on the large screen, chatting with Vince about his C-Force POW lists to track down a relative, or chatting with any of the other volunteers to learn more about their displays, everyone just seem so interested in the moment.

The memorabilia room was definitely a busy place and we even had a few special guests pass through. Rory M. Cory, Senior Curator / Director of Collections, Museum of the Regiments in Calgary stopped by Thursday afternoon with some of his staff to take stock of what we had on display. Rory is planning to create a one-year temporary display on WWII in the Pacific and would like us to contribute to that with our memorabilia from the Battle for Hong Kong. Mr. Nishimura, Deputy Counselor General, Japanese Embassy, and 2 of his staff came for a long visit at noon on Friday. Stockwell Day (grandson of Major Bertram Gilbert, RRC) stopped by for a visit before the Memorial Service with his mother Gwen Gilbert Day.

Last but not least, I would like to report that to my knowledge everything on display in the memorabilia room was returned to its rightful owner. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are missing anything from the memorabilia room or if you ended up with something that does not belong to you - Allan (403.670.8892).

#### **Michael Palmer Notes – HKVCA 2007 Convention Treasurer**

It was quite a year as treasurer for this convention. Everyone helped out so much and it was very enjoyable to be apart of such a wonderful committee. Initially, there were times when we thought it would be quite a challenge to pull off a balanced budget with



respect to the vision we had for such a quality convention. But, in the end, a balanced budget was achieved.

My wife had just given birth to our third child shortly before the convention so I was unable to attend all convention events due to family commitments. However, I did manage to spend some time in the Memorabilia Room and I attended the Ceremony of Light and the Dinner/Dance Gala.

Allan Mondor did an outstanding job organizing the Memorabilia Room. He had received a surplus amount of display items and his layout (along with his videos/audios which were a very nice touch) certainly worked well with respect to the steady stream of attendees. There was rarely a moment when there weren't people in the Memorabilia Room and it was quite busy most of the time. It was also nice to reconnect with some of the Memorabilia Room helpers (Darrell Henderson, Vince Lopata, and Ron McGuire) I had met back at the 2005 Convention in Ottawa. Kudos to Vince Lopata for organizing and bringing the amazing professional Hong Kong Battle Display.

The Ceremony of Light was a big success – the bagpipes and candles certainly were a great addition. The speeches were wonderful and it was nice to see the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in attendance. And who could not forget the Chinese lion dancers?

The Dinner/Dance Gala was also a night to remember. Many wonderful speeches again and it was nice to have The Honourable Norman L. Kwong (Lieutenant Governor of Alberta) in attendance – and the Eric Freidenberg Orchestra certainly brought us back to a different era. It was fun to see the vets still kicking up their heels – led by Gordon 'dancing fever' Durrant. It was tough to keep up with him.

Overall, the biggest highlight for me was just mingling and sharing a few drinks with the Hong Kong veterans and listening to their stories. Such spirited fellows and it was wonderful to see so many veterans in attendance.

A job well done by all. Looking forward to the convention in 2009!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 'C' Force Memorial Wall Update



Artist rendering of the Wall

WOW!!! Is an understatement of the presentation result of the Memorial Wall project at the 2007 National Convention in Calgary.

At the General Meeting it started with **Ron McGuire** giving me a cheque for \$1500 as he finished with his report on the Elections, then **George Peterson**, First Vice President HKVA and MB HKVA President, gave me a cheque for \$1000 with the challenge to all veterans to meet or beat him. This challenge was answered by **Phil Doddridge**, National President of HKVA with his cheque for \$1001, followed by **Flash Clayton** and other vets getting into the act. **BC Region HKVA President, Aubrey Flegg** made a donation on behalf of BC Region for \$5000 with the challenge to the other Regions to meet or beat that. Then **Marg Dwyer** from ON gave us a cheque for \$100 with the challenge for the widows to meet or beat her – later at the BBQ **Dorothy Felix** from ON gave me a cheque from her mother, **Marjorie Chatwell** for \$100 as well as a cheque from herself for \$100 and the challenge to other 'kids'.

So it went on with people giving us cheques or making promises and challenges with the result that over \$20,000 is now in the kitty. Along with this incredible support for the project was the several thousands of dollars that were donated by several individuals from across Canada that see the vision of this wonderful tribute to 'C' Force. Incredible!!

And now the bad news .... When we submitted our proposal to National Capital Commission (NCC) in Ottawa, they had changed the forms, so we needed to redo the proposal with the other items that they expect us to have in place. As a result the total of our project grew from \$85,000 to **\$100,000** and we were told that it takes 2 ½ - 3 years to have a project completed in Ottawa.

So we are now looking at **August 2010**. Although we didn't like this date even though it will be the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII, we realized it would take time to obtain the funding.

So we have sent out proposals to major corporations and agencies seeking their support hoping to obtain half of the money through this source. We had hoped to have the wall located near the National War Museum but it has been explained to us that the land has been backfilled with recycled materials so it may not have the stability to support our structure. Not to worry as we have been assured that there are other suitable sites available and we have written in the proposal that we must approve the site selection.

However with every black cloud there is a silver lining – the fact that the membership has overwhelmingly supported the project with their financial backing and with the promise that their regions will do more fundraising to meet these challenges; and they will be writing their Members of Parliament to have government support in expediting this project; therefore your Committee feels that we can do this sooner as we want as many veterans and widows as possible to see this project completed.

We were asked what we would do with excess funds should that happen. Keeping the wall as our main objective, your Committee had already anticipated this question and we hope to be able to add a commemoration to John Osborn, VC and to Gander, Dicken Medal as well as benches for visitors to use and possibly other aesthetic features to enhance the site.

First we need the **\$100,000** and as someone pointed out to me, with 1000 members that is \$100 per person.

So I have mentioned the challenges and if you fit in one and would like to address it with money and/or want to issue your own challenge – please contact the committee or send your cheques payable to **HKVCA – Memorial Wall**, and mail it to **PO Box 381, Winnipeg MB R3C 2H6** with a note. REMEMBER - donations over \$20.00 will receive a CRA tax receipt that will benefit you.

Thank you,

'C' Force Memorial Wall  
Committee: Carol Hadley, Chair;  
Phil Doddridge, Derrill  
Henderson, Barry Mitchell,  
Murray Doull, and Ron McGuire.

**Miscellaneous items**

If anyone wanted a copy or extra copies of the Port Perry memory book, Nancy Hamer Strahl informs me that arrangements have now been made with Lulu publishing for this book to be bought online by using this link

<http://www.lulu.com/browse/previous.php?fCID=1064386>

if you don't have access to a computer please contact your regional executive and they will be able to help you.

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**Canadian Museum of Human Rights**

Both the National and Manitoba Executive have initiated a process to have the Battle of Hong Kong and the subsequent maltreatment of those Canadians entered into their Museum. It was explained to us that it is early yet before the information will be needed but we have good expectations that it will happen. If you want to follow the progress of this project – I have given the link for more information.

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

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Thank you to all our members that send in notes and keep in touch with us.

Recently **Ralph McLean** sent a note with best wishes – much appreciated Ralph.

**Gwen Day** sent a donation to the Memorial Wall in appreciation of the services by Murray Doull.

**Paul and Irene Dallain** sent an article that was published in their local paper “The Gaspé Spec” with an account of the Convention and a picture of several HK vets wearing their new white Stetsons after being made “Honourary Calgarians” at the BBQ at the Kananaskis Guest Ranch during the Convention.



**HK vets taking the Oath to be Honourary Calgarians.**

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An email from **Jeff Forst** (grandson of Padre Uriah Laite) brings news of the viewing of his one man play “Padre” in Victoria.

*We had a wonderful "Padre" evening in Victoria, where we were fortunate to have both of Poppy's children in attendance, Grayson and Florence, along with your own Linda Stewart, as well as other family, friends, and audience members.*

*We had a wonderful family weekend celebrating my grandparent's 60th wedding anniversary. My wife Lisel and I even got to spend an extra night in Victoria with them afterwards, which was a real blast.*

*A retired padre, Al Fowler, whom I have been in contact with, attended and heard a sermon of Poppy's called "the Road" that completed his lengthy quest to assemble Canadian war-time examples of God speaking to the church through their padres. Hong Kong was the one place he had no item from, until now - so that alone made the experience worthwhile. Plus, Poppy's first great-grand-child Kristi had her baby Tait and was welcomed into the family that weekend on the full moon, so all in all, quite the time.*

*CBC's "All Points West", broadcasting to BC, interviewed me on the afternoon of, and I was able to publicize the HKVCA's Memorial Wall fundraising campaign and overall mission. We also raised another three-figure sum, which is in the mail.*

*We have the upcoming spring Kootenay script-reading tour of "Padre", and footage from the shows so far which will be compiled into a documentary that features the words of our Poppy, his experience, and that of the other Canadians there, along with the current Memorial Wall fundraising efforts and the HKVCA's overall raison-d'etre.*

*On Linda's recommendation, I've contacted Jim about links to this and other material on your web-site. It was great to see her there and I really appreciated her positive feedback. She said Calgary went very well, so congratulations for another good year. Also, Poppy's diary is now in the Manitoba Museum, as you probably know, via Murray's Doull's conscientious actions. All in all, everything is going swimmingly, and*

*it is nice to pay these tributes and to make these connections. Thanks for you and the board's support and I look forward to our on-going efforts.*

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**Dr. Nathan Greenfield** has contacted the National Executive to be assisted with his next book. He is waiting for backing from his publisher to write the Battle of Hong Kong story from the people aspect – the soldiers, the wives and the children's views and experience.

He has prepared several sheets of questions that he will distribute to our veterans and wives/widows and 'kids' - from the answers he will develop the story. We will have more information on this as it develops.

**Membership Report**

**- Jim Trick**

To Make Better Use of Your Membership Dues...

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:

<http://www.hkvca.ca/newsletters/index.htm> and notify us if you do not want to receive a newsletter by mail.

If you elect to stop receiving a paper copy, we can put the resulting savings to good use in meeting our association's goals.

Another benefit of supplying us with your email address is that we can keep you up to date on happenings that are time-sensitive, allowing you to be more involved in the ongoing activities of HKVCA.

Thank you

Here's our membership status as of July '07:

Membership Region	Regular	Veterans	Widows	Total
Al/Sask	72	17	13	102
Atl	91	3	6	100
BC	92	21	42	155
MB	190	27	67	284
ON	126	32	58	216
QC	68	27	64	159

Total:	639	127	250	1016
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## **People Are Reading Our Stories**

– **Jim Trick**

Many of our regular readers of this newsletter already know that our HKVCA web sites contain extensive material on our veterans' experiences, our current activities, and what we've planned for the future. Did you know you can actually get a more detailed look at who is visiting and other details about their visits?

Let's take a look at the month of August, which is the last month for which we have complete statistics. A key item is the number of unique visitors, and in August we had 1646. Those visitors actually visited 2481 times during the month, and viewed 6461 pages. So, what does this mean? It means we are getting the word out, and that many folks are using our web pages as valuable sources of information.

Another interesting statistic is seeing where in the world our visitors come from. As you'd expect, most are from Canada, but we also have folks dropping in from Australia, UK, China and Russia, among others.

An indicator of how visitors value our sites is to check how long they hang around. The average time that our visitors during August stayed on our sites was around three minutes. This may not seem like a very long time, but in the web world it is significant. It means that many visitors are finding useful information and are not just "surfing" through.

Want to look at the statistics for yourself? Check out:

<http://www.hkvca.ca/awstats>

The bottom line is that it's you who will decide if our webs are doing the job you think they should. Have something to add? Can't find what you need? Want to make a comment? Just email me at: [webmaster@hkvca.ca](mailto:webmaster@hkvca.ca). I'd appreciate hearing from you.

### **Reminder:**

Many families were introduced to the CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL website while at the Calgary Convention this past August as VAC was present with a computer to demonstrate access to this site. If you are a family member of someone that was killed in action, please remember to update your family

information. This site 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>.

If you have any difficulties, contact your Region executive for assistance.

## **Region Reports**

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

- Linda Stewart

Greetings from beautiful British Columbia.

I've just returned from holidays and been back to work for a week now. I went on to Winnipeg after our National Convention in Calgary and spent a wonderful time with my family in Manitoba. I was very excited to discover that I'll be a Grandma for the first time in December. All the very best to you, Tom and Teresa.

The Convention in Calgary was absolutely amazing. I won't go into details, as I'm sure there will be reports in this newsletter. I just want to say it was great to see all the familiar faces and get all the hugs. The Alberta/Saskatchewan Region did a fantastic job and everyone, including myself, was raving about the events. Congratulations!

In British Columbia, we held very successful Spring Luncheons - June 2nd in Victoria and on June 9th in Vancouver. There were four veterans in attendance in Victoria - Gerry Gerrard, Larry Stebbe, Ronald Parker and David Golden. We were excited to have four generations of the Gerrard family in attendance. We were sad to have Larry and Anne hand out "change of address" cards. They should be all settled in their new home back in Winnipeg by now. We wish them well and we will miss them very much. Their family is thrilled that they be closer to them. David Golden recently moved to Victoria from Ottawa, so we were very pleased to have him attend his first Victoria Spring Luncheon. Our special guest was Bridget Preston, District Director for Veterans Affairs Canada. This is the third time she has attended our annual spring luncheons. She is a very gracious lady and honoured our veterans with her talk.

37 HKVCA members and invited guests attended the luncheon

on June 9 in Vancouver. The HK vets present were Gerry Gerrard (RCCS), Aubrey Flegg (WG), Frank Brown (WG), John Lowe (RRC), Will Allister (RCCS), and Jan Solecki (HKVDC). Aubrey drove all the way from Kelowna with his companion, Betty Waldenberger. Frank, showing a lot of courage after his recent surgery, got up to the microphone and sang "The Galloping Grenadiers" as he has done for many years at our reunions. Will and Jan thrilled us once again with their full-hearted singing of some Russian songs from Shamshuipo. Regrets from Bill Doull (RRC). The widows present were Pearl MacPherson (Don WG), Eileen Cambon (Dr. Ken RRC), and June Naylor (Howard Naylor Sr. RCCS). June was accompanied by her son Lee and his wife Sherry; Pearl by her daughter Sandy, and Eileen by her daughter Noreen and her grandson Harrison. Regrets from Loretta Baty (Arthur WG).

Irene Lugsdin, VAC Regional Director, unfortunately had to cancel due to a conflicting schedule. Edwin Cheung from the VAC Vancouver District office attended in her stead. Edwin spoke briefly and thanked the vets and their families. He was very touched by our gathering.

Guy Black was also an invited guest at our Vancouver Spring Luncheon. Guy is the Special Event Coordinator for the Port Moody Station Museum. Guy invited the HKVCA to participate in the Canada Day event at the museum in Port Moody.

The BC Region of the HKVCA participated in the Canada Day event at the Port Moody Station Museum in Port Moody on July 1, 2007. The Port Moody Heritage Society planned the unique event to showcase Canada's proud military heritage and say "thank you" to our veterans. It was a free, family focused event and was attended by five thousand people. Many thanks to Carol Hadley for loaning BC the "C" Force display that the Manitoba Region uses in their schools.

We set up our display inside a restored 1934 CN passenger car. The event started at 9 in the morning and ran until 4 o'clock. Murray Doull and I talked to many hundreds of people about the HK vets and the role Canadians played in Hong Kong and their subsequent internment as prisoners of war. We also spoke to people about the purpose and goals of the HKVCA. We handed out



HKVCA information brochures and Gander bookmarks with Sgt. Gander's story printed on them. We had audio and video displays included with our tabletop display. We were able to network with other veteran's groups. Combined with the material we had, the HKVCA information display was one of the best at the event and was extremely well received.

I took the ferry from Victoria to Vancouver on June 30<sup>th</sup> to be there early on Canada Day to help set up our display. That gave me an opportunity to visit with Will and Mona Allister at their home near the ferry terminal on the Vancouver side. I was thrilled to get the "grand tour" of Will's art studio and was sent home with a couple of prints. We had a wonderful visit together. They are doing well and send their regards to you all.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, I attended the play "Padre". It's a one man play presented by Jeff Forst based on his great-grandfather, Honorary Captain Uriah Laite's writings during four years in Hong Kong POW camps. Many Laite family members were in attendance at the Centennial United Church in Victoria. Jeff's presentation was very professional and informative. The play is a tribute to the resilient spirit of the HK vets who persevered against the odds, and to those who fell. The combination of diary entries interspersed with excerpts from his great-grandfather's sermons was most effective. Jeff is donating proceeds from his play to the HKVCA Memorial Wall project. To learn more about Jeff's play, please access his website at [www.forstmedia.ca](http://www.forstmedia.ca)

We will continue our Christmas wreath-laying tradition at the Cenotaph on the Legislative grounds in Victoria at 2 PM on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Let's pray for better weather than we had last year.

*From Alberta-Saskatchewan ...*

**- Gail Richoz**

**see convention report.**

*From Manitoba ....*

**-Juliet Lafortune**

Hello to one and all

I was not able to attend the Convention in Calgary this year but I did hear through the grape vine that it

was a great success – congratulations to AB/SK Region.

In Manitoba, we have been busy preparing for the Tea and Tidbits in September 15<sup>th</sup> and another one in December 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a luncheon gathering for all the ladies in our Association but especially for our wives and widows of the HK veterans. It is held at St James Legion at 1 p.m. on the above dates.

We held our VJ Day celebration on August 26<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Church where the Winnipeg Grenadier's Colours hang. This is later than usual as many of our members were at the Convention. We were pleased to have **Fred Poitras, Larry Stebbe and George Peterson**, Hong Kong veterans and widows, **Joan Simcoe, Dorothy Morris, Ladena Mabeley**, with family and friends attending the service. There were approximately 60 - 65 people participating in our protocol service and the dedication of the new plaque of the HKVA Manitoba members that have passed on. Our Padre Gordon Shields did the dedication and readings and the Colour Party helped open the event. The attendees were able to view the education display and the portfolios that the Winnipeg Grenadiers Ladies Auxiliary created several decades ago.

We had the artists rendering of the 'C' Force Memorial Wall that is to be built in Ottawa on display, which generated much interest from our members and ideas for fundraising will be coming soon. There was a light lunch served afterwards.

HKVCA along with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) are dedicating the **JARDINE'S LOOKOUT MEMORIAL PLAQUE** on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Brookside Cemetery. The Military Section of Brookside Cemetery is one of the biggest in Canada and a suitable resting place for this memorial. The Plaque was given to us from VAC and it is the duplicate of the Jardine's Lookout Memorial Plaque that is placed in Hong Kong and was dedicated in 2005. After the dedication there will be a reception at the John Osborn VC, ANAF on Ellice and Empress St.

The HKVA Reunion Dinner is being held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Airport West and the registration packages have been mailed to our Manitoba members – if anyone else would like to attend

please see the website calendar or contact me and I will see that you receive a package.

Manitoba Region will be holding elections in 2008 and the nomination information will be going out shortly, so please give this process some serious thought. Consider giving some time to the Association by letting your name stand for an office, it is very rewarding.

That's all for now. May God Bless you all and keep you safe.

*From Ontario ...*

**-Mike Babin**

It would be impossible to start this report without offering a huge "thank you" to the Alberta/Saskatchewan branch for mounting an absolutely fabulous National Convention in Calgary. Every one of the fifty or so Ontario members who attended had a great time. The Veterans were treated like royalty (as they should be!), and the rest of us enjoyed ourselves immensely. Thanks to Marilyn Pridgen and her hardworking team for organizing and running a wonderful event!

I may seem like a broken record on this, but are continuing on our theme of finding ways of getting the story of the Battle of Hong Kong and the internment of the POWs into our schools, and adopted as part of the history or social studies curriculum in Ontario's high schools. We believe that educating our young people on this topic is the most important role of our organization, and so nearly all of the limited resources we have are dedicated to this task.

In the March newsletter I mentioned the high school essay contest that we had introduced earlier in the school year. In May we were very pleased to announce the winners of this first annual contest: Karla Telidetzski of Edmonton, and Matthew Silins of Ottawa, receiving \$200 and \$150 respectively. Congratulations to these two students for their very thoughtful and well-written essays.

We have announced the 2007/2008 version of the contest, and it is once again open to all high school students across Canada. We need your help to bring it to the attention of high schools in your city or town. You can find the contest details here:

<http://www.hkvca.ca/education/index.htm>, or you can contact me at

the address on the last page of this newsletter. Please make copies of the contest announcement and take it to your children's or grandchildren's history or social studies teacher and encourage them to promote it to their classes. You will also often find that local newspapers, especially in smaller communities, will be happy to print an article about it, especially if they can link it to a Hong Kong Veteran in the community.

The Canada Veterans Hall of Valour in Ottawa inducted three of our Veterans in May: Robert "Flash" Clayton, his wife Jessie Clayton (also a WW II veteran) and Lionel Speller. Another Ontario HK Veteran, George MacDonell, traveled from Toronto to Ottawa to be present at the induction ceremony. Congratulations to all of them! And our thanks, too, to Ron McGuire for his ongoing efforts to have the Hall of Valour recognize Hong Kong veterans. A total of eight have been inducted so far, and Ron promises more in the future!

May was Asian Heritage Month in Toronto, and we marched in the inaugural parade with the HKVA flag and our banner from the Ontario Legislature at Queens Park down University Avenue to Metro Hall. Toronto's Chinese community is always very interested and supportive of the HKVCA and of our Veterans.

I'm saddened to report that we have lost one Ontario Veteran since the last newsletter: Don Geraghty (RRC). Several HK Veterans and HKVCA members attended his funeral in Burlington, ON. Also, Dorothy McKay, the widow of Andrew J. McKay (RRC) passed away. We will remember them.

Which brings me to a very important topic: our Memorial Wall. There is information elsewhere in this newsletter with details on the Wall, but our Ontario members should be aware of the challenge which I have accepted on our behalf from our colleagues in BC. At the convention the BC region announced a donation of \$5,000 towards the wall, and challenged other regions to at least equal their donation. I accepted the challenge, and now we must deliver!! You will see more about this in your mail shortly.

It was a pleasure to see so many Ontarians in Calgary, and to meet with Veterans and members from across the country. I wish everyone a terrific fall, and a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

*From Quebec ....*

**- Lucette Mailloux Muir**

Greetings all.

Hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer, as Fall is fast approaching.

Since the last newsletter, we are continuing to work for the welfare of our Veterans, Widows and HKVC Association. We, in Quebec, continue to work jointly with our Veterans of the QC-Maritimes Branch. The HKVCA executive held a meeting in April.

In June we again held our annual joint-executive meeting in New Richmond and for the first time at the Baie des Chaleurs Military Museum. Four Veterans were present. It was remarked by the Vets as they recalled the times when 20 or so Veterans were present for these meetings and then enjoyed the social get-together at which the wives and other friends also attended. Yes it is very sad!

We attended funerals and/or celebrations of life of our Veterans, John Levitt and James Badger and unfortunately due to weather and/or distance could not attend others including some of our widows.

QC Region continues to send their newsletter "The Torch" four times per year, in March, June, September and December. It is always gratifying to read notes from our Veterans, Widows and Members following these mailings.

We try to stay in contact with as many Veterans, Widows as possible by visits or by telephone or even by internet.

We send birthday and anniversary wishes to our members. We also send sympathy cards or notes for deaths or other very special occasions.

For our 2006 Reunion, QC region had a few polo shirts made with the HKVCA logo, this went off so well that we had more made. We have books of the "Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong" by Grant Garneau still available. If someone is interested in the shirts or books, please contact Marcel Mondou or yours truly and it will be a pleasure to fill your request.

For the 2008 QC Reunion, watch your newsletter "The Torch" in your mail or by the Web for more details.

Financially, QC Region remains on a solid footing. This results from the ongoing support of our Veterans, Widows, Members and

well-attended reunions. Again thanks to all for your support.

As for membership, we are no exception to other regions, as we do have the same growing pains and have to remind some members to pay their dues on time in order to be kept informed.

We have noticed in the past few years that, following the unfortunate death of a Veteran or a Widow, some family members seem to lose interest in the association, for what reasons? We, as members of the Commemorative Association, have a mandate to fill. We should encourage our children and grandchildren to join and to continue with their interest in the Association. We should never forget the sacrifices our Veterans made for the liberty we today enjoy. We should not forget our "Raison d'être" for our Veterans and Widows and continue to keep the Hong Kong memory alive.

It has been said and again congratulations go to the Host Region of AB/SK for a very well organized and well-attended Convention. There was a very special opening ceremony including the "Lion Dance" put on by the local Chinese community, then came the usual executive meetings, the Annual General Meeting, special meetings and a work info meeting. A very solemn Commemorative Ceremony was held at the Cenotaph and the day closed with a Gala Dinner at the hotel. The weekend closed with a Stampede style breakfast as people said their "goodbyes" until we meet again. Again thank you AB/SK for a job well done and your great hospitality. QC Region had a great delegation of Veterans, Widows, Members and Family Groups.

The "C" Force Memorial Wall for the Battle of Hong Kong will be erected in Ottawa. We can all help to see this project through. We should do our best to get things moving fast, let's work together. In this newsletter you will find info on funding, how and where you can send your contributions. So little to do for the great sacrifices, health and lives of our Hong Kong Veterans

That is about it for this time. Best Wishes and All the Best for 2008. Take care and God be with you all. Til the next time.

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*From the Atlantic .....*

**-Neil Darragh**

Greetings,




We had a very successful reunion in Florenceville during the second week of September. There were four Hong Kong Vets in attendance along with their families. At the banquet on Saturday evening we had 44 people in attendance.

On the Commemorative side of things, we passed a motion to donate a thousand dollars from the Atlantic Region to go towards the fund for the Memorial Wall in Ottawa. When we have our membership drive in January, we are going to ask for donations from our membership. We hope to raise another thousand dollars to go toward this great cause.

We have a new treasurer for the Atlantic Region. His name is Bernard LeBlanc. I would like to say thank-you to Bernard for coming aboard to help the Atlantic Region.

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### **A little humour**

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results: The first worm in alcohol – Dead; the second worm in cigarette smoke – Dead; third worm in chocolate syrup – Dead; fourth worm in good clean soil – Alive. So the Minister asked the congregation - What can you learn from this demonstration?  Maxine was setting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, y o u won't have worms!" That pretty much ended the service.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nate lived in the desert. He guarded a very special lever. If the lever were pulled, it would destroy the world. Nate took his job seriously; he didn't let anything close to the lever. One day, he saw a cloud of dust coming down the side of a nearby mountain. The dust came closer and closer. Nate realized it was a huge boulder that was going to hit the lever. He had to try to deflect it. He succeeded; however, he was killed by the boulder. But it was better Nate than lever!

\* \* \* \* \*

After the North American Beer Festival, all the brewery presidents decided to go out for a beer. The guy from Corona sits down and says, "Hey Senor, I would like the world's best beer, a Corona." The bartender dusts off a bottle from the shelf and gives it to him. The guy from Budweiser says, "I'd like the best beer in the world, give me 'The King Of Beers', a Budweiser." The bartender gives him one.. The guy from Coors says, "I'd like the only beer made with Rocky Mountain spring water, give me a Coors." He gets it. The guy from Molson sits down and says, "Give me a Coke." The bartender is a little taken aback, but gives him what he ordered. The other brewery presidents look over at him and ask, "Why aren't you drinking a Molson's?" The Molson president replies, "Well, I figured if you guys aren't drinking beer, neither would I.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Canadian is walking down the street with a case of beer under his arm. His friend Doug stops him and asks, "Hey Bob! Whacha get the case of beer for?" "I got it for my wife, eh." answers Bob. "Oh!" exclaims Doug, "Good trade. "

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Display used in Calgary Malls for Convention Donations

More pictures coming soon on the website  
[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)