

# THE SPIRIT OF THE TORCH

“All Generations of the Hong Kong Family  
Remember with Pride”



**Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative  
Association of Ontario**

Volume VII, No. 2  
(12)

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## Regional Director's Message—Mike Babin

The big event of the year – our National Convention – is rapidly approaching! Are you ready for it?

The Alberta-based conference team headed by Marilyn Pridgen has put together a wonderful agenda that includes both commemoration and lots of opportunities for socializing and catching up. The theme of the Convention is “Honouring our Heroes – Preserving Our History”.

There will also be an extensive memorabilia collection with ample viewing opportunities over the four days.

Everything about the Convention is shaping up to be first-class, and we're hoping to have a bumper turnout of Ontario HKVCA members in Calgary to enjoy it.

You should have received your registration package by now. If not, please contact me and we'll make sure you get one.

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Calgary from August 15 to 19!

On another note, we're very pleased to announce the winners of our first-ever high school essay writing contest. Pat Turcotte will give you the details on page 10. We intend to repeat this contest in the upcoming school year, as we think it's a great way to bring young people into the Hong Kong “family”.

....cont'd on page 2

## HKVCA IN ONTARIO

This Association aims to perpetuate the memory of and to ensure the welfare of the surviving veterans and their spouses, and the widows and their families by:

- Enrolling all those in the Hong Kong family in the HKVCA
- Ensuring regular, periodic contact with those members
- Attending and participating in memorial services on Remembrance Day, V-J Day and other special occasions
- Orally proclaiming our link to the Hong Kong Veterans
- Educating and increasing the public's understanding of the sacrifice made by the Hong Kong veterans
- Organizing Reunions and National Conventions, as well as providing opportunities for social events for The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada

A very special project which is being spearheaded by the National HKVA/HKVCA office is the Veteran's Wall. You will hear much more about this at the convention, but in the meantime you'll find a status report, from Carol Hadley, elsewhere in this newsletter. Please be generous with your donations, as they are critical to ensuring that this project can proceed. Remember that you can now use your credit card to donate, if that method appeals to you. You'll find details on the HKVCA web site ([www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)).

And speaking of our web site, Jim Trick, our webmaster, is working on an exciting new way for us to present Veterans' stories. He will be able to accept videos, which can then be viewed on our web site. This means that if you have a home video of your Veteran telling about his experience, anyone who accesses our web site would be able to see it. This is a wonderful way to preserve and spread our Veterans' stories, and I encourage you to take advantage of it. The HKVCA web site will shortly have all the details on how to go about it.

April 28 marked the beginning of Asian Heritage month in the Toronto area. The HKVCA was invited to participate in the kick-off parade, and I was pleased to represent us—carrying the HKVA flag, with two student volunteers carrying our banner. John Stroud was invited by Nancy Siew, the President of Toronto Asian month, to be a parade VIP. John took the salute along with such people as Barney Danson (WWII Veteran and former Minister of Defence), Bill Blair, Toronto Police Chief, the Hon. Jason Kenney (Secretary of State for Multiculturalism), Olivia Chow (NDP-MP) and a number of other federal, provincial and local politicians and members of the diplomatic corps. We appreciate Nancy's ongoing support of the HKVCA and her organization's respect for the Hong Kong Veterans.

Finally, I know that a number of our Veterans and members have been very active in meeting with students and other members of the public. On behalf of all of us, I express our thanks for your continuing work to keep the memory alive.

Have a very enjoyable summer. I hope to see you in Calgary!!

*Mike Babin*

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#### AREA REP REPORTS

##### **West Central Area:**

Now that the long winter is over, we are looking toward a sunny, peaceful summer. Things have been pretty quiet in the West Central Area.

Carl Adams has moved recently to Welland, Ont., and is managing quite well in his new apartment close to his son, and family, although he still misses his farm at times.

Donald Geraghty was glad to leave the Burlington Joseph Brant Hospital after a 5-week stay. He is slowly recuperating and getting used to his new walker. He and his wife Esther are planning to attend the Calgary Convention with their friends, Ken and Eleanor Pifher, in August.

Happy Birthday to Ken Pifher on his 86th birthday on April 24. Hope you had a great celebration with your friends and loved ones.

Harold Smith who got around so ably on his scooter for such a long time is now slowly adjusting to his wheel-chair, his new mode of transportation. He will not be attending the Convention this year.

Gerald Sunstrum seemed very well when I spoke to him last and really looks forward to getting out for his great cup of coffee at Tim Horton's with his friends. He also will not be going to Calgary. I hope everyone has a great summer, and to the Calgary Contingent – "Have a wonderful time!"

*Leon Sokalski*

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**Central & South East Ontario Area** – report is unavailable.

**South West Area:**

Hi, Barb Cunningham here, wishing you all a healthy and safe summer for 2007. I am the Area Rep for South West Ontario Region. My father was Winston Cunningham of the Canadian Dental Corp.

I reached most of the veterans and widows on my South West list and most agreed with me; it was so good to finally see spring this year. Quite a few of them had been sick over the winter months.

Mr. Harold Baker had very successful eye surgery and now, after years and years, DOES NOT need glasses. Isn't this wonderful!

Mrs. Doris Hocking, our resident happy traveler, has just returned from visiting with her son in France.

Mrs. Jean Killoran has had cataract problems. She just hates to hear of 'our boys' dying in Afghanistan. She says, "Life is so precious".

Mrs. Hazel Martin has been sick with pneumonia. She was delighted by her family's having a surprise 85th Birthday Party for her and she looks forward to the HKVCA newsletters.

The Gerald Osborns recently received a prized photo of the Winnipeg Grenadiers with King George in it. It was taken by Eaton's in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Dorothy Sauson hopes to go to the National Convention in Calgary this August.

If any South West members would like to reach me - please call- 519-676-7348.

*Barbara Cunningham-Drew*

**North East Ontario Report:**

Well, Ottawa had by far the best winter I can remember in 60 years, little snow and no freezing rain---I would not mind winters like this for the rest of my days!

I can report that all seems well with the members in this area that I have been able to contact, including my two Vets, Ken Ewing and Eric Maloney.

Ken and Susan enjoyed a February break in Jamaica. Ken is an avid gardener and is looking forward to planting his usual large garden on his beautiful property overlooking the Rideau River near Burritt's Rapids.

Eric has several boxes of tomatoes that promise to grow in pots; I am looking forward to seeing how he makes out with his patio garden.

I was speaking with Bruce Cadoret recently and learned his diary, as well as a group of photographs and other memorabilia went astray in Ottawa at the 2005 Convention. Someone may have picked up Bruce's material in error, and may not realize they have it. We would appreciate if you would check. If you do have it, please contact me at 613-724-3223. Thanks very much.

I am still fondly recalling that great trip I had to the Gaspé and Lynn and Bill MacWhirter's hospitality last September. The photo below shows from left to right, Irene and Paul Dallain (Paul and his twin brother, Charlie, were with the RRC), Lynn and Bill MacWhirter. This was taken in the Dallain's home in New Carlisle where we had a nice visit and enjoyed Irene's lovely baking. It is the first picture I have taken with my new digital camera.



Since I saw him, Bill had an operation on his feet that was a success. While working in the mine at Omine, Bill was forced to carry a huge heavy boulder. He dropped it and of course it landed on his feet. I am amazed that Bill ever walked again.

My "Tribute to Newfoundlanders at War" Remembrance Month exhibit, which I described in my last report, was a great success. We had an open house on the November 24th, the weather was beautiful and there was a good turn out. The picture below shows me with Eric Maloney looking at one of the display cases concerning his late wife Betty's family. The Ebsarys had seven men in the Newfoundland Regiment, during the First World War, four were killed in action or died of their wounds soon after.

I recommended that Lt. Samuel Ebsary, the eldest, be inducted into the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour and have just learned that he was accepted. Sam, will be the Hall's first Newfoundland, and will be representing his four brothers, brother-in-law, and a second cousin, and will be inducted at next year's Ceremony. Harry Atkinson and his brother Ron, who was awarded the Military Medal, but died as a POW, will also be inducted. They were Winnipeg Grenadiers.



My recommendation for 2008 has also been approved. Capt. John Reid, RCMC will be honoured. I have heard many recollections, by many veterans, who had nothing but praise for

Dr. Reid, for the actions he took on their behalf

with the Japanese, and for what he did for them with virtually no medicine and equipment while they were performing slave labour in Japan.

I am looking forward to this year's Ceremony, which I was successful in having changed from an evening to a daytime event. It will be much less tiring for old lads like me, not used to be up till after midnight anymore! In case you've forgot, Lionel Speller MM, RCCS, Brigade HQ and, Jessie, CAWC and Flash Clayton, RRC are being inducted also.

I have been assisting Ruth Murgatroyd with her MA thesis. She is the grand-daughter of William J. Hickie, RRC. Ruth is studying the long-term effects of our Veteran's experiences on their families after the war. If you wish to participate by completing Ruth's very straight forward questionnaire, please contact her at 506-455-9223. You will help make her day.

Sandi Cameron and Mitzi Ross served with me on the Elections Nomination Committee for the HKVCA National Executive.

I am currently a member of the "C" Force Memorial Wall Committee. Considerable progress has been made on this important project which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

For years I wondered how the familiar red "HK flash" got on our returning vets tunics. Many I asked could not remember, while some told me it was on the tunic when they received it. Now, thanks to "Flash" Clayton I know how he got his while in Victoria in October 1945. See the photo below of Flash and a pretty, young Red Cross volunteer.



My latest method to remember and publicize our Vets may be seen below. It also helps another one of the worthy organizations I support – The War Amps. I am utilizing their "Never Again" label with the text that we put on our wreaths. I encourage you to order a supply by making a donation to the War Amps and use them on your mailings like I am.



Connie joins me in wishing everyone good health and safe traveling. I hope to see you in Calgary in August.

*Ron McGuire*

#### Northern Ontario Area:

Here it is "spring" already – with "summer" just around the corner. I'm always impressed with the disposition of the veterans and widows when I call. They never complain and I'm always uplifted with their outlook on life.

Congratulations go out to Gladys Brazel of Red Lake on receipt of her 40 yr. pin and Life Membership at Legion Branch 102. Also, to Doreen Barry of North Bay, on the new arrival of her great-grandson "Sebastian."

Marcine James of Emo traveled this winter to Texas and Florida and enjoyed the trip with family members. George Hallada of Thunder Bay also traveled south to Atlanta with his son to play golf. He's a young "88"; way to go George!!! Bryce Craig of Callander will be heading out west to the Calgary convention this summer. Say "howdy" to everyone in Calgary from all of us here in Ontario.

Thanks to everyone for sharing their good news. Will talk to you all in the fall.

*Jackie Le Drew*

#### GTA Area:

Since this is my first opportunity to contribute to this Newsletter, I thought I'd take the time to introduce myself.

But before I begin, I want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Randall Ross for his time and dedication in this role over the past few years. I also want to thank Mike Babin for taking the time to explain just what I was getting myself into.

My immediate link to the Association is through my father, Robert Sullivan, who was a Rifleman with the Royal Rifles of Canada. In his later years, my father suffered through many medical conditions, many of which were directly attributable to his years of confinement. My father passed away almost 21 years ago; however, I can still recall how proud he was to be associated with so many brave comrades-in-arms.

As you know many of the Royal Rifles were volunteers from Bonaventure County in the Gaspé and as a result, my affiliation to the Association extends through many other branches of my family's tree. My Uncle, Seymour Allison, was a member of "D" Company under Major Maurice Parker. He survived the internment to return home and raise a family of his own that has grown and expanded through 3 generations (so far). Other familiar Association names include family branches such as Fair and Keays; and names from my youth – Mann, Pentland, Court and Fleming – to name a few.

The military has also played a role in my personal life. I spent 8 years in the Reserves here in Toronto with the Royal Regiment of Canada and attained the rank of Captain. I still maintain active contact with the Regiment as the Secretary of the Officers' Association. While my friends and colleagues were fortunate enough not to have had to go into combat, I forged some extraordinary friendships that allowed me to better understand the bonds that existed between my father and his comrades.

Today I spend most of my time trying to balance raising three children (Adam – 17, Kelly – 16 and Shannon – 11) and a career in telecommunications.

I am currently working on a project to transcribe my Uncle's war diary from those years spent in service and confinement. It is my hope to upload this to the HKVCA web site once it is complete.

I will be contacting the Veterans, Widows and

HKVCA members over the next couple of months to introduce myself to you personally and I will be keeping in touch on a regular basis to see if there is anything the Association or I can do for you. In the mean time if you have a pressing need, please don't hesitate to contact me at home at 905-837-5680, on my cell at 416-407-8441 or drop me an e-mail at [roy.sullivan@rogers.com](mailto:roy.sullivan@rogers.com).

Peace and Respect,

*Roy Sullivan*

**Veteran Profile:  
Don Geraghty, RRC**

–by Tim Hodkinson

I had the pleasure of talking to Don Geraghty (RRC) over the phone recently, and from our brief chat wrote up this profile of him. I hope I've got the basic facts right. My apologies to Don if I've made any mistakes.

Don was born in Hamilton, Ontario in December of 1923. Apart from his mother and father, the family was just Don and his two sisters. Like most people during the Depression, Don's father worked at anything he could find, even spending some time as a Bailiff, repossessing cars and furniture.

Don's family moved around quite a bit during those days and he received his education at 11 different schools, including West Hill Secondary School. Don had to quit school at 16 so he could work. The wide variety of jobs Don has worked at throughout his life is worthy of a book. His first job was a

junior position in a factory making army Great Coats (overcoats). At the age of 16, Don went to work for 16 cents an hour, he told me.

One day on his lunch break, Don took a walk and strolled past the local armory, which was only a block and a half away. He had been in the militia before, which was a once a week thing ("Wednesday night soldier", as Don put it) and also in Sea Cadets, but this time, after seeing a sign that said, "Enlist Now", he attempted to sign up for the regular army in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. His 1923 birthdate meant he was only 16 and would have to wait two years. He was turned down.

On his way out an officer spoke with him and wanted to know what had happened. Hearing that he was too young, the officer went back to the recruiters, and then came back and told Don to go back in and try again. When Don did this he discovered his birthdate had been changed from 1923 to 1921 and he was now 18

years old, as far as the army was concerned.

He was later transferred to the Royal Rifles of Canada and went off to Hong Kong in 1941. Although surviving the Battle of Hong Kong and the subsequent 3 years and 8 months as a Japanese POW, Don's health upon arriving back in Canada required him to stay in hospital for another 2 years.

Don's post-war working life started with a job for the Government working in the Unemployment Insurance department for minimum wage. Although he's always lived in the Hamilton/Burlington area, he's worked at many different jobs and quite a wide variety too. After the Government, he then moved on to (I hope I've got this right) Remington Rand, a steel warehouse, then to Westinghouse to make noiseless refrigerators. Trying his hand at a few other jobs, like selling cars, he then went to work for Robertson Irwin Steel, where he stayed for 14 years.



The job Don liked the most was his last one. A friend of his called him to tell him about a company, called Caravan that sold academic, paperback books to schools. Don wasn't too interested at first, but his friend told him to try it out because, "It's a job and car for 6 months."

Don stayed with Caravan for the next 19 years, right up until retirement when he turned 65. Don enjoyed the great team of people he

worked with and the many teachers and school principals he met over the years.

Don has 3 children; Paul, Michael and Cathy, from his first wife, who unfortunately passed away from cancer. He has 2 grandsons from his daughter, Cathy. Don remarried 22 years ago to Esther, who has 5 grandchildren.

### **The Ladies' Side of the Story: Marjorie Chatwell**

-by Tim Hodkinson

Marjorie was born and brought up in Toronto. Her father, a WW1 veteran, worked for a while as manager of a dry cleaning plant. She attended Alexander Muir school and later, Allenby Public School when her family moved to North York, just north of Toronto. Her high school years were spent at North Toronto Collegiate. In her family she had no sisters and only one brother, who unfortunately passed away in 1957.

During the war, Marjorie served with the Red Cross in England. Upon returning to Canada after the war, she took training to work with the War Blind in Toronto. It was there, at a place called Baker Hall, where she met her husband, John Chatwell, a veteran of the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

John was also blind, a result of the harsh conditions of malnutrition and diphteria that he experienced as a Japanese POW. A number of other HK veterans returned home suffering from blindness and recovered their sight, but John remained blind for the rest of his life.

Marjorie told me that when referring to life with her husband, she often said, "I'll die of something, but it won't be monotony." John's upbeat and energetic disposition earned him the nickname, "Happy".

On their first date, John told Marjorie that he was going to marry her. When they did marry, she was told they wouldn't see their 10th wedding anniversary on account of the fact that John, like so many of the returning HK veterans, had such a weakened state of health that he wasn't expected to live much longer than a decade.

John however did survive, and they enjoyed many years of married life until he passed away in 1997. During this time Marjorie remarks that John stayed very busy and accomplished many things despite his blindness. He was the first blind person to become Master of a Lodge in the Masons, an organization both of them belonged to.

Once, in the mid-eighties, John asked Marjorie if she'd like to go to Paris. Being the one who drove the car, since her husband was blind, Marjorie thought he meant driving to Paris, Ontario. But no, John intended for them to visit Paris, France as part of the celebrations at the WW1 Vimy Memorial.

Despite the difficulties of attending something so far away, which was to take place in only a few weeks, such as plane tickets, passports, and packing, John was quite confident that everything would fall into place, and it did.



Marjorie has a daughter, Dorothy, and a son, Bill, who also has a son and daughter of his own, in their 20's. She was very active in the Hong Kong Veterans Ladies Auxiliary until they disbanded.

Today, Marjorie keeps herself busy driving back and forth visiting her son and daughter, and with her involvement in the Masonic Lodge and the Eastern Star. She and her daughter, Dorothy, are looking forward to attending the Convention in Calgary this summer.

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### Notes from the:

#### *Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada, Ontario Branch*

Hello everyone:

I'd like to once again congratulate the HKVCA on the wonderful job they've been doing, and the assistance they've been giving all of us.

Things have been pretty quiet lately except for a few unfortunate events. Dr. Stanley Martin Banfill, a doctor for the RRC, died April 30, 2005, at the age of 100. Dr Kenneth Cambon of Vancouver B.C. also died recently. The current count of Hong Kong veterans is down to 129.

On a different note, the special veteran's licence plates, that have been available in Ontario, are now available in every province. You can get one for a fee of only \$5 from any Motor Vehicles Licensing office.

I'm looking forward to the National Convention in Calgary this summer, and I hope as many Veterans as possible, and their families too, can make it.

I wish all our members, including our sons and daughters in the HKVCA and their families, a wonderful summer. God Bless.

***John Stroud***  
President, Ontario Branch, HKVA

### Membership Review

Our Ontario region is divided into 6 areas and each area has an Area Rep. The Area Reps try to connect with each of you a couple of times a year. It helps the organization stay strong and vibrant. Area Reps need help; if you are able to help out with a few phone calls, I know it would be greatly appreciated. Please let them know you can help when they call you.

The good news- Ontario membership is growing. We have 33 veterans, 60 widows and 138 regular members in the Ontario region. Regular membership is the only membership that pays a membership due. And some of our members are renewing at 2 and 3 years at a time. In fact 1 member has paid up dues to 2011. Wow- 5 years in advance!

Membership dues are \$15.00 per calendar year- January to December.

The bad news- We are about to lose 19 of our regular members due to their not renewing for the year of 2007. And that is OK. We all get busy in our lives and have to set our own priorities, but a message to all you members reading this newsletter, please ask your kids, if have they renewed for 2007. We would hate to lose them as a member. We need their input and strength.

One widow we are having trouble locating is Elizabeth Firlotte. Both Derrill Henderson [National HKVCA] and I would really appreciate hearing from anyone that might have any information about Elizabeth. Please give us a call.

***Lori Smith***

## Memorial Wall Report

The Memorial Wall Committee finally agreed on several key items that will determine the size and format of the wall. We await a revision to the first draft's design now that this information has been submitted to the designer. We have three quotes in hand, so far, but with the revisions it may be necessary to request new ones if the changes impact on the size.

The wall will be in a Z-shape with the Royal Rifles of Canada on one side and the Winnipeg Grenadiers on the other side of the diagonal and the Headquarter units on the supporting 'wings'. It is necessary to have the names on both sides of the wall to maintain structural integrity and to keep the wall a reasonable size. It was initially proposed that the wall have a "C" shape, however this shape was not liked by the Executive.

Centered on each side of the wall will be "C" FORCE MEMORIAL WALL 1941 – 1945. Underneath that it will indicate "Battle of Hong Kong" and beneath that the HK logo, followed by the name of the unit, i.e. ROYAL RIFLES OF CANADA then an alphabetical list of names (in columns) with the awards and a designation to show if the person was killed in action(KIA) or died as a prisoner of war (POW). Should the columns take up too much room, we may have to change it to a different format. Here is a sample layout of what the wall will look like:



We are still within the parameters of our timeline for the project, but the next determining factor will be the money. The Fundraising Committee wants the final design included in their proposal, to give the best impact to their request for funding that will go to government and other different agencies. However, members have begun to make donations through the initial information that was placed on our website and other outside donations through discussions with committee members.

We sincerely hope that all our members will support this project to ensure a lasting memorial to the Hong Kong veterans and in appreciation for the sacrifices that were made for our rights and freedoms.

*Carol Hadley*

### A Few Thoughts on . . . . .

**Aging** ... "What do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked the woman on her birthday, which had set a record for her town. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

**Exercise** ... My body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. It was intense! I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. Unfortunately, by the time I got my sweat pants on, the class was over.

## Education Committee Report

The Publications Committee was set up in 2002 to print and publicize the Ten Lessons about the Battle of Hong Kong commissioned by HKVA and HKVCA. The Ten Lessons' author was Nick Brune, a High School History teacher based in Oakville, Ont., whose mandate was to create a work which would introduce Canadian High School students to the story of our Hong Kong veterans, and the Battle of Hong Kong itself. That purpose has been realized, and the Publications Committee has now been folded into a broader-based committee dealing with the next stages of our effort to tell the Hong Kong story.

Our principal goal has become the familiarization of an even wider audience with the Ten Lessons, now that they have been published in both English and French. To that end, we are planning new initiatives which will help us connect even more effectively with the educational community as well as the general public. Two members of the newly-named Education Committee, Denise McLachlan, our Regional Secretary, and Cheryl Petherick, a High School History teacher at Courtice Secondary School, have begun to look at some specific ways to achieve this objective.

Denise arranged with the principal at her school to have him promote the Ten Lessons at the Niagara Elementary Principals' Association meeting in April (NEPA). Denise wants to be sure that elementary Grade 7 & 8 teachers learn about the Battle of Hong Kong as well as the Ten Lessons, which they can use as a resource when teaching their students. She arranged to get copies of our two new Ontario Region brochures, as well as samples of the Ten Lessons for those principals to see. We'll know the response to this contact with the Niagara Elementary principals shortly, and hope that further developments will evolve from that beginning. Denise is also interested in approaching the appropriate contacts at the High School level some time in the near future.

In reference to the two brochures, we had developed the first brochure with the cooperation of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) in 2005 & 2006, and in it introduced the English and French versions of the Ten

Lessons, as well as the two books written by Hong Kong veterans – George MacDonell's "One Soldier's Story", and Bernard Castonguay's "Prisonnier de guerre au Japon (1941–1945). The first brochure was intended to draw attention to our publications, and to act as an order form for those publications. The second brochure was completed just recently in 2007, and is a more traditional brochure, in that it explains who we are as an organization, and discusses our various programs. In both cases, we must thank Sylvia Mason for a very professional job in designing each brochure. We would not have been able to complete either one without her assistance, and do appreciate all her efforts in both situations. Tim Hodkinson was also involved with the second brochure, and his help was invaluable as well.

Cheryl Petherick, despite an extremely busy schedule at Courtice Secondary School, which has included accompanying students to Vimy Ridge for the Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, has begun planning her strategy for possible workshops. These workshops will not only familiarize participants with our organization, but most importantly, will involve Hong Kong veterans themselves speaking of their experiences, and provide a real connection to the Battle of Hong Kong. Cheryl feels it is very important to choose her contacts carefully, and in her overtures to several prospects has already found that approaches have to be different for each organization being considered. Her principal has been very helpful, and the Boards of Education she has reached have shown some interest. She has one or two Universities in mind, as she feels that this is the logical place to connect with those individuals who are planning to become History teachers. You'll be hearing more about these workshops in the near future.

Besides the possible workshop situations, we experimented this year with an Essay Contest. It was publicized widely, and offered monetary prizes to students who were able to gather information about Hong Kong, and work with that information to develop a thesis about the Battle of Hong Kong and/or its aftermath.

Arrangements were made for several people to act as judges when the entries for the Essay

Contest were received. The process was to involve three people on the English side, as well as three on the French side. All individuals approached very kindly agreed to participate.

For a first effort, the essays received were well worth the prizes offered, and the winning entries will be published on the HKVCA Website in the near future. The senior winner, a Grade 12 student from Edmonton, Karla Telidetzki, will receive \$200 and the Junior winner, Matthew Silins, a Grade 10 student from Ottawa, will receive \$150. We congratulate them both. We hope that next year even more students will take part, as such a contest provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an in-depth understanding of the Battle of Hong Kong, and its place in our history.

If there are any Ontario Region members who would like to become involved with the Education Committee, we are looking for more people to assist us. Ultimately, what we are doing today will lead to increased participation of HKVCA members in school programs helping keep the story of our Hong Kong veterans alive. Be a part of our vision for the future.

Feel free to contact Pat Turcotte at:  
Ph. (905) 274-3189 or by e-mail at  
[petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca).

**Pat Turcotte**  
Chair, Education Committee



## *In Memoriam*

### Remembering the Hong Kong Veterans who have recently left us:

Jean-Pierre Laline, RRC  
Clarence Stewart, WG  
Richard Keays, RRC  
Dr. Kenneth Cambon, RRC  
Dr. S.M. Banfill, RRC  
John Levitt, RRC

### We will also remember:

Mary E. Wardell, widow of Thomas D. Wardell, RRC

### A TRIBUTE

Ed Stewart of the G07 Athabaskan Association, an organization of Canadian naval veterans, has designed and produced a lithograph showing the 16 Canadians who were awarded the Victoria Cross in WW II, including John Osborne.

If you are interested in finding out more or purchasing one, please contact:

Ed Stewart  
President, G07 Athabaskan Association  
463 Rebecca St.  
Oakville, ON L6K 1K8

**TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR NEWSLETTER  
THANK YOU.**

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