



THE SPIRIT OF THE TORCH

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

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association of Ontario



Volume V, Number 1 (8)

June 2005

Regional Director's Message

Hello to all the Ontario members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association!

Such a special year this is! There has been excellent coverage of the events related to VE Day, and we hope that the intense focus on those events will result in increased interest in the celebration of VJ Day, which signaled the end of World War II.

Our choice of August 12 to 14, 2005 for our National Convention was intended to recognize the importance of VJ Day, August 15th, as the decisive day for our Hong Kong veterans, and others still waging war in the Pacific.

We have been working to keep you informed about our preparations for the National Convention in August. The main opportunity to do so has been the e-mail bulletins which Janis Jennings, our Membership Liaison, has sent to those members with e-mail.

We thank Janis for her efforts. Fortunately, you will have received your Registration packages by the time you receive this Newsletter.

If you have not, get in touch with us right away!! In that package you will have all the information you need to register for what should be the most registrant-friendly situation ever.

The Ottawa Committee, with Derrill Henderson as Chair, along with Veterans Affairs representative, Terry Tobin, and the members of the Ontario Region Executive, have worked long and hard to make the Convention experience a most pleasant one for all who attend.

There will be sessions of interest to everyone, and opportunities to visit such special sites as the new National War Museum as part of our program.

The veterans and their caregivers will be completely looked after, through the generosity of Veterans Affairs, and should be able to enjoy a worry-free weekend in the company of the friends and fellow veterans with whom they have had such special bonds over the years.

Besides attending the various events themselves, members of the HKVCA, Ontario Region, will have a great opportunity to contribute to the success of this event, and make the weekend an even more memorable one for the veterans.

Just **one or two hours of your time** will make the National Convention run even more smoothly. **We would appreciate help in the following areas:**

Registration, the Memorabilia area, Book sales, the Hospitality area, as well as Greeters to meet registrants when they first arrive.

We hope that **many** HKVCA members will want to assist us in making this one of the best National Conventions ever!

Get in touch with me directly at Ph. (905)274-3189 or e-mail: petsask@sympatico.ca to offer your help.

We look forward to seeing you August 12th-14th!!

Cheers! - *Pat Turcotte*

Editorial Staff: Pat Turcotte - Sandi Cameron

Publisher: Sylvia Mason

Distribution: Tim Hodkinson

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1: Regional Director's Message
Page 2 -7 : Area Rep Reports
Page 7-8 : Membership Liaison Report
Page 8: Notes from HKVA Ontario
Page 9: Profiles of our Hong Kong Vets
Page 10-11: Ladies' Side of the Story
Page 12-13: HKVCA Trip to Hong Kong
Page 13: Port Perry High School HK Project

Page 14-15: HKVA/HKVCA National Convention
Page 15: The Elections Are Coming
Page 16: HKVCA Financial Statement
Page 17: Membership News
Page 17: In Memoriam
Page 18: A 3rd Generation Point-of-View
Page 19: Book Order Form
Page 20: Ontario Executive Council

The Word from the Area Reps:



We thank all the Area Reps. for helping us to keep in touch with our members across the province, and for their contributions to this

Newsletter. The South West Area should have a new Area Rep. in place by the Fall of this year. We are pleased to announce that Barbara Cunningham, daughter of Ruth Cunningham, (widow of Capt. Win Cunningham, CDC) has agreed to take on that role at that time.

West Central Area – Leon Sokalski

Carl Adams is getting along just fine on his farm just outside Chippawa. He still drives in the local area, but does not foresee going to the National Convention at this time, as it's just too far for him to travel.

Peter Gelley of St. Catharines, is looking forward to celebrating his 85th birthday this coming August. Even though he finds it hard to get around, and now has to rely on a walker, he is still planning to take his whole family to Ottawa in August.

Donald Geraghty was in hospital for a short visit this spring. Now, he is taking it easy, doing just

fine, and hopes that he will be in shape for the coming Convention in Ottawa.

Ken Pifher of Grimsby, celebrated his 84th birthday on April 24th. He is at the present time working with an interviewer about his Hong Kong experience. He and his wife still enjoy going out for drives.

Harold Smith of St. Catharines turned 85 last March, and is studying his driver's manual, as he is scheduled to take his driver's test. Good Luck, Harold!

Gerald Sunstrum of Niagara Falls, is still feeling O.K., but has to take some medication from time to time. He, too, is still driving his car and taking very good care of his wife.

Everyone is looking forward to the Convention, and let's hope a lot of you will be able to attend. Hope to see you in Ottawa in August.

I enjoyed talking with you over the phone recently, and we'll do it again soon.

Leon Sokalski

GTA Area: Randall Ross

Hall of Valour - My father, Lance Ross, RRC has finally been recognized for his bravery, sacrifice and contribution to the war effort.

On April 23rd a ceremony was held in Ottawa at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to honour individual veterans who went beyond the call of duty, and had not previously been given proper recognition. The ceremony was held to redress this situation by inducting 19 veterans into the Hall of Valour. My father and 18 other war veterans now have plaques placed in the Hall of Valour. These plaques honour those who made incredible personal sacrifices. They will now not be forgotten but live on in our hearts and memories.

At the ceremony a presenter who told what the individual had done to deserve this recognition introduced each veteran. This was a very moving experience for family, relatives, close friends and me. There were many rounds of applause, tears, and moments of silence as the stories unfolded. I thank Ron McGuire for his excellent presentation on behalf of my father.

Two of my father's close army buddies travelled a great distance to be with him, Mr. Bob Barter and Dave Doherty. When my father's turn came to receive his award, Bob and Dave proudly walked with him as his honour guard.

To be recognized late is better than not being recognized at all.

As we all know the 60th anniversary of VJ day and the Hong Kong Veterans National Convention will be celebrated this August in Ottawa.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Ottawa, and hope that everyone will be in good health.

We must also remember those who have passed away this year, and give support to those still with us.

Randall Ross

South West Area

Barbara Cunningham will be reporting, effective October 2005.

North East Area: Ron McGuire

It is with regret that I begin with sad news of the passing of Elizabeth Lucy (Betty), beloved wife of Eric Maloney (RRC). Betty and Eric would have been happily married 59 years this August. We extend our sincere sympathy to Eric and daughter, Cynthia, in their great loss. I have only had the pleasure to know Betty & Eric since 2001 when he was so helpful with additions to my "C" Force exhibit remembering the 60th anniversary of the Defense of HK I prepared for our Nepean Museum. I will fondly remember Betty as a very kind person, a real lady that enjoyed talking about and looking at pictures of her native Newfoundland, which she liked so well. Connie and I attended a moving memorial service for Betty that was held on May 7.

On November 10, 2004 I had the pleasure to drive Flash and Jessie Clayton to radio and television interviews. In between sessions, I gave them a tour of Nepean including the Nepean Museum where they saw my Remembrance Month Exhibit stressing the importance and popularity of writing poetry during wartime. We had a nice visit with the Maloneys. It was the first time Flash and Eric had seen each other since the 1972 HKVA Convention in Toronto. They talked and reminisced the whole visit (see photo below). Rita Flanagan (daughter of Andrew Flanagan, RRC) arranged the media interviews and joined us. The day was filled with laughter and great conversation. Those who know the Claytons will understand what I mean!



November 10, 2004 Reunion at Eric's

Front: Jessie, Flash, Rita, Betty
Back: Eric and Ron

The Westboro Legion allows me to lay my wreath at three ceremonies on November 10 & 11. At Carlingwood they assigned, as my escort and wreath bearer, 85 years "young" Walter Turini, a

Canadian Veteran of the Italian campaign. To say the least, I was rather embarrassed and asked Walter if he would reverse the role and lay the wreath. I was touched with his reply that he was proud to be the bearer of a wreath to be laid for HK Vets because while he and his comrades "had endured some hell in battle and as POWs, those poor lads fighting the Japs had it far, far worse" and, he insisted I lay the wreath as arranged. Walter was pleased to know the HKVCA existed doing what it does for the HK Vets.

He did let me buy him a beer back at the Legion reception. During our chat he observed the fact that, after our Hong Kong and Far East Vets, those in the Italian campaign were another group of Canadians whose involvement in WWII was not as well recorded, publicized, or remembered, as it should have been, compared to the other European campaigns. We agreed that, fortunately, the situation had been somewhat rectified during the last decade, although too late for those who have passed on.

While delivering the wreath, placed jointly at the Perth Cenotaph by Natalie Gibb-Carsley (daughter of Dr. John Crawford, WG) and Beverley Willis (daughter of Sgt. B.S. Gilbert, RRC), I had coffee and cookies with Natalie and her mother Maud, who at age 98 years young is amazingly well, with a remarkable memory.

The large scrapbook that Mrs. Crawford made in Winnipeg during the war will be in the Memorabilia Room at the Ottawa Convention. I can report there will be much for attendees to see; so make a point of visiting the room where HKVCA books and other items will also be on sale.

On January 25, I arranged another reunion at the Maloneys while Lance Ross was visiting his daughter, Mitzi (see photo). Susan and Ken Ewing also planned to attend but Ken was in a car accident that morning. Fortunately, he was not hurt and I can tell you he and Susan are well, looking forward to gardening and seeing everyone at the Convention. They were among the crowd at the VE-Day celebrations at the National War Memorial and the opening of the Canadian War Museum. I, too, was among the crowd at the Memorial and later on Wellington Street to thank the Veterans in the march past. The weather could not have been better. Pity it was not the same for the parade in Appledoon, Holland.



January 25, 2005 Reunion at Eric's

Front: Lance, Betty, Eric
Back: Sandi, Mitzi and Ron

Ken continues to represent his comrades whenever invited to do so. In October 2004 he attended the unveiling of the Veteran's Wall at his Kemptville Legion #212. The Wall displays photographs of all the area Veterans and their details. In November, Ken was back at the Branch as the guest speaker. When finished telling his war experiences he received a standing ovation. After reading one of the touching poems written by a HK POW, Ken was given another standing ovation.

On April 11, 2005 I represented the HKVCA at the reception for the launch of the new format-"Esprit de Corps-Canadian Military" magazine. In its 145 issues there have been over a dozen articles concerning "C" Force including one I wrote. Their two-volume encyclopedia of Canadian Military history also has excellent coverage of the HK Veterans' story. Two years ago the publishers began sending me a complimentary subscription for the HKVCA. I am storing them until I can pass them on to the library of the proposed "C" Force Memorial/ Interpretative Centre. I have been promised a set of the encyclopedias when we do have a library.

On April 23, I had the privilege, at the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour banquet to read the inductions for CSM John Osborn VC and Sgt. Lance Ross, who was twice recommended for the Military Medal. After I gave him a copy of his father's dedication, Captain Gerry Osborn gave a very nice acceptance speech.

Gerry was accompanied by Lillian, his wife, and daughter, Dawn. Connie and I enjoyed sharing a table with them and Sandi Cameron (daughter of

Ken Cameron, MM, RCOC). Elizabeth and William McRae were also at the table, seated next to me. This made for several coincidences. Last year I read the induction for Mrs. McRae's father, Sgt. William Blyth who was awarded a DCM & MM for his brave actions in WWI. The McRaes are good friends of Les Canivet (RCOC) and knew the Hong Kong story well. They all grew up in the Britannia area of Ottawa West where I also lived in my younger days. I also had a chat with their son, newspaper columnist Earl McRae, and convinced him to write a series on the Ottawa Convention and Hong Kong Vets.

Dale, Mitzi, Randall, and other members of the Ross family were there to see Lance inducted. I suggested Lance be escorted to receive his dedication by Bob Barter and Phil Doddridge, who had traveled from the Gaspé to be with him. Of the 19 inductees, or their representatives, Lance, Bob and Phil, who I introduced as "three of the Canadian heroes of the defence of Hong Kong" were the only ones to receive a standing ovation, and overwhelming it was! Well done, lads!

CSM John Osborn's courageous actions are well known. Mitzi and I will be writing an article for the Fall National Newsletter about the actions, both during the battle and as a POW, for which Lance received his recommendations for the MM.

Ken Ewing, Eric Maloney and Lance Ross were interviewed by CJOH's local Ottawa television broadcaster, Norman Fetterley, as representatives of "C" Force, for a series that was aired several times in advance of the opening of the new Canadian War Museum. Connie and I saw each of their segments, and we thought they all gave great interviews.

On May 28, Connie and I will be attending the opening of the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour in Carleton Place. For more about the Hall and "C" Force representation see my article on pages 5 & 6 of the November 2004 National Newsletter which is also on the HKVCA website.

This outlines the major and more interesting happenings in my area since my last report. Connie and I wish everyone a good and safe summer and travel to the Convention. My sincere thanks to Sandi Cameron for her help, again.

Ron McGuire

Central & South East Area: Maureen Dwyer-Kline

Hello to everyone!! First I would like to apologize to anyone that I was unable to contact, either by e-mail or phone. Like many of you, I continue to have to work for a living and so I tend to play phone tag now and again and miss some of you all together. Hopefully I will get the opportunity of visiting with many of you at the National Convention this August in Ottawa.

I did have the chance to speak with **Bruce and Rena Cadoret**, who finally got moved into their condo in Cobourg last fall. Rena tells me that they are still sifting through boxes trying to decide what to keep and not to keep. Many of us know and remember that feeling and we sympathize with you. Both Bruce and Rena are doing well though, and are looking forward to seeing many in Ottawa this summer.

Marj Chatwell's only granddaughter is getting married May 20th and Marj is quite excited about that. She's also keeping herself quite busy with the Ontario Branch of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association for the War Blinded. Both she and Hap got involved many years back. Marj sits on the Scholarship Board of the Association and still thoroughly enjoys the work involved. Like 99% of us, she too is pleased to see the end of ole winter and is looking forward to Ottawa. Marj and I had a wonderful conversation and I look forward to seeing/speaking with her again soon.

Ron & Murdena Claricoates are both doing well. I was able to catch both of them at home this time and had a nice talk with each of them. Like most of us, they have their health issues but in general they are not complaining.

Fred & Delilah Cooper of Keswick returned from their place in Winter Haven Cypress Garden Florida. They go down from mid November till mid April each year. Fred tells me they didn't find the winter so terribly bad after all!!!! I invited myself to go with them next year, seeing as I just love the wintertime!!! They had a very nice time though and were lucky to have family members join them for a visit. Fred and Delilah attended the Mini Reunion in Aurora and had such a good time that they are planning to attend the National Convention this summer in Ottawa. Some of their family will be attending as well. I look forward to seeing you both there.

Although I don't often get the chance to speak to **Fred Mason** (he's always off with his senior's group when I call) I do speak/e-mail with his niece **Sylvia Mason** quite often and play catch-up with her.

Sylvia has been very busy working on the committee for the National Convention; she tells me that our Vets should be very pleased with the results, as there are a variety of events taking place and some surprises as well. Can't wait!!! Fred was off to see the new Windsor Casino just recently but ended up quite ill instead. Seems he caught that nasty flu bug many of us have experienced. Fred has since recuperated, and just in time his family threw a dinner party for him to help celebrate his 85th Birthday, on April 30th. On behalf of everyone, I wish you a happy belated birthday, Fred!!!!

Had a wonderful chat with **Doreen Fleming**, wife of **Jim Fleming**. She hasn't been quite herself lately, but hopes to feel better soon. For some that don't know, Jim had a few medical problems last fall that put him in hospital and from there to the Empress Gardens Nursing Home to recuperate. While there, he decided to stay. We speak often and he informs me it's a very lovely place, not too far from home and Doreen goes often to visit with him. Apparently, since we last spoke, Jim has moved into Room #204 on the main floor – probably more wheelchair accessible. I'll have to track him down and get the scoop!!

Betty Hutchinson-Nickerson...We've missed you so much!! I was so glad to catch you in the other day!! We all missed you at the Mini Reunion in Aurora and the Granby reunion. As you all know, Betty is often driving across country visiting family etc., which is what she was doing last summer. She made a trip last July to Cape Breton Island to see family and then back into New Brunswick for another family reunion. Once back in Ontario she, her daughter and son-in-law, moved into a new house and got sooo busy!! But she tells me they have settled in and that right now they are getting the pool ready for the summer. Betty will be attending the National Convention and looks forward to seeing everyone. We look forward to seeing you too, Betty.

Although the weather was wonderfully warm here in Trenton on the 10th of May, it definitely was not that way up in Barrie!!!! I had called **Marion Rowen** to see how things were going, and they had terrible weather! I could hear the wind howling over the phone line and then heavy hail started. Marion

lives in an apartment 9 floors up, so it was nasty!! Marion also is doing quite well. We had a good chat, as always.

Part of our conversation led to a trip she had taken 3 years ago to Branson, Missouri, where she went to a country singing concert with Jim Stafford (hope that's right). He had asked all war veterans, widows, and/or family members of vets to raise their hands, so she did. After speaking with some, he came to Marion. She explained that she was a Canadian and that her husband Alfred had been a POW in Hong Kong. After a number of questions etc., the show continued. At the end of the concert he again made reference to the troops now fighting in the war and to all past veterans of wars and especially to some like Alfred Rowen who have passed on. Marion remembers feeling quite moved at the type of recognition given to our Hong Kong Veterans at this concert, and the fact so many knew about their ordeal. It was quite a story; I'm glad you shared it with me, Marion.

Mr. Alfred Mills!!! Alfred and I speak quite often, and what wonderful talks we have!!! He informs me that he is still "alive" and still looking for someone to cook and clean for him!!! Sorry guys, private talks between us!!! Anyway, Alfred is keeping busy these days building a TV stand for his youngest daughter, along with the many doll cradles he creates in his basement. Like many of us, summer is a pleasure for him as he can get out and about easier, although Alfred no longer gets into gardening. We'll talk again soon, Alfred.

Many of you know that **Kay Mann** suffered a mild stroke last fall and was hospitalized just before Christmas. Mom and I went to visit her, finding her up and about and anxious to return home. She did, and has been coming along quite nicely since.

Last, but not least, my Mom, **Marjorie Dwyer!!** Mom has been doing well, mended up good after her fall last August, breaking a couple of ribs. Like the majority of us, she is not a good winter person, so is glad to see the summer weather coming along. Time to get those flower beds planted and start running the back country roads, like we often do. We are off to Thunder Bay, May 20th, to visit with family and to introduce them to my eldest granddaughter, Blake, who will be turning 14 this June. Bob has to stay behind this trip, but you will see his smiling face this summer when we all go to Ottawa.

That's it for this newsletter, folks. Take care. We'll talk soon, and I hope to see many of you at the Convention. I'll be the one sitting with Sylvia Mason at the registration desk on Friday, so be patient because sometimes when she and I get together "we're bad!!!" Bye for now.....

Maureen Dwyer-Kline

North Area: Jackie Le Drew:

Because of the distances involved, my one way to contact members, especially veterans, is by phone. Whenever I wasn't able to speak to the person I was calling, I left a message to return my phone call (collect) at my home or my business if there was any information they wished to have, if they had any concerns, or wanted to share any news updates. It was good to be able to talk to the following people that I was able to reach.

Bryce Craig (veteran, RRC) who lives in Callandar has Parkinson's, but still stays involved with the Legion. He has requested a Hong Kong crest for his new blazer. (**Ed.'s Note:** We'll send him an HKVCA crest shortly.)

Anne Axent (widow of veteran William Axent, WG) who lived in Thunder Bay passed away on March 21, 2005. Our condolences to her son, Michael, and the rest of the family. Her son, Mike, has asked about checking into his membership. He thought he had paid. He would like us to send him a membership renewal form if he is not up-to-date. [**Ed. Note:** He will receive a Membership Renewal form shortly.]

Gladys Brazel (widow of Veteran Ervin Brazel, RRC) who lives in Red Lake, and is a veteran herself, will attend the Air Force Reunion in Cornwall in June. She was stationed in England on VE Day. Congratulations on doing your part in the war effort.

George Hallada (veteran, WG) who lives in Thunder Bay is in good health, and is 87 years old. Many more good years, George!!

Lloyd O'Leary (veteran, RRC) who lives in Thunder Bay cannot understand why, over the years, he has never been invited to attend a Hong Kong overseas reunion - not that he wouldn't want to go. He mentioned that he understands that in the past other veterans have been sent a cheque for \$5000, to help them attend. [**Ed.'s note:** Veterans

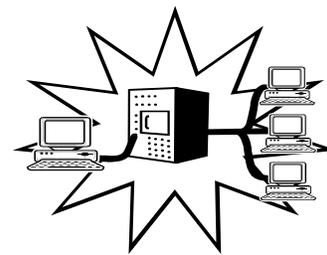
Affairs is willing to look after your expenses as a veteran, as well as expenses for a caregiver who would come with you, to the National Convention in Ottawa. We hope you can take advantage of the opportunity, and that we can see you in Ottawa in August!]

Reginald Riddoch (veteran, WG), who lives in Thunder Bay, had a rough winter suffering from vertigo. He is interested in attending the Reunion in Ottawa, but has not received a Registration form and agenda. He asks if HKVCA or Veterans Affairs handles the registration. [**Ed.'s note:** For this very special 60th Anniversary of VJ Day, Veterans Affairs and HKVCA, Ontario Region, are looking after the registrations jointly. By the time you read this Newsletter, Reginald, you should have your registration information.]

Jackie Le Drew

[**Ed.'s Note:** The North area, with the fewest number of members, covers more distance than any other area in terms of the people the Area Rep. tries to contact. Thunder Bay is one of its farthest points, along with Red Lake and Kaministiquia. Jackie LeDrew, who lives in Chelmsford, just a few miles north east of Sudbury, is right in the center of that area. As a new Area Rep. she is making a valiant effort to keep in touch with members near and far, in particular the veterans.]

Membership Liaison Report: Janis Jennings



Hello, everyone!

Our e-mail membership has increased steadily during the last year and we are always looking to expand even more the number of members who can make use of our e-mail service.

While it is an inexpensive way to make contact with our membership, the bulletins we send out also allow HKVCA to up-date members quickly with news of our veterans, special TV series involving HKVA, and veteran-related provincial activities you may want to attend. We can also let you know about special HKVA and HKVCA events happening in other provinces.

We have had a number of inquiries ranging from attempts to contact a veteran whose location has been lost, or information about the different medals for which HKVA veterans were eligible. Our Executive has been quick to respond to such questions.

If you have anything you wish to share with our members - newspaper articles, school events in your area, special Legion events in your area, or anything you think our members would be interested in, please let us know.

We have had 15 bulletins since January and opinions and comments are always welcome. There will be an increase of information about the National Convention, as it becomes available.

Have a wonderful time at the Convention!

Janis Jennings

Notes from the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada, Ontario Branch

Hello everyone - The last year has been a busy year for Jim MacMillan, our Secretary-Treasurer, and myself.

On November 11th, 2004 I was at Sunnybrook Hospital Veterans' Wing "K" for Remembrance Day, and gave a speech on the history of the Hong Kong Veterans' plight, and the four years spent, treated cruelly and starving, as prisoners-of-war of the Japanese.

On May 8, 2005, Pat Turcotte, the HKVCA Ontario Regional Director, Jim MacMillan and I were invited to participate in the VE Day celebrations held at the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds in Toronto. Jimmy MacMillan and I represented the Hong Kong veterans in the parade, which was part of the celebrations that day. The parade started in Toronto itself and the veterans joined those marching at the Fort York Armouries. Some of us were lucky enough to ride in military vehicles. The parade itself was seen by 100,000 people.

Pat set up a table in Heritage Court at the National Trade Centre and displayed a number of artifacts, and books dealing with Hong Kong. Those for sale included the Ten Lessons for High School students and teachers, and George MacDonell's book "One

Soldier's Story". There was much interest in both and quite a number of copies were sold.

I was interviewed by the new newspaper, "24 Hours" (24hrs.ca), under the headline "City says "thank you"". The interview was printed on May 9, 2005, and was available all across Metro Toronto. Among other things discussed, I mentioned the fact that the Hong Kong soldiers, as prisoners-of-war, heard rumours that something had happened on VE Day, but they weren't sure what it was. All of them were still languishing in POW camps in Hong Kong and Japan.

The HKVCA, Ontario Region sends us the Minutes as updates of their meetings, which are held every two weeks. We also get information about address changes. Here are two to keep in mind:

Mr. R. James Fleming 333 Brock Street Apt. 103 Peterborough, ON K9H 7P1	Mr. William Mayne 7700 Bayview Avenue Suite 205 Thornhill, ON L3T 5W1
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Sorry to hear that our Hospital Visitation Officer, Bert Worthington, was in hospital himself not too long ago with pneumonia. He is now at home, and feeling much better.

We have lost three of our Hong Kong veterans in Ontario since the beginning of the year. The three are Mel Carter, Lloyd Doull and John Pollock. "We will remember them."

National Convention: Be sure to attend the National Convention in Ottawa next August 12, 13 and 14, 2005. There are details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Dues: HKVA dues are still only \$15.00 per year, and yet some members are in arrears. "No dues – no news." Dues and donations should be made payable to HKVA, Ontario Branch, and mailed to our Treasurer:

J. C. Mac Millan
909-70 Delisle Ave.
Toronto, ON M4V 1S7

On behalf of the HKVA Executive, I wish you a happy and safe summer, and good health. See you at the National Convention!

John Stroud

President - Ontario Branch, HKVA

Profiles of Our Hong Kong Veterans

“Flash” Clayton, RRC continues to act as our Hong Kong Veterans’ ambassador in Ontario by speaking to, and being honoured by, various organizations in this province for all that he has done to make people aware of the role Canadian soldiers played in Hong Kong. The following is a sampling of some of the more recent events in which he and his wife, Jessie, have been involved.

Feb. 8th: “Flash” and Jessie spoke to the Champlain Seniors’ Club, Orillia Legion to the 130 people who attended.

Apr. 13th: They were honoured guests at St. Clair High School in Whitby at a presentation by Major General Lewis MacKenzie.

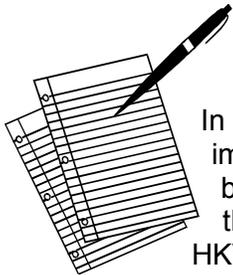
April 19th: They met and spoke to students at Henry Street High School in Whitby.

May 7th: They were special guests at the D-Day Dodgers Parade in Orillia, where “Flash” was to take the salute. What the officials hadn’t told “Flash” was that they had arranged a wreath in commemoration of the Hong Kong veterans for “Flash” to lay at the cenotaph, as well as one for Jessie to lay in honour of the CWAC servicewomen who fought in World War II.

May 13th: There were two sessions with Mr. Winchester’s classes at Park Street High School in Orillia.

May 19th: “Flash” and Jessie spoke to the Probus Club at the Orillia Legion.

“Flash” has just recently learned of Lionel Speller’s health problems in British Columbia and wants to be sure that Lionel’s special contributions to the Hong Kong Veterans’ Association are mentioned at this time. He has asked that the following note be included here.



Sigmn.Lionel Speller, RCCS, M.M., was in Brigade Headquarters during the hostilities in Hong Kong.

In December of 1945, Charlie Clark, CPC, phoned Lionel Speller in B.C. to say that it was imperative that a Hong Kong Veterans’ Association be started immediately. He asked Lionel to begin setting up this new organization in Victoria. Lionel began working on it right away. At that time, many of the veterans were still in hospital, but Lionel made the contacts and the HKVA grew from there. Through the years, Lionel worked very hard on the HK veterans’ behalf, and attended the reunions whenever they were held – all across Canada. It was always a pleasure to be in his company.

Lionel has always been a great Royal Canadian Legion member as well, and has received all the awards that the Legion is able to offer. The Palm Leaf, the Legion’s highest service award was given to Lionel at the Pro Patria Legion (Branch #31) in Victoria in 2002. He had worked tirelessly at that Legion branch for many years. In the same year he was the recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal.

Lionel has been president of the B.C. Branch of the HKVA for over 35 years. From the onset of HKVCA, Lionel has always been there with his support and guidance for the B.C. branch, as well as the National. Murray Doull has said that even at this stage he is still the mentor for HKVCA in B.C.

“Flash” says directly: “Lionel, thanks so much from your Hong Kong and Legion Comrades. You have done us proud.”

[Ed. Note: Lionel Speller has just recently been moved to a long-term care facility called The Lodge at Broadmead, where there are many veterans. His family visits often and, since the Lodge is fairly close to home, his wife, Ida, is able to visit every day.]

The Ladies' Side Of The Story: Dorothy Sauson

by Lori Smith

I have had the wonderful opportunity to interview a widow for this column. Her name is Dorothy Sauson and she lives about a 30-minute walk from me here in London, Ontario. My dad and Ray were bedmates at Niagata 5B camp during the war. Dorothy and Ray connected with my parents in my parents' hometown of Winnipeg in 1975. I was moving to London, Ontario and missed meeting them at that time. Lo and behold, a couple years later Dorothy and Ray retired in London themselves. Over time we have shared a few family gatherings both happy and sad. This interview only widens my knowledge and love for this lady.

Dorothy speaks -

I was born Dorothy Mary Watt on September 6, 1925 in Hopetown, Quebec on the Gaspé coast. Ida, Arnold, Dorothy and Sarah were offsprings of Ida May Watt and Hugh Allen Watt. I am a deep-down Watt, as mother's maiden name was Watt as well. Mother passed away in 1933 at 32 years of age, leaving Dad to raise us. We were ages 10, 9, 7 and 6 years old respectively. Dad was a farmer and a lobster fisherman.

When mom died, Ida was taken out of school at grade four to help care for us. We baby-sat ourselves. Dad would leave for the lobster traps at 2 in the morning. You do the best you can. We would run away from the work that Ida would want us to do. We would sometimes hide in the outside toilet. Soon enough though, Dad would whistle. We knew then to get in and help. One of Dad's whistles was enough to get us scurrying. We knew we were to listen up quick. Dad showed us everything - taught us how to do everything. We would scrub all our clothes on the wash board and hang them out on the line. Dad would bring them in off the line as they weren't clean enough to pass his inspection. Many times in the beginning we would wash them all over again. We would never have learnt to be clean if he hadn't done this. He taught us how to make bread and churn butter. We separated the cream from the milk. When dad was out working we would secretly make fudge and taffy. We would sprinkle sulphur on the stove so he wouldn't be able to smell the sweetness of our 'baking' when he got home. Little did we know that Dad knew all along about our baking.



We weren't allowed to go to Montreal till we were 18, and even then we had to live with Aunt Sarah in Montreal. I moved away from home when I was 18, leaving Dad, Arnold and Sarah. Ida was already living with Aunt Sarah in Montreal where I joined her. I got work first as a waitress at Murray's Restaurant. It was a family restaurant with a full menu. It was good food. Then I left the restaurant to go to work at Gillette's. My task was to check all the blades as they went thru. There was a machine I looked through at the blades - like a microscope. I was at the Gillette plant for about 4 years.

Sister Ida left Montreal to go home and get married in 1944. I stayed and lived with Aunt Sarah while I continued to work in Montreal. My sister Sarah was getting married in September 1946 and asked me to stand up with her - so home I went for this happy occasion. I don't think I went home often during my time in Montreal because of the expense, so I was really looking forward to seeing everyone at home, and seeing my younger sister get married. I got off the train at New Carlisle, as it was the closest station to home. Sarah was meeting my train and introduced me to someone she knew who happened to be meeting someone on the same train.

That someone Sarah introduced me to was Ray Sauson. I will never forget it. He had on his light beige matching pants, shirt and hat - the kind with the stem cap. I stood back and thought whoa! He was handsome - so handsome. Ray was the driver for the bride and groom. He was the one with the car.

In three weeks we were engaged - before I went back to Montreal. In those three weeks we went to movies, restaurants, out for drives and to visit relatives and friends. I don't think my sister has ever forgiven me for telling Aunt Jessie before her about our engagement. The next day I left to go back to Montreal. Between September and November, I would write Ray every day and he would write me. I still have my 45 letters and have reread them quite a few times.

Ray had to go to Quebec City and Chandler to finish up with some wartime health issues and business. He came to Montreal in December and got work at Northern Electric. Ray roomed with his cousin and lived not too far at all - just two blocks from Aunt Sarah's where I was staying. We went to the odd show and a dance. Not too much. Ray liked the shows. I liked the dance. He knew how much I enjoyed dancing.



My hometown was Hopetown and Ray's was Shigawake - only four miles apart. We were married in Montreal on July 12th, 1947, with my Aunt Sarah and Uncle Frank our only witnesses. That same night the two of us took the train to Shigawake, Quebec, Rays' hometown. His family and friends threw us a reception. We rented an apartment in Montreal and later on we bought a house. My Dad would come and stay with Ray and I during the winters. Dad and I would talk about memories and such when he was visiting - like how he knew about the fudge and taffy all along! During our married life, Ray and I returned the favor of my aunt - by opening our own home to nieces and nephews as they left the Gaspé looking for employment in Montreal. Ray and I left Montreal in November 1979 to live in London, Ontario. We bought a house that I still live in. Ray's youngest brother Dean and family live in London.

Ray and I have two children - Lester and Dollie. Les lives just outside of London, Ontario - really close by - and Dollie lives in Hudson, Quebec. Les has two daughters. Dollie has two boys and a daughter. And now I have five great grandchildren. I still take the drive along the 401 on my own to Montreal for visits. This doesn't impress my kids but I enjoy the drive and keeping my independence.

In 1998 someone entered into our lives. This someone had used computer technology to search for her dead father's family. She had been brought up believing her father had died in the Second World War. My Ray was her father. She was a daughter of Ray's born in Newfoundland in April 1942. Through a lot of searching on her part, she found us. The daughter was from a relationship that Ray and I had discussed but for one reason or another were not able to follow up on. Rae, his daughter, did not give up trying to find relatives of her father. What she found was her father and a step mom. She first came to visit and first met her father in 1999. By this time Ray had started on his cancer treatments. It was unfortunate that it was so late. Ray died in January 2001. I lost my friend and soulmate.

My two sisters visit me in London every winter. They close up their own homes in Quebec and come and visit. We knit afghans, play cards, and visit friends and relatives. My family is very important to me. No questions or inquisitions. Just being family.

Ray and I went to Hong Kong with the 1975 pilgrimage. Then Les, Dollie, Rae and I went in December 2000. Ray was too ill to join us. My sisters came to stay with Ray so I could go to Hong Kong. When the kids saw their uncles' graves in Japan, they were overwhelmed. My son Les is named after one of the uncles buried in Japan.

Ray and I went to Florida for our 25th anniversary and one winter we flew to the Bahamas. Just this past January I went on a cruise to Nassau, St. Martin, and St. Thomas. This cruise was with my granddaughter Terri Clark. It was a working cruise for Terri and a leisure cruise for me. I loved it and would go on another cruise anytime. But I will have to wait to win my lottery tickets and bingo cards if I want to go on another cruise.

I am going to be busy traveling again this year. For Mother's Day, I am driving to my daughter's in Montreal. In August there is the National HK Convention in Ottawa. My newest great-grandchild is being christened the week after the Convention back in Montreal. A granddaughter has her wedding in September. I am traveling to Nashville in October, and then down home to Quebec. October is Ray's birthday. I like to visit his grave at that time specially. My health is pretty good. I get out for a good long walk most every day of the year. It has only been the last couple of years that I do not get up on the ladder to trim my fruit trees. I enjoy life and look forward to seeing all my friends at the Convention in Ottawa in August.

Dorothy Saumon

HKVCA TRIP TO HONG KONG



As you no doubt know, there will not be a government-sponsored pilgrimage to Hong Kong this year such as the one in 2000. But interest remains high among our HKVCA and HKVA members, families and friends, in traveling to Hong Kong to mark the 60th anniversary of the cessation of WW II hostilities in the Far East, and the release of our Hong Kong Veterans from the prison camps.

The Ontario Region of the HKVCA is working with a travel agent to organize a trip to Hong Kong to commemorate this significant anniversary. There will be a commemorative ceremony at Sai Wan Cemetery on December 4, 2005 and

we plan to be there and to participate in that ceremony. All HKVA and HKVCA members and any other interested folks are invited to join the group.

Although the exact agenda in Hong Kong is still being worked out (the order of events in Hong Kong is currently based largely on the 2000 pilgrimage itinerary) we do have firm travel dates and costs and these are shown below.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting trip or have questions about it, please contact Mike Babin as soon as possible. Mike can be reached by phone at (416) 239-9192, or by e-mail at msbabin@sympatico.ca .

This is a wonderful opportunity to see where our veterans fought and fell or were captured, as well as seeing the modern-day Hong Kong.

ITINERARY

Here is the tentative itinerary:

- Day 1 - November 30
Canada to Hong Kong (arrive on Day 3)
- Day 2 - International Date Line
- Day 3 in Hong Kong (Dec. 2)
all day - Travel recovery
- Day 4
a.m./p.m. - Bus tour of Hong Kong highlights
(incl. Peak, etc.)
- Day 5
a.m. - Ceremony at Sai Wan Cemetery
p.m. - Visit to Coastal Defence Museum
- Day 6
a.m. - Visit to St. Stephens Cemetery & School
(at Stanley)
p.m. - Lunch & free time in Stanley Village

- Day 7
a.m. - Visit to Lawson's Bunker
p.m. - Visit to Jardine's Lookout
- Day 8
a.m. - Battlefield Tour
p.m. - Free time
- Day 9
all day - Free time
- Day 10 (Dec. 9)
Depart for Canada (arrive same day)

COSTS

The estimated costs are shown below. These costs assume:

- Adult traveler (small reduction possible for students under 21 years at departure date)
- Group size of 20-24
- Double/twin occupancy in hotel

	Departure City			
	Toronto	Halifax	Ottawa	Vancouver
Price *	\$3,256	\$3,378	\$3,287	\$3,106

*Price includes the following:

- Round-trip airfare
- Airport fees, taxes, and airline fuel surcharges (all subject to change)
- Weekend supplement of \$35 (applies when departure or return flight falls on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday)
- Transfer to/from airport in Hong Kong to hotel
- Overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, double/twin occupancy
- Breakfast daily
- 3 group dinners
- Guided sightseeing tours and city walks as per itinerary
- Visits to select attractions as per itinerary

Price **does not** include:

- Transportation to/from home to airport in Canada
- Passport and visa fees (non-Canadian citizens must secure any necessary visas)
- Dinners other than the 3 group dinners
- Beverages at dinner
- Lunches
- Comprehensive Travel Protection or Comprehensive PLUS (travel insurance)
- Local transportation to unscheduled activities
- Optional excursions and/or extensions
- Tips to Tour Director and bus drivers

The price will vary depending on the number of participants. The above prices assume a group size of 20 to 24. The price would be reduced if there are more participants, and increase if fewer.

For example, if the group size were less than 20, the price would increase by \$100. On the other hand, with a group size of 30, the price would be reduced by \$64. These differences may vary slightly depending on departure airport. A Single Supplement is available at a cost of \$280 for those unable to share a room.

Japan Excursion - There has been some interest in arranging a side trip to Japan to visit the Yokohama War Cemetery. This is in the process of being priced, and will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

PORT PERRY HIGH SCHOOL HONG KONG PROJECT

As reported in the last newsletter, the History Department of the Port Perry High School has incorporated the story of the Battle of Hong Kong into their history program for 2004-2005. Each student is studying the story of one or more Hong Kong Vets as part of their project and will write essays, songs, poems or other works about it. Many of these works, along with other Hong Kong memorabilia, will be put into a "time capsule" that the school is building.

The culmination of the project will be a trip to Hong Kong and other cities in China at the end of November and early December of this year. Over 220 students from 5 schools are now registered to make this trip. The time capsule will be buried at Sai Wan Cemetery in Hong Kong.

The teachers from Port Perry High School who are driving this project - Dave Robinson and Nancy Hamer-Strahl - have done a terrific job of publicizing both the project itself and the story of the Battle of Hong Kong. They have done newspaper and radio interviews, distributed media kits and have engaged teachers from schools across Canada. They have also organized a series of public lectures by well-known authorities on war, including General Louis MacKenzie. The main purpose of these lectures is to raise money to support the project.

The HKVCA has been closely involved in the project. For example, we recently met with VAC Minister Albina Guarnieri to educate her on the project and to request VAC's support for it.

There will be a presentation on this exciting project at the National Convention in Ottawa this August, and we invite all who will be attending the convention to see it. It is this type of project in our schools that will ensure the ongoing remembrance of the Battle of Hong Kong and the imprisonment of our Veterans.

Anyone interested in further details on this project is invited to contact Mike Babin at (416) 239-9192 or by e-mail at msbabin@sympatico.ca.

HKVA/HKVCA NATIONAL CONVENTION - August 12 to 14, 2005 - UPDATE: The latest information

Preparations for the National Conference of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association are well underway at this point. The Executive of the Ontario Region of HKVCA, along with the Hong Kong Veterans Association, is working with a special Ottawa Committee of 14 members, headed by Derrill Henderson. The Committee has been working for several months to make this National HKVCA event a most memorable occasion.

The dates of the Convention are Friday, August 12th to Sunday, August 14th, but we expect many members to arrive on Thursday to be well rested for the busy weekend ahead.

The Lord Elgin Hotel has been completely booked for the event, and the Committee has made every effort to ensure that those attending have as few concerns as possible. Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is working with the Ottawa Committee regarding preparations involving the Hong Kong Veterans themselves.

As Veterans will already know from a letter sent to them some weeks ago, all expenses incurred by Veterans attending, plus those of a designated caregiver, will be covered by VAC. Details of the process will be sent to all Veterans and Convention registrants in the next week or so.

Most of the events have now been confirmed, and registrants will be pleased at the variety of the activities taking place. Here is a brief summary of some of these activities:

Friday, August 12th:

- 10:00 a.m. - Registration at the Lord Elgin will begin.
- 9:00 a.m. - Changing of the Guard and various tours are available.
- There will be two special presentations Friday afternoon:
 - 2:30 p.m. – The Port Perry High School Project to Hong Kong
 - 3:30 p.m. – The Memorial Project explained by Vince Lopata
- A meet and greet at the new War Museum at 7 p.m. in the evening, with a special tour for the veterans. All with a Convention Name Tag are welcome at no charge.

Saturday, August 13th:

- 9:30 a.m. - General meeting for all delegates
 - Free time after the meeting, and all afternoon for tourist attractions and other activities
 - 5:00 p.m. - Banquet and dance at the National Arts Center, with entertainment. Cash draw will take place
- **Special tours of the War Museum for delegates on both Saturday and Sunday evenings.**

Sunday, August 14th:

- 11:00 a.m. - Memorial Service at the National War Memorial, with special wreath laying followed by a reception at Rideau Hall hosted by the Governor General.
- 5:00 p.m. - Gala Evening at the National Arts Centre with Keynote Speaker, special presentations, with dancing to follow.

****Transportation will be provided to all major events taking place at any distance from the hotel.**

For more specific information regarding arrangements in Ottawa, contact: Derrill Henderson at Tel.: (613) 829-5033 or e-mail at derrill@sympatico.ca

For information re volunteering (particularly for Ontario region members) contact: Pat Turcotte at Tel. (905) 274-3189 or e-mail at petsask@sympatico.ca

REGISTRATION PACKAGES WERE MAILED OUT May 18th

GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOURS!

Just a reminder re Memorabilia

Memorabilia Room - Ottawa 2005 National Convention

Ron McGuire is acting as Coordinator of the Memorabilia Room. The room will contain Ron's eight-panel exhibit and a display case of related artifacts. In addition, everyone is welcome to bring anything "C" Force-related they wish to put on display.

Please write or phone Ron at: 485 Hillcrest Ave., Ottawa, ON K2A 2M8 or (613) 724-3223 before **June 30th**, and tell him what you'd like to bring and the space you'll require. Larger objects and scrapbooks will be laid out on tables so delegates can peruse them. There will be attendants on duty during the hours the room is open. If you wish to volunteer for a few hours of such duty, please let Ron or Pat Turcotte know.



One hint re Saturday evening's entertainment:



John Spearn will be entertaining on Saturday night at the Banquet at the NAC. John is a nationally recognized songwriter and performer from Edmonton who sings about the exploits of Canada's soldiers. Among the songs he will perform is one he wrote especially to commemorate the Battle for Hong Kong, titled "A Hong Kong Christmas, 1941".

The Elections are Coming!!

The Corporate Elections are held at every Convention, so that HKVCA members should be expecting that to happen at this August's National Convention. The information related to those elections has been sent out to members across the country, along with the Corporate (National) Newsletter. Do think about nominating members for the National offices, which are to be voted on.

In addition, the Ontario Region will be having elections in 2005 as well. In September, all members of the Ontario Region will receive in the mail a Call for Nominations – so be thinking of people who might be suitable candidates to stand for nomination in Ontario.

All those who are currently serving on the Executive are eligible for a second term, but they will have to be nominated again in order to run. The more members who will consider nomination the better – as we'll want the strongest team possible to carry on during the next two-year term.

HKVCA - ONTARIO REGION

2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENT - January 01 through April 30, 2005 -

(in \$/dollars)

	Year To-date	TOTALS
Balance Forward		8,067.49
Income		
Membership Dues	990.00	
Sales – Ten Lessons	260.00	
Sales – One Soldier’s Story (#1)	20.00	
Donations – Charitable Status	545.00	
Donations – General	5.00	
- Total Income	1,820.00	
Expense		
Corporate Membership Dues	(660.00)	
One Soldier’s Story (#1)	(83.58)	
One Soldier’s Story (#2)	(388.00)	
Spirit of the Torch – Wreaths (#3)	(123.00)	
Secretary (#4)	(60.99)	
Treasurer (#5)	(59.69)	
Administration	(550.67)	
• Membership Cards – 500 @ \$79.67		
• Decals – 300 re 2006 & 300 re 2007 @\$471.00		
Veterans – Interviews (Copy of Video Tapes)	(154.74)	
Bank Charges	(40.00)	
- Total Expenditure	(2,120.67)	
- Income Over Expenditure	(300.67)	
Closing Balance		7,766.82

Notes:

1. One Soldier’s Story: Book Purchase #1 of 31 Copies direct from Dundurn Press
2. One Soldier’s Story: Book Purchase #2 of 180 Copies from HKVCA-Corporate (Requiring Rebates to Corporate)
3. Spirit of the Torch: Wreaths Sponsored by HKVCA-Ontario Region, laid on Remembrance Day to honour HK Veterans deceased in 2005 (two 2004 payments)
4. Secretary: Mailout in March of Membership Renewal Reminder Letters
5. Treasurer: Acknowledgment Letters re Donations, and Membership Cards & Letters

Sandi Cameron - Regional Treasurer

2005-05-14

Membership News: Lori Smith

We have several new members to welcome since our December newsletter:



Shelley Babin (RRC-Alfred J. Babin-Granddaughter) **Julie Babin** (RRC-Alfred J. Babin-Granddaughter)
Rik Cormier (RCCS-James Mitchell-Grandson) **Barry Crawford** (Friend of the Association)
Michael Fleming (RRC-Robert James Fleming-Son) **Peter Gilbert** (RRC-Lt. James C. Gilbert-Son)
Bruce MacLachlan (WG-Peter A. Gelley-Son-in-law) **Richard Philips** (Friend of the Association)
Danielle MacLachlan (WG-Peter A. Gelley-Granddaughter) **Roy Sullivan** (RRC -Robert T. Sullivan-Son)
Shirley Harper-Goodwin (WG-K.R. Jackson- Daughter)

Please keep these Membership details in mind:

- The Association's **Membership Year is January through December.**
- We would request that you complete the Membership Information form every year **in December**. You'll find it on the last page of your December Newsletter. Whether you are a veteran, a widow, a new or a renewing member, **we need to keep updating our Membership database.** We now have over 240 members in the Ontario Region, and it is important for us to have accurate information about all our members to be able to communicate with everyone.
- New and Renewing member dues are **\$15.00 per year.**
- Veterans and widows do **NOT** pay dues. Their memberships are free.

Membership gives every member the chance to share their concerns and to speak with one voice on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans. Of the \$15 membership fee, the Ontario Region receives \$5.00 with the remaining \$10.00 going to Corporate, the National HKVCA.

Unfortunately, there are 27 members who have not yet renewed their memberships for 2005. If you know who they are, urge them to do so. Remember, we do want the Ontario Region of HKVCA to have as strong a voice as possible as an organization.

New HKVCA members welcome! - Contact Lori Smith at: (519)668-1830 or via e-mail at: lori1952@rogers.com

In Memoriam

Remembering the Hong Kong veterans who have left us in late 2004 and 2005:

Ludovic "Vic" Bujold – RRC
Lloyd C. Doull – RRC
Garfield W. Lowe – WG
David Martin – WG
John D. Pollock – WG
Elved Thomas – WG
Arthur Wright – WG

Melbourne J. J. Carter – RRC
Richard J. Grant – RRC
Donald MacPherson – WG
Gerald Pentland – RRC
Edward Query – WG
Allan Roy Whitman – WG

We shall also remember:

Anne Axent widow of William Axent, WG
Peggy Doull wife of Lloyd C. Doull, RRC
Betty Maloney wife of Eric Maloney, RRC

"Our condolences to their families"

"We will remember them"

A 3rd Generation Point-of-View

by Tim Hodkinson

I never get tired of hearing veterans talk about Hong Kong. By now I've gotten reasonably familiar with the events, places and leading figures involved. So when I was asked to help transcribe Bruce Cadoret's videotaped interview I was naturally interested.

However, one simple hour of talking for Mr. Cadoret turned into twenty hours of listening, re-winding, writing and typing for me. But it was well worth it and I'm now starting on another one.

Why was it worth it? "Well, you know," (an expression I picked up from Mr. Cadoret) our knowledge of history comes from eyewitness accounts, just like in a court case. No one else knows what happened.

Although I'm sure Mr. Cadoret wouldn't describe himself as an eloquent speaker, he tells a powerful story about many events including his survival of a grenade and artillery attack, the St. Stephen's Hospital massacre, a diphtheria epidemic and working in the mines at Omine. All this just by sitting in a chair for an hour and answering a few questions.



Many books have been written about all those things, of course, but Bruce Cadoret's interview adds color and detail to the standard historical accounts. In fact, it's from the transcript of interviews, rather than the original tapes, that most historians do their research. Transcription makes the information in taped interviews more easily accessible.

The original videotaped interview is much more interesting though, and reminds us that veterans are real people like ourselves and not faceless numbers. Also, I'm sure a videotaped interview would be more appealing to those people who are less inclined to read history books.

Most of the questions from Bruce Cadoret's interview were quite simple, allowed Bruce to speak in his own words, and followed the pattern of, "What do you remember about..." or "What was your impression of..." Like a book, an interview is a great legacy but, unlike a book, takes only an hour to make.

Just as every veteran has a different view of the same events, Bruce Cadoret's account of Hong Kong added some new details which changed my own understanding. Bruce's stepmother had three brothers in Hong Kong (Sausons) and Mr. Cadoret met his wife while visiting another veteran who was a neighbour of his grandparents. For some veterans like Mr. Cadoret, their whole extended family and local community contributed to the victory (and the cost) of the war.

I realize that not every veteran wants to talk about Hong Kong, or even think about it. My own grandfather, Maj. Ernie Hodkinson, just wanted to forget about it. A taped interview, however, will tell the story once and for all, and be there for any family member, or anyone at all, who wants to hear that story.



[Ed.'s Note: A number of HKVCA members are now transcribing HK veterans' stories in this way. We have 15 tapes available for any other members who would like to transcribe one of these stories. Contact Pat Turcotte for details. HK Veterans - There may also be opportunities for interviews of HK veterans to take place during the National Convention in August if your story has not yet been told!]



Canada in Hong Kong: 1941 – 1945
 The Forgotten Heroes
 Ten Selected Lesson Plans

"Canada's involvement in Hong Kong during World War II is a largely ignored or discounted aspect of Canadian history. This is unfortunate if not tragic. The story is a compelling one and in many ways emerges as Canada's Gallipoli, Holocaust and Vietnam all rolled into one. Canadian Hong Kong veterans were the first to fight in World War II and the last to come home. A myriad of interesting topics emerge: the controversy surrounding Canada's decision to get involved, the logistical problems, the courageous fight, the brutal POW camps, and compensation. This work will explore all of these issues, and more."

Nick Brune – Author

"One Soldier's Story"

This is the story of a seventeen-year-old boy who ran away from home to join the Canadian Army at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

It describes the fateful adventures of two regiments dispatched to the Pacific to face the Japanese, and the courage of two thousand young soldiers who, when faced with an impossible task thousands of miles from home, behaved with honour and distinction. Though they lost the battle of Hong Kong, they succeeded in showing the world the mettle of which they were made.

George MacDonell – Author

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 HKVCA – Ontario Region
 1374 Milton Avenue
 Mississauga, Ontario L5G 3C6

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Ontario Executive Council: HKVCA

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Regional Director: Pat Turcotte 1374 Milton Avenue Mississauga, Ontario L5G 3C6 905-274-3189 petsask@sympatico.ca	Regional Secretary: Lori Smith 143 Highview Avenue West London, Ontario N6J 4C7 519-668-1830 lori1952@rogers.com	Regional Treasurer: Sandi Cameron 290 Centrepointhe Drive Nepean, Ontario K2G 5Y6 613-228-8702 sandicameron@rogers.com
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Thank you to all those who have contributed so much to the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association, Ontario Region, in the past and have agreed to continue to do so in the future!		