



Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

Patron: H. Clifford Chadderton, CC, O.Ont., OStJ, CAE, DCL, LLD

Ontario Region

January, 2008

Dear HKVCA/HKVA Member:

First, let me wish you a very Happy New Year!

The purpose of this letter is to give you some late-breaking information that we were not able to squeeze into our December newsletter. I'll start with the newsletter itself.

There are going to be some changes to the way we produce our newsletter. Up to now you've been receiving four newsletters each year: two from Ontario Region ("The Spirit of the Torch") and two from National ("Wasureru-Nai"). Some of the other regions also produce their own newsletters for their members. If you add all of this up, it consumes a large amount of money and labour to write, print and mail, and we find that there is often duplication in the content of the National and Regional newsletters.

So, we've decided to join forces and produce a single newsletter that will be available to all members across the country. This new newsletter will be published four times per year and will contain both "national" as well as "regional" news. The advantages of this new scheme include:

- All members will see the news from all regions.
- Members who now receive four newsletters per year will continue to receive four. Members in regions which do not publish their own newsletters, or which do so less than twice a year will receive communications more often than before.
- The cost to write, print and mail will be reduced due to the elimination of duplicate content.
- It will take less time for our volunteers to write and mail the newsletters.

We will continue to mail the newsletter to every member who wants to receive a paper copy. But to reduce printing and mailing costs we are also strongly encouraging members to opt to receive the newsletter via email instead. Each newsletter sent this way reduces our costs by about \$1.50, and it adds up quickly! Newsletters are our single biggest expense, consuming the bulk of the membership dues we receive from you.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send a quick note to Lori Smith, our Membership Chair, at lori1952@sympatico.ca.

Elections

Our bylaws require that we hold an election for officers of the HKVCA Ontario Region every two years. We are now at that point, and we will be soliciting nominations for officers shortly. I would encourage you to consider volunteering your time for this very worthy endeavour. The work is not difficult, and it's very rewarding. It's a small price to pay in comparison to the sacrifices our Veterans have made. Please watch your mail in early March for details.

School Presentation Project

I want to advise you that we received some terrific news from Veterans Affairs Canada. We had applied to them last summer for funding to assist us in professionally preparing a presentation package to be used in high schools. They have agreed to provide \$23,000 for this project! We've already started the work, and the presentation will be made available to all HKVCA members across Canada for their use in telling the Hong Kong story to high school students and other interested groups.

Contact Information

We would like to enhance our membership records by including a contact name and phone number for all of our Veterans and Widows. By "contact" I mean a relative or friend who could be contacted in case of an emergency. If those of you with email would take a moment and give this information to our Membership Chair, Lori Smith at lori1952@sympatico.ca it would be very helpful. Those without email are encouraged to send a letter to Lori at this address:

Lori Smith, Membership Chair
HKVCA Ontario Region
946 Wyldewood Rd., R.R. #1
Sherkston, ON L0S 1R0

We will also be updating our membership form to enable this information to be collected or updated when you renew your membership next time.

Memorial Wall Project

I can't finish this update without a reminder to please open your wallets and donate to the Memorial Wall. The names of every C Force member will be engraved on the Wall, and it will be a fantastic commemoration of these soldiers' sacrifices for Canada.

Some of you may have contacts with businesses who would be interested in making a corporate donation. If so, please let me know so that we can provide you with a special kit of materials which you can use to describe the project to the business. My contact information is at the bottom of the first page of this letter.

That's it for now. As I mentioned above, watch your mail for elections information in early March. Our first combined national/regional newsletter will also be published in March, so watch for that, too! And please consider electing to receive the newsletter by email.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Babin
Regional Director, Ontario