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# The Torch

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Quebec Region

Volume 2 Number 1

March 2003

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## Word from Phil

### Doddridge, veterans spokesman

This time I have some good news for Hong Kong Vets.

### **HONOURS**

First, the City of Oshawa is planning to name nine streets after nine Hong Kong Veterans. This is news that pleases me no end. The nine Veterans were originally from Oshawa. Their names are as follows:

Ed Bolton, Matthew Murray, Henry Galbraith, Jack Glenn, Cameron Lott, Ron Inche, Geoffrey Marston, Frederick Mason, William J. Lee.

All have gone to their reward except Geoff Marston and Ed Bolton. The Frederick Mason is not our old friend Fred who has always been active in the Ontario Branch, HKVA.

The City of Oshawa is to be commended for their initiative. I have written to



### HKVCA Administration

**Philip Doddridge**

Veterans Spokesman

**Lucette M. Muir**

Quebec Regional Director

**Allan Marshall**

Treasurer

**Debbie Batley-Everett**

Secretary

**Nancy Doddridge**

Director, East

**Marcel Mondou**

Director, West

Membership Chairman

18 rue Barre

Canton de Granby, Qc.

J2H 2E6

Tel. 450-375-7439

the Mayor and thanked the City Council for this honour that they have bestowed on all Hong Kong Veterans.

The second bit of good news is that The Spryfield Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Halifax is planning to change the name of the Branch to: The Earl Francis Spryfield Branch.

Earl Francis, Hong Kong Veteran, was a devoted member of the Branch for many years. Henry Lyons and I went to Halifax one time almost fifteen years ago and we had the pleasure of being entertained at the Spryfield Branch by Earl Francis, John Laing and Laurie MacKay.

All three are dead now. The ceremony to rename the branch will take place on June 21. There will be a delegation of our group attending. It should be a nice event, and a further honour to all Hong Kong Vets.

If you are in the area and wish to attend, you should get in touch with Judy

McCarthy, Committee Chairperson, 41 Cowrie Road, #408, Halifax, NS B3P 2M7.

I don't have a phone number for Judy at the moment.

#### REUNION 2003

By this time you should have received the registration forms for the reunion in Victoria in August.

If you plan to go, it will be of great help to the organizers to let them know as soon as possible. Anyone who has ever organized a reunion will agree with me on that.

#### MUSEUM

Our little committee has been working devotedly for about ten years in an attempt to get a start on the Chaleur Bay Military Museum.

I am particularly grateful for the response from Hong Kong Veterans and friends and families of our group.

Through your generosity and sympathetic support we have received enough money to purchase an old church building and move it forty miles to its present location.

We have applied for assistance from several government agencies, filled in the appropriate forms, held meetings with government officials, telephoned, travelled, and begged for help, to no avail.

Now, after announcing that we would be able to have an opening of some kind this

summer, I am greatly embarrassed to have to say that an official opening will not be possible this year.

We resolve to continue to find a way to bring what we believe to be a worthwhile project to a successful conclusion. In the meantime, we are going ahead with what repairs and adjustments to the building that we can now afford. By so doing we hope to demonstrate to the various government agencies that we are serious in our intent, and that we are determined to work towards the finalization of the original plan.

We are discouraged but not defeated.

Please do not abandon us!

Be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip

#### Word from Quebec Regional Director Lucette M. Muir

Spring is around the corner. We had a taste of what is to come but... it was just a taste as many areas have received more of that white stuff. Some things are bad for some but, gold for others as many maple sugar producers in the area were very worried with the mild weather lasting. All is OK for a while yet.

Hope you all had a joyful holiday season and did not indulge too much with the extra meals, sweets etc.

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Here all was well. For the first time in many years, we were guests for Christmas and New Years. It was very very nice but somewhat different.

There are many sticks in the fire for the next few months. On the drawing board different meetings, activities are being planned. Included with this edition of The Torch you will have all info for the Mini-Reunion, Convention etc.

As many of you know, Marcel Mondou is a Korean Veteran. In mid April the government of South Korea are inviting veterans to go to Korea for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war.

Out of many applications Marcel was selected with 30 other Korean Vets to take part in this Pilgrimage. Marcel invited me to accompany him. It will be a very special first-time trip there for him. Will have more to say in next newsletter.

On a different note, I would like to wish you all a very

*Happy  
Easter!*

Lucette

**Last Post**

We sadly note the departure of more of our comrades. Some of these names may have been mentioned elsewhere, but in the interest of keeping the record straight, they are mentioned here. In no particular order: Duncan A. Benton Wg, Emile VanRaes Wg, William Nicholson Wg, Coleman Pollock RRC, Raymond Smith RRC, William Fostery Wg. And a HK Widow Elsie Collins Brady.

"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

Marcel recently officiated a commemorative ceremony in Scottstown, Qc for Cde Raymond Smith. Cdes HK Vets Oswald Clark and Eric Batley were Honorary Pall Bearers and also present were Charles Gordon, veterans and members from the Bury, Scottstown and Sherbrooke RC Legions, Army and Navy, HK widows and many friends of the family and veterans.

**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!**

**Sick Parade**

Our thoughts and wishes go out to, Oswald Clark who

will be in the next few days having surgery on his eyes. I hear that Bill Doull and his wife Claire out in BC are on the mend. Lloyd and Peggy Doull from Kingston are having health problems.

Other than the regular aches and pains, I take it that "No other news should be good news".

A call or a note to these people is often worth more than pills. A friendly gesture is very good for the "moral".

All take care.

**Humour**

One day, a little girl was watching her mother washing dishes when she suddenly noticed that her mother had many strands of white hair showing in her dark brown hair. Looking at her mother she candidly asked her "Mommy why do you have some white hair?" Her mother answered: "Well, each time that you do something wrong or make me cry or make me angry, one hair turns white." The little girl thought about this remark for a while and replied "Mommy why does Grand-Mother have only white hair?"

**Happy Birthday*****Happy Birthday***

Best wishes go out to Phil Doddridge and his wife Edwina and everyone who have recently or will soon celebrate that special day.

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Best Wishes to All!

**Correspondence**

In no particular order, Flash & Jessie Clayton, Evelyn & Karen Smith (widow & daughter of Raymond), Phil Doddridge, Oswald Clark, Ann Syvret, Ruth Kellas. Thanks to all for your notes and nice comments about the association etc.

**Donations**

In no particular order, Douglas Reid, Bonnie Vincent, Eva Hunt, Celia Smith Ramier, Jean Lalime, Joyce Aiken, Beryl Kaine. Thanks to all. Marcel.

**Membership/Recruitment**

Greetings to all in the HKVA and the HKVCA

Thank you for your notes, contributions and dues.

I have not heard from many of our HKVCA members. Would appreciate some news from you very soon. Your Association and also your Newsletter depend on your participation in the Association. Membership cards for 2003 are available and your fee is \$ 15.00/year. The goal and purpose of the HKVCA is to keep the memory alive. Please help us to do so. Our lifetime members, veterans and widows understand and want

to keep the Hong Kong Family together.

I would also like to welcome new members in the Association, every one can also do their part in this. Please send your \$ 15.00 membership cheque to Marcel Mondou, Membership Chairman 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6.

Veterans and widows are automatically lifetime members (free of charge for dues) of the HKVCA

Membership is the best way to keep the Hong Kong Family together.

Join the Family!

Marcel Mondou,  
Membership Chairman,

Tel.: 450-372-7893, e-mail: [mondoumarcel@gmx.net](mailto:mondoumarcel@gmx.net)  
note: change of e-mail address

If for any reason you are changing address or have a correction in your address, PLEASE do not forget to advise your Quebec Region Membership Chairman, as we want to stay in touch with you and keep the records straight.

### On the light side

The story of Adam

God created man

God said to Adam "go beyond the valley"

Adam asked "what is a valley?"

God explained

God said to Adam "cross the river"

Adam asked "what is a river?"

God explained

God asked Adam "climb the mountain"

Adam asked "what is a mountain?"

God again explained

God asked Adam "go in the cavern in the mountain"

Adam asked "what is a cavern?"

God again explained

God asked Adam "find woman in the cavern"

Adam again asked "what is a woman?"

God again patiently explained

God asked Adam "reproduce with the woman"

Adam again asked "how do I reproduce?"

So God again took time to explain

Adam ran across the valley, crossed the river, climbed the mountain, went in the cavern and found the woman.

After only 5 minutes Adam comes running back to God and asked him "what is a migraine?"

### Lost Trail

We are trying to locate a few members. Last known address and mail has recently been returned for: Madeleine Bernard, Chemin Cookshire, East Angus, Qc. J0B 1R0; Fernande Jackson Joseph, have 2 addresses both come back Paspediac or Rimouski; Lydia Blanchette, 6782-33 Ave, Rosemont Qc. H1T 3C2

If anyone knows the address of the above, we would greatly appreciate your help as we have no more resources to explore.

Thanks to all who helped us relocate lost members.

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PLEASE DO NOT FORGET, if you have recently moved, planning an upcoming move or if a member passes away, PLEASE advise of any change.

We aim to keep you all informed, so you can help us also, we will then forward changes to others concerned. Contact Marcel or Lucette. Thanks.

### Quebec Reunion 2003

Yes time is fast approaching. You will find enclosed your invitation kit for the Mini-Reunion which will be held June 27-29 in New Richmond Qc.

We are in a Convention year and the travel distance is too much for many of our people therefore, we can still get together by having this Mini-Reunion and to make things "official" we will have a general meeting etc.

Please send your registrations and reservations ASAP if you want to be with the group as the deadline for hotel reservations is June 10, 2003. After that date it will be on availability basis. Hope to see many of you in New Richmond.

### National Convention

At this date you have already received your invitation kits for the Victoria B.C. Convention August 13-18, 2003.

It looks like a good convention is in the planning with place for meetings of information of the HKVA and the HKVCA, visits and importantly, time to renew old friendships, make new ones and/or just to chat.

Veterans and Widows don't forget to send those early hotel reservations to the **City Center Traveller's Inn** in order to have the choice of a room in the hotel where all the activities will take place. I am sure that QUEBEC WILL HAVE A VERY GOOD DELEGATION in Victoria.

### **HKVCA Elections 2003**

All HKVCA members in good standing, HK Veterans and Widows will be receiving, with the next National Newsletter (WASERU-NAI) in early May 2003, a ballot sheet for elections of your representatives on the National HKVCA Board of Directors. Take a few moments and send in your vote for the persons you think would be the best representatives for you.

### **Book Corner**

The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong book by Grant Garneau is available and for sale at the cost of \$ 50.00 per copy including shipping. Contact Lucette, 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6, Tel.: 450-375-7439, Oswald

Clark in the Sherbrooke area, Tel. 819-872-3746 or Phil Doddridge for the Gaspé area, Tel. 418-392-5838.

### **Bruno and Alice**

A love story about seniors and safety - episode four -

#### *It takes two to cha cha*

Part of growing older wisely is recognizing that, if you want to stay in shape, you have to work at it. I learned that lesson in the middle of a dance floor.

My gentleman friend Bruno fancies himself a dancer. In fact, as he has often told me, for years he signed his letters "Samba Boy". Being seventy-something hasn't slowed him down much, and one day he took me dancing. There's a hall near us that brings in big bands (I didn't think there were any left!) and Bruno was waiting in line the day tickets went on sale.

Now, I never won any awards or anything but, in my youth, I could tango with the best of them, and my cha cha had hopeful dance partners lining up to ask me onto the floor. So off we went. As the song says "We could have danced all night..." except for the fact that by the third number, I was exhausted. I guess I had let myself slip out of shape - never exercising. What an embarrassment. Bruno had paid a fortune for the tickets, and had even

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prepared for the event by dredging out his old Latin dance outfit (which, to be truthful, looked ridiculous on him). But I couldn't keep up at all.

By the time they played the first cha cha, I could hardly even stand up, but I made myself get back up onto the dance floor. About a minute into the dance, I felt dizzy. I stumbled toward the edge of the floor and stopped myself from falling by leaning right on someone else's table. I recovered soon enough, but it amazed me that not being fit could have caused me an injury.

I was really humiliated. Bruno had kept himself in great shape all these years through exercise... walking, cutting the lawn, even doing the odd sit-up.

It wasn't that 80 is too old to dance. It was just that I was just plain out of shape.

Since then, I've made a few changes. I walk to the library instead of driving. If I'm just going up one flight, I take the stairs. And I'm thinking hard about that yoga class. Next time they play a cha cha, I'm going to be ready, and Bruno better be ready too!

### **Canada's Contribution**

Canada has finally decided to bring their support to the USA in their war against terrorist:

We decided to send:

- 1- two of our largest ships
- 2- six thousand soldiers
- 3- six fighter planes

After the exchange rate, the US will receive:

- 1- one canoe
- 2- two mounted police
- 3- twelve flying squirrels

Poor Americans or  
Poor Canadians!

### For Sale

Do you need a new RRC tie, new HK license plate, new HK hat badge, new HKV blazer crest or a HKVCA blazer crest

DON'T HESITATE Marcel can come to your rescue.....just let him know.

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Also a helping hand for the Winnipeg Commemorative Branch. You would like to have a comfortable heavy white sweatshirt with the HKVA/HKVCA logo for \$ 20.00 or a terrific gold pin, a remembrance of the 2001 Convention in Winnipeg for \$ 5.00.

Just sent your quantity, size (M, L, XL, XXL) and cheque to:

Box 381, Winnipeg, MB.  
R3C 2H6

# Best Wishes

# Happy Easter

