
The Torch

Quebec Region

Volume 6 Number 3

September, October, November 2007

Word from Phil
Doddridge, veterans
spokesman

Greetings again from the Gaspé.
Summer has gone and we'll soon be
seeing the wonderful fall colours.

Perhaps it's time for "A Song of the
Weather" by Flanders and Swann.

January brings the snow
Makes your feet and fingers glow.

February's ice and sleet
Freeze the toes right off your feet.

Welcome March with wintry wind
Would thou wert not so unkind.

April brings the sweet spring
showers,
On and on for hours and hours.

Farmers fear unkindly May
Frost by night and hail by day.

June just rains and never stops
Thirty days and spoils the crops.

In July the sun is hot.
Is it shining? No it's not.

August cold and dank and wet
Brings more rain than any yet.

Bleak September's mist and mud
Is enough to chill the blood.



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Then October adds a gale,
Wind and slush and rain and hail

Dark November brings the fog
Should not do it to a dog.

Freezing wet December, then
Bloody January again!

ALBERTA

The big news this month is that
fabulous convention in Calgary.
No item was overlooked, no
expense was spared to make us feel
welcome.

There were dignitaries of all stripes
present, from the Japanese and
Chinese delegates, the Lieutenant
Governor of Alberta and his wife,
as well as Canadian politicians
Stockwell Day and Art Hangar.
We were entertained, wined and
dined, showered with gifts, and
made to feel important.

There were thirty Hong Kong Vets
present.

A big, big THANK YOU to the
Convention Committee and all of
the organizers. We had a wonderful
time!

FLORENCEVILLE

The reunion of the Maritimes-
Gaspesian Branch took place in
early September, this time with all
activities in the Florenceville Motor
Court.

The programme followed its usual
pattern, with the Memorial Service

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at eleven am on Saturday, September 8, the annual general meeting in the afternoon, and the banquet in the evening.

This year there were only four of us Vets in attendance, John Duguay, Bill MacWhirter, Graham Boudreau and myself.

As usual, we were honoured by the presence of representatives of all levels of government.

At the annual meeting the executive was returned for another two year term: Neil Darrah, President, Peggy Kirkbride, Secretary, and Tony Boudreau, Treasurer.

MEMORIAL WALL

By this time you will have heard that the Commemorative Association has gone ahead with plans to erect a memorial wall in Ottawa to honour us, the 1975 of us, who went to Hong Kong in 1941.

The black granite wall will bear the names of every man and the two women in "C" Force.

We are hoping to have it placed in a prominent place near the War Museum so that it will get maximum exposure to visitors to Ottawa.

The estimated cost is about \$100,000. Funds have started to accumulate from private donors, but more money is needed to reach the goal. More information on the wall will be forthcoming in the next issue of Wasureru-nai. Watch for it, and please donate whatever you can.

You can do that by sending a cheque made out to:HKVCA Memorial Wall, and sent to Barry Mitchell, National Treasurer, PO Box 381, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 2H6, or to HKVCA Head Office, Suite 164, 1 Stafford Road, Nepean, ON, K2H 1B9, or on line through www.CanadaHelps.org

Hong Kong Veterans, your names will be written there!



(Artist's rendering)

'C' FORCE MEMORIAL WALL
Battle of Hong Kong 1941- 1945

NEWSLETTERS

There has been some notion that the regional newsletters could be combined with Wasureru-nai, the national letter.

In my opinion, this has merit because several of the regional letters appear near the same time and much of the "news" is repeated. However, many of us appreciate getting the local news, and to combine all the letters and incorporate them into the national letter, would create a large bulletin, putting more work and responsibility on the shoulders of the editor of Wasureru-nai. Think about it. You may be asked for your opinion.

That will be all for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless.

Philip

Word from Quebec Regional Director Lucette M.Muir

Greetings all.

In reference to Phil's poem, months and seasons run by us

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very fast. Here we are fall, with it's beautiful coloured attire, the smell of preserves in the air and the thoughts of winter lurking around the corner. But, exceptionally this year for us in the Townships, we are blessed with additional summer like weather. As I write here today it is a beautiful sunny day with 31d C.

We returned home safe and sound from the wonderful Convention in Calgary.

Congratulations to the Host Region of AB/SK for a very well organized and well attended Convention.

Nothing was overlooked nor spared to make all of us and multiplied many times for our HK Veterans feel welcome. Dignitaries from many levels of the government, the local community, including Japanese and Chinese delegates were present.

From the very special opening ceremony including the "Dragon Dance" put on by the local Chinese community, then the usual meetings, a well planned and solemn Commemorative Ceremony, again with all dignitaries, our HK Veterans as well as representatives of other Veteran Groups, the closing banquet and the "farewell" stampede pancake breakfast on Sunday. The time for the "au revoir" "till

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the next time” as many delegates were leaving.

Honoured Attendees, 30 Hong Kong Veterans, 16 HK Widows for a total of 212 delegates and for the Gala Dinner a total of 300 people.

Quebec was represented by our Philip Doddridge, Jean-Paul Dallain, Bob Olscamp and Dempsey Syvret, our widows Joan Gillis, Renee Giard-Castonguay and yours truly, wives, family members and friends of HK. There were 9 family members for the Dallain Group, 5 for the Gillis Group, 3 for the Syvret and Olscamp Groups and 2 for Giard-Castonguay and Muir Groups.

As it often happens for Conventions and Reunions, many took advantage of the trip to extend their time to visit that beautiful part of our country.

It was said, will be said and again we repeat:

“A TEXAS STYLE THANK YOU” goes out to all of the organizing committee for their good and hard work in putting this Convention together. They thought of everything to the smallest details.

A big western HELLO to all of QC Region from Sheila and Karen Rattie (daughters of Lawrence Rattie RRC) tireless volunteers during the

Convention and presently residents of Cochrane Alberta.

This will be it for this time.

Take care,

Lucette

Last Post

At this time we are sad to report the passing of more 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: Alfred Matthews WG, Donald Geraghty RRC, Tom Forsyth WG, Peter Allain RRC

Not reported on prior, John H. Smith RRC August 24, 2006, Clarence Stewart WG November 1, 2006.

Widows: Lorna Cardinal, widow of Charlie Cardinal WG.

They shall grow not 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!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all families in this time of great sorrow.

Sick Parade

Our thoughts go out to: Edwina Doddridge who is still struggling with health

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problems. Robert “Bob” Olscamp is back home in Atholdville, NB. He did make it to Calgary. He did enjoy all the activities even though he got very tired.

Other veterans and widows may have been under the weather with different ailments and that we did not hear about.

A friendly note or call to these people is very “good for the moral”.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our sick.

Take care,

Humour

I need a push

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door.

The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

“Not a chance,” says the husband. “It is 3 o'clock in the morning.”

He slams the door and returns to bed.

“Who was that?” asked the wife.

“Just some drunk guy asking for a push,” he answers.

“Did you help him?” she asks.

“No. I did not. It’s 3 o’clock in the morning and it is pouring rain outside!”

His wife said, “Can’t you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!”

The man does as he is told (of course!), gets dressed and goes out into the pouring rain.

He calls out into the dark, “Hello! Are you still there?”

“Yes,” comes back the answer.

“Do you still need a push?” calls out the husband.

“Yes! Please!” comes the reply from the darkness.

“Where are you?” asks the husband.

“Over here on the swing!!” replies the drunk.

Happy Birthday

October: Eric Batley, Rena Cadoret, Bernice Simons, Lucette Muir.

November: Walter Gray, Patrick Poirier.

December: Bruce Cadoret, Veronica Hunt, Allan Marshall.

Wedding Anniversary

No anniversaries to report at this time.

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary and

Best Wishes to all

(If we have your birthday month, all the HK Family would know of your special day and even send you their personal wishes).

Correspondence

In no particular order, received correspondence or calls from: Bernardine & John Russell, Jean Gray, Jean-Paul Dallain, Normand St-Aubin, May Allain.

Donations

In no particular order: Donald MacAulay, Walter Gray, Patricia Grey, Dorothy Sauson, Jean-Paul Pitre.

Many Thanks to all of you for your participation for the welfare of your Association.

Membership

Greetings to all.

I might, to some, sound like a broken record but I am again here to encourage you to keep up your membership by sending us your \$ 15.00 each current calendar year, effective January to December.

If you are not holding your 2007 membership card or simply forgot to renew your membership, please renew as soon as possible. December

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is fast approaching and the end of the year.

All membership cards are “hot off the press” for 2008, be an “Early Bird” so you don’t forget.

We of the HK Veterans’ Association and the HKV Commemorative Association should invite and encourage our children and grandchildren to join the Association and to continue with their interest in our Association.

The “Raison d’être” of our Association is to promote the experiences and sacrifices that our Veterans endured and this not be forgotten.

It is sad to see some children not continuing after the passing of the parents. We should all work to keep the memory alive.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

(HK veterans and widows are Lifetime Members).

If you are moving in the near future **PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO LET ME KNOW your new address** as you might experience delays or simply may not receive the delivery of your next newsletters, correspondence etc.

If you have any questions on membership, feel free to call or write to our Granby address or by e-mail at

mondoumarcel@videotron.ca

Thank you all for your support and great interest in our association.

Marcel



NOVEMBER 11

Take the time to remember!

Throughout the year, we as Canadians should celebrate, honour, thank and remember our Veterans, and teach our youth about the contributions and sacrifices of our Veterans.

For November 11, take the time to participate, help educate our young generation

“THANK A VETERAN!”

Humour

Still beautiful weather, the golf season is not over yet!

The Frog and Golf

A man takes the day off work and decides to go out golfing. He is on the second hole when he notices a frog sitting next to the green. He thinks nothing of it and is about to shoot when he hears, “Ribbit 9 Iron.”

The man looks around and doesn't see anyone. Again, he hears, “Ribbit 9 Iron.”

He looks at the frog and decides to prove the frog wrong, puts the club away, and grabs a 9 iron.

Boom! He hits it 10” from the cup. He is shocked. He says to the frog, “Wow that’s amazing. You must be a lucky frog, eh?”

The frog replies, “Ribbit Lucky Frog.”

The man decides to take the frog with him to the next hole.

“What do you think frog?” the man asks. “Ribbit 3 wood.”

The guy takes out a 3 wood and, **Boom!** Hole in one. The man is befuddled and doesn't know what to say. By the end of the day, the man golfed the best game of golf in his life and asks the frog. “OK where to next?”

The frog replies, “Ribbit Las Vegas.”

They go to Las Vegas and the guy says, “OK frog, now what?”

The frog says, “Ribbit Roulette.”

Upon approaching the roulette table, the man asks,

“What do you think I should bet?”

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The frog replies, “Ribbit \$ 3000, black 6.”

Now, this is a million-to-one shot to win, but after the golf game the man figures what the heck.

Boom! Tons of cash comes sliding back across the table. The man takes his winnings and buys the best room in the hotel. He sits the frog down and says, “Frog, I don't know how to repay you. You've won me all this money and I am forever grateful.”

The frog replies, “Ribbit Kiss Me.”

He figures why not, since after all the frog did for him, he deserves it. With a kiss, the frog turns into a gorgeous 15-year-old girl.

“And that, your honor, is how the girl ended up in my room.

SO HELP ME GOD.”

Convention 2009

Yes, talk is in the air. It is still a bit early but something to think about.

As soon as some decisions are made as to where and when the next Convention will be held, we will advise you all. Will keep you posted.

Quebec Reunion

We are pleased to report that, yes, there will be a 2008 Reunion. The Reunion will

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take place in Granby, at the Castle for August 14-17, 2008. More news will come early in the new year.

Keep those dates open and looking forward to meeting you all again, next time.

Newsletters

Looking for your help!

Everyone is aware that the cost of everything is always on the way up these days.

- The National Newsletter the Wasereru-nai is mailed to all members in good standing twice per year. It is a quite important piece of mailing with it's number of pages etc. The question here being asked is: in this age of all this new technology, would you like to receive the newsletter via the internet or by the usual paper trail?

If your answer is positive to internet, please send a message to confirm your intention to your Regional Membership Chairman at mondoumarcel@videotron.ca and he will take it from there.

This could also be used for "The Torch" if you so desire.

- Another subject has been discussed, the fact that regions putting out a newsletter could combine their present regional newsletter with the National as at times both levels do

their mailings on very close dates. This was thought to save money and time (on one hand and more on the other with the change in volume of the National).

From many good comments heard and received from our members looking forward to the arrival of "The Torch", your HKVCA executive were unanimous to continue as is and possibly make minor adjustments later if the need arises.

'C' Force Memorial Wall

When the HKVCA was formed, our aim was to create a memorial to our Veterans in the defence of Hong Kong against the Japanese invasion. We can now fulfill our promise to our Hong Kong Veterans.

A Memorial will be in Ottawa, near the National War Museum for all visitors to see.

We need your help

All projects need funding with no exception to this one. The total cost could go to \$ 100,000 as it is completed. Corporations will be approached for assistance in this project as will members of our Association.

If you feel you can be of any help towards seeing this

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project come to light, please contribute, any amount will count.

You can send your cheques to "HKVCA – Memorial Wall" Barry Mitchell, National Treasurer, P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, MA R3C 2H6 or online through www.CanadaHelps.org This is a charitable organization to assist in collecting donations for organizations.

Donations over \$ 20.00 for this project will receive charity tax receipts

Thank You for your help.

Humour

Things change with time.

I feel like 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. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

Book Corner

The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong by Grant Garneau is still available from your Quebec Region. It is for sale at the cost of \$ 50.00 per copy, including shipping and handling. Just contact Lucette with your order and cheque.

Other books are also available through your National Address.

Nominal Roll

Plastic-coated copies 12" x 19" of the Nominal Roll of the Royal Rifles in Hong Kong are available for sale at the cost of \$ 10.00 including postage. Make your cheque payable to HKVCA, QC for the number of copies required and mail to HKVCA, 18 Barre, Granby, QC, J2H 2E6.

Maple Leaf Brooch



The Maple Leaf Brooch is available through your regional address for \$ 25.00 including handling and shipping costs.

Please make your cheque to HKVCA QC and send to your Quebec address.

Quebec Region Polo



Quebec Region has designed a new polo shirt.

It is Hong Kong green in color, a light knit, short sleeves with the HKVCA logo and Quebec

Region embroidered in it's original colours (no pocket).

It is available in sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL at the cost of \$ 25.00 including shipping. Mail your cheque to the Granby address and payable to HKVCA QC.

NOTE: S and XXL in limited quantity have been added.

A little humour

The miracle of toilet paper

Fresh from my shower, I stand in front of the mirror complaining to my husband that my breasts are too small. Instead of his characteristically telling me it's not so, he uncharacteristically comes up with a suggestion. "If you want your breasts to grow, that's simple. Every day, just take a piece of toilet paper and rub it between them for a few seconds."

So feeling poorly about my self-image, and willing to try anything, I fetch a piece of toilet paper and stand in front of the mirror, rubbing it between my breasts. "How long will this take?" I asked. "They will grow larger over a period of years," my husband replies. I stopped. "Do you really think that by doing this every day will make them larger?"

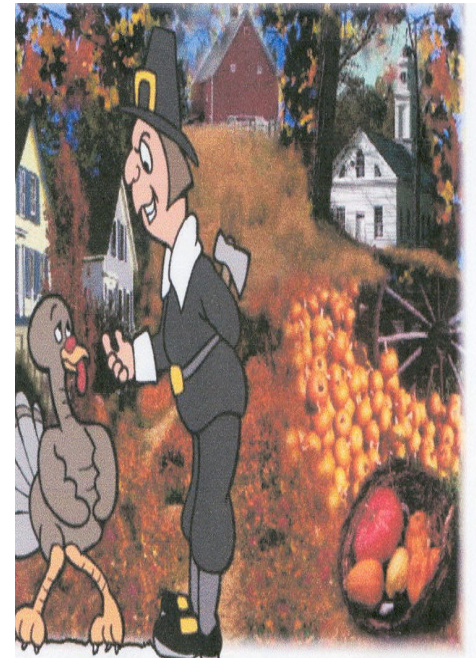
Without missing a beat he says "Worked for your but, didn't it?"

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He's still alive, and with a great deal of therapy, he may even walk again although he will probably continue to take his meals through a straw.

That is it for this time.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



Take care,

Till next time –
December 2007.

Lucette