
The Torch

Quebec Region

Volume 6 Number 4

December 2007

**Word from Phil
Doddrige, veterans
spokesman**

Greetings from a cold and wintry Gaspé Coast. Winter came early this year, and it seems as though it is already mid-January. However, I will use this space to wish everyone of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. December is a difficult time for Hong Kong Vets because the memory of 66 years ago takes precedence over all other thoughts. At last count, there are 119 of us who will remember those times and remember our comrades who are no longer with us.

A TRIBUTE TO HK VETS
On Saturday evening, December 8, the City of Campbellton unveiled a plaque and lit a Christmas tree at the park in the Civic Centre, paying tribute to Hong Kong Veterans. The City of Campbellton, under the direction and on the



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initiative of Mayor Mark Ramsay, has created a magnificent plaque briefly telling the Hong Kong story.

The plaque, measuring some five feet by four feet is situated directly in front of a blue spruce tree, planted especially for the purpose and which is lit every December 8, an auspicious date for Hong Kong Veterans.

Bob Barter and I drove from New Richmond to attend the ceremony. Also present were Allison Pollock, Graham Boudreau and Henry Lyons.

After being greeted by Mayor Ramsay at the City Hall, the parade, led by a colour party from Branch 19 of the Legion, and followed by a troop of Air cadets, marching proudly, we walked to the Civic Centre where the plaque is installed. There the Mayor read a resolution of the City Council declaring the month of December "Veterans'

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Month” in the City of Campbellton.

I had the honour of assisting the Honourable Roy Boudreau, speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, in unveiling the plaque.

Although it was a chilly evening, there was a large group of people in attendance. After the unveiling we moved inside where hot chocolate and coffee was served while Mayor Ramsay read the text of the message on the plaque.

It was a very moving ceremony. The gratitude and well-wishing of everyone you meet sometimes gets a little embarrassing, but is nonetheless appreciated. Much appreciated!

Because of the pressures of the Yuletide Season, and the fact that I visit Edwina every day in the hospital, I don't find much time to do the things that normally need doing. So I'll sign off for this time, saying as usual, be good to each other, and may God Bless.

Philip

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

Greetings from again the very snowy Townships. As Phil

mentioned winter came in early and yes, we will be have a white Christmas.

Since our last newsletter things have been on the quite side for news as I have also been very quite.

For November 11th locally I laid a wreath in the memory of our Hong Kong Veterans and all our Veterans. A very good crowd braved the wintry weather to commemorate our fallen Heroes.

During a recent online Board of Directors Meeting one item for discussion was concerning a central or National newsletter only to be mailed four times per year. We need your participation as members of our Association. More detailed info later in this newsletter.

Again for an other year you proved your confidence with your present executive and thank you for your participation by your donations, paying your dues on time and your attendance at our activities and reunions.

To all a very Merry Christmas, Health and Joy for the New Year.

Take care,

Lucette

Last Post

At this time we are sad to report the passing of more comrades. Some of these

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names may have been mentioned elsewhere, but in the interest of keeping the record straight, they are mentioned here. In no particular order: Lloyd W. Hanna WG.

Widows: Hazel Keays Campbell widow of Charles Campbell RRC E30644, Alma Friesen widow of Isaac Friesen WG, Pauline Newcomb widow of Clifton Newcomb and Mrs. Kenneth Court widow of Kenneth Court RRC.

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 back in hospital. Robert “Bob” Olscamp is home in Atholdville, NB and doing well.

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”.

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Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our sick.

Take care,

Humour

Christmas story for people having a bad day

When four of Santa's elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones, Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule. Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her Mom was coming to visit, this stressed Santa even more.

When he began to load the sleigh, one of the boards cracked and the toy bag fell to the ground, scattering the toys. So frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor, and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom.

Just then, the doorbell rang, an irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas

Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?

And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Happy Birthday

January: Bertha Barter, Darin Bennett, Michael Brunet, Alma Wood

February: Larry Everett, Barbara Henderson, Norma Martin, Freeda Malboeuf, Marcel Mondou, Brinky Murray, Annie Nolan, Yolande Ross, Steven H. Wilson & Derrill Henderson National HKVCA President.

March: Laurette Daigle, Renay Perrier.

Wedding Anniversary

No anniversaries to report at this time.

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary and

Best Wishes to all

Correspondence

In no particular order, received correspondence or calls from: Dale Ross, Claire & Bill Doull, Flash & Jessie Clayton, Terry Kwok, Lillian Brunet, Joan Gillis, Jeannine Ouellet, Cecile & Tom Thompson, Sheila Coull, Marie & Bob Plunkett, Allison Pollock, Irene

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Dallain, William
MacWhirter.

Donations

In no particular order: Alma Wood, Cecile Thompson, Ralph MacLean, Patrick Poirier, Allison Pollock, Celia Ramier, Rudolph Benwell, Clifford McDavid, Patricia Rhodes, Jeannine Ouellet.

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

Membership

Greetings to all.

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.

All membership cards are ready for 2008 and waiting for the "Early Bird" so don't forget.

Don't forget if you still want to continue to receive your Wasureru-Nai (National) newsletter and correspondence.

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 their interest in our Association.

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

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.

Best Wishes for the Yuletide Season.

Marcel

Humour

Cheerio

A 6 year old and a 4 year old are upstairs in their bedroom. “You know what?” says the 6 year old. “I think it’s about time we started cussing.” The 4 year old nods his head in approval.

The 6 year old continues, “When we go downstairs for breakfast, I’m gonna say

something with hell and you say something with ass.” The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm.

When the mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6 year old what he wants for breakfast, he replies. “Aw, hell, Mom, I guess I’ll have some Cheerios.”

WHACK! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step. His Mom locks him in his room and shouts, “You can stay there until I let you out!”

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4 year old and asks with a stern voice, “And what to YOU want for breakfast, young man?”

“I don’t know,” he blubbers, “but you can bet your fat ass it won’t be Cheerios.”

QuebecReunion

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

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Newsletters

ONCE MORE - Looking for your help!

- The National Newsletter the Wasereru-nai is mailed to all members in good standing. Would you like to receive the newsletter via the internet?

If your answer is a positive one 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.

‘C’ Force Memorial Wall

- - REMINDER- -

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

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this project as will members of our Association.

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

Church

A man went to church one day and afterward he stopped to shake the preacher's hand. He said "Preacher, I'll tell you, that was a damned fine sermon. Damned good!"

The preacher said, "Thank you sir, but I'd rather you didn't use profanity."

The man said, "I was so damned impressed with that sermon that I put five thousand dollars in the offering plate!"

The preacher said, "No shit?"

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.

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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 its 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

Who Started Christmas?

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas Shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable. And after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

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She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year.

Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, and every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and started, 'Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot.'

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified him: For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word.

If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.

-Author Unknown

Take care,

Merry Christmas

To You

And

Yours

Till next time –
March 2008.

Lucette