



Hong Kong Veterans'

Commemorative Association of Canada, Alberta / Sask Region

January 2007

HELLO FROM THE BOARD

Wow - 2007 is already here!

Our Convention committee is in full stride, and there's lots of excitement and enthusiasm in the air, so hang on to your hats! But as my dad (Ed Shayler) always says - first things first!

The Ab/Sask HKVCA Regional Exec would like to wish all of our Veterans, their families and our members a **Very Happy and Healthy New Year!**

And for those of you able to attend our special event in Calgary this fall, we hope you will have many wonderful and lasting memories of 2007, to share and keep.

Since our last newsletter, we are sorry to say Patti Stebbe had to resign her position as Chair of the 2007 convention committee. We would like to express our thanks to Patti for her great efforts in getting the ball rolling, and

especially in securing such a high profile and prestigious venue as the Hyatt for the **HKVCA National Convention from Aug 16 - 19.**

We are pleased to introduce Marilyn Pridgen as our new 2007 Convention Chair. Marilyn is Ralph MacLean's daughter (residing in Calgary), and brings with her lots of enthusiasm and solid organizational skills (she has 4 children! – *...continued page 2*)



BOARD MEMBERS

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MEMBERSHIPS – TIME TO RENEW

Mae is reminding all members that it's **membership time!**

Do you know how it works? We want to get our Hong Kong Vet's stories and news out to anyone who might be interested. However, due to the costs associated with mail outs, we can only send newsletters (both National and Regional)

to anyone who has purchased a membership.

Oh, and don't forget Veterans and Widows have a permanent membership – they've already given so much!

So please help us get the word out by:

✓ Renewing when the application forms appear in the

Newsletter (if we do it promptly we don't forget!)

✓ Encourage anyone else you know to join – **membership is not limited to families of HKV's** – it is for anyone interested in furthering the memory of the sacrifices made by the HK Veterans. Please contact our membership rep (Mae) *...continued page 4*



11:30 - 2:00 PM

HKVCA Luncheon

Saturday, **February 24, 2007**
Kensington Legion #264, Chinook BOARDROOM
1910 Kensington Road NW, Calgary
Donations gratefully accepted

join us for lunch, fellowship and new info about the 2007 Convention

Please RSVP to Norma Fuchs @ 280-5680 (normaf@shaw.ca)
Or Gail Richoz @ 208-0822 (grichoz@shaw.ca)

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and we all know how much organization that must take!).

We hope you will give Marilyn your full support, in ensuring our Ab/Sask Region hosts the best HKVCA National Convention yet.

Thanks to continuing efforts of all the HKVCA, we are very proud our Hong Kong Veterans are no longer hidden from the eyes and minds of Canadians. We must not let the opportunity to build on our previous

efforts slip away. The 60th VJ Day celebration in Ottawa (2005) will be a hard act to follow, but Marilyn's team is up for the challenge – with your help!

On a final note, in this New Year please reach out to your family and friends and encourage them to join the HKVCA Assn.

And for our Veteran's sake, please join Marilyn and her team in **Honouring our Heroes – Preserving our History.**

ITEMS OF NOTE

- **Veterans wanted** – we need your expertise and advise – please let us know your thoughts and concerns for the upcoming convention. Any suggestions would be welcome – as this event is for you!! Contact myself (Gail), or Marilyn with your ideas.
- **Website** – there are lots of new pictures and information on our website – if you haven't looked lately, it's definitely worth a peek.
- **Get together** – Come to the next HKVCA get together on Feb 24th and meet our Chairs for the various Committees.
- **Volunteers Needed** – Marilyn and her organizing committees welcome anyone interested in helping out with the Convention planning, or wishing to volunteer during the event. Come join the fun and meet your fellow members before the big day! Have a look at the list on page 3 and see if anything tickles your fancy.

If you're interested in helping out, please just fill out the form on the back of your 2007 membership application - and we will be sure to contact you to put you on our volunteer list.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

CONVENTION 2007

Hello

Plans for the 2007 Convention are well under way. It is going to be a great one! We have had lots of meetings, both online and in person.

We have a lot of committed people working on this project, however we could use more.

Right now we have participation from Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Cochrane, Blackie and of course Calgary. Four Veterans attended our last meeting.

I encourage all of you to participate at some level. We need you to help make this the "Best Convention Ever".

Please contact us if you would like to help either in the planning stages or at the convention itself.

As the year is coming to a close, I would like you to consider sending your membership form in again and challenge you to find one person in your circle to join our Association. 2007 is going to be a big year for the Alberta/Sk Branch of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association.

We want to continue fulfilling our mission statement "To educate all Canadians on the role of Canada's soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong.....".

To read more about our Mission Statement go to www.hkvca.ca.

I would like to wish all the best in the New Year.

- **Candlelight Vigil** We're trying to organize a short candlelight service on the Thurs evening (Aug 16th Anniv. of VJ Day) to open the Convention, but we need some help. We are hoping to have as many children as possible attend and participate in honouring the Veterans, however with summer holidays this is not an easy task! If you have any thoughts or suggestions, know of any grandchildren, children's organization, etc that might be willing to participate please contact Marilyn.
- **Donations** – Do you have donations for our silent auction? Cash donations for funding the activities of the Convention are also most welcome. – contact Doug MacLean.

Cheers to you all, and hope to see you soon at one of our functions or the convention!

Gail Pichez, Regional Director

HVCA CONVENTION 2007

AUG 16 – 19, CALGARY

Greetings to All Members and Friends of the HKVCA!

The Committee for the 2007 Ab/Sk Convention is putting together plans for, what we hope to be, a very memorable gathering.

This dedicated group has been meeting together for many months now and is very excited about the prospect of each one of you joining us for this special time. Let me provide you with a glimpse of what is in store.

The exhibit area will be a great display of artefacts that will provide highlights of our

history; it will give observers an increased knowledge of the Battle of Hong Kong and those heroes that we gather to honour.

The hospitality room will be a very unique and inviting place to gather, both to meet with old friends and to make new acquaintances.

Although some parts of the convention may be familiar, we have some special plans in the making that we hope will provide you with an exceptional experience. The registration packages will be available in March and we trust (hope) that you will send yours in right

away, so that your place is secured for this exciting event!

As the committee chair, I want to tell you what a privilege it is to serve with this convention committee. I am amazed at the creativity, dedication, and hard work that these people bring to this planning effort. I know that their greatest reward would be in having a large, nationwide turnout. Each one of you attending will make a difference as we attempt to keep the Battle of Hong Kong, and the heroes who served there, before the eyes of all Canadians.

Marilyn Pridaen

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

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go to the HKVCA website and follow the Calgary' 07 link for more info!

HVCA CONVENTION 2007

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteer Coordinator – URGENT!

This person will help coordinate our volunteer help during the convention.

Convention Volunteers – these positions will be for short periods of time during the convention.

Vigil Candle Representatives

These people will hold the candles representing the Hong Kong Veterans during the hour vigil on the opening day. This is especially suitable for grandkids, but all are welcome. Make sure your special veteran is represented!

Hospitality Room

These people will make sure our veterans' and their families are taken care of in our hospitality room. A bit of extra care making sure they have beverages and an extra big smile will make them feel as special as we think they are.

Meeter & Greeter

These people will extend an extra big western welcome to the incoming delegates as they arrive at the airport, or at our Information Table at the hotel.

They will make sure the veterans meet up with someone from the Transportation Team and that the other delegates can find the taxi and bus locations, and know where the events will take place in the hotel.

Transport Team

These people will make sure that our Veteran's and caregivers can get from the airport and to and from the various planned functions.

Memorabilia Room Attendant

These people will ensure the security of our precious memorabilia, and will make visitors welcome.

Silent Auction "Auctioneers"

These people will tidy the auction items, and ensure the winners are notified and receive their items. *(a silent auction is an area that displays items & has sign up sheets for "bids". The highest bid takes the item!)*

MEMBERSHIPS –continued from page 11

for an application form if you know of someone who might be interested.

We need to maintain a strong membership base to draw from the enthusiasm and talents

of many, in support of the Assn's objective.

The more, the merrier!

If you have any questions or comments, Mae wants to hear from you @ (403) 528-4803.

Wanted!

A Treasurer - to assist in collecting and depositing membership fees, preferably living in Calgary. We anticipate this taking about 5-10 hours a month. Contact Gail or Daniel (ph see page 1) if you're interested in helping out.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings everyone, As some of you may already know, I will be stepping down from the Treasurer position at the end of the month. I have had a wonderful time working with all the members on the Board of the AB/SK branch over the past few years.

With that, the search for a new Treasurer is on!

For those of you thinking about the position, I'll give a brief rundown of the main duties involved...

- issuing cheques for various purchases and issuing charity receipts for any donations

- depositing cash (received in the form of donations) and annual membership dues

- reconciling the bank account and transferring the appropriate dollar amount to the National group

- preparing an annual report to the National for our Region (not as complicated as it sounds!)

- helping to decide where and how to allocate various funds received by HKVCA AB/SK branch

A general overview of the time commitment ranges from month to month as some months there simply isn't a lot of activity (like in the summer when everyone is out enjoying the nice weather). A guess though would be about 5-10 hours per month, depending on the month.

If anyone has any further questions about the position feel free to give me a call.

Regards,
Daniel Sakamoto



MEMBERSHIPS – THE LEGAL STUFF

Membership in the Corporation:

The HKVCA is a Canadian corporation holding charitable status, having both National and Regional Boards of Directors. The corporate Membership clauses in the Bylaws are as follows:

Corporate:

1. Memberships in the Corporation must meet the qualifications specified in Articles 38, 39, 40 and 41 of the Bylaws and individuals must be of 12 years of age or older.
2. Membership fees are set by the Corporation and are paid in advance. All memberships are renewable on January 1.
3. Membership in the Corporation entitles the person to a vote during elections and/or any major business change that calls for a vote.
4. Members must be 18 years of age, of good character, and a member in good standing to be eligible for office in the Corporation.

Region:

Memberships in the Regions must follow the same rules as for Corporation membership.

1. Everyone has one prime membership in one Region. That Region collects \$15.00 in dues and forwards \$10.00 to National. The member votes in that Region and Nationally.
2. Any member can have a secondary membership in order to receive newsletters, but that is between him/her and the Region. No voting privileges go with this. National can arrange this but National will not keep records of the secondary activity.
3. Voting by Vets and Widows – they have Life Time Membership therefore shall be included with Regular (paying) members, and voting shall be limited to Prime Region plus National.

19 Our Veteran's missed out on the 1940s. The theme at the convention is this time period – let's all work at giving the '40s back to them!

All

As
Mc
Pa **1940**

Pr Blueberry Hill- Glenn Miller

Th Fools Rush In Where Angels Fear To Tread- Glenn

W Miller

I'll Never Smile Again- Tommy Dorsey

19 In The Mood- Glenn Miller

Dc Tuxedo Junction- Glenn Miller

I'll

Int **1941**

It I Blue Champagne- Jimmy Dorsey

Mc Chattanooga Choo Choo- Glenn Miller

it. Dream Valley- Sammy Kaye

St The Band Played On- Guy Lombardo

St There'll Be Some Changes Made- Benny Goodman

Tr We Three- Ink Spots

19 1942

Ac Deep In The Heart Of Texas- Alvino Rey

It's Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree With Anyone Else But

Rt Me- Glenn Miller

Se For Me & My Gal- Judy Garland

Th I've Got A Gal In Kalamazoo- Glenn Miller

Til Jingle Jangle Jingle- Kay Kyser

W Somebody Else Is Taking My Place- Benny Goodman

Tangerine- Jimmy Dorsey

White Christmas- Bing Crosby

Do you recognise these tunes? If not, you might hear a few of them at the dance at the convention. And for you that know them, how about you cut a rug and show us how it's done?

Yuk, Yuks - Military work rules

1. **Sickness:** No excuses will be acceptable. We will no longer accept the Medical Officer's statement as proof of illness as we believe that if you are able to go on sick parade, you are able to come to work.
2. **Leave of Absence for an Operation:** We are no longer allowing this practice. We hired you as you are, and to have anything removed certainly makes you less than we bargained for.
3. **Death, Other than Your Own:** This is no excuse. If you can arrange the funeral services to be held late in the afternoon, however, we can let you off an hour early, provided all your work is up to date.
4. **Death, Your Own:** This will be accepted as an excuse, but we would like at least two weeks notice, as we feel it is your duty to teach someone else your job.
5. **Quantity of Work:** No matter how much you do, you'll never do enough.
6. **Quality of Work:** The minimum acceptable level is perfection.
7. **Advice from the Commanding Officer:** Eat a live toad first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.
8. **The senior officer is Always Right.**
9. **When the senior officer is Wrong, Refer to Rule 8.**



Site News!

You looked the web site

and many photos posted of japan, kong and clips

from newspapers. There seems to be something arriving daily

Check it out at www.hkvca.ca



Remembrance Day
November 11,
2006
Calgary,
Alberta



Three of our local Hong Kong Veterans (*left to right*) Ed Shayler, Ralph MacLean, and Gordon Durrant at a luncheon following the Remembrance Day Ceremonies - Members of the AB/SK HKVCA were also at the luncheon.

Did you know the HKV's & friends try to meet the first Tues of the month? Next time, how about you coming along too? Call Ed Shayler or Gertrude Bliss at (403) 249 - 8727 for more details!



Terry Kwok, Gordon Durrant, and Allan Mondor.

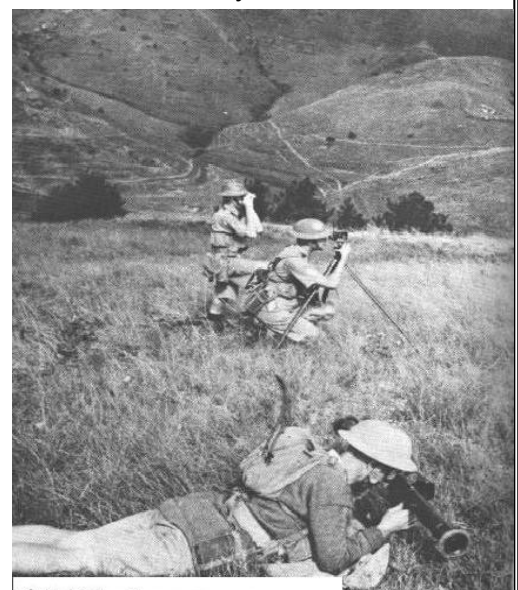
Gordon laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans and Allan laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

Gordon also laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Calgary Jubilee Auditorium just prior to the ceremony at the cenotaph.

Terry laid a wreath honouring the HKV's on behalf of the Former Residents of Hong Kong and their families

Our Memorabilia team is on the look out for any interesting things to display at the convention. If you have any photos, items, or memorabilia, to display contact Allan Mondor or Ed Shayler.

Ed is putting together a CD with all the photos he collects, and hopes it will be available by Convention time.



A British advanced machine-gun position on the border looking into China. (IWM K74)