

Prairie Region has 165 regular members, 26 widows and 3 veterans for a total 194 members. We hold regular monthly meetings in Winnipeg and special lunch gatherings in Alberta under the direction of Kathie Carlson and her area reps, with regular quarterly communication for our members through the national newsletter.

**George Peterson**, the last Winnipeg Grenadier, is now living in Deer Lodge Centre. He has had a couple of interviews - by the President of the Manitoba School Board and it was posted on their website for all teachers to read. Another interview was done by a communications student at Red River College.

The Winnipeg Grenadier Colours that are in St. Luke's Anglican Church were sent to the Manitoba Museum for a conservation process and will be placed in a hermetically sealed case to help keep them from decaying.

The Red River Heritage Fair was held May 3, 2018, with the theme 150th Anniversary this year. Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor will attend with the display and Carol Hadley judged the students dioramas that have military content for the Veteran's Award.

With the launch of the Memorial Plaques across Canada, our Region has been busy dedicating them in various locations. Thank you to Kathie Carlson and the area reps for all their efforts and diligence to make the dedications memorable. Individual reports have been made in the newsletters and on the website. We have several more scheduled for next year.

We annually hold an event to remember the Battle of Hong Kong for VJ Day the closest Sunday to August 15 (however in 2018 it was delayed), an Annual Reunion on October 21<sup>st</sup> (nearest Sunday to October 25<sup>th</sup> when the Winnipeg Grenadiers left in 1941) these were held together on October 21<sup>st</sup> and with the nation on November 11 in various communities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

On October 21, at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion, there were 65 people who attended the service at Neil Bardal Centre. Pam Shaw from Veterans Affairs Canada spoke to the gathering and unveiled the plaque. **Vaughan Mitchell** (grandson to Lt W. Vaughan Mitchell, KIA and nephew to Lt Eric Mitchell, KIA in the Battle of Hong Kong), Acting Chief of Protocol for the Government of Manitoba, gave an inspiring address that will be posted to the website. We were pleased to have a HK widow, **Ladena Hodgkinson Mabely**, lay the HK wreath with the assistance of **Patricia Bale**, her daughter.

In October 26, 2018 **Alex Taylor and Stan Lopata** took our display and information to the SAGE conference for teachers sponsored by Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association where they interacted with 300+ teachers.

Since Remembrance Day was on Sunday 2018 many of our members were at services in their areas so in keeping with tradition the service that was held at St. Luke's Anglican Church, we were pleased to have Padre Paul Lampman laying the HK wreath.

Remembrance Day 2018 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre had Wayne Stebbe and Barry Mitchell laying the HKV wreath. Our colour party (Alex Taylor, Vince and Stan Lopata) were in attendance as they have been for many, many years. Our members in other communities

throughout our Region also laid wreaths recognizing the Battle of Hong Kong. There are so many that space would be an issue but thank you to everyone for doing this and ensuring the memories are not forgotten.

Every year people contact us for information on the Canadian participation in Hong Kong or a person who may have been part of the contingent. We are thankful that there is still an interest in the Battle and the men and women who participated.

We were saddened by the loss of our veterans, widows and members whose names will appear in the Last Post at this meeting and will remember them.

Respectfully submitted

*Carol*

Carol Hadley,

Board of Directors - Prairie Region

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

[www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)