

**Ontario Region - Remarks to HKVCA Convention in Winnipeg  
August, 2013**

Mike Babin had to cancel his attendance at the convention at the last minute because of family issues, and he has asked me to give his presentation in his absence. So here goes ...

Thanks to Mark for agreeing to give my little speech today. I apologize to all of you for not being in Winnipeg.

My 95-year old Mom had a fall and broke her hip last September. After a long convalescence, she unfortunately did the same thing about 6 weeks ago, and spent until last week in hospital in London, Ontario where she and my Dad, Alfred, live. We decided that that rather than continue to live in their own home, the best course for my Mom was to move into a nursing home where she could receive the care she needs. That happened rather suddenly last week, when a room became available. Unfortunately, the transition hasn't gone as well as we had hoped, and she is finding it very difficult. And last week my Dad had to be taken to Emergency with breathing difficulties, probably brought on by fatigue and stress. So I need to be with them until things get back onto an even keel!

Let me start by congratulating the entire Manitoba Region team on putting together an excellent convention. Although I'm not there to experience it, I've heard that it's going very well, and I hope everyone will enjoy the rest of the events that are planned for you. It takes a huge amount of effort to put together something like this, and Dennis, Marleen and the rest of the team deserve a big round of applause for what they have accomplished!

Traditionally in these speeches at the AGM we talk about what we've done since the last one. I'm not going to do that. Instead, I'd like to spend my few minutes on stage to recognize one of our Ontario members for her years of incredible service to the HKVCA.

Pat Turcotte became involved with the HKVCA many years ago, in part to help maintain the memory of her father, Leonard Corrigan, of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Over the years

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she has become more and more involved in not just being a regular member of the HKVCA, but being a big contributor to both helping the association to achieve its original goals of caring for and commemorating the Hong Kong Veterans. Among other things she served as the Regional Director for Ontario for several years.

But I think Pat's defining moment was in deciding to capitalize on her experience as a teacher to help develop and execute a new goal ... to educate Canadians, and especially young Canadians, about the Hong Kong story. That's by far the best way to ensure that as the Veterans pass on, their story is not lost.

Pat has been our Education Chair for many years. During that time she drove the development of our terrific Ten Lesson Plans for high school teachers and got a copy of the books into a huge number of high schools across the country. She initiated the Cross Canada Writing Contest for high school students and was the driving force behind the creation of the much-admired and much-utilized Teachers' Zone on our web site that brings together all of our resources for teachers in one place. And she has sought out and orchestrated the HKVCA's involvement in dozens of teacher conferences.

There is much more to be said about what Pat has contributed to the HKVCA and to ensuring that what took place in Hong Kong and Japan remains in the minds of Canadians. But I'm going to stop now and ask Pat to come up here.

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Pat has expressed her desire to reduce the amount of her time spent on HKVCA activities so that she can focus more on her family and her time in Arizona. And based on what I've just told you I'm sure you'll agree that she has earned a rest! Most of her former responsibilities have been passed over to the capable hands of Gail Angel and Emmie Flanagan, and after this convention Pat will be more or less fully retired.

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So Pat, I'd like to present you with this small gift as a token of appreciation from the Ontario Region ... and I truly believe that all members across Canada will join me in expressing our appreciation for Pat's dedication and hard work.

Thanks Pat!

Now, I think it's clear that although others are now doing Pat's work, we still have need of volunteers to carry out our mission. It's great to come to conventions, but what we really need are members who are willing to take on a job and make it their own!

Although I've spent a lot of time talking about Pat, please don't think that she's the only one who has done great work in Ontario. At the risk of leaving out someone, and in no particular order, these people have made their own excellent contributions to our work in Ontario: Ian Doull, Ted Terry and Ann Hyland, Mitzi Ross, Ron McGuire, Gail Angel, Lori Atkinson-Smith, Mark Purcell, Shelagh Purcell, Vicky Hedelius, Marilyn Morgan, Derrill Henderson, Sandra Strom, Linda Guglick, Jackie LeDrew, Bud Mann and Pam Newhouse. And, of course, George MacDonell continues to speak many times each year to school groups and others. Thanks to all of you!

If you have a few hours a month to spare, and would like to help us carry out our mission of educating Canadians, please speak to Pat, Mark or me. There is lots of interesting and fulfilling work to be done, and we need your help to do it!

Thanks, and enjoy the rest of the convention!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Babin

Regional Director, Ontario