



THE WESTERN TORCH
HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA REGION



MARCH 2002

Regional Director's Report

Hello Everyone:

One of the mandates of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association is “educating and increasing the public’s understanding of the sacrifice made by the Hong Kong Veterans”. As the daughter of a Winnipeg Grenadier, the late Clifford Carpenter, I grew up with a knowledge that my father was a veteran who had been held in a prisoner of war camp for almost four years. I understood that the conditions had been horrible (although he didn’t like to talk about it much) and I had an understanding of how close these men had become because of that shared experience. Our family attended every HKVA reunion dinner that was held in Winnipeg. Even after my father’s death over fifteen years ago, we continued to attend the dinners. It became a family tradition. My sister Lora is a founding member of the HKVCA. The reason I’m telling you all of this is that since I accepted the appointment as the BC Regional Director for the HKVCA a few months ago, it’s “me” who has been getting an “education and increased understanding of the sacrifice made by the Hong Kong Veterans”. Every veteran and every commemorative member I’ve been in contact with has added to my new heartfelt appreciation. I want to thank all of you for that.

I’d like to tell you about three of the commemorative members I’ve recently come into contact with. A history teacher, a publisher and a media whiz.

Later on in this newsletter you’ll read an article submitted by Graeme Stacey. He has been instrumental in having the Hong Kong story become a part of the high school History Curriculum in British Columbia. Thank you Graeme.

I met Harvelyn McInnis at the National Convention in Winnipeg last August. She lives in Victoria and is publishing a book of the letters that her father wrote to her and her mother while he was in the prison camp. He was Major Ken Baird of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He was 52 years old when he went to Hong Kong and had also served in the First World War. Her father began writing his letters on foolscap and when he ran out he used whatever he could find. Edges of newspapers, any scraps of paper he could lay his hands on were used. He hid the rolled up papers inside a boot that he buried under the hut. To be found with those letters would have meant be-heading. They were not the “official” censored letters of 25 words that they were allowed to send. These letters were written in the form of a diary that he never expected anyone to see. When they were liberated, he dug up the boot one last time and brought the letters home. Harper Collins will publish the book in August or September 2002. The book will be called “Letters to Harvelyn”.

December 25th, 2001 marked the 60th anniversary of the surrender at Hong Kong. There has been a long-standing tradition with the HK Vets in Victoria, BC to lay a wreath at the cenotaph on Christmas Day. While Lionel Speller and I planned for the ceremony we received a phone call from Gwen Day. She told me her father was an officer with the Royal Rifles of Canada and she was one of the few children born before the war. Her father, Major Bertram Gilbert came from the Eastern Townships. She also had an uncle and a 16-year-old cousin who served with the Royal Rifles. The young cousin died in the POW camp and her father contracted TB in the camps and survived only one

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year after returning home. With these close family ties she was eager to help make the 60th anniversary a special celebration.

Lionel, Gwen and I telephoned the veterans, widows and commemorative members and discovered that most would be unable to attend. As well, Gwen contacted the Times Colonist and the Channel 12 TV News. We felt the veterans would appreciate reading about it in the newspaper or seeing it on the TV news. We wanted them to know that they were remembered and that the 60th anniversary received recognition.

On Christmas Day we were pleasantly surprised to have blue skies and sunshine. And, as it turned out, there were about 40 people there for the wreath-laying ceremony. They had read the article in the newspaper. It was a short ceremony. Lionel Speller introduced me to the crowd telling them about the HKVCA. Then I laid the wreath and Lionel repeated the "They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old" prayer. Following the ceremony, Lionel was interviewed by the Channel 12 TV news, which aired that evening. The rest of us mingled and I spoke to several people who were sons and daughters of HK Vets.

Following the ceremony at the cenotaph, everyone was invited to the Embassy Hotel for coffee and sandwiches. Gwen Day and her husband, Stockwell Day, Sr. graciously hosted the reception. I want to especially thank Gwen for all her efforts.

At the cenotaph, Blair Mehan was taking pictures. He is a current member of the Forces and an amateur military history buff. Later, he e-mailed me and said he's going to send the photos and an article on the 60th Anniversary to the Canadian Armed Forces Newspaper – The Maple Leaf.

In closing, I want to say how very much I appreciate our treasurer Murray Doull and our secretary, Heather Macpherson. They have both worked hard to get the Commemorative Association in BC up and running. THANK YOU.

If you have any suggestions for our newsletter or would like to become involved as an area representative please get in touch with us. We'd love to hear from you.

Warm Regards,
Linda Stewart, BC Regional Director

Goals of the HKVCA in British Columbia

- Enrolling children, issuance, and friends in the HKVCA.
- Maintaining an address database of the Hong Kong Veterans and widows.
- Ensuring that regular, periodic contact is made with the Veterans and widows.
- Developing relationships with the "Hong Kong Family"
- Attending and participating in memorial services on Remembrance Day, V-J Day, and other special occasions.
- Review and improve the network and procedures applied in the execution of our mandate.
- Assist in organizing reunions, National Conventions, and social events.
- Support the National HKVCA as well as other Regions.
- Orally and visually proclaim our link to the Hong Kong Veterans.



National HKVCA election results:

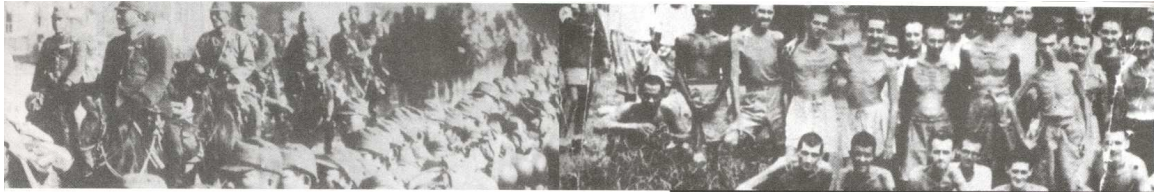
The ballots were counted on December 12, 2001. The following people have been elected to the National Board of Directors:

President----- Carol Hadley
 Vice President----- Neil Darrah
 2nd Vice President----- David Murray
 Treasurer----- Mitzi Ross
 Secretary----- Leisa Connelly

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors. Special thanks go out to Derrill Henderson, past President.



Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time with. And remember that time waits for no one. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a GIFT ... that's why it's called the "PRESENT!"



ARP 798 – Special Study Project

Human Rights in the Asia Pacific 1931 – 1945

Focus: Canadian Hong Kong Veterans

As a high school History and Social Studies teacher, my curriculum responsibilities relate to 20th century world history, as well as historical and contemporary Canadian history. Despite the wide range of topics within this subject, the story of the Hong Kong veterans and their battles, both in combat and as prisoners of war, tend to be ignored, bypassed, or neglected. As a senior social studies teacher with a vested interest in the topic, I find this to be most baffling.

Like the European theater of W.W.II, Canadians had a significant role in the Asia-Pacific Theater during and after W.W.II. Yet the story in the Asia-Pacific is not known, or often told. Why is that? Partial factors can be related to the Canadian government's shame? The fears of offending a valuable trading partner in Japan? Wanting to forget what happened and move on? The silence of veterans because of their many years of neglect and suffering?

Often resources are available to cover subject matter for senior Social Studies teachers, yet in the case of the Asia Pacific war; there is limited coverage with available resources. Traditionally, Canadian textbooks have focused on the European theater of W.W.II. It is difficult enough within a department, school, and / or district, let alone a province, to expect teachers to teach the same topics as prescribed by the Ministry without adequate resources. A third factor is that teachers may be unaware or lacking the knowledge in this area, due to a combination of a lack of exposure and limited resources. Within the subject of Human Rights in the Asia – Pacific during W.W.II, for Social Studies / History teachers and students, this needs to change. This chapter of history relates to Social Studies 11 as prescribed learning outcomes clearly states that it is expected students in Social Studies 11 will:

- Describe Canada's role in international conflicts, including World War II, and assess the impact on Canada
- Describe and assess Canada's participation in world affairs
- Identify and assess political issues facing Canadians
- Demonstrate skills associated with active citizenship
- Recognize connections between events and their causes, consequences, and implications

The Ministry of Education mandates this topic, yet for various reasons teachers are provided limited resources to teach it. Initially, I worked with scant resources before developing a personal collection of resources. From my experiences to date, I have found that students, teachers, and colleagues alike feel this is an important topic to be covered in senior social studies classes. To quote a student of mine:

“There are many parts of World War II that are well known to many people, and are an integral part of the high school Social Studies curriculum. However there are many lesser-known battles that were fought during this war, battles that all Canadians should be taught about, such as the 1941 battle of Hong Kong and the aftermath. This battle tells of Canadian loyalty, the betrayal of the British Government, and about how our government turned their backs on these [Canadian] Hong Kong Veterans ...their actions should be acknowledged, commended and appreciated by all. (Jody Dawson, October 2000)”

The Human Rights in the Asia Pacific resource that has been developed by the Ministry, has an entire section dedicated to Canadian Hong Kong veterans. It was a long time coming, and with so few of our brave soldiers left the story needs to be taught before those who remain leave us. They deserve recognition. It is my hope that their story will now be paramount within the social studies classroom.

I have relied on Hong Kong Veterans themselves as primary sources. They have inspired and informed me, despite difficulty in retelling the horrors, hardships, and inhumanity they endured as combatants and prisoners. They share with me their memories because they want their story to be told, and have had limited interest shown in the past. It is the veterans like Lionel Speller, Bob Clayton, Don MacPherson, and Larry Stebbe who have provided insights for my students and me. They gravitate student interest to all history; they make history real and hit home. I have had many students tell me that they have always found history boring up until learning what young men like Speller, MacPherson, Stebbe, and Clayton had to go through. These four heroes represent all Hong Kong Veterans. I feel I owe it to them to help get the Hong Kong Veterans story told, on behalf of all Canadians.

Graeme Stacey
History/ Geography 12 teacher

Editor's note:

Whereas the HKVCA wishes to maintain the originality of the material printed, it does not necessarily agree with all the contents of this article.

Graeme Stacey is an active HKVCA member, and is currently teaching History and Geography in Westbank, BC. He is to be commended for his efforts, which have led to the story of the Hong Kong Veterans being introduced into the High School curriculum in this province. Graeme is currently working on a special study project about the need to develop, implement, and spread the word about the history of our Canadian Hong Kong Veterans.

Copies of the resource package titled "Human Rights in the Asia Pacific 1931-1945: Social Responsibility and Global Citizenship" may be ordered from:

Office Products Centre
742 Vanalman Avenue
Victoria, BC V8W 9V7
Phone: (250) 952-4460 Fax: (250) 952-4442
Toll free: 1-800-282-7955
Catalogue number: RB0129 Price: \$5.85
+ GST

WEB SITES TO VISIT

For all of our readers who have access to a computer, you may want to take a look at the following websites. They provide a wealth of historical information.

- www.hkvca.ca
This is the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association national web site. Congratulations to Linda May for her hard work in establishing a very informative and illustrative website on behalf of the HKVCA.
- www.geocities.com/rcwpca
This web site contains the memoirs of Major M.A. Parker, from Quebec City, Quebec. Major Parker was the Commanding Officer of "D" Company of The Royal Rifles of Canada. This site is in his honor and for the men of "C" Force. Ron Parker, son of Major Parker, with the help of his family, produced this story. Congratulations to Ron and his family for receiving the **Canadian Web Awards 2001, 2001-2002 Golden Web Award** and the **Military World Top Honors Award** for their efforts to create this website.
- www.cofepow.org.uk
You will find an explanation about this site further along in the newsletter under the heading, "C.O.F.E.P.O.W".
- www.thememoryproject.com
This is a site where young members of our Association can submit stories about their favorite Veterans. In order to make a submission, please follow these steps.
 1. to "Veterans' Archives"
 2. Follow Go to "Peace and War"
 3. Then directions to contribute a story

Sorry!

We would like to extend our apologies to the National Board of Directors of the HKVCA, and the editor of the National newsletter. We have released this edition in the same month that the National newsletter is sent out. We will take the necessary steps to ensure this does not happen again.

PILGRIMAGE TO HONG KONG AND JAPAN

Written by: Pearl MacPherson, wife of Don MacPherson, Winnipeg Grenadiers.

During the Christmas season, Hong Kong veterans have vivid memories of an earlier Christmas Day. December 25, 1941 was the fateful day that Allied forces at Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese after 17 days and nights of constant bombardment. During the battle, 290 Canadians were killed, 493 wounded and the remainder of the 1,975 members of the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles of Canada who had been sent to the impossible defense of Hong Kong were imprisoned in foul conditions. A further 129 of our brave soldiers, perished in prisoner-of-war camps in Hong Kong. In 1943, 1,184 prisoners were sent to Japan as slave laborers, and 137 of them never returned to their families.

In December 2000, Veteran Affairs Canada sponsored a pilgrimage to Hong Kong and Japan to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the liberation of the Hong Kong prisoners-of-war. These Veterans were the first Canadian troops to see action in WWII and the last to be released from their captivity.

Leaving Vancouver on November 28th, 20 veterans, 6 wives, 5 widows and 39 family members flew to Hong Kong for a 6-night stay in Kowloon. Senators Gil Molgat and Frank Mahovlich accompanied them, as well as heads of various service organizations. Reserve army members and 6 cadets acted as honor guards and flag bearers.

Boy and Girl Scouts placed poppies on the graves of 283 Canadians at Sai Wan Bay Cemetery during a memorial service. Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph and at the Stone of Remembrance where on the wall are engraved more than 2,000 names of the Allied dead who have no known grave, including 228 Canadians. We also attended a service at Stanley Cemetery where 20 Canadians lie among the many Chinese who died in the internment camps.

Plaque unveiling ceremonies were held to honor our fighting men, at Sai Wan Hill for the Royal Rifles, Mount Butler for Brigade Headquarters and Jardine's Lookout for the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Each of these ceremonies was very touching, as veterans who had been in each of these areas recounted battles and capture. Forgotten memories resurfaced, and the 5 Grenadiers and 15 Royal Rifles in attendance had some emotional moments that were shared by all.

Four of our veterans were invited to speak to students at the Canadian International School of Hong Kong. These students are mostly Asians who were born in Canada but now live in Hong Kong.

We enjoyed some wonderful social events. They included an evening at the Jockey Club hosted by regiments of Hong Kong and a harbor dinner cruise to see the fantastic Christmas lights on the harbor buildings.

We then flew to Japan for a two-night stay. We attended a memorial service at the Kokoham War Cemetery, where 137 Canadians lie buried in a park like setting beside a Cross of Sacrifice. A Canadian maple tree was planted in memory of our men. This was a very emotional day as all of these men died as a result of slave labor, untreated diseases and malnutrition. Our time in Japan concluded with a wonderful social evening at the Canadian Embassy hosted by Ambassador Leonard Edwards and his wife. We arrived home December 7th, 50 years to the day it all started!

The following is the eulogy given by National President Harry Atkinson at Sai Wan Cemetery: "Fifty-nine years ago on December 8th, 1941, the battle of Hong Kong began and lasted seventeen long days. We veterans here today have never forgotten those grim days and the men buried here. They are our buddies, brothers and friends. Reading their names on the markers, we remember them as young men who gave their all in the defense of a lost cause. We remember too, the men who died in the prison camps due to lack of food, medicine and slave labor. We also remember the four men who escaped and were murdered. The few of us who remain will continue to keep the knowledge of your sacrifice before the people of Canada. And when we are no more, our offspring, the Hong Kong Commemorative Association will continue our work. Sleep well young buddies, please keep a place for those who remain because we will be joining you."

Editor's note:

Many thanks to Pearl MacPherson for sharing this historic and emotional event with us.

News from Aubrey Flegg in Kelowna

As many of our readers know, Aubrey Flegg has been the Vice President of the HKVA in British Columbia for over 20 years. About a year ago, Aubrey moved to Kelowna from the lower mainland. Aubrey has close ties with many of his fellow veterans, and works closely with Lionel Speller and Larry Stebbe. It is like taking a fresh breath of air talking to Mr. Flegg. He has incredible energy and a very positive attitude. His historical accounts, and support of the HKVCA are very much appreciated.

Mr. Flegg laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVA of Canada at ceremonies held at the cenotaph in Kelowna, this past November. He was very pleased that there was a large turnout under favorable skies. Aubrey is looking forward to a spring luncheon in Vancouver where he will have the opportunity to visit with his fellow veterans.

REMEMBRANCE DAY, 2001

This is the first newsletter since November 11, 2001. Everyone seems to agree that ceremonies were well attended throughout the province. The tragic events of September 11, 2001, have made us all keenly aware of the present and past sacrifices that have been made to preserve our freedom. We thought you might enjoy reading about some of the wreaths that were placed in three different cities.

Linda Stewart, our Regional Director, attended the ceremonies in Victoria. People of all ages turned out in numbers at the cenotaph in our provincial capital. A wreath was laid on behalf of The Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

Heather MacPherson, our Regional Secretary, attended services in Kamloops, with her father Don MacPherson, and her stepmother Pearl MacPherson. Heather accompanied her father, a Winnipeg Grenadier, to the steps of the cenotaph. Mr. MacPherson laid a wreath on behalf of The Hong Kong Veterans. Heather also laid a wreath in memory of her mother, who was stationed with the Canadian Army in Italy.

Four generations of the Doull family were present at ceremonies in Vedder Crossing. Murray Doull, our Regional Treasurer, had the privilege of escorting his father L.T.S. (Bill) Doull to the cenotaph. Mr. Doull, Royal Rifles of Canada, laid a wreath on behalf of The Hong Kong Veterans. Mr. Doull's youngest great grandson, Gray Pennington, viewed the proceedings with other family members.

WREATH SPONSORS FOR 2002

We are sending out an appeal for HKVCA members to sponsor a wreath on Remembrance Day, 2002. We would like to see as many wreaths as possible placed at cenotaphs in communities throughout British Columbia. If you are willing to participate in this endeavor, there are two ways that you can help. One is by informing your Regional Council of your intent to lay a wreath in your hometown on behalf of the HKVCA. We will print your story in a newsletter. The other way you can help out is by sending a donation to the HKVCA, specifying that you would like to see the money used to sponsor a wreath. Hopefully this concept will generate some interest and more wreaths will be placed throughout British Columbia in 2002 to honor our Hong Kong Veterans.

C.O.F.E.P.O.W.

This organization is a registered charity in Great Britain. It was founded in November 1997 intent on gaining Government recognition to the suffering and starvation of British prisoners of war held in the Far East during World War II. The title stands for Children (and families) of Far East Prisoners of War. Carol Cooper is the Director of this group.

The goals of this organization are:

- To provide and maintain a memorial in memory of all British servicemen who were Prisoners of War in South East Asia under Japanese occupation during World War II.
- To advance the education of the public about Prisoners of War in South East Asia under Japanese occupation during 1942 – 1945.

PROFILE OF A HONG KONG VETERAN

At the last regional meeting we discussed the idea of writing about the life stories of some of our Hong Kong Veterans in the newsletters. We thought it would be a good way to share some of their knowledge and experiences. Lionel Speller has graciously agreed to be interviewed, and as a result we are pleased to include our first profile of a Hong Kong Veteran. It is only fitting that Lionel is our first candidate. He has worked hard for many years as the President of the HKVA in British Columbia, and has been extremely supportive of the HKVCA in our Region.

Mr. Lionel Speller, R.C.C.S.

Lionel Curtis Speller was born in Victoria, British Columbia in 1919. His father Alexander William, and his mother Melville Ormuz came to Canada from London, England. Lionel had six brothers and one sister to play with during his boyhood years. While he was growing up he had a passion for sports. He was very competitive and enjoyed success participating in soccer, boxing, wrestling, and bicycle racing. As Lionel grew older he developed a passion for motorcycles, which he maintains to this day. That would explain why he became a dispatch rider for the Signal Corps in WWII.

Prior to enlisting in February 1941, Lionel was the manager of a shoe clinic owned by the Hertz brothers, located in the Hudson Bay Company store in Victoria. There was never a question in his mind about the need to serve his country. Lionel found himself serving in the Canadian Army Ordinance Corps as a shoemaker. While he was waiting for his corporal stripes, he was transferred to the Bay Street Armory in Victoria to await placement. Shortly afterward, while performing the duties of doorman, an old friend of his father's entered the armory. His name was Colonel St. Louis from the Canadian Signal Corps. When he saw Lionel he asked him if he was interested in joining the Signal Corps. His love of motorcycles made for an easy decision. By November 1941, Lionel Curtis Speller found himself shipping out with his comrades to Hong Kong.

As a prisoner of war, he remained in Hong Kong until January 1943. He was then sent to work as a slave laborer in Camp 3D, Nippon Kokan Shipyards in Japan. The last five months of the war found Lionel imprisoned in a hellhole called Suwa, which was an iron ore mine located in the mountains north of Tokyo. He remembers seeing Japanese troops training in the distance on Mt. Fujiyama. There was a Japanese interpreter in Suwa who was somewhat sympathetic to the P.O.W.'S. He had spent some time in both Canada and the United States before the war. He had returned to Japan before the onset of WWII to be with his ill father. Hostilities broke out and he found himself in the Japanese army as an interpreter. He gave the P.O.W.'S the first indication that the war was coming to an end. He would have been shot if it had been discovered that he was passing along any form of information.

Shortly afterwards, Lionel recalls seeing the mushroom cloud in the distance over Hiroshima, after the Americans dropped the first atom bomb. It wasn't long before the Japanese guards abandoned them. Years of forced labor, starvation, disease and suffering had taken their toll. American planes started dropping food. A lot of our brave men became very sick because their bodies were not accustomed to adequate sustenance. The natural reaction was to eat too much, and many paid the price. The first Americans to arrive at Suwa were a group of big strong marines. They were very surprised with the poor condition of the men in the camp. The Japanese had told the marines the Canadians were a bunch of "bad guys."

Like all of our returning Hong Kong Veterans, Lionel suffered with his share of health problems. He remained in the army until March 1946, when he was released due to his health. Upon his return to hometown Victoria, he found that his job as a manager in the shoe industry was still waiting for him.

In 1952 Lionel and his beautiful wife Ida (Bergstrom) were married, and remained in Victoria. They have two children, Ross who lives in Kamloops, and Carol who lives in Medford, Oregon.

Lionel Speller was the only Canadian Dispatch Rider to receive the Military Medal. It was presented to him after the war by the then Lt. Governor of British Columbia, the Rt. Honorable Charles Arthur Banks. Lionel joined The Royal Canadian Legion upon his return from overseas, and is a lifetime member. He has received a meritorious service medal for his many years as a service officer in the Legion. For over thirty years, Lionel has served his comrades as President of The Hong Kong Veterans Association in British Columbia.

Editor's note:

Thank you Mr. Speller. It is not easy for our Veterans to recall the horrors they experienced for years under the most inhumane conditions possible.

Congratulations from all of us to Lionel and Ida for their 50th wedding Anniversary.

A report from Murray Doull, Treasurer and Membership

I would like to express good wishes to all Hong Kong Veterans, spouses of Veterans, widows, and Commemorative members. With winter almost over and spring just around the corner, it is a good time for all of us to reaffirm our ties to the Hong Kong Family.

It has been a little over six months since I was asked if I would assume the duties of Treasurer and Membership for the HKVCA in British Columbia. It has been a very interesting and gratifying experience. I have met and talked to quite a few members of the Hong Kong Family, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. I have learned a great deal from them, and continue to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few key people for their enthusiasm and guidance. It is a pleasure to work on the Regional Council with Linda Stewart, our Director, and Heather MacPherson, our Secretary. I could not have established the database we now maintain, without the tireless help and patience of Derrill Henderson, who continues to be very supportive. Thanks also to Barry Mitchell, my counterpart in the Manitoba Region. Barry's willingness to share his experience and knowledge has been invaluable. Mr. Lionel Speller provides us with inspiration and he is a guiding light for our organization.

I wouldn't be doing my job as Treasurer, if I didn't nag a little bit on the topic of membership dues and donations. Our Hong Kong Veterans and widows have a lifetime membership in the Commemorative Association, but it costs the rest of us \$15.00 a year to remain an active member. As such, you will continue to receive the newsletters, a membership card, a decal, and the option to attend and participate in any upcoming events. As an active member, you are helping to carry the torch that is being passed by the Hong Kong Veterans. I urge you to read the article in this edition titled "Membership Drive". I will be anxiously watching my mailbox to hear from you. Your continued support is necessary, not only to help us cover expenses, but also to keep alive the history and the sacrifices made by our HK Veterans.

I have had the privilege of talking with many of our members over the course of the last few months. There are too many names to mention, but I especially enjoyed chatting with some of the widows, and of course the HK Veterans themselves. They

always captivate me with their stories and historical accounts. There is a list of contacts at the end of the newsletter. Please feel free to give us a phone call or send us an e-mail. We do not have phone numbers for many of the HK Veterans and widows. If you give us a call, or drop us a line with your number, we will have a means other than the newsletter to stay in touch. Thank you.

Please take care, and best wishes for good health to all.

- Murray Doull, Treasurer and Membership



**Donations to the British Columbia
HKVCA**

A number of individuals have chosen to make a donation to the HKVCA in our Region of British Columbia. Their generosity is greatly appreciated, and goes a long way to help our Association with operating expenses. We are pleased to mention their names below, and encourage other members to follow their lead.

- Ted Kurluk, RCCS
- Alton E. Jewers, RRC
- Horace (Gerry) Gerrard, RCCS
- Claude Corbett, WG
- Mrs. Claire Doull
- Mrs. Rita T. Burton
- Elizabeth J. Douglas
- Mrs. Mona R. Zane
- Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy



Answering Machine Message

Hi. This is John. If you are the phone company, I already sent the money. If you are my parents, please send money. If you are my financial aid institution, you didn't lend me enough money. If you are my friends, you owe me money. If you are a female, don't worry, I have plenty of money.

In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the deaths of the following Hong Kong Veterans. Our sincere condolences to the families and friends of:

Knud Agerbak	December 18, 2001
Harold A. Atkinson	March 2, 2002
Fred Chapman	November 4, 2001
William Cox	October 24, 2001
Albert H. Delbridge	February 28, 2002
John Fertal	February 21, 2002
Kenneth R. Inche	January 30, 2002
Reg Lajeunesse	October 8, 2001
Allen Martin	February 7, 2002
Gordon McLellan	October 6, 2001
William Sarginson	October 22, 2001

“ We will never forget them ”



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Attached to this newsletter you will find an application form. We encourage you to pass it along to spouses, sons and daughters, grandchildren, and friends of the Hong Kong Veterans. The Veterans and the widows of Veterans, represent over 80% of our total membership in British Columbia. It is time for the rest of us to step forward and carry the torch for these brave men who have sacrificed so much for their country. We must be vigilant, and ensure their story is never forgotten.

We are very proud to say that the Hong Kong Veterans and widows have a lifetime membership in the HKVCA. We look forward to spouses of the Veterans becoming active members by filling out and mailing the attached application form. The cost per annum for spouses, relatives, and friends is only \$15.00 per year. The monies we receive from dues and donations are used to cover the expenses of the organization, and we cannot function without them. If you are current for 2002, thank you very much. If you are not, please consider paying your dues and encouraging other family members to join the Hong Kong Family. Thank you, and let's keep the membership in our Region strong!

Articles and stories for future newsletters.

We encourage members to send us their stories and ideas. If you have any thoughts that you feel will help us improve the newsletter, please let us know. There are many untold stories that we are hoping our members will share with us. Please don't be shy! By contributing, you will help us to keep the newsletter vibrant, interesting, and reflective of the membership in our Region. It is our newsletter and belongs to all of us. Your letters to the editor are welcome. Please send them to the contact address for Murray Doull, which you will find listed below.

Contacts for the HKVCA in BC

- Linda Stewart, Regional Director
320-252 Gorge Rd. E.
Victoria BC V9A 6W3
Phone: 1-250-480-0442
e-mail: lindaontheisland@shaw.ca
- Heather MacPherson, Secretary
302-102 Begin St.
Coquitlam BC V3K 4V2
Phone: 1-604-525-0690
e-mail: macpherson53@hotmail.com
- Murray Doull, Treasurer and Membership
20138 Ditton St.
Maple Ridge BC V2X 9H4
Phone: 1-604-465-0579
e-mail: mdoull@shaw.ca

LUNCHEONS

We are anticipating that a luncheon will be held in Victoria and another in Vancouver in April or May of this year. As soon as dates, times, and locations have been determined, we will be contacting everyone. This will provide a wonderful opportunity for all of us to get together. Until then, best wishes to everyone.

A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR!



Trouble Tree

I hired a carpenter to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with his hands.

While opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he said. “I know I can’t help having troubles – on the job and in my life, but one thing’s for sure, troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning, I pick them up again.” - - “Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”



Woman

An English professor wrote the words, “Woman without her man is nothing” on the blackboard and directed his students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote: “Woman, without her man, is nothing.”

The women wrote: “Woman! Without her, man is nothing.”



Remember When

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note.
A window was something you hated to clean,
And ram was the cousin of a goat.

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the night.
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment,
A program was a TV show.
A cursor used profanity,
And a keyboard was on a piano.

Memory was something that was lost with age,
A CD was a bank account.
And if you had a three inch floppy,
You hoped nobody found out.

Compress was something you did to the garbage,
Not something you did to a file.
And if you unzipped anything in public,
You’d be in jail for a while.

Log on was adding wood to the fire,
Hard drive was a long trip on the road.
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived,
And a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife,
Paste you did with glue,
A web was a spider’s home,
And a virus was the flu.

I guess I’ll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head.
I hear nobody’s been killed in a computer crash,
But when it happens they wish they were dead!



“UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!”