

# HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH  
PO BOX 381  
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January, February, March 2006

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## Manitoba Elections 2006

**There is a Ballot enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete the form quickly and return it to the Election Committee to continue the process. Only paid up members will receive a ballot.**

### *Manitoba HKVA President's Report*

- George Peterson

Greetings to all, in this my first report of 2006. I hope you are well and had a very good Christmas and New Year.

December 11<sup>th</sup> attended the Memorial Project meeting with Jane Saxby, Director of Brookside cemetery.

January 10<sup>th</sup> received a special invitation to attend the lecture by Canadian senator retired, General Romeo Dallaire at Glenlawn Collegiate. The senator is the author of the book "Shake Hands With the Devil" which relates to his experiences in Rwanda when he was stationed there in charge of the Peacekeepers from all nations.

January 12 missed our monthly lunch meeting.

January 21 missed the HKVCA meeting due to my knees acting up; sure hope to have these repaired soon but have not received a date yet.

February 19 missed "C" Force Memorial meeting due to a prior commitment.

February 21 attended a lunch hosted by the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba and the Province of Manitoba at Clarion Hotel in honour of the Year of the Veteran.

March 9 Juliet picked me up to attend our monthly luncheon.

March 19 missed the meeting of our HKVCA again.

March 27 attended a meeting at St James Legion chaired by and at the request of Mr. Ron Labbe, Director of Veterans Affairs Canada re the new Vet's charter to take effect after March 31<sup>st</sup>. This new charter will not affect HKVA members or their spouses.

March 31<sup>st</sup> attended a ceremony at St James Legion hosted by a new branch of the Korea Vets Association of Canada. This branch was formed to honour the late Sgt Tommy Prince MM and will be called the Sgt Tommy Prince MM chapter #76 KVA of Canada.

I have been invited to attend a meeting of the Devils Lake Branch of the Korea Veterans Association of America on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This branch consists of ex naval personnel and a lot of their members served on the USS Iowa. I was on the Iowa for a few days in Tokyo harbour when I was released from our POW camp in Japan. I am hoping to meet someone who served on the Iowa at that time. I have been promised that there is not too much walking involved with this trip so hopefully I will be able to go. If I do it will be in my next report.

I promised Carol that I would get this report in today's mail so until next time keep well.

May your road be smooth to travel and the wind always at your back.

In all sincerity and comradeship - George

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### *1Manitoba HKVCA Regional Director*

- Juliet Lafortune

Hello to one and all

Well winter is behind us now I hope, and we can look forward to a good summer. We haven't had too much activity happening over the winter - there were a few meetings that I would of liked to see more of you attend. They are not as boring as you might think and we do have some good laughs. Just because you come to the meetings doesn't mean we put you to work on a project - we just want your input or your ideas. You can get more actively involved if you want though at anytime. The next meeting will be May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM St James Legion a change from the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the people who keep us informed of what is happening in their lives. The only way we can get to all of you with information is by the contact you have with us.

I would like to wish Belated Happy Birthday to George Peterson and Bill Bell Sr. Tom Dewar is now in the Pembina Place Personal Care Home, he would like to have visitors and don't forget Freddie Poitras is in Deer Lodge - take a minute to go see them. We lost Lance Ross on March 28, after a valiant struggle with cancer - he was 95 years young.

We lost Iva Stodgell, widow of George Roy Stodgell, H6352. Congratulations to Ollie Walker on her speedy recovery from Knee surgery. Although the

sister of Grace Cox was not a member, we extend our sympathies to Grace and family on the passing of her sister. Jeannette Palmer, widow of George Palmer is not doing well.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter article the list for the donations for the Reunion Silent Auction was misplaced. Thank you to those of you who reminded me of the donation from Joan Watson and Family, Bill and Marlene Bell, Mane Attraction Hair Salon. Thanks again and if you were missed - I'm sorry.

We would like to see more members attend the luncheons and the Tea and Tidbits. We average about 10 to 16 people at each event and it is a great time for all. The Memorial Project Committee is looking for members to get involved. The project will honour the Hong Kong Veterans and keep their sacrifice alive. It is their story that needs to be told and we are finding more information all the time. So roll up your sleeves and let's get this project going.

George Peterson, Carol Hadley and myself attended a luncheon for Bravo Zulu that is sponsored by the Royal Military Institute. There were many awards presented to those who worked so hard for the Year of the Veteran events held last year. The Veterans who were in attendance were recognised and well received. It gave me a chance to meet some people who are very interested in our Hong Kong Vets.

The grand daughter of Joe Michalkow is going to be in the National Cancer Institute Canada walk-a-thon on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - she is looking for support in her fund raising effort. Her name is Melissa Kozier and you can reach her through me - Thank you in advance.

We have elections coming up with the ballot enclosed with this newsletter - please vote.

The meeting, luncheons and Tea & Tidbits dates are posted at the back of the newsletter please read them and plan to attend.

Thank you all for your support that you have given me over the year and it is a pleasure working for all of you in any capacity I can. Thank you to Bev Rowden for keeping in contact with you and forwarding any concerns you might have.

Have a Great Summer, stay in contact. Bless you all  
Juliet Lafortune 338-3353 or cell 294-9335

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### ***Last Post***

**August (Gus) Bitzer**, WG, L22725, died January 23, 2006.

**Robert J McNaughton**, E-30284, RRC, died March 17, 2006,

**Leandre Leblanc**, E-30617, RRC, died March 20, 2006.

**Lancelot Ross**, E-1144, RRC died March 29, 2006.

HKVCA

**Carolynne Anne Rees**, wife of Doug Rees (RR) died January 3, 2006.

**Maude Crawford**, widow of Dr. John N. Crawford, died February 7, 2006 – she was 99 years young.

**Iva Stodgell**, widow of George Roy Stodgell, H6352, died March 14, 2006.

***Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all the families and friends as we share in your grief.***

***We will remember them.***

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### ***Manitoba HKVCA Treasurer & Membership***

- Barry Mitchell

Greetings once again to all our members and to those who are viewing our proceedings on the Internet. We are now well into 2006 so of course your treasurer is looking into your wallets for dues and perhaps a little extra for the purchase of a book, a pin or an honour roll. It's always the 'Year of the Veteran' for us and we require your support to continue with our programs to honour those who fought for our freedom.

If you are not paid right up-to-date, by now you will have received a letter from me as a reminder that you have a small debt to pay. I'm sorry to say, that I had to send out over 100 notices, some for dues owing for a year or more. I know that there remains a lot of interest in the Commemorative Association but that enthusiasm must be followed up with a contribution for membership if we are to be able to continue to reach out to the HK community.

I don't know why our collection of dues continues to lag but it is of some concern in that the responses are becoming slower and slower. Next year, everyone will receive an invoice at the beginning of the year and maybe if we all think in terms of paying our bills for the coming year, we will create some momentum and get out of this logjam. If you can't find a membership card dated 2006, please make out a cheque for \$15.00 to HKVCA and send it to P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6.

Another way you can support our cause is to purchase some of the attractive merchandise we have for sale. Let me suggest the handsome new lapel pin, which we offer for only \$5.00 or the excellent book by one of our veterans, George MacDonell, entitled *One Soldier's Story* at \$20.00. We will send you both items, including postage and handling, for just \$30.00. Enquire about other gift opportunities such as a video on the defence of Hong Kong, WG ties, sweat shirts, grave markers, decals, other books, honour rolls, etc.

I appreciated the note from **Marge Dwyer** who writes us from **Ontario** but wants to keep current on the Manitoba scene. Marge sends her best to everyone and tells us how much she enjoyed seeing so many old friends last year at the convention in Ottawa. Another out-of-province note arrived from **Pearl MacPherson** in **Ladner, BC** where she is now living in the "In-Law Suite" in the home of her daughter and son-in-law. Pearl is so good at keeping in touch and I look forward to her always interesting notes. Closer to home, we received a note from **May Dewar** here in **Winnipeg** to tell us that hubby **Tom** is settling in well at the Pembina Place Personal Care Home and he would love to hear from folks connected with our association. Another Manitoba-based veteran and great communicator, **George Coutts**, sent us a terrific letter on his

**Box 381 Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6 Address for dues and/or correspondence for HKVA and HKVCA**

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

continuing activities. George thoroughly enjoyed relating his wartime experiences to Michael Palmer of Calgary (grandson of George Palmer, RRC) as part of research for a book. George participated in ceremonies in June, August and September celebrating the end of the war and as well spoke to students at the high schools in Melita and Pierson, Manitoba. Well done George!!!

I had a most interesting phone call, followed up by a lengthy letter, from **George MacDonell** of **Toronto**, the RRC veteran and author I mentioned previously. George has many ideas on how we can all make our association work and we had good dialogue on the sometimes awkward subject of fund raising. George has a wealth of experience in these matters and has shared with us generously. Thank you George for your ideas and guidance.

That's about it for now, my friends. I hope those who need to catch up on their dues will do so soon as we want to get on with the many exciting programs we have for telling our story. Of course, your comments would be welcome, just write them on the back of a cheque!! Cheers and have a great summer!

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### **Communications**

- Bev Rowden

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. I have to admit we didn't have too bad a winter. Unfortunately, we had a cold February. I think we going backwards - we are having January weather in February and February weather in March. So I wonder what type of spring and summer we will have? I hope a very nice summer.

Well I have talked to a lot of our members. Many are doing ok. Some of the members had that nasty flu that is going around. I hope that all of you with illness will soon be better.

We have lost some of our members, as they didn't keep up their membership. Sad to see you go, as we need more members working to keep the Hong Kong Veterans memory alive. So please keep your membership up-to-date. Thanks.

Well we had our Tea and Tidbits on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice turnout with lots of fun but we always welcome more people. So if you wish to come, please call my mom, Juliet Lafortune, 338-3354, to let us know - we would love you to be there.

Well I will let you all go and take care. I will be calling you soon. I love to see how each and everyone one of you are doing.

Hugs to all, Bev

### **1From the Editor**

- Carol Hadley

At the end of February I retired from my day job and then left for a month in Texas. That's the good news. Since my return, I have been busy catching up on all the activities that have been happening as well as replying to over 500 emails. That's what happens when you don't take your computer with you. However it

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would have been awkward trying to use the computer on the golf course and I managed to play 25 games while away, plus eating, socializing and of course there was the outlet malls and all those "specials".

It was great to return to such wonderful weather. Hopefully it will continue and we will have a great summer. But it is back to work in a different fashion now as I have daylight to do the newsletter, etc. instead of cramming these activities into the evening.

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Plans are on the way for the next **Convention 2007** to be held in Calgary. The AB/SK Region committees are working diligently to ensure that we have a good time as well as a productive convention. Please give serious consideration to attending.

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Our website has some of our members stories and pictures of the trip to Hong Kong in November/December of 2005 – [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca).

Also noted are the plaques at ShamShuiPo and the Wong Nai Chung Gap Historical Trail has now been completed and Tony Banham, a local British historian has created a brochure for information. Tony was very gracious to conduct battlefield tours for our members that went on the trip. He has been a great resource for our Association in our efforts to document the Battle. He has a wonderful website – [www.hongkongwardiary.com](http://www.hongkongwardiary.com) - with loads of information and a terrific book called "Not the Slightest Chance".

♪♪♪

I am trying to help Nancy Hamer Strahl the teacher that took high school kids to Hong Kong last November. She is compiling a book of the stories of the veterans that the high school kids adopted as a school project. She needs help with obtaining some pictures of veterans that will be highlighted in the book of stories. She's hoping for pictures in of the veteran in uniform- prior to the war, and after. 'Sort of a before and after.' The after picture could even be a more recent one. She believes these pictures will help make her book more interesting and help bring their story alive.

If you are able to help out- please email the pictures to- [HamerStrahl\\_Nancy@durham.edu.on.ca](mailto:HamerStrahl_Nancy@durham.edu.on.ca)

Or contact her at –

Nancy Hamer Strahl  
Port Perry High School  
160 Rosa St.  
Port Perry, On L9L 1A7

School 905 985 7337

Fax 905 985 8323

List of names-

1. Lloyd Roblee
2. Bill Mac Whirter
3. Sergeant Charles Watson Lawrence Stebbe
4. Major Stanley Martin Banfill
5. Richard Keays

6. Harold Allen
7. John Doiron
8. Lieutenant Francis Gaven Power
9. Sergeant Robert Leslie Russell
10. Major John Reid
11. Emile Bernard
12. Meirion Price
13. S. Stoddard
14. T. Blackwood
15. Lieutenant Arthur Beresford Scott
16. Kay Christie
17. Jim Flemming
18. Jack Lyons
19. Franklin Lyster
20. Frank Christensen
21. Andrew Muir Moir
22. Alfred Mawson
23. Charles Matthews
24. Morris Delaney



The Manitoba **HKVCA Education Committee** will be doing a display and presentation for the River East "Heritage Days" in May.

We have been looking for display walls for this project but they are considerable expense. If anyone has a line on this type of equipment – please call me. Our other option is to have the display boards done professionally as they may have a longer lifetime. We will be checking places for prices.

The other good news is that the Ontario Region curriculum, 10 Lessons - has had the French translation completed and been distributed to many of the school divisions across the country. Well done to the members in Ontario who worked so hard to achieve this wonderful resource. If anyone wishes more information on the curriculum there is a brochure that can be sent to you – just contact the editor and one will be mailed to you.



It is wonderful to see the activity on our website continue. The "Year of the Veteran" generated many inquiries from members, students, teachers and just generally for information. "Year of the Veteran" is every year for our association and we welcome the opportunity to inform people of the Battle of Hong Kong events and the valiant Canadians who fought and endured four years of atrocities. A big Thank You is extended to our Web Master, **Linda May** and **Jim Trick** who assists her, in constantly improving our valuable resource. Take time to surf through the information – it is quite a learning experience. We are always looking for more information and many of the veterans are submitting their experiences as well as the families sharing stories after the veteran has left us. If you wish to add to the website, please contact an Executive member and assistance will be given you.



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In January my computer went down and I lost my email addresses also the emails that contained loads of information. Some items I stored in a separate folder to use in the newsletter. So if you sent me something interesting and you don't see it in print – please resend it and I will use it next time.

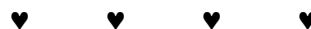


### ***Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund***

- Donna Remillard

The Winnipeg Grenadiers Hong Kong Trust Fund provides financial assistance to the direct descendants of the Winnipeg Grenadiers HK Veterans for their pursuit of higher learning. All donations are most gratefully appreciated. Cheques should be written to Winnipeg Grenadier's Hong Kong Trust Fund (not HKVA).

Application inquiries and donations to this fund may be directed to: Donna Remillard, 303 - 740 Kenaston Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1Y3 [sellers@mts.com](mailto:sellers@mts.com). Tel: (204) 489-0008.



### ***Humour***

A Canadian Soldier was attending some university courses between deployments. He had completed tours in Bosnia, and just returned from Afghanistan. One of the courses had a professor who was an avowed atheist.

One day the professor shocked the class when he came in. He looked to the ceiling and flatly stated, "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you exactly 15 minutes." The lecture room fell silent. You could hear a pin drop. Ten minutes went by and the professor proclaimed, "Here I am God. I'm still waiting."

It got down to the last couple of minutes when the Soldier got out of his chair, went up to the professor, and punched him; knocking him off the platform. The professor was out cold. The Soldier went back to his seat and sat there, silently. The other students were shocked and sat there looking on in silence.

The professor eventually came to, noticeably shaken, looked at the Soldier and asked, "What the heck is the matter with you? Why did you do that?"

The Soldier calmly replied, "God was too busy today protecting Canada's Soldiers who are protecting your right to say stupid things and act like an idiot, so He sent me."



Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

"Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

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Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem. They give him \$50."

The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song. They give him \$100."

The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

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A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He said, "Call for backup."

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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

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Four men were sitting around a conference room table being interviewed for a job.

The interviewer asked, "What is the fastest thing you know of?"

The first man replied, "A thought. It pops into your head, there's no forewarning that it's on the way; it's just there. A thought is the fastest thing I know of."

"That's very good," replied the interviewer.

"And now you, sir," he asked the second man. "Hmmm, let me see..... a blink!," said the second man.

"It comes and goes and you don't know it ever happened. A blink is the fastest thing I know of."

"Excellent!," said the interviewer.

"The blink of an eye. That's a very popular cliché for speed."

He then turned to the third man who was contemplating his reply.

"Well, out on my dad's ranch, you step out of the house and on the wall there is a light switch. When you flip that switch, way across the pasture the light at the barn comes on in an instant. Turning on a light is the fastest thing I can think of."

The interviewer was very impressed with the third answer and thought he had found his man. "It's hard to beat the speed of light," he said.

Turning to the fourth man, a Newfoundlander, he posed the same question.

"After hearing the three previous answers, it's obvious to me the fastest thing known is diarrhea," said the Newfie.

"What!" said the interviewer, stunned by the response.

"Oh, I can explain," said the Newfie, "You see, the other day I wasn't feeling so well and ran for the

bathroom. But, before I could think, blink, or turn on the light, I messed my pants."

He got the job

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An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote, "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

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Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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### *1Reminders*

**Monthly lunches are held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at NOON - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month – April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 11, June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006.**

**The facility is fully accessible.**

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**HKVCA meetings at St James Legion at 1300 hrs on May 13<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

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**Ladies Tea & Tidbits to be held at 1 p.m. at St. James Legion on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 2006.**

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**ELECTIONS – PLEASE RETURN THE BALLOT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE – ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A BALLOT. Thank you**

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**MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE.**

**\*\*\* Check your membership card today. Please make sure you are a paid up member. Also when you remit your membership, indicate if Manitoba is your primary region or just for newsletters. Thank you. \*\*\***

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**1Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers - Keep Them Handy:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>George Peterson, MB President</b>        | <b>256-7174</b>     |
| <b>Carol Hadley, Secretary/Newsletter</b>   | <b>837-6754</b>     |
| <b>Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership</b> | <b>269-1497</b>     |
| <b>Juliet Lafortune, Social</b>             | <b>338-3354</b>     |
| <b>Terence Jackson, Memorials</b>           | <b>452-1460</b>     |
| <b>Phil Doddridge, Nat'l President</b>      | <b>418-392-5838</b> |

**CHEQUES FOR BARRY'S EMPORIUM  
SHOULD BE  
PAYABLE TO HKVCA\*\***

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER:  
SEND US ANY ADDRESS CHANGES –  
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU  
AND**

## ***BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE ELECTIONS***

### **EIRIK BARDAL**

Born on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1970 in Winnipeg, Manitoba to Neil and Annette Bardal raised in Fort Garry most of my life and moved to Gimli in my early 20's where I worked as a commercial fisherman for three years.

After completing my 3<sup>rd</sup> season on Lake Winnipeg, I had decided to become the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to go into the Funeral Industry. Having completed my apprenticeship with the Western School of Funeral Service I was then licensed to practise Funeral Service in the Province of Manitoba.

In 2000 I married my wife Lisa and we have two children, our daughter Catherine who is 5 years old and son Sean who is 4, and we all reside in Stonewall MB.

I am a member of many organizations that I am proud of and they are,

- current President of the Manitoba Funeral Service Association
- Member of Viking Lodge in Gimli
- member of Scottish Rite Masonry in Winnipeg
- member of the Chamber of Commerce in Winnipeg
- current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of HKVCA of which I am very proud as my grandfather Njall O. Bardal fought and was prisoner in Hong Kong from 1941 to 1945.

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### **STAN LOPATA**

Stan became aware of the Hong Kong Veterans while he was a cadet with the Winnipeg Grenadiers Cadet Corp in 1965. He was a member of the Cadet Corp drum and bugle band which was started by the Vets that year. A number of the Vets would go along with the band, to the various venues that they played at. It is through this, that he got to know a number of them. This association continued, as he became an instructor with the unit. The Hong Kong Vet's by this time had assumed the sponsorship of the cadet corps and he worked closely with a number of them during their tenure as sponsor. He retired as a Commanding Officer, holding the rank of Captain in 1995. However, he has continued his association with the Vets. Since his retirement, he, along with other former cadet corps instructors, have taken over the duties as the flag party of the Hong Kong Veterans.

Stan has worked in information technology field since 1971, when he started working for the Monarch Life Assurance Company, as a computer operator. He progressed through his department, becoming the department head in 1979. Since that time he has been a part of two mergers with the other companies (Monarch Life was merged in North American Life in 1984 and North American Life was merged into Manulife Financial in 1996). He continues to work with this company, however his current function has changed to that of Business Technology consultant working directly with Financial Advisors and their staff.

Stan is a widower, having been married for over twenty-eight years. He and his wife however did not have any children.