

HONG KONG VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

MANITOBA BRANCH
PO BOX 381
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 2H6

October, November, December
2007

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April 10, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

May 3, 2008 - 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

May 8, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

June 12, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

June 14, 2008 - Tea & Tidbits 1-4 p.m. at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

June 21, 2008 - 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

July 10, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

August 14, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

August 15, 2008 – VJ Day

September 11, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

September 13, 2008 - 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

September 20, 2008 – Tea & Tidbits 1-4 p.m. at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

October 9, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

October 25, 2008 – Reunion Dinner

November 8, 2008 - 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

November 13, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

Upcoming Events

ELECTIONS IN MANITOBA REGION – PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS BY JANUARY 31, 2008. This form was sent out in the September newsletter. All positions of the Executive are open for nomination.

December 25, 2007 – wishing everyone a Peaceful Christmas

January 1, 2008 – Happy New Year!!

January 10, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

January 12, 2008 – 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DAY TO SATURDAY.

February 14, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

March 8, 2008 - 1 p.m. general meeting HKVCA at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

March 13, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

March 15, 2008 – Tea & Tidbits 1-4 p.m. at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

December 11, 2008 - Monthly lunch held at St. James Legion on Portage Ave. at noon. The facility is fully accessible.

December 13, 2008 - Tea & Tidbits 1-4 p.m. at St. James Legion on Portage Ave

These are your dates to remember for the year – please mark your calendar so you don't miss anything.

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Manitoba HKVA President's Report

- George Peterson

Greetings on this my last report for 2007. I wish you, one and all, a very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Happy New Year. For those who are under the weather, may you soon recover or at least have less pain.

Sept 13th attended monthly luncheon at St James Legion.

Sept 15th funeral service for Herb Walker at Neil Bardal's Funeral Home. If Herb was looking down on this, I think he would have been pleased. The minister admitted that he didn't know Herb personally, but spoke as if he were an old friend. Herb's son-in-law, Ron gave the eulogy, I have never heard one better.

Sept 16th attended church service at St Chad's Anglican Church where Cde. Max L. Katz, Commander of the Gen Moshe Dyan branch of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada presented a medal to Padre Gordon Shields for services rendered.

Sept 19th missed the meeting of our HKVCA as I was at our cottage at Falcon Lake. Same for the Bear Clan Pow Wow on the 20th in St. Norbert and the Joint Veterans meeting on the 25th at Rockwood Anavets.

Sept 30th I had the honour along with Diane Peterson-Razos, District Director of VAC Winnipeg, to unveil the plaque that was erected in Brookside Cemetery to commemorate the Winnipeg Grenadiers who fought in the battle of Hong Kong for Wong Nei Chong Gap about December 19th, 1941. I was also asked to make a short speech. After the ceremony we were invited to go to the John Osborne VC branch of ANAF for refreshments supplied by VAC.

Oct 11th attended our monthly luncheon at St James Legion

Oct 12th attended a meeting at Brookside Cemetery hosted by Jane Saxby about the tours for students during Remembrance Week. Vince Lopata and I were booked for a tour on Nov. 6th but this was cancelled. If there is an adult tour Bob Nisbet, Hugh MacKenzie and I will be the speakers.

Oct 27th our Reunion Dinner was another huge success thanks to Juliet and her diligent helpers. Although our number were down those in attendance enjoyed a good meal and the renewing of acquaintances.

Nov 9th Juliet drove me to Selkirk, Manitoba where I was the guest speaker at the Lord Selkirk Comprehensive Secondary School for their Remembrance Day Service. There were approximately 1500 students and staff members in attendance who heard about the make-up of 'C' Force and the numbers. This was well received. I was asked and agreed to come

and talk to some classes. After leaving Selkirk I met Grant Shepard at the Aviation Museum at the airport for an interview by a reporter and photographer from Shaw Television. This has been shown several times during Remembrance Week and throughout December. Then with Stan Lopata as my escort, we attended the War Amp's Remembrance Day dinner at Holiday Inn West.

Nov 11th Juliet and I laid the wreath at the Convention Centre and later that day I attended the Remembrance Day service at Deer Lodge sponsored by the War Amps.

Nov 13th attended Joint Veterans parade committee meeting to critique the Remembrance Day service this year.

Nov 21st I was to go to Richmond BC to attend a meeting of the VAC Prairie Advisory committee but could not go. I did receive the information that was discussed and there was nothing concerning Hong Kong vets or their dependants.

I met with my knee doctor and unless my left knee gets worse, I wont see him until next October. Same with the eye doctor, as I can drive in the day until I see him next August.

Dec 10th attended funeral service for Norm Van Tassell at St Chad's conducted by Padre Gordon Shields.

Tomorrow is our lunch meeting and I have to give this to Carol, so until next time may your road be smooth and the wind be at your back. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I haven't smoked for almost 16 months but still have the craving – maybe I'll loose that this year.

In all Sincerity and Comradeship

- George

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

Last Post

HKVCA

Hazel Keays Campbell, widow of Charles Campbell E-30644 died October 15, 2007

Eleanor Ruth Pifher, wife of Ken Pifher RRC died October 24, 2007

Alma Friesen, widow of Ike Friesen, WG, and mother of our member Nancie Ambrozy of Calgary, died October 27, 2007

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 Regional Director

- Juliet Lafortune

Hi all

Well here is another year almost gone by. We have had a busy year as you all know. We here in MB were busy with preparing for the reunion. It was a good

reunion. The attendance wasn't as good as I would of liked since we are not getting the families of our veterans coming out to support the HKVA & HKVCA. We would like to hear from you as what you would like to happen to make the HKVCA a success. We would hope to hear from you. We do have elections coming up and we need you to participate in this.



Getting back to the reunion we had the following veterans in attendance – L – R: Grant Shepard, Art Loussier, George Peterson, Larry Stebbe, John Marushak, and Fred Poitras;



the following widows Florence Wiebe, Helen Prieston, Joan Watson, Angie Bourbonniere, Pat Maltman, Mary Sellers, Alexandra Slovisky, and Ladena Mabley.

I would like to thank all the ladies who helped out that evening - Bonnie Wiebe, Constance Mitchell, Lora Wachtendorf, Bridget Macdougall, David Fehr and of course we can't forget Barry Mitchell who sat in the hall most of the evening selling memberships and memorabilia. Thank you to Carol Hadley for showing us the new display and also Vince Lopata for the HKVA display. We had four cadets who helped escort our people and marched in with the color party. Thank you to all of you who donated gifts for the silent auction .we could not have a great evening with out all your help, thanks again.

Well bye for now all the best this holiday season and have a great 2008 - God Bless you all - Juliet Lafortune, Regional Director 338-3354

Manitoba HKVCA Treasurer & Membership

- Barry Mitchell

Now that you asked, I can tell you that it's once again cold as hell in Winnipeg and I guess everywhere across these Prairie Provinces. We stay here just to look after the place for all those who fly south for the winter to

relax in the warmth of a Texas or Arizona sunny day. Probably you snowbirds deserve it but I'm sure you miss shoveling, scraping windshields, putting on six layers of clothing, plugging in your car, heavy boots, huge mitts, snowdrifts and tracking salt and sand into your house. Surely that's enough to make you homesick!

Most of the articles in this and any other newsletter are about the activities of the executive members of your organization and seldom do we hear of the undertakings of our regular members. We know many of you have your own meaningful ways of contributing but we just aren't aware of what you are up to. Well, one guy who is really well organized, and this includes keeping us informed, is Dennis Stewart of Selkirk, Manitoba. I have mentioned Dennis in the past because he is so well organized that he has his own fancy letterhead that he uses to maintain contact with us and many others.

Dennis is an active member of the Selkirk Legion and this work takes him to various locales around Manitoba. He writes that recently he drove a couple of his Legion buddies to the unveiling ceremony of the Jardine's Lookout plaque at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg. He laments the fact that this event didn't take place many years ago when dozens of the Hong Kong vets could have attended.

Next came a trip to Pilot Mound, Manitoba to meet with the editor of the Pilot Mound Sentinel Courier to assist in the preparation of an article on the many boys from that town who signed up with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in 1941, including Dennis' father. The paper paid tribute to the Hong Kong Vets from that community in the December issue.

Finally, Dennis Stewart reminds us that he performed his usual duty of laying a wreath in memory of the Hong Kong vets at the Selkirk Remembrance Day service, followed by attendance at various senior homes and schools.

So, you can see that we have one very busy member who offers his time and experience to honouring those who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong. Do you have a similar story? I'm sure there are many interesting anecdotes that we would like to hear about so that we can share them with all the members.

In the last issue, I mentioned that dues for the year were expected to be paid by now and all but a few have met the deadline. We did send out about a dozen final notices and I'm sorry to say that it appears we will be saying good bye to those who have not responded. Our memberships are still only \$15.00 per year and a cheque to P.O. Box 381 in Winnipeg R3C 2H6 will keep you in our good books. Please support our worthwhile organization.

Cheers, Barry Mitchell

From the Editor - Carol Hadley

Memorial Wall Update

Our priority one project in the HKVCA, is the 'C' Force Memorial Wall. There are monthly reports

posted on our website, www.hkvca.ca. For those who do not have computers I will mention them in this article.



This is an artist rendering of the Project.

Our priority one project is the 'C' Force Memorial Wall. There are monthly reports posted on our website, www.hkvca.ca. For those who do not have computers I will mention them in this article.

As of the end of November we have \$60,000 of the \$100,000 that is needed for the project. Well Done everyone who has made the commitment!! But we can't stop now.

Since September many things have happened. We are checking into modes of appreciation for our large donors to have something in place and to ensure uniformity.

There was an 'ad' on Rogers network during Remembrance Week and pop ups on their website thanks to Rita Flanagan and Derrill Henderson. We were disappointed on the result as we had been told from other organizations that have used them that these yield a great response. We just covered our investment and did give awareness to the project and the Hong Kong veterans so we consider that as an achievement.

We were asked for some assistance for members in soliciting funds from family and friends. We have put a brochure on the website so people may print and use it for this purpose. You may contact me, Carol Hadley if you want a copy and do not have access to the internet. However we do not want anyone to solicit funds from businesses, corporations, foundations, etc as our committee has a package of information that will ensure conformity with our requests. However the names may be submitted to the committee for follow up.

We appreciate the suggestions that are coming to the Committee and the work that the regions are doing to ensure the success of this project. This is wonderful teamwork and greatly appreciated by the Committee.

In the meantime if you are doing Christmas cards put in a picture of the Memorial Wall with the information for donations as a suggestion for Christmas giving – it would be appropriate as a reminder of the events 60+ years ago.

We have recently had a call from NCC informing us that the project has passed the first hurdle and has been added to the January 16/08 agenda for the NCC Board for us to obtain final approval (government). Keep this project in your prayers that we pass this hurdle so we can get this project completed.

As the year comes to an end, we sincerely hope that all our members will consider this project to be very important when reviewing your gifts to charity. You may donate through using the computer if you wish by copying this link and by following the easy instructions on the site

https://www.canadahelps.org/checkout_charity_extras.aspx

or by writing a cheque to **HKVCA Memorial Wall** and mailing it to Barry Mitchell, **Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6**. We will issue income tax receipts for gifts over \$20.

The committee members are: Carol Hadley, Chair; Barry Mitchell; Derrill Henderson; Phil Doddridge; Murray Doull and Ron McGuire.



Manitoba **HKVCA Education Committee** used the new display at the SAG conference in November for Manitoba teachers. Two presentations were given at SAG based on the 10 Lessons curriculum that was created by ON Region. There were about a dozen teachers in each session, some who were unaware of the Battle of Hong Kong so there were some very interesting interaction.

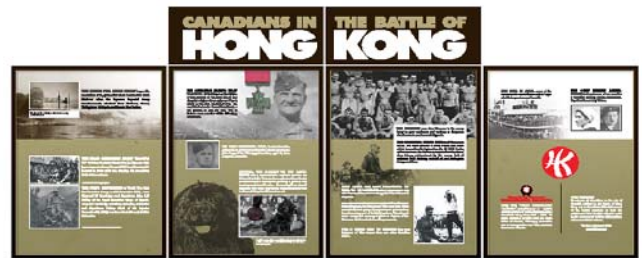


Figure 1 MB Education Display

We also had a display set up at the conference with books and handouts and where we were able to tell teachers about our website. There is also Teachers folder where we continue to update with information and the resources that the teachers would be able to use in the classroom. <http://www.hkvca.ca/teachers.htm>

Ontario Region has received information about a grant to be used in developing presentations for members to use in their communities to bring awareness of the Battle of Hong Kong and to encourage the use of the 10 Lesson Plans that were developed by Nick Brune, HKVCA member. This money will cover half the cost of the production so there will be a need for fundraising to complete the project.

Also we have been promoting the **Ontario Region Essay Contest** as it encourages students to do research and to do critical thinking to discover the events of the Battle of Hong Kong and our Canadian

heroes. Please talk to educators in your area about these efforts, as they are very worth well. More information about the Essay Contest is available on our website – if you don't have access to the website, please contact Carol Hadley and I will make sure that you have this information.

If you are an educator and have any HK contribution to this folder, please send it along to Jim Trick at jatrick@shaw.ca to be posted on the site.

♪♪♪

We have missed **Bob and Myrtle Lytle** at some of our recent social functions but with their health issues they are not going far from home.

♪♪♪

Thank you to **Larry Stebbe** for laying the Hong Kong wreath in Charleswood at the Legion's sponsored Remembrance Day service – we were pleased to see his wife **Ann**, son **Wayne** and daughter **Colleen** accompany him also. **Bob Lytle** has done this for many years but his health prevented him from doing so this year.

♪♪♪

Dick Wilson is in Deer Lodge and he has been busy seeing his dentist lately. He is settling into his new room and getting used to his new surroundings.

♪♪♪

Talked to **George Harbour** recently, we missed him and his good lady at the Reunion Dinner in October as he fell and broke his leg. He is coming along but was disappointed at not seeing everyone at the Reunion. He said that he will drop into a lunch when he is next in Winnipeg.

♪♪♪

Sorry to hear that **Pat Maltman** has some health issues and will be undergoing treatments over the next while – good luck Pat and hopefully your situation will improve.

♪♪♪

Thank you, to **Judy Preston** who has been coordinating the production of the “pocket posties” in our area. This is a small postcard size card with the Canadian flag on one side and a message to our military personnel overseas. These cards are handed out by the military postal people, in whatever area our Canadian soldiers are located, to military personnel that don't get any messages from home. This ensures that no one is forgotten and we appreciate their service to our country.

♪♪♪

Thanks to **Dennis Stewart** for mentioning the Pilot Mound Sentinel who will be publishing the stories of the 12 young men who went to Hong Kong. Here is the list of the men:

H6326 Corporal Borge Agerbak
H6325 Private Knud Agerbak
H6293 Corporal Tage G. Agerbak
H6262 Corporal Richard A. Currie
H6329 Corporal Edwin A. Currie
H6518 Private William J. Fordyce
H6396 Private John C. Hay
H6263 Private William M. Mayne
H6824 Private Guy J. Stewart
H6395 Private Keith M. Stewart
H6210 Private Edward Toews

H6266 Private Harley M. Winram

I have asked to have a copy of the article so that we can include it on our website. The publication will be in January as it was too big for their December issue.

♪♪♪

Email database

Please send us your email address if you have one when renewing your memberships as we are going to extend our membership files to include them. This will help us to contact our members quickly to let you know of important news. Some of our members have asked to receive the electronic version of the newsletters.

The cost of producing a newsletter or other notice that includes postage, etc increases yearly. We would like to use that money for our projects. Thank you.

♪♪♪

Vince Lopata, arranged to have the HKVA display set up at the Manitoba Aviation Museum on Ferry Rd for the month of December.

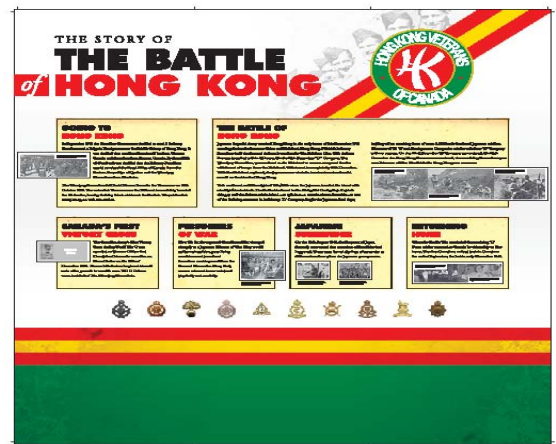


Figure 2 HKVA display

♪♪♪

The AB/SK Region that hosted the Convention in August will be sending out, to the vets and widows, the pictures that were taken with the Lt. Gov. Norman Kwong and his wife Mary.

Again many thanks to Gail Richoz, Regional Director; Marilyn Pridgen, Convention Committee Chair and all your Committees and workers for a wonderful time!!

♪♪♪

Our **website** (www.hkvca.ca) is a valuable resource for our Association. It contains loads of information about our veterans and the projects that are going Nationally and Regionally.

We continue to gather stories and info on our Veterans as well as the veterans wives and widows – even the children have a story to tell. If you have some information that you wish to share please contact the Executive and they will assist you.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

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**. Her new address is **101-123 Swindon Way, Winnipeg, MB R3P 0W3** or email: sellers@mts.com or Tel: (204) 489-2098.



Humour

WORDS TO GROW ON...

- The best vitamin for making friends: B-1
- The quality of my life depends on the quality of my thoughts.
- The heaviest thing I can carry is a grudge.
- I should keep my words soft and sweet in case I have to eat them.
- One thing I can give and still keep: my word.
- One thing I can't recycle is wasted time.
- I lie the loudest when I lie to myself.
- Ideas won't work unless 'I' do.
- My mind is like a parachute...it functions only when open.
- The 10 commandments are not multiple choice.
- It is never too late to become all God can make me.



SOME LITTLE KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SANTA'S ELVES...Santa's elves are really subordinate Clauses. As they make toys, they sing "Love Me Tender." That's why they're known as Santa's little Elvis. They feel that all their strenuous efforts getting ready for Christmas are just like a day at the office. They do all the work, and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit. And anytime he wishes, Santa can give them the sack. A group of rebellious elves -- along with their elf uncles and elf aunts -- have banded together to protest the terrible conditions they've been working under. They are known as the Santanistas -- and they're striving for higher elf esteem.

But wait! There's more!

What's red and white and black all over? Santa Claus entering a home through a chimney. He loves sliding down chimneys because it soots him. But he actually has a fear of getting stuck. That fear is called Santa Claus-trophobia. The way to get him out of the chimney is to pour Santa Flush on him. Occasionally, Santa falls down a chimney. Then he's Santa Klutz. Since Santa has to go up and down a wide variety of chimneys on Christmas, should he have a yearly flue shot? But not really toooooo sorry!!



What is Santa's primary language? North Polish
Where does Santa go swimming? The North Pool
If Santa rode a motorcycle, what kind would it be? A Holly Davidson
What is Santa's favourite breakfast cereal? Frosted Flakes

How do Santa and Mrs Claus get around? On an Icicle built for two.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, Everyone!!



.Always remember this...

**A smile is such an easy thing to pass along the way,
Like a ray of summer sunshine,
On a somewhat gloomy day!!**

Keep smiling – they always wonder what you are up to.



Your HKVA Branch Council Phone Numbers

- Keep Them Handy:

George Peterson, MB President	256-7174
Carol Hadley, Secretary/Newsletter	837-6754
Barry Mitchell, Treasurer/Membership	269-1497
Juliet Lafortune, Social	338-3354
Phil Doddridge, Nat'l President	418-392-5838

****PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**SEND US YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES –
WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU**

AND

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



2008 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 and include your email address if you have one.

Thank you. ***



Barry's Emporium

- Honour Roll (Ready to Frame) -- \$20.00
- Grave Markers (incl.Reg'd mail)- \$72.00
- Sweatshirt (M, XXL) -- \$20.00
- Lapel Pin (Torch Logo) --\$5.00
- Members Pin – \$5.00
- Tie (Winnipeg Grenadier) --\$30.00
- Blazer Crest (Commemorative) --\$20.00
- No Reason Why - author Carl Vincent - \$37.00
- One Soldier's Story – author George MacDonell - \$20.00
- Video (Slaves of the Rising Sun) --\$10.00

POSTAGE COSTS ARE EXTRA