

# WASURERU-NAI

"Never Forget"

Volume 3, Number 2

September 2001

## PASSING THE TORCH

### The 2001 Convention, Winnipeg Manitoba

- by Carol Hadley

The National Convention for the Hong Kong Veterans' Association and the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, August 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>.

Registration - 245 - of which there were 43 veterans present for the full convention with 4 more coming to the Saturday dinner. The veteran delegates represented all the Branches across Canada. The "Commemorative" delegates represented all the Regions with the exception of Alberta/Saskatchewan and the Maritimes.

The theme of the convention was

"Passing the Torch" as the transfer of the administration would be taking place between the National Board of



Directors of both the Hong Kong Veterans' Association and the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association.

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A new pin was created to represent this theme. The pin is in gold with the red background to the HK symbols and Winnipeg 2001 above the torch, across the top. This logo was represented on sweatshirts and table centres at the convention.

The convention began with Registration on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Airport West in Winnipeg. Many of the veterans and their partners arrived during the day as the National Executive of the HKVA was meeting that night in camera. Due to Press Releases issued by National Council and the Manitoba Convention Committee the hotel was inundated with media requesting interviews from the veterans and the Executives of both Associations.

The Convention Committee had a room set aside for memorabilia to be on display - and what a display!! There was Ron McGuire from Ottawa; the 60 year old Winnipeg Grenadier quilt borrowed from Pilot Mound Legion; personal items from many of the members like scrapbooks, presentation of medals in cases, albums of pictures, sketches, etc. There was constant action in this room and many of the media used it for background for their interviews.

Thursday was Executive meetings for both the HKVA and the HKVCA. There was a Forks Tour arranged for the convention participants. Buses were used to transport the people on an arranged route with a hostess (Jodie Fast) pointing out notable places of interest to them until they arrived at the Forks. The Forks is a large area in central Winnipeg where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet. There is shopping available, restaurants, museums, theatre, sports, etc. endless activities to enjoy. All too much

to see in 3 hours. In the evening a "Meet & Greet" was arranged for all to gather and enjoy a social time with Ron McGuire making his historical presentation in an adjacent room.

General Meetings were held on Friday with the Mayor of Winnipeg, His Worship Glen Murray welcoming all participants to the Convention and recognizing this special occasion. The Hong Kong Veterans' Association conducted their business for the last time. Derrill Henderson will be making a full report. However the highlight of the meeting was the standing ovation given Harry Atkinson for his dedication and diligence in the award of 100% pension for all HK veterans due to avitaminosis. At the end of that agenda, Phil Doddridge of the Hong Kong Veterans' Association and Lora Wachtendorf of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association assisted by Colour party members (Stan and Vince Lopada, Tim Klumper, Flash Clayton and Arnold Ross) with a new Colour party (Juliet Lafortune, Bill Kellas and Lucette Muir) solemnly completed the transfer of administration.

After a break, the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association held their General Meeting with Juliet Lafortune leading the Protocol Ceremony assisted by Bob Barter and Judy Preston. As there were some irregularities with the election process, this was declared null and void. Derrill reviewed some of the accomplishments of the 'Commemorative' like the posthumous medal for 'Gander' mascot dog of the Royal Rifles killed in battle; plaques in Hong Kong depicting three battle areas significant to the Canadians - Lawson's Bunker, Jardine's Lookout and Lye Yue Mun Gap.

Cliff Chadderton, unable to

attend because of non-threatening surgery, consented to be the Patron of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association. With a promise to clear up the election issues, the meeting adjourned.

Friday evening the Convention Committee arranged with the Folklorama festival for a tour of 2 pavilions complete with entertainment and food and drink and displays of those countries. Other than the food not being appropriate the evening was a success and enjoyed by all.

The impressive Memorial Service was held Saturday morning lead by Padre Gordon Shields, assisted by George Peterson, Harry Atkinson and Phil Doddridge. The Honour Roll was read by Bill Kellas (son of Willam Kellas, deceased) and Carol Hadley (daughter of Borge Agerbak, deceased). A very mystic and moving Ojibway Honour Song was performed by Dwayne Ward, assisted by his son Scott Ward and Linda Stewart (Dwayne's sister), issue of Cliff Carpenter, deceased. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the Government, Ron Duhamel (Canada), Bonnie Korziewski (Manitoba), Bill Clement (Winnipeg); the veteran organizations - Hong Kong Veterans' Association of Canada, Aboriginal Veteran's, War Amps, Army Navy Air Force, Royal Canadian Legion, Korea, - the Hong Kong Widows (represented by Mary Sellers), the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association (represented by Barry Mitchell, son of Vaughan Mitchell, deceased) and for the Youth of Canada (represented by David Heinrichs, grandson of Fred Poitras).

An informal gathering of the HKVCA representatives was held in the afternoon to assist with newer members questions and basically to open channels of communication between Regions in order to operate more efficiently and effectively. It was terrific to be able to meet and exchange ideas with people who had previously been a name on a letter or email. This also helped in bonding the representatives in their goals with the Association.

A Dinner and Dance was held in the evening and what a dinner!! Julie Lafortune and the Hotel coordinator did an outstanding job in selecting the menu. "Spice of Life" band with their assortment

of music helped keep the feet tapping on the dance floor and at the tables. Draws were made both of cash and merchandise and several people ended up with some extra treasures.

Sunday morning brunch culminated several days of mixed feelings. Joy, to have seen new and old friends and sadness for those not there. By all accounts the Convention was a success. The Commemorative members charged with their new responsibilities and the Veterans' poised to help them in anyway, left to return to their Regions and continue to strengthen their Association.

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## REGION NEWS

### Quebec Region

Hi everyone, hope you all had a wonderful summer. Last November/December I was part of the delegation to Hong Kong. This was my second trip and it still remains a wonderful, even though a very emotional trip. All the dedication of plaques and memorial ceremonies were very well organised. Again all this was a reminder of the "Hell on Earth" our veterans lived through.

On a more pleasant note, this past August I attended the Convention held in Winnipeg. Quebec was very well represented by veterans, commemoratives and families. This was a very well organised convention thanks to Juliet Lafortune and all her team. Many of us also got to put faces to many names. The meetings were very well attended. The transfer meeting and ceremony was very emotional for many and specially for our veterans how worked so hard through the years to build up the HKVA to where it is today.

The HKVCA regional directors attended extra meetings in order to discuss and share many experiences etc. We find even though we are all working with the same goals in mind, if we can share information, have communication etc. it can be much easier and more uniform for all.

Even though Quebec did not have a reunion for 2001, do not feel too

bad, you will definitely have a good one next August. Keep that month in mind. The regional executive are working on the joint membership list for all veterans, widows, children, grand-children, wives and friends of the Association. **On the subject of membership**, Marcel tells me that if you do not have a membership card 2001, you must have forgotten to pay. It is already time to think about 2002 dues. Send your membership dues (\$ 15.00) etc. to Marcel Mondou, Membership chairman, 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6. (Tel.: 450-372-7893).

**Newsletter** - The HKVA had a very well versed and experienced newsletter editor. In his last newsletter he had signed off with great regrets for many of his readers. Have no fear, Phil has graciously accepted to write his part of the newsletter with myself writing the other part and mailing. So, if you have messages, notes, sick parade, special anniversaries, changes of addresses etc. please advise, also let's not forget to advise us of a death. Help us here.

All Quebec region members, where ever you are, will shortly be receiving, from your executive, more news as to how the re-organisation of your association will be done all this including all our veterans.

We are here for you, just write, call or e-mail; 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6, tel. 450-375-7439, } lmmm@sympatico.ca.  
Lucette M. Muir, Quebec Regional Director

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### Ontario Region

Four members of the Ontario Region's Executive were able to be at the Convention in Winnipeg, held from August 15<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup>. There were many special moments which provided opportunities for those who were new to HKVCA to meet some of the Hong Kong veterans, and members of their families. Two of the four were part of "Hong Kong Pilgrimage 2000" and were able to recall the special happenings of that journey, when renewing acquaintances. To all four, the moments involving the "Passing of the Torch" were especially significant and moving. The Convention was a great success, and the Manitoba Region is to be

congratulated for a superbly-organized event.

The Ontario Executive has begun to make contact with all of the Commemorative Association members in Ontario, with the hope of stimulating an increased interest in the association. The province has been divided into five geographical parts, with five Area Representatives designated to get in touch with each person in his or her particular area. The intention is to stimulate more and more interest in the task that the Commemorative Association has set for itself – that of serving the veterans who remain, and making sure that the public is

aware of the important role the Hong Kong veterans have played in the history of our country. The Ontario Executive is sure that there are many people in Ontario, whether related to a Hong Kong veteran or not, who would be proud to be part of an association created to honour those who in enduring so much have helped preserve freedom for the future generations of this country.

For anyone interested in becoming more involved in the organization in Ontario, here is a list of the Executive Officers' e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers:

Dave Murray, Regional Director  
[d\\_j\\_mur@hotmail.com](mailto:d_j_mur@hotmail.com) (905) 668-0605

Pat Turcotte, Secretary  
[petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca) (905) 274-3189

Wendy Campbell, Treasurer  
[wheelie@bmts.com](mailto:wheelie@bmts.com) (519) 538-5902

The Area Representatives are:  
Lori Smith, South Western Ontario Area  
(519) 668-1830

Michael Axent, Northern Ontario Area  
(807) 344-2767

Randall Ross, Greater Toronto Area  
(416) 429-4377

Ron McGuire, North Eastern Ontario Area  
(613) 724-3223

Leon Sokalski, Central & South East Area  
(705) 687-7143

By all means get in touch!

-Pat Turcotte, Ontario Region,

HKVCA

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### Quebec-Maritimes, HKVA

• This is the first attempt at a national newsletter. The top story, and it is old news by now, is the adjustment of all Hong Kong Vets' pensions to 100%. That will affect some 125 of us. I know that the increase will be welcome to all who receive it, including yours truly, but, just as important, in my estimation, is the acknowledgment by the powers that be, that we are a special group of veterans, that we deserve special recognition because of past errors and faulty judgement on the part of military advisors. We deeply regret that so many of our deserving comrades are not with us to benefit from the increase.

I must comment on the organization and operation of the National Convention in Winnipeg. This was the first such reunion run by the Commemorative Association. From my perspective, I could find no fault whatsoever with the way things were handled. The committee in Winnipeg is to be congratulated for the excellent way in which the whole program, from start to finish, was carried out. Many, many thanks.

Sorry for the brief report from the Quebec-Maritimes area, but I'll do better next time.

Be good to each other and may God bless.

Philip Doddridge

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### HKVCA - Dress Code

During this year's Convention held in Winnipeg, August 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2001, the transfer of powers to the HKVCA was completed. The ceremonies were to protocol and were very emotional. Since everyone's return comments and questions have been raised as to the "Dress Code" for the HKVCA members.

It has been suggested to the National BOD that the navy blazer and grays, as most are also members of the Royal Canadian Legion, would be very appropriate as well as very respectful to our veterans for official meetings, interviews, ceremonies, funerals and

commemorative ceremonies.

The "uniform" would be the navy blazer with commemorative blazer crest on the left side or pocket, the gray (bankers gray flannel) pants or skirt for the ladies, white shirt with the regimental tie (i.e. Grenadiers or Royal Rifle), black socks and shoes for the gentlemen and smoke gray nylons and black closed shoes for the ladies. This would be completed with the navy "beret" with a hat badge (red felt circle with the white HK and the wreath around the outside) same as the centre of the HKVCA blazer crest.

As members of the HKVCA, would you accept the suggestion of the uniform? I would much appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience. Please return your approval of this suggestion or comments on this to: Lucette Muir, 18 Barre, Canton de Granby, Qc. J2H 2E6 or e-mail to: [lmmm@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmmm@sympatico.ca)

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### Another Reminiscence of the 2000 Pilgrimage

-by Lori Smith

I was so looking forward to this trip to Hong Kong. Not so much with excitement; but with trepidation. The knowledge I would be sharing some powerful memories with my dad. Those memories told to me as a child. I looked forward to going with my dad, a kid who had joined the Canadian army. He had been a member of the Canadian army who had survived a World War and all the horrors that went with it. It was if I had known all my life someday this trip would happen. I truly do not know how much of the emotions I felt during my time away, and am still feeling, I will be able to share with you. And I am certain most of us have all felt this intense passion since coming home. The feelings are so powerful.

The ease with which we got around in Hong Kong was remarkable. From the touch down in a strange and sterile Hong Kong airport to the ferries that whipped us across the bay waters in 7 minutes. The lavishness of the Kowloon



Shangri-La Hotel was unexpected. The Chinese speaking to me in my own language was another welcome to a foreign country. The Consul General for Canada, Colin S. Russell and his wife welcomed us all with the first reception. He and his wife joined us for most of the pilgrimages' time spent in Hong Kong. Their presence helped tie the two eras' and two generation's and the two cultures together for me.

The 1st plaque dedication came on a (hot) winter day. The great exhibits at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence were especially interesting. Still another show of Hong Kong welcoming the veterans back. At Sai Wan Cemetery I observed the many, many, rows of grave markers. 283 Canadians are buried there. Also the many, many names engraved on the wall, 228 Canadians. The choir from the Canadian Overseas International School joined for this service. Their music added so much. A Boy Scout troupe laid a poppy and saluted each Hong Kong Veteran grave. My brother and I found the grave marker of my uncle, dad's brother. And to that moment I had never thought of him as my cousin's dad. Always my dad's brother. I loved the peacefulness on that hillside. Some soldiers' final resting place; in reality, too many resting places. Senator Molgat and wife Allison were unobtrusive but a very supportive presence. I thoroughly enjoyed his thoughtful speeches and his caring role towards us all. Allison seemed to share her quiet strength in my various states of mind.

We remembered 20 Canadians buried at the Stanley Military Cemetery ceremony. It was here I was able to begin to share my as yet unspoken feelings, my profound feelings, overwhelming feelings with the other members on this pilgrimage. Being the daughter of a Winnipeg Grenadier makes the plaque dedication on Jardine's Lookout on Mount Butler extremely heartrending. Briskly walking around the surrounding trails and the mountains dad had always called hills added to my sense of the veterans' isolation. The dedication at Lawson's Bunker brought the battle of Hong Kong even closer to me. Here was the actual building representing the West Brigade

headquarters. It was here the oldest vet on the pilgrimage showed us how spry he still is with his by-passing the stairs and taking a shortcut up to the gun display.

\* My tour with dad began with walking on the cement paths he and his 'buddies' had actually walked on 50 some years ago. Actually seeing and touching the pill box where my uncle was wounded was overpowering. Standing on the remaining foundation of a building some of the Hong Kong prisoners were held when first captured was all consuming. I watched as my brother stepped into a pile of freshly dropped rice. Dad laughed grimly and declared '50 years ago it would have been a feast'.

The commemorative ceremony at Yokohama British Commonwealth Cemetery was in memory of 137 Canadians buried there. The prisoners who did not come home. I watched as the vets proudly marched for all their comrades. During the last post I looked up and saw our escort cadets. Putting them side-by-side in my mind with the veterans. Those veterans with us. And those we had come to visit at this cemetery. Flash Clayton left the group for a few hours at this point. He visited a school to share his thoughts and views with the students. I am told he did this so poignantly when questioned by the students at the Japanese school. He told the kids to get lots of education and understand all about war. This way he told the kids, you and your children will not need to have another war.

The reception at the Canadian Ambassador of Tokyo's home was a great send off with which to end our trip. Their home was wonderful and welcoming. Yes, our Canadian taxpayer dollars are truly being well lived with. The colossal amount of preplanning by the DVA Government staff one can only imagine. But the behind the scene work during the pilgrimage kept the pilgrimage noticeably moving smoothly. The staff cared for each us. They kept track of us all.

I was able to capturing the physical part of the pilgrimage on camera. But the turmoil, highs and lows within my head could not be. Something happened to me in Hong Kong. Something that still lives within me. I connected with spirits- dad's,

his brother's, mine and others, who have been in Hong Kong and Japan since the day they died defending Hong Kong. Something that will always be a part of me. My Thanks to each of you. Thank you for your part in making my trip so wonderfully imprinted in my mind. The trip I knew all my life I would be taking. Someday.

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## In Memoriam

We regret to inform you of the deaths of the following Hong Kong veterans and family members, deceased since publication of the last newsletter. Our sincere condolences to the families of:

Borge Agerbak, WG  
1 May 2001  
Angus F. Aimoe, WG  
31 July 2000  
James Kenneth Bell, WG  
5 September 2001  
Phil Bliss, WG  
28 July 2001  
Roger Cyr, RRC  
26 May 2001  
Donald B. Dainard, RRC  
June 2001  
Frederick Gard, WG  
11 May 2001  
Clarence Hunt, RRC  
24 April 2001  
Stanley Lloyd, RRF  
2 April 2001  
Leon March (Novack), WG  
13 June 2001  
Leo Murphy, RRC  
26 June 2001  
Howard Naylor, Dbe.  
6 September 2001  
Edwin Rodrigues, RRC  
29 June 2001  
Leonard Seaborn, WG  
5 May 2001

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Amy Morrison, widow of  
Douglas Morrison, WG,  
21 May 2001

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Ronald Beattie, son of the late Rfm.

Kenneth Beattie, our first HKVCA regular member death.

## *The Book Corner*

### Roger Cyr, 1922-2001

The Hong Kong Veterans Association lost one of its most distinguished members with the death of Roger Cyr last May 26. Born in New Richmond, Québec, Roger was one of nine children. As a young man he worked in several lumber camps before enlisting with the Royal Rifles of Canada in 1941. Much of his time as a prisoner of war was spent in Japan working in a coal mine and as a shipyard riveter in Yokohama. Roger remained in the army following the war, and rose to the rank of regimental sergeant-major in the RRC. Upon leaving the service he studied business administration and became a director of human resources in the federal government; he retired from Canada Post Corporation in 1983 as Director General of personnel.

Roger was one of the founding members of the Hong Kong Veterans Association, and served as national President in the 1980s. He was a tireless fighter in the long struggle to win compensation for surviving veterans for their years of forced labour. In 1998 he was given the unprecedented honour of standing beside the Governor-General on the reviewing stand during the march-past at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa. One of Roger's last public activities with the Hong Kong Veterans Association was his attendance at the ceremony honouring Sergeant Gander held in Ottawa last autumn.

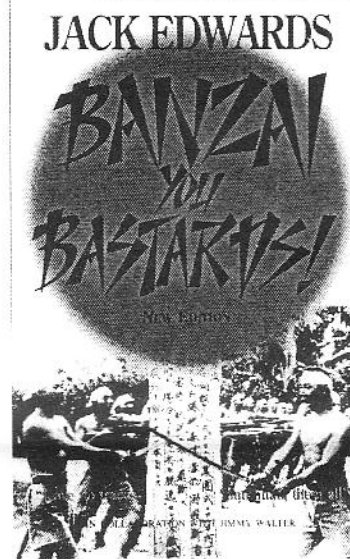
Roger Cyr is survived by his wife, Loretta, and five children. To all, our sincere condolences.

## Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong



The third reprinting of this book has been completed. It contains a few more photographs and a foreword by the author of Part 1, Grant Garneau. For those unfamiliar with this book, Part 1 deals with the historical aspects of the reforming the Royal Rifles in 1939; the Crown Colony of Hong Kong; the battle as seen by the RRC; and the imprisonment following the surrender. Part 2 is illustrations and photographs supplied by the veterans. Part 3 is mainly personal accounts. The book has 436 pages in total. Because of the limited printing (350 books), the cost is \$50.00 all costs included and may be obtained by sending a cheque to the H.K.V.C.A., 1 Stafford Road, Suite 164, Nepean, ON K2H 1B9

## Banzai you Bastards!



This book is perhaps the best known book written on Hong Kong during WWII, certainly the most widely published. Written by Jack Edwards, a British H.K. Vet who was a witness at the War Crimes trials and who lives in Hong Kong. This is a new edition with a chapter added.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, he has sent some books to the H.K.V.C.A. on consignment and they retail at \$48.00, all costs included. We are handling these as a convenience to our members and are selling them at cost. If interested, please send your order to the H.K.V.C.A. at 1 Stafford Road, Suite 164, Nepean, ON K2H 1B9.

## *Veterans' Corner*

Many of you are not taking advantage of the Disability Tax Credit (Form T-2201) when filing your income tax. As a war veteran receiving a Disability pension, you are entitled to apply for this. It is a simple process. The initial application must have

a doctor's statement attached. There is a form your doctor must complete, but this needs to be completed only once. After that, only the submission of the T-2201 form is needed. Whoever completes your Income Tax can supply the forms. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact me.

- Now that we have been successful in getting 100% Disability Pension for all Hong Kong Vets, the remaining veteran issue is to ensure that all are taking advantage of the Benefit programs to which you are entitled. The War Amps are handling this for us, so it is of utmost importance that you complete and return the forms they mailed you. These forms are important to have completed even if you do not wish any assistance or not. If the War Amps have them, they can act immediately if a situation arise where extra assistance is needed. Getting them later could cause a delay in getting service when it is urgently needed. If you do not know if you have completed them or not, just let me know and we'll find out.

- As you probably know, the H.K.V.C.A. has been working with the Dominion Institute to get the Hong Kong Story into the high schools. It is necessary to know Canadian history if our youth is to understand our society's role in the global community. We provide material for these students to read, but the understanding comes with the opportunity to speak with veterans face-to-face. If you are interested in sharing your experience as a young man in the 1930's & 40's, please contact me. A kit is available to assist you in how to tell your story and your will be invited to meet with other veterans and get additional information before you go into the schools. Several of our vets are already participating in this important program.

- Many of you have hear about the Military Cemetery established in Ottawa. This is a portion of the Beechwood Cemetery located in the Vanier section of the city

roughly half way between the Governor General's residence and the RCMP training center. It is being managed by the Department of National Defence. Any veteran has the right to request to be buried in this cemetery. The Application Form may be obtained On-Line by going to the DND Web Page set up for this ([www.dnd.ca/cemetery](http://www.dnd.ca/cemetery)) or by telephoning (613) 995-0972.

Derrill Henderson  
National Secretary H.K.V.A.,  
75 Priam Way  
Nepean, ON K2H 8S7

tel: (613) 829-5033

*Francais, svp appelez moi ou Derrill.*  
Also, we are in need of volunteer translators who can assist with French translation. If you can help, please let us know. Finally, contributions (and suggestions) are always needed and welcome. We ask that they be prepared in both languages if at all possible. I can be reached at home (5-3205 Uplands Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 9T3, 613-523-5442); at work (819-953-4599), or by

email: [ian\\_doull@pch.gc.ca](mailto:ian_doull@pch.gc.ca)



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.. from the Editor  
- by Ian Doull

As this is the second issue of the newsletter I have produced (under the expert guidance of Derrill Henderson), an introduction is in order. I am a recently joined member of the HKVCA. Both my father, Lloyd Doull, and his brother Bill, served at Hong Kong with the Royal Rifles of Canada. It is indeed a privilege to be associated with an organization dedicated to the support of our Kong Kong veterans, and to making their story better known to Canadians.

A few items to note. First, *nous essayons d'assurer que ce bulletin d'information soit aussi disponible en Francais; si vous désirez votre copie en*