



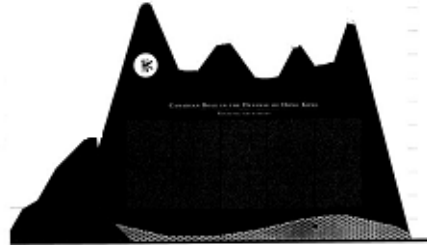
Of Special Interest

Manitoba Region – Lunches & meetings
on the 2nd Thursday of every month at St.
James Legion, noon – accessible. – Ladies
Tea & Tidbits September 19, 2009, 1 p.m.

National Biennial Convention –
Ottawa August 14 – 16, 2009 – unveiling
the Memorial Wall – please let your
Executive know if you are attending –
thank you.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR
CONVENTION: JULY 10, 2009**

Memorial Wall – Begins!



The good news is that the Wall project is underway and the will be completed for the August 15 ceremony.

The HKVCA National Executive has had to make some tough decisions.

Due to the prestigious site that the NCC has given us in Ottawa the design for the wall needed to change to enhance the area. With these changes we were expecting some cost increases – however we were shocked to see how much. We have to deal with the NCC approved companies and we are building in prime time so the cost was a huge difference.

However the good news is we are proceeding! We have the money to purchase the granite, engraving and installation BUT we need to continue fundraising to do the foundation and landscaping.

We need another \$150,000 to complete the project. WOW that sounds like a lot – and it is – however if we break it down to 1000 people/companies contributing \$150 or 500 people/companies contributing \$300 – you get the picture. We have asked the Regions to loan us some money to have the foundation done but we need to pay that back in a timely manner.

We have approached another government agency and veterans associations for funds but we are hoping that our members, who have been so generous to date, will look around in their community to see if there is opportunity to solicit funds

from people or companies or associations around you. We have a letter prepared that we will send to you or you can supply the address and we will do it. We need this project completed. We ask that you notify the Wall Committee of whomever you approach to ensure that this is no duplication.

The landscaping will be done after the dedication, money permitting, as we need the space for our members and the Hong Kong children's orchestra and choir to perform at the ceremony.

Mike Babin and the ON Region are working with the Hong Kong Economic Trade Organization for a fundraising concert with profits going to the Wall project.

We are grateful for the help of **Randy Wing**, HKVCA member in Ottawa, who has been terrific with expediting this project, of **Lauren Heinrichs** (granddaughter of Ferd Poitras, WG, HK vet deceased and daughter of Pam Heinrichs – MB Ed committee) who did the graphics work, of **Jim Lennox** who worked on the new wall design and landscaping and for **Rick Cunliffe** who designed the foundation.

That's it for now we hope you will be in Ottawa for the dedication. -
Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

This report will be even briefer than the last newsletter. Virtually every free minute I have these days is spent on either the Memorial Wall project or the Convention arrangements.

I look forward to seeing you in August, as the Memorial Wall is unveiled.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Have a great summer, keep yourselves in good health, and may your travel be pleasant.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

The AWATEA

As indicated in my contribution to the April issue of Wasureru-nai, I did a little research into the Awatea and came across this item in The New Zealand Ship and Marine Society web site.

I quote.

“The Awatea... a record breaker, ‘Queen of the Tasman’, third fastest ship in the British Empire when built, quintessence of luxury and celebrity travel. The only international merchant ship manned by a New Zealand crew to be lost in combat during World War Two.”

I also found this article by

G.Huston, entitled, “AWATEA AT WAR”

“We sailed from Vancouver with a contingent of Canadians aboard – just young chaps, many of whom had not even seen the sea until then, let alone travelled on a ship. The voyage across the Pacific to Hong Kong where these troops were to be stationed, with a call on the way at Honolulu for water and stores, was uneventful. It was reported that a ship had shadowed us for several days, and it was presumed to be a Japanese warship, but of course that was before Pearl Harbour.

I have wondered at the fate of the Canadians for they would have borne the brunt of the Japanese assault on Hong Kong, both in the fighting and as prisoners of war, **but I have never seen any mention of them in the accounts I have since read.**”(Comments, anyone?)

The story goes on in great detail, culminating with the end of the Awatea.

This bit by Deryk Thomson, a Canadian.

“ The Awatea was under the command of Captain G B Morgan, who had survived an earlier attack on his vessel by Japanese Zero aircraft while returning from Hong Kong after disembarking battalions of Winnipeg Grenadiers and Royal

Rifles of Canada in October (sic) 1941, many of whom were killed or captured within weeks of arrival.

The Awatea was sunk in the Mediterranean by German aircraft on November 11, 1942, off the coast of Algeria”.

Thus ended another small chapter in the history of “C” Force.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Our members continue to distinguish themselves in their service to us and to their communities.

George Peterson has been inducted into the Canada Veterans Hall of Valour;

Flash Clayton has been awarded the Legion Meritorious Service Medal and **Jessie Clayton** has been awarded Life Membership in the Brechin Mara Branch 488 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Congratulations to all these loyal members.

HK VETS GRAVESTONE MARKERS

Now that the weather is warming up I have plans to continue some of the work I started last fall, that is, affixing the HK emblem to the gravestones of some of our deceased vets. I will have the help of a younger chap, Arnold Ross’s son-in-law, David Sawyer, so it should go well. The monuments of Cecil Devouge and brother Alva Devouge have not yet been tended to, so they are on my list.

I know that there are many other veterans’ headstones that have not yet had the disc installed. This could be a project to be looked into after the excitement of the Wall has died down.

That will be all for this time. I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer, and to all the golfers, under par and a hole in one now and then.

Be good to each other and may God Bless.
Philip

Lost Trails”

- **Jim Trick**

Can you help out? Since we've started our "Last Post" listings on

the HKVCA web site we've been trying to make our records as complete as possible. The fact is, there are hundreds of our vets who have died since the war for which we have no information. Please take a moment and visit <http://www.hkvca.ca> and check the listings in the Last Post (right column on the page). If you can help us update our records we would appreciate it. Who knows - while improving the quality of our records you may also be providing someone with important information.

* * * * *

Membership Statistics as of June '09

Region	Reg	Veteran	Widow	Totals
Al/Sask	54	14	11	79
Atl	44	3	7	54
BC	96	12	39	147
MB	181	18	58	257
ON	141	21	53	215
QC	60	19	58	137
Totals	576	87	226	889

Last Post

George Hallada, WG, H46573 died January 18, 2009

Walter Gray, RRC, E-30101 died April 22, 2009

James C. MacMillan, RRC, E 30112, May 31, 2009

Arthur Lousier WG, H 41847 died June 2, 2009

Samuel Di Sensi, RRC, E 30605, died June 7, 2009

HKVCA

Bertha Barter, wife of Robert "Bob" Barter RRC, died May 7, 2009

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

We will remember them

Convention 2009 Ottawa

AUGUST 14 - 16, 2009

Please come on **August 14 to 16, 2009** when our veterans will be honoured at the unveiling of the

Hong Kong Veteran's Memorial Wall

Convention and Memorial Wall Dedication Updates

Don't forget to visit our online **Convention and Memorial Wall Information Centre** to see the latest information on our convention and related events. You'll find updates that were not included in the mailed packages plus an interactive map which shows the location and other details of the major events.

<http://www.hkvca.ca/conv09/index.htm>

~ DEADLINE for REGISTRATION is JULY 10, 2009
~ DEADLINE for SPECIAL RATES at the LORD ELGIN HOTEL is also JULY 10th ~

The registration packages have been mailed and we ask that you plan to attend this memorable occasion so reply as soon as possible.

REMEMBER this convention is primarily for the Hong Kong veterans, and in honour of all 'C' Force, with the "unveiling" and "dedication" ceremony putting them in the spotlight.

On the financial side, if you are unable to attend please still purchase several of the Cash Draw tickets to support this event.

A WALK IN HER FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

(by Faye Gillis)

October 27, 2007. As the plane starts its descent into Chek Lap Kok airport, I gaze out at the island of Hong Kong with deep sadness and apprehension. I have left my home and job, my family, my comfortable life to move here for 2-3 years with my husband. This is the eighth move in our married life relating to his work. My mind tries to comprehend what an 19 year old farm boy from Runnymede Quebec, aboard the SS Awateah might have felt as he landed in Hong Kong on November 16, 1941.

68 years ago, my father, Pte. Harold Wilfred Englehart, Royal Rifles of Canada was one of 1975 soldiers who were deployed to assist the British in their defense of Hong Kong. One quarter of these soldiers died in battle or during the ensuing 3 years and 8 months as Japanese POW's. His survival and return to

civilian life in which he married and had three children, and consequentially my living in Hong Kong is a remarkable example of how life is interconnected. He was an active member of the Hong Kong Veteran's Association and my childhood is filled with memories of their yearly reunions and the special bond that he had with his comrades.

Unfortunately, in my youth, I was impatient with his difficulties connected to "the past" and did not understand the impact and long term effects that this experience had on him. To his credit, he managed to move beyond the nightmare and found pleasure in being outdoors, fishing, camping, maintaining his home, reading and studying scientific theories. His children and grandchildren were a delight and his eyes would brighten when we were around. I would catch glimpses of his suffering, sometimes around Christmas or Remembrance Day, sometimes when he thought we were not looking. Yet, incredibly, his stories of that time were mainly humorous tales, which never dwelt on the illnesses, starvation or abuses that he suffered. He worked diligently to provide for our family's comfort and our education so that we could have a better life.

Hong Kong has changed tremendously since 1941. It is one of the major financial centres of the world with sparkling skyscrapers and luxury items on every corner. Exotic cars, wonderful Michelin rated restaurants, multiple shopping arcades with high-end fashion houses and a constant stream of people are confronted daily. Ships crossing the harbour and numerous construction projects- the sights, smells and sounds are overwhelming to me even though I have spent much of my life living in cities in North America. But, there are also many reminders of another time. Bullet and shrapnel holes in the lions that stand guard outside the HSBC head office on Chater Road, concrete patches that repair the damages to the clock tower near the Star Ferry in Tsim Sha Tsui and the Legislative Council Building east of Statute Square, the altar piece and crucifix from the chapel at the Sham Shui Po internment camp located in St. John's Cathedral and the Sai Wan war graves cemetery which contains the remains of many of my

father's friends, these remind me of those terrible times.

My tears have shed freely since I landed in Hong Kong. Standing at the Cenotaph watching Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada lay a remembrance day wreath and attending the Canadian war remembrance ceremony at Sai Wan where I met Brigadier Christopher Hammerbeck in the early days of my arrival were poignant reminders of my father's struggles. The term "post traumatic stress syndrome" was not used prior to the end of the Vietnam War to explain the psychological and physical effects that manifested in these survivors. I was on my way to learning the impact of these experiences on his development transitioning from adolescent to young adulthood. Indeed, when I was a teenager, at times, I would consider what it would have been like to have been captured, starved and mistreated instead of attending college, partying with friends, attending rock and roll concerts and having every privilege and freedom possible. If nothing else, I have always felt deep appreciation for their sacrifices that allowed me to live such a privileged life.

I've had difficulty adjusting to life in Hong Kong in spite of living in a luxurious apartment with daily contact to family and friends back home. I often feel bored and unfulfilled in spite of the many social groups and activities that I participate in. Even the inability to watch my favourite television shows annoys me. Then, I stop and think about what it must have been like to have all your freedom taken away from you, no communication with family, to feel hungry all the time, to be ill and not be able to obtain necessary medical treatments...to not know if or when you would ever get to go home and I wonder, how did he ever survive?

One of the things that I do in Hong Kong is assist with the preparation and serving of food to men who are homeless at the Home of Love run by the Missionaries of Charity in Sham Shui Po. Ironically, the site is located where many of the POW's including my father was interned until he was drafted to Japan in January 1943. The men receive 2 meals a day of rice, vegetables and meat or fish

and may have second or third helpings. The Sister's make sure that no food is wasted; every kernel of rice is precious. The men look hungry and eat quickly and quietly before they leave to go off into the surrounding park and busy streets. My heart aches when I see my father in the eyes of these men, knowing that his daily ration would have been considerably smaller and less nourishing...knowing that there was no door that he could freely walk through, no social worker to help him find shelter. It is a humbling experience.

One story that my father did share with me was that they had been commanded to surrender by the Governor on Christmas Day, 1941. The surrender documents were signed at the Peninsula Hotel a few blocks from where I live. He often said that they would have preferred to fight until death and thus I grew up with very strong feelings about the word surrender. Through everything my father endured, he never gave up. He often stated that what kept him going was his determination that he was not going to return to Canada in a box. I always admired his courage and strength. For many years, I have studied and practiced yoga and I have encountered difficulty "surrendering" into certain postures and to life's many changes. Through my understanding of his experiences, I have learnt that to surrender is not a weakness, but sometimes a necessity in which to survive.

My regrets for not spending more time with my dad while he was alive, to paying more attention to his stories and to trying to better understand his experiences cause me grief. I have found myself on an emotional roller coaster in the last place on earth that I would have chosen to live. Yet, I have grown tremendously as I encounter my thoughts and feelings about his experiences and how they shaped my life. I feel that he would have approved of my quest and often feel his presence as I explore some of the battlefields, walking through the tunnels at the Shing Mun Redoubt, peering down into a pillbox at Wong Nai Chung Gap or gazing at the South China Sea from the Stanley Cemetery.

I encounter sailors, young men and women the same age as my father was, in the busy streets of Central and Wan Chai as they enjoy some well deserved leave time from their duties. I realize that our world still needs these brave individuals to fight for the freedoms that we so often take for granted. I smile or offer some directions and see my dad exploring some of these same streets in the short time before he was engaged in his valiant effort to fulfill the Royal Rifles motto "able and willing". In the words of Lieutenant Colonel Price " they never surrendered to overwhelming force. Defeated by it, yes, but conquered, never!"¹⁾

1. Penny, Arthur G. Royal Rifles of Canada A Short History.1962

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Hello Everyone,
Earlier this month on June 4th I attended the Victoria Veterans Client Advisory Committee Meeting at the office of Veterans Affairs Canada. These meetings are hosted by VAC twice a year to share information and provide updates on Veterans Affairs programs. With the aid of modern technology and a big screen TV we held a video conference with two ladies in Charlottetown, PEI. We could see them as they gave a presentation of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board. They could see us on their screen and we could speak to each other to ask questions. We then had a video conference with a lady who is the manager of the Operational Stress Injury Clinic that has just started up in Vancouver. It was quite an interesting process and all very informative.

We just completed one-half of our annual spring luncheons on June 13th. It was, indeed, a beautiful spring day in Victoria. We were honoured to have two Hong Kong Veterans and the widow of a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps in attendance. David Golden, now residing in Victoria BC, was with the Winnipeg Grenadiers, and Gerry Gerrard was with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. Vilma Sequeira is the widow of Tony Sequeira (HKVDC). She sat at my

table and we had a wonderful conversation.

Gerry and his beautiful wife Ev were there with their daughter Pat, her husband Dave and their two sons Brian and Kevin. Brian (Gerry's grandson) and his wife Correna are expecting their second child shortly. Pat tells me it's a boy and will be a brother for Brody. I've known for a couple of years now that Kevin has an "HK" emblem tattooed on his arm along with his grandfather's regimental insignia. I was finally able to remember to take a couple of pictures of his arm at this Victoria luncheon. Quite a tribute to his grandfather, don't you think?



Gerry Tuppert (son of Bill Tuppert (d), RRC) travelled over the Malahat from Duncan BC to be at the luncheon. Gerry is planning on being in Ottawa in August for the unveiling of the Memorial Wall. It was a pleasure to meet him and hear stories of his Dad. Gwen Day (daughter of Bertram Gilbert (d), RRC) had a long conversation with my soon-to-be husband, Ron Quesnel. They conversed in both official languages. She threatened to tell Ron all the secrets she knew about me. I wonder how that went? Note to self - "learn to speak French".

Jim and Anne Trick (son and daughter-in-law of Charles R. Trick (d) WG) were in attendance and contributed to the conversation

at our table. Jim is our webmaster and National Secretary for the HKVCA and we appreciate all his work very much.

We were very pleased to have Donna Kirk - District Nursing Officer (a former Winnipegger) representing Veterans Affairs Canada. She read a "greeting" from VAC which thanked our veterans for their sacrifice and acknowledged that our freedom today is a result of their service. She has first-hand knowledge of the Winnipeg Grenadiers as a result of growing up in Winnipeg, and said some very heart-felt words of how much respect she has for the HK vets.

I gave the most recent update regarding the Memorial Wall. I'm sure you'll have already read about it in other areas of this newsletter so I won't go into the details. You know that the regions have been asked to loan monies to the Memorial Wall fund in order to successfully complete the Wall on time for unveiling on August 15th. I asked those in attendance at our Victoria luncheon if they agreed to have BC lend monies toward the Wall. Everyone's hands were in the air. We have held a meeting of the BC executive members and we are all in agreement. It shall be done.

We will report on the June 27th Vancouver luncheon in the next edition of the newsletter.

On a personal note, as I alluded to earlier, the next time I give my report the name I will use will be "Linda Quesnel". Ron and I will be married on July 19th at Saxe Point in Victoria. We couldn't be happier. Our "honeymoon" will be in August when we drive across Canada to be in attendance at the unveiling of the Memorial Wall. We'll see you all then.

Please take very good care of each other. May God bless you and keep you, until we meet again.

Warmest regards,

Linda Stewart – submitted on behalf of Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor

AB/SK Action

Hello from the Alberta/Sask Region,

We are getting excited about joining many of you at the Ottawa Convention. I have been talking to many of the Veterans, Widows and family members. There are quite a

few of our members planning on attending the convention. I know for the Veterans, it can be difficult to travel; however some of them are very determined to be there with their comrades. The courage and strength of these great men and women always amazes me. Special thanks go to the Wall Committee for all the work they have done to get the wall ready for the dedication in August. I know more money is needed to complete the project, and I hope more is raised at the convention.

We are getting together for a luncheon on May 20th at Ralph MacLean's house. We hope to get more of our members interested in traveling to Ottawa.

Again, wishing you all a great summer and looking forward to the August event.

Norma Fuchs, Secretary

Manitoba Moments

We were saddened by the passing of **Art Lousier**, WG, a dedicated supporter and attendee of the HKVA and all our functions, condolences to wife, Doreen; son, Rick; daughter Denise and grandchildren. *We will remember them.*

We are very proud of **George Peterson**, President of the Manitoba Branch of the HKVA as he was inducted into the Veterans Hall of Valour in May and it will soon be announced that he will receive the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation next week. George Peterson would like to thank Phil Doddridge and Flash Clayton for nominating him for the induction to the Hall of Valour.

MB Education committee attended the Red River Heritage Days at the University of Winnipeg with our tabletop display and information for the students and teachers. We are looking at presenting an award next year for the best Battle of Hong Kong display. Using the new presentation that was created by ON Region we will be making several presentations in the Fall. The tabletop display will be in the Manitoba Museum from the end of October to November 15 where a display is located at the end of the Parklands Gallery - the 'Impact of War' unit. What they have now added is the Curatorial Notebook, on a pedestal in front of the display, and pull-out

panels with photos of the Hong Kong Vets. It is a permanent exhibit. It's not huge by any means, but they've packed a lot of information into the space that was available.

Juliet Lafortune received a copy of a letter from a young student, Kevin Ashier in Ontario, thanking Mr MacDonell for the great presentation given to his grade 10 class. The information presented on the Hong Kong Battle was an eye opener helping them understand more the concepts of war.

Tea and Tidbits, a ladies event, held 4 times a year took place on June 20th and Manitoba Region will be observing VJ day on August 23, 2009 with a rededication of the Manitoba Region HKVA plaque in the All Saints Church where the Winnipeg Grenadier Colours are hanging.

Vince Lopata and Dennis Bell have been investigating a Military Medal that Bill Bell, WG, HK vet, wears as there was no record of it in the Canadian military records. Bill also has the Coronation Medal which is often given with British honours and that is what appears to have occurred with Bill. So this raises the question of how many other Canadian HK vets have these British honours that are not part of their military record.

The Colour Party and George Peterson attended the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Annual Inspection at Minto Armouries where George presented the Hong Kong Veterans Efficiency Award to the deserving cadet. The Colour Party will be in Lac du Bonnet for the "Canada Day Memorial" parade June 28.

Manitoba Region will be loaning the Memorial Wall \$15,000 towards the foundation contract. We will be sending out letters to groups/people who our members think will be interested in making donations to our Wall project. Please contact the Wall Committee with any names or suggestions for fundraising.

On sick parade is **Dick Wilson** at Deer Lodge, **Bob Lytle** at Riverview and **Grant Shepherd** at home – also to any others that we haven't heard of, we think of you often and wish you well.

It's good to hear so many people are going to Ottawa to see the Memorial Wall – Derrill Henderson and the Convention Committee have done considerable work to ensure this memorable event will focus on the veterans, veterans wives and widows who are able to attend.

We have some new items in **Barry's Emporium** – HKVA flag, license plate holders and golf shirts – check them out online at <http://www.hkvca.ca/store/index.htm>

– MB Region Exec.

Ontario Offerings

On August 8 the Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra will be giving a concert in Toronto. Tickets are \$25 and \$100, and there are sponsorship opportunities available for businesses. All of the proceeds will come directly to the HKVCA to help fund the Memorial Wall and our other educational programs, so please do your best to interest your friends in attending! I hope to see many of our members there. If you would like to buy tickets or to get more information, please call me at 416 732-5720 or email me at msbabin@gmail.com.

The high school PowerPoint presentation that I've mentioned in previous newsletters is now complete and has been sent to all of our Area Reps and other interested parties in Ontario. It is being publicized on the HKVCA web site, and we've received a number of requests to send it out. There is no charge for it. I would like for as many of our members as possible to commit to giving the presentation at their local high schools. I will be running a training session (two sessions, in fact) at the Ottawa convention in August to help people get comfortable with using it to tell the HK story ... so if you're attending please plan to sit in on one of the workshops.

The official launch of the Virtual Museum of Asian Canadian Cultural Heritage was held on June 4 at York University in Toronto. We have contributed to this initiative of York University.

We held a South-Western Area luncheon in London, ON on May 2. We had a respectable turnout of 16 members, including two Veterans. A third was unable to attend at the last minute due to ill health.

Everyone enjoyed themselves!

Pat Turcotte has done an admirable job over the last couple of years of setting up and running the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA web site. Due to the pressure of other commitments Pat has stepped down from this role, and we are now looking for a replacement to take over her role. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pat at petsask@sympatico.ca or 905 274-3189 or me at msbabin@gmail.com or 416 732-5720.

We have two open Area Rep positions in Ontario: the GTA and Southwestern Ontario. The main responsibility of our Area Reps is to maintain contact with the members in their Area, and to provide a small writeup about the members and HKVCA activities in their Area for the quarterly newsletters. Please contact me if you would be interested in accepting one of these important and fulfilling positions.

Pat Turcotte, the Chair of our Education Committee reports:

The winners of the 2009 Cross-Canada Essay Contest have now been decided. The Contest was indeed representative of the various parts of the country in that the participants were not only from Ontario, but from Alberta, and British Columbia as well.

The contest winners have been informed and will receive their cheques shortly. Once this part of the process has been completed, the winners' essays will be sent to the Teachers' Zone on our HKVCA Website to be displayed there until such time as it is appropriate to transfer them to the Website's archives. Many thanks to the judges who participated in the Contest. They were most co-operative in terms of their attention to detail, and the promptness of their submissions. Once the awards have been disbursed, the judges will discuss with the members of the Ontario Executive the direction the Essay Contest will take from this point forward.

On a completely different front, members of the Ontario Executive were invited to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (Volunteers) Association Dinner on Saturday, May 30th.

Pat and Bernard Turcotte were able to represent HKVCA at the event. George MacDonell was one

of the main speakers, and reminded everyone of the close relationship between the Volunteers and the Canadian soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong, and the importance of continuing the connection between the two groups.

On June 13th and June 14th, the Ontario Region will be involved in Canadian International Military Tattoo to be held at the Copps Coliseum in Hamilton. There will be two performances, one on Saturday evening, the 13th and the second on Sunday afternoon, the 14th. Leon Sokalski, Area Rep. for West Central, has volunteered to look after the special exhibit being sent from Winnipeg, which will be set up in the foyer of the Coliseum. Members of the Executive are assisting in looking after the display, which outlines the various aspects of the Battle for Hong Kong and the role Canadian soldiers played in that battle.

Ron McGuire, our Area Representative for Eastern Ontario reports: Unfortunately, Ken Ewing [RRC] broke his hip, had a successful operation but while recuperating got pneumonia, which he got over but had another bout. I am pleased to tell you that he successfully battled it all and after months in hospital and convalescent facilities is back home. Ken is again receiving therapy, is progressing well, and is able to walk the long driveway from his house to the road. We all hope to see Ken and Susan at the Reunion in August.

Eric Maloney [RRC] has had some health problems over the winter but is now doing well. My good friend Bill MacWhirter [RRC] also had some problems, which required he make several trips from Gaspé to hospital in Quebec City. I am pleased he has overcome them and is looking forward to coming to Ottawa with his family and several friends.

While I continue to serve on the Memorial Wall Committee, I am pleased that Randy Wing, son of the late Peter Wing, [RRC], has agreed to join us. His background and expertise has been invaluable on this project and I thank him for coming on board.

I am also on the Convention Organizing Committee and responsible, as I was in 2005, for the Memorabilia Room. If you plan

to bring anything for exhibiting in the Room please let me know now, so that I can allot the appropriate space to you.

Canada Veterans Hall of Valour
Update by Ron McGuire:



L to R---Col. Neil Puddicome, ex-Canadian Airborne, whose uncle was the Canadian Judge on the Japanese War Crimes Tribunal, George MacDonell, RRC, George Peterson, WG, and Ron McGuire.

On 23 May 2009 I had the privilege to prepare the Induction statements for Sgt. George Peterson [WG] and Major John Reid, MBE [RCAMC-Brigade HQ]. I read the statement for George who was escorted by his three daughters to accept his Induction Portfolio. George gave an excellent acceptance speech.

Flash Clayton [RRC] was to share the reading of the statement for Major Reid with George MacDonell [RRC]. Unfortunately Flash suffered a stroke, and could not be with us. However, I am pleased to tell you that Flash quickly recovered and is doing very well. I shared the reading with George, who added some of his personal recollections of Major Reid. Jon Reid accepted his father's Portfolio and gave a very nice speech on behalf of his family.

Derrill Henderson, Mitzi Ross and Alan, her husband also attended the Luncheon. Flash with Jessie, his wife, and George were inducted into the Hall of Valour in 2007 and 2008 respectively.



Photo: Twelve members of Major John Reid's family were at his Hall of Valour induction in Ottawa, six from Ontario and six from British Columbia and Alberta: (left to right) Jon Reid (son, Toronto), Julian Reid (grandson, Ottawa), Giles Reid ((grandson, Toronto), Kim Groves (granddaughter, Calgary), Deryn Ramsey

granddaughter, Campbell River), Janet Harris (daughter-in-law, Toronto), Harry Ramsey (grandson, Campbell River), Stephanie Reid (granddaughter, Owen Sound), Daniel Reid (grandson, Orillia), Mary Ramsey (daughter, Campbell River), Jock Reid (son, Vancouver), Rob Ramsey (son-in-law, Campbell River).

The CVHofV Board of Directors has accepted my recommendations for next year's Inductions. The following five men will be inducted on Saturday 22 May 2010:

-Sgt Ronald Routledge, DCM [RCCS- Brigade HQ]. As a POW, Routledge was on special service involving intelligence matters. After he was suspected by the Japanese, he suffered and endured a variety of tortures, but never admitted his involvement nor did he reveal the names of the others involved.

-Pte. John Adams, L/Cpl George Berzenski, Pte. Percy Ellis, and Sgt. John Payne, all were WGs, and each man received a Mentioned in Dispatches. In August 1942 the foursome escaped from North Point Camp, but were recaptured, beaten, tortured and executed.

They will bring the total number of members of "C" Force to be inducted to eighteen. There have also been another twenty Canadians inductees who fought in the Pacific Campaign, making a substantial representation from this once overlooked theatre of war.

The Hall of Valour's Brick Building Fund continues to be a success. It allows participants to remember loved ones in a meaningful way.

Some sad news from our Northern region: We would like to mention the passing of George Hallada Winnipeg Grenadier Veteran of Thunder Bay, 90 yrs. old January 18th, 2009. Our condolences are extended to his son John and his family. Jackie LeDrew, our Northern area rep writes that it was a treat to talk to him over the past few years and hear his golf stories. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

That's the news from Ontario!

Quebec Quotes

Greeting from sunny Quebec

Summer is finally here with it's greenery, many flowers and our little feathered friends with their serenades.

Since our last news, we held our executive meeting and as usual

reports were read, subjects were discussed with some answers and others to be studied. Marcel and I attended our Royal Canadian Legion QC Command bi-annual convention held in May here in Granby. Again the business sessions were well attended and many points were made by the delegates. A commemorative ceremony was held at our local cenotaph. Comrade Pat Varga Dominion Vice-President of the RCL took the Salute escorted by Marcel Mondou. The social side of the weekend was quieter than in the past years. All in all it was again a great experience.

We are invited to represent our Veterans for the Canada Day Celebrations in Montreal for July 1st.

Results from a recent survey, QC will be very well represented in Ottawa for the Memorial Wall Unveiling and Convention with many veterans, widows, families and friends in attendance. All are looking forward to Ottawa in August.

Again we, in QC Region, have lost more of ours, Veteran Samuel Disensi RRC, Widow Ethel Stickles and Wives Cecile Thompson and Bertha Barter. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!

We continue our calls to Veterans and Widows to say Hello and see that they are well. We are pleased to announce that Irene Dallain, wife of Jean Paul Dallain, has graciously accepted to bring us news and be our ears from the Gaspé Coast. She has already talked to many and will report later. Thank you Irene and welcome on the team.

We have new members to our list and Welcome to you all.

That will be it for this time. Take care and looking forward to seeing you all in Ottawa.

Maritime Memories

On behalf of all the Atlantic Region Executive – we would like to wish all the Vets, spouses, widows and families all the Best in 2009.

* * * * *

Humour

Catholic guy goes into the confessional box. He notices on one side a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall

is a dazzling array of the finest Cuban cigars then the priest comes in.

"Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting these days."

The priest replies "Get out. You're on my side."

♥♥♥

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "don't pay for me Daddy I'm under five."

♥♥♥

Little Johnny asked his Grandma how old she was. Grandma answered, "39 and holding".

Johnny thought for a moment, and then said, "and how old would you be if you let go?"

♥♥♥

Pastor's Business Card

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10.'

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'

♥♥♥

The Importance of walking

The only reason I would take up walking - Is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, Before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth

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out with chocolate.

I do have flabby thighs, But fortunately my stomach covers them.

I like long walks, Especially when they are taken By people who annoy me.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, Start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years,.....Just getting over the hill.

We all get heavier as we get older, Because there's a lot more information in our heads.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

♥♥♥

If God sends you down a stony path, may he give you strong shoes.

Have a great summer, good health and safe traveling!