



**Of Special Interest**

**MANITOBA REGION** – Lunches & meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at St. James Legion, at 12 noon – accessible.

## *Memorial Wall and 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day*

### **August 15 Events**

- MB Region - All Saints Church Broadway, & Osborne, Winnipeg
- ON Region - The “August 15 1945 Foundation”, which is an association of Dutch POWs of the Japanese, is holding a commemoration ceremony on August 14.
- Ottawa wreath laying
- Quebec Reunion in New Richmond, QC on the Gaspé Coast - August 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2010



### ***HKVCA President***

- Derrill Henderson

The spring of 2010 has been very rewarding for me. The image of the "veteran" has never been more prominent and respected in the eyes of our nation since the days immediately following the end of WWII. And, as your President, I have been invited to many events honouring these heroes.

**Hong Kong 2010 – November 30 for more information contact**  
[www.hkvca.ca/2010trip](http://www.hkvca.ca/2010trip)

**Souvenir video of the Dedication of the Memorial Wall August 15, 2009**  
available for \$25 – please send cheques to the address at the bottom of the page.

Are you sponsoring an upcoming event? Make sure to advertise it on the HKVCA online calendar. You can email Jim at [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca) to be added to the calendar editors, or just give him the information and he'll do the updating for you. You can view the calendar by pointing your browser to: <http://www.hkvca.ca/calendar/index.htm>

**2010 Dues are owed now – please remit to your region as soon as possible - Thank you.**

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The Memorial Wall will soon be completed.

On Monday (June 14) – the seating wall was poured and June 15 the forms came off and the sanding was done June 16 to give a “finish” to the seating wall.

The memorial wall is covered to prevent any damage that might accidentally occur. The contractor is really taking no chances.

The trees have been moved and the ground prepared for the “western” grass leading to the wall. Boulders have been selected and on site other than the one for the plaque.

The 1st phase of the patio slab was poured Friday, June 18 with the 2nd phase completed June 23<sup>rd</sup> with the soft landscaping completed by the end of June.

We have great visible access to the wall from both Sussex and King Edward. Things are moving along well. Pictures of the completed wall will be in the September newsletter.

We have completed the final form for Heritage Canada with Barry sending the audited statement to Derrill and Derrill will deliver it to them. We will be notified if all is satisfactory and receive a cheque for \$25,000, which should complete this project.

That’s it for now - Memorial Wall Committee

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The two most significant were my representing the National Council of Veterans Associations (NCVA) and our association at the ceremony marking the end of the war in Europe. I had the honour (thanks to our Patron, Cliff Chadderton) of laying the wreath at the National War Memorial. As my name was announced over the loud speaker, I fell in beside General (Rtd) Charles Belzile representing the Canadian Legion, Lorne McCartney of the ANAVETS, and Captain (Rtd) Paul Bender of the Merchant Navy. We then marched four abreast to the front of the Memorial and individually laid our wreaths. It was strange, for although this was to honour those that fought the Axis, visions of many of HK vets no longer with us were passing through my head. I felt quite emotional about the experience.

On the following Tuesday, I attended a special ceremony at Legion House for the planting of a tree and the unveiling of a plaque by Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, honouring the Canadians that liberated her country. I had the pleasure of being introduced to her - a most delightful and down to earth person. There was a veteran that fought in the Netherlands present, but his legs were weak and could not stand in the receiving line. An aide

mentioned him to her and pointed out where he was seating. She excused herself and took off across the lawn in high heels at a good clip. After sitting on the bench beside him, she placed her hand on his arm and engaged in conversation with him for a long time. The aide finally went to her and got her to come back and meet others. Her action was so moving, that most just stood silently and watched.

I have spent quite a bit of time on the Memorial Wall project. Carol's report will undoubtedly mention that the landscaping will be finished by month end. This August being the 65th anniversary of the end of the war, there will be commemoration events held in Ottawa. The plan is to have a wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Wall. I am in constant touch with Veterans Affairs, and will be submitting details of the V-J Day weekend commemorations for posting on our web site and directly to the regions, as they become known to me. Hopefully we will be able to keep all informed by these actions.

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### **HKVA President**

Hello again to all the readers of Wasureru-nai. Should we remind ourselves what the term means? The Japanese say it when they want to remember. So do we.

I was thrilled to get such a response from many sources for my mention of Nick Dee in the last issue. I found that he is buried in Mississauga, Ontario, and one person even gave me his grave number. Perhaps it is a good idea to mention, now and then, the name of a comrade who has long since departed. That would give the real meaning to "Wasureru-nai".

This time let's mention Dave Wellman and Leo Caspar and see what response we get!

### **VETERANS WITH A VISION**

Recently I received a copy of a book, "Veterans With a Vision: Canada's war blinded in peace and in war". It was written by Serge Marc Durflinger, professor of history at the University of Ottawa. He has dedicated it to his grandmother, who was blind, and to our own Bill Mayne, Hong Kong

Veteran, ex-member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

It is the history of the efforts of war-blinded veterans in their attempts to gain recognition and compensation for their suffering. It traces their early efforts, sponsored by Sir Arthur Pearson, in setting up training facilities in England and in Canada, and resulting in the establishment of the Sir Arthur Pearson Association, linked to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

To me, sighted as I am, blindness is the most serious affliction that a person can endure, locked forever in a world of darkness. To me, there can be no greater debt owed to men and women who lost their sight in the service to their country. Bill Mayne was one of them, Louis Robertson was another, John Chatwell a third, names that readily come to mind, and there are others who fought at Hong Kong and spent their remaining years as blind men, with courage and determination surpassing all other attributes.

We who are in relatively good health in spite of advancing years can be thankful that we have retained the most precious of our senses, that of being able to see.

I checked out the availability of the book at Chapters-Indigo. The hard cover copy is a bit pricy, but the soft cover is available for \$19.76.

**Veterans with a Vision, 358 pages, by Serge Marc Durflinger, ISBN 978-0-7748-1855-1.**

No doubt that purchase of the book would help the efforts of SAPA and CNIB, and pay tribute to Comrade Bill Mayne, who had a large part in the success of the organizations.

### **ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

Edwina is at home with me. She gets along fairly well with her walker, but does not leave the house. We have help, of course, but I am able to take her a cup of tea in the morning and see to whatever comforts I am able to do. I go for a coffee most mornings and pick up the newspapers, so my life, though sometimes dull, is good, and I am grateful.

That will be all for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless.  
Philip

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### **Last Post**

**Jack Smith**, L 2721, WG, died June 17, 2010

### **HKVCA**

**Florence Violet Savage**, widow of William Henry, H6726, WG, died September 26, 2009

**Margaret Lee**, widow of William James Lee, C40653, RRC and mother of Glen Lee, member in ON HKVCA, died December 9, 2009

**Ev Gerrard**, wife of Gerry Gerrard, P7563, RCCS, died March 20, 2010

**Patricia Phillips**, HKVCA MB member and former City Councillor, daughter of Ernest Thomas H20220, WG died April 1, 2010

**Teresa Bitzer**, wife of Augusta Bitzer, L22725, WG died April 8, 2010.

City Councillor, **Bill Clement**, husband of Debbie Clement, MB member and son-in-law to Bob Lytle deceased, H6351, WG and Myrtle Lytle, died May 1, 2010

*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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### **Membership Statistics**

*Up to date as of June '10*

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	63	13	13	89
Atl	45	7	5	57
BC	92	11	39	142
MB	182	13	56	251
ON	149	17	56	222
QC	50	15	56	121
Total	581	76	225	882

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### **We Are Making Progress!**

Almost 300 of our members have signed up to use email as their primary method of communication with HKVCA. The \$\$ savings for us are significant, but these members are able to take advantage of our other services as well. In our pursuit of our main objectives of advocacy and education, we can alert them to pertinent events, allowing them to get involved and influence government decisions.

If you have concerns about the use of your email address, please note that we do not share this information with anyone, and

only use it to let you know about newsletters and important events. All emails we send use "BCC" which means no other addressee will be able to see your email address.

Want to sign up for our email service? It's simple - just send an email to this address and we'll make it happen: [hkvca@shaw.ca](mailto:hkvca@shaw.ca)

### Memorial Wall Dedication Video

We are fortunate to have some copies available for our members on the **Memorial Wall Dedication that occurred in Ottawa in August 2009. The cost is \$25.00 including postage.**



If you wish to have a copy please send your cheque to **HKVCA - Ste #164, 1 Stafford Road, Nepean, ON K2H 1B9**

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### Hong Kong 2010

#### Trip Highlights

- **Departure:** November 30, 2010.
- **Duration:** Hong Kong segment: 8 days, 6 nights - Japan segment: 5 days, 4 nights.
- **Destinations:** Hong Kong and optionally, Japan (Yokohama War Cemetery).
- **Cost:** From \$2,530 + taxes (Hong Kong only) depending on departure city.
- **Includes:** Airfare, accommodation and breakfasts, airport transfers at destinations, bus transport to sites at destinations (including

English-speaking guides), some lunches and dinners.

- **Highlights:** - Sightseeing tour of Hong Kong;
- Commemoration ceremony at Sai Wan War Cemetery;
- visit to Stanley Military Cemetery;
- guided tour of battlefields; visit to Stanley Village;
- shopping opportunity;
- visit to Yokohama war cemetery;
- extensive sightseeing in Japan and much more!

If you are interested, please send an email to [hkvca.trip@gmail.com](mailto:hkvca.trip@gmail.com). There is no obligation! At this time we are simply building our contact list so that as the planning proceeds we can keep you updated. You can also look for information and updates at [www.hkvca.ca/2010trip](http://www.hkvca.ca/2010trip).

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### Across the Nation

#### BC Banter

Greetings to you all – from sunny British Columbia,

Here are the results of the BC Region Elections – effective June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

**Murray Doull** – Secretary - Treasurer – by acclamation.

**Lee Naylor** – Regional Director – by acclamation (also continuing as Education Chair).

**Bev Campbell** – stepped down from Secretary position (continuing in role as Phone Pal Coordinator).

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to **Sally Laite, James McGrath and Gray and Lynn Laite** for forming the Elections Committee to help us with this process.

I passed the torch to the new Regional Director, **Lee Naylor**, at the Vancouver Luncheon on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Lee has a proven track record of dedication to the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada and getting their story out to the public. He will be an absolutely wonderful Regional Director for BC and I have no doubt that I have left the leadership in very capable hands.

Our annual spring luncheon in Vancouver was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We were honoured to have two Hong Kong veterans and a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defense Corp in

attendance – **Gerry Gerrard**, RCCS and **John Lowe 'D'** Coy RRC, with his wife **Florence**, and **Jan Solecki**, HKVDC and his companion **Olga Godoroja**.

We were honoured by the presence of **Pearl MacPherson**, widow of Don MacPherson, WG -- **Loretta Baty**, widow of Arthur Baty, WG, -- **Eileen Cambon**, widow of Dr. Ken Cambon, RRC – and, **June Naylor**, widow of Howard Naylor Sr.

Our special guests were **Guy and Melanie Black**. Guy is a hard working organizer of recognition events for veterans in BC and we have considered it a privilege to be asked to participate in the many events he has organized. Thank you, Guy.

It was my distinct pleasure to be presented with a plaque as a token of appreciation from the BC Region. It was very special to me to have it presented by **Gerry Gerrard. Murray Doull** described it as “an emotional event and there were both smiles and tears.” It certainly was. I'll miss our working together, Murray. You're the best.

Gerry Gerrard presents an



Appreciation Plaque to Linda for a decade of service as RD.



Lee Naylor, your new BC Regional Director (R), in conversation with Danny Muir

Our Victoria Luncheon held on June 12<sup>th</sup> was equally successful.

There were fourteen attendees including **Gerry Gerrard**, RCCS and **Vilma Sequeira**, widow of Tony Sequeira (HKVDC). Our special guest was Veterans Affairs District Director, **Bridget Preston**. The timing for our lunch was a little off as we missed the fly over by the Snowbirds who were performing to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian Navy. It was an extremely busy weekend in Victoria with all their festivities. We had a wonderful luncheon and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company - telling stories, sharing old photographs and catching up.

Lee said it would be okay for me to submit this - my last report to the national newsletter. I appreciate the opportunity to say farewell. I won't use the word good-bye because I will, of course, maintain my membership in the Association and I trust I will see some of you at our events. What can I say about these past ten years of serving as the Regional Director in BC? It has been a truly unique time in my life.

There were so many experiences that I would not have had if I had not been connected to the Hong Kong Veterans and their association. I think of the 2009 unveiling of The Memorial Wall. I think of the 2005 pilgrimage to Hong Kong and all the amazing dinners and tours we had the pleasure of experiencing. If you have the opportunity to go on the upcoming 2010 trip to Hong Kong, take my word for it, don't pass it up. I think of the many conventions I've attended across Canada, especially the 2003 event hosted in Victoria. I think of our annual luncheons in Vancouver and Victoria. I think of the Remembrance Day and Christmas Day wreath laying ceremonies. I think of our education display and events.

All of the activities and events were exceptional, but most of all, I think of the people. I think of the children of the veterans and friends who came forward to make all of these events possible. I think of those who assisted me during all these years and were always there when I needed them. I especially think of all of the Hong Kong veterans, their wives and widows that I've come to know as friends,

and I think of those who are no longer with us.

It has been an honour to serve and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the memories. I will never forget you.

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

Warmest regards,  
Linda Quesnel - submitted on behalf of Murray Doull, Bev Campbell and Lee Naylor

### **AB/SK Action**

Hello from Alberta!

We'd like to bring you up-to-date on some recent happenings involving some wonderful awareness of the Hong Kong story. Michael Palmer, the treasurer for the HKVCA AB/SK region and the grandson of George Thomas Palmer (Royal Rifles, Hong Kong vet) wrote a book entitled *Dark Side of the Sun* about his grandfather's experiences during WWII and it was recently released in early 2010. Since then, it's been in bookstores across Canada, it's been featured in a few newspapers across the country, and one of Michael's interviews about his book made it to a national CBC show (*The Story From Here*) back in April... aside from a few other regional CBC shows. Michael was also featured on the OMNI (catering to the Asian populations in Canada) National news telecast in May and his publisher, Borealis Press ([www.borealispress.com](http://www.borealispress.com)) has since submitted his book for inclusion in the Governor General's Literary Awards.

He had his official book launch and lecture back on May 20th in the auditorium at the Calgary Military Museum and there was a good turn out. Lots of good food for the people who made it and we even had a Hong Kong vet who turned up - Ralph MacLean (Royal Rifles). Ralph was the celebrity that night it seems - there were some touching moments when he was acknowledged on a few occasions, on behalf of all the Hong Kong vets, for his service to Canada when he was fighting for survival and for freedom back in the hills of Hong Kong during the war. It was certainly wonderful to have him there so that he could see Michael's book come to fruition after many

years of research and writing (Ralph had helped a little bit with Michael's book during the research).

Since his book launch, Michael has completed a few more lectures on the Hong Kong story and book sales continue to be strong. In association with this, the committee heading up the Calgary Chinatown's Centennial celebration in August 2010 (they're expecting 50,000 people in attendance) is hoping to have the HKVCA AB/SK region at their event for promotional opportunities and for spreading awareness of the Hong Kong story.

Looking into the future, we're hoping to organize a HKVCA AB/SK dinner and dance around the time of Remembrance Day in November... it's still early in the planning phase but details will be provided when things unfold. That's it for now... have a great summer!  
*(Editor: Well done Michael - wishing you great success for the book but also for spreading the word.)*

### **Manitoba Moments**

Well Manitoba is a very active. There are many things going on like coping with the rain and flooding. We have definitely had our share of that, but it hasn't dampened the spirit of the HK's or HKVCA members.

We are in the process of planning the June Tea and Tidbits, VJ Day and of course the Reunion in October Barry Mitchell will be attending SAG this year with Pat Bale and Carol Hadley, as he says now he is retired he can do more things. Don't say that too loud Barry as we will take you up on that. HA! HA! The Mitchell's have a new grandson, congratulations to Barry and Constance and the whole family.

**Grant Shepard** celebrated his 90th birthday on June 6th way to go Grant.

I had a visit with **Tom Dewar** and he is doing well, enjoying the pens that were given out at the Convention in Ottawa. The light helps him see clearer. **George Peterson** attended the opening of the *Museum for the Military Historical Society* held at the Norwood Legion here in

Winnipeg and donated a WW2 dress uniform along with a video of "Slaves of the Rising Sun" and the "Memorial Wall Dedication" in Ottawa.

May 30th at Brookside Cemetery an open house was held commemorating the 65th Anniversary of VE Day. Due to the weather, it was held inside Bardal's Funeral Home as the rain was not on our side. George Peterson laid a wreath, escorted by Vince Lopata, as I was busy dealing with a flooded basement so was unable to attend. The reception lunch was provided. Thank you to all who attended.

Thank you to Barry Mitchell and Pat Bale for manning the display at Heritage Days, with Carol Hadley judging for the Veterans Award commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Navy. This was held May 6th at the University of Winnipeg with the winners of the first Veteran's Award at the 2010 Red River Regional Heritage shown below.



Very pleased to announce the winners of the first Veteran's Award at the 2010 Red River Regional Heritage Fair Winner **Nicole Nieves** (WWI display on women and animals in war) received "One Soldier Story" from the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association; winner **Parisa Malhipour** (Ukrainian Internment Operation) received a book from the Winnipeg Rifles and winner **Kyle Martineau** (Italy Campaign) received a book, calendar and pen from HMCS Chippewa museum. Congratulations to the winners!

The Education Committee will also be participating in the Annual Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association Conference (MSSTA SAG) on Friday, October 22, 2010! We have a display, handing out information on the ON Region National Essay contest,

presentation to teachers with the DVD that ON Region produced and Association information.

Well I hope this gives you a little idea of what is done in Manitoba and the great Executive board we have. We have held our elections and the executive remains the same by acclamation - Regional Director, Juliet Lafortune; 1st Deputy Director, Stan Lopata; 2nd Deputy Director, Vince Lopata; Secretary, Carol Hadley and Treasurer, Barry Mitchell. Thank you to all who helped out and make things go smoother.

Well till we meet again take care and stay in touch - Juliet Lafortune ([jlafortune@mts.net](mailto:jlafortune@mts.net))

### Ontario Offerings

**Mike Babin, our Regional Director** reports:

As you'll see below, our Cross-Canada Writing contest has concluded for this year. I'd like to especially thank Pat Turcotte for the many hours she put into the planning and execution of this contest. Of course, she had able help from several others, but without Pat's diligence and drive it would not have been a success.

The bookings continue to come in for our trip to Hong Kong and Japan later this year. As of this writing, we are at 17. Given that the trip is nearly 6 months away, this is a very good number and I'm expecting a sell-out. Four Veterans have said they are planning to participate.

The "August 15 1945 Foundation", which is an association of Dutch POWs of the Japanese, is holding a commemoration ceremony on August 14. The HKVCA will participate, and we'll be sending more details in an email bulletin, as the event gets closer. We need volunteers! Please contact me at [msbabin@gmail.com](mailto:msbabin@gmail.com) if you would be interested in helping with any aspect of our association's work.

I hope you all have an excellent summer!

**Education Committee Report by Pat Turcotte,**

**The Two-Day Event at First**

### Markham Place Mall: May 1st and 2nd

This has been a very active time for members of the Education Committee. On May 1st and 2nd, Bud and Ruth Mann, along with Royal Hong Kong Regiment President Tony Au, co-chaired a two-day event at First Markham Place Mall. With a large floor display borrowed from HKVCA in Winnipeg, we had a number of tables showing our books, pamphlets and information about our HKVCA Association, with pictures donated for the event by our resident HKVCA historian, Ken Skelton.

The event coincided with the opening of Asian Heritage Month on May 1st. Nancy Siew, who has chaired the AHM celebrations for many years was instrumental in arranging that the focus on this particular day very much included HKVCA. The lead-in to the event was a press conference on April 25th at the Bata Shoe Museum. Some of the volunteers who helped make the event itself such a success were the members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (RHKR) – Volunteers. They were able to connect with all those who frequent the Mall, including many more comfortable in Chinese than in English. Along with several HKVCA volunteers were a number of students from Milliken High School, with the support of History Head Paul Zimbalatti.

A large crowd gathered for the Grand Opening of Asian Heritage Month on the Saturday – and our own Association was very much in the forefront of the activity. Among the dignitaries were Senator Vivienne Poy, His Honour Lincoln Alexander, Mayor Scarpitti of Markham, along with two federal MPs, John Fletcher and John McCallum. George MacDonell was one of those who spoke at this very special opening, and it was Bud Mann who thanked the guest speakers. One highlight of the event was the presentation to our Association by the Mayor of Markham of a framed citation from the town of Markham.

A number of photos were taken, including ones featuring the Winnipeg floor display.



A few have been included here, showing Bud and Ruth Mann and Nancy Siew and George MacDonnell.



The Winnipeg floor display & Ken Skelton's pictures stands and Ruth and Bud Mann with Tony Au,



President of the RHKR, and Shelagh Purcell, volunteer.

### The HKVCA Cross-Canada Writing Contest – Portraits of Valour/Portraits de Courage

Another very important event was the HKVCA Cross-Canada Writing Contest – Portraits of Valour/Portraits de Courage. The deadline for entries passed on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and here is what has transpired since then.

The material was given to the judges in order to determine the winners in the various categories. The marks were then passed along to determine the winners overall, and Certificates were prepared for all of the entries. The judges, and others who assisted are to be congratulated for their diligence, and the speed with which they were able to accomplish their tasks.

Those involved in the Committee that played a role in developing the whole program included the following: Nancy Hamer Strahl, Flora Fung, Cheryl Petherick, Nick Brune, Mike Babin and Bernard Turcotte.

A very special “thank you” to Flora Fung, Dep’t. Head of Canadian and World Studies at Oshawa Central Collegiate for developing the specifics of the Contest itself, as well as the form that the Certificates took, all based on the premises decided upon by the Committee as a whole. Flora’s work showed a great deal of imagination, and creativity, and proved attractive to those teachers and students who had the opportunity to deal with its challenges.

The Contest was available to students in either French or English, and entrants were divided into Grade 9 and 10 as the Junior group, and Grade 11 and 12 as the Senior group. Each student who participated received a special Certificate, and money prizes were available to the winners. There were 42 entries from across the country. Details of the contest can be seen on the [HKVCA Website www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca) teacherszone

We thank and congratulate all those who took part in the Writing Contest, and have listed all the winners below.

#### Senior Category (Gr. 11 & 12):

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$200.00 Aparajita Banerjee, Kelowna Sec. Sch. (BC)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$100.00 Krista Wallin, Kelowna Sec. Sch. (BC)

Honourable mention: Heather Light, Kelowna Sec. Sch. (BC)

#### Junior Category (Gr. 9 & 10): English

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$150.00 Tina Yuan, Univ. of Toronto Schools (ON)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$75.00 Karen Metz Const. Neil Bruce Middle School (BC)

Honourable mention: Colby Wellings Const. Neil Bruce Middle School (BC)

#### Junior Category (Gr. 9 & 10): French

1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$150.00 Alyssa Jeffrey, Port Perry High School(ON)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$75.00 Grace Zhu Merivale H.S., Ottawa (ON)

Honourable mention: Sharony Rashid Merivale H.S., Ottawa (ON)

### West Central Area report by Gordon Coyne:

**Veteran Ken Pifher (RRC)** Ken is well, driving his car, and living in his own home in Grimsby, Ontario. When we spoke on April 24th, he was celebrating his 89th Birthday. “Many Happy Returns, Ken”. At noon that day he had celebrated with his usual lunch crowd at the “Sin Bin” in Grimsby; and in the evening he planned to enjoy dinner with family at the beautiful Lake House Restaurant, which overlooks Lake Ontario at Jordan Harbour, Ontario. Ken will be making the pilgrimage to Hong Kong this year to mark the 65th anniversary of liberation. Ken has three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, all living in Niagara Falls.

**Veteran Gerry “Sunny” Sunstrum (RRC)** As with Ken Pifher, Gerry, in his 93rd year, is well, driving his car, and living in his own home in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Living nearby in Fonthill, his family provides solid support when needed. With two cataract operations and other eye surgery behind him, he is seeing comfortably again. Gerry has never travelled south with the “snowbirds” in winter, preferring to stay in sunny Niagara Falls and in close reach of medical care. Regarding the trip to Hong Kong this year, Gerry’s attitude, not surprisingly, is “I left it once and I’ve never been back”. Every day at lunchtime he and two buddies enjoy soup, muffin, and tea at Timmers. As for TV, he is currently much absorbed in the Stanley Cup Playoffs in support of the Canadian teams.

**Widow Agnes Fehr (Victor Fehr RRC)** Agnes says she is feeling “pretty good” and enjoying her new surroundings in Niagara Retirement Manor in St. Catharines, Ontario. She finds this style of living much more sociable than when she occupied her own home. Her family of four daughters and four grand kids is very important to her. They live in Hamilton, Ancaster, Fergus, and St. Catharines, Ontario. In addition she has three brothers, all in their 90’s, and living in Burlington and St. Catharines. Agnes is an active volunteer with Warehouse of Hope, which is an international

humanitarian organization. She says that she much appreciates the work that our Area Reps do.

**Widow Esther Geraghty (Donald Geraghty RRC)** My recent phone call to Esther turned into a "Happy Birthday" celebration, as I learned that she was 75 years old on May 8th. She lives in Burlington, Ontario with daughter Kelly and Kelly's children. Unfortunately, creaky knees have caught up to Esther, despite two replacements, so she has given up driving her car. Overall, she says her health is "OK". Her son lives nearby in Hamilton. Altogether, Esther has six grandchildren. One of her grandsons is waiting to be called up into the PPCLI. We had a good chat, which Esther concluded by saying "I appreciate your call".

**Widow Irene Grimshaw (George Grimshaw RRC)** I spoke with Irene's daughter, Dorothy Applebee, as Irene is currently in Shalom Village Convalescent Home, in Hamilton, Ontario, as the result of a bad fall several weeks ago. Irene has been a widow for 30 years, and spent the last twenty-two living with Dorothy and her family. Prior to moving to Hamilton, Irene and George were proud members of the Griffintown community in Montreal. Irene has taken a big interest in a new book called *An Irish Heart*. It is a history of Griffintown, which many people refer to as the Irish Capital of Canada. Dorothy's comment on the DVD of the dedication of the Memorial Wall was "Mother was very touched by it".

**Widow Jean Onyette (Grenville Onyette RCAF)** We have learned belatedly that Jean Onyette passed away at age 92 in Niagara Falls last October. Her husband, F/O Grenville Onyette (RCAF), gained fame in WW II as a member of Birchall's crew in the flight that detected the Japanese Fleet en route to attack Ceylon. As Wireless Officer, Grenville sent the message back to base that raised the alarm. After being immediately shot down by Japanese fighters and picked up by the Japanese Navy, he spent the rest of the war as a POW.

**Ron McGuire, Area Rep for NE Ontario:**

Hello everyone -- hope you are all well -- I am pleased to inform you that Mitzi Ross, Daughter of Sgt Lance Ross, RRC, has today agreed to take over from me as Regional Rep for NE Ontario.

When I took the position from Derrill Henderson in 1998 or 99 it was because as President he had more than enough to do. It was to be temporary because I also thought Regional Reps should be a relative of a Hong Kong veteran, but I was glad to do it until I could find someone willing to take it on. I told Mitzi I will help her when and if she requires it -- all she has to do is call me.

I have enjoyed doing the job over those years but find I am getting more and more less sociable as I get older, I will be 67 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and less willing to talk unless I have to, and the job requires keeping in touch with members and talking. I know Mitzi will enjoy that part of it.

I will of course continue to do what I can to ensure Canada's Hong Kong Veteran's history is made known at every opportunity and to promote the HKVCA and its objectives. When I was first invited to join the Association by Derrill in 1996 or 97 I was an exception because several Veterans had suggested I be asked because of my past work on their behalf, otherwise only family members were eligible. I encouraged that it be changed, as it was, and a number of non-HK related members have joined as a result. Today, because I impressed Colonel John Gardham with my "involvement and commitment to the Hong Kong veterans" he completed a membership form and gave me \$15, which I passed on to Derrill. I think I also make a number of other suggestions, some of which were implemented, that benefited the cause.

I would like this to appear in the next newsletter -- unedited please.

With best wishes -- Ron McGuire

### Quebec Quotes

Greetings from sunny Quebec.

Hello everyone. Since our last report, we have been quite busy with preparations for our August 2010 Reunion. Our Reunion will be taking place in New Richmond, QC

on the Gaspé Coast from August 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Explanation on the unusual timing of our Reunion, it is very simple, it is due to the availability of the hotel facilities and lodging. August is a high tourist season and area on the coast. Hopefully this will not discourage any of you from attending our Reunion. The Organizing Committee is inviting anyone who would like to attend our Reunion to contact Lucette and it will be a pleasure to count you with us.

We attended a local VE Day 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Memorial Service and Parade. We have been in contact with Veterans and Widows. At their age many don't get around much any more but their spirits are high.

In March a "Call for Elections" was mailed to all our members. The report will be made during our August Reunion.

That will be it for this time. Have a nice and safe summer.  
Lucette Mailloux Muir,  
QC Regional Director

### Maritime Memories

Plans are in the works for the Annual Reunion in September.

♥♥♥

### Humour

Groups of Americans were traveling by tour bus through Holland. As they stopped at a cheese farm, a young guide led them through the process of cheese making, explaining that goat's milk was used. She showed the group a lovely hillside where many goats were grazing. 'These' she explained, 'Are the older goats put out to pasture when they no longer produce.' She then asked, 'What do you do in America with your old goats?'

A spry old gentleman answered, 'they send us on bus tours!'

\*\*\*\*\*

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Tampa. 'The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water.'

However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?' After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, 'Wedding Cake.'

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob, a 70-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25-year-old tall, tan and terrific "hoochie-mamma" who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful sex appeal and charm and who hangs over Bob's arm and listens intently to his every word. His buddies at the club are all aghast. At the very first chance, they corner him and ask, 'Bob, how'd you get the trophy girlfriend?' Bob replies, 'Girlfriend? She's my wife!' They are knocked over, but continue to ask. 'So, how'd you persuade her to marry you?' 'I lied about my age', Bob replies. 'What, did you tell her you were only 50?' Bob smiles and says, 'No, I told her I was 90.'



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- Grave Marker--\$75.00

These items can be seen on the website at

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**Please inform us of any address changes so we can stay in touch and communicate to you with the newsletter.**



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