



NCC Accepts Project

Of Special Interest

IN ORDER TO KEEP ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMED AND TO SAVE COSTS, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAVE ELECTED TO HAVE THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER ISSUED 4 TIMES A YEAR.

EVENTS:

BC Region Spring Luncheons - Victoria is Saturday, June 7th, 2008 and Vancouver will be on Saturday, June 21st, 2008.

Manitoba Region - Lunches on the 2nd Thursday of every month at St. James Legion, noon – accessible. Regular HKVCA meeting May 3, 1 p.m. Ladies Tea & Tidbits June 14, 1 p.m.

Quebec Region Reunion - August 14-17, 2008.



Great news!! Our project has been **approved** in principle by the National Capitol Commission (NCC). It will be done under **Parks Canada** and they are donating \$10,000 to the project. What a bonus!

Derrill Henderson, has had meetings with NCC to start the site selection process and to answer a few questions to clarify some things that the NCC Board had. We have been able to move our completion date to **August, 2009**. Once the site has been selected the preparation work can begin. **The bottom line is - we are on our way.**

More good news from the **Winnipeg Foundation**, they are donating \$5,000 to our project. Wow!! Keep it coming. There were other companies and foundations that were waiting for the approval, so now we will be contacting them to see what that will realize.

The committee has prepared a letter to go with the solicitation packages to show how the HKVCA will show its gratitude and recognize all donations through the following means:

- up to \$499, a card of thanks from the Regional and/or the National Treasurers,
- \$500 to \$999 a letter signed by the President of the HKVCA • \$1000 - \$2999 a certificate
- \$3,000 - \$4999 a plaque
- over \$5000 a plaque, the Donors corporate logo and link on the HKVCA website, also listed on the dedication brochure, inclusion in any newspaper and other advertising regarding the Memorial Wall dedication.

• any donation of \$20.00 or more receives an income tax receipt
Thank you all for your positive thoughts and prayers, I am sure this force is unbeatable.

On a different note, we were saddened to hear about the passing of **Ken Mayo**, design draftsman, who helped us start this project. He worked with us to decide on the design and ensure its structural integrity was sound. *We will remember him.*

- Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

The Chinese proverb “May you live in interesting times” was meant as a polite means of wishing someone bad times, but in our case, we are indeed living in “interesting times” - from a very positive position. Our main focus as an association is the Memorial Wall, and as Carol Hadley, our Project Leader has stated elsewhere, the very thought of this dream becoming a reality has everyone very excited. Throughout our nation, this is in the minds and on the lips of all our members. The energy we have derived from this is pushing all to do their utmost to help the project along. As the famous Ford commercial said - **“This is Job 1”.**

The approval for this project comes at an interesting time in Canadian history as well. We all thank our present day military for stepping into the breach to assist others through force when necessary, but also with compassion. The brave men and women are a main reason so many want to immigrate to Canada. The world sees the best of Canada in the actions of these heroes. As a Canadian I am proud to say, “It was ever so!”

As Canadians we can only show our support in limited ways.

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Say "Thank you" to each soldier (Air Force & Navy included) you meet. Take every opportunity to stand and pay your respect when the cortège of one fallen in battle goes by. Support the widows and children. Wave a Canadian flag!

Two recent media articles, one written by an Australian and another by a Brit, lash out at the nations of the worlds for condemning our military actions or what they perceive to be a lack of them. These two articles highlight all our accomplishments and they challenge any other nation to put their record against Canada. For so few people, we have accomplished so much.

In the fall of 2007, a nation wide survey was conducted to see if, and how much, Canadians appreciate veterans' sacrifices. Eight in ten Canadians said they are proud of Canada's military and the role they played in world conflicts of the past and what they are doing today. In Quebec, often erroneously condemned for a negative view on our military, more than 70% stated they were proud of Canada's military. Over 80% of Canadians wear poppies. The problem with Canadians is that they don't know very much of Canada's war history. **This is where our Association must take a leading role.** I am proud to say that our Ontario Region has created the educational model for all to follow. By educating Canada's youth on what we know best - the Battle of Hong Kong and the Far East POW experience, we may well spur others to promote a wider base knowledge.

Veteran's Issues: The Lawsuit brought against the government by families of veterans because they felt that the government did not handle the funds of veterans hospitalized for shell-shock and/or schizophrenic conditions, has been dismissed by the Supreme Court. If successful, it would have seen millions of dollars paid to "thousands of distant relatives and perhaps even creditors" of these veterans. My question is: "Where were they when the veterans needed them?" Lawyers for the veteran's families are deciding whether anything can be

"salvaged". There is a possibility of payment to veterans still alive or later to their widows, but the buck should stop there.

The new pension rates have been published. Anyone with questions may contact their local VAC office, or contact me if this is more 'comfortable' for them.

On a more personal note, I continue to represent our Association at every opportunity. I attend a minimum of three events a month. I receive many questions from those doing research or just having an interest in what our veterans experienced in Hong Kong and Japan. When I have the information, I answer them, but mostly I put them in contact with the HK vet best suited to answer their queries. For the most part, they are envious of the dedication and camaraderie of our Association. You are the ones that make this possible. Thank you.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Hello from down east.

Winter here has been severe, as it has in most of the rest of Canada. More snow than for many a year. But we will survive. We always have.

FUNERALS

Most of what has been occupying my time lately has been attendance at the funerals of friends. Bob Olscamp and Hector Hunt, as of this writing, are the latest of our Hong Kong Family who have gone to their rewards. Bob was 87 years old and Hector was 96. Bob's family, Carol, Jacques and Mike were in attendance in Campbellton. Hong Kong Vets Graham Boudreau, Allison Pollock, Bob Barter and I were also there, and I was told that Henry Lyons had visited the funeral parlour the evening before the funeral.

Hector, the third of the HK Hunt brothers, was laid to rest in Chandler in a moving ceremony attended by HK Vets John Duguay, Bill MacWhirter, Bob Barter, Paul Dallain, and myself.

I think that the latest count of HK Vets stands at 114.

Arnold Ross, at ninety years of age, is still going strong. I saw him yesterday at the funeral of yet another friend, a RCNVR veteran and lifelong friend.

CAMPBELLTON PLAQUE

On the evening of December 8, the City of Campbellton unveiled a plaque in the Civic Centre Park, dedicated to the memory of Hong Kong Veterans. It was a chilly evening, but that didn't prevent a huge crowd from attending the outdoor ceremony. It was a testimony to the respect for HK Vets that the people of the area hold. A copy of the plaque will appear on the HKVCA web site, as well as a copy of the proclamation by Campbellton which reads in part,

"THEREFORE, I, Mark Ramsay, Mayor of the City of Campbellton, do hereby proclaim the month of December, 2007 as 'Hong Kong Veterans Month' in the City of Campbellton".

I have written a letter of thanks to the Mayor and Counsellors.

Campbellton was well represented in the Royal Rifles, but with the passing of Reggie Law, no HK Vets are left there now, although we still have Graham Boudreau, Henry Lyons and Allison Pollock living in the Campbellton area.

Nathan Greenfield

Some time ago we received a request from Nathan Greenfield, the author of several books on Canada's role in various world conflicts.

Greenfield has recently been in the Gaspé area, interviewing as many of those of us who are left, collecting material for another book on the Canadians in Hong Kong. He visited me on a snowy day and stayed for two and a half hours. He had with him a suitcase full of books, folders of documents, cameras, sound equipment, even documents in Japanese that he was waiting to have translated. He wasted no time on small talk, but got right to the point. He was very knowledgeable, having no doubt studied many accounts of the battle. Hong Kong Veterans across Canada can expect a visit from Greenfield if he hasn't already seen you. His book should be interesting.

VETERANS CANADA WIDE

Living, as I do, in the far reaches of Canada, and getting to the point where my travels are generally confined to local visits, I fear that my attention is unduly

concentrated on the HK Vets who live near me.

I rely heavily on Derrill, who is the secretary of the HKVA in addition to his other duties in HKVCA. Derrill represents me at meetings that I normally should attend, and keeps the presence of the Association in the minds of the officials whose influence can affect our welfare.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I want again to express my gratitude and that of my fellow HK Vets, to the Commemorative Association. The executive committee, of which I am privileged to be a member, however silent, has managed our affairs, made many important contacts in the world of business and government, and represented us ably on many fronts. I feel confident that our future and the lasting memory of Hong Kong Veterans is in good hands.

In the haste to get this to Carol before the deadline, I'll stop for this time. Be good to each other and may God Bless. Philip

LAST POST

Lloyd W Hanna, WG, H41719 died September 21, 2007

Fred Wright, WG, H17495 died December 18, 2007

Frank Brown, WG, H-6851 died January 18, 2008

Robert "Bob" Olscamp, RRC E30119, died February 11, 2008

Hector Hunt, RRC, E29965 died February 20, 2008.

HKVCA

Hazel Keays Campbell, widow of Charles Campbell, RRC, died October 2007

Nellie Stepanchuk, widow of Nicholas Stepanchuk, RRC, died November 16, 2007

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

Alma Friesen, widow of Ike Friesen, WG, died October 27, 2007

Jean Elizabeth MacKnight, widow of Harold MacKnight, RRC died January 6, 2008.

Ken Pearson, husband of Verna Pearson, died March 13, 2008

Melva Keyworth, widow of Charles Melbourne Keyworth RCCS, K11054, died – no date.

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

We will remember them.

Veterans Ombudsman

- Derrill Henderson

Minister Thompson has established the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman. Pat B. Stogan MSC, CD, PEng, Colonel (Ret) has been appointed to fill this position.

Veteran's groups were invited to attend a meeting with Col. Stogan. I attended representing both the HKVA and the HKVCA. It was a session intended to introduce himself to those gathered; to supply information on how he envisioned his office operating; and to give all an opportunity to discuss their concerns. Despite a snowstorm, there was a good turnout of associations. His Operating Philosophy is: **"It may be right, it may be legal, but is it fair?"**

He outlined the structure of this new organization and how he proposes it to operate. He emphasized that questions or issues coming to him from any veteran will be given full consideration. His role will concentrate on correcting the processes and/or interpretation applied by the Pensions & Benefits department of VAC, the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, DND, and other agencies/departments wherever veteran's issues arise. His office will not become involved in the actual processing of the veteran's case, but it will ensure that a fair and just system is used in arriving at decisions. I expressed our concerns with widow's benefits and the process by which the proposals of his office are implemented.

He encouraged all to keep abreast of the progress of his Office and on behalf of our HK veterans and their widows, I intend to do just that!

HKVCA and Tax Receipts

- Barry Mitchell, Treasurer

Perhaps you aren't aware that the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association is a Registered Charity in Canada and as such, can issue tax receipts just like any other charity.

The HKVCA was issued a charity designation by Canada Revenue Agency in 2002 and is permitted to issue receipts that can be used as tax deductions on your

income tax return. This is no different than any of the many charities which most of you support and while we are not suggesting that you don't donate to them, we are asking that you include the HKVCA in your charitable donations.

The HKVCA will issue you a tax receipt for any donation of \$20.00 or more. If you wish, you may specify that it be directed to the Memorial Wall project but our activities are not limited to that. Any donation which is not specified or is marked 'General' will be utilized in one of the many other projects we have underway in education, promotion, history and general public awareness.

So, we encourage you to consider the HKVCA when allocating your charitable donations. We will promptly issue you a tax receipt which you can include in your annual income tax return. Support our cause while at the same time easing that painful tax bite.

Apple for the Teacher

Ontario Education Committee Report - Pat Turcotte, Chair

Contact information is now being received from the veterans following the letter sent by Diana Taschereau to all Ontario Region Hong Kong veterans. The veterans had been asked to confirm their contact person in case Ontario Region needs to get in touch with someone who can act as the contact for the veteran. Thirteen of the 30 veterans have responded to Pat Turcotte at this juncture as the letter had requested. Hopefully, the remaining veterans will be in touch before long. Many thanks to Diana for taking on this task.

Cheryl Petherick, a High School History teacher in Courtice, ON has been working at searching out for us possible workshops involving Hong Kong veterans and members of the Education Committee. The object is to promote awareness of the Hong Kong story, and the Ten Lessons so closely tied to that story. Cheryl has contacted 7 Universities and 12 Ontario School Boards in that regard, and we're hoping to have several workshops before the end of

the school year. We thank Cheryl for her efforts in this very important area.

The HKVCA Cross-Canada Essay Contest judges who have agreed to be involved this year include Nancy Hamer Strahl, Cheryl Petherick, Mike Babin, Bernard Turcotte and myself. Since the May 9th deadline for entries is much later than last year's March 15th, students will have more time to prepare their material. If you can, wherever you live across the country, encourage teachers to have their students participate in the contest. It will be a great learning situation for them, with the bonus of cash prizes. See the HKVCA Website for details of the contest.

Jim Trick, our Webmaster, and I have been discussing the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA Website. He has asked me to work as the Editor, and expand the information available there. I will be in touch with each of the Regional Directors across the country to search out a person in each Region who can keep us informed about HK activities in the schools and/or the communities.

In our own Region, congratulations are in order for the hiring of Sue Beard, an expert in graphic design who has been asked by Mike Babin to work on materials related to presentations about Hong Kong in the schools, in particular multimedia tools, and what are called "Seminars in a box". The object is to make it possible for interested HKVCA members in every region to participate in increasing the awareness of students and adults in their communities about the Battle of Hong Kong and the contribution and sacrifices made by our Canadian soldiers in the Second World War.

Manitoba Education

Committee Report – Carol Hadley, Chair

In October 2007, the Manitoba Region Education Committee received their new tabletop display for use in schools and other small settings thanks to a generous donation from the Winnipeg Foundation. It debuted at the HKVA Reunion Dinner but

was used, the first time, at the Manitoba Teachers Conference that was held at the end of November. Teachers from all over Manitoba viewed our display and received information about our Association. We also held 2 presentations in a classroom format where about 24 teachers were introduced to the 10 Lessons through a PowerPoint session, received a package of information to be used in the classroom and encouraged to have their students do a project for the Ontario Region Essay Contest.

Our Region will be attending the Heritage Days Symposium held at the University of Winnipeg in May where about 500 students, parents and teachers will be viewing all the displays, receiving information about our Association and participating in a scavenger hunt where the students need to answer questions from the displays to win a prize.

We have recently met with Executive members of the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural and Community Centre, Dr J. Du, President and Mr. P. Lee, Vice President, to discuss areas where we might share information about the Battle of Hong Kong. They expressed an interest in our VJ Day service and we may be able to set up our display at their Centre, possibly during Folklorama. In the meantime we look forward to exploring other ideas with them.

Hong Kong Veterans Remembered

- Roy Sullivan, Area Representative – Greater Toronto Area



On December 4, 2007, the Oshawa Central Collegiate Institute (OCCI) unveiled a granite plaque commemorating the lives of nine Hong Kong Veterans. The plaque is prominently displayed in the main hallway of the school.

The nine veterans, Jack Arthur, Edward Bolton, Henry Galbraith, William Lee, Edward Lott, Jeffrey Marston, Fredrick Mason and Mathew Murray, all called Oshawa home and raised their families in the city just east of Toronto upon their return to Canada.

The unveiling of the plaque was part of a larger project organized and run by Ms Flora Fung, a Grade 10 History Teacher at OCCI. With her advisor and our ardent supporter, Nancy Hamer Strahl, she put in place a series of events and strategies that honoured the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941, paying particular attention to the nine Hong Kong soldiers who were from the Oshawa area.

As Flora wrote, "In the school year of 2007-2008, Oshawa Central Collegiate formally adopted the veterans who fought in the Battle for Hong Kong. This project is special for two reasons; one because Oshawa Central Collegiate is located in the neighborhood where many of these Oshawa men lived and raised their families after their return from the Asia and secondly my family is of Hong Kong descent, which makes this project one of personal significance for me."

In November of 2007, Grade 10 history students received a biography of a Hong Kong veteran who fought in the Battle for Hong Kong. Their Individual Study Unit (ISU) was to create a tribute to their soldier.

The remembrance reception was held at Oshawa Central Collegiate to remember the contribution of these men. In addition to the plaque, the ISU presentations of all the students were on display. It was an amazing sight to see the care and imagination the students put into their tributes. From narratives and photos to dioramas and sculptures and multimedia presentations, it was evident that the students took

great pride in producing their moving tributes.

Representing the Hong Kong Veterans at the unveiling was Robert "Flash" Clayton and his always charming wife, Jessie. Flash was visibly moved by the ceremony and the project as he thanked the students on behalf of all veterans for their tribute. As well, several members of the Honoured Veterans' families were in attendance, including Mrs. Mathew (Audrey) Murray.

Other honoured guests included, Senator Vivienne Poy of the Canadian Government, Mike Babin, Regional Director for the HKVCA in Ontario, our former Regional Director - Pat Turcotte and myself.

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Mitchell's Money Matters

- Barry Mitchell, Treasurer

The Memorial Wall project certainly has given the HKVCA a different dimension as far as finances are concerned and I'm delighted to handle much larger sums of money which have been flowing in as donations. Wow—nearly \$80,000 and counting! I don't want to downplay the importance of our dues but the occasional generous gift of \$1,000 or more towards the wall is enough to take your breath away. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all donors who join with us in creating this lasting tribute to our Hong Kong vets.

Our Association has invested in a number of other projects as part of our ongoing effort to spread the word. For example, the Manitoba Region has recently had two handsome displays made which tell the story of the Battle of Hong Kong in pictures and other graphics. One is a free standing display which we place in strategic locations for a few weeks at a time. The other is a table top exhibit which we use as a visual display when we give lectures to groups of schoolchildren, teachers, and others. Major contributors to the cost of having these displays made were the Winnipeg Foundation and the Thomas Sill Foundation. We appreciate their generosity and

recognize their significant role in our community.

A similar exercise is currently being carried out by the Ontario Region. In this case, it was Veterans Affairs Canada that provided a grant to have a comprehensive exhibit made which could be used in a variety of ways to tell the Hong Kong story. A design consultant has been hired and an advisory committee formed to research and then present our story in a meaningful way.

A recent addition to our items for sale is an Honour Roll, in colour, of those who were members of 'C' Force Headquarters Unit in Hong Kong in 1941. We also have redone the Honour Roll for the Winnipeg Grenadiers in colour and each of these attractive scrolls can be purchased for \$20.00 plus postage.

When telling our story to school teachers, we can suggest they purchase teaching guides from us called the Ten Lessons. We can supply these excellent historical accounts of the Battle of Hong Kong in both English and French at very reasonable prices.

I would like to remind everyone that we have a variety of items for sale that are most suitable as gifts to members of the Hong Kong family. Please refer to our website, www.hkvca.ca, for complete descriptions of the pins, shirts, books, videos and honour rolls, along with ordering instructions. It is also time to pay your annual dues and I know your treasurer would love to hear from you if your membership isn't current.

See you again next time.

* * * * *

Across the Nation BC Banter

- Linda Stewart

2007 Remembrance Day services were well attended by HKVCA members throughout the province. Three wreaths were laid by HK vets and 7 wreaths by HKVCA members in different communities from Kelowna to West Vancouver and Hagensborg to Victoria.

The HKVCA was invited and Murray Doull attended a Remembrance Day Memorial Service at the Chinese Christian Centre in Burnaby. Various groups were in attendance including the Korean veterans, WWII Chinese Canadian veterans, aboriginal veterans, Air

Force veterans and others. The mayor was present as well as the area MLA. A reception followed and it proved to be a good time to network with other groups. HKVCA pamphlets and Memorial Wall brochures were left for the attendees. An invitation was extended for a personal tour of the Chinese Canadian Military Museum and gardens in Vancouver by the museum curator.

The cloudy skies are beginning to disappear and we occasionally have seen some sunny days here in Victoria. That can only mean one thing -- that we will soon be attending our traditional **Spring Luncheons**. The date set for our luncheon and gathering in **Victoria** is **Saturday, June 7th, 2008**. The location is the Traveller's Inn, 1961 Douglas St. The entrance is off Discovery Street. Please RSVP by June 1, by phoning Linda Stewart at 250-294-6747 or e-mail at lindaontheisland@shaw.ca. Start time is noon.

The luncheon and get together in **Vancouver** will be held on **Saturday, June 21st, 2008**. The location is in the Collingwood Room at the Ramada Hotel and Suites Metrotown which is located at 3484 Kingsway in Vancouver. Arrive anytime after 11:30AM. Please **RSVP by June 15** by phoning Murray Doull at 604-465-0579 or e-mail at mdoull@shaw.ca.

I was in Winnipeg visiting my two sons and family and was tickled pink to be there on December 13th to meet my first grand-child, Miss Ayla Jean Stewart. Of course, she's the most beautiful baby ever. Mother and daughter are doing fine. By the time you read this, she'll already be three months old. How time flies.

While I was in Winnipeg, I visited with Larry and Anne Stebbe in their new home on Saturday, December 15th, 2007. We had a nice visit over a couple of cups of coffee. Then their daughter Colleen came to pick up Anne to go to the Ladies Tea over at the St. James Legion. So I followed them in their car and got to visit with the ladies, too.

Vince and Stan Lopata were visiting their sister in Victoria and on Saturday, December 22nd I invited them over to my place and

we had a few games of pool and talked about the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

We held a small gathering on Sunday, December 23, 2007 at the Cenotaph at the Legislative grounds in Victoria. Our HK veteran in attendance was Gerry Gerrard. He was there with many of his immediate family. Gerry laid the wreath in remembrance of his comrades. One of his granddaughters travelled all the way from Prince George to be present. Stan and Vince Lopata from Winnipeg attended and Anne and Jim Trick were there as well. The late Dr. Anderson was well represented by his sons David and Malcolm Anderson and daughter Fiona Hyslop. Including myself, there were over a dozen people present – all “HK family members”.

The following day, on December 24th, I visited with Ida Speller in her home. I showed her the pictures I had of Larry and Anne in their new home in Winnipeg and some from the Cenotaph in Victoria the day before. We had some tea and had a really nice visit together.

Our Spring Luncheon in Vancouver will not be the same this year. We will miss Frank singing “The Galloping Grenadiers”. Frank Brown (WG) passed away peacefully on January 18, 2008 in Chilliwack BC at Heritage Village surrounded by family and friends. A private memorial gathering took place on February 10 which was very well attended by family and friends. The family has made a donation to the Memorial Wall in Frank’s memory. Four new family members joined the HKVCA after the Service.

During the last week of February, Ralph Maclean was visiting in Victoria. Gwen Day was a wonderful tour guide and the two of them went to lunch together in the harbor and drove along the ocean with spectacular views. Gerry and Ev and Gwen and I were invited to lunch with Ralph on Saturday, March 1st but unfortunately, he came down with a cold and made the decision to return to Calgary and “home” earlier than planned. He phoned me to apologize and, of course, I

told him not to worry a bit about it. We all understood. He said that he loved his visit to Victoria and will be coming back again. We look forward to seeing you then, Ralph.

In my last report to you I spoke about attending the play “Padre” on August 28th. It was a one man play presented by Jeff Forst based on his great-grandfather Honorary Captain Uriah Laite’s writings during four years in Hong Kong POW camps. I neglected to tell you this part of that story and I’d really like to tell you now.

There was a display of photo albums with old pictures from that time and four khaki-colored notebooks that were hand-written by Uriah Laite. In the notebook he used to write his sermons, I noticed a short poem that he had written at the front. In my mind, it was no doubt how this Chaplain for the Winnipeg Grenadiers had lived his life. It went like this: *“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”*

Good words to live by. God bless you and keep you, until we meet again.

AB/SK Action

Sorry no report at this time.

Manitoba Moments

– Juliet Lafortune

On October 27th we held a successful HKVA Reunion Dinner with good food, music and a wonderful silent auction, thanks to our members. We were honoured to have these HK veterans and their families in attendance – L-R **Grant Shepherd, Art Lousier, George Peterson, Larry Stebbe, John Maruschak and Ferd Poitras.**



We were also pleased to have the following widows and their families

attend – L-R - **Florence Wiebe, Helen Prieston, Joan Watson, Angie Bourbonniere, Pat Maltman, Mary Sellers, Alexandra Slovinsky, and Ladena Mabley.** Everyone had a great time and it is nice to see the grandchildren attend.



In November, we are grateful to several of our members, throughout the province, who laid wreaths in their communities to honour the members of 'C' Force. We also participated at the service held at the Convention Centre in Winnipeg.

We connect with our membership through our monthly luncheons, held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, which have been well attended despite the cold weather. We also have a Communications person, Bonnie Wiebe, who phones our senior members to ensure all is well with them. Four times a year, we hold a Ladies Tea & Tidbits, the next one will be March 15th and hopefully we will have many ladies join us. Everyone has a good time reminiscing and it is great for the ladies to share their lives and stories.

We are currently in the election process and waiting for the results which will be reported in the next issue of the newsletter.

Birthday wishes are extended to **George Peterson, HK MB President**, who celebrated his 87th on February 8 and to his wife, **Margaret**, on the 9th. **Bob Lytle** received his 60-year service medal from the Royal Canadian Legion, Charleswood Branch and his wife **Myrtle** received her 60-year service medal from the Charleswood Ladies Auxiliary. This is certainly a wonderful accomplishment.

We send our best wishes to **Pat Maltman, Bob Lytle, Helen Prieston** and all those who are facing health challenges – our prayers are with you.

Here is **Nada and Bill Bell**, WG, celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary – Congratulations and many more.



To all our members who have celebrated special days, we wish you the best of health, luck and happiness. Please share these special times with us as you are important and we like to hear from you.

Happy Easter and May God Bless you all.

Ontario Offerings

- Tim Hutcheon submitted 2 articles from his region.

Quebec Quotes

- Lucette Mailloux-Muir

Greetings one and all.

Since our last National Newsletter we were quite busy starting with the November 11th wreath laying ceremonies etc to commemorate our fallen Heroes.

In December our edition of "The Torch" went out to all our members. We then relaxed with family and friends during the Holiday Season.

Where did the year go? Quebec was busy with it's activities, there was a great Convention and then the 'C' Force Memorial Wall project, a very full year!

To date, 2008 is promising to also be a very busy year.

QC Reunion 2008

We are pleased to report that, yes, there will be a 2008 Reunion. It will take place in Granby, at the Castel Hotel & Spa August 14-17, 2008. The invitation Kits will be mailed early April. An extended invitation is made to all our friends of the Hong Kong Family, if you would like to attend our Reunion, just send a note to QC Region and we will send you a Kit. It would be a pleasure to have you join us in Granby.

Last Post

We recently lost two more of our HK Vets, Robert Olscamp,

Bob enjoyed life and loved to attend Reunions and Conventions to see his "friends".

Hector Hunt at the age of 96, the last of the six Hunt Boys who joined the Army. Three of them were POWs in HK.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!
More deaths will be reported later in this edition.

Membership

We are no exception, we work on keeping our membership number and encourage all our paying members to check their cards as we are well in the new year. To date we are pleased to welcome three new members to our Hong Kong family. Quebec Region wishes All of you a very

Happy Easter

That will be all for this time. Take care and stay healthy.

Maritime Memories

The Atlantic region met in October of 2007 in Florenceville, NB. A good crowd and a good time were had by all. This year there were 3 HKVets that attended the reunion. This was Bernard LeBlanc's first reunion. It was nice to see a member from Cape Breton attend and take on the position of Treasurer for the Atlantic Region. Verna Pearson, due to family commitments, passed the torch to Bernard. Special thanks go out to Verna for her years of devotion and dedication as both treasurer and membership.

There were very large turnouts at all Remembrance Day ceremonies province-wide. Thousands of people were at the Grand Parade site in Halifax despite the very cold and windy conditions. Wreaths in honour of our Hong Kong Vets were laid in Dartmouth, Halifax and Arichat. Helen Wedge placed the wreath in Dartmouth. Her son Ian Bilek, Bernard LeBlanc (new treasurer) and his son Robert, laid the wreath in Halifax. Many dignitaries were present for this service, giving good exposure to our Association with a great feeling to be part of such an event.

The article written by Murray Doull was sent to several newspapers in NS but, disappointingly, it didn't appear in any of them. Must try and convince them to publish next year. Local cable TV in Arichat did put in a community announcement which

was a part of the article. A beginning of something I hope!

The mayor of Campbellton NB, Mark Ramsay, will be planting a tree in memory of the Hong Kong Vets and will also be installing a historical plaque with a brief description of the Battle of Hong Kong.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Our Membership

- Jim Trick, National Membership Rep

Although the statistics below may indicate that our membership is decreasing, we are actually in reasonable shape. In the past there have been differences in how each Region accounted for active members, so recently the Board of Directors updated our Membership Policy. If you have internet access, you can read it on our website:

http://www.hkvca.ca/aboutus/Documents/p_p_manual, along with our other Policies and Procedures. The key text in the Policy is:

"Memberships are due for renewal on Jan 1 of each year. While the By-Law states that members in arrears by one month cease to be members, for reporting purposes those who remain in arrears as of 1 Dec of the year (11 months in arrears) will be removed from the members' list."

The result of implementing this policy is consistent reporting which allows all of us a more accurate view of HKVCA membership.

Region	Regul ar	Vetera n	Wido w	Total
Al/Sk	78	17	13	108
Atl	90	3	7	100
BC	89	19	43	151
MB	187	24	63	274
ON	139	29	54	222
QC	44	25	60	129
	627	117	240	984

Web Report

- Jim Trick, HKVCA Web Admin

There is a lot happening on the HKVCA web sites! Currently we see about 2000 unique visitors in each month and we hope that each of those visitors finds something of interest that will bring

them back.

Here are some of the latest improvements:

- Our Memorial Wall project is updated on a regular basis, allowing everyone to get involved with our progress.
- We've added copies of our Policies and Procedures documents along with our By-Laws to our main site. This will allow our members and visitors a better insight into how we operate as an Association.
- A few months ago we completely revamped the presentation of our Galleries site. This is our "picture" site containing a wealth of photos, clippings and other scanned information. Try the slide show feature!
- Links to outside organizations are continuously updated - for instance, we've added a series of links to the CBC Archives site pages which deal with Hong Kong.

You can keep up to date with our latest changes by visiting our home page and checking out "Latest additions and News" on the right side of the page. Looking for something but can't find it? Have a photo or some other information to submit? Email: Jim at hkvca@shaw.ca and I'll do my best to help.

Humour

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

☺ ☺ ☺

IDIOT SIGHTING: I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local

township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: "Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore."

☺ ☺ ☺

The police received a call from the convent about a strange object flying overhead. When the officer arrived, he spoke with the Mother Superior. "What kind of object was it," he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "But would you like me to ask Sister Theresa? She knows exactly what it was." "That's OK," said the officer. "I'll just list it as a nun-identified flying object."

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