



Of Special Interest

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

- Ladies Tea & Tidbits - June 19, 1 –3 p.m.
- April 9, 2010 WWI service across Canada
- May 2, 2010 Navy celebrating Battle of the Atlantic with a parade; May 4th 2010 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy
- May 30th VE Day 65th Anniversary Commemoration Memorial Service and Parade - Brookside Cemetery

BC REGION: Spring Luncheons - June 5th for Vancouver and June 12th for Victoria

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 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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Memorial Wall Now



What an incredible winter with spring like conditions we hope to be starting soon to finish the landscaping of the Wall project.

We continue to receive donations for the Wall and we are extremely grateful for all the efforts from our members and others that see the importance of this memorial.

We need to complete the work before June 30th when HST arrives in Ontario as that would add another \$7000 to the project. We have the costs of the remaining work to be done regarding the landscaping of the site.

I would like to say we have all the money, but not quite yet. We have a couple of more irons in the fire that we hope will realize the outstanding balance, but we won't know about that money until June so to expedite the project we have made some changes that will not compromise the project.

If you are looking for another tax deduction for this year, we would sure appreciate a donation to the Memorial Wall, as it would make our task much easier to finalize. If you have already contributed, terrific, but maybe there's a little left for our cause.

We hope to have the contracts in place soon to begin construction as soon as possible.

That's it for now - Memorial Wall Committee

and what we want to achieve



HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

Spring is approaching and as Mother Earth starts to energize herself for the year to come, it is time for us within our association to do likewise. With this in mind, your Board of Directors is reviewing our accomplishments (and failures) during 2009 in an effort to move forward with the task at hand of fulfilling our Mission.

One thing is evident, some are approaching burnout and we need some new blood at all levels of the organization. There are many tasks, some only requiring an hour or two a month, for which we need assistance. It is time for some soul-searching. Perhaps you have some free time over a short time period - there are specific tasks within projects that you might have the exact skill for the job. If you have a few minutes here and there, we have telephone follow-ups that must be completed. We are not asking for long-term commitments. The maximum task is limited to a two-year commitment, but most are of a much shorter time frame. We don't have all the details sorted out yet, but if you can help out to any extent, please give your Region officers a call. Even if there isn't a task suitable to your talents and time availability, it is important that we build a list of resources so that we might act quickly when the need arises.

As I mentioned above, the BOD is looking at all aspects of our activities. We still have the landscaping of the Memorial Wall site, but this is well in hand. We will be reviewing our other goals

such as education of Canadians, both youth and adult, on the Hong Kong Story. We shall also be gathering ideas on other related activities we should be undertaking, and hopefully you, our membership, will be passing your thoughts along to your Executive in this regard.

One certainty, we need to grow our membership. We are losing the older section at a discouraging rate. If every member could recruit one new member a year, we could resolve this problem. I am certain the \$15.00 membership fee is not a hindrance. If we are to honour our HK veterans in an appropriate manner, every vet should have at least one family member in the association. For the few without any family, we need to start an "adopt-a-vet" project.

Visit our Web site (hkzca.ca); see what is in the works and ask yourself how you might help. Pass along your ideas and help grow our unique association into the future with challenges that make all envious of our accomplishments. The Memorial Wall has achieved a degree of envy among military organizations around Ottawa, so we know we can do it. Let's step forward boldly into the new decade and keep the spirit of our HK "Band of Brothers" alive.

HKVA President

Hello again, folks.

If my reporting seems to be narrow and provincial (no pun) it is because it has become so. At my age I don't get around much any more, and my movements are becoming more and more restricted, so the list of comrades I have recently been in touch with is very short.

I see **Bob Barter** occasionally and he is well. I spoke with **Flash Clayton** recently. He is having some health problems like most of us. **George MacDonell** and I have exchanged a few letters in recent weeks. **Ralph MacLean** phoned me from Calgary. I speak with **Paul Dallain** frequently. **Ken Pifher** and I phone each other on a regular basis. We have a wager on who will attend the other's funeral. How will the survivor

collect his winnings? We'll have to work that one out.

I sadly report the passing of **Comrade Henry Lyons**. The large attendance at his funeral attested to the respect he held in his home area.

My thoughts have turned lately to **Rfn. Nicholas Dee, E30358**, one of the fifty-three from New Richmond who were in the Royal Rifles. He has long since departed and I have no idea where he is buried. I am sure that there are other Hong Kong Veterans whose graves are not to be found.

LEGION MAGAZINE

I'm sure that by this time you have read the article in the latest issue of Legion magazine that erroneously reported that the Royal Regiment of Canada had been transported to Hong Kong by the Prince Robert.

I emailed a protest to the editor. In my experience, letters to the editor sometimes do not appear in the next issue if the sentiments expressed are not favourable. I won't hold my breath.

CLIFF CHADDERTON

A recent letter from Brian Forbes, Hon. Secretary General of NCVA informs us of Cliff's decision to enter the Perley Rideau Veterans Health Centre in Ottawa.

Brian assures us that Cliff is happy there and will receive the best of care as Canada's "Mr. Veteran". I will send a letter to Brian with best regards to Cliff. Please address good wishes care of Brian Forbes at the War Amps address.

EDWINA

If I may be permitted a personal note, I would like to tell you that Edwina's ill health keeps me close to home and the hospital. As of this writing she is again in the hospital, this time with more lung problems.

She has survived so many set-backs that she is truly amazing. She will be 85 on April 4th.

Betty Firth, widow of Denzil died last week. Denzil Firth died in 1995 when he was president of the Quebec-Maritimes Branch, HKVA. Betty was a gracious lady, much

respected by all who knew her. She was buried beside Denzil in Mount Hermon Cemetery in Quebec City on March 8. Our daughter, Nancy, represented us at the ceremony.

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

Philip

Reply to Phil from Legion Magazine –

Dear Sir: Thank you for your e-mail. We are indeed sorry for making this mistake. Mr. Milner is a valued contributor to Legion Magazine as well as the author of several books on Canada's navy. He is aware of his mistake and feels badly about it. I take responsibility for it and will publish a correction in the next issue. Sincerely, Dan Black, Editor, Legion Magazine.

* * * *

Last Post

Arthur Joseph Ambrose, L13552, WG died on December 9, 2009.

Arnold Carrier, E30526, RRC died Dec 20, 2009

Ronald Hubert Claricoates, E30161 RRC died January 17, 2010

Henry Lyons, E29994, RRC, died January 19, 2010

HKVCA

Dorothy Helen Ballingall, widow of Art Ballingall, WG, H6037, and mother of Jan Ballingall Scotten, died on January 28, 2010

Neil Bardal, son of Lt. Njall O. Bardal, WG died February 13, 2010

Elizabeth "Betty" Firth, widow of Denzil Firth E30325 RRC, died Feb 28, 2010

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

We will remember them!

Membership Statistics

Up to date as of 9 Mar '10

Region	R	V	W	Total
Al/Sask	57	13	13	83
Atl	48	4	7	59
BC	98	12	39	149
MB	189	14	57	260
ON	153	17	55	226
QC	55	17	57	129
Total	600	77	228	906

We Are Making Progress!

290 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

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.**

Here are some comments from people who have viewed the video:

- "Today I received in the mail, the video of the unveiling of the Memorial Wall. I want to thank you

from the bottom of my heart. It means so much to me to get this.

- I so wish Dick (sic husband) could have lived to be there, but I'm sure his spirit was there with his comrades who meant so much to him...."
- "Many thanks for the DVD you sent me....The dedication of the Memorial Wall. It is priceless. Great to leave to my family....."
- "Graham & I wish to thank you very much for the video of the unveiling of the Memorial Wall. It is certainly a nice souvenir for the family. We watched it as a family at Christmas when all the children were home..."

Notes of congratulation on the video were received from Stockwell Day, Senator Poy and the Canadian Legion.

If you wish to have a copy please send your cheque to

HKVCA
Ste #164, 1 Stafford Road,
Nepean, ON K2H 1B9

* * * *

A Testimonial

Murray Johnston recently retired as a Colonel with the Canadian Armed Forces, having served his whole career in various postings around the world. His Godfather was Lieut. W. Vaughan Mitchell who was killed in action with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Hong Kong and was Barry Mitchell's father. Murray lives in Ottawa and attended the Memorial Wall unveiling ceremony last August as a special guest. He was provided with a DVD of the ceremony and sent Barry the following comments:

"Barry,

Many thanks for having the DVD, *Dedication Ceremony "C" Force Memorial Wall*, sent to us. We appreciate it very much. The DVD arrived in to-day's mail. Joan and I sat down and watched it this evening after dinner.

It is an excellent, inspirational film of that very touching ceremony and memorable day. I think that we enjoyed it all the more because, through your good offices, we

were there. We felt that we were really part of it.

I was quite taken by comment in the video that very few families would get to visit the Sai Wan Cemetery where the fallen are buried far from Canada. It brought back memories of visiting your Uncle's gravesite and your Dad's name on the memorial wall there. And then to finding their names again on the new monument made me feel that my efforts to get to Hong Kong were even more worthwhile. More importantly, I still remember how appreciative your mother was that I had been there.

Joan and I congratulate you and all members of your Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association for your long time support to these veterans and for getting this DVD published and distributed.

Thanks again,

Joan and Murray"

SALE

Limited quantity of the Convention pens with a light on the end. These are great if you are trying to write in the dark. Excellent gifts!

\$6.99 postage included

Send cheque to Ste #164, 1 Stafford Rd, Nepean, ON K2H 1B9

Hong Kong 2010

If you have ever dreamed of visiting Hong Kong to see where Canada's soldiers fought in 1941 and where many are buried, here's your chance.

Based on very positive feedback at our recent convention and Memorial Wall unveiling in Ottawa, we're moving ahead to plan a commemorative trip to Hong Kong, and possibly to Japan, towards the end of 2010.

We would like to build a list of people who are interested in making the trip and will keep you all informed as the planning goes forward.

Here is a little more information to help you:

Departure: Around December 1, 2010

Duration: About 12 days

Destinations: Hong Kong and

possibly Japan (Yokohama War Cemetery)

Cost: Between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per person (this is very approximate and subject to change!)

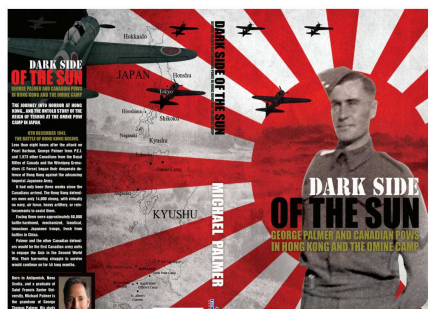
Includes: Airfare, accommodation and breakfasts, airport transfers at destinations, bus transport to sites at destinations (including English-speaking guides), some dinners.

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 opportunities and much more!

If you are interested, please send an email to 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.

Barry's Emporium

We have a new book--*Dark Side of the Sun*--by Michael Parker - \$25 plus shipping for more info - <http://www.hkvca.ca/store/reading.htm>



Online Update hkvca.ca

If you haven't visited our various web sites in awhile, you're going to find some changes.

- New look to our main page, allowing you to get a quick picture of our site contents by category, then have one-click access.
- HKVCA Forum - New format - no advertising! Designed to allow our community to interact and help each other. You can read the discussions without joining, but joining is easy and allows you to participate. Thinking about visiting Hong Kong? Check out Mike Babin's forum as

he makes plans for a guided trip in Dec 2010. Don't forget to let him know if you want to be added to the email list.

- Gallery Updates - We are continually adding images and scans that our member community share. Check out the scans of news and pictorial coverage in the Winnipeg Free Press during and after the battle.
- Diaries and Personal Accounts - we've added Alfred Babin's personal account and Edward Terry's diary, amongst others.
- Better searching - we're annotating as much content as we can so that our site search service will work better for you

Visit our home page at <http://www.hkvca.ca> often, and view the latest changes in the right sidebar.

Do you have a question? A comment? Email: webmaster@hkvca.ca.

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Greetings from cloudy British Columbia:

Hello everyone. Our newsletter this time is filled with the educational activities of Lee Naylor and Graeme Stacey.

On December 10th and 11th, 2009, Lee and Graeme participated in the 1st International Human Rights Day Students Symposium. A complete report on the event can be found on our website in the Teachers Zone. Please "surf" over to it and get all the details and pictures. We extend appreciation to Lee and Graeme for attending this event on behalf of the HKVCA to tell the story of the Battle of Hong Kong and our HK Veterans.

We had a wonderful turnout for our "HK family" traditional wreath-laying ceremony in Victoria on December 20th, 2009. Gerry Gerrard and his beautiful wife Ev; David & Malcolm Anderson and their sister Fiona Hyslop; Gerry Tuppert; Jim & Ann Trick; Sally & Jim Laite; Pat White and Kaden;

Ron & Linda Quesnel; Grayson & Lynn Laite; and Linda & Kent Graber. After the ceremony of remembrance at the Cenotaph, we gathered at Gerry Gerrard's Legion and enjoyed a time of camaraderie. Graeme Stacey and Lee Naylor made a presentation and lecture about the history of 'C' Force on February 19th, 2010 to nineteen teachers and school board trustees in the Okanagan. Their goal is to increase the number of schools in BC currently including this topic in their senior social studies classrooms and to assist other teachers to do so.

Lee has been very active since accepting the role of the BC Region Education Coordinator and he has formed a very effective alliance with Graeme. They plan on making a presentation to the BC Teacher's Provincial Workshop in Burnaby this October. Lee took the time when he was in the Okanagan to visit Aubrey Flegg and Betty for several hours and recorded an interview with Aubrey.

The dates for our 2010 spring luncheons will be June 5th in Vancouver and June 12th in Victoria at the same locations as last year. We look forward to seeing you there. Remember to mark your calendars.

We are still forming an Elections Committee and are hoping for a mail-out to our regional members in early April with election and luncheon information as well as other regional news and information.

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

NEWS FROM THE WEST

Our biggest news is: DARK SIDE OF THE SUN is now published. We are all so proud of Michael Palmer and this commitment to the Hong Kong Story. The book is out in paperback and available thru our Association. Michael is in the process of planning a book signing at the Calgary Military Museums. He has invited our Hong Kong Veterans to join him as he tells his

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grandfather's story. It is a very good read and I now have a better understanding of day-to-day life in the camps.

I would like to thank all of our members who have renewed for 2010. Your support is very much appreciated. For those of you who haven't renewed, we would love to hear from you. We have a few new members this year and hope to reach out to more of our families and friends.

Hope the rest of the winter is good to all of you.

- Norma Fuchs, Secretary

Manitoba Moments

Vince Lopata is trying to submit excerpts from the database to the Manitoba NW Ontario Command who are preparing to publish a Memory book for the National Convention to be held in Winnipeg. They want families to submit instead of a lump sum. He is going to check some options, one would be funding to publish our own.

MB Elections: we hope the nomination forms will be returned soon with the names of members who agree to serve this Region for the next 2 years.

Communications: Marleen Bell is our new Communication (phoning) person with Juliet Lafortune. They hope to contact all our members to check on them and verify the information we have.



William Bell's family sent this note: *I just thought I would send a quick note to say we celebrated Dad's 93rd Birthday today. Pretty special for us, and I knew you would all find it pretty neat too!! Dad (& Mom) would like to say Hi to each*

of you in the "Hong Kong Veterans Family", and give you all their best.

Education: We are working with the Red River Regional Heritage Fair to sponsor an award for the best display on WWII from a student from Grade 3 – 9 – this event is held at University of Winnipeg in May. We participate with a display, info for teachers and students and the scavenger hunt.

- We are also registered to present and display at the Annual Teachers Conference in October.
- **Pam Heinrichs** – has the tabletop display as she used it in a presentation to a grade 9 class. She reports: “On February 25, 2010 I attended at Seven Oaks School and gave a presentation on the HK story to a grade 9 class that are studying this chapter in history. Unfortunately, due to an “IT glitch” we were unable to use the powerpoint presentation but I carried on nonetheless and feel that it went well. I had some of my own photos, copies of documents, etc that I was able to show them. The teacher asked if they could email me with any other questions they might have and I encouraged her to do so. I also gave her info on Heritage Days and the HK Essay Contest. The teacher's class from last semester also studied the HK Vets and she showed me some of the assignments they had done then – writing diaries, etc. I was pleased to see their interest.”

Human Rights Museum – a committee of MB Region members (George Peterson, Juliet Lafortune, Barry Mitchell, Pam Heinrichs and Carol Hadley) made a presentation to the Museum representatives who are gathering information on content and displays for the Museum. A powerpoint presentation was made on the issues that faced the Canadians who returned from the Battle of Hong Kong. Carol Hadley also attended a roundtable discussion in the evening, which further enforced the importance of having this story included in the museum. George Peterson and Barry Mitchell were video taped on their personal stories. We left a copy of the presentation with our

contact information for any future follow-up. We felt our efforts were well received and as a result we were sent a nice thank you for our involvement with their interviews, input in the discussions, etc. We will keep the membership informed of this project.

Events: Our members with the Colour Party will be involved with the following events:

April 9, 2010 WWI service at 11:00, place TBA;

May 2, 2010 Navy celebrating Battle of the Atlantic with a parade; **May 4, 2010 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy** - there will be a ceremony at the legislature and during this ceremony there will be a proclamation made by the provincial government that the navy personnel will be granted freedom of the city;

May 30, Brookside Cemetery will hold an open house which will feature free bus tours of the cemetery - military displays and music to entertain. Bus tours will begin about 10 am and continue to 4 pm. During this open house a memorial service and parade will be held at the Stone of Remembrance in the Field of Honour {in the military section of Brookside Cemetery} it will be called **VE Day 65th Anniversary Commemoration Memorial Service and Parade** - the parade will commence at 1:40 pm and the memorial service will commence at 2 pm this will be completed by 3 pm and the reception will follow in Neil Bardal Funeral Home across the street.

We are saddened by the loss of:

Nancy Peterson, daughter of George Peterson died on February 11, 2010

Neil Bardal, son of Lt. Njall O. Bardal, WG died February 13, 2010

We will remember them.

We wish you Peace and understanding as we celebrate the Easter season.

Ontario Offerings

Mike Babin, our Regional Director reports: In December, George MacDonell and I made a presentation to a committee from

the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. The museum is being built in Winnipeg, and the committee was travelling across Canada to collect stories to be included in the museum. The committee members were very interested in hearing of the human rights issues experienced by the Canadians sent to Hong Kong, and we're hoping that they will see fit to include it in their displays.

For several years, Janis Jennings was the person who sent out email notices to our members in Ontario when a Veteran or widow passed away, or some other significant event occurred. Unfortunately, Janis has had to give up that role due to health issues. On behalf of all of our members who received her email bulletins, I'd like to thank Janis for her work for the HKVCA and to wish her all the best. Mark Purcell (grandson of Veteran Leonard Corrigan – WG, deceased) has taken over the role from Janis. Mark is also our Regional Treasurer!

I am continuing to work out the arrangements for the commemorative trip to Hong Kong later this year. The preliminary itinerary and dates have been posted to our web site for some time, and by the time you read this newsletter I expect that prices and registration information will be added. Look for the link towards the bottom of the HKVCA home page.

Gordon Coyne, Area Representative for Western Ontario reports: Veteran Ken Pifher (RRC) was in very good form when I contacted him at his home in Grimsby, Ontario. He had just returned from his daily lunch with three of his buddies at the "Sin Bin". He is hoping to have a two-week vacation in March in St. Martin, an island he has visited many times already. Although waiting in the queue now for a stress test, he is not letting his health issues slow him down. He feels fortunate to be living in Ontario's "Banana Belt", enjoying the winter birds that come to feed. He is also fortunate to have a grandson, Jordan, to drop in for frequent visits.

Veteran Gerry "Sunny" Sunstrum (RRC) is coming off surgery on both eyes, which has taken quite a few months to

schedule and complete. He is "happy with the result". Having a regular group of friends to lunch with every day makes his days go quickly. Gerry also enjoys watching sports on TV. At the moment, however, this is a bit of a downer, as his three favourite hockey teams, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal are all doing poorly. He finds reading our newsletter brings a lot of pleasure.

Widow Elizabeth Chesser is living in Extencicare in Brampton, Ontario, conveniently located close to her daughter Kathleen in Mississauga. She is in process of dictating her memoirs to a grandson, who is studying journalism. Born in Dundee, NB, she now has one son, four daughters, ten grandchildren, and the same number of great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, health issues have left her immobilized. I enjoyed hearing Elizabeth's words of wisdom, such as regarding "C" Force in Hong Kong "it should never have been there", and regarding our Association "keep it going".

Widow Sylvia Doucette is living independently in her own home in Brampton, Ontario. Her husband, "Gerry", died two years ago, after they had been married for 27 years. Sylvia has seven sons, one daughter, and seventeen grandchildren. They live in Brampton, Toronto, New York, and Guyana. Last Fall she had the misfortune to be hit by a car while crossing the street. After four weeks spent in hospital, she is working her way back to full health. She enjoys reading our newsletter, and considers it is "very good". Knowing about the Memorial Wall has also given her much satisfaction.

Widow Doris Murray is living in Faith Manor, a nursing home in Brampton, Ontario. She is quite limited now in her activities, but is living comfortably. Fortunately, her son Bert lives nearby in Milton, so is able to look in on her regularly.

Widow Marjorie Overton Marjorie is a "ball of fire", and a going concern, and still driving her car. She is living in a high-rise condominium in the west end of Toronto, where she is active playing bridge and many other activities. Her three daughters, who live in

Montreal, Whitby, Ontario, and Heatherton, N.S., have made her a proud grandmother five times over. Marjorie says she just "loves" the newsletter. After nine days spent recently in Credit Valley Hospital she is now fit as a fiddle.

Widow June Smith Adjusting to the loss of her husband of 63 years last June is an on-going struggle for this fine lady. Fortunately, she has two sons and a daughter living nearby to lend her support. June described the Memorial Wall DVD as "very beautiful", and says she hopes to see it sometime this year.

Pat Turcotte, Chair of the Education Committee reports: There are several activities to report at this time. Bud Mann, HKVCA Area Rep. for the GTA, is continuing efforts, in conjunction with Tony Au, President of the RHKR Volunteers, to prepare for a special event at the First Markham Place Mall, which will be held May 1 and 2, 2010. Not only will there be items of memorabilia and materials relating to the Battle of Hong Kong, but the Manitoba Region has agreed to loan us their large display featuring the pertinent facts about the Battle and the Canadian soldiers who fought there. Since this will be a two-day event, quite a number of volunteers will be needed, and we hope that many will take the opportunity to be part of this venture.

The Teachers' Zone has added another section to its special pages. Titled "Showcasing the Hong Kong Story" it is intended to feature HKVCA members from across the country that have helped to spread the word about the Battle of Hong Kong and the Canadian soldiers who fought there. The first item features the work of Debbie Jiang, one of our members, who is an Education Officer at Library and Archives Canada. She has been involved in spearheading the Lest We Forget Cenotaph Project. The aims of the project are outlined in the "Showcasing" section of the Teachers' Zone. The project has been in the news lately because there are some who are trying to cut this popular program in order to save money. There is a petition circulating urging Library and Archives Canada to keep the program.

The second item in the "Showcasing" section is a report by BC's Education Chair, Lee Naylor, describing the Symposium he and Graeme Stacey, also an HKVCA member and distinguished History teacher, attended this last December. They connected with many students and teachers in discussing the Hong Kong Story in conjunction with members of the ALPHA organization. Well worth a read!

Others who have been active in the Hong Kong cause include Gail Angel, who met with Ottawa High School teachers and students in a PD situation just recently. We hope to hear her story, and to include it among those involving people working actively to promote the Hong Kong cause.

The HKVCA Cross-Canada Writing Contest is moving right along. More entries are being received as time goes on. Do pass the word along that the contest deadline is not until May 21, 2010, so that there is still time for students to enter.

The last news item comes from the Rev'd Vicky (Fortune) Hedelius: Last month, Kay Koop, from Texas USA, contacted Jim Trick and Mike Babin through the HKVCA website in search of the family of Herb Fortune. Her father in law, John Koop, an American soldier in WWII had given her sons, many years ago, a medallion that he had received from a Canadian soldier just after the war. How they met, and under what conditions may remain a mystery but because of the hand written engraving on the back of the medallion containing my Dad's name & number & Winnipeg Grenadiers; when he enlisted; when he was captured; when he was released she had plenty of clues to follow. The Koop Family graciously made arrangements to send the medallion to us and we have now received it.

I've enclosed pictures of the front & back. There are many questions but here are two:



Does anyone recognize it? And does anyone else remember meeting John Koop? He was from Texas and served in the 660th Replacement Company of the U.S. Army (other unit information unknown) in Luzon, Philippines during 1945. After the war he spent some time in California before returning to Texas. If you do, you may reach me by email: vickyhedelius@hotmail.com or phone (905) 336-0292.

[Editor's Note: Medallion is a bronze disc. On the front is an image of Winged Victory holding a shield and riding a chariot pulled by four horses. The back is smooth and blank and apparently hand-engraved with these words in the middle, "H-6548 H.R. FORTUNE WINNIPEG GRENADIERS JOINED 21-9-39". Arranged in a circle around this is "CAPTURED - > 12-25-41 RELEASED 8-15-45"]

Lawrence Alexandre Ross, will be celebrating his 90th birthday on April 2, 2010 cards were sent from many people.

Quebec Quotes

Greetings from Quebec Region,

Hope everyone is surviving the winter well. With all the talk about the 2010 Olympics it is very difficult for everyone to keep focused on other matters.

Since the holiday break everyone is back to things at hand. We recently gathered for an

executive meeting. As usual many subjects were discussed and reports were read. Certain plans are in the works and will have more news in the next edition of the newsletter.

We are sad to report the loss of another of our veterans, RRC Henry Lyons of Matapedia, QC, he leaves to mourn his death, his wife Isabel his children, grand-children and family members. We Will Remember Them.

Till next time, take care and stay healthy,

Lucette Mailloux Muir,
QC Regional Director

Maritime Memories

No report at this time.

♥♥♥

Humour

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding.

The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest's breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, "Sir, have you been drinking?"

"Just water," says the priest.

The trooper says, "Then why do I smell wine?"

The priest looks at the bottle and says, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

McQuillan walked into a bar and ordered martini after martini, each time removing the olives and placing them in a jar.

When the jar was filled with olives and all the drinks consumed, the Irishman started to leave.

"S'cuse me", said a customer, who was puzzled over what McQuillan had done, "what was that all about?"

"Nothin'", said the Irishman, "me wife just sent me out for a jar of olives!"

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Barry's Emporium HKVCA Store

Besides the items you see in the newsletter we also have the following items available. You may order through the website – www.hkvca.ca or the corporate address below or through Barry at Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6

- *Winnipeg Grenadier Honour Roll in colour, ready for framing, cost \$20.00 + \$7.00 shipping.*
- License Plate holders--\$5.00
- Winnipeg Grenadier Ties--\$30.00
- *Brigade Honour Roll, suitable for framing--\$15.00*
- Video--Slaves of the Rising Sun--\$15.00
- *Book--One Soldiers Story by George MacDonnell--\$20.00*
- Membership Pin--\$5.00
- *Blazer Crest--\$25.00*
- Grave Marker--\$75.00

These items can be seen on the website at

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

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Executive Committee

President

Mr. Derrill Henderson
75 Priam Way
Nepean, ON, K2H 8S7
(613) 829-5033
email: derrill@sympatico.ca

1st Vice-President

Helen Wedge
26 Hillview Dr.
Dartmouth, NS, B2W6J2
902-435-7114
email: kellyloon@hfx.eastlink.ca

2nd Vice-President

Mr. Murray Doull
20368 Kent St
Maple Ridge, BC, V2X 1A6
604-465-0579
email: mdoull@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Mr. Barry Mitchell
22 Tunis Bay
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2X1
(204) 269-1497
email: bcmitchell@shaw.ca

Secretary

Mr. Jim Trick
2091 Gourman Place
Victoria, BC, V9B 6E1
250-474-9304
email: secretary@hkvca.ca

Past-President

Mrs. Carol Hadley
54 Barnstaple Cove
Winnipeg, MB, R3R 2W3
(204) 837-6754
email: carol.hadley@gmail.com

HKVA Representatives

Mr. Philip Doddridge,
National President HKVA
365 Rte Doddridge
New Richmond, QC, G0C 2B0
(418) 392-5838
email: pdoddridge@gmail.com

Mr. George Peterson,
National Vice-President - HKVA
35 Cherry Crescent
Winnipeg, MB, R2J 1V8
(204) 256-7174

Mr. Ken Ewing, National Treasurer
R.R. # 4
Kemptville, ON, K0G 1J0
(613) 258-3805

Regional Directors

Atlantic:

Mr. Neil Darrah
398 Greenfield Rd,
Greenfield NB, E7L 3C2
506-392-1928
email: ndarrah@nb.sympatico.ca

Quebec:

Ms. Lucette Mailloux Muir
18 rue Barre
Granby, QC, J2H 2E6
(450) 375-7439
fax: 450-372-0781
email: lucette.mailloux.m@videotron.ca

Ontario:

Mr. Mike Babin
74 Abilene Dr.
Toronto, ON M9A 2N6
416 - 239 9192
email: msbabin@gmail.com

Manitoba:

Ms. Juliet Lafortune
#4- 42 Donwood Drive
Winnipeg, MB, R2G 0J9
(204) 338-3354
email: jlafortune@hkvca.ca

Alberta/Saskatchewan:

Ms. Gail Richoz
169 Edgeridge Terrace
Calgary Alberta T3A 6C1
(403) 208-0022
email: grichoz@shaw.ca

British Columbia:

Ms. Linda Quesnel
206 - 1121 Esquimalt Rd
Victoria, BC, V9A 3N6
(250) 294-2417
email: lindaontheisland@shaw.ca



HKVCA Mission: to educate all Canadians on the role of Canada's soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong and on the effects of the internment of the battle's survivors on both the soldiers and their families. We also assist in the support and welfare of Hong Kong veterans and their widows.

Goals

1. Maintaining personal contact with the veterans and widows to establish the state of their well-being,
2. Advocating on behalf of the Veterans and widows to Veterans Affairs Canada and other relevant agencies,
3. Promoting the study of the Battle of Hong Kong and its aftermath in schools across Canada,
4. Developing materials and training Association members to tell the Hong Kong story publicly,
5. Finding opportunities for and developing partnerships with other organizations which can further the aims of the Association,
6. Maintaining a web site for the use of Association members and others which provides a repository of information about the Battle, the incarceration of Canadians, activities of the Association and other information which would be useful to interested parties, and
7. Participating in memorial services commemorating Canada's war veterans and laying of wreaths to the memory of the fallen.

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

