

WASURERU-NAI



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HKVCA President's message

I greet you from sunny warm Manitoba where we have had a tame winter and an early spring, unless Mother Nature changes her mind. We can sympathize with our Eastern members as they have suffered from horrific weather this year. Hope you are all safe and that spring comes soon and you have a wonderful summer.

Over the winter the Board of Directors has been working on new Election Policy and Procedures now that we have had to change to comply with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act ("CNCA"). This newsletter will carry the new form, instructions and process that we need to follow. Please exercise your rights to have the people in place that you wish to govern this organization – new people are always welcome – they come with bright ideas to keep us innovative.

**The Memorial Wall in Ottawa is complete but just needs some grouting. This will take place when the weather is warmer. We are hoping to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II possibly in Ottawa where we will all take advantage to view its completion. More information will be coming soon on the convention to make your plans.

**We are very pleased to have Dan James, son of John James, WG, who has taken the job of the Social Media Chair so there are postings on Facebook, Twitter, etc. to keep our members informed on events and news items that reflect on our

Organization. Welcome Dan; thank you for doing this, it is greatly appreciated.

**A Task Matrix has been developed to target some of our interests and we need people to help with their development. Some of the items are fundraising, education, increasing membership and possible creating a Foundation to manage money for projects. If anyone is interested in working in one of these areas, please contact the BOD as we would be pleased to have your assistance.

There are some changes in place to ensure the newsletter is accessible to all either in print that is mailed to you or from the website. We hope the changes make it easier to print from the website if reading it there is not an option. If you have any difficulties please contact Jim Trick, Webmaster, **250-474-9304 for assistance.

For all the Irish or want-a-bees - here is a wish for you: **May your neighbours respect you, Troubles neglect you, The angels' protect you and Heaven accept you. God Bless!!**

Hope you all had a lovely Easter season to enjoy your family and friends as we renew our faith. All the best from my family to yours.

Carol.

Spring 2015

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"Never Forget"

Convention 2015

Book your vacation days and join us in Ottawa this August.

We have been in discussion with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of Victory in the Far East. I can say with assurance that a commemoration will be held in Ottawa in August. No details are currently available. VAC invited us to join with them to plan and participate in events.

The Burma veterans and all who fought in the Far East will be joining with our Hong Kong veterans for several events. Some announcements shall be going out directly from VAC but we will be keeping all informed on a regular basis.

Mitzi Ross,
Convention Chair

Greetings from Phil Doddridge. HKVA

In the past issues of Wasureru-nai I have been complaining about advancing age and my inability to cope. When this issue "goes to press" I will have celebrated (?) my ninety-third birthday, so I feel that the time has come to stop complaining and relieve the readers of my rambling comments. This will be my last one. (NOTE FROM EDITOR: No it won't, with some gentle and loving persuasion, Phil will be back!)

I have thoroughly enjoyed sending messages to you, going back to 1993 when I took over the publication of Banjo Gossip/Bamboo Telegraph from Denzil Firth. That lasted for eight years until 2001 when the newsletter was terminated.

So, in parting (ANOTHER NOTE FROM EDITOR, No parting, we won't let you off the hook

that easily, PHIL HAS AGREED TO KEEP WRITING FOR US), I send my best wishes to all who are involved in the production of Wasureru-nai, and especially to Sheila for taking over the responsibility of seeing that it reaches all members of HKVCA. I have enjoyed being a contributor.

My address, phone number and email address haven't changed (yet!) so I would be pleased to hear from you.

I had a signature line at the end of the letter, going back to the first issue I wrote for Banjo Gossip in 1993. "Be good to each other and may God Bless." To that, this time I will add "Sayonara". (Not yet, Phil!)

A la prochaine, Philip

Have you visited our web site (<http://hkvca.ca>) recently?

We have been busy updating our content, and you can easily follow the changes as they're all displayed near the top of our home page. Want to see what events are coming up? Check out our calendar page, and don't hesitate to contact us if you're sponsoring an event that should be on the calendar.

The true legacy of our online presence is our veterans' stories. Take a moment, click our Historical/ Personal Accounts page and check out the content. Through the generosity of our veterans, their stories are now available to the interested public, and are a key reference in our Writing Contest for students.

We have much more planned. We are working on an online database that will make it easy

for you to see all the information we have on a 'C' Force member, displayed on one web page. As well, we are slowly revamping our site page layouts so they are easier to read on your smart phone or tablet. We'd love to hear about your experiences, and welcome your suggestions.

And finally, a request. Mailing out paper copies of our newsletter is expensive, and for many of us, a waste of resources in this digital age. If you have Internet access, you can read our screen-optimized version online, or print a copy (as a PDF of the printed version for yourself). All of this much earlier than receiving a mailed paper copy. As always, we are pleased to provide a paper copy to our Veterans and Widows but for the rest of us the digital option is worth a try. Give it a go, and if you don't like it, just switch back. To make it happen, drop me a line at webmaster@hkvca.ca.

Jim Trick, Webmaster



JOIN THE EMAIL LIST

Mailing the newsletter, especially with higher postage rates, is expensive. Want to help our association stretch our dollars and make good use of your membership fees? Join over 40% of the membership who receive their newsletter by email. Send an email to hkvca@shaw.ca and we will make it so.

Elections 2015

Board of Directors

The new procedures necessitated by the new regulations for Charitable Status organizations change how our Board of Directors and the Executive Committee are elected. At the national level the Membership now votes for the Board of Directors only, and the newly elected Board will then appoint the Executive Committee (i.e. President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.). Directors must be elected annually and the restriction of two consecutive terms has been removed.

Please refer to the enclosed/attached Nomination form for Directors as you read this. If you are accessing this on-line, please be certain to use the Nomination form for your region.

The top section on the form is reserved for nominating Directors. You can nominate any number of people you wish. There are a maximum of 12 Directors to be elected. Please ensure that at least one of the individuals you nominate is a resident of your region.

You may nominate anyone you feel would do a good job. They don't have to be a current member of the association, but if elected, the individual must join prior to attending their first Board meeting. It is preferred that you please speak to those you nominate, however, this is not absolutely necessary. Upon receipt of the Nomination form, the Elections Officer will contact the individuals nominated to explain the duties involved and to ensure they will serve if elected. Once this agreement is obtained, their name will be placed on the voting ballot. This ballot will be attached to the next issue of the newsletter.

Region Councils

Under the new regulations, the Board of Directors is responsible to ensure a functioning Region council exists. The Region Director is voted upon in the top section. The individual from a specific region with the greatest number of votes will be appointed as Region Director, unless that individual accepts a position on the National Executive, or refuses to serve in that capacity. Then the individual with the second highest vote count will be appointed as Region Director. No formal elections of the Secretary, Treasurer or other council members, is required under the new regulations, but it is the Board's desire that you participate in the selection of the Secretary and Treasurer. For those with strong councils, it is desirable that these individuals continue to serve should they be prepared to continue, but your agreement is requested. You may recommend others should you so desire. The bottom box on the form is reserved for this purpose.

Although the new regulations do not provide for region elections, the existing Quebec Region council believes it desirable to hold elections to keep the regional membership fully involved. The Board of Directors wants to ensure that each Region has the appropriate organization in place to carry out the Region's business, and since the obligations of the Board will be met by either method, for Quebec this is indicated in the lower box.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. By e-mail at derrill@sympatico.ca or by telephone at 613-829-5033.

Derrill Henderson
Elections Officer

From Lori Atkinson Smith

Hong Kong Veterans Monument Badge



One of the HKVCA goals is to have a Monument Badge mounted on every single HKV's gravestone here in Canada. The Monument Badge makes the gravestone a distinct and unique tribute to the

Hong Kong Veterans. They still cost \$75.00 each with postage included. The red colour is bright and the medallion is a bronze alloy, 2-3/8 inches in diameter. Cheques are to be made out to HKVCA and sent to P.O. Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6. Have you purchased one yet??!!

Hong Kong Memorabilia

Was I ever thrilled to receive these two steins this past January. Five of us HKVCA ladies met in London for a casual luncheon. Alyce Harrington [Wallace



Harrington, WG], Dorothy Sauson [Oliver Ray Sauson, RRC], Ruth Cunningham [Winston Cunningham, CDC], Barb Cunningham-Drew [daughter of Winston Cunningham, CDC] and myself, Lori Atkinson Smith [daughter of Harry Atkinson, WG, niece of Ronald Atkinson, WG and George Taylor, WG]. Ruth has been busy culling her living space and I was the lucky recipient! They are from 1975 Toronto HK. What other Hong Kong Memorabilia is out there?

Open letter to the HKVCA membership

Canadians do not know about the Battle of Hong Kong- the battle that helped make you and me who we are. I truly believe we are who we are because of the time our fathers spent in Hong Kong and Japan. Whether they came home or not- the Battle of Hong Kong changed US all!

As much as is feasible, I want to understand me. That is partly why I continue to be a member of HKVCA. The 'HKVCA' idea came about in the early 1990s. I heard rumours about the idea in 1989 while at the Winnipeg convention.

To quote part of the HKVCA mission statement- 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.

Currently, HKVCA nationally has about 800 members. Initially it was hoped to have at least one member of each HK soldier family. That initial hope sounded kind of easy- having 2000 members. One per family. This grand number has never been realized- or even close to 2000! Why in 2014, Ontario Region lost 17 members due to non-renewal. It does concern me ... this loss in members. Where is HKVCA headed?

Our mission is getting lost. There is a core group of volunteers who can only do so much. Please think about visiting your local Junior High School and High Schools. Speak about the Battle of Hong Kong.

Please renew your memberships. Please ask your siblings to join.

Ask your kids. Ask your nieces and nephews. Ask your friends.

Commemorative Coin

In July 2014, I (Carol Hadley) was contacted by M. Fournier who is a nephew of Alex Girard, a former Royal Rifle of Canada, to say that the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) planned to produce a coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong. He asked for some support from the HKVCA to ensure this would happen. I have approached the Mint to see about the design and they informed me that the Department of National Defence and historians at the Canadian War Museum were involved in the design. They are developing a collection of coins. Check out their website if you wish to subscribe for this collection or stay tuned to the newsletter and we will let you know when the Battle of Hong Kong coin is available. - See more at:

http://www.mint.ca/store/coins/1-oz.-fine-silver-10coin-subscription-second-world-war-battlefront-2015-prod2310036?rcmiid=link%7Ccategorypage%7C1_oz_Fine_Silver_10-Coin_Subscription_-_Second_World_War_Battlefront_2015%7CShop-Canadian_History&#.VQw7747F-Sp

FROM SEA TO SEA: REGIONAL NEWS

BC BANTER, Murray Doull

We send greetings to all HKVCA members from beautiful British Columbia. The TV news has shown us what a snowy and bitter cold winter it has been in many parts of Canada. Please take comfort in knowing that here on the west coast in mid March we are well into an early spring after a very mild winter with daffodils blooming, cherry blossoms and magnolias fully open and lawnmowers buzzing.

Our Regional Director, Lee Naylor, has resigned due to personal reasons. On behalf of all of us in the HKVCA I would like to thank Lee for his many years of service as both RD and



Lee Naylor (r) receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Education Chair.

Lee is very passionate about preserving and teaching the story of our HK vets and the sacrifices they made to allow us to live in freedom. He has told the story to hundreds of students, teachers and adults at many different venues in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the BC interior.

At high schools, museums, history teacher conventions, veteran's care centers and regional gatherings, Lee has spent countless hours setting up an incredible educational display, telling the story of our HK vets with visual and audio aids, tearing it all down, packing it up and in some cases driving very long distances to get back home. He did so sometimes with the help of Graeme Stacey or me but often by himself. Lee has touched many with his passion and knowledge when talking about our HK vets. Thank you Lee for all you have accomplished and for your dedication to our Hong Kong veterans.

Regarding the upcoming elections, in BC we are hopeful members will step forward to be part of our regional executive in the roles of Regional Director, Education Chair and Secretary. We need some new faces to help renew the energy and reset the direction for our region. I have agreed to stay on as Treasurer/ Membership Chair if that is the wish of the membership.

I look forward to others stepping forward to form a regional executive team that will continue to carry the torch for our HK vets as we promised them we would. Don't be afraid to nominate yourself or please feel free to contact me at mdoull@telus.net and I can help to get your name on the ballot.

In order to participate in the HKVCA it is important for us to renew our memberships every year. Thank you to those that have already done so and I hope to hear from those BC members who may have forgotten. Please help us keep our association strong and moving forward. It was good to recently hear from Patrick Jackson who lives in Whitehorse. Let's see if we can increase our membership by encouraging family members and friends to join.

PRAIRIE PROSE

From Juliet Lafortune: Hi from Manitoba to the Prairie Region and other regions. Hope all is well with everyone. There has been little news about the Grenadier monument at Brookside Cemetery since the City administration was changed in the election last fall but we continue to leave messages asking for progress.

George Peterson was contacted by a person who bought a helmet from eBay that had George's name engraved on it with a grenade sticker and wondered if this was authentic. George didn't think so as he inscribed his name differently on his items. But it was interesting to see these artifacts coming up for sale.

From Barry Mitchell -

Reminder – we are well into the 2015 year and dues need to be paid to continue to receive information from us. Also a dues card is required to attend convention events. There are also items in Barry's Emporium that might be of interest to you which can be seen on the website or contact Barry at 204-269-1497.

Other news: Vince Lopata of the Colour Party has been working to have plaques placed in the Pinawa area where there were geographical sites named for Manitobans who lost their lives in major conflicts like World War II. These are related to Winnipeg Grenadiers who died during that time

we hope arrangements will be ready by the fall for a dedication ceremony.

Ray Sellers's family had a film that we digitized of the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Jamaica. It's not very long but a piece of history that is nice to have.

The Education committee will be attending the Red River Heritage Fair, Thursday, May 7, 2015 at the University of Winnipeg. We hope to see exhibits that the students create on the Battle of Hong Kong. These are judged and a small gift is presented with a certificate. The Prairie Region continue to hold monthly meeting at St. James Legion in Winnipeg at noon on the second Thursday of each month. **Tea and Tidbits dates – April 11 2015, August 8th, and December 12 from 1 pm to 3 pm.** If any members are in this area on these dates please come and visit as we welcome everyone.

Report from Alberta A recent call to **Ralph MacLean** was very pleasant to hear that he was doing well. **Doug Rees** is still in the Caribbean but should be home soon. Norma and Glen Fuchs are doing well and enjoying retirement. Hope all the other members and those in Saskatchewan are keeping well also.

ONTARIO OFFERINGS

Pam Newhouse, West Central area, reports that she will be hosting her annual June luncheon at Betty's restaurant in Niagara Falls. Watch for your invitations in May. Why not plan to book a weekend around it, take in the scenery and maybe a few wineries or the new micro breweries? Everyone is welcome, from all areas. Hope to see you there. Pam Newhouse; 905-945-4125; pamnewhouse@hotmail.com

Jackie Le Drew, Northern Ontario rep forwarded information about Robert 'Flash' Gordon from Howard Raper and D. Burke Penny.

On March 7th, an overflow, standing room only crowd of over 250 people gathered at the Brechin/Mara Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Brechin, Ontario to celebrate the life of Sgt. Robert J. "Flash" Clayton who passed away at Sunnybrook Hospital on February 6, 2015 at the age of 93. His wife Jessie and daughter Ricky were in attendance along with two surviving brothers, a sister and brother-in-law. His daughter Veronica, "Ricky" told us of Flash's devotion to his family and her early life growing up in a family of veterans. I spoke of his drive to ensure that Canadians never forget that the rights and freedoms we enjoy were paid for with the blood of his comrades who fought beside him in Hong Kong and so many others. I (Howard) also spoke

of his cheerfulness in the face of adversity that must have helped him survive the horrors of the Japanese prison camps. Heather Shier spoke of his amazing physical ability at the time she first met him while vacationing in Florida. The size of the crowd proved that Robert J. Clayton had a profound influence on the people of his community as well as people around the world. We will remember him.

Many of the people attending the service who had not yet purchased his biography, *Hoping in Hell* asked for a copy and over 60 copies were sold. All proceeds of his biography go to continue the work of this Branch of the Legion to serve veterans and the community he so loved.

The Branch has created a Facebook page for *Hoping in Hell* to continue to tell his story. Quite a few of the books were purchased by the group in Orillia, Ontario who host an annual "Take a Vet to Dinner" event. The event includes a presentation of high school students giving a short bio of one of the local veterans. Each student receives a military historical book following their presentation. Next fall and for several years later, these students will receive a copy of *Hoping in Hell*.

Copies of his biography can be purchased by sending a cheque for \$27.60 to R.C.L. Branch 488, P.O.Box 59, Brechin, Ontario L0K 1B0.



Len Shier presenting book cover to Flash

[Note A framed copy of the book cover had been presented to Flash at Sunnybrook Hospital and the photo submitted to Legion Magazine.]

CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST

ONTARIO: Shelagh Purcell [daughter of Leonard Corrigan, WG]

Dana Claricoates (Ronald Claricoates, RRC) and Irene Firlotte, (Lawrence Firlotte, RRC) both agreed that it was better than last year when we had such problems with ice. Their solution is to just keep warm and carry on.

Sandy Harris (niece of Douglas Rees, RRC) was waiting for her husband to arrive back from Kuwait after a tour of duty since last October. She said he'd probably be trading a sand storm for a snowstorm. T asked whether her uncle, Douglas Rees, had his Hong Kong story on the website. She hopes to talk with him about it when he returns from Barbados.

Yvonne Southworth (Donald Southworth, RRC) has had some health issues but is managing to get through the winter. We exchanged snow stories and she said her driveway is getting narrower all the time, with high drifts on the sides. The question then becomes if you get out can you get back in?

Connie Darling is pleased to report her mother is out of the hospital and in Granby. Mrs. Phillips, (Edward Phillipps, RRC) had been contacted by Lucette Mailloux Muir in Granby and she was very happy about that. Connie was hoping to get to visit her mother in April but has to have cataract (surgery first, so she may have to delay her trip for a while.

For those people I wasn't able to reach this time, we'll try to connect when the weather is warmer and everyone is back home.

QUEBEC NEWS: Lucette M. Muir

Greetings all from Quebec Region. After surviving the Holiday Season and the harsh winter we are all looking forward to spring.

After a quiet work period during the holidays, we are all fast at work on many changes to come. In early March, we held our executive meeting with the reading of the Year End Reports for 2014 and plans for the new year 2015.

We have been in contact with many of our Widows, Veterans and families. Many have been a bit under the weather during the winter but are well on the mend.

Unfortunately we have lost three widows. Our Deepest Sympathy goes out to the families for their great loss. We of the Quebec Region send our Deepest Sympathy to Jessie and her family for the great loss of Robert Clayton. Flash will be greatly missed by all his Comrades and all who knew him.

We welcomed two new members to our Hong Kong family, Francis son of Andre Normand and Barbara McFarlane daughter of Richard Keays, Hong Kong Veterans. Thank you both for your participation. We thank all members for renewing their membership for 2015.

From our Region to Yours, hope you had a Happy Easter. Happy Mothers Day to all Moms and may you all enjoy the company of yours on this special day. Till next time, take care, Lucette.

EASTERN BREEZES: Emmie Flannagan

Hello Canada, from the snowiest part of the nation. We are certainly looking forward to a bright and beautiful spring.

The 'C Force' Memorial in Belledune has once again taken a small stumble. The project has been cancelled with Veterans Affairs Canada, due to the fact that we were unable to obtain a suitable site for the memorial. However, VAC has encouraged us to reapply in the future, when we feel that our organization and partners are ready to proceed. Although it may sound hopeless, I am very optimistic it will happen with the right people on board. Until then, I will remain silent on the subject. I will be in touch with our region council shortly, to plan for a meeting in June.

This year our region will not be holding an *all out weekend reunion* as in the past years, however, I would like to consider one Saturday in early Autumn...will keep you posted.

Our municipality has 12 bronze HKV memorial disks left over since 2010, and I will be requesting they allow us to donate them to families of Hong Kong Veterans in our region. I spoke to our mayor concerning this and he feels it is a good idea. Now I only need Council to support this worthy cause.

So that's my news this time around, from sunny Atlantic Canada. Happy Spring to you and yours!

EDUCATION, from Gail Angel National Education Chair, ga@angelsys.com

Our board has been pondering a lot lately about being more visible in the online world with the younger generation in mind. One of the steps we've taken is to use Facebook in a more deliberate way. Dan James, from Prairie Region, is now our Facebook administrator. I asked him to introduce himself.

Hello, my name is Dan James, grandson of J.E. James H6912 – WG (aka. Jesse). I grew up always knowing Grandpa was in Hong Kong with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. When I moved to Winnipeg in 2001 I started attending the reunion dinners with him when he came. When he passed away in 2005, I have felt it was my responsibility to take his place at the reunion in Winnipeg.

A few years ago, I started the Hong Kong Veterans Tribute group on Facebook. Slowly the group has grown to 350 members. I have always tried to post stories, and links relating to our vets, and their stories. People share pictures of their family members and their stories.

A few weeks ago, Carol Hadley asked me to help out to enhance our social media presence. I gladly offered a hand.

Jim Trick had a Facebook page named HKVCA and I agreed to take over operating the page, changed the name to Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association-HKVCA and invited people to "like it". I grew the number of likes from 27 to 97 in a few days. I started posting some pictures I had, links and articles, most things already shared with the group. I can see how the message is reaching people slowly but surely. We are the ones tasked with representing our vets, our fathers, grandfathers, and now great-grandfathers. People join because of their uncle, a friend, etc. Every "like on the page" helps get that message out. Please feel free to contact me at danequin@yahoo.ca to share the stories, links and any article about our vets that you see anytime, and feel free to post the info yourself on the group and on the Facebook page.

Please Join the group, like the page and invite others. Find us on Facebook by searching for "Hong Kong Veterans Tribute"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HongKongVets/> or the HKVCA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Hkvca?ref=hl>

Update on Writing contest, Sheila Forsyth, Coordinator. You will be glad to hear that my inbox is loaded up with submissions from all across Canada. I'm compiling them now and will send to the judges soon. Stay tuned for the results.

Last Post

Eric J. Maloney. March 11. 2105 at 93. (RRC E29890)

Robert 'Flash' Clayton. February 6. 2015 in Toronto

Reginald A. Kerr December 7, 2014 in Ottawa

Doris Hocking, sister to Edgar Smelts. December 18, 2014

Rita Normand, widow of Andrew Normand (RRC E-30686), Vaudreuil QC (passed in 2009)

Jean Colvin February 18, 2015 (Widow of Alex Colvin, WG)

Wasureru-Nai

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www.hkvca.ca

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