



Of Special Interest

BC Region: Royal BC Museum in Victoria, Veteran’s Week, November 5 – November 11.

AB/SK Region - Saturday, November 6 Dinner – more info to come.

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

65th HKVA Reunion – Holiday Inn Airport West – October 23, 2010 – dinner at 6 p.m.

ON Region: Workshop for OHASSTA is on Nov. 5th Dec. 15: Highlights of History – Oshawa-organized

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.

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 and 65th Anniversary of VJ Day



The Memorial Wall is completed as far as construction at the site. There needs to be some corrections to a few names and we are waiting for an estimate for this. We need the invoice for the perpetuity fund with the National Capitol Commission so that it can be paid and then the Wall will be turned over to them for future maintenance.

My husband, Allan, and I were honoured to be in Ottawa for VJ day to see the Wall for the first time – it is awesome and pictures do not do it justice. Thank you to the VJ Day committee in Ottawa for their efforts in planning this event – unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate.

I was able to meet with the Landscape Architect, Jim Lennox, the structural engineer Rick Cunliffe and present them with plaques in appreciation of all the work that they donated to the project.

We have many people to thank who have donated their time, money and expertise to make our veteran's dream become a reality. Over half of the money donated to the project came from our members, veterans, family and friends of the Hong Kong Veterans and we greatly appreciate their efforts to make this project successful.

I am truly grateful to have been associated with this project and the Committee consisting of Phil Doddridge, Derrill Henderson, Barry Mitchell, Murray Doull and Ron McGuire with the wonderful

addition of Randy Wing, who have been diligent in their efforts to make this a wonderful tribute to “C” Force.

That's it for now – Carol Hadley, for the Memorial Wall Committee

HKVCA President

- Derrill Henderson

Well, it has certainly been a year of ups and downs so far. We soared with the completion of the landscaping on the Memorial Wall site, then after weeks of preparation for the first wreath laying ceremony on the site, the heavens opened and the rain came down in torrents on August 15th - V-J Day, and lightning accompanied the rain to ensure ALL outside activities had to be cancelled. But the veterans of the air force in the Far East along with our HK vets graciously accepted, that fate had made their parade, and the public accolades that accompany it impossible for what may well be the final hurrah for their numbers.

I thank all those that worked so diligently over the past weeks in preparing our ceremony for their efforts. We must acknowledge that there are things that are beyond our control even if it is hard to swallow some times.

The association has two additional items still being worked on for the site - the lighting of the Memorial Wall and on-site parking. Preparation for the August 15th ceremony put these on the back burner, but they have been brought to the forefront again as they are critical to the success of the site. Additionally, the Gander statue, an arm's length project is underway. I am please to say that the "C" Force Memorial has been inserted in the

tourist guide of places to visit while visiting Ottawa and the National Capital area. Every comment I have heard gives it raves and the best memorial in the capital.

Last weekend, Vivian and I attended the Atlantic Region's annual get together. Although only one HK vet was able to attend, the energy of those in attendance gave the impression that this region has no intention of letting things go downhill. I had the privilege of being the guest speaker dinner, and after passing on "hellos" from their friends from "away", I gave an honest description of our membership and activity situation and challenged those present to work toward accomplishing our mandate by proposing new avenues of attack (projects) and by increasing our membership. From the comments I received after dinner, they have taken this to heart and I expect to see a resurgence of activity from this region.

I am also please to announce that Ms Emmie Flanagan has agreed to understudy Neil Darrah with the goal of replacing him at the next formal election. Neil will not be "shutting down", just slowing down. Neil has been a trusted friend and ally over the years. He has maintained the life of the Region and will continue to support it with his knowledge and hands-on activity. I know he gives all the credits to those that have supported him over the years, and rightly so, but without the motivator, things just do not get done.

That's all for now.

Derrill

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HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Another September has rolled around, and it brings to my mind events of seventy years ago, when the Royal Rifles were still undergoing basic training in Valcartier, and preparing to leave for Sussex, New Brunswick.

In Sussex we were billeted in basic army H-huts, but they had not been completed. Some didn't yet have windows, and other features such as plumbing had not been finished. The parade square was a sea of ankle-deep mud.

In the town, there were few places that provided entertainment.

"Blueberry Hill" was the number one song on the hit list. One Sunday afternoon a few of us were listening to it on the Wurlitzer in a small restaurant when a Mountie came in and pulled the plug on the record player. It was SUNDAY, and we were engaged in a sinful, if not an illegal act! Ah, those innocent days!

REUNION 2010

This year we met in New Richmond for a three-day reunion, August 9, 10 and 11. It was organized as usual by Lucette, with the able assistance of Marcel. There were only three HK Vets in attendance, J. Paul Dallain, Allison Pollock and myself.

A wreath laying ceremony took place at the newly refurbished Veterans' Park (Parc du souvenir) conducted by Alan Marshall.

Approximately twenty-eight people sat down to a roast beef dinner on Tuesday evening, a far cry from the days when fifty or sixty vets and their wives and as many invited guests would be in attendance.. We three Vets were presented with a beautifully engraved leather book holder with accompanying reading light. Honorary memberships were presented to two attendees for their assistance to veterans.

The group toured the Military Museum in a visit that was declared a total success.

The Quebec Region owes a huge vote of thanks to Lucette and her committee for their continued support of the organization and the many hours they forfeit to ensure that the best service is provided to the dwindling numbers of veterans.

MINISTER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMENDATION

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Carol for being presented with the Minister's Commendation, an award that is truly deserved. Carol's hard work and dedication has, in a major part, contributed to the success of the Wall project, but before that, to the equally successful operation of HKVCA.

I was honoured to share the stage with Carol, and I also take this opportunity to thank those who felt that my contribution to the organization merited a similar nomination.

It was unfortunate that the ceremony at the Wall on Sunday had to be cancelled because of the weather. I

share Derrill's regret that all his hard work and that of his committee came to nought.

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

* * * *

Last Post

James R. Riddoch, WG, H6796, survived by daughter, **Linda Hutchinson, HKVCA**

HKVCA

Margeurite Englehart, widow of Harold Englehart, RRC, E30175, died November 23, 2009.

Marion Jamieson, widow of David Allan Jamieson, RRC died July 25, 2010.

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

We will remember them!

Welcome to Emmie Flanagan, new Regional Director of Atlantic Region. Thank you to Neil Darrah for his years of service to this area.

Memorial Wall Dedication Video

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



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

65th Anniversary end of WWII

On August 14, 2010 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa Minister Blackburn with **Phil Doddridge**, Commendation recipient, and Veteran of the Battle for Hong Kong



Carol Hadley receiving the Commendation from Minister Blackburn



On August 15 at VJ Day service –



Phil Angel, great-grandson of a Second World War Veteran and grandson of Derrill Henderson, reads the Commitment to Remember on behalf of Canada's Youth at the commemorative ceremony on August 15th

Pictures of the Wall

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque mounted on granite rocks at the site.



Prairie grasses

Facing east looking at the Royal



Rifles of Canada names. The Christmas tree in the right will be decorated and lighted for the month of December.



Facing west you are looking at the Winnipeg Grenadier names.



NOTE: Additional photos can be viewed on your computer by visiting:

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

and clicking on the "Memorial Wall gallery" link.

THE REDEDICATION OF THE HONG VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL - C. R. [Ron] McGuire

A number of our members have told me they miss seeing my contributions to the newsletter so I thought it was time I did a piece to let readers know that I am still alive and active with our great organization.

For a brief overview of some of my activities, I continue to do what I can to tell the stories of our veterans, and to help the HKVCA and promote its objectives.

Last November I prepared my thirteenth Remembrance Month exhibit for the Nepean Museum, the theme was "Canadians on the Home Front". There was a portion concerning what the families of our Hong Kong Veterans were doing to prepare Red Cross parcels and helping their loved ones in the POW camps. Promotion literature for our Memorial Wall was on each side of my Hong Kong Veterans-POWs, 1941-1945" wreath. The wreath was absent for the 11 November as Ted Terry, [his father, Ted Senior passed away as a POW] and I laid it at the Carlingwood Shopping Center at 11am and the Westboro cenotaph at 2 pm during the nicest weather I can ever recall for a Remembrance Day. This is becoming a tradition for Ted and me as it was the fourth year we did it together and plan to continue to do so, long into the future.

This November my Nepean Museum exhibit will be to remember Canada's contributions during the Korean War. Next year, 2011, the theme will be the 70th anniversary of the Defence of Hong Kong and "C" Force. I will be utilizing much of what many of you will have seen in my exhibits at our conventions in Granby in 1999, Winnipeg in 2001, Victoria in 2003, Ottawa 2005 and 2009 and Calgary in 2007 and, the Nepean Museum in 2001 and 2005.

I was part of the committee that planned the great event that unfortunately, was not to be, the rededication ceremony for the completed Memorial Wall and its extensive landscaping, on Sunday, 15 August, one year after it was unveiled. Because of the weather, teeming rain and very threatening lightning, it was decided only an hour before it was to take place, to cancel the ceremony. Unfortunately, we could not get word to everyone and despite the rain; people came and were around the Memorial for most of the day. While I was there, for about two hours from 2.30-4.30, there was always about 20-25 people coming and going---everyone I spoke with was very pleased with the finished Memorial and the landscaping. The photos throughout the newsletter will confirm this for those who have not yet had the opportunity to see it.

It was good to see Phil Doddridge [RRC], who drove from New Richmond with his cousin Ron, and George MacDonell [RRC] who flew in from Toronto, both looking so well. They, along with Ken Ewing, were to take part in the ceremony. Ken's granddaughter, Stephanie Ewing and Derrill Henderson's grandson, Philip Angel were to have read the "Commitment to Remember".

The evening before was a much more successful event. Connie and I had the privilege to attend the induction dinner at the Chateau Laurier where Phil Doddridge and Carol Hadley were the deserving recipients of the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation Award. It was given in recognition of their dedication and years of work on behalf of Canada's Hong Kong Veterans. I know you will join me in congratulating Carol and Phil for this important achievement. The photographs show them receiving their commendations.

I am pleased to report that Ken Ewing has recovered very well from that bad bout of illness he had last year. I had a very nice visit one afternoon in June with he and Susan at their lovely home overlooking the Rideau River near Burritt's Rapids. It was one of those frequent hot, humid days we have had in the Ottawa area this summer, but it was lovely and cool on the new deck their children literally built for them one day, as their Golden Fiftieth anniversary gift. I am sure readers will join me in wishing the Ewings, a belated happy milestone wedding anniversary day.

I am sorry to report that Eric Maloney [RRC] had a heart attack on 31 August but I am pleased that he is doing very well, though at the time I am writing this, 11 September, he is still in the hospital and not expected to be able to go home until the 14th. Please join me in wishing him a complete recovery by the time you receive this newsletter. I know he would welcome a call at 613-228-9302.

In closing I wish everyone all the best and safe travelling.

Hong Kong 2010

This trip is filled but a waiting list has been created and inquiries to see

if there could be more spaces allowed.

If you are interested, please send an email to hkvca.trip@gmail.com. You can also look for information and updates at www.hkvca.ca/2010trip.

Across the Nation

BC Banter

- Murray Doull, for BC Executive

The BC Region would like to express greetings and best wishes to all our Hong Kong veterans, widows, HKVCA members and friends.

The recent rains and cooler weather in our province have helped our courageous firefighters take control over the many extensive fires that have ravaged our interior forests during the hot summer months. We are grateful that most of the fires have been extinguished and the remaining ones are under control.

Best wishes to 4 of our HK vets, **Aubrey Flegg** (Kelowna), **Richard Maze** (Chilliwack), **Claude Corbett** (Maple Ridge) and **Richard Johnson** (Qualicum Beach) who have recently entered care facilities due to health reasons. Congratulations to **Richard (Dick) Maze** and his wife **Ann** who are both 99 years young this year!



Gerry Gerrard (HK vet) carried the Hong Kong Veterans' flag in a parade to the cenotaph in Victoria on August 14 commemorating VJ Day. **Gerry** will be participating in the Commemorative Trip to Hong Kong departing on November 30, 2010. He will be accompanied by his daughters **Bev Campbell** and **Pat White** and their husbands **Eric** and **Dave**.

Our Regional Director, **Lee Naylor**, laid a wreath at the cenotaph in Hope on VJ Day, August 15.

On a quarterly basis, the Regional Membership Chairs submit their membership lists to the National Membership Chair, **Jim Trick**. We have just received the latest figures that Jim has provided to the BOD for our next meeting. In order to increase our membership numbers, the National Executive has suggested that if each current member recruited one person to join our association, our membership would double. I encourage each of you to take up this initiative. New members will serve to strengthen the HKVCA while at the same time providing energy, ideas and incentives. Together, let's see what we can do in this regard to keep our association growing and strong!

Lee Naylor and I will be participating in a tribute to all Canadian veterans on September 18 at the George Derby Centre in Burnaby on behalf of the HKVCA. This Centre houses and cares for approximately 300 Canadian veterans. We will set up our Region's extensive 'C' Force educational display and talk to as many in attendance as we can. The Centre has sent out over a thousand invitations. Other associations connected to veterans will have displays as well. There will be many local, provincial, federal politicians and dignitaries present for the official ceremonies and events.

Lee will accompany **Graeme Stacey** on October 22 to the BC Teachers Professional Development Conference at the Burnaby North Secondary School. Their goal is to provide further insight and educational materials to social studies teachers, province wide. **Graeme** is tireless in his efforts to promote and increase the content of the story of our Hong Kong veterans in the secondary school social studies curriculum in our province. **Graeme** and **Lee** participated in this event last year and were very successful convincing more teachers to include this important piece of Canadian history in their classrooms.

The BC Region of the HKVCA has been invited to participate in this year's Remembrance Event at the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, which takes place during Veteran's Week,

November 5 – November 11. The museum works in partnership with Veterans' Affairs to accommodate educational displays commemorating our veterans. Last year, hundreds of students attended and there were over 12,000 visitors during the 7-day event. A decision will be made soon to determine if our Region will set up and attend our 'C' Force display for part of the 7 day event. If you live in the Victoria area and are willing to donate some of your time to help us with this venture, please contact Lee Naylor or Murray Doull. Lee can be reached at leenylr@yahoo.ca or by phone at 604-869-3485. Murray can be reached at mdoull@telus.net or by phone at 604-465-0579.

It is our hope to have as many wreaths as possible placed by our member's province wide on November 11. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, or lay one for the HKVCA in your town, please contact Murray Doull. We will post the names of all wreath bearers and their cities in the December newsletter.

Our thoughts are with those who are not well or have a family member who is ill. Please contact your executive if we can be of assistance to an HK vet or widow. If you move, please send us your new contact information. Thank you.

AB/SK Action

- Norma Fuchs

Hello out there:

It is hard to believe that summer is over and we are feeling the cool winds of winter just around the corner. We are thinking that we missed summer out here in the west.

We would like to extend a special welcome to the new members in our Region since last report: **Tracy Broadfoot** (Albert Broadfoot WG) Edmonton

Carol Denny (Friend) Calgary

Colleen Yeh (Friend) Calgary

We were very sorry to hear of Jack Smith's passing in June. He put up a brave and courageous fight. All who knew him dearly miss him.

We were invited to participate in the Chinese Festival on August 14th in downtown Calgary. We set up a booth with our books and gave out many copies of the Veteran's Affairs Pamphlet "Canadians in Hong Kong". Michael Palmer and Ralph

MacLean signed copies of Michael's recently published book. We had many people come to the booth to talk with us and recount their memories of that day in 1941. There were many moving stories told and very sincere expressions of thanks to our Veterans.

We are in the early stages of planning a dinner get together on Saturday, November 6. Please mark that date on your calendar and watch for further details.

I again would like to thank all of our members who continue to renew their memberships year after year. There are a few who still need to pay their dues for 2010. Please send them on to us as soon as possible.

We were very happy to hear about the luncheon that was held in Edmonton in May. Good work! Noel Alden sent the following report along with pictures.

Edmonton News

- Noel Alden

We did have a get-together May 29th and it turned out quite nice. (10 people including myself) We had lunch at the Norwood Legion and all had a good time.



From left, clockwise: Margaret, niece of the lady next to her, Josephine Taylor (95 yrs); Margaret Aubert; Bruce Aubert; Leona Kashton; Wayne, son of Clara Donnelly (next up from him); Carole Kreye; Allan Kreye); I'm missing between Josephine Taylor and



Margaret Aubert, so I included a picture with me in it. (I'm the man on the right.)

That's all for now, not much to report since then.

Manitoba Moments

- Juliet Lafortune Regional Director (jlafortune@mts.net)

Hello to all my HK Family

We have had a slow summer here in Winnipeg. I heard through the grape vine that Phil Doddridge and Carol Hadley received the Minister's Commendation from The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture), for their work for the Hong Kong Veterans. Congratulations Phil and Carol.

In Winnipeg since the last newsletter I have been getting things ready for our Tea and Tidbits (our ladies luncheon) and the HKVA 65th Reunion. The Reunion dinner will be held on October 23, 2010 with **dinner at 6 p.m.** if you have any questions regarding this event please call me and I would like to hear from you.

Our Education Committee continue to work with the Heritage Fair Committee and with MSSTA (Manitoba Social Science Teachers Association) giving information to these teachers through their printed and electronic media. We are assisting the Manitoba Museum with a WWII resource that will be going to the Northern School Divisions by providing DVD's and hard copy of material for the teachers to use in the Canadian History unit.

Vince and Stan Lopata continue to work the Winnipeg Grenadier Cadet Corp.

We hold our meetings at the monthly luncheons and have found that to be very productive.

- We have had our elections and by acclamation we are the same board of directors.
- VJ Day went very well here we had about 45 people in attendance. It is so very good to see more people come out to these events.
- Barry and Carol were in Ottawa, attending VJ Day there but were rained out.
- Please remember to keep up your memberships, and stay in contact.

Well not much more to add but please take care and stay well.

Hope to see you all soon.

Ontario Offerings

-Mike Babin, Regional Director, Ontario

It has been two years since our last election for the executive of the HKVCA Ontario Region, so it's time again to go to the polls! Ontario members will be receiving a package by mail in the near future with all the details. In the last election all of your executives were re-elected by acclamation. This time, we'd like to see some new faces and I encourage you to consider running for one of the available positions (Regional Director, Secretary, Treasurer). The time commitments are not heavy, and you will find the work to be worthwhile. I'd be glad to chat with anyone who is interested. Feel free to phone me at 416 732-5720, or email me at msbabin@gmail.com.

It's hard to believe that over a year has passed since the dedication of the Memorial Wall in Ottawa. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, the Wall is now complete, including all of the landscaping. I'm sure that all of our Ontario members would want to join me in congratulating and thanking the committee that worked so hard to make this long-time wish of the Veterans a reality. Without their dedication it simply wouldn't have happened.

You might be interested to know that over \$82,000 was donated to the Wall fund by Ontario members and through our Ontario fundraising program. This represents 31% of all donations (excluding corporate and government), and I am proud of all of you for your wonderful generosity. In fact, our members across Canada dug deeply into their pockets and we should all feel a sense of pride for this terrific accomplishment.

As you may have read in the last newsletter, one of our long-time members, Ron McGuire, has decided to pass on his job of Area Rep for the Eastern Region to Mitzi Ross. I'd like to thank Ron for his excellent work over the years on behalf of the HKVCA. Ron has not only made a point of staying in touch with the Veterans and members in his area, but has also

been a vocal and visible spokesman for the Hong Kong story.

Enjoy the fall colours! And think about running for a position on the HKVCA executive!!

Ontario Education Committee

-Pat Turcotte, Chair

Before the Ottawa Commemoration ceremonies were to take place, Mike Babin, Bernard Turcotte and I were invited to participate in the get-together on August 14th to be held in Mississauga by the August 15 – 1945 Foundation. This organization consists of the survivors, and the children of the civilians held in POW camps by the Japanese in various places in the Far East during World War II. Those present included many who were children themselves during this period of imprisonment. Several speakers addressed the crowd of 250 people, including the Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and we were welcomed by Rudi Lie, the Commissioner for the Southern Ontario Branch of the August 15, 1945 Foundation. Several presentations were made including a Powerpoint study by Sandra Vanderzee-Clark titled "Children of POW parents", and a beautifully recorded version of "The Captives Hymn" composed by Margaret Dryburgh in a POW camp in Sumatra. Following the Memorial Ceremony itself, a number of wreaths were laid, including one by Mike Babin and Pat Turcotte on behalf of HKVCA. Earlier in the programme, on more than one occasion, the valour of the Canadian soldiers who fought in Hong Kong was mentioned, and in one instance Mike & Pat were asked to stand to be acknowledged as representing the soldiers who fought there. The meeting itself was followed by an Indonesian food buffet, which met with much approval on the part of those present.

The Ottawa Memorial Wall Ceremony to be held at 2 p.m. was cancelled because of a tremendous rainstorm, which lasted most of the day. Fortunately, many HKVCA who had arrived for that event were present in the morning, and were able to attend the first ceremony of the day being held indoors at the Conference Centre (the old Union Station) at 10 a.m. All veterans of the Far East were to be honoured

there, and many HKVCA members were able to connect after the Ceremony, as well as enjoying the full-course dinner, which was offered to all attending. There were over 100 veterans present, with a total of 500 people filling the room. National HKVA President Phil Doddridge laid a wreath on behalf of HKVCA.

It was possible to get in touch with a few key people during our Ottawa visit, including Ron McGuire, who was finally able to be presented with his Award of Appreciation for the many years he has spent looking after the Memorabilia Room at the Conventions, arranging for various veterans to be considered for the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour, and not least, his 10 years of service as the Area Rep. for the North East (Ottawa region). We are glad to hear that although he is turning his Area Rep. job over to Mitzi Ross, he will continue to work on behalf of HKVCA.

We were also able to connect with Ted Terry and Ann Hyland, who last year looked after our participation in the Parliamentary Library's Resource Fair. They are willing to be involved again as long as it doesn't interfere with a trip that they have already committed to taking.

Gail Angel and I had a lengthy meeting at the Lord Elgin in which we discussed some of the possibilities of preparing an effective booth/table at several of the functions coming up in the Fall and Winter. We discussed the best way to include those items we currently use as a sort of kit. One thing that was mentioned was a "come-on" of sorts using a laptop with a series of slides showing important statements relative to the Hong Kong story to attract people to the booth/table.

Preparations will be underway shortly for a meeting with members of the Judging committee for the Writing Contest to ensure that we all agree on the approach taken. We also have Flora Fung's Workshop for OHASSTA to consider, and will want to have Flora discuss this in September with George MacDonell, the Ontario Executive, and perhaps Nick Brune as well, since he has presented several workshops at

OHASSTA in the past. The Writing Contest should be underway by the first week of October, and the Workshop for OHASSTA is on Nov. 5th.

Here is a list of coming activities, which require our attention:

- Oct. 1 to 3: ALPHA Conference in Toronto
- Oct 1 to 7: mailouts (likely e-mail) for the Writing Contest
- Nov. 3 (last yr.): Resource Fair in Ottawa
- Nov. possibility: PD Day in Ottawa (Gail Angel)
- Nov. 5: Flora Fung Workshop at OHASSTA in Mississauga
- Nov. 5 & 6: OHASSTA Conference display table in Mississauga
- Dec. 15: Highlights of History – Oshawa-organized

In the New Year: May 1st: Chinese Mall & AHM – Markham area

June – likely 1st week: Tattoo in Hamilton

If any of our Ontario members can assist with even one of these projects, their help would be very much appreciated. Contact Pat Turcotte anytime at petsask@sympatico.ca or (905) 274-3189.

West Central Ontario Area

-Gordon Coyne, Representative

Veteran Ken Pifher (RRC) is having a good summer at home in Grimsby, Ontario. His biggest news is that he is making plans to join the group going to Hong Kong and Japan in late November to mark the 65th anniversary of the liberation of “C” Force POWs. His daughter, Pam Newhouse, and grandchildren Jordan and Jill Newhouse will accompany him. Grandson Kevin is also a possibility for the trip.

Veteran Gerry “Sunny” Sunstrum (RRC), too, is enjoying the summer, comfortably ensconced at home in Niagara Falls, Ontario. His big news is that he was able to be in Ottawa on Sunday, August 15th to mark the 65th anniversary of VJ Day. The special services, as planned, consisted of a commemorative ceremony at the National War Memorial, followed later in the day, by a re-dedication and wreath-laying at the HKVA Memorial Wall. We are indebted to his son, Neil, and daughter-in-law

Joyce for providing his transportation. Unfortunately for Gerry and all other attendees, the Weather Man was in a vile mood, resulting in cancellation of outdoor activities.

Grenville Onyette (RCAF): In the last Newsletter we reported the death in Niagara Falls of Jean Onyette, widow of S/L Grenville Onyette (RCAF), who was a member of the HKVA until his death in 1996. Additional information has since come to hand, courtesy of the Canadian Veterans Hall of Valour. On April 4, 1942 Grenville was the navigator on Catalina QL-A patrolling an area of the Indian Ocean to the south of Ceylon, the base for the Royal Navy’s Eastern Fleet. Following an eleven-hour mission, they had begun turning for home when they spotted what turned out to be elements of a Japanese naval force, steaming in the direction of Ceylon. Their intention was to launch a surprise attack on Colombo, similar to the one carried out earlier at Pearl Harbour. Enemy fighters downed the Catalina, but not before the radio operator (Fred Phillips) had managed to send two warning messages to Colombo. As a result of this incident, the captain of the aircraft, Air Commodore Leonard Birchall, was awarded the DFC, and became widely known as The Saviour of Ceylon. Three crewmen were killed in the attack and the others, including Birchall, spent the rest of the war as POWs.

Austen Cambon: Austen is a member of the HKVCA, residing in Oakville, Ontario. He is a brother of the late Dr. Kenneth Cambon (RRC). Ken was a rifleman with the Royal Rifles at Hong Kong. In 1990 he published “Guest of Hirohito”, a widely acclaimed “Chronicle by one of the youngest men of the Royal Rifles of Canada, depicting the will and determination to survive the horrors of Japanese prisoner of war days” (Robert Manchester).

Austen is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada, and served in Korea with 3RCHA. He is a management consultant and educator, who has taught in Canada, USA, China and the Middle East. At the present time he teaches part-time in the Business School at Humber College in Etobicoke, Ontario, and at The University of Guelph-

Humber, where in 2007 he was voted “Business Professor of the Year”. Last Summer Austen and other members of the Cambon Family were present for the dedication of the Memorial Wall. As he has said, “It looks great!”

Widow Marion Jamieson (David Allan Jamieson RRC): We were sorry to learn of Marion’s death on July 25, aged 92, at Morriston Park Nursing Home, near Guelph, Ontario. She had been a widow for 20 years. Her interment will occur at her birthplace, Caledonia, Ontario. She is survived by a son, Allan, a retired high school teacher, and by a daughter, Catherine, who teaches history at Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario. Our condolences are extended to the family.

Widow Dorothy McColm (Murray McColm RRC) continues in residence in St. Joseph’s Villa Nursing Home in Dundas, Ontario, in close contact with her daughter, Elaine, and son-in-law Dan Dorey. Unfortunately, her health has failed, and she has suffered a broken hip. Dorothy’s grandson, Jay Dorey, lives in Ottawa. Several family members attended the dedication of the Memorial Wall last summer. Thoughts of Murray, who enlisted at age 16, and suffered a lifetime of torment after returning to Canada, have never faded.

Widow Marjorie Overton (Bill Overton CPC) provides us with a very cheery conversation, despite the fact that she is still recuperating from a particularly difficult case of the flu, contracted in late ’09. Until it is completely gone she is staying close to home. “Get Well Soon, Marjorie”.

Toronto Region –Bud Mann, GTA Representative, 905.294.5342, bud.mann@sympatico.ca

I had the opportunity and pleasure of speaking with a number of HKVCA members in the GTA when I called to remind them of the ceremonies marking VJ Day in Ottawa on August 15. It was a real pleasure having a chat with them. I cannot name everyone I talked to but I would like to mention the widows I was able to contact and who agreed to have their names published in the event that friends may have lost contact as to their whereabouts. The widows are

Florence Carter -Toronto; Bette Dewey -Oshawa; Gloria Fortune - Toronto; Melita McKee -Toronto; Audrey Murray -Pickering; and Grace Thornton -Scarborough. Ladies it was a pleasure getting to know you.

I would like to welcome a new member, Dale Slater, to the Association and the Association's GTA area. Also welcome to Ken Skelton, who moved to the GTA recently from Gravenhurst.

If I can be of help to any of the members in the GTA please let me know. Also I would appreciate it if you would please pass along any news that would be of interest to the Association and or other members.

Quebec Quotes

Lucette Mailloux Muir, Regional Director

Greetings from sunny Quebec.

Hello everyone. Since our last report, we have been quite busy with preparations for our August 2010 Reunion. Our Reunion will be taking place in New Richmond, QC on the Gaspé Coast from August 9th to the 11th, 2010. Explanation on the unusual timing of our Reunion, it is very simple, it is due to the availability of the hotel facilities and lodging. August is a high tourist season and area on the coast. Hopefully this will not discourage any of you from attending our Reunion. The Organizing Committee is inviting anyone who would like to attend our Reunion to contact Lucette and it will be a pleasure to count you with us.

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

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

That will be it for this time. Have a nice and safe summer.

Maritime Memories

- Emmie Flanagan

Hello every one,

I have taken up the challenge to be the new Regional Director for the Atlantic Region. Less than 12 days ago, I was

approached by Neil Darrah ...He asked if I would consider taking up his position on the Executive Committee. He felt I might be better suited because of the project I am undertaking in Belledune. Wow ...to say the least I was elated yet at the same time anxious because of not knowing what this position entailed...I told him I'd have to sleep on it.

Later at the Hotel, I confided with my mother and in her usual quiet way she said, "Always remember, you're doing this for your father and his comrades". Needless to say the next day after speaking with Neil and Derrill Henderson, I accepted the position (still with some trepidation).

I thank Neil for offering up this important position and in the same breath wish to thank him for the many years he devoted to the Hong Kong Veterans from the Maritime/Gaspé region.

My mission is to ensure our membership grows through getting the story out to the public about the Hong Kong Veterans of Canada. I am currently working on placing a Royal Rifles of Canada, Hong Kong Veteran's memorial in the village of Belledune, NB.

Statistics show that close to 70% of the Maritime/RRC HKV's were from this immediate area, or a one hour drive from Belledune. My thoughts are, geographically, Belledune is the ideal location to have this monument placed to honour our 355 veterans from the Atlantic region.

I've delegated certain HKVCA members to help me with the arduous task of finding relatives of these men. I've also suggested to them (when they locate the families) to ask if each family member would be interested in joining up with the HKV or HKVCA, so that maybe our region will pick up the slack for the lack of members.

It has been my intent from the beginning to have a larger than life "Gander" statue sit next to the monument, to entice passer-by's to check out this site, whereby educating the public of the RRC's plight during WWII. By the way, the Village of Belledune has already offered up a site to place this monument in their Heritage Park (on route 134), overlooking the beautiful mountains of the Gaspé

coast. I will update you more in the next newsletter of our committee setup, the cost and how we plan to fund-raise.

Yes, I'm the new kid on the block and probably the reason this newsletter is getting to you later than usual - bear with me I'm still in "baby steps" mode.

Our Annual Maritime/Gaspé Reunion took place in Florenceville, NB Sept. 10 - 12th. Can you believe this is the 16th consecutive year our reunion has been held in Florenceville? "Hats off to Neil Darrah" (son of HKV, James Cornelius), his sister Peggy Kirkbride and Tony Boudreau (wife of HKV, Graham) for their tireless dedication to the Maritime/Gaspé HKVCA association committee. Friday started with registration from 2 -5 at the Florenceville Legion followed by a wine and cheese party hosted by the Village of Florenceville - Bristol. Throughout the evening we were serenaded by the band "Wild Wood" Good music, good wine and good times were had by all or most. There were so many smiles and too many tears ah, beers, that my 84 year old mother (wife of HKV, James Andrew) had to drive me back to the hotel, while her backseat co-pilot, 89 year Tony Boudreau, wondered what to make of the silly passenger on board, (that would be me). Stay tuned for the next day...

♥♥♥

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

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SPECIAL NOTE:

We are planning a National Convention possibly in Montreal or Granby, Quebec. Please let your Region Executive know if you might attend. This is not a firm commitment just to get a picture of approximately how many people might like to be there so the committee can block some hotel space.