



“Never Forget”

National newsletter of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association

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NATIONAL CONVENTION 2013

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DUES

Dues are \$20 annually (January to December) and should be sent to your Region Membership person – see list at the back of the newsletter.

HKVCA President

- Carol Hadley

As you will read in many accounts throughout the newsletter; we had a busy, successful, fun filled National Convention in Winnipeg in August 2013.

On behalf of the National Executive and all our members I extend our deep gratitude to Marleen and Dennis Bell and all their committee for a wonderful job. I wish to thank the 6 veterans and the 10 widows who came and graced our event giving the next generation an opportunity to learn of the past and to make a better future. I would also like to thank

all the members who made the effort to come to Winnipeg and enjoy its hospitality and participate in the convention. It will be in many memories for several years to come. We were sorry that Murray Doull, Mike Babin and Lucette Mailloux Muir were unable to make it due to family issues – hope all is better soon.

At the AGM we acknowledged the many years of service and dedication of Pat Turcotte both in executive positions and in the Education field. We are very proud of her achievements and wish her and Bernard many more happy years.

There was a wonderful PowerPoint presentation given by our new National Education director, Gail Angel, who outlined some of the new attributes of our website and some of the future innovations that she would like to see. Very exciting to see these items coming and hopefully useful to the Regions to get a “kick off” in their areas. I urge you to keep your attention focussed on the Teachers Zone on our website www.hkvca.ca.

Lori Atkinson Smith did a PowerPoint presentation on the HKVCA Monument Disk that is a replica of the patch that was given to the Canadian soldiers who served in Hong Kong and these can be affixed to the grave stone/marker. She explains further in the newsletter. I encourage you to please donate to this project or to purchase one for your family member's grave stone if it doesn't have one already. There is a database kept with the info that is on the form you send back to Lori and it would be wonderful to identify where all the HK vets are buried in North America.

We will be redoing the presentation to the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg soon. We hope with more information that we will be successful. If you have any information pertinent to this

project please contact us.

The Memorial Wall in Ottawa is still an issue with some of the names to be corrected; as we deal with the government bodies over the right solution. There are more forms to fill out and submit so we will see where that goes. We will let you know when we hear anything definitive.

Recently I attended a wrap-up lunch for a Symposium that our Association attends in Winnipeg and a young student who was one of the finalists was there with his exhibit. As the list of the Associations that attend/sponsor this event was read, his grandmother informed him that his great grandfather was a Hong Kong vet. As I was nearby I took the opportunity to suggest that he might use our website and make next year's project on his grandfather or take in the writing contest. Hopefully another convert but what I was disturbed about was the lack of family history.

To be fair I only learned that my father was a HK vet when I was about 15. I knew he was a veteran because of the many hospital visits we did but the men didn't talk about their experience. Now that we have some of the stories of the veterans on our website we can see and learn of the sacrifices that they made and the courage that they exhibited. Then we need to make sure our family and extended families are aware of these facts and possibly garner new members through these efforts.

But more importantly we don't know or appreciate where we are, if we don't know where we come from and what got us here.

We will be looking for a Region to host the 2015 Convention which will be the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII. Please send me any thoughts you have on this.

Please enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and Suite#164, 1861 Robertson Road,

friends and remember those who keep and have kept our country free. All the best from my family to yours.

HKVA President

- Phil Doddridge

Another National Convention in the record books and this one was excellent.

The Winnipeg team had it organized down to the last detail. We were honoured by the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Premier of the Province, the Mayor of Winnipeg and the Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

Events were planned with care, entertainment was most enjoyable and food and drink were of the finest. I was especially pleased to see five of my old comrades, Gerry Gerrard, Ralph MacLean, George Peterson, George MacDonell and Ken Pifher.

Bravo, everyone and many thanks for a job well done!

And another reunion!

This one was the annual reunion of the Maritimes/Gaspe Branch which was held in New Richmond/Cascapedia-St.Jules on September 6, 7 and 8.

Emmie Flanagan and her team were aided and abetted by Russell Campbell, son of HK Vet Charlie Campbell and Russell's wife, Dorothy. Good food, good entertainment, good company, good friends - as always, a success and a time to renew old acquaintances. The Hong Kong Family is as strong as ever. Three HK Vets in attendance, Paul Dallain, Allison Pollock and yours truly.

A highlight of the closing banquet was the playing of a recording of the message that Charlie Campbell had sent from POW camp in Tokyo. The message had been picked up by a person in (I believe) San Francisco and a wax recording had been sent to Charlie's parents. Russell had discovered the wax recording in his grandfather's house and had it re-recorded on an audio tape. He generously donated the original discs to the Chaleur Bay Military Museum.

Au revoir, with best wishes for all my friends at HKVCA I'll say as

usual, "Be good to each other and may God bless". Phil

HKVCA Monument Badge

If you happened to be one of the attendees of the Winnipeg HKVCA convention in August 2013, you would have received a postcard size flyer in your registration bag. The postcard explained the Monument Badge the HKVCA has available for mounting on the gravestones of all HK veterans buried in North America. Please take a moment and order one of the monument badges for your favorite veteran.

/Lori Atkinson-Smith



Last Post

HKVCA

Thelma Misson, widow of Alva Devouge, last address Barachois Percé, QC, September 19, 2008.

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

We will remember them!

††††

Cross Canada Writing Contest

On behalf of the HKVCA I am pleased to present the 5th edition of the HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest - "Portraits of Valour".

The annual HKVCA Cross Canada Writing Contest was designed to raise awareness of the Battle of Hong Kong for those students studying World War II.

Our organization's mission is to ensure that the soldiers, who fought in Hong Kong and suffered as POWs, are given their rightful place in Canadian History books, and in the classrooms of this country: a country they were so proud to serve.

Over the past 4 years, we've seen many excellent entries. Names and awards are posted in the Teachers' Zone on the HKVCA website, along with some examples. Each year 5 new veterans' stories are selected to represent the experiences of our Hong Kong veterans. All HKV stories are printed in both official languages. The following five veteran's stories were chosen for this year's writing contest:

William Bell - Arnold Carrier - Kay Christie - Jack Smith - Dick Wilson

I look forward to hearing from our regional education representatives, and for what they have planned, to ensure this message has resonated throughout all High Schools in every region of Canada.

Take care, Emmie Flanagan
Atlantic Region Chair, Cross Canada Writing Contest

Membership Status

Region	R	V	W	Total
Atl	62	5	4	71
BC	76	4	39	119 *
Prairie	240	9	55	304
ON	169	12	45	226
QC	66	9	41	116
Total	613	39	184	836

* June figures

Legend:

V: Veteran, W: Widow, R: Regular



Join Our Email List

Mailing our newsletter is expensive! Want to make sure HKVCA makes best use of your dues and donations? Join over 330 of your fellow members and sign up for our email list to save postage costs. It's simple - just

send an email to this address and we'll make it happen:
hkvca@shaw.ca.

Barry's Emporium

Post Convention Special

Beautiful HKVCA Coffee Mugs-----\$8.00

Stylish tan colour HKVCA Golf Shirts (M,L & XL)—\$30.00

Lapel Pin—Torch Logo & Member's Crest—\$5.00

DVD—**"Slaves of the Rising Sun"**—\$20.00

Books— **One Soldier's Story**—\$20.00
No Reason Why—\$30.00

Grave Marker—\$75.00
(postage paid)

Send cheque to **HKVCA, PO Box 381, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6**

(Add \$3 for postage for pin, otherwise add \$7.00 for postage)

Convention Impressions

There are loads of photos from the Convention on the website at <http://www.galleries.hkvca.ca/Gallery/Recent%20Events/2013%20Convention/index.htm>

Here are some thoughts from our participants:

From Sylvia Wiebe, Ft Nelson, BC – My 3rd Convention and I have to say, Oh My God, was it phenomenal! As all of you in attendance know, I cried my eyes out like a baby at the Memorial Service. When George got up to the podium and was unable to speak, well, that was it for me. George is never speechless. The Last Post, the bugle, the silence, and being with all of you.....fell over me in one spiritual torrential waterfall.

I didn't know our family would be going up front to stand with our nephew Shaun, Bonnie's son, while he sang his song "War's Glory", while his daughter was holding our daddy's picture. Even

writing this, is like I'm still there. All I can say is that, that was the most heavenly place on earth to be ...as was the entire Convention.



Not for a moment can I ever fathom what our Veteran's experienced and endured. The unimaginable, the unspeakable....

It was also an honour to be able to share our dad, Elmer Wiebe, and his 78 rpm record with you. Finally, daddy is where he belongs, with his comrades. It is our intention to donate the album and the restored disc to the War Museum. I want to thank Ervin Bartha of ClearLightSound, in Winnipeg for doing the restoration. The album was badly damaged but Ervin managed to bring out daddy's voice and laughter bringing him to life for us, touching our memories and preserving his legacy.

I have met so many wonderful people, Veterans, other sons and daughters of Hong Kong Vets, and I don't want to lose touch with you.

I know how difficult it is to organize events, especially those taking two years in the making. Best plans getting derailed at the last minute, things not organized, last minute quick decisions, etc. which I am sure happened and not once did it show. Your teamwork, attention to detail, care and concern came shining through. Be Proud...you have every right to be for a job "Well Done". Hats off to the Winnipeg Convention Team...awesome, fantastic, phenomenal.

Know that my heart is with all of you, with a very special place for our Veterans and all of us. With the deepest of prayers, heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, WASURERU-NEI, Never Forget.

On behalf of all my siblings, Violet, Barry, Judy, John, Bonnie, Donald, Dennis, our extensive family, God be with you

and bless you and may he always shine his face upon you. Peace.

From Jim Trick, Victoria BC -

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Winnipeg Convention. I was impressed with the variety of experiences, and the meticulous attention to detail by the organizers. I took away a refreshed view of why these get-togethers are so important for our association, as I renewed old acquaintances, and met new friends who previously I had known only by an email address.

The memory that will stay with me the longest is the reading of "In Flanders Fields" by Kyra at the Memorial Service. Unforgettable!

It was a privilege to shake the hands of the six veterans at the convention. These gentlemen are ambassadors of their generation, an inspiration to all who attended. Given the long hours they were "on parade", the good humour and energy they displayed were amazing!

From Norma Fuchs, Calgary, AB - My sister, Mae and I attended the HKVCA Convention in Winnipeg this summer. We had a fabulous time visiting and renewing friendships with our HKVCA family. It never ceases to amaze me how great those Veterans cope with life. Every event that we attended was well organized with lots of time for chatting with the Vets and their families. I think Dennis, Marlene and the committee there in Winnipeg did a fantastic job of welcoming and entertaining all of us. I know it takes a lot of time and commitment to organize such an event and they made it look easy. Thank you very much for all the work you did to make it possible for us to get together one more time as a big family.

From Gwen Day, Mill Bay, BC-

The Winnipeg Hong Kong Convention, without a doubt, was the most spectacular of all that I have attended.

The Bells should be out ringing in compliments and you and the other committee members deserve boundless praise.

From the first hug when I arrived, (late), to the last hug when I left at noon in that horrendous

thunderstorm the committee had created a real "love in"!!!

However, now comes the icing on the cake: After the fabulous dinner on the Gala Saturday night I moved over to chat with some of the vets. In two separate conversations a vet, with happy tears in his eyes, said, "This is the very best remembrance we could be given, to see the young of the commemorative association keeping alive the memory of our battle for Canadians' freedom".

On a personal note, there were many missing friends from previous reunions, i.e. Lucette and her husband and the Doulls, and my own brother, Bruce. ...and way up there in the heavens I think I hear cheering from my father, my uncle, Murray Goodenough, by marriage, uncle Wells Bishop, cousin George Everette, Shorty Lapalme, for the continuing honour we are showing to their memory.

Committee!...take a well-deserved BRAVO.

From Dawn (Gilbert) & Stan Parker, Okotoks, AB - What a great reunion you and your committee put on for the HKVCA. We enjoyed every bit of it and the food was excellent. Having just received your email we find that we can't locate the pictures on neither Facebook nor the HKVA website. Perhaps you could help us out on this.

Please extend our thanks to the Bells and all who worked so hard to give us great memories.

From Mae Bolger, Calgary, AB -

I thought the convention was awesome. No complaints at all. Food was great and I got to meet some new people. The dance was the best ever. That DJ sure was good and got the crowd going. It was so nice to see all the Veterans up on the floor. The only way it could have been any better would have been if more Veterans were there. It is sad to see the numbers get smaller each time. A great job and thanks to all of you again!!

From Fred McGilvray, Norwood Legion - All the programs and dinner receptions over the weekend were first class.

From Pat Turcotte, Mississauga, ON - However, there certainly

are things I'd like to mention about the Winnipeg Convention.

First of all, I consider this one of the most interesting, if not THE most interesting Convention yet. We were busy from the get-go, and there were always people around to help. If I have any complaint at all, it was not being able to pick up our Convention materials the first night. We had arrived in time to get the Registration materials - just before the trip to the Lt. Governor's. I would have thought someone might have been assigned to give us our bags even though our flight was delayed somewhat. Thus, I had no name tag for the Lieut. Governor's event. We were able to get our tags in the Hospitality room later that night, but I never did get my bag. My sister gave me one of the two bags she and her husband had so that I could check on the details for the next morning.

I thought one of the big plusses was the trouble that those in charge went to in order to get the politicians at every level as involved as they were....the Premier of MB, the Mayor, and the others who attended the various events. Their presence at all of the events was not overdone, and they seemed quite happy to be a part of the various proceedings. To have the new Minister of Veterans Affairs at the final gala was the "icing on the cake". I thought that all who spoke, including Julian Fantino, did a very good job.

I'll touch on a few of the individual thoughts I had - not in any special order: - the announcement about the Arden 7, and the media attention involved was an unexpected bonus, and a very moving event.

- The attention paid all of the veterans, and their response to the accolades was special.

- Needless to say, the AGM with the unusual moment of acknowledging my involvement over the years...I really had no idea that such a moment would be taking place. And, I certainly thank those involved in planning that moment.

- The special update from Gail Angel as National Education Coordinator was most appropriate, and well-done.

- I did feel that it was unfortunate that the tour of Brookside Cemetery was as long as it was. I certainly was impressed to see it.

It was well worth the visit, but it took away a full hour from the two hours allotted for the Memorabilia Room.

- Lori's PowerPoint presentation at the Neil Bardal Centre was an excellent way to deal with the Grave Marker project.

- The dinner at the Hydro building was wonderful - great food choice - and to have the Royal Winnipeg

Rifles Band performing was an excellent idea. They are a very professional group, providing just the right sort of music.

- Another thing that impressed me that evening was making the McKnight song such a focus...with the music and the story available and the young man singing the song. It was a brilliant way to remember the importance of that moment in history.

- Probably the most innovative idea was the Historical Fashion show, although it was a little bit too long, and it would have been even more effective with more lighting, such as a spotlight, focussed on the various people on the "runway".

My general impression was that Dennis and Marleen Bell, and their team, did a superb job of planning the four-day event. They had obviously thought through all of the possible scenarios. They checked thoroughly for the things that could go wrong, and carefully assessed the challenges. The result was that the delegates had the perception that things were being dealt with in a very professional way.

My kudos to all involved with this Convention - which for me personally was an extremely positive happening. Many thanks to all those responsible for what was a really special good time!



L - R: Phil Doddridge, Gerry Gerrard, Lt Gov. Philip Lee, Her Honour Anita Lee (C), Ken Pifher, George Peterson; Back - Carol Hadley, George MacDonell and Ralph MacLean.



Arden 7 layout for the memorial park.



Some ladies getting into the theme



Kyra Brough (granddaughter of Lori Smith) reciting "In Flanders Fields" at the Memorial Service.



Beautiful artwork gifted to the attending veterans.

There are more photos on facebook too – Enjoy!!

Across the Nation

BC Banter

Lee Naylor, B.C. Region
Director/Education Chair and Bev
Campbell

We express greetings to our HK veterans, widows, members and friends from the, "California of Canada," where we have been experiencing a record breaking summer.

Our Spring Luncheons were very successful with large attendance this year. Linda Quesnel (past BC Region Director,) hosting the Victoria luncheon with Murray Doull

hosting the Vancouver luncheon. Special guest at the Vancouver luncheon, Thekla Lit (Co-chair of Canada ALPHA and President of BC ALPHA) and her husband Joseph.

On June 28th, the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society hosted a historic summit of two groups of WWII veterans that faced discrimination: the Tuskegee Airmen and Chinese-Canadian soldiers. Meeting for the first time ever, these aging veterans shared their stories with the public on how they overcame prejudice to serve their countries with courage and distinction. This was a three day symposium in which I attended the first day's activities, at UBC, the Memorial Service and Photo Exhibit.

You ask why I attended. After the study tour in China, Korea and Hong Kong listing and cam recording scholars from different Chinese universities and a Japanese professor in regards to the brutal treatment of the Asian people by the Japanese Imperial Army and their captives of which one of many reasons was racism and discrimination. As part of my presentation on "C" Force I cover, before the war broke out, how racism and discrimination was rampant in Canada, the US and England. In BC, we have a diversified student base and I speak of the Canadian-Chinese Commando's story which leads me to Kanao Inouye's (Kamloops Kid) story.

I have taken out a membership with the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society with their members from Hong Kong taking membership with ours resulting in both organization partnering.

On August 15th, I attended the HKVCA National Convention in Winnipeg, accompanied by my wife Sherry and Mother June Naylor (wife of Howey Naylor RCCS). Also attending from B.C. were Gerry Gerrard (RCCS) with daughter Bev Campbell and husband Eric, Gwen Day (Daughter of Maj. Bertram Gilbert), Norma (daughter of Norman Matthews WG), Bob Claus from Cowichan Bay and Mona Thornton (daughter of Joseph Frenette RR of C.)

Thank you to the Prairie Region for hosting the HKVCA National Convention that proved to be the one to outdo in future conventions. I would like to express a very special thank you, to all the volunteers for the outstanding work to put the event together, in particular Marleen and Dennis Bell. Due to last minute arrangements to attend the National Convention, I did not realize that I had ten minutes to present the BC Region report at the General Meeting and was unable to give past, present and future activities. With having the honour to read a letter on behalf of the Consulate General of Hong Kong, "the HOOK," came out to soon. To view the BC Region General Meeting report and Letter from the Consulate General, please go to our website.

On August 15, 2013 we met His Honour the Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M. Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and Her Honour Anita Lee at the reception at Government House.

On the evening of August 16th, we attended the Buffet Dinner at the new Manitoba Hydro Place with having a tour of the most spectacular, award winning building, one of the most energy efficient buildings in the world. Judy MacPherson from the Manitoba Living History Society hosted and presented the fashion show of people wearing the clothing of The Lord Selkirk of Rupert's Land, Red River settlement. During the fashion show a model David Woods wearing the clothing of the times was acting as John Rowand Jr. (1856) the son of Chief Factor John Rowand of Fort Edmonton (Hudson Bay Company) carrying the bones of his father from Fort Pitt to Montreal to be buried in Sir George Simpson family plot. On my mother's side, John Rowand was her distant Grandfather who's Granddaughter (Victoria Harriott) Married the Grandson (Roderick Ross) of Alexander Macbeath. Family Chief Factors of HBC are John Rowand, Donald Ross and John Harriott. Due to the above genealogy we are members of The Lord Selkirk of Rupert's Land, Red River Settlement. During my

stay after the convention I rented a car to tour the historical sights.

We were honoured to be in the company of six of our Veterans and at the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening, they were presented with a very unique print, "Passing of the Torch", conscripted by the organization from a local artist. This can be viewed on our website. The Gala Dinner, entertainment and dance was enjoyed by all.

At the convention, were members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and they expressed interest in joining our organization and I inquired about joining theirs to partner.

Soon after returning home, I received notice of my submission for the BCSSTA 2013 Conference Workshop Proposal to present the "C" Force Story had been accepted for the fifth year in a row.

Our BC Region Co-education Chair Graeme Stacey has been nominated for the Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education because he is an amazing educator who represents all the goals and values of this award. He is considered an expert in the Holocaust and genocide that took place in Europe during WWII.

Prairie Prose

Juliet Lafortune, Prairie Region
Director

Hello to my HKVA and HKVCA Family,

Wow summer has come and gone and so has VJ Day, August 15th. We brought it in with a bang! As most of you know we held the Convention here in Winnipeg and if you were unable to make it here are some highlights for you.

We had a great start by going to the Lieutenant Governor Philip Lee and Mrs. Lee's at Government House, where they greeted us in grand manner. There was a very nice dinner served with great conversation with both their Honours. On our bus we had some good singsongs while we were travelling. Lots of laughter and I am sure the other buses did the same. Upon arriving back at the hotel, the hospitality room was open and more laughter and catching up on what has happened

since people saw one another. Friday, at the AGM, it was announced that there will be a memorial built in St Vital honouring the seven Arden Ave. men who fought in the battle of Hong Kong. They are – Harry, Albert and Edward Shayler, Fred Harding, Bill Lancaster and George and Morris Peterson. Friday evening we had a great time at the Hydro Building with our guest the Premier of Manitoba, Greg Selinger. Entertainment came from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles band, with Paul Figsby singing the song "I'll Never Say Goodbye Again" that was written by Elmer McKnight WG when a POW; the history fashion show presented by the **Manitoba Living History Society** and buffet catered by Ludwicks Catering. Saturday was a Memorial Service held at Neil Bardal's Centre with luncheon served and a tour of Brookside Cemetery and Field of Honour. Back to the hotel for the Gala evening with speeches and a presentation of a beautiful piece of art, done by KJ Hildebrand, to the six veterans in attendance: Phil Doddridge from QC, George MacDonell and Ken Pifher from ON, George Peterson from MB, Ralph MacLean from AB and Gerry Gerrard from BC. Widows in attendance were Anne Richardson, Helen Prieston, Ladena Mabley, Myrtle Lytle, Alexandra Slovinsky, Doris Hocking, June Naylor, Dorothy Sauson, Oda Barlow and Clara Flanagan. How great to see all the faces! We had entertainment by Folklorama's Polynesian and Spanish Dancers. Wow, what a great night very emotional to say the least.

Now time to say thank you to so many people who made this all possible: Marlene and Dennis Bell, who chaired the committee for this eventful four days - the work they put in to this was exhausting to say the least. Also on board giving a helping hand were the Wiebe Family - Bonnie, Judy, Sylvia, and Violet Meade; Pam & Bert Heinrichs and daughter Lauren Williamson; Pat Atkinson; Stan Lopata and Marilyn Gelinis; Carol & Allan Hadley, Barry and Constance Mitchell, Vince Lopata, Alex

Taylor, Brian Koshul, and Lora Wachtendorf. I am sure I have forgotten some and I apologize for that. Music on Saturday night was played by Lucy of DJK Music and the wreaths were made by me, Jan Figler, Jan Kostic and Jen Purpur. All I know for sure is, a weekend as magical as this was, could not be possible without all of you pitching in with a lot of hard work. Last but never least - Thank you to all of you whether you were there with us in body or mind. WE could not do any of this without you. Love to all Keep safe till we meet again.

The Manitoba Branch of the HKVA will be hosting the Annual Dinner at Neil Bardal Centre, 3030 Notre Dame, Winnipeg, MB; October 20, 2013; 2 P.M. – 6 P.M; \$25.00 adults; \$10.00 children under 10; Cash Bar - \$3.25. More info out soon.

Ontario Offerings

From our Regional Director, Mike Babin:

Although I was not able to attend the Convention in Winnipeg last month, everyone I've spoken to who was there gave a glowing report about it. Congratulations to the Prairie Region for their hard work and creativity!

I'd like to make you aware of one very special thing that took place at the Convention: the Ontario Region gave an award of appreciation to Pat Turcotte in recognition of all that she has contributed to the HKVCA over the years. Pat has decided to minimize her involvement in the HKVCA so that she can focus on her family and spend more time at the vacation home she and Bernard have in Arizona ... effectively, she is "retiring"!

Over the last decade or more Pat has held several positions on the Executive of the Ontario Region, including Regional Director. But her most outstanding contribution has been her work on developing and distributing educational material for school teachers, developing the "Teachers' Zone" area of our web site, and in starting and running the Cross Canada Writing Contest. Well after her retirement, these will continue to be a valuable resource for educators.

Happy retirement, Pat!

This leads me to one other thing ... a call for volunteers. There is lots of interesting work to be done in the HKVCA, and none of it happens without volunteers. For the most part, this work does not take up a lot of time. So you can volunteer in the knowledge that you are not being asked to dedicate huge amounts of your scarce personal time. The Hong Kong story is one that deserves to continue being told. Please consider offering to help us in this worthwhile endeavour. To find out more, please email me at msbabin@gmail.com.

Enjoy the colours of autumn!

From the North/East Region

Hello to All,

I attended the 2013 Convention in Winnipeg in August and had a marvelous time. It was particularly great to see and talk to the six veterans who attended this year as well as the other attendees from all over the country and even a few from the US.

Thursday evening we were hosted by the Lieutenant Governor and his wife at their residence. After some heartfelt speeches we were wined and dined and a good time was had by all. On Friday evening we were hosted by Manitoba Hydro in their new environmentally friendly building and after tours and speeches we were served a delicious buffet meal. The Saturday evening gala was a wonderful event with a scrumptious dinner. After dinner a song called "The Lost Years", which was written and recorded especially for the veterans by my husband Alan Sandeman, was played. A copy of the words and a CD with the song on it was given to each of the veterans. If anyone would like a copy please just email me and I'll send you one.

All in all the Prairie Region did a marvelous job with everything extremely well organized. My sincerest appreciation goes to the Region and those volunteers who helped bring it all together.

There isn't much news for our region for this quarter except to say that all are well. We'll be having our quarterly luncheon in either late September or early

October. I'll let everyone know more once the plans are finalized. Ta ta for now, Mitzi Ross

Quebec Quotes

- Lucette Mailloux Muir, QC
Regional Director

Greetings everyone from Quebec Region.

Congratulations are in order to the Organizing Committee for the Winnipeg 2013 Convention. I am very sorry to say that I did not attend the Convention due to family health reasons. I will leave the reports on the convention to those who attended but I must add that the very few comments that I heard were very good and positive ones.

I thank Philip Doddridge for also representing yours truly and members from the Quebec Region.

Summer is a quiet time of year with visits, vacations etc, other than for a convention or reunion. September is here and we are back at work. In the next few days we will be meeting to plan for the end of this year and for the next.

We will be involved for the Veterans' Week activities and Commemorative Ceremonies. Holidays being over, we will be in touch with our Veterans and Widows. Good Health to all, take care and Happy Thanksgiving. Till next time, Lucette.

Eastern Breezes

- Emmie Flanagan, Regional
Director

Hello from the chilly east coast, where fall is fast approaching. Time to put away the patio furniture and start feathering our nests.

My mother (Clara), my sister (Rita), and I attended the National Convention in Winnipeg this past August. We had a most memorable time, meeting with the six HK Veterans along with their families and friends. A special thank you to Dennis and Marlene Bell for truly placing out the welcome mat and showing us all such a wonderful time. Manitoba really is the 'Friendly' province!

It was most heartwarming to see the city and province collaborates in terms of ensuring a memorial would be built to honour their Winnipeg Grenadiers and

specifically the seven HKV's who grew up on the same street. I'm still holding out hope that our municipality and province may help in much the same way, with our 'C' Force Memorial...fingers crossed. Thank you to Phil Doddridge and George MacDonell, for their unwavering support and words of wisdom.

The HKVCA Atlantic Region held its annual reunion in New Richmond, Quebec from Sept. 6 – 9, where 67 people registered. We were honoured with the presence of three HK Veterans – Phil Doddridge, Paul Dallain, and Allison Pollock. A big thank you to our organizers, Russell and Dorothy Campbell who worked very hard (behind the scenes), to ensure we all had a great time. Many of our registered guests visited the "Bay Chaleur Military Museum" for the first time. They were most impressed with the vast amount of information and inventory on the Battle of Hong Kong, life as a POW and the veteran's book. I was able to collect 6 more pictures and biographies to add to the collection.

The delicious banquet was presented and served like that of a 5 star restaurant...impeccable! During the meal, Russell Campbell played a recording of his dad from Tokyo Radio, which was quite emotional to hear. He then presented the vinyl records (that were sent to his grandparents in 1944), to Phil Doddridge, so that they may be housed at the Bay Chaleur Military Museum.

At the Winnipeg convention, I begged Mitzi Ross to give me a copy of her husband's CD, so that I could play it at our annual regional reunion... "*The Lost Years*", by Alan Sandeman. By the end of the song, there were very few dry eyes in the house, although I couldn't see, as my glasses were too fogged up. I do hope that Alan might consider our Association to use this "*The Lost Years*" as our theme song...very beautifully done!

Next year our annual reunion will be held in Campbellton, NB, during the Labour Day weekend. I am pleased to say we have the granddaughter of HKV Allison

Pollock, *Amanda Arsenault*, who will take the reins in organizing this reunion. It is so refreshing to see the second generation getting involved...thank you Amanda. With that said, I wish you all a wonderful autumn, a happy Thanksgiving and a peaceful Remembrance Day. Take care, Emmie.

Humour

Paddy says to Mick - "I'm ready for a holiday, only this year I'm going to do it a bit different. 3 years ago I went to Spain and Mary got pregnant. 2 years ago I went to Italy and Mary got pregnant. Last year I went to Majorca and Mary got pregnant." Mick asks - "So what are you going to do this year?" Paddy replies, -"I'll take her with me!"

Paddy & Mick find three grenades, so they take them to a police station. Mick: "What if one explodes before we get there?" Paddy: "We'll lie and say we only found two."

When the mother returned from the grocery store, her small son pulled out the box of animal crackers he had begged her to buy. Then he spread the animal-shaped crackers all over the kitchen counter. "What are you doing?" his mom asked. "The box says you can't eat them if the seal is broken," the boy explained. "I'm looking for the seal."

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