

WASURERU-NAI

‘Never Forget’

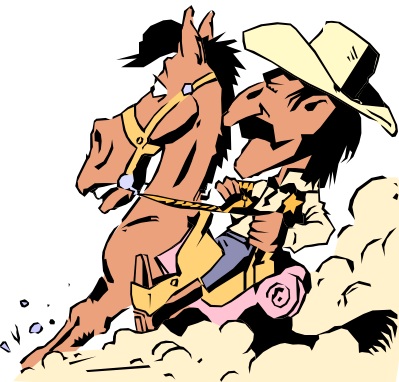
Volume 9, Number 1

March 2007

HONG KONG VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Hold off there partner - Plan Now!!

To attend the National Convention August 15 to 19, 2007 – Calgary

Exciting events are being planned by Alberta/Saskatchewan Region Convention committees, who hope that many of the veterans, widows and regular members, will

participate when attending the next Convention **August 15 to 19, 2007**

Book it on your calendar now and continue to look for updates.

BC Region HKVCA

Annual Spring Lunches will be in Victoria on June 2nd and in Vancouver on June 9th, 2007, same time and same locations. If you need to contact them about anything, Murray’s number is (604) 465-0579 and Linda’s is (250) 294-6747.

Manitoba Region

HK Lunches - St James Legion 12:00 PM - March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, 2007.

HKVCA Meetings at 7:00 PM or 1900 Hrs on March 7, May 2, June 6, September 19, November 7, 2007.

Tea And Tidbits 1:00 PM or 1300 Hrs - March 24, June 9, September 15, December 15, 2007

VJ Day - Aug date pending
HKVA Reunion - October 27th, 2007

President Report - Carol Hadley

Happy New Year, everyone!! Best Wishes for a terrific 2007!

Well it’s hard to believe that I have been retired for a year now – time sure flies by when you’re having fun! Soon, curling will turn to golfing as we head to Texas for March trying to limber up for

another wonderful year – hope the weather cooperates again.

All our Hong Kong veterans have received the wonderful book of memories that Nancy Hamer Stahl compiled of the student’s work that went to Hong Kong in 2005. This book contains the stories, poems, etc that the students created on an “adopted” member of ‘C’ Force. The original piece of the work lies in the time capsule outside of Sai Wan Cemetery. Great job Nancy!!

Memorial Wall -

When the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association was formed, the veterans asked us to create a memorial so that the Canadians who fought in Hong Kong and what they experienced, would not be forgotten. It has taken a decade for our National Association and Regions to become fully operational and of course we have obtained our charity status. Recently an opportunity has come to light and we feel it is time to fulfill our promise to the Hong Kong Veterans.

The HKVCA have formed a committee to produce a Memorial Wall for ‘C’ Force, to perpetuate the names of the Canadians who went to Hong Kong. A design is almost complete, a fundraising committee has been formed and a search for an appropriate site is underway. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project in the newsletters and on our website.

Please consider this project very important when reviewing your gifts to charity. We will issue tax receipts for gifts over \$20.00 and we will arrange for special recognition for large donations.

You may submit your donations through **regular mail** to your region's treasurer, or the national treasurer, Barry Mitchell.

For your convenience we now offer you the opportunity to use your **credit card** to make donations through the **CanadaHelps** organization. A direct link is available on our website (www.hkvca.ca) or to facilitate this process you may use this link: <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d80969%20>.

This is a secure website where credit card and personal information is protected.

You may choose to place your donation into General projects, "C" Force Memorial Wall or any of the regions by using the arrow beside "**Fund/Designation**".

Other choices available are for recurring donations, or on behalf of or in memory of another person. There is a box available for any other instructions/messages that you wish the Executive to have. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Barry Mitchell (204) 269-1497 or Carol Hadley (204) 837-6754.

CanadaHelps is a charitable organization sanctioned by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to assist other charity associations with the collection of donations via the internet and to issue charity tax receipts.

If you wish to conduct your own fundraising for this project we would be very grateful but request that you notify your National or Regional Executive before you

begin as there are guidelines that must be followed.

Elections 2007 -

The National Executive elections are completed and I congratulate all who have been elected for 2007 – 2008 term. Your new HKVCA Executive is: President – Derrill Henderson

Past President – Carol Hadley
HKVAPresident – Phil Doddridge

1st Vice – Murray Doull

2nd Vice – Helen Wedge

Secretary – Jim Trick

Treasurer – no nomination accepted so Barry Mitchell has agreed to continue for another term.

I know that the Association will be in good hands and will continue to grow under your guidance. I wish to thank the Elections Committee, Ron McGuire, Elections Chair, Mitzi Ross and Sandi Cameron Committee members, for their time and diligence to this task.

As this is the last time that I will be addressing you as President, I wish to thank all the members for the opportunity to serve this Association for the past six years and working with some wonderful, dedicated people.

The HKVCA Executive and Members can be proud of the accomplishments that have occurred in the past 10 years of our existence -

- We have 6 regions operating across Canada;
- we have kept the veterans and widows as our prime consideration out of respect and pride for all that they have done for us;

- plaques are marking 3 battlefield sites in Hong Kong;
- assisted Port Perry school trip to Hong Kong and the time capsule at Sai Wan;
- grave markers are on many HK veterans' graves;
- we have hundreds of videotaped interviews of our veterans that we hope to have digitized and put on our website;
- A Memorial Wall project in the works;
- established charity status;
- recognition in some areas in education – curricula and resource books available; ON essay contest; developing speakers;
- regular meetings online for National Executive and most regions meet on a regular basis either online or in person;
- regular communication with our members through the WASURERU-NAI (National newsletter), the regions newsletters and our website (www.hkvca.ca);
- local and national gatherings such as lunches, reunions and biannual conventions.

And we are not done yet! There is still much to do and it would be wonderful to have more people on board to do it. Please, contact your local region or national executive and become involved – “many hands make light work” and bring new ideas and innovation to our Association.

Convention -

Our next Convention in 2007 will be held in Calgary – the AB/SK,

(Alberta/Saskatchewan) Region committees are finalizing the plans. Information on convention events is in the newsletter and we hope that everyone will consider attending. Mark your calendar for August 15 – 19, 2007 and we will see you in Calgary.

Padre -

Jeff Forst, Great Grandson of Uriah Laite recently contacted the HKVCA to inform us of a project on which he is working. He is the fortunate recipient of an Osprey Community Foundation Literary Grant and Capitol Theatre Restoration Society for the creation of "**Padre**", a one-man play inspired by his great-grandfather Honourary Captain Uriah Laite's notebooks from Shamshuipo POW camp.

March 2007 is when the premiere will be held in Nelson BC, the script and subsequent DVD will be available to the public after that. This project will increase the awareness of the Hong Kong Veterans, our HKVCA and some of the revenue will come to our coffers – which is always a good thing.

We wish Jeff well in this project and welcome him to our association.

Ronald C. Parker, the son of a WWII Hong Kong veteran, has written a book that tells the wrenching story of one of the great battles of World War II, "**DEADLY DECEMBER, The Battle of Hong Kong**". Follow this link to <http://www.lulu.com/content/561522> to purchase the book or to contact Ronald C. Parker: rcwp2000@yahoo.ca

Recognition –

There are many individuals in our Association that have done a lion's share of work to get the organization to where it is today. One such individual is **Verna Pearson**. She has recently had to leave her position as Secretary/Treasurer/Membership due to health reasons, both for herself and her ailing husband. We are truly sorry that she had to make that decision but we are grateful for the time and energy that she has put into the Atlantic Region in particular and the HKVCA as a whole. We sincerely wish that she and her husband's health will improve.

Canadians continue to go into battle areas around the world. I received this information from the family of the late John James, WG – "*I am writing to you to inform you that one of the members of the HKVCA, Corporal Stephen James Grandson of John James, will be going to serve his country in Afghanistan in January. He is currently a Medic with I Canadian field Hospital at CFB Pettawawa. He is scheduled to Leave January 26.*" Please, keep Corp James, all our Forces and civilians that are in these trouble spots, in your prayers for their safe return.

I had a note from Roy MacEachern wondering if there was anyone who would have served with his Grandfather (Fred Arnold Wyrwas) originally from Inverness N.S., who was captured in 1941 and died in a Hong Kong POW camp Dec. 24 1944? His email is royy@shaw.ca if you have any info for him. Thank you.

To those who are suffering or have suffered ill health – we hope for relief for you. For those who have suffered loss – we share your grief and wish you peace.

In closing, I will share this wonderful Irish blessing:

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!

God bless!

HKVA President Report – Phil Doddridge

Greetings to all, and best wishes for good health, good fortune and happiness in all of 2007.

As for myself, I am overwhelmed by the messages and greetings from friends in Canada and overseas. They make the days much brighter.

I thank fortune that my eyesight is fairly good, enabling me to read almost everything that comes my way. Lately I have read a few books on the subject of the Battle of Hong Kong.

One that is of special interest to me is "Deadly December", written by Ron Parker. Ron is the son of Major Maurice Parker, who was my Company Commander, and for whom I acted as company clerk.

"Deadly December" is now listed on the HKVCA web site as suggested reading. I recommend it as a different look at the Battle from the perspective of a Hong Kong Veteran's son.

A new book (new to me, at least) is titled, "The Battle for Hong Kong", subtitled "Hostage to Fortune", by Oliver Lindsay, in collaboration with John R. Harris, who was a British officer imprisoned at Argyle Street and Sham Shui Po Camps. The story of the spy ring that operated in the camps and the

execution of five of the officers who were involved, is told in graphic detail.

I have also received "Roses in December", a book by David Stanford. His book, like that by Michael Palmer, "The Dark Side of the Sun", depicts the prison camp experiences of his grandfather, a member of the Royal Scots Regiment who was lost in the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.

I am reading again Ted Ferguson's book, "Desperate Siege", and getting more from it than I did when I read it 25 years ago.

I also appreciated Tom Marsh's story, which now appears on HKVCA website. His detailed description of conditions at North Point and Sham Shui Po awoke the memories of those hellholes that I had fortunately been able to put in the back of my mind. My sanity survived because of that. Tom's story is now a website also, and is recommended reading.

I also have to mention the splendid book, "Passing the Torch" by Nancy and Mike Strahl. Their efforts and those of their fellow teachers and students on our behalf deserve our undying thanks.

I recommend all of these books to those who have not already read them. As for myself, I get more understanding of the whys and wherefores out of reading them, and the memories that they invoke, although sometimes unpleasant, take me back over the years.

COFEPOW

I have been a member of "Children and Families of the Far East Prisoners of War" for a number of years. They publish a newsletter four times a year. They have a huge membership from many parts of the world.

The Chairman (yes, chairman) is Carol Cooper, and her husband, Ron, is the treasurer. One of their main projects was the building of the Fepow Memorial Building.

Carol says, "The ground floor areadepicts the harrowing story and endurance of the Fepows during their 3 and a half years in captivity." "The much bigger story, the more detailed information of their lives will be recorded in the upper section." "We currently project onto a blank wall, the names of all British military personnel sent out to the Far East." End of quotes.

Another of their projects is the restoration of a symbolic part of the Thailand/Burma Railway, using parts of the actual railway including some of the rails that were brought all the way from the Far East. Ambitious projects to be sure, but an indication of the dedication and enthusiasm of the members.

The COFEPOW address is 20 Burgh Road, Gorleston, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 8BE, UK Website, www.cofepow.org.uk E-mail: Carol.Cooper@cofepow.org.uk

I know that "our" Carol, and others of the HKVCA are in contact with the COFEPOW, and I believe that newsletters are exchanged, but for other of our members, the above report may be of interest.

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

Treasurer's Report "Dues and Views" - Barry Mitchell

The role of any organization's "banker" is never dull

as there is always a project out there that someone insists is worthy of funding. While the treasurer doesn't make the final decision as to how the money is spent, that person has the responsibility to offer guidance to the membership on whether the organization can afford the expenditure at that time or perhaps at any time.

Building up our bank account is a somewhat tedious and never-ending process with many memberships and mostly small donations slowly accumulating from month to month. Of course most of it is spent quickly and in large amounts, for example this newsletter costs us thousands of dollars to print and mail. Thus it is gratifying to have meaningful and worthwhile projects to endorse, which has been happening lately.

A case in point is the *Port Perry Book*, a compilation of stories about some of our veterans written by a group of Ontario high school students along with a commemoration of a pilgrimage to Hong Kong by this group. The HKVCA has been able to arrange for extra copies of this book to be printed and sent to all our veterans and has made additional copies available for sale to all our members at cost. We are so pleased to be able to provide this classy item to the vets and it is your dollars that made it possible.

Recently we provided each Region with a supply of decals and we trust they find their way to each member. Decals don't seem to appear on vehicles as they once did but nonetheless we can still show our colours with the insignia of the HKVA and the Commemorative Association on your window. It may get you a parking spot at the Legion.

We have also implemented a method of collecting donations over

the internet using a website called CanadaHelps. This is explained in greater detail elsewhere in this letter. But it leads me to point out that we are now implementing a major project in the form of a Memorial Wall to be constructed in Ottawa. This is another example of a significant expenditure which is supported by your association and which furthers our objective of honouring the Hong Kong vets.

This year the Manitoba Region suggested to its members that it may be more convenient in the long run to pay dues for two years at once and for an additional donation of \$20.00 or more, a tax receipt would be issued to the donor. This has proven to be quite popular with our members and it has allowed us to get a significant head start on collecting our memberships. We have also been the beneficiary of donations made in honour of deceased veterans and as suggested in their obituary. Tax receipts can be issued here as well.

So, you can see that your money is being put to good use and in many and varied ways we are "keeping the Battle of Hong Kong in the public eye". Please keep this in mind when it is time to pay your dues and part with your \$15.00 with a smile on your face. By the way, you'll feel even better if you send in a larger amount.

In Memoriam

Robert W.H. Acton, K35409, RCCS died August 2, 2006

John Hamilton Smith, E30121, RRC, died August 24/06

Thomas Jones, C-41279, RRC, died September 03, 2006

Cliff Matthews, H6282, WG, died October 7, 2006

Oswald Clark RRC E29340 died October 19, 2006

Clarence Stewart WG H6345 WG, died November 1, 2006

Reginald "Reggie" Law, RRC E-30006 died December 31, 2006

Jean Pierre Lalime, E29901, RRC died January 13, 2007

Richard Keays, E-30657, RRC died February 17, 2007

HKVCA

Jodie Fast, friend of HKVCA, died on January 17, 2007

Kenneth "Ken" Lyons, son of HK Vet Henry and Isabella Lyons died December 26, 2006

Lucille Warren, widow of Robert Warren D109906 Provost, died December 9, 2006.

Mary Darrah, widow of Jim Darrah, RRC, died October 19, 2006

Rosa Arbour, life companion of Robert "Bob" Olscamp, died October 15, 2006

Winnifred Schofield, widow of Reginald Schofield RRC, has died.

Dorothy Varley, widow of Les Varley, RRC, died October 04, 2006

Marjorie Lyons, wife Arthur Lyons WG died October 3, 2006.

Irene Cotton, widow of Joseph Leonard Cotton, died September 16, 2006

Jeanette Palmer, (widow of George Palmer, Royal Rifles) died September 15, 2006

Ruth Isabella Harrison Kellas, widow of William Alexander Kellas Sr, WG, died September 10, 2006

Rollande Miller widow of Joseph Miller H6661 WG died September 09, 2006.

Monique Russell, widow of Albert Russell RRC died August 29, 2006

Thelma Cole, HK widow, died July 25, 2006.

Elizabeth Houston, widow of Jim Houston, WG died May 26, 2006

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

We will remember them.

Convention 2007

- Marilyn Pridgen

Convention Committee Chair

Greetings to All Members and Friends of the Hong Kong Veterans' Commemorative Association!

The Committee for the 2007 Ab/Sk Convention is putting together plans for, what we hope to be, a very memorable gathering. This dedicated group has been meeting together for many months now and is very excited about the prospect of each one of you joining us for this special time. Let me provide you with a glimpse of what is in store. The exhibit area will be a great display of artifacts that will provide highlights of our history; it will give observers an increased knowledge of the Battle of Hong Kong and those heroes that we gather to honour. The hospitality room will be a very unique and inviting place to gather, both to meet with old friends and to make new acquaintances. Although some parts of the convention may be familiar, we have some special plans in the making that we hope will provide you with an exceptional experience. The registration packages will be available in March and we trust (hope) that you will send yours in right away, so that your place is secured for this exciting event!

As the committee chair, I want to tell you what a privilege it is to serve with this convention committee. I am amazed at the creativity, dedication, and hard work that these people bring to this planning effort. I know that their greatest reward would be in having a large, nationwide turnout. Each one of you attending will make a difference as we attempt to keep the

Battle of Hong Kong, and the heroes who served there, before the eyes of all Canadians. **We hope you will join us next August in, 'Honouring our Heroes' - 'Preserving our History'.**

If you wish to contact any of the 2007 Convention Committee Chairs:

Convention Chair
Marilyn Pridgen,
 Ph 403 - 295 - 7316
pridgenest@shaw.ca

Events/Transportation
 Karen Sampson
 Ph 403-932-1310 / 403-669-5428(cell)
karenstargazer@hotmail.com

Exhibits
 Allan Mondor
 Ph 403-670-8892
allan@allancharlesmondor.ca

Fundraising / PR
 Doug MacLean
 Ph 403-342-0064
dmmac@telusplanet.net

Registrations
 Coeur Birmingham
 Ph 403-990-4138
cbirmingham@shaw.ca

Please check out the HKVCA website, and follow the Calgary' 07 links for more info! Thanks to Allan Mondor, this site is regularly updated with news of the Convention plans as they unfold.

Remembrance Day 2006



Pictured here are Bill Doull (RRC) and Frank Brown (WG) after they laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVA at Remembrance Day Services in **Sardis BC.**



Dempsey Syvret at November 11, 2006 in **Ottawa** – Dempsey and Derrill Henderson laid the wreath on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans.



R – L: Terry Kwok, Gordon Durrant, and Allan Mondor.

Gordon laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans and Allan laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association.

Gordon also laid the wreath for the Hong Kong Veterans at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Calgary Jubilee Auditorium just prior to the ceremony at the cenotaph.

Terry laid a wreath honouring the HKV's on behalf of the Former Residents of Hong Kong and their families.

Veteran

It is the VETERAN, not the preacher, Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the VETERAN, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press

It is the VETERAN, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the VETERAN, not the campus organizer, Who has given us freedom of to assemble.

It is the VETERAN, not the lawyer, Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the VETERAN, politician, Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the VETERAN, Who salutes the flag.

It is the VETERAN, Who serves under the flag.

For those that have paid with their lives,

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM
 O LORD, AND LET LIGHT
 PERPETUAL SHINE UPON
 THEM.

Reminder:

If you are a family member of someone that was killed in action, please remember to update the information on the CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL website. This serves as a lasting memorial to the person who served his country to the fullest. Here is the link - <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>.

Membership Report - Jim Trick

To Make Better Use of Your Membership Dues...

It is the policy of HKVCA to send only one newsletter to each address even when there is more than one member living there. If you need more copies, please contact the HKVCA Secretary

(secretary@hkvca.ca). If you wish to read this newsletter and the regional newsletters online, please use this link:

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

and notify us if you do not want to receive a newsletter by mail. If you elect to stop receiving a paper copy, we can put the resulting savings to good use in meeting our association's goals.

Another benefit of supplying us with your email address is that we can keep you up to date on happenings that are time-sensitive, allowing you to be more involved in the ongoing activities of HKVCA.

Here's our membership status as of Jan '07:

Membership Region	Regular	Veterans	Widows	Total
Al/Sask	63	15	14	92
Atl	91	3	6	100

BC	80	23	43	146
MB	190	28	67	285
ON	133	33	59	225
QC	68	31	63	162

Total:	625	133	252	1010

Editor: Due to some information that was missed, we are reprinting this article – apologies to Ron.

Remembering "C" Force and all Canadians in the War Against Japan

- Ron McGuire, Regional Rep for North-East Ontario

It was an honour to be able to play a small part in the Ottawa 2005 Convention by being responsible for the memorabilia/sales room. I wish to thank Connie for her assistance and all those who brought their treasures to display. I would be remiss if I did not extend special THANKS to Ken Skelton for all he had to go through bringing portions of his fantastic collection to fill ten tables plus an open corner of the room. Your efforts were greatly appreciated I assure you Ken, as were the chats we had about our common interests. I gave my slide illustrated talk and while I did not take a count I've been told there were well over a hundred attending including many of our veterans. My sincere thanks to Kim Brunet {wife of Michael, son of Lou Brunet, CPC-Brigade HQ, who was also in attendance with his daughter and mother, Lillian}, Vince Lopata and Dick Maze {WG} for their "technical" assistance correcting a problem I encountered. It is obvious I must again enter the 21st century {I've just finally become semi-"computerized"} and replace my 1970's Kodak Carousel and

slides with the modern equivalents. It is now on my never-ending list of "things to do".

There were many highlights for me at the Convention, but the one topping the list was seeing again the Veterans and their families that I knew and, meeting for the first time, those I only knew by name. Like all attending veterans Eric Maloney {RR of C} was hoping to meet comrades he had not seen in years. He was having difficulty in locating some of those he knew were there and I was happy to be able to arrange for happy but touching meetings between Eric and Oswald "Toots" Clark, Arnold Ross and Gus Bitzer. I think all attending would agree with me that the only real problem with this truly successful event was--- there was never enough time to do everything!

The weekend after was another busy one for me. I had an expanded version of my "C" Force exhibit, which was displayed on eight tables at our Convention, at the Military Collectors Club of Canada convention held at the Chateau Laurier. For this event it required twenty tables plus wall space where I mounted panels. It complied with the convention theme and honoured "C" Force and all Canadians [there were over 8000!] who fought in the war against Japan and commemorated the real end of the Second World War on 15 August 1945. It never ceases to amaze me how many people I encounter think the war ended on 8 May! To my surprise, the organizers entered this exhibit competitively -exhibits were assessed by a jury of three military historians and mine was given the five top awards, the first exhibit to do so at any of their forty-one annual conventions. I also had fifteen tables with four non-competitive exhibits concerning: the art of war; Col. John McCrae and the

importance of poetry during wartime; a tribute to another group of overlooked Canadians – those who fought in Korea 1950-1953, with a special mention of our veterans of Hong Kong who were involved; and a memorial to the sinking of the S.S. Caribou by a German submarine on 14 October 1942 {many of the RR of C with “W” Force traveled aboard this well loved Newfoundland ship. During a conversation with Lance Ross he told me his recollections of his trip}. Admission to the convention was free to veterans, their wives and widows. It was most gratifying to see how many of them spent so much time meticulously studying my exhibits, and particularly when they told me how all the many memories, good and bad, my exhibits brought to mind.

My exhibit was again expanded and from 1-30 November it was in the Nepean Museum. This is my ninth Remembrance Month display honouring Canadians and Newfoundlanders at war. I will be arranging for photographs of each portion of the display to be put on the HKVCA web site. There was an open house on Sunday 20 November. The weather was lovely and there was a nice turn out, including Ian Doull, the previous editor, who I would like to thank for doing the fine job he did on the always, welcomed newsletter. I was particularly pleased that Eric Maloney [RR of C] was able to attend along with Col. Robert Grogan who began his 39 year military career as part of the HMS Uganda's crew while it was in the Pacific, CWO Hector Rafuse, who, with his brother were also career soldiers, both had two tours in Korea and numerous Peacekeeping assignments as did Major Dick Malott, during his RCAF career.

Corporation Address: Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association Suite #164 - 1 Stafford Road, Nepean, ON K2H 1B9
 WEBSITE: www.hkvca.ca

These four gentlemen were excellent representatives of several very different aspects of Canada's military history and were always engaged in conversation by visitors.

My very best wishes to everyone for a New Year.

* * * * *

Personal Memoirs

Veteran George MacDonell recently produced a memoir of the 2005 Hong Kong pilgrimage for his family and close friends. George used the services of Orbit Design Services to help put together his material.

Perhaps there are other Veterans or their families who would like to do something similar they could contact Orbit's proprietor, Sue Beard. Her company handles all the details, from design and layout, to typesetting, photos, printing, binding and delivery for 1 to 10,000+ copies.

Orbit can be reached toll-free at 1 (888) 336-7248, or in Toronto at (416) 444-2818, or by email at sue@orbitdesignservices.com.

* * * * *

The HKVCA Webs - Worth a Visit

Have you visited our HKVCA webs recently? If so, you represent one or more of the thousands of "hits" our sites receive every month.



As you can see by the chart below, we have a lot of visitors.

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Jan 2007	2180	1860	627	405	3667	700941	8509	13187	39060	45792
Dec 2006	1638	1279	409	246	4435	820817	7639	12698	39652	50791
Nov 2006	2896	2177	588	324	5164	1137576	9729	17666	65332	86889
Oct 2006	2127	1860	478	272	3901	735801	8461	14835	57665	65940
Sep 2006	1442	1110	481	269	2240	544160	8073	14437	33313	43289
Aug 2006	1530	1299	680	316	488	119341	1899	4084	7794	9184
Totals						4058636	44310	76907	242816	301885

You've probably noticed some of the recent additions to our webs. One important historical document has been added entitled William Bell's Story. This was submitted by William's son, Dennis. You can find this account by clicking on the "Historical/Personal accounts" link from our main page.

Our Newsletters now have an online version as well. We've always posted copies of both the National and Regional newsletters on our site, but the format is designed for the world of print. Our online version is designed for either screen reading or print, allowing our members to elect to read the online version instead of receiving a copy in the mail. Saves us money that we can put to better use in pursuit of our mission. You can check out our last National edition online by clicking on the Newsletters List link available on the home page.

Looking for statistics about 'C' Force or searching for a name? Visit the 'C' Force web, maintained by Vince Lopata. This is the most complete reference on 'C' Force, so you should find what you're looking for.

Because our webs are updated quite often, we post the changes on our "Latest Additions and News" area on the main page so you can quickly see what's been happening.

One last thought - do you have a story to tell? Do you know

someone with a story that hasn't yet been told? These personal accounts are critical in further solidifying the legacy of our Hong Kong Veterans, and to the education of future generations. Why not add to our repository by writing, typing or taping your account and submitting it. We'd consider it a privilege to publish it on our HKVCA site

Region Reports

From British Columbia ...

- Linda Stewart

You know how I like to brag about our mild winters in Victoria. Well, that certainly was not the case this winter. We've had rain and rain and rain. And major windstorms that knocked out power lines, along with snow that stayed and turned into slush that turned into ice. And then more wind and more snow and more rain and constantly cloudy skies. I'm sure you get the picture. We're all hoping for an early Spring. And so it was, on December 24th 2006, at our traditional wreath-laying ceremony in Victoria. It was raining and cold and windy. When I arrived at the Cenotaph, several of those attending were huddled behind a large tree to escape the elements. Thankfully, the rain let up later when Gerry Gerrard laid the wreath and we all gathered round to pay our respects. In spite of the weather, there were about twenty family members, children and grandchildren of HK veterans at the ceremony. Larry Stebbe had wanted to be in attendance as well but unfortunately he mixed up the time of the event and was at the Cenotaph at 10 AM instead of 2 PM. I'm sure his comrades did not mind the solitary tribute.

At Government House on October 25th, 2006, Hong Kong veteran Gerry Gerrard was honoured

to present Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo the first poppy of the Royal Canadian Legions' annual poppy campaign. A picture of Gerry and Ev Gerrard with Lt.-Gov. Campagnolo appeared in the Victoria Times-Colonist and has been placed on our website.

On Wednesday, November 8th, 2006, Larry and Anne Stebbe and Gerry and Ev Gerrard attended The Piper Richardson Repatriation Ceremony at the Legislative Buildings.

James Richardson, who had been a resident of Chilliwack, BC, was the only Canadian piper to be awarded the Victoria Cross. On Oct. 8, 1916, Richardson heroically piped the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) to advance against the enemy in the Battle of the Somme in the First World War. He was killed in action the next day, at the age of 20, and his pipes were considered lost forever on the muddy battlefield. Many years later, it was learned that they were actually the broken and mud-encrusted bagpipes in a display case at Ardvreck School in Crieff, Scotland. Premier Gordon Campbell received the bagpipes on behalf of the citizens of British Columbia at the special ceremony on the steps of the Legislature.

We are very sad to report the death of Cy (Clarence) Stewart, HK veteran, with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Cy passed away on November 1st, 2006 from cancer. I spoke with Marg who told me that Cy's wishes were to be cremated and have his urn placed in a niche at Hatley Cemetery. He requested that there be no ceremony. So Marg, his children and their spouses and children had a gathering when they placed his urn in the niche he had chosen. She said that's the way he wanted it. Cy and Marg would have celebrated their 25th wedding

anniversary on December 12th, 2006. Our most sincere condolences go out to Cy's family and friends.

Lucille Warren passed away on December 9th, 2006 at the age of 88. She was in a long-term care facility in James Bay in Victoria. Lucille was the widow of Robert (Bob) Warren who had been a member of Brigade Headquarters.

Remembrance Day in Victoria had better weather. There were blue skies over the Cenotaph as I laid a wreath at that ceremony on behalf of the HKVCA. There were a huge number of people of all ages in attendance.

Aubrey Flegg has never missed placing a wreath on Remembrance Day on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans since his return from the war in 1945. Aubrey continued the tradition this year in his hometown of Kelowna. Frank Brown and Bill Doull laid a wreath together on Nov. 11 in Sardis as the skies cleared showing the snow-topped mountains. They marched together never missing a step and spent time talking to the families that approached them after the ceremonies. Dale Miller (daughter of Stanley W. Wright) laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVCA in New Westminster. Don Muir (son of Bill Muir) laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVCA with his family present in Armstrong. Sylvia Bigras (daughter of Elmer Weibe) laid a wreath on behalf of the HKVCA in Hagensborg. Murray and Lucy Doull laid a wreath on Christmas morning on behalf of the HKVCA in Ucluelet.

Our traditional annual Spring Lunches will be held in June this year. One will be in Victoria and the other in Vancouver, as usual. Murray Doull will be sending all BC members the details when he mails out the membership cards and decals

to the vets and widows. This is a good time to remind you that membership fees (still \$15.00) are due for 2007. You may send them care of Murray Doull at 20368 Kent Street, Maple Ridge BC V2X 1A6.

Please accept our warmest wishes for the very best in the New Year. We hope that 2007 brings you good health, much happiness and continued success.

We wish you all the best for 2007. Take good care of each other. Until we meet again.

From Alberta-Saskatchewan ...
- Gail Richoz

Wow - 2007 is already here!

Our Convention committee is in full stride, and there's lots of excitement and enthusiasm in the air, so hang on to your hats! But as my dad (Ed Shayler) always says - first things first!

The Ab/Sask HKVCA Regional Exec would like to wish all of our Veterans, their families and our members a **Very Happy and Healthy New Year!** And for those of you able to attend our special event in Calgary this fall, we hope you will have many wonderful and lasting memories of 2007, to share and keep.

Since our last newsletter, we are sorry to say Patti Stebbe had to resign her position as Chair of the 2007 convention committee. We would like to express our thanks to Patti for her great efforts in getting the ball rolling, and especially in securing such a high profile and prestigious venue as the Hyatt for the **HKVCA National Convention from Aug 16 - 19.**

We are pleased to introduce Marilyn Pridgen as our new 2007 Convention Chair. Marilyn is Ralph

MacLean's daughter (residing in Calgary), and brings with her lots of enthusiasm and solid organizational skills (she has 4 children! - and we all know how much organization that must take!). We hope you will give Marilyn your full support, in ensuring our Ab/Sask Region hosts the best HKVCA National Convention yet.

Thanks to continuing efforts of all the HKVCA, we are very proud our Hong Kong Veterans are no longer hidden from the eyes and minds of Canadians. We must not let the opportunity to build on our previous efforts slip away. The 60th VJ Day celebration in Ottawa (2005) will be a hard act to follow, but Marilyn's team is up for the challenge - with your help!

On a final note, in this New Year please reach out to your family and friends and encourage them to join the HKVCA Assn.

And for our Veteran's sake, please join Marilyn and her team in **Honouring our Heroes - Preserving our History.**

From Manitoba

- Juliet Lafortune

Well here we go again
There hasn't been too much happening here in Manitoba.

We had our luncheons regularly at St James Legion, the 2nd Thursday of the month - we would like to see more people come out and join us.

We had our Tea and Tidbits had 15 Ladies join us. We had a good time and again we would like to see more ladies come out and support us.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of so many of our

members. Our condolences go out to the families.

There is a commercial on television that really touches me and it is the one of the lady sitting in a rocking chair and there isn't anyone visiting or helping her. We need to remember that we have veterans and widows who are in Seniors Home that would enjoy a visit from us - **LET US NOT FORGET THEM.**

I was notified of one of our members passing, she was a young woman not a relative just a friend to the HKV's, Jodie Fast. She helped with the convention in 2001.

I heard from the Wiebe family and Florence is holding her own. She has had a couple of strokes but is in good spirits. I'm sure Dick Wilson would like to hear from you and so would Freddie Poitras.

If you have any information for us or want to let us know about some thing we can help you with please notify us.

Congratulations to George Peterson on his speedy recovery from his knee surgery and Happy Birthday to you also George.

Please write on your calendars the date for the meeting and Lunches and Tea & Tidbits, VJ Day and The Convention In Calgary this year in August and the Reunion in October here in Winnipeg.

Bye for now, Till The Next time we Speak May God Keep You All Safe.

From Ontario

- Mike Babin

Fifty HKVCA members, including five Veterans (Alfred Babin, Flash Clayton, George MacDonell, Fred Mason and John Stroud), braved rainy weather and a major road closure to attend our Ontario General Meeting on October 28 at the Boulevard Club in Toronto. We began the meeting with coffee

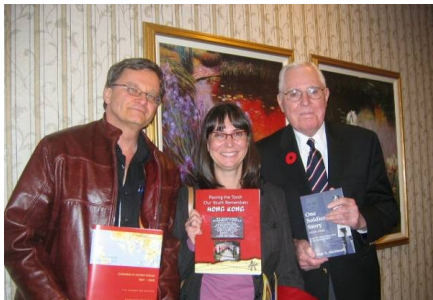
and muffins and ended with a luncheon, which gave everyone a chance to chat and get caught up on the various happenings with our membership. This was our first regional get-together in two years, and it was great to see such a good turnout. Some of the attendees came from as far away as 400km!



Flash & Jessie Clayton, Pat Turcotte and Mike Babin

Highlights of the meeting included the presentation of Special Contribution Awards to Veteran Bob “Flash” Clayton and his wife Jesse, and Veteran George MacDonell for their absolutely tireless work in visiting schools and volunteer groups, talking to the media and in many other ways spreading the Hong Kong story. After last year’s pilgrimage to Hong Kong, George wrote and published a memoir titled “The Last Goodbye” which is a wonderful memento and a great tribute to all Hong Kong Veterans.

We also honoured Nancy Hamer Strahl and her husband Mike, who were not only key organizers of the 2005 Durham School Region trip to Hong Kong, but continue to aggressively promote the Hong Kong



Nick Brune, Nancy Hamer Strahl & George MacDonell, each with the book they authored.

story to teachers and students across Canada. Mike and Nancy produced a book titled “Passing the Torch - Our Youth Remembers Hong Kong” which contained not only wonderful photos of the pilgrimage, but also many of the essays written by students about the Veterans and their exploits, trials and tribulations.

Nancy also was instrumental in the production of a TV documentary on the school trip by Rogers TV, which has been shown on the Rogers cable system in Ontario.

It’s heartwarming to have such a dedicated group of people who believe so strongly in the goals of the HKVCA and who so selflessly spend their time and energy talking to others about Hong Kong.

In keeping with our commitment to educate Canadians, and particularly young Canadians about Hong Kong, on November 3rd and 4th we participated in the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers’ Association’s Annual Conference (OHASSTA). We were able to connect with about 250 of the teachers taking part, discussing with them the Hong Kong story and the importance of using the Ten Lessons in the classroom so that their students will better understand the importance of the role played by our Canadian soldiers in the Battle of Hong Kong.



Rev. Vicky Hedelius speaking about the Honour Wreath Program.

Then, on December 1st in Peterborough, we were able to present two workshops to the teachers of the Kawartha Pine Ridge Public School Board. Two Veterans - George MacDonell and Flash Clayton - along with Ten Lessons author Nick Brune participated. There were over 50 in each session and the audience was most appreciative of what the veterans had to say. The incisive and enthusiastic questions posed by the teachers made it clear that they intend to bring the Hong Kong story into their classrooms using our “Ten Lessons” material.



To show the importance of reaching out to schools, we’ve renamed Pat Turcotte’s Publication Committee to “Education Committee”. Pat and her team will continue to seek out opportunities to

And we’re proud to announce that in October Pat announced an essay contest that will pay cash prizes for the best essays written on the Hong Kong story. This contest is open to high school students across Canada, in both English and French. We encourage all HKVCA members to promote this contest to their own children and grandchildren, as well as to their local high schools. Further details are available on the HKVCA web site at <http://www.hkvca.ca/essaycontest/es>

[say.htm](#) . Although by the time this newsletter reaches you, time will be short to write an essay, we do intend to repeat the contest again next year.

Finally, I'm very pleased to announce that Denise McLachlan has taken on the role of our regional Secretary. Denise's father was Winnipeg Grenadier Tony Gelly, who sadly passed away last August. Denise is already making a great contribution to our work in the region.

This will be the last national newsletter before the Calgary convention. I'm looking forward to seeing as many as possible of you in Calgary ... it's shaping up to be a great event!

From Quebec ...

- Lucette Mailloux Muir

Greetings to all.

Hope you all enjoyed a nice and joyful summer and festive season.

Since our last newsletter I attended our monthly on-line Mark Purcell at OHASSTA Conference ly as possible.

In August we attended the internment of Lancelot Ross in his hometown of Hopetown, QC.

We held our August Reunion in Granby, QC. It was well attended and from many notes, calls and comments, everyone had a good time. In attendance we had eleven Veterans, many Widows, Family members and Friends of the HK Family for a total of eighty-three. Six of our Provinces were represented by our guests from as far as BC, Sask and Manitoba with of course Ontario, NB and Quebec. The weekend started with the meet and greet then our Joint-General Meeting, Commemorative Ceremonies, Parade and Flag deposit by all HK Vets present for our deceased Vets. Philip Doddridge laid the HK wreath, Lucette Muir for

the Commemorative Association, HK Widow Renee Giard for our Widows and Patricia Maltman from Winnipeg for all the Grenadiers. We then enjoyed a casual meal and entertainment and a closing banquet, drawings followed by dancing to close the event. Our "Honorary President" of the 2006 Reunion Organizing Committee was Oswald Clark. The winners of our ticket draw were: Eili Viner of Calgary AB, Raymond Quirion of Montreal and Perce QC and Veronica Hunt of l'Ange Gardien QC. Congratulations to all winners and great camaraderie was shared by all and thank you all how helped to make this Reunion a success by your participation.

In October we closed the books on a very successful Reunion of last August 2006.

In Quebec City we attended the burial of the ashes and the celebration of life for Albert and Monique Russell. Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, we were not able to attend the funeral for Oswald Clark, Reginald Law HK Vets, Kenneth Lyons son of Henry Lyons and a Commemorative Member and the late notice of the death of Rollande Miller a HK widow. We will remember them!

Yours truly attended our local Armistice Ceremonies and deposited a wreath in memory of all Hong Kong Veterans and Quebec Region HK Veteran Dempsey Syvret motored to Ottawa to deposit the Hong Kong wreath for all HK Vets at the November 11th Ceremonies.

We prepared and mailed our Newsletters "The Torch" in September, December and the next one will be in March.

We enjoyed a relaxing Christmas Season and January and we are now making plans for our next Joint-Executive Meeting,

activities and next Reunion. We, and many of our members are looking forward to the next Calgary Convention.

That is it for this time. Enjoy; be good to each other and all the best for 2007.

From the Atlantic

-Neil Darragh

Greetings from the Atlantic Region.

In September we held the HKVA Maritimes Gaspesian Branch Reunion in Florenceville, New Brunswick. There were 7 HK veterans in attendance. Local politician and a representative from the Veteran Affairs of Canada were also present. Each veteran was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Veteran Affairs of Canada.

On November 11th a wreath was laid in remembrance of the HK veterans that have passed during and following the war.

I would like to give a very special thanks to Verna Pearson for many dedicated years to the HKVCA. Verna has been the membership person and treasurer for the Atlantic Region since the beginning of the organization. Due to her health and that of her husband Ken, she is unable to continue with these positions. With Verna unable to continue, the Atlantic Region is now looking for individuals who are interested in helping with these positions. Any interested individuals are asked to please contact myself or Verna.

The Atlantic region would like to express its deepest sympathy to the Lyon's family for their loss.

Our membership drive is well underway. Please be sure to get your dues in as soon as possible.

National Election Committee Report

Five nomination forms were received. Many of those nominated were not interested in running or preferred one of the other positions for which they were also nominated.

The following people were nominated for and agreed to serve in the position indicated:

Derrill Henderson - President

Murray Doull – 1st Vice-President

Helen Wedge – 2nd Vice-President

Jim Trick – Secretary

Those nominated for Treasurer declined or preferred another position.

Since each position has only one candidate, they were elected by acclamation thereby eliminating the need for an election. Because there were no accepting nominees for Treasurer, the Executive can and, has reappointed **Barry Mitchell** to serve again.

We thank those who took the time to nominate their fellow members and, Carol Hadley, our outgoing President, for all her hard work during her three terms.

We congratulate our new Executive and thank them for agreeing to serve their Association in these important positions. We encourage other members to consider serving in some capacity in the future and to inform the Executive of their interests.

*2007 National Election Nomination Committee - C.R. [Ron] McGuire.
Sandi Cameron and Mitzi Ross*

A little humour

Purina Diet

I was in Wal-Mart buying a large bag of Purina for my dogs and was in line to check out. A woman behind me asked if I had a dog.....

Duh! I was feeling a bit crabby so on impulse, I told her no, I was starting The Purina Diet again, although I probably shouldn't because I'd ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care unit with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IV's in both arms. Her eyes about bugged out of her head. I went on and on with the bogus diet story and she was totally buying it I told her that it was an easy, inexpensive diet and that the way it works is to load your pockets or purse with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The package said the food is nutritionally complete so I was going to try it again.

I have to mention here that practically everyone in the line was by now enthralled with my story, particularly a tall guy behind her. Horrified, she asked if something in the dog food had poisoned me and was that why I ended up in the hospital. I said no.....I'd been sitting in the street licking myself when a car hit me.

I thought the tall guy was going to have to be carried out the door

An elephant was drinking at a watering hole when a turtle approached. The elephant looked at the turtle for a minute, then kicked it. The turtle flew several hundred feet. A nearby zebra asked, "Why did you kick the turtle?" "That turtle bit my foot 20 years ago," the elephant replied. "That was payback." "How do you know it was the same turtle?"

Said the elephant, "I have turtle recall."

Randy, the painter, often thinned his paint to make it go further. The Baptist Church decided to restore its biggest building. Randy put in a low bid and got the job. He bought the paint, and, yes, thinned it with turpentine. Well, Randy was painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a clap of thunder. The sky opened, and the rain poured down. It washed the thinned paint off the church. Randy fell from the scaffold, landing among the gravestones. He was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty. Randy raised his voice to the heavens, crying, "Oh, God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from above, a mighty voice roared: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Bathtub test

It doesn't hurt to take a hard look at yourself from time to time, and this should help get you started.

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Did you pass, or do you want the bed next to mine?

A little boy goes to his father and asks, "Daddy, how was I born?" The

father answers: "Well son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your Mom and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said... You got Male

New computer development - Apple Computer reported today that it has developed computer chips that can store and play music inside women's breasts. This is considered to be a major breakthrough because women are always complaining about men staring at their breasts and not listening to them.

Two Scots, Archie and Jock, are sitting in the pub discussing Jock's forthcoming wedding. Ach, it's all going grand," says Jock. "I've got everything organized already: the flowers, the church, the cars, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night ... Archie nods approvingly. "Havens, I've even bought a kilt to be married in!" continues Jock. "A kilt?" exclaims Archie, "That's braw, you'll look pure smart in that!" "And what's the tartan?" Archie then enquires. "Och," says Jock, "I'd imagine she'll be in white "

Joe's will provided \$30,000 for an elaborate funeral. As the last guests departed the affair, his wife, Helen, turned to her oldest friend.

"Well, I'm sure Joe would be pleased," she said.

"I'm sure you're right," replied Jody, who lowered her voice and leaned in close.

"How much did this really cost?"

"All of it," said Helen. "Thirty-thousand."

"No!" Jody exclaimed. "I mean, it was very nice, but \$30,000?"

Helen answered, "The funeral was \$6,500. I donated \$500 to the church. The wake, food and drinks were another \$500. The rest went for the memorial stone.

Jody computed quickly. "\$22,500 for a memorial stone? My goodness, how big is it?!"

"Two and a half carats."

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Don't Forget!

We'll be roundin' ya'll up for the

National Convention in Calgary

Alberta – August 15 – 19, 2007.

Hope to see ya'll there!
