



# The Spirit of the Torch

"All Generations of the Hong Kong family remember with pride"

Hong Kong Veteran Commemorative Association of Ontario



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December 2002

## Regional Director's Message

I trust that our third issue of "The Spirit of the Torch" finds all members and their families well, and totally recovered from the hot, humid, hazy days of summer.

Your Executive Council has, in recent months, created a special Curriculum Committee interested in developing a series of lessons which deal with the Battle of Hong Kong and the subsequent Prisoner-of-War situation, for use in the Secondary Schools of Ontario.

In May, I had made contact with Jessica Humphreys, Memory Project Manager, in order to find out more about that initiative. Not being able to attend the Workshop being held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, I asked Pat Turcotte to attend on my behalf. On that occasion, Pat approached Mr. Nick Brune, a much-respected History teacher working in Oakville, who had brought a number of his students to assist with the Workshop. Her objective was to get some suggestions as to the direction we might take with our projected Hong Kong Unit. As a person who had been involved in the writing of many textbooks which are used in Ontario, he was quite interested in what we were trying to do, and agreed to meet with the Curriculum Committee for further discussion of our project.

When the Curriculum Committee's meeting with Nick took place, it was felt that his suggested approach coincided with their ideas of the content of a Hong Kong Unit of Study, and Committee members agreed that he was the right person to attempt such a plan. As of this writing, the 10-Lesson Unit has just been finished, and Nick has spent well over 100 hours to complete the work. He and Pat Turcotte are now working on the next stage, the printing of the Unit.

In conjunction with the History Unit, the Second Edition of "One Soldier's Story" has just been published, and is available in the major retail stores. Not only has it been used as a reference by Nick Brune for the Unit, but Lesson Nine is devoted to an

interview with George, as a surviving Hong Kong veteran, who discusses many of the things which a majority of the veterans would have experienced. As you may have heard, besides writing a wonderful book about his life before, during and after Hong Kong, George has generously donated all royalties from the sale of "One Soldier's Story" to the HKVCA. Wow! Apart from being speechless, what can one say, except, all HKVCA members thank you, George!

I am very pleased to say that this year's wreath sponsorship at Remembrance Day Ceremonies has increased by 50% in Ontario. In order to promote public awareness in the Durham area last year, we had local newspaper coverage. This year, Robert Clayton and George MacDonell appeared on a one-hour talk show called "Riley Alive", on Rogers Cable television. Both Sergeants were excellent and the immediate feedback was very positive. One young lady actually mentioned that she was unaware that there had been such a battle, and that she was certainly glad to learn about it.

On behalf of you Executive Council, may I offer condolences to the wives and families of veterans who passed away this past year. Peace be with them as they rejoin their comrades. WE WILL NEVER FORGET!

Sunny thoughts: Linda Stewart and the British Columbia Executive are planning for next year's Convention/Reunion to take place August 13 to 17, 2003. Further details will be forwarded to you. Be sure to circle those days on your calendar.

As I end this report, may I wish you, on behalf of your Executive Council, a very Merry Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Take care.

Best Regards,



*David J. Murray*

**Editorial Staff:** Editor- Pat Turcotte  
Set up & Distribution-Lori Smith

## **HKVCA in Ontario**

This Association aims to perpetuate the memory of and to ensure the welfare of the surviving veterans and their spouses, and the widows and their families by:

- ✓ Enrolling all those in the Hong Kong family in the HKVCA
- ✓ Ensuring regular, periodic contact with those members
- ✓ Attending and participating in memorial serves on Remembrance Day, V-J Day and other special occasions
- ✓ To orally proclaim our link to the Hong Kong Veterans
- ✓ Educating and increasing the public's understanding of the sacrifice made by the Hong Kong veterans
- ✓ Organizing Reunions and National Conventions, as well as providing opportunities for social events for The Hong Kong Veterans of Canada

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## **The Word from the Area Reps :**

From South West: Lori's Report

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 15 members of the SW Ontario HKVCA got together in London for an informal afternoon. Pat Turcotte, Michael Babin, Barry Fair, Betty Hutchinson, Gerry Osborn, and myself were

the "children" attending. Dorothy Sauson, widow of Ray Sauson [RRC], Norman [Bill] Henderson [RRC], Alfred Babin [RRC] and his wife, Christine, Wallace [Red] Harrington [WG] and his wife, Alice, TJ [Gord] Hutchinson [RRC], Harold Baker [RRC], John Leblanc [Jean P.] [RRC] rounded out our group.

It was a casual time to meet and renew acquaintances as well as share some new information and memories. The weather held, helping the out-of-town drivers arrive safe and sound.

Some SW Ontario members have already left for the land of warmth and sun areas.

- **Ruth Cunningham** says "hello" to all who remember her and her husband, Winston. She is off to Florida.
- **Austin Batley** [RRC] is off to Arizona.
- **Gord Hutchinson** [RRC] also visits Arizona.
- **Harold Baker** [RRC] wants to say "hello" to Ken Pifher. "Are you still In Grimsby, Ken?" Also a "hello" to the 'Deacon', aka **Norman (Bill) Henderson** [RRC] from Ken
- **Jean Killoran** says "hello" to the ladies of the HK Ontario Ladies Auxiliary.
- **Leslie Canivet** [RRC] is home from a visit with Bryce Craig [RRC]. I had the pleasure of meeting Bryce this past August at the Granby Reunion. I am certain Leslie and Bryce had a good time. Leslie is moving to his own apartment soon.
- **Geraldine Cunningham** is wondering about other "children" whose parent died in Hong Kong? MIA, where fathers didn't return. Maybe a Newsletter article is due on this aspect of things.
- **Lillian Gauvin** wants to know how to get a Remembrance Veterans pin. It has a poppy, and underneath it says "Two Minutes of Silence". Any one know where Lillian can find one of these?

We have misplaced some people: Linda Cameron, Mabel Vanderveen, and Mrs. Elmer Smith have moved and did not give us their new address. If any one can send Pat Turcotte updated information on addresses or phone numbers, it would be greatly appreciated.

*Lori Smith*

**South West Area Rep**

From West Central: Rickie's Report

There was a flurry of activity around Remembrance Day. Letters had been sent out to various newspapers re possible use of the Hong Kong story as part of their Remembrance Day coverage. The Burlington Post phoned re the possibility of speaking with a Hong Kong veteran in Burlington. It was suggested that Don Geraghty would be the logical candidate. Just as he was about to be contacted, it was realized that he and his wife had gone to Calgary to visit with their daughter, so that interview will be on hold till next year.

Nick Brune and Pat Turcotte spent Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Convention at the Holiday Inn near the airport in Mississauga. They had a display table, with several pieces of Hong Kong memorabilia, as well as a number of books featuring Hong Kong. On the second day, George MacDonell came in for an extended interview with Nick Brune. The interview will appear as part of Lesson Nine in the 10-Lesson Unit being prepared for use in the Secondary Schools of Ontario.

*Rickie Edey*

**West Central Area Rep**

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From Central and South East: Leon's Report

We've had a beautiful summer, and I hope everyone has enjoyed it. Here are all the contacts I've been able to make so far, and I hope those I haven't been able to reach will try to contact me at (705) 687-7143 in Gravenhurst, as I am sure a lot of them will have some interesting news.

It was nice to speak with **Jean McKnight (Barrie), Jean Rose (Cornwall), Marion Rowen (Glencairn) Winnifred Schofield (Wilberforce), and Ellen Evans, Leila Grieves, and Kathleen Mann**, all from **Cobourg**. They are all doing well and I look forward to contacting them again in the spring.

**MARJORIE CHATWELL** - (Newmarket) will be receiving her Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of the wonderful work she has done for the Veterans.  
Congratulations, Marjorie.

**RONALD CLAIRCOATES** - (Kingston) has been keeping busy attending Legion banquets and Awards Nights.

**FRED COOPER** - (Keswick) was still enjoying his golf all through the month of October, and he and his wife **Delilah** will be celebrating their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year.

**ELMER DENISON** - (Brockville) who will be celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, is recovering from a broken arm, which is now in a sling. We hope he'll be able to get rid of it before the party.

**LLOYD DOULL** - (Kingston) is going to have trouble finding room on his blazer for all his medals. He received his last medal for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Canada, and will soon be receiving another one – the Queen Elizabeth 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal – the Golden Jubilee Medal. Congratulations.

**PHYLLIS LANYON** - (Wasaga Beach) is busy packing for her move to Florida for the winter. Have a good trip, Phyllis, and we'll be in touch again next year.

**RAY SMITH** - (Cornwall) is having some problems health-wise at the moment, but his wife is very supportive, and takes wonderful care of him.

**FRED MASON** - (Keswick) had by-pass surgery earlier this year and is well on the road to recovery. In fact, he is getting along so well that he even attended the HKVA meeting in Toronto in October.

I had a pleasant conversation with **JESS CLAYTON**, who sat next to me at the October Veterans' meeting in Toronto. Did not get a chance to speak with **BOB "FLASH" CLAYTON** as he was busy attending to the program.

*Leon Sokalski,*

**Area Rep for Central & South East**

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### From the North: Liana's report

Liana is super-busy right now, and has asked that we make a comment or two on her behalf. She encourages anyone in the North who has questions or needs help to give her a call, and she will try her best to assist them. She expects to be more available come spring, and, in the meantime, she wishes everyone the best for the Christmas Season and the New Year.

*Liana Frenette,*

### **Area Rep for the North**

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### From North East: Ron's report

I am pleased to report that members from the North East Area laid wreaths at 12 different cenotaphs. They will all be listed in the special column on the Wreath-layers to follow in this Newsletter.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, I delivered Ken Ewing's wreath to his home outside Merrickville. I brought Eric and Betty Maloney with me. Ken and Eric were both in "A" Company, RRC, with "w" force in the battle, and in several POW camps together. They were separated a few weeks before being liberated in 1945. This was their first meeting in 57 years! It was my great pleasure to have arranged it!

I've been trying to reach the following people, with no luck, for some time: Thomas Jones of Pembroke, Matt Anthony in Nepean, Madelaine Charron in Orleans, and Mary Patton in Spencerville. If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of the four people mentioned, I would appreciate their letting me know.

*Ron McGuire*

### **North East Area Rep**

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(Ed. Note: Our apologies for omitting from the June Newsletter two separate items that Ron had prepared. They included Ron's Profile of a Hong Kong Veteran, which appears in this Newsletter, and his successful intervention in Ottawa concerning the lack of reference to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong in the House of Commons. The result was the statement by Ron's MP, featured on a later page of this Newsletter.)

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### From the GTA: Randall's Report

On Remembrance Day weekend there were at least four specific references to Hong Kong in the Toronto papers. The Sunday Sun had probably the best coverage. It was a 3-page spread on "Letters to Harvelyn", the recently-released book based on the writings of Major Kenneth Baird of the Winnipeg Grenadiers. These were letters written to Major Baird's wife, Molly, and his 10-year-old daughter while he was in prison camp. The article, with the headline "Letters From The Edge Of Hell", contained several pictures of the family, the Canadian soldiers marching into Hong Kong and a map of the island showing the strategic locations of the Canadians and the Japanese during the battle.

The National Post on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> had an article in the Travel section, with a column on the first page titled "So far to fight, so far to die", which carried over to page 4, and two more columns plus a picture of Sai Wan cemetery. The idea here was that the public was being encouraged to visit the cemetery when travelling to Hong Kong. The story of the Hong Kong situation is told in some detail, nevertheless.

Besides the two articles there were two different reviews of the book called "Testaments of Honour". The review in the Sunday Sun features a picture of John Stroud, RRC when he was in a Japanese prison camp. The other review in the Globe and Mail mentions Major Baird, and tells a lot of the Hong Kong story. This is a book well worth reading, by the way. Apparently it is the first of a series of reminiscences by World War II veterans, both men and women, authored by Blake Heathcote.

All those in the GTA are reminded that I would like to hear from HKVCA members in this area, particular anyone with special issues or concerns. My e-mail address is [ross@toronto.ca](mailto:ross@toronto.ca), and my phone number is (416) 429-4377.

( Ed.:Randall laid a wreath at the East York Civic Centre in Toronto on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans.)



## Notes from: **HKVA Ontario Branch**

By John Stroud,RRC

Hello, everyone! Looks like winter has finally come. Hope you're adjusting well to the change.

As many of you may be aware, a number of Hong Kong veterans in Ontario have received The Commemorative Medals for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as have some of the members of the Commemorative Association. I've just received some of the medals here, and will get them out to the various people involved very soon. Among the Hong Kong Veterans are the following: Harry Atkinson, (Lori Smith will receive the medal on his behalf), Bob Clayton, Lloyd Doull, Ken Ewing, George MacDonell, James MacMillan, Fred Mason and John Stroud. Other recipients include Marjorie Chatwell, Derrill Henderson, Linda May and Bert Worthington. Each of the recipients receives both a medal and a certificate. Congratulations, all!

"Testaments of Honour" is a new book out that all Canadians should be interested in reading. It is the personal stories of 24 veterans, men and women, of World War II. John Stroud is one of the 24. All of the stories relay the veteran's own experience in a way that will appeal to students, as well as older Canadians, and make World War II much more real for those who are too young to have lived through it.

All HKVA members are reminded that their dues for the HKVA Association are \$15.00. Send your cheque or money order to:

J. C. MacMillan  
#909, 70 Deslisle Ave.  
Toronto, ON  
M4V 1S7

HKVA members are also reminded that they and the widows of veterans are automatically Lifetime Members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association, and that there are no dues levied. Members might also encourage their sons and daughters, grandchildren, and other family members to become part of this organization.

HKVCA is working for the veterans and their families, and the more support they receive the better the job they can do.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

*John Stroud*, President,  
Ontario Branch, HKVA

## **Special Announcement:**

Members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association were polled by telephone and e-mail recently, and were 100% in favour of Captain Gerald (Gerry) Osborn being made an Honorary Member of the HKVCA in Ontario. Gerry's father was Sgt. Major John Osborn, Winnipeg Grenadiers, who was the first Victoria Cross winner in World War II. Welcome to HKVCA, Ontario Region, Gerry!

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## **Profiles of our Ontario Hong Kong Veterans**

### **Eric Maloney, RRC**

Eric Maloney's family had farmed and been in the logging business since his Great-Grandfather came from Ireland in the 1840's, and settled near Douglstown, Quebec. He was born on 6 March 1922 in the farmhouse his Great-Grandfather built. Eric, the youngest in the family, had three older sisters. After leaving school at 16, Eric worked with his widowed father, whose wife had died when Eric was only 4 years old. Together they worked the farm in summer, and in the logging camp in winter. From the age of 10, Eric had been interested in cooking, hoping someday to be a chef. He gained valuable experience cooking in the lumber camp, and while working at his brother-in-law's 24-hour-a-day restaurant in the Gaspé in the summers of 1938 and 1939. It was in the Gaspé that Eric joined the Royal Rifles on 22 July, 1940. He was just 18, and though he wanted to be a chef, he didn't want to be an army cook, so he made a point of not mentioning his interest in cooking. He successfully avoided that task until, as a POW, he had to take his turn preparing what little there was to eat. On 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1940, his Regiment was sent on garrison duty to Newfoundland as "W" Force. This is where he met Betty Ebsary. When Eric left Newfoundland on 18 August 1941, Betty promised to wait for him to return for her. Eric hoped she would, and that belief helped him to cope with the ordeal of prison camp, despite never receiving any of the many letters Betty and his family were sending him.

When those surviving the Japanese camps came home, it took years to return to normal and not all were able to do so. Eric Maloney had many difficulties, but with the love of his wife and family, and his determination, he was able to adjust better

than many of his comrades. It took over four years before he began to feel "right" again. When he left Canada, he weighed 180 pounds. When he was liberated, he was down to 109. Soon after he was able to eat properly, his weight rose to 135, but it was over 14 years before it would go any higher. Like the majority of former Japanese POWs, Eric was in and out of hospital for periods as long as a year.

In the meantime, Eric and Betty married in his hometown, Douglstown, on August 5, 1946. To earn his living there, Eric operated the Beach Grove Restaurant, as well as his "Hong Kong Veteran Taxi" business in a building he and his cousins built. Eventually, he also ran a three-truck log-hauling operation, and sold groceries on his father's farm, located on the second Range Road. This service saved the local farmers coming into town so often. To finally realize his long-held ambition, Eric completed a Professional Chef course at McGill University in 1953. He then became one of the chefs on the famous, but isolated, DEW line in Canada's Arctic, while it was being constructed in 1954-55, and after completion, from 1959 to 1963. Eric then moved to Toronto, where he was a Chef and later Managing Chef with Scott Restaurants. In 1974, Eric relocated to Dryden, with the idea of retiring. He and Betty bought a trailer and for 18 months toured Canada. On returning to Dryden, he so missed being a chef that he worked at the Birchcliff Dining Room, and, later, at the Trans-Canada Restaurant. When Eric moved to Ottawa in 1987, he was soon at work as Chef for the Faculty dining room at Carleton University. Eric finally ended his career in 1991, at age 70, when his health would not permit him to continue. He was well-liked, and missed, by his co-workers, and he still finds that he misses his life as a chef. However, he continues to practice his profession by making all the daily meals at home.

Eric and Betty are still happily married, and living in Nepean, Ontario, with their daughter Cynthia. They celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary just weeks before Eric was interviewed by the Ottawa Citizen in August of 2001. The interview related to the last Convention of the Hong Kong Veterans in Winnipeg, which he was unable to attend. The article featured a picture of him holding the photograph taken by the Japanese for identification purposes when he was working in the coal mines and shipyards in Japan. Eric always carries that photo in his wallet as a reminder of what he and his fellow POWs had to

endure. It is a reminder too of the men killed in battle, and those who died in the prison camps of wounds, disease and cruel treatment. May they all rest in peace.

Interviewed by Ron McGuire,  
North East Area Rep.,  
Ottawa, ON

Editor's Note: Ron reports that he is in regular contact with Eric Maloney who is very well.

In addition, the following items should have been mentioned in the June Newsletter:

- Ron, who is well-known for his displays of material gathered as a Postal Historian, made a special presentation to the Canadian Postal Corps reunion in Trenton with his slide show on the Hong Kong Story.
- Ron and his wife, Connie, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ewing are also owed a vote of thanks (no pun intended) for their work in connection with the recently-held National Elections.
- There is one very special item that Ron McGuire has also been responsible for. He, and many other people, were concerned that little mention was made of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack on Hong Kong, which occurred shortly after the December 7<sup>th</sup> attack on Pearl Harbor. He prevailed upon his M.P., Mr. Roy Bailey, the Canadian Alliance member for Souris-Moose Mountain, to make a statement in the House of Commons about that Anniversary. We thank Ron for taking that initiative. The statement is reproduced here:

### **The Veterans of Hong Kong**

#### **Mr. Roy Bailey (Souris—Moose Mountain, Canadian Alliance):**

"Mr. Speaker, December 7, 1941, is a day that most North Americans remember very well. However, most Canadians forget that December 7, 1941 was a tragic time for us, for the Japanese also attacked the Canadian contingent at Hong Kong the same day.

Almost 2000 Canadian soldiers and officers from the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers were assigned to defend Hong Kong. Some 290 Canadians were killed, 493 wounded, and, in all,

after they had been interned in terrible conditions in prison camps, 550 did not return to Canada.

It took nearly 50 years for our government to compensate the Hong Kong vets. That was 10 years after the Canadian government compensated the Japanese and their descendants who were interned in Canada.

Because our Federal government neglected to pay tribute to these forgotten veterans last week, it falls to the official opposition to express our thanks to those heroes for their services to our country which went way beyond the call of duty."

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### **The Ladies' Side of the Story**

We have, living among us, two ladies with especially fascinating stories. Kay Mann, now resident in Cobourg and Jessie Clayton, near Lake Simcoe in Brechin, share some pretty special memories. They were members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps Pipe Band, which performed countless times in Canada, the United States and Europe from 1942 until 1946, after the war had ended.

The CWAC Pipe Band, which trained in the Vancouver barracks of the Pacific Command, was led by Lillian Grant of Victoria, who had been the Pipe Major of her own band in civilian life. She began with a nucleus of ten members, one of whom was Kay Mann. Kay had taken Highland dancing when she was younger and some drumming lessons before she joined the band, but she had no idea that those early beginnings would relate to what she would do during World War II.

Kay was living in the Vancouver area in 1942 when an 18-year old friend of hers decided to join up. Just 16, Kay was a little skeptical about wearing a uniform which featured olive green stockings, but she decided that she would give it a try. Fortunately, it wasn't too long before the stockings were changed to a beige colour (even though they were lisle stockings – there were no nylons back then), which made quite a difference to the look of the outfit. The uniforms were a khaki-coloured skirt and jacket, and the Pipe band members were issued a khaki tam, the only group to have a tam. The army had purchased winter and summer kilts, cutaway jackets and knee socks for the women, but, after having had them for just a few days, someone in the military decided the

women couldn't wear them after all because "women should not show their knees".

After two months in the West, the Pipe Band members had moved East by March of 1943. Jessie Clayton was already in the military at this point. She was working in the Motor Mechanics Division office at the time that the group moved from the West to London, Ontario. She and a friend of hers had joined a Pipe Band in London, and had some playing experience. When the Western group arrived, she transferred to the new group. Shortly after, the CWAC Pipe Band moved from London to Ottawa, and then to St. John, New Brunswick from there. When they were performance-ready, they were off on their first cross-Canada tour.

The Canadian Women's Army Corps Pipe Band had the distinction of being the only Military Women's Pipe Band in the world during World War II. Kay and Jessie were both drummers, Kay, a Side Drummer and Jessie, a Tenor Drummer, two of ten drummers in the 24-piece band. Not only did they perform on the drums, they learned Highland dancing, they sang, and they participated in recruiting and bond drives. The CWAC Pipe Band traveled across Canada twice, stopping at many towns along the way, as well as playing in the larger cities. Prior to going overseas in August of 1945, the band was on loan to the War Bond committee in Pennsylvania, and, in three weeks, they performed in 25 towns. The most extensive tour began in

1945 when they went to Europe for several months to entertain the troops. In this situation, they were accompanied by a full Brass Band, made up of about 50 women, and the two groups gave concerts everywhere.

On board the "Ile de France" on the way to England, the band played for the troops travelling with them. Some days the band was smaller than others, as some of the girls had problems with seasickness. Once in England, they were stationed briefly at Aldershot, before leaving for Apeldoorn, Holland. They spent seven months in Holland, playing for the Canadian troops and the Dutch people.

October 30, 1945 was one of the highlights of the overseas tour, when the band played in Paris, marching around the Arc de Triomphe, and down the Champs Elysees, with 250,000 people watching. Later the girls performed in the Tuileries Gardens for

former Governor General Georges and Madame Vanier at an impromptu concert.

The band played in Brussels, Belgium, and in Germany before returning to England. On Christmas Day, 1945, they entertained the troops and hospital patients in Farnborough, England. What an exciting tour it was!

Jessie didn't find the last part of the tour quite as much fun. She became ill in Holland, and spent three months in hospital in England. By the time she was ready to leave the hospital, the tour was over and the rest of the band had already gone back to Canada. She came back alone, on a hospital ship, and when she arrived she found that the Pipe Band had already been disbanded. That was May 1946, and it wasn't long before "Flash" Clayton came to London to see Jessie, having been back just a few months from Japan. The two married in September of that year, and it was they who introduced Kay, then living in Toronto, to her future husband, another Hong Kong veteran, Glenford Mann. The two couples were good friends, Kay having the opportunity to babysit for the Claytons' first child, Rickie, when she was just one week old.

The Pipe band members have kept in touch over the years through a yearly newsletter. The band's first reunion was held on September 17, 1976. When their second reunion was held in Saskatoon, Jessie Clayton was one of three members interviewed on T.V., and, in the course of the broadcast, the band members had the chance to see themselves marching down the Champs Elysees in Paris, courtesy of film supplied to the reunion by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

All in all, these two much-travelled ambassadors for Canada, who settled in Ontario, have managed to get together many times through the years. They feel, as they look back today, that they had the experience of a lifetime when they were part of the Canadian Women's Army Corps Pipe Band. The result - lots of very special memories, and many good friends.

*Pat Turcotte*

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## **UPDATES ON TWO IMPORTANT PROJECTS**

### **1. Report on the Hong Kong Unit for the Secondary Schools**

A Committee was put together in June to discuss the feasibility of preparing a Hong Kong Unit for the Secondary Schools. The Committee was chosen to represent both the Veterans and the Commemorative Association members at large. Those representing the veterans were John Stroud, Jim MacMillan, George MacDonell, Don Geraghty, and "Flash" Clayton. Those representing the Commemorative group were Dave Murray, Jessie Clayton, Lori Smith, Bernard Turcotte and Pat Turcotte. At the very first meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, the person to be considered as the choice to write the Unit was invited to attend in order to meet the members of the committee, and to get a sense of the approach the committee might want him to take. After considerable discussion, the committee concluded that Nick Brune, a Secondary School History teacher in Oakville, was the right person for the job, and he was asked to begin sketching an outline of the sort of Unit he felt would be appropriate.

In the 4 months since that meeting, there has been much consultation with Nick. Just before Remembrance Day, he completed all 10 Lessons of the proposed Unit. The members of the

Committee will have a chance to look at the draft and make comments and suggestions. The second part of the process involves arranging for the printing of the Unit, and approaching those in the Ministry of Education and as well as those in academic circles who can help us convince those who make curriculum decisions to include the Hong Kong Unit in the Course of Study which the teachers in the Secondary Schools follow. Wish us luck! And if you can talk it up in any way, or if you have any suggestions as to how to make sure the Hong Kong Unit is implemented in Ontario schools, please let us know.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Ontario for their financial assistance.

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## The Promotion of George MacDonell's book, "One Soldier's Story":

This is actually the Second Edition of George MacDonell's book, the first having been sold out when it was first published. This is a book that George has expanded from the first edition to include material that relates to very recent, significant events, including The World Trade Center bombing of September 11, 2001.

We have been especially anxious to promote this book because it happens to relate well to the material that has been included in the Hong Kong Unit in the Schools. Everywhere that we have spoken to groups about the book, we have made mention of the connection between the two. What we have been doing is encouraging companies to support purchase of a minimum of 250-300 of George's books for donation to school libraries in the area in which they do business. We have also encouraged Service Clubs in the same way, the Rotary Club being especially receptive to our requests. The material in George's book gives an overview which students need, but it also delivers the message in a personal way with which students at the Grade 10 level can connect in their study of Canadian History.

There is little doubt that the Hong Kong story has not had its rightful place in the history texts in this country, and the objective for us is the inclusion of

the material in the schools' Course of Study in Ontario, with the next step being the insertion of a Hong Kong section in one of the Ontario textbooks. Until the time that it is possible to have that happen, we want to have reference books, like George's, which will help students familiarize themselves with this aspect of Canadian History.

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### Wreaths for Remembrance Day

We are continuing to encourage members to ensure that there is a wreath honouring the Hong Kong Veterans their community. **Once you have purchased a wreath, it is yours to lay from one year to the next. There should be no further cost. Arrangements can be made for the wreath at your local Canadian Legion.** Anyone who needs further information may contact Pat Turcotte.

Many thanks to those who support the "Spirit of the Torch" Fund which helps us increase the number of wreaths around the province. **A special "thank you" to Fred Mason for a very generous donation.**

### Wreath sponsors for 2002:

#### Sponsors/Wreath-layers: Community: Veteran:

- 1.Doug Auld & family-Oakville, ON-George Auld, WG
- 2.Mrs. Anne & Michael Axent-Thunder Bay, ON-All HK veterans
- 3.Alfred & Christine Babin lay poppies-Northland Mall, London, ON-All HK veterans
- 4.Lisa Bird, Betty Hutchinson-London, ON-All HK veterans
- 5.Irene & Sandi Cameron Centrepointe Cenotaph-Nepean, ON- Kenneth Cameron, RCO
- 6.Wendy Campbell-Meaford, ON-Howard Naylor, RRC
- 7.Joanne Carroll-Prescott, ON-Walter Parkes, RRC
- 8."Flash" & Jessie Clayton-Brechin, ON-All HK Veterans
- 9.Len Cotton-Kanata, ON-Leonard Cotton, RRC
- 10.Ken Ewing-Kemptville, ON-All HK veterans
- 11.Grey Fair-Stratford, ON-All HK Veterans
- 12.Michelle Fleming & Leisa Connelly-Orleans, ON-Roger Cyr, RRC
- 13.The Findlay family & Pat Turcotte-Port Credit, ON-Lorne Findlay, RRC and Leonard Corrigan, WG
- 14.Sheila Forsyth-Metcalfe, ON-Eursal Kaine, RRC & John Kaine, RRC
- 15.Mrs. Maude Crawford and Natalie Gibb-Carsley & family-Perth, ON-John Crawford, RCAMC
- 16.Lillian Gauvin-Kitchener, ON-Albert J. Russell, RRC
- 17.Joy Hodgkinson & Alana MacDonald Beckwith, ON-R.W.Queen-Hughes,WG-Carleton Place, ON- Alvin L. Guy, WG
- 18.Marcine James (Mrs. John James)-Barwick, ON-All HK veterans
- 19.Bruce James-Atikokan, ON-All HK veterans
- 20.Jean, Joseph & Janis (Jennings)Killoran-Sarnia, ON-John Killoran, RRC
- 21.Stanley Lasenba-Smiths Falls, ON-Earl Lasenba, RRC
- 22.Fred Mason-Sutton, ON-All HK Veterans
- 23.Matthew G. Evans-Cobourg, ON-All HK veterans
- 24.Ron McGuire-Carlingwood Sh.Centre-All HK Veterans -Westboro, ON-All HK Veterans
- 25.Barbara & Lacey Montgomery-Ajax, ON-Bob Barter, RRC
- 26.Audrey Murray, Dave Murray & family-Whitby, ON -Matthew Murray, RRC & All HK Veterans
- 27.Randall Ross-East York Civic Centre-All HK veterans-Toronto, ON
- 28.Leon Sokalski-Gravenhurst-George Sokalski, WG

### Other wreath mentions:

- \* Derrill Henderson assisted 2 Veterans to lay a wreath at the National War Memorial.
- \* Conrad Lyons laid a wreath with his father, Henry Lyons, RRC, in New Brunswick.
- \* Capt. John Russell laid a wreath with his father, Albert J. Russell, RRC, in Montreal, QC

Many thanks to all those involved in the laying of Commemorative wreaths, and welcome to those who are doing so for the first time! How wonderful to see 33 wreaths laid this year, compared to the 16 laid last year! The total includes the 2 that are out-of-province. In any case, we have more than doubled last year's number. Congratulations!!

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### **In Memoriam**

Remembering all Hong Kong Veterans who left us in the year 2002

Harold A. (Harry) Atkinson, WG  
Morgan Davies, RRC  
Lewis McFawn, RRC  
Albert W. Bilodeau, RRC  
Albert H. Delbridge, WG  
Raymond Murray, RRC  
Sidney Blow, WG  
Cecil Devouge, RRC  
Wilfred D. Orr, WG  
Charles Brady, RRC  
Robert Dunlop, RRC  
Carl Olsson, RRC  
George B. Chanell, RRC  
John Fertal, WG  
William Pople, WG  
Charles Chesser, RRC  
William J. Hickie, RRC  
Arthur Roberts, RRC  
Renaud Cote, CDC  
Kenneth R. Inche, RRC  
Austin Roberts, RRC  
Paul Dancause, RRC  
Ted Kurluk, RCSC  
Ron Routledge, RCCS  
John Davies, WG  
Allen Martin, CDC  
Ray Squires, RCCS  
Milton McDonald, RRC  
Nick Zytaruk, WG  
William J. Overton, CPC

**We Shall Remember Them**

### **Other Happenings Around The Province, and beyond**

#### **In London, ON:**

Three members of the HKVCA were on *an early* morning TV show called "NEW DAY" in London. Alfred Babin [RRC], Dorothy Sauson [widow of Ray Sauson, RRC], and myself, Lori Smith [dgt. Of Harry Atkinson, WG] joined the crew for a relaxed chat about the Battle of Hong Kong and the importance of remembering. In January we had also been on "NEW DAY" talking about the HKVCA. Today was another opportunity to get the HKVCA message out to others. Just one of the opportunities where we can "spread the word", so to speak!

#### **In Granby, QC:**

Pat Turcotte and I [Lori Smith] had the pleasure of going to the 2002 HKVCA Quebec Region Reunion this past August, from Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, to Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. The warmth of the welcome was felt the moment you walked through the hotel door. Friendly faces and smiles greeted us at the registration, which went without a hitch, and off we were, up to our room. We dropped our suitcases, and searched out the "Meet and Greet", where we were soon swept into the flow of the reunion ambiance.



Pat Turcotte, Lance Ross [RRC], Lori Smith Granby Reunion August 2002

The first event on Friday morning was the Quebec Region's General Meeting, in itself a learning experience, since we have yet to have a General Meeting in Ontario. It was interesting to see how it's done. After the meeting, we were whisked off for a

tour of the Lac Brome area – including the very picturesque town of Knowlton, and the area nearby, known for exporting duck to famous restaurants around the world. We had a fabulous and filling lunch at a busy corner of the town. Lucette, our well-known HKVCA tour guide, pointed out all the places of interest on the way there and back. We arrived at the hotel just in time to get ready for our trip to the sugaring-off farm where we enjoyed an evening of yet more eating and entertainment. This meal, I was told, is the area's traditional French-Canadian meal. It consisted of at least 15 courses, including onion rings, head cheese pate and crackers, pickles, coleslaw, beans, melt-in-your-mouth bread, pea soup, tortiere, ham, egg soufflé, pork rinds, potato squares, dumplings in maple syrup, sugar pie, crepes and maple syrup. Every morsel was pure heaven! The live entertainment serenaded us at our tables and then provided the opportunity for some heavy-duty dancing with a local flair.

Ontario members at the Reunion included Dorothy Sauson, Bryce Craig, Pat Turcotte, Lori Smith, Marge Dwyer, Maureen and Bob Kline, Gord Hutchinson, Betty Hutchinson, Flash and Jessie Clayton and more. There was even a visitor from Saskatchewan who had driven all the way to be there!

Saturday started with an 11 a.m. Parade with flags and a colour party. The main part of the ceremony included wreath-laying, a poppy drop in memory of Harry Atkinson, my dad, a widows' wreath laid by Dorothy Sauson, and a March Past where Phil Doddridge took the salute. Political dignitaries were present and a nominal roll was read. Our afternoon was free for shopping at the mall across the street. Michael, the very handsome young grandson of Dorothy Sauson, escorted Pat and me. There was even an opportunity to relax in the pool after we had had a chance to visit the hospitality room - sharing pictures, memories, and future hopes. We spent Saturday evening at the final banquet, eating more scrumptious food, dancing, and socializing.

Sunday we were up for an early breakfast, said our farewells, and then we were on the road for the drive home. A special thank you to our hosts - the Quebec region of HKVCA- Boy, oh boy! Do you people ever know how to have a party!

Maybe that is what HKVCA Ontario is missing. We need to get together to share and renew

acquaintances - a Reunion! Any takers, or comments?



Pat Turcotte, Lori Smith, Gord Hutchinson, Betty Hutchinson, Marge Dwyer, Maureen Dwyer-Kline, Bob Kline- Granby Reunion August 2002

### Back in London:

Did you noticed? Everyone was wearing poppies. What was it for? 9/11? George Bush? Whatever it was, there was certainly a grand turnout in London that day. But, of course, the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month – Remembrance Day. The sun even shone down on the service as the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association laid a wreath honouring all Hong Kong Veterans.

Two daughters of RRC veterans actually laid the wreath, Lisa Bird (Thomas D. Wardell) and Betty Hutchinson (T.J Hutchinson). Other HKVCA members and supporters accompanied them to the service: Jane L. Smith, Marilyn and Steve Morgan, Barry Fair, Dorothy Sauson, Glenn Lapp and myself, Lori Smith. Korean veteran Gordon Collins reintroduced himself to me. His brother was an RRC, and is listed on the Sai Wan cemetery wall.

I noticed after the service was over, when the crowd had thinned out, some younger members of the public coming up to the cenotaph and the wreaths display. They stood quietly for a moment with heads bowed, and then put their poppies on the cenotaph. It reminded me of the poppy drop which veterans themselves sometimes do. Something to think about for future Remembrance Day ceremonies. A good way for everyone, not only the younger generation, to feel part of the service.



### **Celebrate Our 2002 Donors!**

Christina & Alfred Babin, RRC/ Ken Ewing, RRC/  
"Bud" Mann/ Harold Baker, RRC/Irene Firlotte/Fred  
Mason, RRC/ Austin Batley, RRC/ Jim Fleming, RRC/  
Alfred Mills, RRC/ Gladys Brazel/ Allan Harper, RRC/  
James Mitchell, RCCS/

Leslie Canivet, RCOC/ Thomas Jones, RRC/ Lawrence  
Ross, RRC/ Jessie and "Flash" Clayton, RRC/ John  
Leblanc, RRC/ Raymond Smith, RRC/ Dale & Bonnie  
Coles/ George MacDonell, RRC/ Gerald Sunstrum,  
RRC/ Fred Cooper, RRC/ Eric Maloney, RRC/ Grant  
Wood

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### **The "Spirit of the Torch" Fund:**

Keep in mind that all monies donated to this fund  
are used to add new wreaths for the Hong Kong  
Veterans in areas where there haven't been wreaths  
before. These contributions have helped raise the  
number of wreaths in the province from the 16 we  
had last year to the 33 we have this year. We are  
definitely raising public awareness of the role the  
Hong Kong Veterans played in World War II. Please  
don't hesitate to let us know if you want to sponsor  
a wreath yourself, or donate to the "Spirit of the  
Torch" Fund so that we can add new wreaths to  
those already in place.

Remember, once a wreath has been donated, there  
will be the opportunity to lay that wreath for many  
years to come, without further expense.

Donors in 2002: Lillian Gauvin, Fred Mason, Pat  
Turcotte & Mary Wardell

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### **HKVA, Ontario Branch:**

A special "thank you" to the HKVA, Ontario Branch,  
for their generous financial assistance, in particular  
for their help in funding the 10-Lesson Unit for the  
Secondary Schools which has just been completed  
by Mr. Nick Brune of Iroquois Ridge High School in  
Oakville. We will now go on to Phase Two, the  
printing of that unit. Phase Three will be the  
presentation of that Unit to the Ministry of Education  
in the near future.

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### **NEW Members for all of 2002:**

South West: Lisa Bird, Geraldine Cunningham,  
Heather Edwards, and Jane L. Smith

North East: Sandi Cameron, Natalie Gibb-Carsley,  
Joy Hodgkinson

North: Brian Bilodeau, and Darlene Farquhar

Central and South East: Jaye Bevan, Kenneth  
Bevan, Tom Bevan and Ann Ewing  
GTA: Keith Fortune, Tony Fortune, Mark Purcell and  
Kevin Turcotte  
West Central: Kathie Findlay, David Wing

Again, Welcome! And make sure that you contact  
your Area Rep., or someone on the Executive  
Council, if you have any questions or concerns. All  
NEW members should  
make sure that Pat Turcotte has their e-mail  
address, as we intend to keep in touch by e-mail  
wherever possible. This also applies to members  
generally. If you have an e-mail address send it to  
Pat Turcotte at [petsask@sympatico.ca](mailto:petsask@sympatico.ca) so that we  
can make contact more frequently, and keep  
everyone up-to-date.

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### **Some heartfelt "thank you"s :**

\*\* To all the veterans who visited the schools in  
honour of Remembrance Day, in particular, George  
MacDonell, who visited three schools in Toronto and  
Mississauga in three days, and then went on to  
appear with "Flash" Clayton on a TV show in Oshawa  
on the third night. And "Flash" himself who has  
spoken, along with Jessie, in countless schools over  
the last few years, and isn't through yet. As of this  
writing he was still to appear at Park Avenue School  
in Orillia on November 25<sup>th</sup> before 350 students in  
the morning and another 350 in the afternoon. Not  
only that, he has been talking up George MacDonell's  
new book, "One Soldier's Story" at Rotary Club  
meetings and other opportunities in his area. He is  
certainly an Ambassador for the Hong Kong  
Veterans!

\*\*to all those involved with publicizing George  
MacDonell's new book, "One Soldier's Story". Special  
orders can still be taken at a very special price!  
Contact Pat Turcotte by phone or e-mail. (See the  
Contact list at the back of this Newsletter.)

\*\*from Gary Beecroft to Linda May and her  
associates: "I would like to thank everyone for  
premiering my personal story on the HKVCA website.  
It was a big thrill. Hugs, kisses and handshakes all  
round."

## **Special reminders:**

1. **Your \$15.00 dues for 2003** can be paid anytime. **Current memberships expire on December 31, 2002.**
2. **The HKVCA National Convention** will be held in **Victoria** from **Wednesday, August 13 to Sunday, August 17.** Let's hope many of you will be able to attend!
3. **A new documentary called "Slaves of the Rising Sun" has been shown on the History Channel.** It featured interviews with 8 Hong Kong Veterans, 4 Royal Rifles and 4 Winnipeg Grenadiers. The only way to find out when it will be rebroadcast is to check the History Television WEB site for the series "Turning Points of History". Be sure to watch for it!!



*Have a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year*

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### **Ontario Executive Council: HKVCA**

#### **Regional Executive Director:**

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(705) 687 7348

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#### **HKVA Veteran Advisors:**

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Ph. (416) 924 9870

Fred Mason,  
Vice President, Ontario HKVA  
215 Shorecrest Road  
Keswick, ON L4P 1J1  
Ph. (905) 989-0485

If you haven't paid your dues, Wendy Campbell (see contact address above) is the right person to send them to - but - make out your cheque to HKVCA, Ontario Region. And do be sure to check out our HKVCA Website: [www.hkvca.ca](http://www.hkvca.ca)



**Hong Kong Veterans  
Commemorative Association  
Canada**

**ONTARIO Membership Application Form**

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

or Renewal

Type of Member:

Veteran

Widow of Veteran

Regular Member (enclose \$15.00 membership fee)

Make cheque or money order payable to: **HKVCA Ontario**

Acquainted with veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_ Regimental Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and Mail to:**

Wendy Campbell, Treasurer  
HKVCA in Ontario  
**65 Marshall Street East**  
**MEAFORD**, Ontario N4L 1E1