



THE SPIRIT OF THE TORCH

"All Generations of the Hong Kong Family Remember with Pride"

Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association of Ontario



Volume IV, Number 2 (7)

December 2004

Regional Director's Message

Hello, to all the Ontario members of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association!

This has been a very eventful year with a number of new initiatives to tell you about. Both our Deputy Directors have been extremely busy, Mike Babin as Chair of the Mini-Reunion Committee, and Ken Skelton for his work with the Asian Heritage Month Committee, and his very special display of memorabilia at the Mini-Reunion on Sept 25th.

A special welcome to our new members and Lori Smith, Membership Chair, will tell you who they are in her special report. On May 1st, as you know, we held a general meeting for both HKVA and HKVCA in Toronto, and were very pleased to welcome, among our members present, Peter Anthony Gelly, WG and Cliff McDavid, RRC and their family members. It was good to see them after such a long time! Mike Babin reported to the May 1st meeting on preparations for the Mini-Reunion event, and those present were given Registration packages that had been prepared in advance, by Sylvia Mason, a very important member of the Mini-Reunion Committee.

On the very same day, our second Deputy Director, Ken Skelton, was involved with the Asian Heritage Month celebrations being held at Markham First Place Mall. We had been asked by Nancy Siew, the GTA Area Secretary of the Asian Heritage Month Committee to take part in this two-day event, dedicated as it was to the celebration of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment's (Volunteers) 150th anniversary. Since the Canadian soldiers were very much a part of the Battle for Hong Kong in 1941, the Committee wanted them to be represented in the display area with an exhibit reflecting Canada's involvement in that battle.

At the very time we were having our meeting in Toronto, Ken was ushering Governor General Adrienne Clarkson through the Hong Kong Veterans' exhibit in Markham. Ken put together an excellent display. Those attending the Mini-Reunion had an opportunity to see even more of Ken's very special memorabilia collection related to Hong Kong. Mike Babin's report will tell you more about the Mini-Reunion. One of the initiatives referred to earlier took place during the summer this year. We have been trying to encourage the 3rd generation, the grandchildren of the Hong Kong veterans, to become more closely associated with the work that the HKVCA is trying to accomplish.

Two of our 3rd generation members took part in a special project that brought them into contact with many of the veterans and widows we are here to serve. Shelley Babin, granddaughter of Alfred Babin, RRC, managed to reach over 40 of the widows we have here in Ontario just to see how they were doing, and to find out whether they had any problems they needed help with. We followed through with the issues that we were told about, and Shelley had some very special conversations with a number of the ladies.

The second 3rd generation person we involved was Tim Hodkinson, grandson of Ernest Hodkinson, WG. Tim was asked to reach a number of the Ontario veterans to make sure that they had received their complimentary copy of the "Ten Lessons", and, again, to see how they were doing, and whether they had any issues we could help them with. He, too, found making these phone calls rather special for him, as did Shelley. In Tim's case, having made this first effort, he has followed this up by working on the Newsletter that you are reading today. Shelley has gone back to University in Windsor, but we're hoping she'll be able to work with us some time in the future. What both Shelley and Tim did for us at HKVCA Ontario Region was much appreciated.

There are other things happening, and, of course, as hosts for the National Convention in Ottawa in August of 2005, work has already begun to make the Convention a very special occasion. There is a strong team laying the groundwork in Ottawa under the direction of Derrill Henderson, and in another part of this Newsletter you will see our role as the provincial organization outlined in some detail. If you can volunteer to help in some way with the Ottawa Convention, please do so. Contact any Executive member to let us know that you're interested. At the very least, make the most of the opportunity to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day, and the end of WWII. It's a very important reason to join us in Ottawa August 12, 13 and 14th!!



My thanks to the Executive, and the Executive Council as a whole, for making this such a special year. Our very best wishes to all HKVCA Ontario members for the Christmas Season, and Good Health and Good Wishes for the New Year as well!

Cheers! - *Pat Turcotte*

Editorial Staff: Pat Turcotte - Sandi Cameron
Set-up: Sylvia Mason
Distribution: Tim Hodkinson

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 services 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:



We thank all the Area Reps for helping us to keep in touch with our members across the province. We're pleased to announce that Jackie Le Drew, who lives in Chelmsford near Sudbury, is now our Area Rep for the North. Those in the North, let her know if you have any problems or issues you want to discuss. Liana Frenette has very kindly agreed to help Jackie by connecting with the members who live in the Thunder Bay area. We want to be sure they're looked after!!

Ken Skelton's role as Area Rep Coordinator was a temporary one, in that he has numerous other duties that preclude his carrying on with this position. Randall Ross, who is already an Area Rep will act as Coordinator. Thanks, Ken, in helping establish this position. And Randall, thanks for assuming the role of liaison to the Executive on behalf of the Area Reps.

West Central Area – Leon Sokalski

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Mini-Reunion as much as we did. The beautiful weather we had in September helped so much to make it a great success. Almost 50% of the veterans in our region were able to attend, and we were so pleased to have them with us. It was nice to see **Peter Gelley, Donald Geraghty, and Ken Pifher.**

Carl Adams - Niagara Falls, went through his eye operation very successfully, and is now enjoying his newspaper again. He celebrated his 86th birthday in November. **Happy Birthday, Carl.**

Peter Gelley - St. Catharines, in spite of leg problems still seemed to enjoy himself at the reunion. Thanks for making the effort to attend, Peter.

Gerald Pentland - Niagara Falls, is finding it hard to get around these days. He's very interesting to talk to, and during one of our telephone conversations informed me that August 15, 1945 was the day the War officially ended.

Harold Smith - St. Catharines, could not attend the reunion, but related a very interesting story about his experience with snipers during the battle, and had to use all his resources to the full in order to survive it.

Kathleen Chesser - Mississauga, planned to attend the Mini-Reunion, but was unable to manage it. She had hoped to represent her mother **Elizabeth Chesser**, 92, who is the widow of **Kenneth Chesser.**

Barbara Cunningham - Brampton, whose father was **Dr. Winston R. Cunningham**, attended the reunion, and mentioned that her mother, **Ruth**, who is 85, is not doing too badly. (Ed. Note: See "The Ladies' Side of the Story".)

Wilma Nicholson - Oakville, widow of **C.M. Nicholson**, mentioned that she doesn't qualify for the VIP service because of the cut-off date, but our John Stroud is trying to bring this cut-off date matter up with the department hoping that this ruling will be reviewed.

A Memorial Wreath was laid at the Cenotaph, Gage Park in downtown Hamilton on November 11th, during the Remembrance Day Service.

Reminding you again that I can be reached here in **Hamilton at (905) 525-6922**. It's always good to talk to you, and I hope you have a very **Merry Christmas and Happy Year**.

Leon Sokalski

GTA Area: Randall Ross

Hello to everyone in Ontario and the GTA region. This year has been a busy and exciting one for our members. I have enjoyed speaking to many of the GTA members and seeing those of you who attended our second Mini Reunion. The Mini Reunion was a great success and sets the stage for the upcoming National Convention to be held next year in Ottawa.

I commend all those who worked so hard on the preparations and presentation of the 2004 Reunion which made it a success. This sets the groundwork for future endeavours. I was very pleased to have my daughter **Jessica Randall** attend the Reunion as a third generation representative. Jessica also participated in the ceremony. Due to other commitments and time constraints my contribution has been limited. My family is still young, and I am involved in their lives. I hope, in the near future, to contribute more of my time to the HKVCA.

I would also like to say that the Ontario Region Executive continues to do excellent work. The organization continues to grow and flourish. The commitment of bringing forward the past and present lives of the Veterans and their families will be an ongoing process. To those members in the GTA region, I invite you to contact me, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, for enhancing our organization. Please do not hesitate to come forward. You can contact me through my e-mail address at: ross@toronto.ca or by telephone at: 416-429-4377.

Christmas is just around the corner and I wish everyone a happy and healthy celebration.

Randall Ross

South West Area

We're still looking for someone to act as Area Rep in the Southwest. We do need someone to represent all our members in Kitchener, London, Windsor, Meaford, Guelph and other such places in the South and West. Let an Executive member know if you're interested!

North East Area: Ron McGuire

I have kept in contact, through my bi-annual telephone calls or messages on recorders, with the members and can report that all is well. In particular, I am pleased to tell you that **Eric Maloney (RRC)** is finally able to walk in his home without the aid of his leg brace, walker or cane. This improvement is strictly due to Eric's perseverance and determination and, as he will be quick to let you know - "no thanks to the medical people or their activities." Conversely, Eric is always praising the HKVCA, War Amps and DVA (oops, I am dating myself, now Veterans Canada) for what they all have done for him and his comrades. Eric, like all my members, enjoys the newsletters and looks forward to them. My other HK Veterans - **Ken Ewing (RRC)**, **Thomas Jones (RRC)** and **David Golden (WG)** also report they are doing well or "as well as can be expected for my age." Of course, I wish them and our other HK Veterans nothing but the best in the future.

My thanks to **Len Cotton** for agreeing to lay his wreath for his dad, **Leonard Cotton, (RRC)** beginning this year at the Stittsville Cenotaph. Len is always keen to speak with anyone who knew his father and can be reached at (613) 599-2750. By doing so, Len has allowed me to arrange for **Laura and Sarah and their mother Jo-Anne Scaffidi** to lay a wreath at the Kanata Cenotaph for **Stewart Henderson (RRC)**. They are the great granddaughters and granddaughter, respectively of the father of **Derrill Henderson**. For what is now a tradition, Derrill again assisted the HK Veteran who represented his comrades at the National War Memorial. This year **Bob "Flash" Clayton** had the honour. Bob and Jessie were also busy for several days speaking to local groups about their war experiences. For a future newsletter I hope to have a photograph of the young ladies laying their first

wreath while dad and husband, talented musician Carmelo, played the "Last Post" at a local school. It is nice to see such an impressive effort by one family on behalf of all Canada's Veterans. I hope it will encourage other families to become more involved. Simply contact your Area Rep to arrange for your own wreath.

For what has become a tradition for me, the theme for my seventh Remembrance Month exhibit for the Nepean Museum this November, was Lt. Col. John McCrae and his famous poem "In Flanders Fields". The exhibit contained examples of some of the many artifacts on which the poem may be found - blotters, calendars, frameable works of art, booklets - the list goes on. I included a HKVA newsletter that featured the poem. Thereby, as I try to do at any opportunity, ensuring our HK Veterans are specially remembered among all the Canadians Who Served. I also included examples of Canadians' wartime cartoons. Humour and writing poems were ways people at war were able to cope with their ordeal both on "Active Duty" and on the "Home Front".

My wife, Connie, joins me in wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ron McGuire

Central & South East Area: Maureen Dwyer-Kline

For all of you on my list that I missed, I'm very sorry and I hope you are all well and I promise to try and speak to you soon.

FYI - For any of the veterans: The nephew of **Donald A. Penny, Regimental # K-34027** is doing research on the men of the **Royal Canadian Corps of Signals**, their participation in the battle of Hong Kong, and their incarceration there. Donald A. Penny was in the Signals Corps, which was part of Headquarters Company. He was sent to Japan in January 1942 and was in Camp 3D and then at Sendai No. 1, for the last few months of the war. Donald died in 1983. If anyone has any information that they would like to pass along to his nephew, **Burke Penny**, please contact him at e-mail: Impdp@csolve.net, or phone: 1-705-526-9174 or at his address: 483 Forest Hill Court, Midland Ontario L4R 5G1 .

Fred Mason seems to be off gambling in Niagara today (Tues. Nov. 2nd), and recently stopped by Georgian Downs after an apparently nice visit with **Oda Barlow**. Hope you're doing better than Mom and I have done lately!! We tend to donate!! Mentioning **Oda**, now this is a lady who keeps herself extremely busy! I missed you when I called Oda but hope to call again soon.

Sylvia Mason sounded wonderful as always. She was sitting back enjoying a leisurely rainy day when I called and as always we could have talked till doomsday!! We'll have to get together soon, Sylvia, with a bottle or two of white wine and really catch up!!!!

Marion Rowen (Alfred E. Rowen deceased) has moved, just this spring, from the farm into Barrie. Marion is doing very well and is keeping quite busy. We had a very nice conversation and she wishes everyone well.

Leo Berard says hello and is also doing well.

I had a nice talk with **Barbara** (sorry I forgot to ask you your last name, Barb). She is the daughter of Winnifred Schofield and the late **Reginald Schofield**. She tells me that her mother is now living at Case Manor in Bobcaygen and is recovering well after having suffered a couple of strokes. Winnifred still receives and looks forward to any mail/letters that can be sent to her home in Wilberforce. Barbara also told me that her mother would be celebrating her 94th birthday this December.

Irene Firlotte of Kingston is also another very busy lady. She is enjoying good health and gets around the Kingston area with her friends. We had a very nice conversation.

Ron and Murdena Claricoates of Kingston are also doing well. I missed Ron this time. He was out with his Social Club for the afternoon. They wish everyone well.

And now my Mom, **Marjorie Dwyer**. Many of you know that she broke 3 ribs in August, but she has mended well and is out and about as much as before. We had a really good time in Aurora and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

I've been in contact with **William Charles Knapp (Bill)** and he would like to contact any veterans who may have **known L.Cpl. William A. G. Knapp**, who was taken prisoner, shipped to Niigata Camp 5B and died of pneumonia on November 22, 1943. He is buried in Yokohama. Bill was born July 5, 1942 and named William Knapp in his honour. He would like to construct a "legacy" for him and is looking for ANY information concerning L.Cpl. Knapp. Bill can be contacted by e-mail at: knappwc@kos.net

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Maureen Dwyer-Kline

North Area: Jackie Le Drew:

Hello, all! Here is my report following the telephone calls made in my Area.

Mrs. D. Berry (Widow) - North Bay. Spent 3 weeks on holiday in Ireland to celebrate her 80th birthday. What a wonderful way to do it!

Brian Bilodeau – Sudbury. Son of **Albert Bilodeau**, veteran, who passed away in 2002. I spoke to Brian's wife, Linda and she informed me that she was going to send some of Albert's memorabilia to the Royal 22nd Regiment in Quebec City. She mentioned that she tried to contact someone with the Hong Kong veterans to make a donation of memorabilia there, but no one had gotten hold of her. (Ed. Note: We'll be in touch to see if we can help.) We chatted at length and she thinks she might have a picture of my dad and his two brothers that was taken in Newfoundland before leaving for Hong Kong. The name CYR rang a bell with her. (Ed. Note: Jackie is the daughter of **Augustin Cyr, RRC.**)

Betty Cameron (Widow) – New Liskeard - unfortunately her number was not in service.

Brian Craig – Lively - (Son of veteran **Bryce Craig**) - no answer, but left a message.

Bryce Craig (Veteran) - Callander. Bryce is now 82 and lives on his own. He is a widower and is involved with the branch in Callander.

Brenda Mills-Foley – Schumacher - (Daughter of veteran **Alfred Roy Mills**). He is 84 and lives in Prescott, Ontario.

James Mitchell (Veteran) – Garson. Now 86 and in pretty good health, although his memory isn't that great, he says. He enjoys passing on wartime stories to young people to keep the memories alive. Remembers jokingly calling some of the Royal 22nd Regiment fellows those "crazy Matapedia Frenchmen" and called the Winnipeg fellows "Stubble Jumpers". He vaguely remembers the story of a young fellow who drank poisoned saki in a bar after being liberated - which is how my uncle died and never made it home after 4 years of POW camp. I found this intriguing.

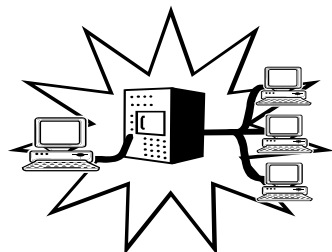
Doug Murray – North Bay - (Son of **J. Edward Bujold**). No answer, so message was left on his answering machine.

Leonard Patrick, Jr. – Espanola - (Son of veteran **Leonard Patrick Sr.**) Not home. Spoke to his wife and relayed who I was and why I was calling. Left a message for him to call if he had any questions or concerns.

My best to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Jackie Le Drew

Membership Liaison Report: Janis Jennings



Hi, everyone! Great news - to date we have 90 members who receive e-mail information. In the Spring of 2003, we started a new information-sharing system whereby, we would e-mail items of interest to members who have provided us with their e-mail address. We have been able to provide information on upcoming TV shows, newspaper articles, mini-reunion updates, special museum shows, how to get tickets to special shows or speakers and our own version of the Last Post. Usually I am sending out an average of 1 per week. It's quick, easy, and you can readily access it if it is of interest to you.

I am always pleased when I hear back from someone who has appreciated the information or wishes to participate in an activity. Any time you want more information, please let me know. Our Executive is very dedicated to ensuring that information is provided to our members. If you find something you wish to share with others, such as a school project on HK Vets, please let us know, so I can then pass it on.

The **HKVCA Website** has been updated and made more **user friendly**. The Ontario HKVCA Newsletters - present and past - are posted on the Hong Kong Website (www.hkvca.ca). This allows all that have Internet access to read and file away the newsletters. In Ontario, we give each member a choice of either reading the newsletter on the web site or receiving it via regular mail. If you are interested in receiving our important bulletin notification (everyone is welcome) please send an e-mail to me, Janis Jennings, at pjennings27@cogeco.ca. I'd be happy to add you to the distribution list.

Hope everyone has a great Holiday Season.

Janis Jennings

Notes from the Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada, Ontario Branch



NCVA Meeting: The National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada (NCVA) held their Annual Meeting at the International Plaza Hotel in Toronto on November 2, 2004. Pat

Turcotte, Regional Director of Ontario Region, HKVCA, Derrill Henderson, National

Secretary, HKVA and myself attended. Pat Turcotte, at the end of my report, will give some of the details regarding resolutions that were passed affecting veterans and widows. Elections were held at the meeting. H. Clifford Chadderton was re-elected Chairman, and John Stroud and Les Peate were re-elected Vice Chairmen.

Mini-Reunion: The HKVA/HKVCA Mini-Reunion was a great success. Many important matters were brought up during our Joint meeting in the afternoon. The Mini-Reunion itself will be discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. I personally want to congratulate and thank the HKVCA Executive and Reunion Committee for their dedicated efforts and hard work in making this an excellent event.

Deceased: We lost Allen Ross Harper, WWII Veteran and member of HKVA Ontario Branch, on October 5, 2004. He passed away peacefully at the Hillcrest Retirement Home in Midland at 83 years of age.

National Convention: Be sure to attend the National Convention in Ottawa next August 12, 13 and 14, 2005. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Pilgrimage: Details of the pilgrimage to Hong Kong and Japan in November/December 2005, are still being sorted out at this time. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

Dues - HKVA Membership: Dues should be paid by December 2004, and are still only \$15.00 per year. Dues and donations should be made payable to HKVA, Ontario Branch and mailed to our Treasurer: J. C. MacMillan, 909-70 Delisle Ave. Toronto, ON M4V 1S7

On behalf of the Executive, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Stroud

President - Ontario Branch, HKVA

Addendum re the NCVA Meeting on Nov. 2, 2004:

Delegates representing 45 different veterans' organizations were present, and spoke about a number of different initiatives.

The 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, V-J Day, was discussed in terms of making this a very special celebration.

The pilgrimage, which will happen in 2005, will be the last related to World War II. The one pilgrimage that has been settled is the pilgrimage to Holland. Others are pending.

The matter of long term care beds which have always been guaranteed by VAC must be monitored closely as the government is saying – we aren't adding to the amount of money we're spending now.

The NCVA is still working hard trying to get benefits for widows over and above their Widows' Pension cheques. The organization considers this a very important area to deal with.

The importance of the media in making the public aware of veterans' issues is becoming even more obvious these days. They can help boost solutions to problems. Different publications and publicized events can help. Reader's Digest is strongly in favour of supporting veterans. The Queen's Golden Jubilee medal was given wide coverage. A number of documentaries are increasing awareness, including a new one written by Cliff Chadderton called "The Boys of Kelvin High" about Bomber Command.

The new Canadian War Museum is going to be a world-class facility, and Brian Forbes, who is with the NCVA Executive, is on the War Museum Board.

The National Military Cemetery is being developed at Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa. The cost of being considered for burial there is about \$4000.00.

The Juno Beach Centre at Courseilles-sur-Mer is becoming increasingly popular as an interactive educational facility and has had many visitors since its opening. This special event commemorating D-Day was a great event, despite some shortcomings.

Charles Mann represented NCVA at the Reunion in Italy this year.

A document provided at the meeting "The Place of NCVA in the Government Structure" was a very instructive guide to understanding the structure of government, and offered useful information to those dealing with government departments.

The VAC/CF Advisory Council is quite representative of the various organizations, and NCVA's Brian Forbes is on that council. One key matter is making sure that support for peacekeepers does not compromise the support for traditional veterans.

A number of other issues were discussed, all of which made for a very instructive and informative NCVA Annual Meeting. My thanks to John Stroud for the invitation to attend.

Pat Turcotte

Regional Director - Ontario Region, HKVCA

“The Spirit of the Torch” Fund: A Special Tribute

In the year 2000, the Ontario Executive inaugurated what was intended to be a way to raise the awareness of the public at large to the contribution of the Hong Kong veterans in World War II. We decided that our first goal would be to have a new wreath in each of the six Areas of the province into which we had divided our membership. We urged people interested in supporting this idea to donate to a fund we called the “Spirit of the Torch” fund.

Over the years, we inquired about those who might already have wreaths in place, and found a number of people who wanted to make special donations to the fund. The list of those who have laid wreaths dedicated to Hong Kong veterans, published in every December Newsletter is a result of those inquiries. There are now 35 members who lay wreaths every year, and we hope there will be many more in the future.

The Ontario Executive decided that the “Spirit of the Torch” Fund should add a new dimension to its purpose. We realized that a donation at the time of a veteran’s death might be even more meaningful if it took the form of a new wreath on Remembrance Day not only for all the Hong Kong veterans, but in particular in honour of the veteran who had just passed away. We wanted to make sure the family of the veteran laid the wreath if they wished to do so, and that, where possible, they would choose the location of the wreath-laying. There are four Ontario veterans who are being remembered this way this year, and we want to make special mention of them here.

Philip Lawlis, RRC, had a wreath laid in his honour in London, Ontario by his two sons, Michael and Jim Lawlis.

Gordon Hutchinson, RRC, had a wreath laid in his honour in Barrie, Ontario by his daughter, Betty (Hutchinson) Nickerson.

Elmer Denison, RRC, had a wreath laid in his honour in Brockville by his grandson, Hudson Allison.

Allen Harper, RRC, had a wreath laid in his honour by his daughter, Susan French and his son, Rick Harper.

“We will remember them”

In Memoriam

Remembering the Hong Kong Veterans who have left us in 2004:

Paul Arsenych – WG

John Doiron – RRC

Alton Jewers – RRC

Ernest W. Roberts – WG

Glyn Chipping – WG

Raymond Drouin – RRC

Philip Lawlis – RRC

Wendell Thompson – RRC

James Darrah – RRC (Dec '03)

Allen Harper – RRC

Eldon MacWhirter – RRC

Sidney Vale – WG

Elmer Denison - RRC

Gordon Hutchinson – RRC

John McGreevy – RRC

Harry White - WG

We shall also remember:

Dorothy McGrath, Widow of John McGrath, RRC

Doreen Mills, Wife of Alfred Mills, RRC

Irene Craig, Wife of Bryce Craig, RRC

In addition, our Honorary Members:

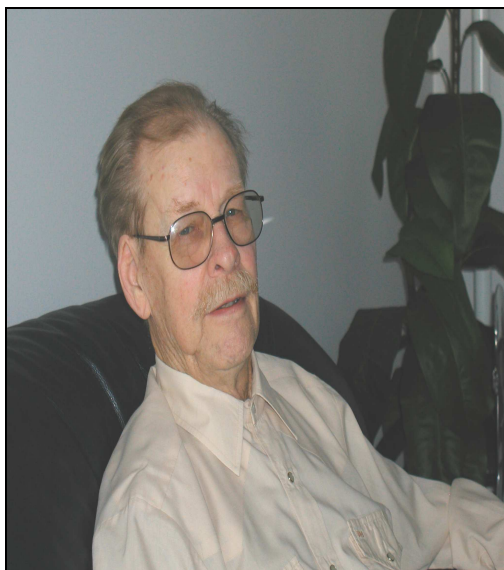
Ted Farmer, Royal Canadian Regiment, Honorary Member, Ontario Region, HKVCA

Leonard Birchall, Air Commodore, RCAF, Honorary Member, Ontario Region, HKVCA

“Our condolences to their families”

“We will remember them”

Profiles of our Hong Kong Veterans



**A Visit with Les Canivet,
Hong Kong Veteran, RCOC**

It was almost a year ago, that I had written a letter to Les Canivet to ask if, during WWII, he had known my Dad, the late Ken (Sarto) Cameron, who was also with the RCOC. Les contacted me in January 2004 to introduce himself and advise me that he, unfortunately, did not remember my Dad. We held quite a lengthy and amiable conversation, and found that, in our youth, we both lived in the west end of Ottawa and were quite familiar with each other's stomping grounds; and so decided it would be interesting to get together.

In late October, Les phoned me when he came to Ottawa from Grand Valley to visit his sister, Joan Charlebois, and we organized a get-together at my place for a few hours of conversation. Les told about his family (his late wife, Mary, and four sons) and his working career as an accountant and that he, at one point, had purchased a farm. It was evident that he is a family man, and also, that he and his sister have remained very close over the years. With respect to his war experiences, Les told us that he was captured on New Year's Day, contrary to common belief that all prisoners were taken on Christmas Day. He related a few wartime stories of how he was struck in the jaw with grenade shrapnel and shot in the shoulder, wounded and left in a ditch by the side of the road. Les also mentioned his move last winter from the country to an apartment in Grand Valley and how he's settling in.

It was a great pleasure to meet Les, and his sister, Joan - and I do hope to see them again - perhaps next year at the National Convention!

Sandi Cameron

The Ladies' Side of the Story: Ruth Cunningham

Ruth Cunningham suggested that she might not have too much in the way of a story to tell. Little did I know I would relive some exciting moments of her life with her.

Ruth was born in Windsor, Ontario. When she went out to visit an Aunt in Souris, Manitoba, she met her future husband, Winston (Win) Cunningham, who was practicing dentistry in Souris, his hometown. Before long, Ruth enrolled in Home Economics, in a four-year course at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg on the Fort Garry campus in 1938.

When she returned home, in September 1939, Win had decided to enlist in the Canadian Dental Corps, and they were married on his New Year's leave in Winnipeg on December 30th, 1939. Win had been attached to the Artillery Unit in Brandon in September 1939, and was posted to Winnipeg in January 1940. In May of 1940, Win was sent to Shilo where the army lived in tents. Unfortunately, Ruth was unable to find accommodation nearby and returned home to Windsor.

Win was sent to Red Rock in July where civilian internees and captured German merchant seamen from England were interned. Ruth was finally able to join him in nearby Nipigon, and although she wasn't allowed into the camp, she did hear stories about some of the interesting detainees that were being held there. The senior was the captain of the Europa, a German passenger ship that had been sunk. Another was Hitler's favourite pianist who had been on a

concert tour when war broke out. The site of the camp was a pulp and paper mill on what is Domtar property today. The internees were housed in tarpaper-covered huts at the edge of the cold waters of Lake Superior, surrounded by bush. Very few ever tried to escape. (50 Years later, Win and Ruth stayed in what had been the officers' quarters and is now a hotel.)

Win was then posted to Quebec City in December 1940, and in September of 1941 was sent back to Brockville for field training. Their daughter, Barbara, was born there. After Win left for the Far East in October, Ruth went home to Windsor where she joined the Canadian Red Cross Corps in the transport section. Much of her time was spent at Blood Donor clinics, or working with handicapped children.

Ruth also spent time collecting peaches for jam. Strange as that may sound, the peaches were made into concentrated jam, and were then sent to



England to help with the food shortage there. She drove at harvest time to the Kingsville area in a donated Ford station wagon that could carry 21 bushels of donated culled peaches at a time. Every fifth week she traveled in a Mobile Blood Donor Van with a Mobile Blood Donor technician between Windsor and London. There were several clinics at the base of Camp Ipperwash and the Air Base at St. Thomas, where 1000 donors gave their blood.

In October 1944, from a Japanese short wave radio transmission, a message was picked up in Australia reporting that eight Canadian POWs had been wounded in American bombings; Win's name was on the list. Soon after this disturbing news, Ruth became the liaison person for the

Red Cross Windsor area at the Ferry building in Windsor, where she dealt mainly with arriving war brides, returning soldiers, and with contacting families of those killed or missing in action.

At one point, a male nurse who was a crew member of the "M.S. Gripsholm", the ship that repatriated Canadian nursing sisters, Kay Christie and May Waters, visited her office. His report on the condition of the liberated civilians and the camps was appalling. Ruth also heard about a journalist, Gwen Dew, who had been repatriated on the same ship. Gwen had written a book about the Hong Kong situation and Ruth wanted to meet her.

In those days it was typical in the big theaters in Detroit to have entertainment between the movies. There was the Pathe News first, then the movie and finally live stage shows featuring a musician playing a large organ. There were often readings from authors or top flight performers such as Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Tommy Dorsey and others. Ruth found out when Gwen Dew was going to appear to talk about her book and Hong Kong, and she went backstage to meet her. In the process, she also spent an hour talking with another person also appearing on the stage that day, the well-known Carmen Miranda. It was quite an exciting experience, but there was still no news of Win and the other Canadians.

Around the same time, Lady Eaton held a reception in Toronto for the wives and mothers of POWs in Hong Kong. Ruth was able to be there, and met both Kay Christie and May Waters. They told her that they had seen Win at the hospital in Hong Kong as a POW. May Waters didn't tell Ruth, but she told Win's aunt in Winnipeg that she knew Win and that she wasn't too optimistic about his chances for survival. She explained that around the time they were to return home, there were many that were having bad bouts of diphtheria, from which quite a number never recovered.

When Ruth was working in Windsor as Red Cross liaison, she had a rather bizarre happening in her office. Two men appeared, told her they'd been in Hong Kong, and asked if they could have clothing and shoes. They even told Ruth they had known her husband. She was skeptical until they mentioned that he had a small car that he drove around Kowloon before the fighting started. Ruth knew this was true, because Win had mentioned the car in a letter. When the word was passed around, nothing was too good for these fellows. What they talked about proved they had been in Hong Kong, but after they got the clothing and shoes they came for, they disappeared and no one ever saw them again.

At the end of the war, in September 1945, Ruth learned that the liberated Canadians in Manila would land in either San Francisco or Victoria. She decided to travel to Victoria on the chance that the "Gosper", the ship that Win was on, would dock there. Ruth didn't realize that Win had a cousin, a social worker in Victoria, who knew Commander Patterson, the naval officer responsible for repatriation at Nanaimo base. Ruth had just registered at the Empress Hotel when Win's cousin came to her hotel room and explained that she had found out that a ship carrying some

of the Hong Kong POWs would arrive the next day. She assured Ruth that the Commander's office would let them know when the ship came into port.

Win's cousin offered to show her around the city, and took her out to dinner. After they had eaten, a call was made to the naval office and they learned that the ship was already in the harbour. They dashed to the naval yard at Nanaimo, and waited as seven stretcher cases came ashore. In the crowd, she met Mrs. Charlie Price, Mrs. Gordon Gray, Frank Powers' father and Alex Prendergast's sister. Commander Patterson boarded and at some point was introduced to Win. Ruth learned later that he said to Win: "I have a wife here for you." As a result, Win was looking for Ruth as he came down the gangplank. The liberated POWs were to be in Victoria for a week, for medical assessment, clothing issue, and some back pay, and were bused to the dormitories where they would stay. Win was released in Ruth's care to stay at the hotel. Those who stayed off-base, with their loved ones, reported in daily. It was the thrill of a lifetime and everyone was on "Cloud Nine".

After a visit with Win's parents in Souris, the couple returned to Windsor, and Win was then hospitalized in London for some time. After his release, he made the decision to stay in the Dental Corps and to make it his career. It wasn't long before Win and Ruth were on the move. They were in London for three years as part of the peacetime army, and in December 1949, they were posted to Winnipeg where they renewed friendships with former Hong Kong POWs.



From there they moved to Vancouver, then to Ottawa, and overseas to France with NATO for 2 1/2 years. The Dental Corps is Tri-Service, so Win was at Air Division Headquarters with SHAPE. Win set up a number of dental clinics on bases in England, France and Germany and traveled extensively, inspecting those clinics. When Win and Ruth returned to Canada, they spent four years with the army at Base Borden and then moved to Halifax with the navy.

Win Cunningham retired from the Armed Forces in 1964 and returned to London as the director of the London School Board Dental Services. Here he looked after the dental care of children through to the completion of high school. Even Win's old friend, Alex Black, was on staff for a time. Unfortunately, Win's failing eyesight made early retirement necessary. Win and Ruth spent their winters in Florida for 22 years until a respiratory attack forced him to go into hospital in Clearwater. He was transferred home by air ambulance, and died shortly thereafter in February of 2000.

Ruth herself had a heart attack as she was preparing to go to Florida in October of 2003. She is now recovering nicely and is looking forward to having her daughter, Barbara, join her in the London area this summer. Ruth has begun to drive again and is also an avid bridge player. She remembers the fun reunions with the Hong Kong families – the Bushes, Crawfords, Campbells, Denisons, and Blacks among many. One can certainly say that she's had a pretty interesting time of it. May it long continue!

A 3rd Generation Point-of-View

I am the grandson of Maj. Ernest Hodkinson (WG). I joined the HKVCA in 2003. I wrote this article to explain why I got involved.

In June of 1989 my mother and I were standing by my grandfather's bed when he passed away. All I really knew about the life of granddad then was that as a child he had barely survived the pollution in Macclesfield, England; lived through the Depression and had been a Japanese POW in the War.

Two months before, my younger brother, my mom and I visited the Sai Wan War cemetery in Hong Kong. It was Granddad's request that my brother and I be photographed beside some of the headstones of people he had known. He said to my mother, "If I could see my grandchildren there, I might think we'd accomplished something."

He had a metal case with some papers in it and asked my mother to use them to write about his experiences "for the grandchildren." My mom finished it about a year later and it was interesting to read. Actually, I can't remember if I read it right away. At that time I didn't really have much interest in such things.

In January of 2000 I discovered the Internet and was interested in making my own website. I was learning a little about how to make webpages but I had nothing to put on them. So I asked my mom if I could put her book about granddad on the Internet.

Maybe because I had lived a little more, was married and had children, my grandfather's story wasn't just another anecdote from the old days. He wasn't a gray-haired grandfather in 1941. I was now almost the same age as he was (34) when he left to go to HK.

My mom's book mostly quoted other HK veterans because my grandfather didn't keep a diary or write down anything about prison camp. It left me wondering what happened to granddad in HK and what it was all about.

At this point I knew virtually nothing about the war in the Pacific or even Europe, for that matter, except from the movies. I wanted to know how HK fit into the rest of the war so I read a book called "Prisoners of the Japanese" by Gavan Daws.

From the library I started to read whatever was available or could be ordered from other branches. I was a little embarrassed when I went in to pick up "Prisoner of the Turnip Heads."

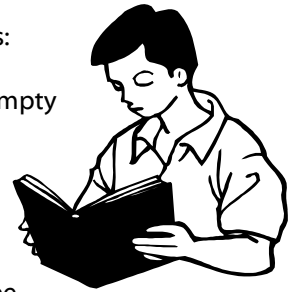
It was a real jolt to read about "Ernie" coming over for a mug of tea with his buddy Maj. Baird in "Letters to Harvelyn." Up until then I had no real picture of my grandfather as a prisoner. Like the good boy scout he was, he got together with Baird, Hook and Bailey and they took turns opening one of their Red Cross cans of bully beef every couple of months, splitting it four ways to make it last longer.

On the Internet I read Ken Cambon's, "Guest of Hirohito." The book made me so hungry I'm sure I gained a couple pounds reading it. But Ken's book left me with another thought. His description of walking through the snow to the coal yards in Niigata for some strange reason reminded me of Canada. And I thought, "That's a pretty good image of what life in Canada would be like now if we would have lost the war." Slaves of Hirohito or slaves of Hitler.

In every veteran's account, I tried to understand their story by imagining what it would have been like to be there myself. I felt very angry sometimes. The war wasn't the blue flag vs the red flag. It was peaceful people defending themselves against an evil empire. The Imperial Japanese didn't just fight battles, they committed crimes. To many of the veterans, my grandfather included, Hong Kong was not just a battlefield, it was a crime scene.

Reading about the HK veterans brought me to a few conclusions:

- Everything is harder on an empty stomach;
- Never take food or your health for granted;
- Good leadership makes a difference;
- Peaceful countries need to be defended;
- Canadians are just as tough as anyone else;
- We tend to forget about our soldiers after the war is won;
- We can't fully understand what a HK veteran went through but we can appreciate their struggle;
- Our soldiers saved the country's life;
- Soldiers are just ordinary men with a little training and a uniform;
- Peaceful people have to learn how to fight a war from scratch every time and make mistakes in the beginning. Warlike people on the other hand, have the whole war planned out before it's even started.



I've really enjoyed becoming part of the "HK family." I'm particularly impressed with how many nice people I've met and how dedicated and professional the leadership is. I went to the Mini-Reunion in Aurora and it felt like a big family get-together, even for a newcomer like me. There seems to be a real bond amongst members of the HK family.

So I didn't join the HKVCA just because of my grandfather, but because I admire all the HK veterans. I'm not impressed any more with people who do things like climb Mt. Everest. But the HK veterans who endured 44 months as Japanese POWs are something to boast about. I remember when I got my first HKVCA membership card. I looked at the HK logo and my name down below it and thought, "Who am I that I should be associated with these men?"

Tim Hodkinson

Wreath Sponsors for 2004 - By Ron McGuire, NE Ontario Area Rep

To assist Area Reps and members, my suggestion for listing wreath sponsors has been accepted and I've prepared this year's list accordingly. I encourage members to lay a wreath honouring our HK Veterans in their community. Many thanks to all those who are supporting this programme. It is just one of the many ways we can ensure our HK Veterans are "Never Forgotten". Next year, please let me know if you are laying a wreath in your community and I will put your name under the appropriate area. Following is the list of Wreath Sponsors for 2004, with the columns of: Sponsor Name, Location and "In Honour of":

1 - CENTRAL & SOUTH EAST AREA		
Muriel Warner	Uxbridge	Leonard Patrick, RRC & All HK Veterans
"Flash" & Jessie Clayton Ken Skelton	Brechin	Because "Flash" represented all HK Veterans at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, he & Jessie asked Ken Skelton to lay the Brechin wreath
Matthew G. Evans	Cobourg	Ellen Evans & All HK Veterans
Fred Mason	Sutton	All HK Veterans
Major John Russell	Kingston	Major Russell was with his father, Albert J. Russell, RRC in Montreal & All HK Veterans
2 - GREATER TORONTO AREA		
Glen Lee & Family	Oshawa	William J. Lee & All HK Veterans
James (Bud) Mann	Markham	All HK Veterans
Barbara & Lacey Montgomery	Ajax	Bob Barter, RRC
Audrey Murray, Dave Murray & Family – Laid by John McCarron	Pickering	Matthew Murray, RRC & Ron Inche, RRC All HK Veterans
3 - NORTH AREA		
Marcine James (Mrs. John)	Barwick	All HK Veterans
Bruce James	Atikokan	All HK Veterans
Jackie Le Drew & Family	Chelmsford	Augustine Cyr & All HK Veterans
4 - NORTH EAST AREA		
Irene Cameron & Sandi Cameron	Nepean	Ken Cameron, RCOG & All HK Veterans
Joanne Parkes	Prescott	Walter Parkes, RRC
Len Cotton	Stittsville	Leonard Cotton, RRC
Wreath laid on behalf of Constance Darling	Trenton	Edward Phillips, RRC
Ken Ewing, RRC & his daughter Ann	Kemptville	All HK Comrades
Michelle Fleming & Leisa Connelly	Orleans	Roger Cyr, RRC
Sheila Forsyth	Metcalfe	Eursal Kaine, RRC & John Kaine, RRC
Natalie Gibb-Carsley & Beverley Willis	Perth	Dr. J. Crawford, RCAMC & Sgt. B.S. Gilbert, RRC
Joy Hodgkinson	Beckwith	R.W. Queen-Hughes, WG
Stanley Lasenba	Smith Falls	Earl Lasenba, RRC
Ron McGuire	Ottawa	All HK Veterans - Nov.10-Medex Nursing Home
	Ottawa	All HK Veterans - Nov.11-11am –Carlingwood SC
	Westboro	All HK Veterans - Nov.11 - 2 p.m.
Laura, Sarah & Jo-Anne Scaffidi	Kanata	Stewart Henderson, RRC & All HK Veterans
As in the past, Conrad Lyons of Greely traveled to Campbellton, NB to lay a wreath with his father, Henry Lyons, RRC	N.B.	All HK Veterans
"Flash" Clayton, RRC assisted by Derrill Henderson-National War Memorial	Ottawa	All HK Veterans
5 - SOUTH WEST AREA		
Wendy Campbell & her mother	B.C.	Howard Naylor, RRC
Grey Fair	Stratford	All HK Veterans
Lillian Gauvin	Kitchener	Albert J. Russell, RRC
Jean Killoran, John Killoran & Janis Jennings	Sarnia	John Killoran, RRC
Dorothy Sauson & Barry Fair	London	All HK Veterans
6 - WEST CENTRAL AREA		
Doug Auld & Family	Oakville	George Auld, WG
Leon Sokalski	Hamilton	George Sokalski, WG & All HK Veterans
Pat Turcotte	Mississauga	Leonard Corrigan, WG & All HK Veterans

Many thanks to all those who laid wreaths this year. May there be many more!

Mini-Reunion 2004

Wow! It was a terrific weekend!

Seventy-five Vets, families and friends gathered at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Aurora on September 24 and 25 for the second Ontario Region HKVA/HKVCA reunion.

The festivities started on Friday evening as the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted a pub night at their beautiful facilities just 5 minutes away from the reunion hotel. With fish & chips for dinner, some excellent (and very funny) musical entertainment, a parade of Veterans and lots of conversation, all of us enjoyed the evening immensely. Many Legion members were there to share the evening with us, and their hospitality was just wonderful.



Our Vets "on parade" at Aurora Legion

Saturday's agenda began with an opportunity to peruse a fascinating collection of Hong Kong memorabilia. Most of it had been assembled by Ken Skelton (son of Veteran Sydney Skelton), but there were also contributions by other HKVA/HKVCA members.

Next was a very moving flag ceremony, including the laying of poppies on the wreath by each of the 15 Veterans present. The business meeting followed, which included a very compelling presentation by Nancy Hamer-Strahl, a teacher from Port Perry, Ontario. She spoke about the great educational experience her high school students had traveling to the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day celebration this summer. She now is planning a similar trip to Hong Kong next year. There is more detail on her story elsewhere in this newsletter.



Sample of memorabilia on display

On Saturday evening, everyone gathered for a Meet & Greet, followed by dinner, where we were officially welcomed to Aurora by Mayor Tim Jones.

After dinner, Pat Turcotte presented several awards, including a very special one to "Flash" and Jessie Clayton to recognize their outstanding contribution to furthering the knowledge of the events of Hong Kong in the community.

Nancy McRae, the Regional Director of Veterans Affairs Canada, brought greetings from the Minister, and spoke about a number of issues concerning our Vets.

The evening closed with a performance from **John Spearn**.



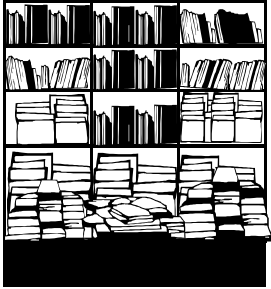
"Flash" and Jessie Clayton receive award from Pat Turcotte

John is a great entertainer and is a nationally recognized songwriter and performer from Edmonton who sings about the exploits of Canada's soldiers. Among the songs he performed was one he wrote especially to commemorate the Battle for Hong Kong, titled "A Hong Kong Christmas, 1941".

It was a great weekend for catching up with each other, and for commemorating our Veterans!

Students Study Hong Kong

The Nancy Hamer-Strahl Project



What could be better for a history student than to actually visit the places where history was made, rather than just reading about it? This past summer, 150 high school students from Port Perry, Ontario had that opportunity, as they traveled to France during the commemoration of the D-Day invasion of 1944.

Before the trip, each of them had learned the story of a D-Day Veteran by researching, and in some cases, interviewing Vets. The students took these stories, along with a time capsule containing a variety of WW II memorabilia, with them to France. They buried the time capsule at the cemetery in Normandy, and were spectators at the events surrounding the D-Day commemoration. The trip received a substantial amount of press coverage, including a CBC story and a documentary on the Rogers network.

Nancy Hamer-Strahl, the teacher responsible for this project, heard a presentation by George MacDonell several months ago. George's story about Hong Kong spurred her to creating a similar project for 2005 - a trip to Hong Kong in November - to coincide with the Veterans Affairs pilgrimage (hopefully in November or early December). As they did for D-Day, her students will each research Veterans' stories before the trip.

More than 70 students have already signed up for the trip, and Nancy expects to have at least 200! This is a very exciting project.

One of our biggest challenges, as an organization, is to keep the story of Hong Kong alive. What better way to help overcome the challenge than to involve today's youth in the Hong Kong experience? And the press coverage that will accompany the project will also contribute.

What can we of the HKVA/HKVCA do to help this project succeed?

We've formed an advisory committee composed of HKVA & HKVCA members, Nancy and one of her teaching colleagues and Asian Heritage Committee co-chair Nancy Siew. We have written to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Deputy Minister, and the Governor General to enlist their support.

A very important element of success will be the students' ability to learn the stories of individual Veterans. Some of these stories are published on the HKVCA web site, others in the Memory Project web site, and still others in various books. But this is only a handful. There are many more stories that need to be recorded, and this is where our membership can truly help.

As each Veteran passes on, a part of our heritage disappears. And this is doubly true if that Veteran's personal account of Hong Kong has not been recorded. We are appealing to our Veterans to talk to us and let us write down their personal stories of Hong Kong and publish them on the HKVCA web site.



Please help. If you're a Veteran please contact **Mike Babin at: 416 239-9192 or via email: msbabin@sympatico.ca** to arrange to have your story recorded.

If you're a relative of a living Vet, please encourage them to participate. And, if you're the relative of a deceased Vet and have a good knowledge of their story of Hong Kong, please contact Mike to tell their story.

This project deserves our support!

Mike Babin

Deputy Director - HKVCA, Ontario Region

National Convention in Ottawa: 2005

Here Ye! Hear Ye!



To all our HKVCA members across Ontario!

We have a very special event planned for you next August.

One that shouldn't be missed!

Ontario is host to all the Regions of the country in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, and V-J Day. Do join us!

When: Friday, August 12
Saturday, August 13
Sunday, August 14

Where: Lord Elgin Hotel
National Arts Centre
National War Memorial
Rideau Hall

The Project Committee in Ottawa has been working for some time, laying the groundwork on behalf of the Ontario Region of HKVCA. The dates were chosen to be as close as possible to August 15th, the 60th Anniversary of V-J Day.

There will be many activities for you to be involved in, including the following:

- Two special meals in the "Tent Room" overlooking the Rideau Canal at the National Arts Centre
- A reception at Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence
- A Commemorative Service at the National War Memorial in Ottawa
- Special entertainment
- A Chat room/a Display room/a Hospitality room
- A number of available sightseeing activities

The Ontario Region is looking for volunteers to assist in a number of areas, before we get to Ottawa, and at the time of the convention in Ottawa itself. The more volunteers we have, the more smoothly the event will run – offer some time, even if you can only spare a couple of hours. Get in touch with **Pat Turcotte at (905) 274-3189, or via e-mail at: petsask@sympatico.ca** or with any of the other members of the Ontario Executive (see the Executive Council listings near the end of the Newsletter) so that you can become involved.

Can you suggest items that would be suitable as small gifts for all the delegates to receive as they arrive that would be representative of Ontario? We're thinking of a special gift bag that they can take away with them. What do think would clearly reflect Ontario (and not be too expensive) that guests to our province could have as a reminder of this very special occasion?

We may well ask other Regions to send along something that would represent the area they come from. What delegates would receive would then reflect not just the province but the country. Whatever ideas you might have, we'd like to hear about them.

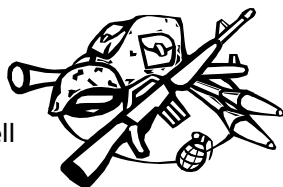
The Ottawa Committee has a number of specific tasks to deal with. Our North East Area Rep Ron McGuire is one of those. Another is Sandi Cameron, our Regional Treasurer who is acting as Treasurer for the Ottawa group, as well as looking after Registration. There are many things to tell you about, and Ron has asked that we pass along this information to you about the Memorabilia area. Ron's message follows. We'll inform you about other details as we get closer to the actual Convention event.

By all means, encourage your family members and friends of HKVCA to come. It will be a very special time!

Memorabilia Room Ottawa 2005 National Convention

Hello, everyone!

I'm acting as Coordinator of the Memorabilia Room. It will have an eight-panel exhibit as well



as a display case of related artifacts.

Everyone is welcome to bring anything "C" Force- related that they wish to have put on display. For security, I will have locking display cases.

Please write or phone me at: 485 Hillcrest Ave., Ottawa, ON K2A 2M8 or (613) 724-3223 **before March 2005** and tell me what you are bringing and the space you will require.

Larger objects and scrapbooks will be laid out on tables so delegates can peruse them. I will have attendants on duty during the hours the room is open. If you wish to volunteer for a few hours, please let me know.

Hope to see you in Ottawa - it will be a great Convention, so do not miss it.

Ron McGuire

North East Area Rep & Ottawa Committee

Recent Happenings of Interest to HKVCA, Ontario Region in 2004

- **Oct/Nov:** Ron McGuire, one of our Ontario members, recently had several articles of interest added to the HKVCA Website.
- **Nov. 2:** Pat Turcotte attended the National Council of Veteran Associations (NCVA) Meeting in Toronto.
- **Nov. 5 & 6:** "Ten Lessons" & "One Soldier's Story" were sold at the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association (OHASSTA) Conference in Toronto. There was considerable interest.
- **Nov. 6:** One of our HKVCA members, Steve Martin, had his "Letter to the Editor" about the Hong Kong veterans (with colour picture and headline) act as the lead letter/article in the Toronto Star that day. Congratulations, Steve!
- **Nov. 8:** Veteran Alfred Babin was featured in Episode 2 of the "For King and Country" series on History Television.
- **Nov. 11:** Hong Kong wreaths were laid by nearly 40 HKVCA members in communities across Ontario.
- **Nov. 11:** On Remembrance Day, there was a front-page article in the Toronto Star with a large colour picture of "Flash" Clayton inside the paper with the remainder of the article. The Metro News' version of the same article had a large picture of George MacDonell on its front page as well.
- **Nov. 11:** "Flash" Clayton, along with Derrill Henderson, laid the wreath honouring the Hong Kong veterans at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

HONG KONG VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION (HKVCA)

- ONTARIO REGION -

2004 BUDGET to ACTUAL as at October 31, 2004

(in \$/dollars)

	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	Totals
Balance Forward			4,329.29
Income			
Membership Dues @ \$15	1,050	1,650.00	
Donations – Charitable Status	2,640	3,442.75	
Donations – General	1,000	507.96	
Donation – HKVA Ontario Branch	-	2,000.00	
Mini-Reunion 2004	4,500	4,016.00	
Ten Lessons – Sales	3,100	1,900.00	
Miscellaneous	100	-	
Bank Interest	-	.06	
- Total Income	12,390	13,516.77	
Expenses			
Corporate Dues @\$10	700	1,100.00	
Mini-Reunion 2004	4,500	5,398.17	
National Convention 2005	1,000	-	
Committee Members	1,700	-	
▪ Regional Director	600	264.61	
▪ Treasurer	300	179.38	
▪ Secretary	200	260.35	
▪ 2 Deputy Regional Directors	200	-	
▪ 6 Area Representatives	400	-	
* Ten Lessons	2,750	2,342.63	
* Newsletters	940	572.73	
* STF – Wreaths	300	128.00	
Bank Charge	-	28.77	
Contingency	500	416.30	
- Total Expenditure	12,390	10,690.94	
Closing Balance			7,155.12

Notes:

- Donation-HKVA Ontario Branch - Funding assistance re 2004 Mini-Reunion
- National Convention 2005 expense to be reimbursed in 2005
- Committee Members - Expenses for items such as telephone, postage, office supplies, copying, etc.
- STF - Wreaths Sponsored by HKVCA-Ontario Region, laid on Remembrance Day to honour HK Veterans deceased in 2004
- Bank Charge - Order of 100 cheques
- Items denoting an asterisk (*) are CRA-approved Projects

Sandi Cameron - Regional Treasurer

31/10/2004

Membership Report: Lori Smith

VETERANS – HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR CHILDREN - ARE YOU A PAID UP MEMBER OF THE HKVCA? IF NOT, WHY NOT!

It is membership time again - time to renew your membership, update our information and time to get our family and friends to join the association. Membership is \$15.00 per calendar year

Who is a member of HKVCA?

- We have various types of membership in the HKVCA. These include the HK veterans, and HK veterans' widows, both of whom do not pay a fee
- We also have a Regular membership, consisting of persons who pay the annual membership dues to the HKVCA

Who can pay a membership?

- Any friend or family member (including the spouse) of the HK veterans

What does membership give you?

- A choice of voting on HKVCA issues
- 2 National and 2 Regional newsletters a year
- A HKVCA decal

What does membership accomplish?

- Maintain and support the connection with the Hong Kong veterans still living and with their widows and families
- Ensure that the service and sacrifice of all Hong Kong veterans involved in fighting for their country will be understood and appreciated by more and more Canadians as time goes on

What does membership cost?

- The yearly membership for HKVCA is \$15.00
- This membership fee is set at the Corporate level - meaning the National Board of directors for the HKVCA decided this amount a number of years ago
- Of the \$15 membership fee, the Ontario Region receives \$5 with the remaining \$10.00 going to Corporate (National) HKVCA
- Our \$5.00 share of the fee is used to cover the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter

Membership details to keep in mind:

- The Association's **Membership Year is January through December.**
- We would request that you **complete the Membership Information form every year in December.** Whether you are a **veteran, a widow, a new or a renewing member**, we need to keep updating our Membership database. We now have over **260 members** in the Ontario Region, and it is important for us to have accurate information about all our members to be able to communicate with everyone.
- **New and Renewing** member dues are **\$15.00** per year.
- **Veterans and widows** do NOT pay dues. Their memberships are **free.**

Membership gives every member the chance to share their concerns and to speak with one voice on behalf of the Hong Kong Veterans. Please take a moment to **COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM on PAGE 17**, and mail it along with your \$15 cheque:

Regional Treasurer: Sandi Cameron, 290 Centreponte Dr., Nepean, Ontario K2G 5Y6
Make Cheque Payable to: HKVCA – Ontario Region

We welcome the following new ONTARIO region HKVCA members who have joined us in 2004:



Susan French (RRC-Allen Harper's daughter)
Stephen James (WG-John James' grandson)
Michael Lang (RRC-Flash Clayton's son in law)
Muriel McDavid (RRC-Clifford McDavid's daughter)
Burke Penny (RRC-Donald A Penny's nephew)
Alan Sandeman (RRC-Lancelot Ross' son in law)
Bernard Turcotte (WG-Leonard Corrigan's son in law)
Bonnie Wagner (RRC - Stanley Sommerville's daughter)

Linda Guglick (RRC - Augustin Cyr)
Kevin Kuhn (RRC - J. Andrew Flanagan's son in law)
Henry Lyons (RRC - veteran)
Denise McLachlan (WG - Peter A. Gelley's daughter)
Tony Reid (Jack Reid's son)
Diana Taschereau (Leslie Warren's daughter)
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Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association of Canada
Ontario Region

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PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM ANNUALLY

(for the purpose of updating our Membership Database)

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Ten Selected Lesson Plans

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Thank you to all those who have contributed so much to the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association, Ontario Region, in the past and have agreed to continue to do so in the future!		