

Annual Meeting Report Prairie Region, July 2020

Prairie Region has 164 regular members, 22 widows and 1 veteran for a total 187 members. We hold regular monthly meetings in Winnipeg with minutes of these meetings distributed to our email members to keep them informed and emails for any extra events or changes as needed. Norma Fuchs had lunch with Ralph MacLean and his family on November 11th, 2019. The gatherings are held in Alberta under the direction of Kathie Carlson and her area reps. Regular quarterly communication is maintained with our members through the national newsletter.

George Peterson celebrated his 99th birthday in February. He is in a care centre and only family were able to attend. His daughters decorated his room including a cake and as with all the Vets at Deer Lodge, he was presented with a quilt with his name on it.

We were saddened to lose some dedicated members since last report:

Helen Trick, widow of Charles R. Trick, WG, on November 18, 2019
Myrtle Lytle, widow of Robert (Bob) Lytle, WG, on November 20, 2019
Anne Richardson, widow of Douglas Moore, WG, on January 24, 2020
Ralph MacLean, RRC on March 14, 2020

From November 2019 until February 2020, Paul Dartnel from Legion 215 made a Remembrance Display for the Battle of Hong Kong which received a lot of interest. I spoke to a couple of groups in November and was the guest speaker at the November 11 service at Charleswood Legion, Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Grenadier Cadets involve us in the review at the Battle of Hong Kong Parade and I was asked to speak to the cadets on December 4th at Minto Armouries.

We advocate for families that have issues regarding the veterans. I commend Veterans Affairs, Last Post and War Amps for their dedication and assistance in resolving these issues.

To date there have been Commemorative plaques dedicated in:

1. Alberta - Cardston, Edmonton, Regina, Calgary Legion, Calgary Col Belcher Home, High River, Red Deer and Medicine Hat.
2. Saskatchewan - Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Estevan. Thank you to Kathie and John Carlson, their family and our HKVCA members in these provinces for their efforts and travel.
3. Manitoba – Swan River, Mafeking, Selkirk, Russell, Winnipeg Neil Bardal Centre, Pilot Mound, St. Laurent Metis Branch, Stonewall Veterans Memorial Sportsplex, Stonewall Quarry Museum, Prince Edward Legion Wpg, Fisher Branch, John Osborn VC ANAF, Portage La Prairie Legion, St. James Legion,

Lundar Legion, St. Lukes Church, Lac du Bonnet Legion, Brandon Legion, Eriksdale Legion and Charleswood Legion. **We have 3 locations on hold due to the virus – ANAF 283 Winnipeg; Carman Legion, Carman, MB; and Sioux Lookout, Ontario.** Thank you to our members for requesting the plaques for their Communities. We continually meet families of our veterans and we have available membership information for them to join.

So, in total, we will have plaques - 8 in AB, 3 in SK and 20 in MB with 3 on hold for a total of 34. Thank you to the Colour Party (Vince, Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor) and Marilyn Gelinis/Marleen Bell and Barry Mitchell and Allan, my chauffeur/husband and all our members for attending the MB plaques dedications. As a result of Dan James posting the events on FB, and Jim Trick on our website we have some excellent coverage of the events.

We have arranged with the Manitoba government to have the HKVA flag fly at the Cenotaph in August and December. Tentatively on November 11 there will be a wreath laid at the Convention Centre with Barry Mitchell and escort Wayne Stebbe. Our members around Manitoba will be laying wreaths also and hopefully pictures will come in to put online or in the newsletter.

Due to the COVID19 virus many events are cancelled or on hold. However, we are waiting to see if something will be held by the Provincial Government on August 15 for VJ Day. We will be inviting our members to gather at the Cenotaph for a brief service, weather permitting.

We will be holding our 75th Annual Meeting in October if permitted by our government medical people with a guest speaker and a reception.

Big thank you to Kathie Carlson for once again being the HKVCA Election Chair. Welcome to Greg Auld, our newest Board member from Okotoks, AB – happy to have you with us.

Respectfully submitted

Carol

Carol Hadley,
Board of Directors - Prairie Region
Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association
www.hkvca.ca