

Flowers bloom in Georgetown to mark 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland

By Martin Boomsma
Special to The IFP

A return to freedom made possible by the Canadian Army 70 years ago is not forgotten by Dutch Canadians living in Halton Hills.

This year marks the 70th anniversaries of the end of World War II and the liberation of Holland. This past May Holland enjoyed major celebrations with over 100 World War II Canadian veterans, all in their nineties, taking part and being recognized and honoured as liberators and heroes.

Halton Hills also remembers.

For the past 20 years the Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee, representing Dutch Canadians, has made special gifts to our community in the form of trees planted in Remembrance Park, a series of memorial plates now displayed in the Civic Centre, a commemorative monument at the Civic Centre entrance and memorial plaques located next to the cenotaph in Remembrance Park. In addition Dutch Canadians have provided the tulip bulbs for Remembrance Park since 1995 as well as main-



Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee member Dale Menken trims the Maple Leaf design under the direction of Nell Ramakers while other committee members Tom Schenk, John Blaauwendraat and Martin Boomsma look on.

Photo submitted

taining the flower beds around the cenotaph.

This year, to mark the 70th anniversary of

Holland's liberation, Dutch Canadians sponsored the refinishing of the arboretum at the

Park and designed the annuals in the flower beds in the shapes and colours of the Canadian and Dutch flags. Each year Dutch Canadians lay wreaths at Glen Williams and Georgetown at the Remembrance Day ceremonies.

It is also 70 years ago that the Dutch Royal family made a gift of 100,000 tulip bulbs to Canada to express appreciation for welcoming this family to reside in Ottawa during the Second World War. A number of Canadian businesses, headed by the Canada Garden Council, this year are donating 100,000 tulip bulbs to organizations in Canada to develop 140 "70th anniversary Dutch Canadian Friendship Tulip Gardens" for next spring. The red and white tulips signify the friendship that exists between Canada and The Netherlands.

The Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee has applied to be part of this project and grow these special gardens in Remembrance Park. You may check the Community Calender in the Independent & Free Press for the various ceremonies connected to this project this fall and next spring.

LEST WE FORGET!

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ANNIVERSARY**

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GENESIS

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**WEATHER PERMITTING;
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**SUNDAY SEPT 20
1PM-5PM
MILLER AND MAIN PLAZA
221 MILLER DRIVE**