

When names become people

A little more than five years ago, I stood in Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holland. It was Wednesday, May 4, 2005, National Memorial Day in the Netherlands.

More than 5,000 people were gathered there, including then-Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, and members of the Dutch Royal family.

I was there as part of a group of like-minded people, observing the 60th anniversary ceremonies of the Liberation of The Netherlands in 1945.

It would be an understatement to say that day changed me.

The Dutch hospitality was impeccable as many veterans attended that day, to honour the things that happened 60 years before.

Even today, the Dutch people still maintain an ongoing love affair with Canadian veterans, since the Canadian troops were the ones who liberated most of the Dutch villages from the clutches of the Nazis.

There are 1,355 Canadian soldiers buried in Holten, and the local Dutch people still recognize those 1,355 every chance they can.

The Dutch school kids place a flower on each individual grave every Christmas Eve, and the finely manicured grounds are nothing short of pristine.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the body overseeing the maintenance of all the cemeteries for Commonwealth soldiers around the world, has done a fabulous job, right down to the inscriptions on the grave markers, explaining who the soldier was, the outfit he was with, and a space for the family to add some comments.

Back here at home, members of the local Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee, many of whom have visited cemeteries in Europe, felt those 67 local war dead whose names are inscribed on the Cenotaph in Georgetown, needed more recognition than simply their name on the Cenotaph.

After some thought and discussion, they decided to add some memorial plaques at the park, which will go one step further in recognizing the 67 war dead.

Ted Brown



The plaque will have the name, registration number, date of death, age and place of burial or commemoration of each of the 67 Second World War troops who never returned from the fighting.

Members of the committee, John Blaauwendraat, Martin Boomsma, Rein Pater, Nell Ramakers and Tom Schenk, have a distinct passion about this project. Many of them were young children in Holland when the Canadian troops arrived to liberate their villages or towns— they know how to properly honour these men.

Personally, I'm delighted to see them take this step, and in doing so, transform those 67 names into 67 people— men who left here to make a difference in the world, and did so by giving their lives.

The information elevates them from being mere names, to becoming sons, husbands and fathers. In doing so, we will know who they were, where they served, and where their final resting place is.

It's an admirable project and I'm pleased to see our local Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee make it happen.

Taking a page from their friends and relatives back in Holland, they are carrying on the tribute to those 67 names.

There will be an unveiling ceremony of the new memorial plaques, Sunday, September 19 at 2 p.m.

I know, after having experienced similar ceremonies in military cemeteries all over Europe, it will be a somber, but poignant moment, as those 67 names once again become more than mere names— they will become 'people'.

And in doing so, once again, "We will remember them..."



“Spaces live. Let me help you live well in yours.”

Catherine Brazeau, *Interior style consultant*
905.877.0296 www.haughtonbrazeau.com

Complete renovation management, colour harmonizing, furniture & accessories selection, lighting advice... and much more! Let's start creating your dream!

VISION 2000
GROUPE VOYAGES • TRAVEL GROUP
CRUISES & VACATIONS
presents

Book a select 2011
Europe Avalon Waterways
European River Cruise vacation
to receive \$750 (air-inclusive)
or \$500 (land/cruise) off per person

SAVE UP TO \$1500 PER COUPLE

VISION 2000 RECOMMENDED ITINERARY
Romantic Rhine | Zürich to Amsterdam
9 days Air-Inclusive or 8 days land only
March 26 & April 01, 2011

328 Guelph St. Georgetown, ON T1C0 Reg #50015325
Georgetown
905-873-2000
Open Saturdays 10am - 3pm
www.vision2000travel.com

VIRTUOSO MEMBER **AVALON WATERWAYS**
SPECIALIZES IN THE ART OF TRAVEL From here, it's another world

Offer available on select cruise departures. Offer is for full cruise/land itineraries, not applicable to cruise only tours. Booking must be made, under deposit, and discount applied before October 12, 2010. Applies to new 2011 departures only and not combinable with any other offer. Offer based on availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Certain restrictions apply - call agency for details. Dates and number of days reflect departure date from Canada.

Four easy ways to sign up for curling at the ACC:

1. Register online via the internet, following the links at www.actoncurlingclub.com
2. Call the New Member Hotline: 1-866-542-0539
3. Email to -- registration@actoncurlingclub.com
4. Come to the curling club in person on Saturday, September 25th -- 10:00am to 3:00pm

Sign up now to ensure your spot at the ACC

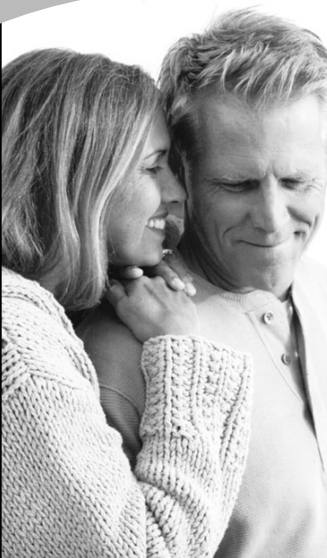
“It's fun throwing rocks at the ACC” **Beginner instruction provided. No experience necessary. New leagues opening.**

Acton Curling Club
242 Churchill Rd N • Acton • 519-853-0110
For more information visit: www.actoncurlingclub.com

Curling season starts October 4th

HEARING SCIENCES

Audiology and Hearing Aid Centre



How do you find the Best Value in Hearing Aids?

Hearing aids are a significant investment in your health. You want to ensure that you will be very happy with your decision for many years to come. At Hearing Sciences, we believe that there are **3 critical steps to a great outcome.** **Step 1** – Comprehensive hearing assessment. **Step 2** – Evaluation of the latest technology in all price ranges to determine which is most suitable for you. **Step 3** – Listening to you and learning about your daily activities to accurately fine-tune your instruments and guide you through the critical adjustment period. You are always welcome to come in for a complimentary fine tuning or cleaning. We want you to have the best hearing possible. The first step to better hearing is a hearing test.

AT HEARING SCIENCES, WE PROVIDE:

- COMPLIMENTARY hearing aid cleaning
- COMPLIMENTARY fine tuning adjustments
- COMPLIMENTARY wax systems
- COMPLIMENTARY cleaning tools
- COMPLIMENTARY open fit domes
- COMPLIMENTARY adaptation programs
- COMPLIMENTARY in-house repairs
- Up to 3 year warranty coverage
- Up to 2 year loss/damage coverage for peace of mind
- BATTERIES for LIFE*
- 30 to 90 day adjustment period and return privilege

*Optional

NEW GEORGETOWN 905-877-0099 211 Guelph St., Suite 1 (in the M&M plaza, across from Winners)

The BRICK.com

BIGGEST TENT SALE

Discontinued Electronics! Scratch & Dent Appliances!

As-is Furniture!

UP TO 90% OFF

Our original price on clearance items in the tent!

ALL 100% LEATHER SOFAS MARKED DOWN INSIDE

2 CHAIRS ONE LOW PRICE!

ALL SAMSUNG TELEVISIONS MARKED DOWN INSIDE

TENT SALE FURNITURE SPECIALS

SAVE \$700

ON THE SIMMONS BEAUTYREST LEGACY FIRM QUEEN SLEEP SET

Look for our flyer in today's paper!

Only in selected areas. See in store for complete details.