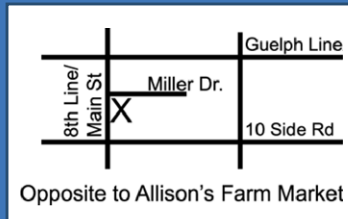




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VE DAY— 70TH ANNIVERSARY GCC memories resound as VE Day celebrates 70th anniversary

By Lois Fraser
Georgetown Children's Chorus

Ten years ago this week, the Georgetown Children's Chorus was in The Netherlands, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland. The first day, we were in a military parade in Nijkerk, sitting in the back of military vehicles while the crowds in the street yelled, "Thank you Canada!" Older Dutch people came up to us, held our hands and expressed thanks. We cried.

We sang at Holten Cemetery, where 1,400 Canadians are buried. Helicopters rained poppies from the sky, as we all struggled to keep our composure. It was raining and a young choir member ran over to a veteran, giving him her umbrella. How sweet! Our youngest members, age nine, presented a wreath at the same time as Victoria Cross recipient Smokey Smith. It was fitting to see their young faces alongside a seasoned veteran. Back home, relatives watched it all via the CBC televi-

sion coverage.

We marched in the Appeldoorn parade and sang for the Dutch Royal Family and Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. We stopped in front of them to sing O Canada and the crowd went wild. It was an amazing trip for 50 young people and their parents, who were ever so proud to be Canadian.



GCC members Amy McConaghy (left) and Laura Collie presented wreaths at the Holten Cemetery. They are now university students.

The Georgetown Children's Chorus is taking 100 singers (plus 50 parents) to France and Belgium in Spring 2017 to sing at Vimy Ridge, Dieppe, Juno Beach, Compiègne Forest, Beaumont-Hamel and the Menin Gate. The trip is open to alumni and will honour the 100th anniversary of Vimy, the 150th anniversary of Canada and the 25th anniversary of the choir. We will always remember.

Candlelight Tribute Silent Walk tonight

Everyone is welcome to join the Georgetown Candlelight Tribute Silent Walk beginning at 7 p.m. from the Legion, down Market, Church and Main Sts. to Remembrance Park. The public is free to join at any point. Candles, \$5 (free for children), will be available at the Legion after 6 p.m. In Acton, the Silent Walk begins 7 p.m. from either Hide House or St. Alban's to the Cenotaph. Daytime events are 10 a.m. in Georgetown and 1 p.m. in Glen Williams.

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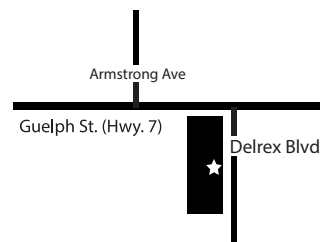
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