

Vimy Oaks saplings planted in Georgetown

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For the Dutch Canadian Remembrance committee, it's all about any token, small or large, that pays tribute to the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers during the two world wars.

While the committee holds official commemorative events every five years, the six members try to perform little gestures each year to show their appreciation, committee member John Blaauwendraat said.

This year, the committee has acquired two saplings from the Vimy Oaks Foundation, both which have been planted in the community - one at Remembrance Park in Georgetown and one at Halton Hills Town Hall.

The Vimy Oaks project was initiated by Ontario resident Leslie Miller who took home acorns he scrounged from the rubble left after the Battle of Vimy Ridge and planted them on a farm in Scarborough, Ont. Now, the saplings of those acorns are being raised.

Along with its goal to distribute the saplings across Canada, the Vimy Oaks Foundation also plans to repatriate some of the trees to the Vimy Ridge site.



John Blaauwendraat/photo

Town of Halton Hills Councillors Dave Kentner and Ted Brown, along with Dutch Canadian Remembrance Committee member Dale Menken, shovel soil onto the base of the Vimy Oaks sapling planted in Remembrance Park.

Blaauwendraat says being the child of Dutch immigrants who lived through Nazi occupation and liberation in the Second World War, this is a small way of honouring the sacrifices made by Canadian soldiers.

"It's something that I can do to help keep the memory alive," he said.

The Dutch Canadian Remembrance committee

held its official Vimy Oaks sapling dedication on June 23 at Remembrance Park in Georgetown.

Local residents are invited to come out and enjoy both trees that have been planted, and for those looking to plant their own, saplings are available from the Vimy Oaks Foundation.

For further information, visit vimyfoundation.ca.

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