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COMMUNITY

GEORGETOWN CADETS RAISING FUNDS FOR TOUR OF HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS

BRYAN MYERS
bmyers@metroland.com

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands, the Georgetown Army Cadets are raising money to visit historic battlefields in Europe. Cadets will spend eight days in Europe and visit landmarks including Flanders Fields, Vimy Ridge and the

Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. "A component of the army cadet program is an appreciation of the Canadian Forces," Mike Cameron, deputy commanding officer with the 676 Lorne Scots. "They're going to get to see some of the historic sites they learn about in school."

When the cadets last visited Europe, the group had researched Lorne Scots who had died on battlefields during the Second World War and placed Canadian flags and cap brass at their names.

"You get to see the scale of what happened," Cameron said. "The bomb craters are still there, the trenches are still there, that brings home the understanding more than they're going to learn in school."

For the 2020 trip, cadets will also research and locate Lorne Scots lost at war.

This year, the group plans to raise funds to offset the cost for cadets. Michele Cameron, 676 support committee chair, said the trip costs about \$3,000 per cadet.

"Even if we raise \$1,000 per kid, it's still a lot of money."

About 25 cadets are expected to participate, out of a total of 100 cadets involved with the 676 Lorne Scots.

For the price, the cadets will spend eight days in Europe touring battlefields with notable Canadian history, in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

To fundraise, the Georgetown Army Cadets are hosting several fundraisers, including a paint night, a poker night and a euchre night.

The cadets meet once a week during the school year, on Wednesday nights, with other events schedule on weekends. About a third of the cadets are female. The program is open to youths between the ages of 12 and 18.

"There are lots of opportunities for cadets, especially the ones that have been here longer," Michele said.

For the first three years, cadets learn to lead, follow and work as a team.

"At age 16, there are a lot of incentives to participate in the community," Michele said. "It's everything you want a teenager to be doing."

"It's a free program," Mike said, adding that uniforms and summer programs are also free of charge.

More information is available at georgetownarmycadets.ca.

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