

MARKING A MILESTONE IN CANADIAN HISTORY

TIME TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM, WRITES MP MICHAEL CHONG



MICHAEL CHONG
Column

Since the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world a few months back, many Canadians have experienced hardship, loss and uncertainty of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War.

As Canadians did back then, we work together and support one another during this time — and thank our front-line workers for keeping us safe.

As our generation meets this challenge, it is good to reflect on one met by a generation 75 years ago.

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. Canadians played a central role in the liberation of the Dutch.

From the fall of 1944 to the spring of 1945, the First Canadian Army led the campaign to liberate the Dutch people from Nazi occupation.

Over 7,600 Canadian soldiers died in the nine months it took to liberate the Netherlands.

Those who fought in the liberation of the Netherlands played a key role in

the final push to end the war in Europe.

In addition to liberating the Netherlands, Canada also provided refuge in Ottawa to Dutch Princess Juliana and her family during the war.

After the war, in appreciation for the Canadian sanctuary, thousands of tulip bulbs were sent to Ottawa.

The gift of tulips has become an annual tradition. Every year the Dutch royal family and the Dutch people send 20,000 bulbs to Canada.

Over one million Canadians of Dutch origin live in Canada, roughly three per cent of the Canadian population. In Wellington-Halton Hills, many can trace their roots back to the Netherlands.

Today, through people and trade the ties that bind Canada and the Netherlands together are strong and enduring.

I have a personal place in my heart for the Canadian war veterans who liberated the Netherlands. Like so many in the local Dutch community, I too have Dutch roots. My Dutch mother and her family lived through the Second World War and were liberated by Canadian soldiers.

We will never forget the sacrifice Canadians made to liberate my family and the Netherlands. We will remember them.

Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills. Visit him online at michaelchong.ca

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SNAPSHOT



Tony Fortunato photo

A chipmunk enjoys a sweet treat in a Georgetown backyard. Do you have a great local photo you'd like to share? Send it to sleblanc@metroland.com, along with a brief description.

OH SO MANY PEOPLE TO THANK

YOUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AND DEDICATION DURING PANDEMIC ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED, WRITES RICK BONNETTE



RICK BONNETTE
Column

I never thought, as mayor, I would ever have to declare a state of emergency. But on March 24, I did.

As much as we are in trying times, I can't think of a better region or town to live in during this pandemic. I give a huge shout-out to all of our health-care workers, police, EMS and fire department. There are so many dedicated employees to make sure we have

regular waste pickups, hydro, water and sewer services.

I thank the many wonderful volunteers and generous community members donating to our food banks.

Thank you to our town staff working to assist others in need. Our grocery stores are well stocked; their employees are doing an excellent job, along with our truckers.

Kudos to companies like Superior Glove for retooling and making personal protective equipment like face shields, gloves and hand sanitizer. More than 100 or so of you sewed gowns and caps for our essential health-care providers.

We are blessed compared to other countries or municipalities going through this pandemic.

Our town is running as normal as possible under these circumstances. Though Town Hall is closed to the public, we are getting business done. We have issued 100 building permits.

I am excited to announce Toromont Cimco is relocating their head office and manufacturing plant to Halton Hills. This will bring in 200-plus jobs.

If you want to keep up-to-date on the town's activity during COVID-19, go to our website: haltonhills.ca. We have a dedicated COVID-19 page, press releases, videos from me and much more.

Every Thursday I co-host a virtual town hall meeting with Brent Marshall. I give the latest decisions, and we have different town staff giving updates from libraries, public works, parks, fire and planning. All meetings are livestreamed and archived.

Happy retirement to Jane Diamanti. Jane has served our town for the past 17 years as chief librarian and commissioner of corporate services.

Rick Bonnette is the Mayor of Halton Hills. Follow him on Twitter @RickBonnette1 and Instagram rick_bonnette1.

ABOUT US

This newspaper, published every Thursday, is a division of the Metroland Media Group Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. The Metroland family of newspapers is comprised of more than 80 community publications across Ontario.

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