

Cadets head to France for D-Day

BY BARBARA KERKHOF

The Acton Tanner

"Approaching the French coast we saw the morning sky alight with rocket salvos, a bombardment from the mightiest naval armada ever assembled in the history of warfare. We could feel the drama that was unfolding that day," says veteran RAF pilot F/Lt. Jimmie Kyle in his autobiography.

These sentiments are being echoed around the world this week as veterans remember the battle that turned the tide of WW II 50 years ago — D-Day.

Though they were born generations after the war ended, three air cadets from Acton's 197 Typhoon Squadron also remembered the momentous day.

WO1 Trish Ellis, Sgt. Matt Andrews and Sgt. Steven Miles, accompanied by their commanding officer Capt. Ed Rulton and Civilian Volunteer Ken Reich, left for France on Saturday to attend ceremonies honouring fallen heroes and living legends.

Rulton has cultivated a close rapport with the surviving members of the original 197 RAF Typhoon Squadron, including Jimmie Kyle, back in England. In 1991, Rulton visited Kyle and they have communicated ever since.

Although the two squadrons are not officially affiliated, they share more than just the same name. They share a bond, almost symbolic of the passing of a torch.

"The Typhoon fighter planes were the most effective tank-



Sgt. Steven Miles, left, flight Sgt. Matt Andrews and WO1 Patricia Ellis were honoured Saturday at the arena before heading to France for D-Day ceremonies. (Lori Frechette photo)

busters in that war," explains Rulton with enthusiasm and not a little pride. "They were low-level bombers, usually flying as low as 50 feet — virtually a suicide mission. It's amazing that any of these pilots are still around! It's a real thrill just talking to them."

This week, the cadets will be the special guests of the 197 Typhoon veterans. They will lay wreaths at the Canadian cemetery in Beny-Reviers and take part in a military vehicle parade in Bayeux.

Ellis, Andrews and Miles were chosen to go on this tour for their exemplary performance. Despite jokes from their peers about only being interested in French women, all three seem earnest about the historical significance of the trip.

"I never really thought about D-Day much, but when we were chosen to go on the trip, the interest came," says Ellis. "We actually get to see a part of history."

The others nod in agreement. "We'll get a better idea of what happened during the invasion," says Miles.

"And get to know more about the people who fought and died there," finishes Andrews.

As well as attending the ceremonies in Normandy, the cadets will take in tours of the landing beaches, castles and museums, attend battle re-creations, concerts and meet with many veterans. Two days have also been allotted to explore the sights and colour of Paris.

Bible School back for July

BY BARBARA KERKHOF

The Acton Tanner

The end of the school year is fast approaching. If you're already trying to think of constructive, interesting things for your kids to do this summer, consider Vacation Bible School.

In the last two or three summers, more than 120 children aged 5 to 12 attended the week-long program and participated in games, made crafts, learned songs, and met new friends.

The program is run jointly by the Beth-el Christian Reformed Church and the Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle and has steadily gained a reputation for an excellent curriculum.

"The theme this year is built around Son-Country Farm," explains Diane Leferink, one of the VBS co-ordinators. "The curriculum will revolve around the fruits of the Spirit like faith, hope, love, joy, kindness and so on."

To illustrate the lessons, the two churches will be decked out with farm yard paraphernalia.

Though the VBS program is meant to be fun, the children also benefit from positive rein-

forcement and the wisdom and morals of Christian leaders.

"Through song, stories and crafts we want to teach more about God and the Bible and to send a message of hope to the kids of today's society," says Leferink.

The children are encouraged to carry what they have learned beyond the VBS program. Follow-up information is accessible to both the kids and their parents if they are interested.

Church bulletins, newsletters and standing invitations to worship services are always available.

Due to the overwhelming demand in the past, the co-ordinators are urging parents to pre-register their children. Pre-registration is June 14 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Beth-el Christian Reformed Church (at Churchill Road and Hwy. 7).

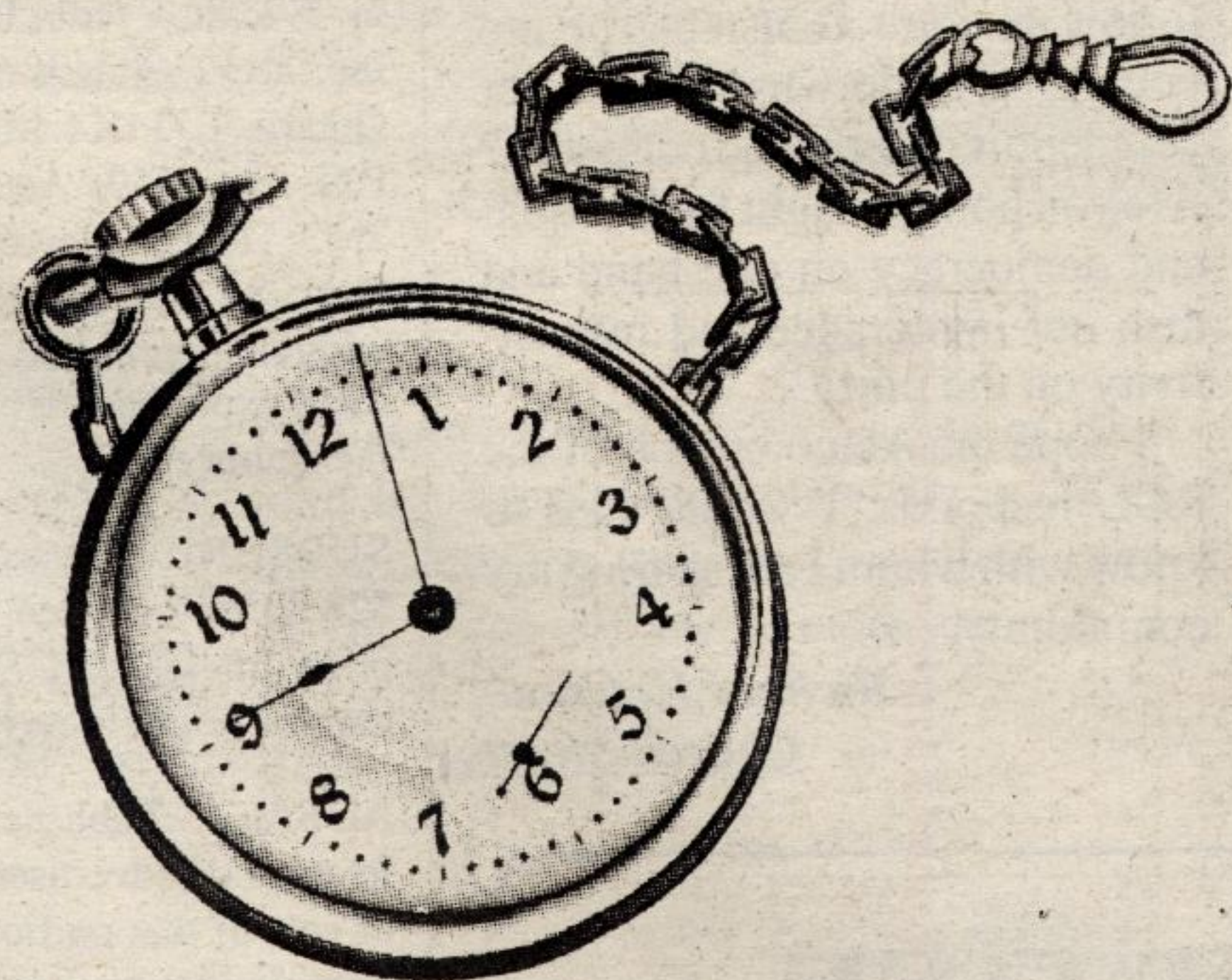
The VBS program will run July 4 to 8, 9 am to noon. The cost is \$2 per child or \$5 per family.

For more information, contact Diane Leferink at 853-4493 or Barb Van Giessen at 853-1675.

ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE IN THE TANNER! 853-5100

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

LET'S GO BACK IN TIME AT
THE GEORGETOWN
MARKETPLACE



ANTIQUE SHOW
JUNE 8 - 11

GEORGETOWN
MARKETPLACE