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Keeping the memory alive

by Deborah Quaille

Martin Boomsma and Tom Schenk want to keep the memory alive.

The Georgetown residents, along with Verstraete Travel, have been working on a special tour to Holland, Germany, Belgium and France (Normandy) to renew relationships with Canadian veterans who made sacrifices for their freedom.

On this exciting trip to Europe, the tourists will see and experience the places where Canadians fought and died. From May 2 to 16, their days will be filled with sightseeing, memorial services, special receptions, a two-hour Rhine cruise, shopping and more.

Special focus will be on the exploration of Normandy, with its beaches and memorials. A visit to the Canadian and American war cemeteries as well as the Juno Beach Centre in Courseulles-sur-Mer are also highlighted. The Juno Beach Centre, a Canadian memorial/education base, is being built where the Canadian troops landed on D-Day. (The official opening of the centre is June 6, 2002).

This is the first year for the men and their wives to host such a tour. It all started with a millennium project - the renovation of Halton Hills Remembrance Park, when a few people who were working in the gardens mentioned how they'd love to see where their fami-

ly members fought or died in Europe. With that germ of an idea, Mr. Boomsma and Mr. Schenk blossomed with the concept of a trip.

"There are 52 passengers including ourselves," Mr. Boomsma said. "I was born and raised in Holland, and I was eight when the war was over and we were liberated by Canadians.

"When we were working with other people at Remembrance Park, we told stories about what we knew about the war. We had so much information some of the people said, 'Why don't you take us over there?' So we sat down with a travel agent, Verstraete, that has good contacts in Holland with veteran's tours. They made a good offer on hotels, a tour bus, and the itinerary. With their assistance we'll have a lot of personal contacts in Holland - and we'll be taking part in ceremonies there."

As the group arrives in Keukenhof on the morning of May 3, they will first view the spring bulb gardens there, a welcome part of the Dutch landscape.

May 4 is Remembrance Day in Holland and the tour participants will be taking part in a memorial service in Holten by gathering with the official party there and other Canadians.

They will also take part in a local Remembrance Service with a silent walk to war graves in the evening. May 5 is Liberation Day,

when the group will be received and hosted by local citizens in Ermelo. In Wageningen - where the armistice was signed on May 5, 1945 - some of Georgetown veterans were part of the guard of honour at that time.

The following day, they will be visiting a former concentration camp and battle area where a Georgetown boy was killed.

The widow of one veteran will be taken to the spot where her husband was wounded in Scheld during the fall of 1944. Many of the stops on the trip will include World War I areas, like Vimy Ridge and Ypres.

The trip will be packed with history and emotion, and will also provide a time of healing for many relatives and friends who have memories tied to the areas visited, or lost loved ones during battle. But tucked among the emotional experiences will be beauty and peace. As the group leaves for Germany, for example, they will be departing via the Rhine Route with a two-hour cruise on the most scenic part of the Rhine.

"The last day will be spent in the Amsterdam area for some special events. We will have lots to see and do but I hope we won't be too busy for people to have time to themselves. Some people will be in their 80s so we don't want to tire anybody out too much."

Both Mr. Schenk and Mr. Boomsma thank their wives, Riet and Helen, who have assisted with the development of the trip.

"We're going to have a special jacket with a big maple leaf to identify us as a group of Canadians," Mr. Boomsma says.

"It is absolutely exciting. I have been researching since 1988 and we'll be able to share the information with the people attending the trip. One woman from Hamilton will be going to see the grave of her brother for the first time. We've met with her since and read the war diary of the regiment he was with, and seen the monument picture with her brother's name. I translated information from a Dutch article about the monument dedicated in 1995."

Hopefully this trip of a lifetime will not be the only one that Martin Boomsma and Tom Schenk will lead for Canadians eager to experience the first and second World Wars in Europe.

For more information on the Juno Beach Centre visit www.junobeach.org.

Tooth Chatter



by ALEX TRENTON, DENTURIST

Missing Teeth?

Even though you have done your best to look after your natural teeth, there eventually comes a time when you may need them extracted, for various different reasons. If this happens, the tooth or teeth should be replaced, not only to restore your smile, but to regain chewing and prevent other teeth from shifting.

There are three main types of artificial teeth and each one is designed for a particular situation. They are: dental implants, removable dentures and fixed bridges.

A dental implant is made by surgically placing one or more small metal posts beneath the gum into the jawbone and the artificial tooth or teeth attach to them.

A fixed bridge is a replacement that is cemented to the adjacent teeth and cannot be removed.

A removable denture replaces all of the lost teeth in the arch with one appliance. A partial denture is held in place by clasping some of the remaining teeth, and a full denture is held in place by suction or by sitting on the ridges.

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