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Guilders provide a timeless link between soldier, Dutch friends

Two Dutch guilders, worth less than a dollar (Cdn.), have become priceless war mementoes for two Dutch families and the family of a Glen Williams soldier who helped liberate them 57 years ago.

On April 17, 1945, the Perth Regiment of Canada liberated the town of Harderwyk in central Holland. Among the Canadian soldiers was Clarence Beaumont of Glen Williams who befriended a local family, the Banninks.

Three days later, and one day before the soldiers left the area, four members of the Bannink

family gave Beaumont their names and addresses written on a Dutch paper guilder (the guider has now been replaced by the Euro). Among those signing the monetary note was 10-year-old Joop Bannink, the only remaining living member of the family.

Days later, on April 23, 1945 Beaumont and the rest of the Perth Regiment arrived in the area of Holwierde (Delfzyl Pocket), a small village, to fight one of the last battles in the liberation of Holland. While there, an 18-year-old girl, Jantje Kalk, signed another guilder and gave it to Beaumont.

Five days later, as the war wound down, Beaumont was killed in action.

The guilders, which were printed in 1938, along with Beaumont's personal possessions, were sent to his mother in Glen Williams. The possessions eventually became the property of Beaumont's brother, Del



Martin Boomsma, one of the organizers of last spring's Keeping the Memory Alive tour of Holland and France, presents a Dutch guilder to Jantje Kalk during the tour's stop in Holwierde. Kalk had given the guilder to Canadian soldier Clarence Beaumont in 1945 during the Liberation of Holland. Days later Beaumont, from Glen Williams, was killed in action.

Photo courtesy Martin Boomsma

and his wife Ethel.

This past May, the mayor of Ermelo and members of the Ermelo Male Choir, which visited Georgetown in May 2001, hosted the Canadian Keeping the Memory Alive tour group.

At the request of Georgetown residents Tom and Riet Schenk, two of the tour leaders, their Ermelo hosts were able to track down Joop Bannink and present him with the guilder that bore his name from 57 years earlier.

Bannink recalled the Canadian soldiers billeted in a large tent across the street from his family's home and remembered Beaumont as a friendly

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Jantje Kalk of Holland signed this guilder and gave it to soldier Clarence Beaumont, of Glen Williams in 1945.

Non-contact hockey game turns ugly Player charged after opponent's ankle crushed

Halton Police have charged a Georgetown man after a violent altercation at a non-contact hockey game at Alcott Arena Tuesday night.

Police say during a game between two teams in the Halton Hills Men's Non-Contact Hockey League two opposing players received numerous penalties for repeated physical contact and fighting.

After three penalties each, both players were ejected from the game.

As they were both leaving the ice, one man slammed the heavy rink door on the other play-

er's right ankle, crushing it, and causing him to lose his balance. The victim was then punched in the face, suffering a broken nose.

The 38-year-old Georgetown man was transported to William Osler Health Centre's Georgetown Hospital campus then transferred to the Brampton Memorial Hospital campus where he had surgery for a broken ankle.

The incident was reported to police Wednesday morning and a Georgetown man was charged Wednesday afternoon.

Charged with aggravated assault is Rodger Terry Noakes, 41, of Chester Cr.



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