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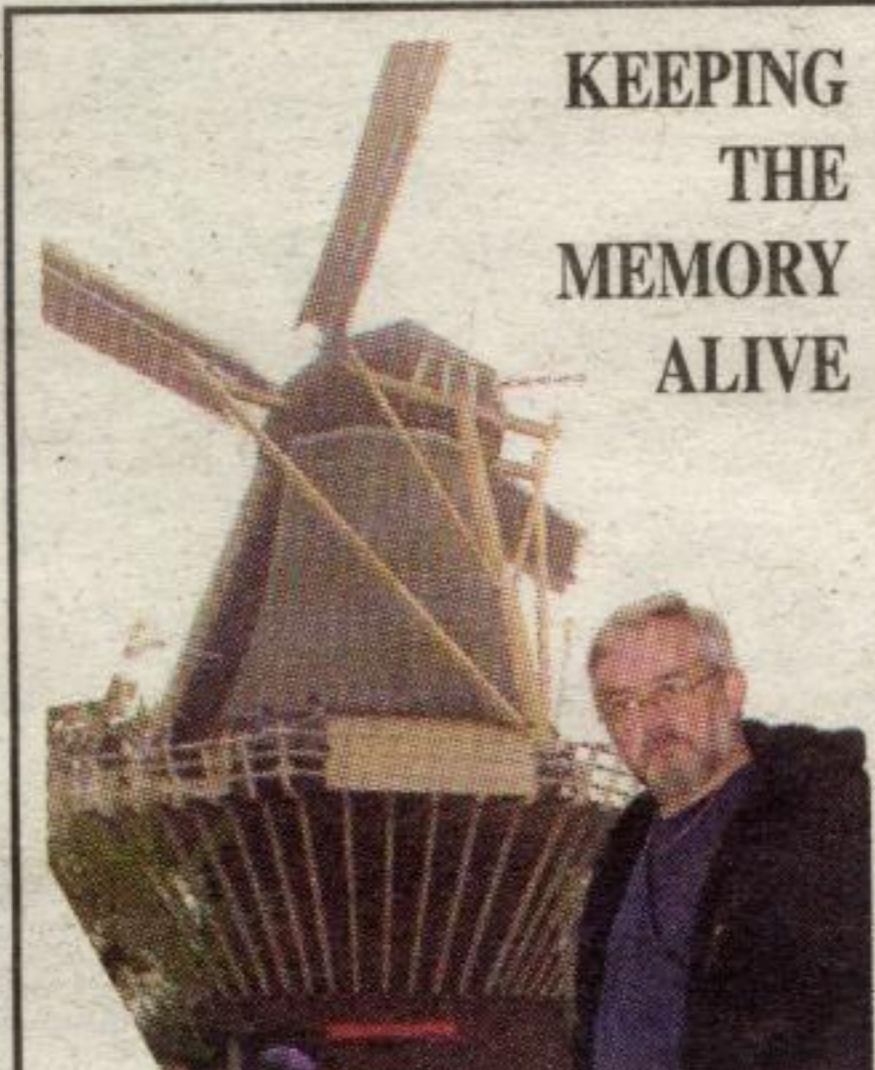
Local veterans 'overwhelmed' by remembrance service in Holland

The mood was somber, yet reflective, as Georgetown veterans, along with more than 8,000 people, converged on Holten Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands Wednesday, to take part in the the 60th anniversary of The Liberation of The Netherlands service.

The three veterans—Shell Lawr, Orval Paul and former Halton Hills resident Barbara (Cousins) Duncan—are part of the Keeping the Memory Alive tour of Holland, France and Belgium, hosted by Martin Boomsma and Tom Schenk of Georgetown.

The trio placed wreaths at the Memorial and attended the service, which included an address from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

As Clarkson was leaving the official ceremony, she stopped for a few minutes to chat with Paul, who was delighted with the honour.



KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

...Ted Brown in The Netherlands

"It was great, really special," said Paul, "She stopped and shook my hand and we talked for a couple minutes."

The ceremony was part of The Netherlands Remembrance Day services, which is observed May 4, instead of November 11, like British Commonwealth countries.

Barbara Duncan, daughter of First World War veteran Lt. Col. G.B.S. Cousens, for which Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Georgetown is named, was also moved by the event.

"It was so overwhelming," said Duncan, "Such an emotional event, and it was such an experience, taking it all in."

The service included the traditional *Last Post* and *Lament* with a minute's silence, as well as performances by Georgetown Children's Chorus on the steps of the Memorial, situated on either side of the honour guard.

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Georgetown veterans Shell Lawr (centre) Orval Paul (right) and former Halton Hills resident Barbara Duncan, (now of Victoria, B.C.,) stood before the Holten Canadian War Cemetery memorial as they laid wreaths during the national Liberation of Holland ceremony Wednesday in The Netherlands. (Left) Paul was delighted to chat with Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson at the service which marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers. More coverage pages 7, 8.

Photos by Ted Brown

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