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## Dutch-Canada love-in continues



Georgetown's Shell Lawr was among the many Canadian veterans who rode along the route of the liberation troops in Liberation Day parade activities in the town of Vorden, in The Netherlands Thursday. Following the parade, the veterans were all taken to a reception, where they enjoyed a dinner and entertainment courtesy of the people of Vorden. (Right) Dave and Connie McMenemy of Georgetown safely leave the coach after Passchendaele Fire Department staff helped them off the bus which slid off the road Monday in Belgium. Photos by Ted Brown

### Even accident can't dampen spirits

For the second time since October of 1917, a group of Canadians faced danger on the Passchendaele Ridge in Belgium, just outside of the town of Ieper.

Around noon Monday, a Dutch OAD tour bus carrying 54 members of the Keeping the Memory Alive tour group slid off the road, into the ditch and came to rest at a 45-degree angle with the front wheel about a metre in the air.

But unlike the bloody First World War battle of 1917, when thousands of Canadians were killed, the local group, many of them from Halton Hills, emerged unscathed from the situation.

The coach was driving down a narrow road on the Passchendaele Ridge, ironically named the Canada Laan, (Canadian Lane) just after the group had visited the Tyne Cot British War Cemetery and was en route to the village of Passchendaele to look at other memorials.

As the coach negotiated the narrow road, the rear wheel of the bus caught

the edge of the pavement, and with the soft shoulders along the edge of the road, the rear wheels of the bus were pulled into the deep drainage ditch along the narrow road, and the bus eased over sideways, coming to rest on its right side at a 45-degree angle.

After calling emergency services, the driver instructed the passengers to remain still on the bus until the local Passchendaele Fire Department arrived to assess the stability of the bus before evacuating the vehicle.

Tour guide Martin Boomsma of Georgetown was pleased with the way things were handled.

"I have nothing but praise for Marcel, our driver, for the way he handled the situation," said Boomsma.

"He immediately took control, and asked the passengers to sit tight, in spite of the fact the bus had quite a lean to it. It could have been so much worse, but he was completely in control."

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