



As part of the Act of Remembrance at Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery near the Juno Beach Centre in France, Keeping the Memory Alive tour participants Alison Murray and Ted Brown read the honour roll as part of the ceremony. Photo by Dick Scheeringa

Visit to battle sites reinforces belief we must never forget

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Today the beaches at Normandy are quiet and relaxed with a seaside resort feel about them. But 61 years ago, the feeling was so much different. Thousands of troops landed there as Operation Overlord marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

I also saw Omaha Beach, where the American forces faced incredible firepower as they landed on the wide open beach. As I stood at the top of the beach and looked down, I could only imagine the intense fire they faced, while attempting to scale the hills.

At the same time, my mind imagined the fear that must have struck deep into the hearts of the German soldiers on the top of the bluffs, as the wall of invading troops advanced upon them.

I walked among the grave markers of soldiers long gone in cemeteries with more people in them than the present population of Acton.

Most were in their 20s. It was so sad.

War is hell, that is a given, but seeing the precise locations where these events unfolded only reinforces my conviction that we should never forget what happened at places like Vimy, Ypres, the Somme, Dunkirk, Dieppe and the beaches of Normandy—all in the name of freedom and maintaining the rights and dignity of all the free world.

The Keeping the Memory Alive

tour has been a revelation for me. It has made me realize how precious our freedom is, and, in spite of the fact the actions were more than 6,000 kms away from our comfortable beds in Canada, the costs that those veterans, both living and dead, have paid, are more significant that we will ever know.

I thank my friends Martin Boomsma and Tom Schenk for convincing me to join them on this quest, and I acknowledge Verstraete Travel of Ontario and Oad Coach Lines of the Netherlands for a virtually seamless trip. I also salute our driver Marcel, for his outstanding care and concern for all members of the tour.

And last but not least, I thank my colleagues, now my friends, who shared the magic with me during this past two weeks as we collectively experienced the scenes behind the stories of the major historical events that have shaped our countries, and our lives, forever.

I only have a couple of small observations.

The Netherlands, Belgium and France have great food, culture and hospitality, but there are a couple things that could make them perfect.

The Netherlands need to import bigger beer glasses and coffee cups, while the French need to make softer buns.

And Belgium? Well, in a country in which you can buy both beer and chocolate in the same store... it just can't get any better than that.

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NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

Beginning the week of May 16th and continuing throughout the summer, the Halton Region Health Department will apply larvicide to standing water on public lands under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Bob Nosal.

Monitoring of standing water has indicated that mosquito larvae are present. Larvicide will be applied by a licensed applicator contracted by the Region. Larvicide will be used to control mosquito larvae in order to reduce the incidence of West Nile virus in Halton.

A granular formula of the larvicide Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), Aquabac 200G, registration number 26863, will be placed in affected standing water on public lands in urban areas in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. Signs will be posted at each location indicating when the larvicide was applied. For the locations and dates of treatment, please visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health. For more information about West Nile virus, please call the Halton Region Health Department.

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REQUEST FOR TENDER

Bid documents for the services listed below, addressed to the Manager of Purchasing, 1151 BRONTE ROAD, OAKVILLE, ON L6M 3L1 will be received until 2:00 p.m. Oakville time on the specified closing date. Bid documents can be seen or obtained through the Purchasing Division of the Corporate Services Department, same address as above, telephone 905-825-6000, extension 7011. If long distance charges apply, dial toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Documents will be available for pick up on and after May 9, 2005. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$26.75 (includes GST). Bidders who request documents to be shipped from the Purchasing Department must include a handling fee of \$10.70 (includes GST) for this service. Please be advised that this particular bid document is also available for purchase and download from the Region website at www.region.halton.on.ca/shop

Bids will be opened in public at 2:15 p.m. on the closing date specified in the Nelson Room at the above address. Those submitting bids are invited to attend.

Under no circumstances will facsimile or late bids be accepted or considered.

Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Halton Region relies on this advertisement to provide public notice of this business opportunity and is not obligated to notify any potential bidders in any other manner.

T-015-05

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CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY MAY 24, 2005

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