

Opinion

Let your joy break loose May 8 for VE Day

Fifty years later and the war to end all wars is stirring the sea of memory.

Thursday, members of B'Nai Brith Canada joined with communities around the globe to read the millions of names of men, women and children who were victims of the Holocaust.

The program, Unto Every Person There is a Name, also pays tribute to the allied armed forces who risked their lives to liberate the concentration camps.

This week 50 years ago, laughing groups of soldiers opened the gates to emaci-



Viewpoint

Jo Ann Stevenson

ated survivors.

Victory was sweet indeed. Local veteran Bob Foster recalls a victory flight flying low to drop care packages into a remote area. He saw a young woman waving at him from a bridge, her hair flying free in the breeze - a memory he cherishes.

My dad Ernie Moulard flew in RAF squadron 111 and was thrilled to be included in a newly released best selling book from Iceland, *Dancing in the Skies*, written by the only Icelander in the service. Another creative expression of remembrance comes from Polish composer Henryk Gorecki who uses violins and the voice of Dawn Upshaw to carry the listener from Holocaust to hope in *Symphony Number Three*.

It won't be hard to relive that awesome moment 50 years ago May 8 when

every radio peeled peace, church bells rang, cars honked, sirens sounded.

Canada Remembers, under Veteran's Affairs Canada, is aiming for a recreation of that outbreak of joy. Radios will once again signal this expression, and at a countdown to noon feel free to sound horns, bells, sirens for two minutes. Be exuberant. Be grateful. Be public. Be proud.

It's for those 45,000 servicemen and women who never returned home and it's for our fine free country, Canada.

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Pet names run in cycles

I've always thought a dog lover was a dog that was in love with another dog.

James Thurber

Ah, Thurber, thou shouldst be living at this hour.

The 1990's are curb to curb and chock a block with dog lovers, all of them two-legged. Why, just this week I've seen a Bouvier with a red bow on its head, a poodle with — I swear — pink fur and a low-slung mutt of indeterminate origins wearing plastic booties on its paws.

We have strange ways of showing our love, we dog-lovers. For one thing we name our canines. Nomadic Indians used to keep dogs, but they didn't waste their breath naming them. Same with the Inuit — you think all those ravaging teams of barely domesticated huskies answered to sobriquets like Rover, Spot and Lassie?

I personally am responsible for giving the world pooches called Willie, Sniper, Duchess, Toke (It was the 60's), Angus, Beulah, and my current resident canine free-loader and layabout, Rufus.

I thought a background like that might give me special insight into the Dog Name Game. Until I heard about Bairbre O'Malley. Ms. O'Malley is a veterinarian who practices in London, England and has done so for the past 15 years. Not only does she see a lot of pets that go by a lot of different names, she claims that she can see developing trends in those names. "In the 80's" says O'Malley, "the ultimate fashion accessory was the 'Yuppie Puppy'."

She says back then, her waiting room was full of cats named Puma and Reebok, plus upscale dogs that answered to names like Gucci, Dom Perignon and Ralph (as in Lauren). She says that 10 years ago, her dog patients let her know who the top dogs were in Hollywood, as well. In fact, she thinks Arnold Schwarzenegger may be the most popular source of most macho dog names — Arnie, Schwartz, Conan and Terminator to name just a handful. "We saw lots of bull terrier puppies called Rocky and



Basic Black

Arthur Black

Rambo...but now these dogs are middle-aged, running to fat and hobbling in for arthritis tablets".

As for more 'sensitive' breeds — poodles, whippets, afghans and the like — Ms. O'Malley says snooty names such as Oberon, Heathcliff and Wellington are not nearly as popular as they were a decade ago. "In the gritty Nineties, you're more likely to meet a Bottom, Scud or Mutant."

High Fashion has left its mark on feline nomenclature. Bairbre spends a fair bit of her working day giving shots to Burmese and Siamese sporting names like Linda and Cindy. Twiggy, she says, is fast becoming a classic for long lean kitties that look like they could use a good meal.

Oh, and if you were wondering about pet names and the Information Highway, fret no more. Ms. O'Malley says 90's dogs and cats are 'on line'. "Virus, Apple and Mac are very common these days. I even ran into a ginger tom called WordPurrrfect."

Some pet owners are so computer savvy they can switch filenames if necessary. When Chippie, a German shepherd pup remained a runt due to a hormone deficiency, the owner blithely switched his name to Microchip. Ms. O'Malley's favorites? Well, there was the three-legged cat found abandoned in a phone booth. His foster parents christened him Tripod. And there was the tortoiseshell who was a champion mouser. They called him Cornflakes, because he was a 'cere-al killer'.

Then there was the spoiled Pekingese who never left his owners arms. Her name, Laptop, of course.



Adam

by Brian Basset

