

# Dutch treated vets 'as cherished friends'

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and Mechanical Engineers. In addition to being a unit soldier, he repaired clocks, watches, gun sights, binoculars and other instruments.

"We were also used as an active fighting troop," he said.

Mr. Jacobs' war experience took him to England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Air raids in England were especially frightening, he told students.

"Families had to sleep in bomb shelters, as most raids were at night," he said.

His unit landed at Juno Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

"As an active duty unit, we were always close to action," Mr. Jacobs said. "Our workshop was open 24 hours a day and we picked up our rifles for battle when called.

"In one area where we set up our workshop, there were many dead. We had to work around bodies. We had to dig foxholes."

The Dutch people were "very lucky" to have Canadians liberate his homeland, exchange student Rogier Borghans, 15, said. Fellow Dutch student Leroy Toonen, 16, said he appreciates everything the Canadians did in Holland.

"I hope if help is needed again, we can count on the Canadians,"



PHOTO/TOM BARNETT

Second World War veteran Murray Jacobs is joined by Markham District High School students Leroy Toonen, Rogier Borghans, Josh Brooks and Tatjana Gnozdanovski.

Leroy said.

Markham District High School Grade 11 student Josh Brooks was touched by Mr. Jacobs' account of the war, especially the liberation of Holland.

"My grandparents are from Holland," he said. "They were there during the war."

Hearing from war veterans is important, Grade 10 student Tatjana Gnozdanovski, 15, said. "It's good to know about our past, especially the history of Canada,"

she said. "It's good to educate students about the war."

Thousands of Canadians, including Mr. Jacobs, went to Holland in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the liberation.

"Wherever we went, we were treated as cherished friends," Mr. Jacobs said.

"The people stood with their hands extended to touch the veterans marching by. Some veterans carried canes, some were in wheelchairs, some were on trans-

port vehicles because they couldn't walk. They all carried themselves with dignity."

Mr. Jacobs, a Toronto resident, spoke as part of the Memory Project, sponsored by the Dominion Institute, which promotes Canadian history.

"We are now an average age of 83," Mr. Jacobs said. "Our numbers diminish. Memories fade. As a member of the Memory Project, I am thankful for the opportunity to tell my story."

# Funding must change: union

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for example, are getting in the guidelines and we believe we deserve a little more than what is being offered."

The workload issues are likely to be solved at the local level, he said.

"The York teachers have now joined with a growing list of OSSTF bargaining units across Ontario. Central to this is the fact that the new Liberal government, which promised peace and stability, must come to realize that they cannot achieve this with existing funding or through a Tory funding formula constructed by the previous government," Mr. Harrison said.

While not guaranteeing there will be no strikes or slowdowns by local educators, Mr. Harrison is optimistic level heads will prevail.

"The York (Region District School) board has been very co-operative in dealing with us," he said. "If talks continue to progress in a positive nature, there will not be the need for job sanctions."

York Region District School Board spokesperson Ross Virgo is also hopeful.

"We continue to have positive dialogue with OSSTF District 16 and look forward to a resolution to all issues," he said.

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