



**LIBERATION 1945 - 2017  
72 YEARS OF FREEDOM**

**CANADA 1867 - 2017  
150 YEARS OF FREEDOM**

**DUTCH - CANADIANS  
REMEMBER AS ONE**

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 08 2017**

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON**

March 3, 2017.

Dutch – Canadians – Remember as One,  
202 – 250 Hincks Street,  
Goderich, Ontario.  
N7A 3E1.

Ms. Kathy Adams – Clerk,  
The Township of North Huron,  
P.O. Box 90,  
Wingham, Ontario.  
N0G 2W0.

Dear Ms. Adams,

The Dutch – Canadians – Remember as One committee is respectfully asking for the opportunity to make a presentation at your Council meeting of Monday March 20, 2017.

We are inviting this Council to join on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at Liberation Memorial Park in Goderich.

The planned events and celebrations will be commemorative in nature and we will honour, remember and respect the twenty fallen men from Huron County who paid the supreme sacrifice during the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944-1945. As well we will honour and remember the 7,600 Canadians who lost their lives during this campaign.

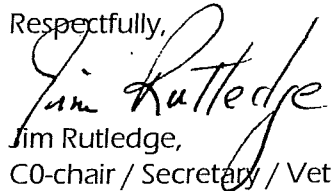
There will be a commemorative / memorial plaque unveiled in Liberation Memorial Park and this plaque will have the names of the twenty men from Huron County engraved on it. We will also unveil new signs and the park will be re-dedicated at this time. There will also be a parade with 24+ military vehicles from the World War II era. There will also be a concert with the Royal Regiment of Canada along with pipers of the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada performing their Liberation of the Netherlands concert. To close out the day there will be a reception with our special guests being our veterans, our youth, invited dignitaries and guests.

**NETHERLANDS – CANADA  
TWO COUNTRIES ONE SPIRIT  
LIBERATION – HONOUR – REMEMBRANCE  
WITH OUR VETERANS AND YOUTH  
[www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca](http://www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca)**

We are respectfully asking for Council's support in this venture in the amount of \$760.00 and our committee members will answer any questions that Council may have of us.

I am respectfully asking Council to look favourably on this letter and am looking forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Respectfully,



Jim Rutledge,  
CO-chair / Secretary / Veterans.

519 524 1808

bookofhonour3946@gmail.com

# Dutch-Canadians Remember as One – Goderich 2017

## Invitation extended to Princess Margriet of the Netherlands

### Updated Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

#### Introduction...

A backgrounder on our committee and a history past projects is available at [www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca](http://www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca)

Our committee has worked with Ottawa and the Netherlands embassy to encourage a visit to Goderich by Princess Margriet of the Netherlands. We have been informed by the Ambassador of the Netherlands that in mid to late May the Princess will be in Canada, and our committee will be receiving a visit to Goderich by embassy staff in the near future. We take this to be an unofficial indication that a visit will be forthcoming.

#### Highlights of this Project...

- A visit to Goderich, Ontario at a date in May yet to be determined in 2017, by Princess Margriet.

#### **Memorial Aspects of the Project**

- We wish to lay plaques and rededicate the Liberation Memorial Park. We are submitting several plaque designs. Included is a design similar to one which resides in Holland, marking the time and place of the German surrender to the Canadian First Army.
- The park will be furnished with two styled signs to be visible from the busy roadway on Highway 21, to draw attention to the park, the plaques and the symbolism of the park features, including the fountain and pavilion structure.
- Included in the signage package is a sign that displays a QR code link into a revamped website that tells the story of the Dutch liberation, the 20 Huron County veterans who died in the Dutch campaign, and the story of the park. The website will inform, educate and engage park visitors on online searchers who wish to learn more about Canada's role in the Liberation of Holland. (see website development plan)
- The presentation of a scroll of original heraldic artwork, signed by Princess Margriet, will be presented by the Princess to Goderich officials for display in Goderich Town Hall. Copies of the signed scroll will be framed and distributed to officials from participating military units, sponsors and organizers.
- ***The Dutch-Canadians Remember as One website:*** A revamped website to act as a repository of information, media and research regarding the Liberation campaign. This includes an area that recognizes each military unit that participated in Liberation Campaign, with space available to tell their story.
  - For Dutch immigrants to post war Canada, a blog will be made available for them to post their family's story, including their war experience as well as their

family's experience in Canada. The intention is to establish a legacy of information to bring to life the impact the Liberation has had, even to this day.

- A biographical area for each of the 20 Huron County war dead from the Dutch Liberation Campaign.
  - The website will be search engine optimized and accessible in three languages, French, English and Dutch.
- **Heroes of Huron Website** – [www.heroesofhuron.com](http://www.heroesofhuron.com) (phase two): Opinion has been strongly expressed that we should not be ignoring Huron County war dead from other WWII campaigns as well as WWI casualties. While our initial thought was to commemorate the Dutch Liberation it is now recognized we need to extend our scope with a second phase.
    - We are proposing an additional website containing biographical content and information from official records for every Huron County war veteran commemorated on municipal cenotaphs.
    - Each cenotaph would display signage containing a QR code link into a segment of the website that would tell the story of each name displayed on the cenotaph. Our intent is to bring to life the person behind the name and to encourage local families to search their attics for forgotten links to these individuals. We hope local museums will benefit.
    - We will be drawing the WWII biographical content from the book entitled "The Men of Huron" authored by local historian Jim Rutledge. This will make the book content more accessible and enduring for future generations. The WWI content is also becoming available. We anticipate over 750 Huron County war dead will be commemorated.

### **Community Engagement aspects of the project**

- **A parade** in Goderich which will include veterans, and representatives of military units, that participated in the Dutch campaign as well as their military bands. The parade will also include military vehicles of a WWII vintage.
  - A reception for the royals, dignitaries and officials.
- A musical concert to be conducted by the military band of the Royal Regiment of Canada, possibly accompanied by the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders.
- **A school outreach program** to visit school assemblies and classes to educate students on the Liberation of the Netherlands. We have had a very positive response from local school boards.
  - A promotion to develop "sister schools" between Canada and the Netherlands where Dutch and Canadian schoolchildren can establish contact in their history classes. (Skype)
  - A school assembly program to bring a professional speaker to schools to inform and create interest in attending the royal visit. History class visits might also be possible. We have noted historian, Norm Christie in mind as this speaker.
  - The design and placement of flyers and posters in schools to inform and promote the event.

- A full colour magazine-styled booklet publication "Dutch-Canadians Remember as One" for distribution to Huron County Schools, the Goderich tourist booth adjacent to Liberation Park and tourist booths situated throughout Huron County.

## Our vision....

While the focal point of our event is the visit of Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, our committee is interested in developing a legacy communications strategy that will remain long after the event. This legacy would include awakening a renewed interest in the historic ties between Canada and the Netherlands that was forged by the Canadian First Army's victory in the Netherlands. The Liberation of Holland in 1945 has had an enduring impact on the Dutch people living in the Netherlands and south-western Ontario. Canada's generous and respectful treatment of the Dutch people in their darkest hour, paved the way for waves of emigration to Canada in the post war years. These immigrants worked hard, prospered and have become pillars of strength in the Canadian economic fabric.

Now, as the third and fourth generation of decedents progress through our education systems, we must make a special effort to reconnect our youth with this Canadian story. While Princess Margriet and the remaining veterans are a living connection with the Liberation of Holland, unfortunately this generation is rapidly fading into the recesses of Canadian consciousness. It is essential that the origins of this great Canadian story be made known to our present and future generations.

## Promotions Budget

The promotions budget will finance the website redevelopment, and the paper based educational and promotional materials as follows:

*For distribution to Huron County schools, and other public places...*

- Posters – for distribution in public places to promote the event.
- Flyers – two page flyers for distribution at schools, and public places informing the public of the event and history surrounding it.
- Magazine-styled booklet of a least 16 pages, full colour, high gloss telling the story of the Liberation campaign, as told by members of the First Canadian Army, and Dutch citizens. As with the website, we will be reaching out to regimental units and their associations to document the narrative. Distribution includes schools, the tourist booth adjacent to the park, and other tourist booths in Huron County.

*For royal signature...*

**Commemorative Scroll** – by one of Canada's premier scrollmeister's, Capt. Mihail Murgoci. Captain Murgoci has been commissioned for numerous original works of art used for commemorative scrolls, some of which have been signed by various British royals.

A professionally researched, original artwork will be commissioned and presented to Princess Margriet, marking the occasion of her visit to Goderich. The signed scroll will be copied, and limited copy reproductions will be presented as thanks to local organizers, military commanders and event sponsors. The original artwork will then be presented to the Town of Goderich for display in town hall.

*For legacy and promotion purposes...*

### **Dutch-Canadians Remember as One Website Development Plan**

The current website at [www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca](http://www.dutch-canadiansremember.ca) will transition into a new format to record the historic 2017 event, and to narrate the story of the Canadian First Army's sacrifice during the campaign to liberate Holland. The website content is intended to provide leading edge information that is not otherwise available anywhere else in Canada. The features would include the following highlights:

- The assembling of all types of media to tell the story of the Liberation of Holland, and the visit of Princess Margriet
- A blog area to invite family members of veterans, or Dutch people to recount their family history as it relates to the Liberation of Holland
- We will be reaching out to various units of the Canadian Army, regular and reserve to invite submissions from participating units of excerpts from their regimental histories, to bring to life their role during the Dutch campaign.
- We will be developing a narrative overview of Dutch campaign as well, which will help people understand the conditions during the campaign.
- We will be providing a digital map of Canadian war grave-sites in Holland, as well as place names of significant areas of the conflict. Google earth will be used to allow a 'digital tour' of these places.

### **Components of the revamped website**

1. The existing content will be revamped and retained in its own section.
2. A section of the website will be set aside for each military unit that wishes to contribute photos and stories from their regimental histories as it relates to the Liberation of the Netherlands. The idea is to build a new interface between our military and the general public. Most unit histories are not available to the public. Each unit will be provided with login privileges to edit and add content. We will also provide webmaster services, and have an outreach program to encourage a living narrative.
3. We will be providing editing services to help tell the story and to encourage wide participation.
4. In addition to the military component of the narrative, we also want to provide a place for the Dutch diaspora to tell their story. We would be encouraging first and second generation immigrants to narrate their wartime stories. We would also want to

encourage the narration of life in Canada as seen through the eyes of Dutch-Canadians.

5. Online commentary: the website would include a section for commentary which upon approval will form part of the website content.
6. Media content: all forms of media will be available on the website, including content from the event day as well as historical.
7. We will be reaching out to historians to provide fully researched articles for publication on the site. We would anticipate there would be a cost associated with the rights to publish this content.
8. From the new signage displayed at Liberation Park in Goderich, a QR code will digitally connect visitors to the website.
9. Extensive Google mapping will allow visitors to view a map of important sites, and do a virtual visit with a ground view of the various battlefields, in a modern setting.
10. The phase two (Heroes of Huron Website – [www.heroesofhuron.com](http://www.heroesofhuron.com)) details are covered on page

#### **Magazine-styled booklet**

In addition to digital content, we will also be providing printed legacy content to be distributed in schools, tourist boots, and be made available upon request by the general public.

# **CANADA AND THE NETHERLANDS**

## **TWO COUNTRIES HAVING ONE SPIRIT**

### **LIBERATION - HONOUR - REMEMBRANCE**

This commemorative plaque of Honour and Remembrance is a tribute to Canada and to the 7,600 Canadians of the First Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy who paid the supreme sacrifice during the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944-1945. We Canadians of Dutch descent honour and remember the sacrifices that were made for the peoples of the Netherlands and for the liberation of their homeland.

This plaque of Honour and Remembrance was unveiled and dedicated by Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on May 13, 2017.

Surrender talks began on May 4, 1945 at a farm in the Nude district on the west side of Wageningen located in the Province of Gelderland.

On May 5, 1945 in the Hotel de Wereld talks continued between Canadian General Charles Foulkes, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and General Blaskowitz of the 25<sup>th</sup> German Army. Then on May 6, 1945 the official surrender took place and with the signing of these surrender documents this event effectively and immediately ended the war in the Netherlands.

Following the signing of the official documents of surrender, May 5<sup>th</sup> has officially been recognized as Liberation Day in the Netherlands.

In 2010 the Prime Minister of the Netherlands stated “we remember the priceless gift given the Netherlands by the Canadians – it was the gift of freedom. We owe it.....to those who fell and to those who survived. Our liberators! Our heroes! Forever”.

The Canadians stood up and enlisted into a cause they believed in and all went overseas with pride and all wore the uniform with the red maple leaf on it.

Today, we remember with the poppy which is the flower of remembrance and sleep, with the tulip which is the flower of friendship and gratitude, with the daisy (Marguerite) which was the flower of hope and resistance but also with the maple leaf the symbol of patriotism.

The Canadians who survived World War II returned to Canada and their loved ones and became known as Canada’s “quiet generation” but today we honour and remember them as Canada’s “greatest generation”.



The Canadian sacrifices took place at the following.....

Lower Mass beginning in September, 1944. Moerbrugge Arnhem, Oosterbeek, Wolfheze, Driel and surrounding areas  
 South Beveland The Scheldt Breskens Pocket Woendrecht Savoijaards Plaat Walcharen Causeway Roer Kapelsche Veer Reichswald  
 Twente Canal Deventer Zutphen Apeldoorn Gronigen  
 Ijsselmeer Wagenborgen and at the Delfzijl Pocket ending on May 2, 1945.

## IN HONOUR AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN OF HURON COUNTY WHO FELL DURING THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

ELLIOTT	Robert James	AGE 24	Sherbrooke Fusiliers	February 21, 1945.
EVANS	Lyle Alexander	22	South Alberta Regiment	March 7, 1945.
FAWCETT	Clifford Roy	25	Lincoln and Welland Regiment	April 6, 1945.
FINLAYSON	Roderick Alexander	31	Governor General's Foot Guards	March 26, 1945.
FRASER	James	34	RCAF No. 424 "Tiger" Squadron	November 1, 1944.
HART	Wilburt Carl	37	Black Watch Royal Highland Regiment	December 24, 1944.
HOFFMAN	Leonard Theodore	23	Highland Light Infantry of Canada	March 5, 1945.
HOOD	Lloyd	25	Lincoln and Welland Regiment	February 11, 1945.
JAMIESON	James	26	Carleton and York Regiment	April 22, 1945.
JOHNSTON	Kelso James	35	Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps	August 30, 1945.
KELLY	George Francis	24	Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	April 17, 1945.
McSPADDEN	John Earl	22	Royal Winnipeg Rifles	February 19, 1945.
MONTGOMERY	Robert James	24	Lincoln and Welland Regiment	May 1, 1945.
MUGFORD	Earl Robert	22	Royal Canadian Regiment	April 15, 1945.
MURRAY	Donald McLennan	20	Royal Hamilton Light Infantry	October 17, 1944.
RYAN	Thomas Joseph	23	Highland Light Infantry of Canada	February 11, 1945.
SALLOWS	Robert Henry	19	Essex Scottish Regiment	March 8, 1945.
STRAUGHAN	George Melville	25	Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	April 20, 1945.
TAYLOR	Melvin	30	1 <sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion	March 24, 1945.
YOUNG	Richard Kenneth	31	Calgary Highlanders Regiment	March 2, 1945.