



# The Friendship Herald

Volume 2005 - Issue 5

a supplement to the Windmill Herald

Friendship Day in new venue

## Royal Botanical Gardens adds touch of Spring to April 30<sup>th</sup> event

It is more than a Royal touch for the Canada Netherlands Friendship Day event, and includes a floral setting. On April 30, the RBG center – the venue – will be open to Canada Netherlands Friendship Day visitors free of charge.

CNFA's spokesman Vander Laan says the RBG facility offers much more space for his event. In addition to the regular program points, some still have to be confirmed at press time, there also will be many more participants from the community who will exhibit their products and explain their services.

The 2005 Canada Netherlands Friendship Day evening event also follows the footsteps of Dutch Queen Beatrix who in 1988 visited the Royal Botanical Gardens

to meet with the local Dutch community. The beautiful venue is familiar to everyone and connects with the widely-known Dutch appreciation for flowers.

### Collections

Founded in 1941, the Royal Botanical Gardens includes five significantly different gardens, and

with four nature sanctuaries on about 2,700 acres, it rates as one of the largest of its kind in the world. RBG's sanctuaries and marshlands are accessible with trails, covering 30 kilometres. During the tourist season, the different parts of the garden complex are linked by shuttle buses.

The gardens are home to more than 40,000 recorded plants, displayed in about 50 different collections. These include the world's largest collection of lilacs and almost two acres of roses. The April 30 event, of course, is early in the RBG's new season.

To fully appreciate what RBG offers, a return visit definitely is worthy of consideration.



Sweetest of Springs in 1945 extracted great costs

## Friendship Day combines sentiments of two Dutch Remembrance events

The Sweetest of Springs. That's how many remember the Liberation of the Netherlands in April 1945 when the area east of the the



IJssel river and the IJsselmeer was freed from Nazi control. That month - with the war all but won - also was the cruelest with nearly 1,200 Canadian soldiers paying for freedom with their lives. Still, the killing went on. The last five days - in May 1945 - another 114 Canadians lost their lives on Dutch soil. They were not the only ones to pay such a prize. Dutch civilians, as they had throughout the five-year occupation, bore the brunt of it all in the crossfire, fired upon from both sides. To many people, both Dutch and Canadian, it also was a bittersweet time.

Remembrance of the Canada Netherlands ties has been written in

hardship and blood. In keeping with Dutch tradition, the Burlington event has two separate components, the Flag raising at City Hall includes the Remembrance of the Fallen which in the Netherlands on the eve of Liberation anniversary celebrations is observed throughout the country with the local silent walks to war cemeteries and monuments and two minutes of silence. The Canada Netherlands Friendship Day evening program represents the festive Liberation Day. Organizer Jack Vander Laan prefers to include the mutual ties of the past sixty years in the group's concept. *continued on page 3*

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*continued from page 3...*

Canadian veterans periodically attending the Liberation celebrations in the Netherlands often are overwhelmed by all the attention showered upon them. The extent of Dutch remembrance includes the lasting impression of the hardship and the toll the occupation years extracted of Dutch society.

**Wide support**

The broadly-based efforts by Dutch organizations, dedicated to including Canadian war veterans in national Liberation celebrations has done much to further cement Canada and Netherlands relations. Apeldoorn - in 1945 for a time the headquarters of the Canadian army - over the years with its massive parades had become the national focus of these celebrations. Participation of the Burlington Teen Tour Band in the Apeldoorn events - 1995, 2000 and also now in 2005 - further set the stage for intensified ties between the two towns with, among other things, high schools organizing student exchanges.

These Burlington contacts overseas spurred local entrepreneur Jack Vander Laan on to also organize commemorative events at home. His initiatives from the start received support from the City as well from various parts of the community, a quick check of the 2004 sponsorship list on page 7 of this issue confirms that story as do all the 2005 participating businesses on these pages.

Ideas have legs. Vander Laan also felt that the official ties between Apeldoorn and Burlington should be enhanced. For instance, he encouraged Burlington's Mayor R. MacIsaac to include Apeldoorn on a trip to Europe and took every opportunity to remind officials of the ties, which had been developing spontaneously at grassroots levels. At every turn people agreed he had a point worth pursuing, a fact Apeldoorn's Mayor Fred De Graaf readily acknowledged in an interview last year. Next month, these ties are scheduled to graduate to an official Sister City relationship, nothing but a major coup for Burlington.

The Ontario city, of course, for decades happens to be the home of a significant Dutch community. The growth of the Dutch immigrant community pretty much runs in tandem with the emergence of Burlington as a suburban city and a strategically situated commercial centre. It also became a Canadian distribution point for imported products from the Netherlands when companies such as Van's Importing and Holtzheuser Bros. from Burlington supplied Dutch specialty stores across the country. Burlington also is the homebase of another Dutch Canadian effort, which has grown into a nation-wide recognised bakery, Voortman Cookies.

The lakeshore community now is a sprawling and modern city. Its Dutch Canadian community in recent years has been reinforced by the opening of a branch of DUCA Financial Services Ltd,

the Greater Toronto-based credit union, which fifty years ago was started by recently arrived Dutch immigrants. The branch located in a vacated bank, a few doors over from Vander Laan's Filman's Men's Wear store. They are located in Burlington's first strip mall outside downtown. Vander Laan who chairs its tenant organisation, hopes that more of the mall's other spaces when becoming available will attract tenants who further enhance the Dutch Canadian community.



*Vander Laan at his men's clothing store.*

**May 8 fly-over part of local aviation war history preservation**

**BURLINGTON, Ontario - The Lancaster flyover at the Canada Netherlands Friendship Day on April 30 is a specific salute by the event sponsor CNFA to air force crews who endangered themselves to help liberate the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945. The Allied air force in its sorties over enemy territory lost so many planes that the Netherlands rightly could be a warplane cemetery. Unfortunately, in the great majority of those crashes some or all crew members lost their lives. Only a small number of airmen survived and stayed at large, usually with the aid of local resistance groups.**

The CNFA started the Burlington fly-over in 2000 and since has been able to secure enough financial support to continue the new tradition. The plane(s) doing the honour belong to the over 40-unit collection of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (CWHM), located at the Hamilton area airport.

The CWHM which opened in 1971 has a total membership of about 1,500, divided over various support levels ranging from a basic \$75 up to the Bomber Crew membership of \$1,500. This fee includes a ride on one of the planes such as at the April 30 fly-over. At peak times, the museum employs 30, including parttimers. Another 250 to 300 volunteers help keep one or more aspects of the museum operational.

CWHM also is collecting and preserving oral history through its program 'Voices of the Past'. The wartime stories of about 300 people were recorded on tape.

The museum is located at 9280 Airport Road, Hamilton Int'l Airport, Mount Hope, ON L0R 1W0.



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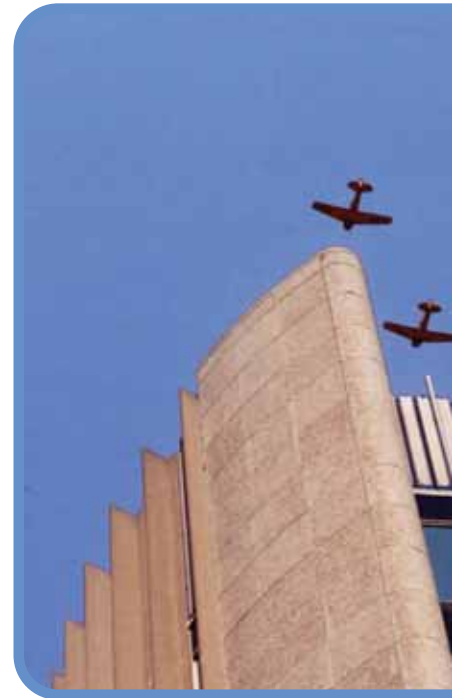
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## Royal Botanical Gardens venue for Canadian version of popular Dutch event



**BURLINGTON** - Organisers of the Four-Day Evening Walk (4DEW) are upbeat about changes made to accommodate the participants at the Royal Botanical Gardens, the site of the walking trails. All four days, the walks will start and finish at RGB's Nature Centre. 4DEW used the centre only for some of the walks during previous years. Modelled after the Nijmegen *Vierdaagse*, the Burlington evenings' event is a leisurely affair with distance of 5, 10 and 15 kilometres.

The trails largely are in the gardens' arboretum. This year's June 13-16 event is the group's 15th consecutive event. Although it obtains its medals from the KNBLO, the Nijmegen organisation, 4DEW's concept is significantly different. Nijmegen uses public roads for its walks and appeals to people willing to march for long distances, 40 or 50 kilometres - dawn to dusk - each day. For its 96th event in July this year, registration for 47,000 participants already was filled in March. The Nijmegen *vierdaagse* attracts participants from numerous countries, including many military groups, the original constituency of over 90 years ago.



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