

ANNE FRANK MEMORIAL STATUE UNVEILING

August 8, 2021, 1:00 PM

Emcee: John Stobbe, Dutch Canadian Club (Edmonton)

1. National anthems of The Netherlands (Wilhelmus) and Canada (O Canada) and raising of the Dutch and Canadian flags by L.Col. Troy Steele SALH and RSM(LF) Stephen "Sticks" Gallard CD—Legion of Frontiersmen
2. Welcome and introductions
3. "Princess Anne", Poem by Garth Ukrainetz, read by Whistler Oosterveld
4. Frank Stolk, President Dutch Canadian Club Edmonton
5. Hon. Col. Ralph Young South Alberta Light Horse
6. Steve Shafir, President Jewish Federation of Edmonton
7. "Anne Frank's Secret Annex" by Rebecca Lappa, performed by Rebecca Lappa with Amelia Chan and Josie Thompson
8. Hon. Jason Kenney, Premier of the Province of Alberta
9. City of Edmonton Councillors Ben Henderson and Jon Dziadyk
10. Hon. Heather McPherson, MP Edmonton Strathcona
11. Jerry Bouma, Honorary Dutch Consul Edmonton
12. Blessing by Rev. Danielle Key from Holy Trinity Anglican Church and Pastor Erin Thomas from Trinity Lutheran Church
13. Unveiling of the story boards by Rinske TerHeide and Jenny Smits (DCC)
14. Unveiling of the Anne Frank statue by Hon. Col. Troy Steele and RSM(LF) Stephen "Sticks" Gallard CD
15. A tradition in the Netherlands Laying of tulips led by Avery Stobbe

At 1:30 the City of Steenbergen in the Netherlands will join us in the ringing of the Welberg Bell

Instagram: #AneFrankYEG

Rebecca Lappe's song is available on Spotify

Today's ceremony will be available on YouTube

THE WELBERG BELL



*The Bell of Liberation monument
in Welberg, the Netherlands*

The ringing of the Welberg Bell symbolizes the beginning of the Liberation of the Netherlands. It rings each year on November 4th when on that day in 1944, the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, including the South Alberta Regiment (SAR) the predecessor of the South Alberta Light Horse (SALH), liberated the town of Welberg and the larger municipality of Steenbergen. This took place after five days of heavy fighting that saw 57 Canadians and more than 30 civilians die. The battle itself was critical for the Allied forces to gain access to the Scheldt and the harbour of Antwerp.

The Bell of Liberation Monument, created by the residents of Welberg, is rung every year in memory of the civilian casualties and the sacrifices made by Canadians to restore freedom to the people of the Netherlands. The replica of the Welberg Bell, presented to the SALH Regiment in 2016, is rung every year on the same day and hour.

The Welberg Bell represents the deep gratitude that the Netherlands holds for the soldiers and people of Canada that lives on to this day. The Netherlands was fully liberated on May 5, 1945, largely due to the efforts of the First Canadian Army. More than 7,600 soldiers lost their lives and now lie in graveyards across the Netherlands.

Donors and Volunteers

This project would not have been possible without out the committed volunteers with the Dutch Canadian Club of Edmonton, and the many donors who contributed to this project. Our target was to raise \$75,000 and this goal was achieved.

Government: City of Edmonton, Province of Alberta, Government of Canada, City of Steenbergen – Netherlands

Individuals plus \$500: Lindsay Dykstra,,Sid Vander Meulen, Jack & Helen Benders, Randall & Maureen Purvis, Doreen Dyck & Ed Plaizier , Grant Vogel, Lucia Hoogland, Peter Hareman, Gwen Black, Willem Langenberg.

Individual's plus \$1000: John & Avery Stobbe Family, Jerry Bouma Family, John Boonstra, Dominik Swatek, David Margolus

Corporate: Canstart Instruments , E Construction (N.P.A. Ltd)

Community Groups: Dutch Canadian Club Edmonton (DCC), DCC Windmills, DCC Auxiliary, Icelandic Club, Scandinavian Heritage Society, Sons of Norway, Edmonton Scandinavian Centre Association, Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Southern Light Horse Regimental Association

Gifts in Kind: Devroomem Bulb Canada, Edmonton Granite Memorials, Nick Knoppers, Bliss Bakery, Ben's Meat Market, Dutch Delicious Bakery, Rebecca Lappa – Edmonton Artist & Singer, Garth Ukrainetz – Poet Laureate of the Blackmud Creek, Green Jeans Interiorscape

Go Fund Me: Through Go Fund Me we were able to raise over \$17,000 with the support of 132 donors!
Bedankt.

A special thank you to Sebastiaan d'Hont, Anne Frank House (Amsterdam), Anne Frank FONDS (Basel), Mei 4 & 5, and Gillian Walnes Perry, co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK. Their guidance on everything Anne Frank was invaluable.

ANNE FRANK STATUE

By Frank Stolk

What are we going to do for Canada for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands?
That was a loaded question.

It all started over a cup of coffee way back in September 2019, and the word Covid -19 was not even heard of. Some members of the Dutch Canadian Club (Edmonton) (DCC) were pondering what would be a significant project that the DCC could undertake to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. After five years of occupation by Nazi Germany, the allies under command of Canadian General Charles Foulkes accepted the surrender of the German forces in the Netherlands at Wageningen on 5 May 1945 also known to the Dutch as “Bevrijdings Dag” (Liberation Day).

Since 1945, the Dutch have always been grateful to Canada and the Canadian military for their unwavering determination to defeat the Nazi’s. This 75th celebration needed something that would leave a lasting memory of this significant milestone. A big party at the DCC for sure, involving the WWII Veterans, no problem. But a gesture like that would fade away over time and we needed something that would be around for a very long time.

Then came the day that John Stobbe told me that he and his wife Avery were in the Netherlands recently and came across the famous Anne Frank statue in Utrecht. This statue was created by famous Dutch sculptor Pieter d’Hondt in 1960. While roaming through Utrecht John came upon the art studio and met Pieter’s son Sebastiaan, who told him that they still had the mold for the statue. John mentioned this to me and I thought it was a perfect idea.

With the support of the DCC John contacted Sebastiaan with the request if it was possible to create a recast of the statue, and without hesitation he said yes. Within days we had a project and a plan. Bring Anne Frank to Edmonton.

The question came up for an appropriate place for the statue, several suggestions were discussed: Hawrelak Park where for many years we participated in the Heritage Festival, Victoria Park where we shared with Edmontonians our love of speed skating and created the Silver Skate Festival, or even at the Dutch Canadian Centre where we have a full sized Dutch windmill. But it needed to be in a public place that could connect the Liberation of the Netherlands with the Canadian community.

I then remembered that Light Horse Park was undergoing a renovation. What other place would be more appropriate than Light Horse Park, after all the DCC had already donated a significant amount to the restoration of the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment for the renewal of the park. The SALH members were an integral part of the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944/45, especially during the brutal Battle of The Scheldt and the liberation of the Town of Steenberg. In 2018 this town donated a replica of the bronze bell that hung in the local church in Welberg undetected by the Nazis, as a lasting gift to commemorate the Canadian men and women who had given the ultimate sacrifice for them. We contacted the Light Horse Foundation, and they were delighted with this plan. Something so beautiful right across their memorial, a statue of a young girl who is renowned all over the world because of her diary, which has been translated into 70 languages and is one of the world's most read books.

We would like to thank all of you who supported this gift, and we hope that the words of this beautiful girl, written during one of the world's most horrific dark history of humankind, will be something we all strive to live by.

"Whoever is happy will make others happy!" - Anne Frank

"Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart." – Anne Frank

Anne Frank's Secret Annex

By Rebecca Lappa
© June 19, 2021

Verse 1:

*In the secret annex she writes away all her cares
Detailing the life of the families there
Though Anne's young, she keeps her spirit bright
Imagining the future while the bombs rain down at night*

Chorus 1:

*With just a fountain pen
She puts words to all the voices
Lost in the raging wind
Blown away on the path to glory
Just like Anne we won't give up
Her endless hope inspires us
To Dream*

Verse 2:

*Trapped behind glass as her friends are carried away
Anne still finds something to be thankful for each day
Birds in the sky or the chestnut tree in bloom
Writing every memory down to wipe away the gloom*

Chorus 2:

*With just a fountain pen
She puts words to all the voices
Lost in the raging wind
Blown away on the path to glory
Just like Anne we won't give up
Her endless hope inspires us
To Dream*

Bridge:

*Anne's words are stronger than bullets and grenades
After the smoke clears her heart still leads the way*

Last chorus:

*With just a fountain pen
She puts words to all the voices
Lost in the raging wind
Blown away but for who's glory
With just a fountain pen
She puts words to all the voices
Lost in the raging wind
Blown away but there was no glory
Just like Anne we won't give up
Her endless hope inspires us
To Dream
Legs on the floor and head in the clouds
She dreams*

Princess Anne

By Garth Paul Ukrainetz
Poet Laureate of the Blackmud Creek

*Princess Anne, Princess Anne
The kingdoms fiercely fighting
In the thunder and the lightning
There was nothing you could do
In the Netherlands you hide
Hush, the sound of people talking
Nazi boots around are walking
They are searching there for you*

*Princess Anne, Princess Anne
In the window your reflection
Keeping watch with introspection
Looking out from deep inside
With your diary in your hand
Little worn out coloured pencils
Seeking truth without the stencils
Through your pen your soul confides*

*Princess Anne, Princess Anne
A time to give, a time for keeping
A time to laugh, a time for weeping
A time for waiting out the war
In the streets of Amsterdam
The Canadians are coming
You can feel their distant drumming
It is you they're fighting for*

*Princess Anne, Princess Anne
Bundled up with contradictions
Writing heartfelt compositions
Through the bindings there's a door
With concentration in your eyes
Aspirations turn to vapour
As your tears drop onto paper
There is nothing you want more*

*Princess Anne, Princess Anne
In your dreams a flowing fountain
You're a pen on tip of mountain
In a kingdom full of grace
With a noble royal heart
Humble loaf without the leaven
A time for Earth, a time for heaven
No more hiding in this place*

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