

**A Time to Awaken
Memories and Forever Seal
the Bonds of Friendship**



**Dutch Liberation
Canadian Society
2020**



THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR EVERMORE

*"WELCOME TO OUR HOME PAGE OF THE DUTCH
LIBERATION CANADIAN SOCIETY 2020".*

*We are a group of Dutch and Canadian
organisations and persons, who are dedicated
to celebrate the Netherlands Liberation in 1945
by the Canadians with a
"BIG THANK YOU" program.*



C6645 PRIVATE
R.P. HOLMES
THE ROYAL HAMPTON
LIGHT INFANTRY
10TH OCTOBER 1914 AGE 23

FOR THE TOUCH
OF A MAN'S HAND
THE SOUND
OF A VOICE THAT IS STILL

R24955 PRIVATE
R. ST. ONGE
THE BLACK WATCH
ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT
OF CANADA
15TH OCTOBER 1914 AGE 21

BY HIS WIFE AND SON

C6645 PRIVATE
R.P. HOLMES
THE ROYAL HAMPTON
LIGHT INFANTRY
10TH OCTOBER 1914 AGE 23

C6645 PRIVATE
R.P. HOLMES
THE ROYAL HAMPTON
LIGHT INFANTRY
10TH OCTOBER 1914 AGE 23

C6645 PRIVATE
R.P. HOLMES
THE ROYAL HAMPTON
LIGHT INFANTRY
10TH OCTOBER 1914 AGE 23

Unique Partnership Relationship



- Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society was incorporated under the Societies Act on August 31, 2018
- A new non-profit organization
- Partnership relationship
- Royal Canadian Legion, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Vancouver and the Netherlands Association “Je Maintiendrai” – Dutch Network





A Comprehensive Program

**For All Age Groups to Remember,
Educate and Acknowledge**

A Reflective Occasion to Commemorate 75th Liberation of the Netherlands



- The major focus is to publically commemorate the lives lost and the efforts made by Canadian men and women who helped re-establish freedom in the Netherlands in 1945
- The group is planning commemorative events and activities to thank Canada and to honour its soldiers for liberating Holland



Royal Canadian Legion



- **There are 1400 Canadian Legions in Canada**
- **The Royal Canadian Legion is officially recognized as the “Canadian God-parents” of the Royal Family and have a fiduciary responsibility for the well-being of the family**
- **A very unique situation and responsibility**



Local, Provincial, and National Support and Involvement



Support From

- **Provincial and Federal Government Agencies**
- **Veteran Affairs Canada**
- **The local arts community**
- **Elementary and secondary schools throughout British Columbia and Canada**
- **Vancouver Lower Mainland Dutch Associations including the United Flower Growers, Canadian Association for the Advancement of Nederlandic Studies (CAANS) and the Dutch Business Club of Vancouver**





Past Commemoration

Acknowledgement and Events

1939 - 1945

BERGEN - OP - ZOOM

CANADIAN

WAR CEMETERY



For the 50th Anniversary the Holland Revisited Society

- Mr. G. Bouman, Mr. H. van Hest, Mr. H. Steen, Mr. G. van Gelderen, and Mr. W. Zylmans coordinated and sponsored the sending of 35 Canadian veterans, liberators of the country, to return to Holland to participate in the liberation anniversary of VE Day
- Veterans experienced firsthand the gratitude of the Dutch people to Canada and its Canadian soldiers
- Veterans participated in the liberation parade in Apeldoorn and visited their fallen comrades buried at war cemeteries in Bergen op Zoom and in Arnhem



Joy of Freedom Statue Vancouver, BC. – 1995



- On April 24, 1995, Mr. Klaas Elgersma, President, Dutch Canadians Remember 1945 Society, presented to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation the offer of a monument as a token of appreciation to the people of Canada for their participation in the 1945 liberation of the Netherlands



Reflections on Sixty years of Freedom – 2005



- The six British Columbia regiments, which helped liberate the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945 from its Nazi oppressor, each received an oak-mounted plaque commemorating the country's regained freedom
- Organizer J. Herman van Wermeskerken of the Dutch Canadians Enjoying 60 Years of Freedom group also held a "Host a Veteran" dinner party
- Attendees could take a veteran friend along but also opt for one from the pool of available names
- The 2005 anniversary viewed as the last collective opportunity to echo "Thank You, Liberators."



Coquitlam War Bride Remembers

1945-2020 75 YEARS

Elsley and Yetty Foulds



“The veterans parade in Apeldoorn created moments of overwhelming tears for my husband, for he felt in his heart how the people expressed such appreciation and thankfulness for their freedom – he realized the fight for freedom had really been worth the price”. *Yetty Foulds*



A SOLDIER
OF THE
1939-1945
WAR

16TH AUGUST 1940



**Dutch Liberation
Canadian Society
2020**