

## COMMITTEE NETHERLANDS BAZAAR CHRISTMAS FOOD PARCELS

The Christmas season will soon be upon us, and once again the Committee "Netherlands Bazaar" is depending on your co-operation to successfully identify those families in need of assistance. If you know of any family of Dutch heritage in Ontario, in extreme financial circumstances, we need to hear from you before Friday, November 12th, 2021. Our registered Charitable standing was granted on the condition that all recipient needy families are of Dutch heritage. Even with this restriction we are hard pressed to meet the needs of those who qualify, and each year we have to carefully select the needy who will receive support. The families who received support last year will not automatically receive aid this year. We require confirmation of their current circumstance. Because of Covid-19, we again decided to send food gift certificates equivalent to the retail value of our annual food parcels. These food gift certificates will be mailed out by Registered Mail directly to the families, and will be a wonderful surprise for those families.

Note, because of the Covid19 pandemic, some Summer Camps for 2021 were cancelled. However, in the absence of Camp, all eligible families with children received a generous cheque from us for a nice family Summer outing. We are hoping that in 2022 all Camps will once again be open.

Please note that we must have specific information about the family members, and we therefore ask you to fill out an Application Form for each family. We also require the name and telephone number of a contact person who can verify this information AND THE SIGNATURE OF THE CONTACT PERSON ON THE FORM.

All submitted names will be kept in strict confidence.

If you would like to receive an Application Form, or have questions, please email us at:

committee@netherlandsbazaar.com, or call one of the following: Gé Spaans 905-477-1243, Jannie Thomas 416-498-8706, or Holly de Jong 416-759-5472

Please forward completed forms to the following address by November 12th, 2021:

Mrs. G. Spaans - Committee "Netherlands Bazaar"  
420 William Graham Drive, Suite 416 Aurora, ON, L4G 1X4  
Your assistance in reaching these Ontario families in real need, is very much appreciated.

With warm regards,

**Gé Spaans, President,**

**Committee "Netherlands Bazaar"**

**email:committee@netherlandsbazaar.com**

**website:www.netherlandsbazaar.com**

## EDMONTON WELCOMES ANNE FRANK STATUE

On Sunday August 8th, 2021, the long awaited unveiling of the bronze statue of Anne Frank took place at Edmonton's Light Horse Park in Old Strathcona. For those who were responsible in getting this statue from the Netherlands to Canada it was an emotional but very happy day to see the result of all their hard work.

It turned out to be a perfect summer day enjoyed by the 300 attendees present and another 300 watching via YouTube from across Canada, USA and the Netherlands. A happy atmosphere was created with the music from the 100 year old authentic, hand cranked, Dutch street organ, t' Hummeltje.

Taking part in the program were several dignitaries: premier of Alberta Jason Kenney, Steve Shafir, president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, City councillors Ben Henderson and Jon Dziadyk, Heather McPherson, MP Strathcona and Jerry Bouma, Honorary Dutch Consul Edmonton.

John Stobbe, a member of the Dutch Canadian Club of Edmonton (DCC), who was the driving force and who was so instrumen-

tal in bringing the statue from the Netherlands, took on the role of Emcee and welcomed everyone. He spoke about when he had seen the statue on display in Utrecht while vacationing in the Netherlands and where he met the son of Pieter d'Hont, the Dutch artist and creator/sculptor of the statue. How they eventually came to an agreement to have another cast made of the statue especially for the Dutch Canadian Club to present to the City of Edmonton in honour of the Canadian troops' role in Liberating the Netherlands during WWII.

Frank Stolk, president of the Dutch Canadian Club Edmonton, elaborated a bit more about how the club was looking for a lasting meaningful way to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

When John Stobbe brought up the idea of bringing the Anne Frank sculpture to Edmonton and to present it as a gift, Frank along with the club members were immediately on board. Fund raising efforts were on the way and everything fell into place. The fundraising goal of \$75,000 was achieved thanks to support from near and afar.

As is now tradition for special military SALH ceremonies, the Welberg Bell was brought to the park and was rung for 2 minutes at 1:30 simultaneously with the

## NETHERLANDS LUNCHEON CLUB VISITS LITTLE CANADA

Niet te geloven! The Netherlands Luncheon Club was back with a bang-on visit to Little Canada at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto ably hosted by club president Henny Groenendijk.

It was also an amazing opportunity for the 30-some members who braved COVID protocols and Toronto parking-traffic problems to meet with the new Dutch Consul General Harman Idema (@harmanintoronto) who attended with his colleague Jorn Leeksa, acting Consul until Harman arrived at Pearson. All were amply rewarded by a delicious Thai-themed lunch prepared at Jack Astor's and the subsequent speakers.



Clearly, Friday 13 will be Dutch Toronto's Lucky Day as the new Consul, in a witty speech, explained his intentions to meet as many Dutchies as possible during his time here while also learning about his new posting and finding members of his ex-



tended Idema and Prins families who emigrated to our beautiful country. Harman is delighted to join the city's cyclists and looking forward to doing business here, facilitated by the many ties that already exist between Dutch and Canadian entrepreneurs. Jean-Louis Brenninkmeijer, one of those very successful links between our two countries, is the guiding genius behind Little Canada, and has built an ode to his new home and native land in the nether regions of Yonge-Dundas Square, the beating heart of Toronto. Impossible to miss, a giant sign on the wall of 10 Dundas Street E. lobby points you to Little Canada, where visitors can see tightly curated, miniature versions of Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton, Niagara, Ottawa, Montréal and the

Carnaval du Québec with more cities/sites to come! It is even possible to buy a miniature version of yourself, to be placed in a spot of your choice. Our new Consul-General is now miniaturized in the (where else!) Ottawa Tulip Park. Look out for him when you visit!

The Luncheon Club's next event will probably take place during early December, as our annual Fall Stratford visit can't happen due to COVID protocols this year. Watch our website [www.netherlandsluncheonclub.ca](http://www.netherlandsluncheonclub.ca) for more news.

*Ineke Limbertie (@inekelim)*



• John, Roel and Frank joined the military representatives after the ceremony on August 8, 2021

bell located in Steenbergen, the Netherlands, where also a crowd had gathered to follow the proceedings in Edmonton.

The Welberg Bell was presented in 2016 by the grateful people of Steenbergen to the regiment whose predecessors fought in the battle of the Scheldt. In this 5-day battle 57 Canadians died. The bell represents the gratitude of the Dutch people to the Canadian forces. 7600 Canadians lost their lives in the liberation of the Netherlands. As part of the program, between the speeches of the dignitaries a poem was recited written by Garth Paul Ukrainetz titled "Princess Anne". The poem was read by a boy the same age as Anne Frank, Whistler Oosterveld. The common theme among the speeches was a warning to be on guard that these atrocities com-

mitted by a regime without regard for human lives and human dignity, can never happen again. Anne Frank is the symbol for what the Canadian soldiers fought and gave their lives for and for which the people of the Netherlands are forever grateful.

The Anne Frank statue was unveiled by Hon. Col. Troy Steele SALH and RSM (LF) and Stephen "Sticks" Gallard CD. Finishing off the program, as is tradition in the Netherlands, the people present were giving the opportunity to lay one of the 200 tulips, especially flown in for this occasion, at the foot of the statue. Tulip bulbs will be planted later this fall by the statue for a spring-time display.



The Dutch Canadian Club Edmonton would like to thank all supporters of this project. It was truly amazing to see the support for this project come from near and far. Bedankt.